

# THE BAMPTON BEAM

July 2010

Volume 25, No. 2

## New Parish Council

The Parish Council welcomed 5 new Councillors at its Annual Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The full Council line-up, including Councillor portfolios is as follows:

Fred Gray Tel: 01993 851653	Chairman Finance & General Purposes Committee Planning Committee Recreation Ground Bampton Beam
Jacky Allinson Tel: 01993 850368	Vice-Chairman Finance & General Purposes Committee Planning Committee RAF Brize Norton Liaison Youth/Community Centre Building Lease & Contract negotiations Projects
Marion Dowding Tel: 01993 850167	Bush Club Representative
Lee Mackie Tel: 01993 852531	Bampton CoE School Governors (OCC Appointment) Planning Committee Village Hall Committee Youth Club Management Committee Bampton Exhibition Foundation Neighbourhood Action Group
Ralph Norman Tel: 01993 850823	Finance & General Purposes Committee Planning Committee Sandfords Field
Stephen Radband Tel: 01993 210160	Allotments Grass cutting Town Hall, Market Square, War Memorial, Bus Shelters, Seats Cemetery
Ann Smith Tel: 01993 850318	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Robert Smith Tel: 01993 850318	Bampton Exhibition Foundation
Dale Turner Tel: 01993 852373	Roads, Footpaths, Ditches & Drainage, Lighting Recreation Ground Sports Liaison Committee Planning Committee Neighbourhood Action Group Bampton Community Shop Disbursement Committee Youth/Community Centre Building Lease & contract Negotiations
Richard Wilkins Tel: 01993 850406	Finance & General Purposes Committee Parish Transport Representative Streetscene / Lengthsman Projects
George Gascoigne Tel: 01993 851947	Recreation Ground Sports Liaison Committee Mercury Court & Pembroke Place Playing Fields Flood Prevention Working Group

### Clerk to the Council is:

Sarah Radband: Tel: 01993 851870;

email: [sarah.radband@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.radband@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk).

The Clerk should be the first point of contact for Council business.

## Congratulations.....

go to our own David Cameron, on his appointment as Prime Minister! David, on behalf of 'The Beam Team', and, we are sure, the residents of Bampton, we wish you every success in the new job, and hope that you and your family will enjoy your stay at 'Number 10'!

This is also a new milestone for 'The Beam', because this will be the first time it has been sent directly to 'Number 10' - our new PM is, of course, and avid reader of 'The Beam', and requires direct delivery! It shall be done!

## Congratulations.....

also go to Martin Barrett, on his re-election to West Oxfordshire District Council. Well done Martin, and 'The Beam Team' would like to wish you every success in the post.

## And a Thank – You

Dear Residents

Now that filming for this series of 'Downton Abbey' is complete I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the residents of Bampton involved. Without your enthusiasm and genuine interest in the filming we would never have completed filming so successfully and taken such fantastic footage.

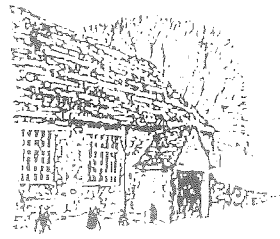
From the very first day to midnight on our last filming day we have had overwhelming support and encouragement. Everyone was so helpful and understanding in helping us create the village of 'Downton', from moving cars, to taking down lights and painting doors.

On behalf of the cast and crew who have greatly enjoyed working in your beautiful village (not to mention the superb local pies!), thank you, and we hope you enjoy the finished programme on ITV in the Autumn.

Yours sincerely

Richard May, Location Manager  
'Downton Abbey'

## Bampton Village Hall



An excellent venue for meetings, classes, parties, performances & fund-raising events. Main hall with stage, curtains, lights & piano.

Well equipped kitchen and servery with separate locked bar.

Badminton court marked and equipment available.

Disabled toilet facilities.

**Lettings Officer: Cordula Simmons**

**Telephone: 01993 852317**

Email: cordula\_simmons@yahoo.co.uk

### BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL - HIRE CHARGES

General Hire	£8.00 per hour
All day and evening	£65.00
Bar use	£20.00

## Town Hall & Youth Centre Bookings

Contact Sarah Radband

Tel: 01993 851870

Keys for Town Hall to be collected from the Bampton Coffee House

### Parish Council

Contact

Sarah Radband

Tel: 01993 851870

E-Mail - sarah.radband@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

### The Bampton 250 Club

The Bampton 250 Club is the local monthly lottery which supports the Village Hall and the Youth Centre. If you would like a ticket please put your name on the list at the Post Office or contact Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321.

February	£25	155	Mr R Snow	Bushey Row
	£15	004	Mrs M Bambury	Church Street
	£15	111	Mrs P Bradley	Pembroke Place
	£15	026	Mrs E Quick	Aston Road
March	£100	095	Mrs Harding	Bowling Green Close
	£25	199	Mr R Curtis	Buckland Road
	£15	049	Mrs Gerring	Sandfords
	£15	193	Mrs Temple	Bushey Row
April	£15	192	Mrs J Wooloff	Chandler Close
	£25	143	Mrs R Wheeler	Bowling Green Close
	£15	011	Toby Perry	Bushey Row
	£15	085	Mrs A Atkinson	High Street
May	£15	071	Josie Buckingham	Weald
	£25	180	Mrs H Davis	Bridge Street
	£15	193	Mrs M Temple	Bushey Row
	£15	086	Mr D Reynish	Lavender Square
Annual Prize	£15	021	Mrs V Baker	Beam Paddock
	£250	243	Mr F Godwin	Lavender Place

## New Waste and Recycling Contract

West Oxfordshire District Council has awarded its new waste management contract to May Gurney, a private contractor, for a 7 year period.

Starting in autumn, the new service will provide opportunities to increase recycling in West Oxfordshire and will comprise:

- a new free weekly food waste collection - for cooked and uncooked foods
- a fortnightly free garden waste collection available to all households. Currently this is a charged-for service and the Council is only able to offer it to a limited number of households.
- weekly recycling 'black box' collections for a range of different materials including glass paper, cardboard, tins, cans, plastics, aerosols, batteries, aluminium foil, textiles and shoes.
- fortnightly household waste collections alternating with the garden waste collection.

As a result of the new service, it is estimated that West Oxfordshire residents will be able to recycle at least 60 per cent of their waste which would almost double the current recycling rate.

Like all local authorities West Oxfordshire District Council has to meet challenging national and European recycling targets and avoid major landfill charges.

At present West Oxfordshire residents recycle around 34% of their waste, but this falls short of the 40 per cent required by 2010 in the Oxfordshire Joint Waste Strategy and the target will rise to 45 per cent by 2015. This is why West Oxfordshire District Council is doing more to avoid financial penalties.

In addition, sending waste to landfill sites is costly. Not only do council tax payers need to foot the bill for disposal costs and tax on every tonne of waste that ends up in the landfill site, but exceeding set landfill allowances will incur even greater penalties.

During the summer more information about the new service will be sent to all households.

## BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Cllr. Fred Gray, Bampton Parish Council

### Old School Building and Bush Centre

The planning application has been submitted. A meeting has been held with stakeholders to review the detail design.

### Buckland Road 7.5T

#### Environmental Weight Limit

At the Annual Parish Meeting, Cllr. Ian Hudspeth of OCC advised that owing to parlous state of the roads in the County, the priority given to the new roads contractor was to deal with the multitude of potholes. He would not be drawn on when the Weightlimit would be introduced, but advised that he would let the Parish Council know as soon as a date was known.

### Town Hall

The main chamber of the Town Hall has been offered as a location for the re-location of the post office. Post Office Ltd has viewed the chamber and declared it fit for purpose.

### Youth Club

The senior Youth Club re-started on 10<sup>th</sup> May. The Council is now working with OCC Youth Services to try and re-start the Junior Youth Club.

### Flooding

The attenuation area in Carterton has been transferred from Thames Water to WODC. It is hoped that, once it is fully operational, it will make a positive impact in holding water back during heavy rain periods, thus alleviating the potential for flooding in Bampton.

### Freedom of Information (FoI) and Data Protection (DP) Policies

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection Policies were approved by Council in April. They can be found on the Bampton Website. Councillors have attended a course on the FoI and DP Acts.

### Mineral Extraction

Cllr Gray reported that he had attended a meeting in Clanfield during which he and other parish representatives were briefed on the various options which were being looked at by OCC for the extraction of gravel

around the area. The Council was shown the same presentation as shown at Clanfield at its May meeting.

The Council was advised that, in essence, OCC conducting a study into how to respond to the request by central Government that it would need to extract 2.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel per year from areas in Oxfordshire, including areas around Bampton and surrounding villages, in support of housing development, and that this would cause major problems, including environmental damage, increased HGVs etc.

The parish representatives at the Clanfield meeting had agreed to try and obtain support from all their parishes, to co-sign a letter to be sent to OCC requesting that their 'Option 3', i.e. the areas around Bampton, Clanfield, etc, be removed from the study. The other two options were basically to use existing extraction sites.

The Council agreed that the Chairman sign the letter to be sent to OCC.

### Document Management System

The Council approved the updated version of the Document Management System, which was updated to bring it in line FoI and DP Policies.

### Subsidised Bus Services.

A letter was sent to OCC in connection to their review of the subsidised bus services serving Bampton. The letter essentially covered what enhancements to the existing services Bampton would like - for instance, an evening service and a half-hourly service during the day on the Service 19.

The Transport Needs Survey results have been received from OCC, and copied to OCC.

### Cemetery

Work has started to look into expanding the cemetery, since projections are that it could be full in around 10 to 15 years time.

### Mercury Court Playing Field Project

The contractor has started work on the project.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### Minutes of Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> April

### Village Hall

By Sarah Radband

Clerk to The Parish Council

**Present:** Cllr F Gray (In the Chair), Cllr D Hawkins, Cllr J Allinson, Cllr R Smith, Cllr S Radband, Cllr R Landray, Cllr R Norman, Cllr A Pitt, D. Cllr M Booty, C. Cllr D Seale.

**Apologies:** Cllr M Dowding,

**Public:** 33 persons

### The Local Police Report

P.C Richard Barnes addressed the meeting by explaining the coverage we received within the village from Thames Valley Police.

We are currently covered by 2 teams, made up of 2 Sergeants, part time PCs and 4 x PCSOs. Having 2 teams is an extra benefit, as last year Bampton was only covered by 1 team based in Carterton.

Problems in the last 12 months include 2 ASBO incidents within the Market Square and patrols having to be sent to alleviate problems experienced with youths within the market square.

But PC Barnes stressed that the problem there was that moving youths on from areas just moves the problem to another area, i.e. the Recreation Ground.

PC Barnes stressed that all incidents, no matter how minor, but especially ASBOs, need to be reported using the 0845 number, in order that they are logged.

This then allows a picture to be built up on problem areas, and police resources can then be allocated when the problems persist.

In answer to a question, PC Barnes advised that speed checks were carried out on the Buckland Road in Bampton on the morning of the meeting and 24 people were caught speeding between 8am and 10am.

County Councillor M Booty thanked the police officers for their continued help during the annual Shirt race and Bonfire night held by the SPAJERS.

## Planning The Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Preferred Approach

Tina Rowley, Planning Policy Manager for West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC), spoke to the meeting. She explained that the LDF Core Strategy: Preferred Approach had been developed with a view to defining WODC's strategy to help meet the challenges expected to be faced by West Oxfordshire over the years ahead, including complying with the Government's Policy on housing provision for the District. These challenges included global issues such as climate change and fluctuations in the economy as well as changing expectations and needs of people living in and visiting the District.

She advised that the Government's Policy called for around 7300 additional homes to be built in West Oxfordshire from 2006 to 2026. However, she advised the Meeting that around half of these were already built, or were in the planning stage, so that number was more like 3000.

In essence, she explained, the Preferred Approach is to concentrate major housing developments in three towns, namely Witney, Carterton, and Chipping Norton. She further advised that issues such as shopping, environment, climate change, jobs and housing are considered in the Core Strategy. Apart from large strategic sites covered in the Core Strategy, she advised that proposals for other smaller sites would be considered through the separate Site Allocations Plan yet to be prepared.

She told the Meeting that a public

consultation exercise had been carried out in February and March this year, and that this exercise included obtaining views of local councils. She advised that around 600 responses had been received, and that these were still being analysed but would be taken into account when the Preferred Approach is worked up into the full Plan. She did advise the meeting that there appeared to be public concern in and around Carterton over the continued growth of Carterton – albeit that the Carterton Town Council appeared to be very much in favour of further expansion of the Town – and that these concerns were mainly over coalescence of Carterton with the surrounding villages, flood risk, and the lack of suitable roads around the area, to take the increased volumes of traffic. She advised that further discussions would no doubt have to take place on these issues, once development proposals came along, and that as yet no decisions had been made over where such developments would take place.

In reply to a question as to where the 300 or so houses planned for the 'Upper Thames Valley', which includes Bampton, Standlake, and other nearby parishes, would be built, she told the meeting that some of the houses had already been built, and others were already in the planning stage, so the sites for these latter houses were already known, and that the figure now was more like 170 not 300 with sites still to be identified. She confirmed to the Meeting however, that there were no suitable sites in Bampton, Standlake and the surrounding villages, where large scale

development could take place, but that there were some sites, such as New Road in Bampton, where perhaps smallish developments could be envisaged. However, she said that there were not many of those sites around, and that the 170 target would no doubt include a significant percentage of these houses being built on single-plot, or two-plot sites, and there might also be the possibility of splitting existing larger type houses into two, to make two dwellings out of one.

From the floor, it was clear that Bampton residents were pleased that no large developments for the Village were included in the Preferred Approach, and that the Preferred Approach was therefore generally supported. The resident's main concerns were, however, the additional flood risk which might come with further developments in Carterton, and the lack of adequate roads and infrastructure to cope with the increased housing numbers in that Town; and the additional traffic which would come with the construction activities to build the houses.

### Bampton Library The Future?

*Jillian Southwell, Principal Librarian  
Community Involvement  
Oxfordshire County Council*

Jillian addressed the meeting as to what the future might hold for Bampton Library. She advised that OCC had introduced a Community Library Project, to try and identify what could be done to enhance the services provided by the smaller rural libraries, and to see what potential there is to reach new people and so increase the overall usage. The project is also aimed at encouraging people who don't at the moment use the library services, to try them out, and to try and show people that a library is not just about books.

She advised that a survey had been carried in Bampton, essentially asking the villagers 'Why do you use the Library?', 'Why don't you use the Library?' And 'What can OCC do to encourage people to use the Library?' Etc.

Out of the responses, it was clear that a lot of existing people weren't aware of the services available, and that something needs to be done to try and

'advertise' the services more. Additionally, consideration may be given the using the Library for: Having agencies undertake workshops - such as CAB, County Council, District Council.

Holding discussion groups Having a 'Youth Night', where youths can use the Library without the older generation being present.

Jillian advised that further work needs to be done to firm up plans for enhancing the Library activities, and to attract more users, but that the survey had given her a lot of information, food for thought, and ideas.

### Chairman's Report

*by Cllr Fred Gray*

*Bampton Parish Council*

### Planning Applications

The Council reviews all planning applications relevant to the Parish and sends its comments to the planners at WODC. Since April 2009 we have reviewed around 42 applications, compared to around the same number in the previous 12 months, and responded to two Local Development Framework consultations.

War Memorial

The War Memorial was completely refurbished, and the name of marine Jason Mackie added, in good time for the 2009 Remembrance Service. Thanks go especially to Steve Radband for managing the work, and to those who contributed their time, materials and labour to the project, such as Dale Turner, Chris Baker, and Wayne Richardson.

### Roads

We continue to liaise with OCC in order to improve our roads in and around the Village. One of the main issues at the moment is the multitude of potholes around the Village and along the main road arteries. They have been reported to OCC, but OCC has a large backlog and we will just have to take our place in the queue for the time being.

The Station Road chicane has been moved and a modified design installed. It seems to work well, although we have requested that the hump be enlarged.

The 7.5T Weight Limit was approved by OCC's Transport Decisions Committee last November, but to date the signs have not been installed. We had

been advised that OCC expected the work to be done by April, but recently we have heard that the signs have not yet been ordered, and the question we can ask our County Councillor(s) is why? And indeed, when is the Weight Limit going to be introduced?

While the Parish Council made every effort to minimise the negative impact on businesses within Bampton, we had eventually to accept the Weight Limit 'as advertised'.

However, the Council understands that after it is introduced, we may be able to get exemptions for businesses who need it. This is by no means certain, but in the minutes of the TDC meeting it states the following: 'Mr Howell confirmed that the Order if introduced would be a permanent measure and that there could be further dialogue regarding introduction of a permit system.' Mr Howell is one of OCC's senior officers in 'Environment & Economy', and, coming from him, we should be able to expect that some sort of permit system or exemption system could be put in place if required.

Through the NAG the deployment of a SDR – Speed Data Recorder – has been requested for all four main roads coming into the Village. The police used to have two of these devices, but it is understood that they only have one now available, and that has been one of the reasons for the delay in getting the SDR deployed. Once deployed we will be able to get vehicle speed data, and once analysed we can look at whether we indeed have vehicle speeding problems which may need some form of addressing with further traffic calming measures. The Council had a presentation from OCC on the proposal to build a new bridge at Newbridge, Standlake, and gave comments on the various options. The Council advised OCC that it supported the 'green route' option, and that the bridge should be two-lane with no traffic restrictions.

### Youth Centre & Bush Club

This is now in the project development stage. The OCC has funding to undertake the project to re-develop the exciting Youth Centre to house the Bampton Weightlifters, the Youth Club, and the Bush Club. OCC is finalising the planning application –

will be submitted very shortly - and once it is approved it will then move into detail design. The outline plans have already been approved by the main parties.

It is to be noted that, when complete, the complex will essentially become a 'Bampton Community Centre', and will not be solely for the use of the Youth Club and Bush Club, and will be rented out to individuals, organisations etc, for functions, and other activities, just as we do with the Pavilion, Village Hall, Town Hall and so on. The plan is to complete the project by September 2011.

### Youth Centre

Mid last year OCC was advised by the Bampton Youth Club Management Committee that it would no longer manage the Youth Club building. OCC therefore asked the Parish Council if it would take it over, which it agreed to do.

Once the new building is complete a view will have to be taken as to how to run the facility in the future.

### Youth Club

After a lot of representation from the Council, the Youth Club is scheduled to re-open its doors on Monday 10 May. To start with there will only be a senior Youth Club, but the Council is working with OCC and the Bampton Youth Club Management Committee to see how the funding for the Junior Youth Club can be organised.

### Bampton Fire Station

Carterton keeps pushing to have its own fire station, which, if it happened, would mean the demise of either Bampton or Burford fire stations; or possibly both. The Parish Council continues to resist Carterton pressure on the issue, but clearly the availability of firemen in Bampton will be crucial in maintaining the Fire Station in the Village. Two things on our side are cost and benefit. It would cost quite a sum to build a fire station in Carterton – certainly well in excess of £1 Million it is understood; and there do not appear to be any benefits – a risk assessment carried out by the Fire Service a few of years ago confirmed this, and recent advice is that there is no change to the risk assessed, even with the addition of the new houses in Carterton. This is likely to be valid for at least the next decade.

## Bampton Welfare Trust

Charity No. 202735

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

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

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

**Clerk to the Trustees:** Mr D Pullman, Mill Green Cottage, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850589. **Welfare Officer:** Mrs J Newman, Leofric House, 81 New Road, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850755. If you would like to apply for a grant for the first time, please contact Dr M Perry: Tel: 01993 850314 for an application form.

However, as said before, we must try and ensure that Bampton Fire Station is adequately staffed, since if it could not be sustained, we might lose it altogether.

#### Emergency Response Plan

The ERP was issued to all households and businesses in January 2010. A Tabletop exercise was conducted in April last year and will be repeated over the next few months to again test to ERP for 'fitness for purpose' and by way of inducting the new Parish Councillors.

#### Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment System using Microsoft Excel has been developed for the Council, and all risks identified have now been assessed. The new Council will review the risks again in the near future to make sure that the Risk System remains up to date.

#### Bampton Town Hall

WestOxArts has received some funding to install the lift to the Gallery, and it is hoped that they will start moving with the project in the short term. The Parish Council will install the access ramp.

The Flagpole was replaced by a new self-standing model. Cllr. Ian Millar undertook the project.

#### Mercury Close Playing Field

The contract for the new playpark has been awarded, and work is expected to start shortly.

#### Bampton Post Office

With the retirement of Martin & Carol Barrett, we thought that the problem of a successor had been solved by The Post Office with the assignment of a temporary postmaster who advised us that he was going to apply to become permanent in the position. However, he then decided not to, and Martin and myself had a series of meetings with various people to try and solve the problem.

The outcome is the assignment of another temporary postmaster which hopefully will keep the post office open until we get a permanent solution.

For the latter, we have a candidate who has applied for the position, but he will require new premises by end year since the lease on the existing premises expires at that time.

Martin, myself, and the Post Office have looked at various options for

premises, and have decided that the only feasible option is at present the Middle Chamber of The Town Hall. The Parish Council have approved offering it to the candidate, and the Post Office has recently given its technical approval for it to be used as the new Post Office.

We now await the candidate being approved by the Post Office for the job – he is an experienced postmaster already so we do not expect problems – and then it will be a question of negotiating a lease, organising change of use for the Middle Chamber, and once that is done, he can move in to do the works necessary to convert the chamber into Bampton's New Post Office. We are hoping that we don't incur any glitches.

#### Bus Services

With a view to trying the get improved bus services, and Transport Needs Survey was recently conducted in conjunction with ORCC – the – results awaited. However, it would appear that funding in OCC may be an issue, but pressure will be kept up to see if we can obtain at least an evening service on the 19 route to Carterton and Witney, although a half-hour service on the same route during the day is also an aspiration.

#### Cemetery

It is estimated that the Cemetery has a lifespan of approximately 10 – 15 years. A project is underway to see how extra land, to extend the life out to another 100 years, has been started. Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policies

The Council approved both policies at its April 2010 meeting. Also approved was the Publication Scheme giving information on how information can be obtained and at what, if any, cost.

#### Downton Abbey

The ITV period drama started filming in April, and we expect to see them back on a regular basis. Apart for hiring the carpark at the Recreation Ground, the series is also making donations to the Parish Council for Village projects, to the tune of £1000 per filming day.

#### Budget and Precept

The budget for 2010 – 2011 is £65430, and this is the amount precepted for the financial year. The budget for 2009 – 2010 was £67686,

but only around £54,000 was precepted in order to draw down the Council's reserves. The Council decided this year that the reserves had been drawn down enough and elected to precept the full budget amount.

#### Clerk to the Parish Council

Sarah Radband took over the Clerk's job third quarter last year, and our previous Clerk, Brenda Sapsford, stayed on as Assistant Clerk until March to help in the transition. She has now retired, and we were hoping to have her here so that we could give her our thanks for all of the hard work she undertook for the Council, and the Village, during her time as Clerk to the Parish Council, but unfortunately, due to ill health she was not able to make it. The Council will arrange something for her when she has recovered, but in the meantime, I would like to record our thanks to Brenda, for a job very well done, and done over many years, in supporting the Council and the Village.

#### Outgoing Councillors

Finally, I would like to thank, on behalf of all in the Village, the five Councillors who have decided to retire! They are:

David Hawkins  
Alan Dunbar  
Anna Pitt  
Bob Landray  
Ian Millar

They have all put in a lot of time and effort in trying to improve the quality of life in Bampton.

So, thank you all for your efforts, and have a happy retirement!

#### 7.5 Environmental Weight Limit and Other Issues

by Cllr Ian Hudspeth

Oxfordshire County Council

Cllr Hudspeth advised the Meeting that the target for the introduction of the weight limit had been verbally advised to the Parish Council as April 2010. However, Cllr Hudspeth advised further that due to unforeseen circumstances, there has been a delay. He told the Meeting the contract for road works had been tendered, and the result was that the incumbent contractor had lost, and while the new contractor was not due to take over until July, because of problems with the incumbent contractor, this was brought forward to 1 April. However,

he then advised the Meeting that, because of the very bad winter weather, there were an immense number of potholes in the roads, and the new contractor was therefore targeting these first, because it was a major safety concern, with the result that they could not as yet do the work necessary to put in the Buckland Road Weigh Limit. He stressed that there was not money issue with the Weight Limit, contrary to some rumours, and that it would be implemented, once the contractor had completed the pothole work. Cllr Hudspeth, in answer to a question, advised that was not able to give a date for the implementation, and that he was therefore not prepared to give one. But, he advised, he would let the Parish Council know as soon as a date was known.

Cllr Hudspeth, advised that proposed new bridge at Newbridge is still in the consultation phase, and that he couldn't therefore give any real update as to where the project was.

Cllr. Hudspeth advised that the Minerals Extraction proposals for the extraction of gravel from land around West Oxfordshire, including areas close to Bampton were still in development. He acknowledged that there were major concerns from communities, including Bampton, but that the proposals would be subject to consultation, and a public enquiry.

#### Flooding Report

by Cllr David Hawkins  
Bampton Parish Council

2 ½ years on it is good that 500 or so victims (157 dwellings) are getting support of the village.

Flood Prevention Working Group meetings are held every 4 months, where representatives of the neighbouring villages are also present. Minutes are published on the Notice Board for public view.

Good news was received recently: DEFRA grants for flood defences, etc, totalling about £120K for 20 victims of Bampton should be allocated shortly. Next year's grant will go to the victims of the Cumbrian flooding.

The Environment Agency has announced their maintenance programme for 2010/2011. They are now cleaning a lot more rivers than we had been led to believe, and Shillbrook, from Fishers Bridge to the junction of

Shillbrook and the Highmoor Brook, is due to be cleaned out by the end of October 2010.

A new attenuation area is to be built off Weald Street at WODC's expense. This will hold water which would normally flood properties within the area.

#### The Bampton Recreation Ground Charity Report

by Cllr Fred Gray, Trustee

The Charity Trustees are all members of the Parish Council and the aims of the Trust are to look after the recreational well being of the inhabitants of Bampton. The Trust owns the Recreation Ground in Pembroke Place, the Buckland Road Recreation Ground, pavilion and facilities, and Sandford's Field.

The Charity has investments that provide some income and an income from the Pavilion, pitches and sports clubs that use the Buckland Road facility, but neither of these cover all the running costs each year so additionally the Parish Council gives a grant to the charity. This year that grant was £15000.

The major project this year was the laying of the new cricket wicket by the Bampton Cricket Club. This has gone well, and the Club hopes to start using it next year.

And the Recreation Ground is very busy with all sorts of sporting activities including archery, football, tennis, cricket, netball, to name but a few.

A number of people work very hard in support of this charity, particularly Alan Dunbar, Anna Pitt, and David Hawkins. However, I must mention Ray Willis the Pavilion Manager. Ray works tirelessly for the Recreation Ground, making sure it is kept in top class condition, and he also markets the facilities. We would be very much worse off without his services.

We have also been lucky to have Pauline Smith as our DPS or licensed officer. Having Pauline also makes the Pavilion more attractive for parties as licensed bars can be arranged through her.

Funding of the Recreation Ground in general is being looked at given the reduction in interest rates where the Trust has felt the effect on reduced interest income. However, the Trust at the moment is in good shape and there

is confidence that, with an upturn in world finances at some stage in the future, it will continue to remain in a healthy position in the future.

#### New Mercury Close Playing Field Update

by Cllr Anna Pitt

Bampton Parish Council

Cllr. Pitt, who has been working very hard on the New Mercury Close Playing Field Project, reported that the contract has been awarded but the work hadn't yet started. She advised that the contractor had been delayed due to the bad winter weather, but was close to completing his ongoing project and would then start ours.

#### Report from Bampton CoE Primary School

by Fiona Farmer

Chair of Governors

Firstly, I would like to apologise to the meeting for not presenting the report in person on behalf of the Governors. We have a previously scheduled Governors meeting and therefore send apologies and good wishes for a successful Parish meeting. We have had a very full and productive time at the school since April 2009. Most recently the school underwent Ofsted inspection and we are delighted that the school was rated 'good with many outstanding features'. This was a steady improvement on our last inspection in 2007. In particular, the Inspector noted that 'Bampton Primary school offers a quality education for its pupils.... Outstanding levels of care and support are another reason for the schools continuing success.....Pupils are exceptionally well cared for and feel extremely secure and happy'. In particular, the Inspector rated behaviour, healthy lifestyles and safety, and the effectiveness of care guidance and support, as being outstanding. We are all extremely proud of the school, staff and children and would like to thank the Headteacher, and all the staff for this excellent result and their levels of commitment, care and skill, which endure despite relentless paperwork and audit. We are all committed to striving towards 'outstanding' judgement at our next inspection. The school currently has 149 children on the roll most of whom live in the village. We have around 29% of pupils requiring additional

support, which is slightly higher than the national average. We are very proud of the individual progress that these children make. The Headteacher has managed to secure small class sizes this year, particularly in the Infant section of the school. This gives those very young children an exceptional start. Over this year, we have said goodbye to Mrs Nicky Pearson, our Foundation class teacher, who has retired and also to Yvonne Taylor, Teaching Assistant and Fiona Godwin, lunchtime supervisor. We thank them for all their hard work. We have welcomed new Teachers, Kate Gardner and Anya Pitt, as well as Teaching Assistant, Anne-Louise Russell and Clare Rednall who is our new Librarian. Sarah Hughes has also started as lunchtime supervisor. The new library was completed at Christmas.

This has provided an invaluable additional space for small groups and individuals and has been an opportunity to organize the books and resources and use the extensive skills of our new librarian. Work has just begun on a Children's Centre in the grounds of the school. This will provide a valuable resource for families with pre-school age children in the village and surrounding areas. The work will be completed in the Autumn and we hope that disruption will be kept to a minimum during the build for local residents and staff, children and families. Year 5/6 children were able to attend the outward bound centre at Yenworthy, Devon in January despite the snowy weather. The children had a fantastic time, trying all sorts of new experiences and were commended for their behaviour and care for each other. They have produced some impressive pieces of work since their return.

We would like to thank all the staff at the centre as well as Mr and Mrs Newman, Mrs Stacey and Mr Holford for their hard work during the trip. The school has continued to build connections with the community, with singing at the Bush Club and Rosebank and a visit from our local Butcher Patrick Straine, which was very interesting!

We welcome visits from anyone who has something interesting to share and would encourage you to get in touch

if this is you! We also have an area of currently quite rough ground behind the preschool, which we would like to clear for the invaluable shade during the summer. We would welcome any help with rotavating and general help this spring to get the ground safe and usable for the children. Please get in touch! We have enjoyed several performances this year at school. Key Stage 1 performed 'Joseph', a very ambitious performance under the Direction of Paul Atkins and Key stage 2 'Hoodwinked' as well as the Christmas performances. We have also had many memorable musical performances – all the children learn an instrument at the school and Mrs Newman's class all learn a brass instrument.

We are incredibly lucky to have such musical talent in the teaching staff at the school plus the additional excellent teaching of Miss Eley and Mr Herrington as well as the individual instrument teachers who visit.

The children continue to enjoy many after school clubs and activities as well as partnership holiday activities. In addition, all classes have enjoyed visits to various places outside the school and the whole school enjoyed the pantomime at the Playhouse in December – Jack and the Beanstalk. The Friends of Bampton School, under the chairmanship of Lisa Ing and Su Allen, have continued to provide invaluable financial support to the school through a variety of fundraising activities – discos, quiz nights, summer barbeque, Christmas bazaar and Easter raffle.

The money raised helps to fund the swimming pool during the summer term as well as many other projects for the children. Anyone can be a friend of Bampton School. Could this be you?

As you can see, there is never a dull moment at school! We are incredibly lucky to have such a great school right in our village, giving our children such a great start to their education, before moving on to Burford. We would love to hear from you if you have something to offer!

### The Bampton Community Shop Report

by Fenella Gray, Company Secretary  
Yet again we have had a very good

year and sales have been high even with the credit crunch going on. We are also very lucky to still have so many volunteers working their selected hours every week so in fact these days the shop runs itself. With the help of Patrick Constable as our shop manager the shop goes from strength to strength.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gives their time and especially Patrick and Annie Grinsell our Treasurer, for all the work that they do, which in turn makes my life less stressful.

With all this hard work and especially not forgetting all the donations of items for the shop, we have managed this year, 2010 to award £16,330.00 to the following good causes in the Village:

Bampton Town Football Club for restoration works

The Parish Council funding for restoration of the War Memorial and Flag Pole

The Parish Council funding towards the refurbishments to the Town Hall  
The Bampton Primary School for funding for the Yenworthy Trip  
Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club funding for new maintenance equipment

The Bampton Exhibition Foundation funding towards refurbishment of roof  
Windrush & Bampton Boxing Club  
Boxing Club for funding for the ASDAN registration fee and equipment  
Bampton Methodist Chapel towards new stackable chairs and equipment  
Village Hall funding towards the new kitchen

Bampton Tennis Club funding towards Children's Coaching  
Royal British Legion funding for new Advertising Banners

Nicky & Vicky's new Nursery to help towards toys and an outside cupboard  
Donation towards the funeral expenses of Marine Jason Mackie of £330.00

Bampton Post Office to help towards funding for office equipment in its new premises

For details of each award, please see the list on the Chairman's table!

Since the Shop opened its doors in 2004, we have given a total of £53,980 to good causes within the Village. And of this, £42,000 has been awarded over the last three years.

### The Bampton Exhibition Foundation Report

No report

### The Bampton Welfare Trust Report

No report

### County Councillor's Report

by Cllr Don Seale

Oxfordshire County Council

This year's budget is £1 billion, most of which is already spoken for. The County has made savings of £28 million, of which £2.5 million is cut in services.

The Government propose free domiciliary care for the elderly. This sounds very good but giving free care for people to stay at home and be cared for will cost, it is estimated, £2.5 million, on the basis of present knowledge. However, we don't really know the number of people who will want this type of care, and won't know until we have to start providing it, so it could cost an awful lot more. We could see £10 million.

Cultural Services, such as the library are very important. The service was recently moved to Social Services Department, because it was considered to be important to social life, and we feel that it is important to protect the front line services from cuts. Having said that, I must warn that I cannot see us maintaining all of our services in the future, given the financial situation, and quite probably cuts will have to be made.

### District Councillor's Report

by Cllr Mark Booty

West Oxfordshire District Council  
Planning – WODC will be introducing public participation in the planning process as of May. That means that, if you have a planning application, you will be allowed to address the Planning Committee to state your case.

Refuse and Recycling – A new contract will start towards the end of the year. The following is the plan for the collections:

Recycling	weekly
Kitchen Waste	weekly
Green waste	weekly
Anything else	Fortnightly

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.25pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

## Bampton Classical Opera

By Jeremy Gray

### The Marriage of Figaro

But not as you know it!

Bampton Classical Opera continues to beat an uncharted path through musical history with its fascinating rediscovery of forgotten classical music, an approach which intrigues and delights our inquisitive audiences and thrills the critics. For its 18<sup>th</sup> annual production in the beautiful Deanery garden, we are proud to pre-



Nicholas Merryweather (who sings Figaro this summer) and cast in the 2005 Bampton production of *The Barber of Seville*

sent the first performances since 1800 of a version of the greatest of all operatic comedy stories, *The Marriage of Figaro*. The aptly subtitled *The Mad Day* charts the round-the-clock loves, lusts, boredoms and intrigues of high and low within the grand court of the Sevillian Count Almaviva. Every opera-goer knows the story through the immortal music of Mozart, but who has ever seen a different version of the same story? Bampton Classical Opera ventures where other opera companies fear to tread in this version composed by the once-renowned Portuguese composer, Marcos Portugal (1762-1830), and premiered in Venice. His dynamic and fast-moving setting, full of the liveliest music, enables us to encounter familiar characters though

new ears.

Last summer the national critics called us "one of England's most adventurous, engaging and inventive ensembles" – "a serious business with remarkable artistic standards". But we're far from stuffy! Bampton must be the most relaxed opera company in the country, and we encourage our audience to relax, picnic, enjoy the sunshine (yes, let's hope!) and sit back to enjoy our superb professional singers and orchestra at a fraction of the price charged elsewhere. If you

think you are opera-shy but enjoy a good tune, then try us out – you may get hooked! Remember we always sing in English and the acoustics at the Deanery are remarkable so you can hear every word with crystal clarity. (And it may not have escaped your notice that one of our company's figure-head Patrons, a certain Mr David Cam-

eron, has recently been elected Prime Minister....). Tickets are now on sale from Bampton Physiotherapy, Bushey Row (mornings only), or by telephone: **Tel: 01367 810769**, or on-line at [www.bamptonopera.org](http://www.bamptonopera.org). If you have never been before and feel you cannot afford tickets, then there are a small number of complimentary tickets to be given away thanks to the support of the Parish Council – please contact the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Sarah Radband: **Tel: 01993 851870** ([sarah.radband@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.radband@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk)).

Marcos Portugal, *The Marriage of Figaro*: 7.30pm Friday 23 and Saturday 24 July, in the Deanery Garden (further performances in Westonbirt 29 August and St John's Smith Square, London 7 October).

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### SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

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

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

### DO JOIN NOW

Send your membership fee of £2 (£1 for OAPs) to:

Society for the  
Protection of Bampton  
Deanery Farmhouse  
Broad Street  
Bampton, Oxon OX18 2LY  
01993 850293

West Ox Arts Gallery  
Market Square, Bampton,  
Oxon OX18 2JH  
Tel: 01993 850137  
Email: gallery@westoxarts.org  
Web: www.westoxarts.org

**WEST  
OX  
ARTS**

## Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox Arts is an association of artists and art enthusiasts, many of whom take part in exhibitions alongside artists invited from the wider region. We hold up to sixteen exhibitions a year showing a varied range of contemporary, high quality art and crafts by local and national artists. Every year three of our exhibitions take place in the Robert Vesey Room located at Bampton Library. We also organise talks, workshops and special events. The gallery has a shop which sells handmade jewellery, ceramics, glassware and cards.

West Ox Arts is situated in a lovely spacious gallery on the first floor of Bampton's Grade II listed Town Hall in the Market Square. It is a charity and is part-funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council, and staffed by a part-time curator and administrator and also volunteers.

### Gallery Shop

The gallery shop sells greetings cards of Bampton and Oxfordshire as well as flower, landscape, animal and designer greetings cards made by many artists who are local to the area. Also on display is a range of traditional, contemporary and ethnic jewellery selling at reasonable prices. The shop has practical pottery such as mugs, bowls, vases and jugs. There are also stained glass and wooden items for sale.

### Exhibitions in the Gallery

#### Gallery opening hours

During exhibitions:

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

#### The Summer Exhibition

3 - 25 July

A mixed group exhibition of paintings, photography and ceramics celebrating the summer through gardens, flowers, landscapes and the sea. Dorothy Pavey makes watercolours of local landscapes and gardens. Neville Crowson's oil paintings of flowers display his lively and enthusiastic enjoyment of colour in nature. Patsy Jones's oils and mixed media focus qualities of space and light on the chalk downs. Photographer Gordon Stokes captures the changing effects of light and colour on the Scottish and Cornish coastline. Neil Ions will be showing his ceramic boat 'Voyagers' and fish and bird ocarinas. Robin Walden's pots have been

strongly influenced by early Chinese ware and also by vessels from the Japanese tea ceremony.

#### The Long Tradition

31 July - 15 August

This is a touring exhibition of calligraphy to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oxford Scribes. The main part of the exhibition consists of 26 pieces for the letters of the alphabet. A fascinating show demonstrating many different types of calligraphy in a variety of historical styles all by members of the Oxford Scribes.

#### Drawing Days

19 - 29 August

A WOA members' exhibition showing drawings, paintings and prints inspired by group visits (drawing days) to gardens such as Kelmscot, Buscot Park and also Oxford museums.

#### West Ox Arts Members' Exhibition

4 - 26 September

This lively and diverse annual exhibition will show a wide variety of artwork by local artists including paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, textiles and pottery. There will be much to enjoy - bring your friends to have a look around!

#### The Robert Vesey Room at Bampton Library

Imprimatur 10

3 July - 22 August

Denise Mason, Gill Salway and Geoff Smith return to the Vesey Room with an exhibition showcasing some of the

varied work they have produced over the past year.

Denise works primarily with silk screen, often using plant and floral images; Gill concentrates on collagraph choosing subjects with a strong sculptural or textural quality; Geoff prefers etching and finds subject matter in the wildlife and old buildings near his home.

The Robert Vesey Room opening hours are: Monday, Thursday and 2.30 - 4.30pm and Wednesday & Saturday 10am - 12 pm.

If you would like to book this exhibition space for one month please contact Rosie Tomlinson on: **Tel: 01993 850137**. The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

### Life Drawing Sessions

These enjoyable, ongoing life drawing sessions cost £8 for members and £9 for non-members. They take place in the gallery on Monday mornings 10am-12.30pm and Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm. These sessions are drop in and untutored, so just come along during term times. Bring your own materials such as sketchbook, pencils or pastels.

### WOA Membership

Membership is open to everyone and new members are always welcome. Benefits include:

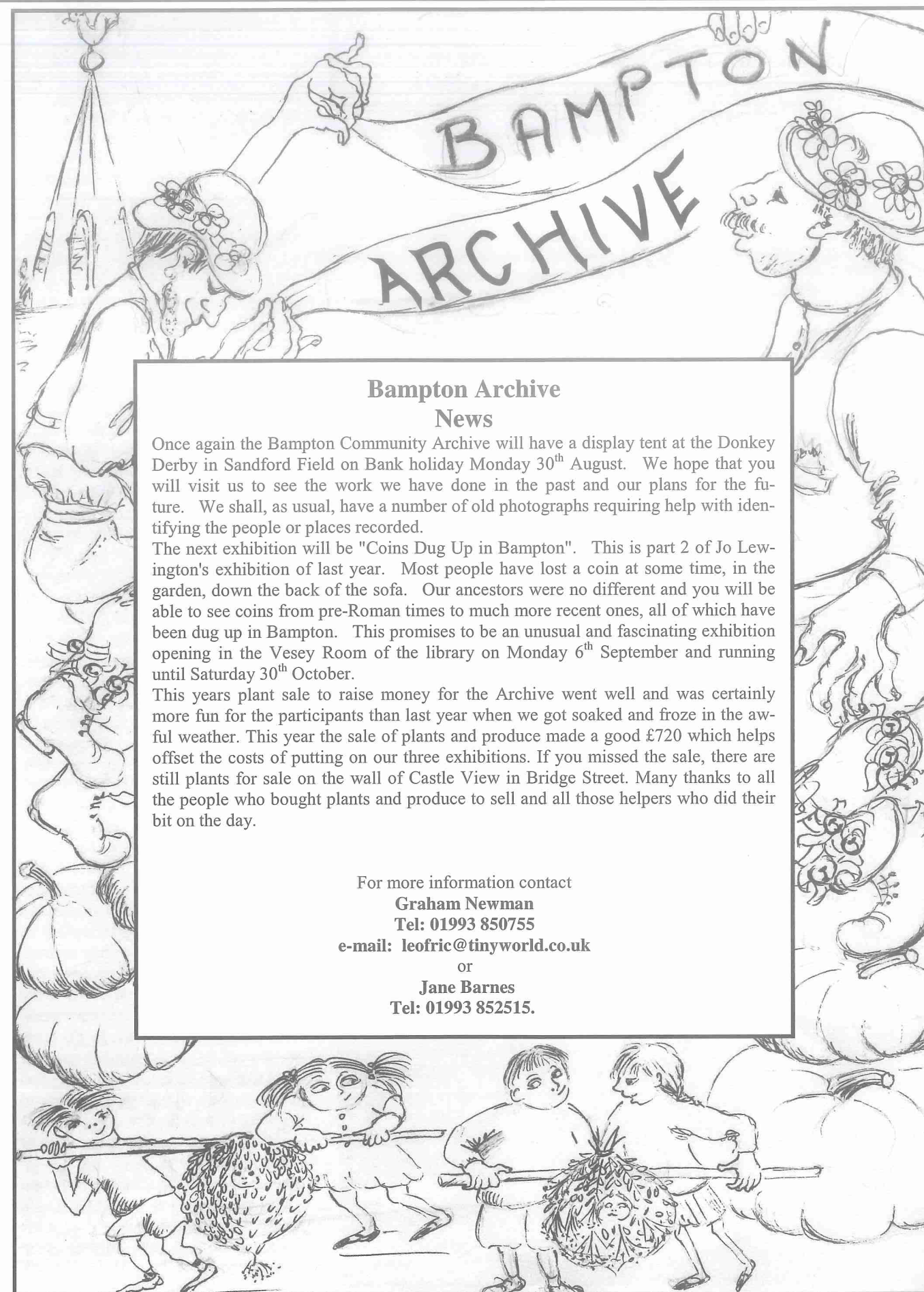
- Discounts on WOA lectures, life classes and workshops.
- Invitations to private views.
- Regular mailings of the WOA events guide and newsletter.
- Discounts for local arts suppliers and framing.
- Reduced commission rate for exhibitors.

Membership fees: Single £20, Family: £35, Student £10.

The Administrator is usually in the Gallery Tues-Thurs 10.30am - 4pm. Membership forms and details on exhibitions are in the Gallery.

### Gallery Stewards

WOA always needs volunteer stewards to look after the exhibitions. If you could spare a couple of hours each month to support WOA in this way then please contact the Gallery Administrator, Rosie Tomlinson, on: **Tel: 01993 850137** or for the Robert Vesey Room, Richard Wilkinson, on: **Tel: 01993 850406**.



## Bampton Archive News

Once again the Bampton Community Archive will have a display tent at the Donkey Derby in Sandford Field on Bank holiday Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August. We hope that you will visit us to see the work we have done in the past and our plans for the future. We shall, as usual, have a number of old photographs requiring help with identifying the people or places recorded.

The next exhibition will be "Coins Dug Up in Bampton". This is part 2 of Jo Lewington's exhibition of last year. Most people have lost a coin at some time, in the garden, down the back of the sofa. Our ancestors were no different and you will be able to see coins from pre-Roman times to much more recent ones, all of which have been dug up in Bampton. This promises to be an unusual and fascinating exhibition opening in the Vesey Room of the library on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and running until Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

This year's plant sale to raise money for the Archive went well and was certainly more fun for the participants than last year when we got soaked and froze in the awful weather. This year the sale of plants and produce made a good £720 which helps offset the costs of putting on our three exhibitions. If you missed the sale, there are still plants for sale on the wall of Castle View in Bridge Street. Many thanks to all the people who bought plants and produce to sell and all those helpers who did their bit on the day.

For more information contact  
**Graham Newman**  
Tel: 01993 850755  
e-mail: leofric@tinyworld.co.uk  
or  
**Jane Barnes**  
Tel: 01993 852515.

Dear Fenella,

This letter is by way of a thank you note to the good and kind people of the Bampton area. It was pure serendipity that I moved here some six years ago, having been unable to find the house or location I was seeking in the Marlborough area, my Faringdon-based son suggested here, and I made a move I have never regretted.

It was not only the prettiness, the convenience of the shops and services, but also the character and characters in the place. Everybody is so friendly. When we first came, I was caring for my wife, who has Alzheimer's Disease, and I will always be grateful for the way in which she was included and accepted in the community. Now she is in full-time care, people still ask after her, even those who never met her.

Now it's my turn to be on the receiving end of Bampton's friendly neighbour approach. Since being taken ill just before Christmas, I have been inundated with offers of hospital lifts, trips, food, ironing, shopping visits, and general messages of cheer. It really has endorsed my view of the whole area, and I wish to say thank you to all who have helped me, and to say generally to the village, "don't ever change, keep up the good work and continue to be the friendly and welcoming place you have been to my family and me!"

Yours sincerely  
Ilan Millar  
Fairwood, Cheapside

Dear Editor

Some of your readers may not be aware of the regular monthly minibus service from Aston to Swindon on the first Saturday of each month. As the bus passes through Bampton we could easily pick up passengers from the Square. If anyone is interested they should contact George Wiltshire on 850989 a few days in advance. It leaves Kingsgate at 10am, with a stop by the Red Lion, and the return journey departs Swindon at 2pm. The stopping point in Swindon is near Debenhams, and the return fare is £3.50.

The number of passengers has declined over the last few months, to the point at which it may not be possible to continue the Swindon run, which is

## LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

why we are bringing it to the attention of other potential customers. Max Potter on behalf of The Aston Minibus Committee

Dear Editor,

The closure of my shop was a very difficult decision and saddened me as much as it did a lot of my customers/friends. Unfortunately, a combination of failing health and economic reasons forced my decision. It was a sad day when I closed. I love this village and did not want to be the one responsible for closing a shop that has served this village for over 200 years, but I did my best for the last 30 years as I am sure all my predecessors did. In addition I would like to mention my shop assistants Mrs June Taylor and Mrs Iris Martin, who worked for me ever since I bought the shop in 1980. In other words, they came with it!

Both of these ladies worked in the shop before I arrived and put in more years than the 30 that I put in. I also want to mention Aaron Smees who came to me as a Saturday boy and stayed for 6 years.

I would like to comment that the residents of Bampton are very privileged to have so many shops and amenities. In the much quoted cliché, use them or lose them!

I shall continue to live above the shop and the door is always open to customers/friends. Please call in.

Best regards  
Adrian Simmonds  
The Stores  
Market Square  
Bampton

*I'm sure that all of our Bampton area readers would like us to say a great big THANK YOU to Adrian, for giving us such great service over the years. What a shop it was, you could get almost anything in it, and in fact it reminded me of John Temple's slogan for his shop, 'If you can't find it in the shop, you probably don't need it anyway'!*

*Enjoy a happy retirement Adrian. Ed.*

## Slimming World

by Christina Moss

Bampton slimmers success in weight loss challenge!

A group of Bampton slimmers from are celebrating losing an incredible 42st 4lbs as part of a community weight loss challenge. The slimmers, who attend the Bampton Slimming World group, joined the club's 12-week 'Let's Beat It Together' weight loss challenge in February and they're not just stones lighter, they're healthier and happier too.

Slimming World launched the 'Let's Beat It Together' challenge in Bampton after their UK Body Mass Index (BMI) map showed that obesity is on the rise, with more and more people in our region now overweight. The campaign aimed to get people thinking about their weight and health and that of their families and loved ones. It also aimed to show that losing as little as 5-10% body weight in 12 weeks can have huge benefits on health and wellbeing.

Christina, Slimming World Consultant for the Bampton group, has been delighted with the results: "Let's Beat It Together has had a huge impact on our group" she said. Going further, she said, "We encouraged people in the local community to lose weight by making small changes to the way they shop, cook and eat and by becoming more active. The response has been brilliant. We welcomed a total of 32 new members during the 12-week campaign. As a group we've lost a record breaking total of 594lbs! And our members have reduced the risk of heart disease, diabetes and stroke, and become more mobile and they feel so much better. It's been hugely rewarding to be able to show people that losing weight doesn't have to mean going hungry. At first our new members couldn't believe they'd lose weight while still enjoying normal food like lean meat and fish, pasta and potatoes, and without ever having to go hungry! And they're delighted they don't have to give up chocolate or alcohol either!"

The Bampton slimmers group runs every Wednesday at 7pm at the Youth Centre on Church View. For more information on the group contact Christina on: **Tel: 01993 201230.**

## THE BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

Buckland Road, Bampton.

### THE PAVILION

The Bampton Recreation Ground is an excellent facility. It has football pitches, a cricket pitch, a multi-sport court, tennis courts, and Skate Park. It also has a Trim-Trail, and is adjacent to the Millenium Wood where you can walk and exercise in the peace and quiet of the countryside.

The Pavilion, has a large hall for social functions, changing rooms, referees' facilities, kitchen and bar and is for hire by members of the public for all varieties of functions such as wedding receptions, birthdays or anniversary parties. It is also an ideal venue for conferences or training courses.

#### Some General Hire Prices

##### Pavilion

08:00 - 13:00 : £40

13:00 - 18:00 : £40

18:00 - 23:59 : £80

Whole Day : £160

##### Football Pitches

Season hire rates for Bampton Soccer Teams: Senior Pitch £22.00 per game

Junior Pitch £18.00 per game

Changing Room £9.00 per game

Season hire rates for Non Bampton Soccer Teams: £32.00 per game

Non Regular Soccer Team Hire Rate: £45.00 per game

Multisport Bampton Residents: £10.00

Non-Residents: £13.00

For more information on the facilities, and the charges for hire please contact: Ray Willis **Tel: 01993 852483** or **Mobile: 07766 264684.**

### A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU USE THE RECREATION GROUND

#### While using skate park

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

#### Insurance Liabilities

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

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

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

### Boxing Club Success

Jasmine Yeates (pictured right) of the Windrush Valley & Bampton Boxing Club, took the gold medal for her weight category - junior class 5 67-69k - at the Amateur Boxing Association of England national female boxing championships held in Portsmouth early June. Congratulations to Jasmine - and to our Boxing Club. Keep up the good work!



### Other Sporting Activities

#### Bampton Town Football Club

Chairman: Martyn Holder: Tel: 01993 840206; email: martyn-holder@btinternet.com.

Secretariat: Murray Disbrey; email: murray.disbrey@smurfittkappa.co.uk

Junior Contact: Mark Taylor; email: markm\_taylor@hotmail.com

#### Bampton Tennis Club

Bampton Tennis Club's two clubs nights are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Benefits to members include being able to pre-book and use the tennis courts throughout the year. A number of tournaments are held throughout the year.

Membership Secretary: Tel: 01993 824670; Email: bamptontennis@hotmail.co.uk.

#### Bampton in the Bush Cricket Club

If you or your child would like to play cricket with us, please contact either Richard Pitt (adults; 0777 857 8875) or Martin Landray (juniors; 01993 850939 or e-mail martin.landray@tsu.ox.ac.uk).

Full details of fixtures, results and playing statistics are available at the club website: www.bampton.play-cricket.com

#### Bampton Archery Club

Meets weekly at The Recreation Ground. Indoor in winter.

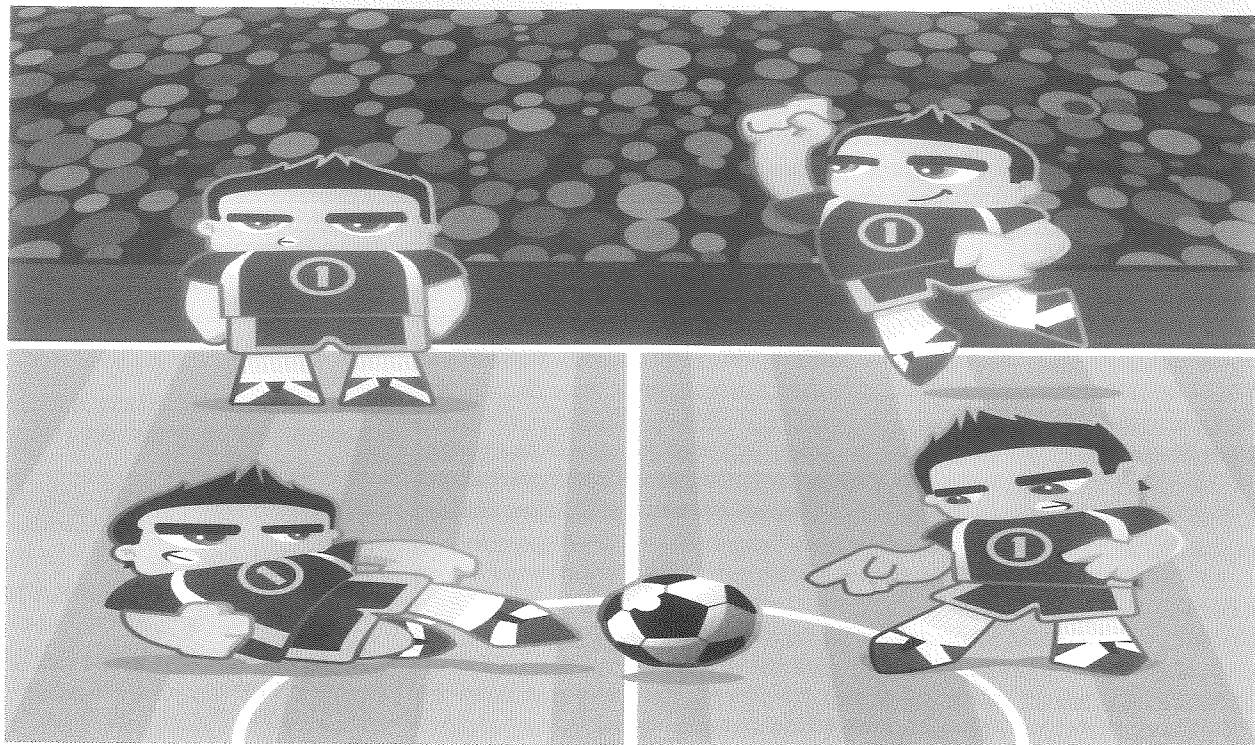
Contact: Gerald Mills: Tel: 01993 850670; or Jeff Dando: Tel: 01993 850643; www.bamptonarchery.co.uk

#### Bampton Badminton Club

Meets Tuesday mornings in the Village Hall. Contact: Lesley Campbell: Tel: 01993 852846.



## INTERESTED IN PLAYING YOUTH FOOTBALL FOR YOUR LOCAL TEAM?



Bampton Town Football Club invites children aged 8 years old to join our new U9's squad for training and matches commencing in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August.

Players of all abilities are welcome.  
Training takes place at the Buckland Rd,  
Town Ground

- FA Age Appropriate Coaching techniques
- Fun Training routines to improve fitness, co-ordination and skills
- Small sided games
- Training tailored for players of all abilities

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

**Andrew Walton 07977 991148**

**andrew.s.walton@btopenworld.com**

## RACE NIGHT

A Joint Venture Between  
THE BAMPTON COMMUNITY SHOP

AND

HENLEY HAWKS LADIES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Bampton Village Hall 7pm – 11pm

Dress Code: Ladies Day at Ascot

**£40 per Table (up to 8 people) or**

**£5 ticket and we will find you a table to join!**

**£40 will get you the following:**

*A Glass of Sparkling Wine on Entry*

*2 x Bottles of Wine – Red and White - and Nibbles on your table*

**What can you win:**

*Half the Pot of Each Race, Spirits and Wine*

**TOMBOLA and RAFFLE**

So come Join us for a Wonderful Evening of Racing

For More Information and Tickets call Fenella Gray Tel: 01993 851653 or  
Louise Gray Tel: 07802 447574 or call in at the Community Shop, Rosemary Lane, Bampton.

## CASINO NIGHT

A Joint Venture Between

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, BAMPTON BRANCH

AND

HENLEY HAWKS LADIES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

**Saturday 11th Sept 2010**

Bampton Village Hall 7pm – 10pm

Dress Code: Formal / Black Tie

Entrance Fee £10 which includes £5 of Chips and a glass of Sparkling Wine

Nibbles will be available on side tables

Bar facilities will be available

**BLACK JACK and ROULETTE TABLES**

**TOMBOLA and RAFFLE**

**POKER**

First 24 signed in players - £10 a head

Winner takes half of the Pot

*Rules will be explained on the night*

Join us for a Wonderful Evening at the Casino

For More Information and Tickets call Fenella Gray Tel: 01993 851653 or  
Louise Gray Tel: 07802 447574 or call in at the Community Shop, Rosemary Lane, Bampton,  
and buy your tickets.

## Bampton CE Primary School News

By Su Allen

### Inspection success!

The recent OFSTED inspection found that 'Bampton Primary provides a quality education for its pupils' and states that 'all abilities make good progress and attain levels that are above average by the time they leave school.' Outstanding levels of care and support were recognised as strengths as well as the provision for vulnerable pupils and those with special needs. OFSTED has rated Bampton as Good with Outstanding elements.

This report complements the one last year for Music specifically that rated us also as Good with Outstanding features. Following OFSTED, the school also underwent a Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS). The inspectors recognised the strong ethos of trust and caring within the school "The strong Christian ethos is almost tangible in this school, where relationships between all stakeholders are exemplary, and are characterised by Christian care and respect.

Pupils enjoy their time in school and know they are valued as individuals." The Governors, Staff and Children are delighted with the outcome.

### Athletic success

You know that summer is here once sports day is complete. Sports day this year was run in May, in the hope that the weather would be good. Last year it took three attempts to run sports day in July either due to extreme heat or torrential rain. This year May was chosen as the weather is usually (?) more reliable and if we had to postpone there was still ample time after half term. However, the day dawned gorgeously warm, perhaps even a little too warm.

All children participated in a series of races you would recognise from your childhood including sack races, egg and spoon races etc. The entire school is split into 5 teams so that all children work together. The Green team were triumphant on the day, which was nicely rounded off with well deserved ice lollies for all children.

On a similar note, we are delighted that our school Netball team competed successfully in a district tournament winning two and drawing another match. We also want to congratulate our rugby team on their performance in the West Oxfordshire Tournament - we look forward to further great things from both teams.

We are very proud of Ollie Stacey, one of our pupils, for his amazing performance in the Radley Open athletics championship that took place in April. He was awarded with three gold medals presented by Olympian Colin Smith. Well done Ollie!

### Crossing Patrol Officer

Following our last piece in the Beam about the loss of our Crossing Patrol Officer, we are delighted that Clare Rednall has been appointed to replace Yvonne Hare. You may have seen her already in her bright fluorescent coat. We are really pleased to welcome her to this role, which adds important safety to children reaching school. Please give her a wave when you see her.

### Bampton CE Primary World Cup cookery book

The Friends of Bampton School, who support our work in school through fundraising and social events have put together a cookery book using recipes from our children and the local community on the theme of world cooking. These recipes are supplemented with those from professional chefs within Oxfordshire and the initiative is supported by celebrity chef Chris Barber, Director of Leith's Food Solutions and personal chef to HRH Prince Charles.

The cookery book is on sale now throughout the village, priced at £5. All proceeds go to Bampton School and if you would like a copy please call Su Allen on 01993 852882 or e-mail FOBS@brandfish.co.uk.

### A Big THANK YOU!

On a final note, you may have heard we had a murder (two in fact) in the village during April, in the form of the Death by Radio performance by the team from St Mary's Church. A very successful event complete with a Fish & Chip supper and great fun to watch. We must say how grateful we are to St Mary's who decided to give to school half of the profits from this event - an amount in excess of £300. This money will be used to support the purchase of school equipment (in the past we have bought PA systems, staging, children's Trim Trail) and the social life of our children. Thank you St Mary's, we really appreciate your continued support for us.

## Bampton Pre-School News

By Alexandra Miller

### Ofsted Inspection

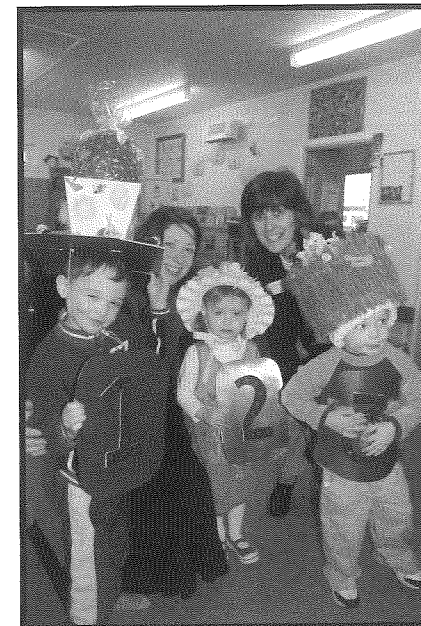
Bampton Pre-School is thrilled to announce that we were rated 'Outstanding' in our latest Ofsted inspection in March. The inspector's summary was as follows:

*Overall the provision is outstanding, because the pre-school offers a bright, interesting, stimulating environment where children are keen to explore and play. They are fully included in a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities. Partnerships with parents, the host school and the community are outstanding. Manager and staff have a very clear understanding of the setting's strengths and areas for improvement. There is an outstanding commitment to continued improvement.*

Copies of the full report can be requested from Pre-School or can be found on the Ofsted website.

### Easter

As ever, the Spring Term is a very busy one at Pre-School with lots of making and creating as well as working and playing in the garden. Our



Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt was another fantastic occasion with all the children making a huge effort with their bonnets leaving the judges had a very difficult decision.

Congratulations to Logan Pritchard (1<sup>st</sup>), Erica Miller (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Harley Bartlett-Setch (3<sup>rd</sup>).

### Open Day

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May we held our first ever Open Day at Pre-School to invite prospective parents and children to visit and find out more about our Pre-School. The day was a fantastic success, especially as the weather was so kind to us meaning we were able to show off our garden at its best! Thanks to all staff and committee members who gave up their time to promote Pre-School, we had loads of positive feedback and will hopefully gain some new entrants soon.

### Fundraising

Thanks to everyone in the village who bought ducks and attended our Annual Duck Race at Mill Green on Bank Holiday Monday. This is a great fundraiser for the Pre-School and also a really fun event. We managed to sell enough ducks for 8 races this year so raised over £300!! Thanks also to Russell Miller, Andrew Norris and Jim Allen for getting in the brook, as well as Oscar Smart and Jenny Allen who did a fantastic job of fishing out the winning duck for each race - and not forgetting Maya Simmons' canine contribution! All in all a great team effort!

### Upcoming Events

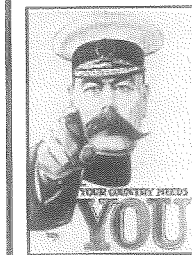
We are all looking forward to our Summer Events, namely a trip to Lydiard Park and our Sports Day (mums and dads, get in training now!). In particular we are very excited about our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Graduation Day, a lovely send off for the Pre-School children moving up to Reception Class.....hankies at the ready!

## Bampton Baby and Toddler Club

By Cerian Cooper

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club is for children aged between 0 and Pre-School age, and their parents or carers. We have been running for over 10 years, and meet every Thursday between 10:00 and 11:45 in Bampton Village Hall. We have a variety of toys for children to play with during the play session, which is followed by singing and refreshments. Toys range

## The Bampton Beam CROSSWORD Needs YOU!



After 20 or so years providing *The Bampton Beam* with its Crossword, Bill Govier has decided to call it a day and retire.

Bill, from all our readers, but particularly those who enjoyed teasing their little grey cells every time the 'Beam' came out, a BIG THANK YOU for all the hard work you put in for us in producing the Crossword over all those years.

Happy retirement!

Now we need a new 'Bill Govier'! So, if you feel that your own grey matter fits the bill - excuse the pun! - then please contact The Editor, on: **Tel 01993 851653**, and we will set you up with the template - but you will have to provide the clues, and very importantly, the answers!

from those suitable for younger babies, to ride-in cars, a play kitchen, and a slide for toddlers. We have a baby corner for young babies, with bouncers and soft mats. We also have a bouncy castle on the first Thursday of each month, and organise seasonal craft activities. All our toys, including the bouncy castle, are available to hire through our toy library. For a small fee, members can borrow items for a short period. At least once a month, we arrange a special activity, such as a recent visit from Saltbox Music and story time with our local librarian. The group is a great way to meet other parents and carers, and we also arrange evenings out.

We are a friendly group and welcome new members from Bampton and the surrounding area. If you have a child under school age, drop in and join us. Your first visit is free and subsequent visits are £2.50 for non-members, £2 for members. For more information, contact Cerian Cooper on: **Tel: 01993 850861** or just come along!

## Bampton School Cookery Book

On sale from July

Recipes from children, villagers & local chefs

*Developed in partnership with Chris Barber  
Personal chef to HRH Prince of Wales  
& Director of Leith's Food Solution*

To reserve your copy

Call: Su Allen 01993 852882

E-mail: [FOBS@brandfish.co.uk](mailto:FOBS@brandfish.co.uk)

Or see posters for details



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Relax with friends and colleagues.  
Bar menu available

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Why not come in for coffee and biscuits after dropping  
off the children or just to relax and have a chat

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From light lunch to three course lunch  
Choosing off our bar or a la carte menu 7 days a week

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A traditional Sunday lunch available – served from 12-3 pm

Why not pre book your friends and family Sunday Roast – Beef,  
Lamb or Pork and have it carved at your table in a private  
dining room  
Minimum 10 people

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Try our Traditional English Tea.  
Traditional served on cake stands, with crumpets, teacakes,  
cream cakes, by the warm open fires

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From light suppers to fine dining  
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## Recollections of the Shirt Race

by Toby Hopkins

There is an air of excitement in the Horseshoes. A small group of young men are heading for the beer garden. "Come and have a look at the beast!" one encourages. The 'beast' in question is the frame and wheels of a child's pushchair. Evidently (this being the late May bank holiday) they are planning on entering this evening's Shirt Race... In 1953 Earnest Shepherd fired both barrels of his shotgun into the air and about 12 teams (comprising one man pushing another in a trolley of some sort, both wearing obligatory nightgowns) charged down Bridge Street from the start near the Weald turn. At 8 pubs on route (Elephant & Castle, Wheatshaf, Horseshoes, Talbot, George & Dragon, Malt Shovel, New Inn - *now the Morris Clown* - and the Swan) both contestants had to drink a pint of beer ready for them on tables outside, before continuing (as best they could!) to the next. And so the Bampton Annual Shirt Race was born... 57 years later in the Horseshoes' beer garden Tom Clark's "dream team" aren't looking at all organised.

A visiting folk music enthusiast and practically-minded Geordie called Jacky Walton comes to their aid. "What we need is some wood and some inch-and-a-half screws" he announces. Tom's instantly on his mobile. An assorted bag of tools soon arrive and mobilising a beer garden seat as workbench, Jacky sets about making the trolley into something resembling viable... Morris Clown, 6.10pm. A group of Gondoliers stride in; then (curiously) several young women wearing false beards, shorts, big joke glasses and sandals. Enquiring I discover this is 'team Steve'! Although their objective (other than mimicking the Clown's landlord) is apparently to get drunk rather than actually race. Meanwhile, the Gondoliers are posing for photographs outside beside their large and rather impressive black 'gondola', named 'Fobyacio'.

I was then joined by my dad (Roger Hopkins), invited to Bampton for his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, who competed in the

race in 1961. Given the passing of time - and the frenetic consumption of beer on the day, he couldn't accurately recall who he raced with or quite how well they fared. "I think we may have won..." he once mumbled (records, however, are not hugely supportive of this). Another friend, Douglas Read then joined us, who was on that first start line in 1953 partnering John Quick - principal instigator of the event. Today the Race is somewhat less arduous, certainly shorter at approximately 600m. Whilst in '53 the final stretch between the New Inn and the Swan alone was about 500m. After 7 pints of beer, the racers by this stage must have been in some state of disrepair. "...I consider myself very lucky to have survived!" Doug laughed, and was quite content to have let someone else win the first prize - 5 gallons of (yet more) beer... At around 7pm we watched this year's melee of racers, many in fancy-dress set off from the (modern) start line near the Aston turn, pausing at the Morris Clown to drink / spill ½ pints of beer ( ...continuing on to the Jubilee\* - Romany Inn - Horseshoes - Wheatshaf\* - Eagle\* and Talbot). First to cross the finish line (in the square) were the pair of Will and Monty, dressed (according to one observer) as "A brace of whippets" Further information wasn't easily forthcoming. Then late on Monday night I bumped into a couple of 'Team Steve' (looking considerably more attractive without facial hair) and learnt that they did in fact race, mainly for the free beer - so took it slowly. Nevertheless, they still managed to beat one other team. Sadly for the Gondoliers, a wheel fell off their gondola early on and they could then only continue even slower than some semi-inebriated bearded girls. And how did Tom's 'dream team' do..? "- Well, we beat them..!" he answers triumphantly, pointing across the gloom of a late night beer garden towards goodness knows who...  
Winners:  
1953: Harry Hampton & George Hunt  
1961: Frank Smith & Rodney Adams (won it 4 years in a row '59 - '62)  
2010: William Money & Monty Green  
\* A drink table stop exists where once a pub used to be.

## The Romany Inn

Bridge Street, Bampton  
Tel: 01993 850237 / 01993 852546

[www.theromanyinnbampton.co.uk](http://www.theromanyinnbampton.co.uk)

Email: [enquiries@theromanyinnbampton.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@theromanyinnbampton.co.uk)

Mike and Glynis Drysdale would like to invite you to a friendly local pub with a homely atmosphere, offering:

- Traditional Home Cooked Pub Grub served  
Tuesdays - Saturdays, 12 - 2pm and 6 - 9pm
- Sunday lunch served 12 - 3pm - booking is advisable!

Please ask about our special offers

Good quality Beers & Lagers and Real Ales all reasonably priced.

Homely Bed & Breakfast Accommodation all en-suite,  
with TV, tea/coffee facilities & free internet access.

The Romany is centrally located in Bampton, is only 5 minutes from RAF Brize Norton, 10 minutes from Witney, and 40 minutes from Oxford and Swindon.

Totally enclosed Beer Garden with children's play area.  
Big Screen TV with full SKY, ESPN, etc package.

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**Cancer Research UK  
Bampton Branch**

**Events for 2010**

18<sup>th</sup> September Autumn Sale, Village Hall, 10 – 12noon  
 17<sup>th</sup> November Pre-Christmas Bingo, Village Hall, 8pm  
 3<sup>rd</sup> December Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
 17<sup>th</sup> December Country & Western Dance, Social Centre, Carterton, 8.30pm For more information contact Doris or Michael Cleaver:  
**Tel: 01993 850682.**

**Bampton Junior Church**

The children from Bampton School and the village are welcomed to Bampton Junior Church on a Sunday morning. We run from 10.45am – 11.25am in the Bush Centre. At 11.25am we march back up to church where we join the congregation for drinks. BJC runs every Sunday except for the third Sunday in the month when it is family service.

**Old Birthday Cards**

Lizann still needs your old cards after you have enjoyed them, so that she can recycle them into re-saleable items. Please continue to leave them

**NOTICE BOARD**

at 3 Broad Street or The Vesey Room and also the Cotton Club - where they are for sale.

**Bampton Badminton Club**

Bampton Badminton Club is recruiting new players for the next season starting 10am Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall. At just £2 for a 2 hour session including coffee it's a great way to meet new people and get some exercise. All abilities welcome. Contact Lesley Campbell: **Tel: 01993 852846** for more information.

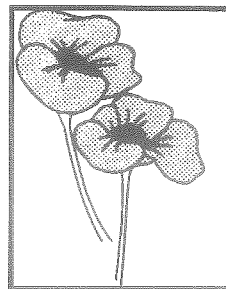
**Bampton Bridge Club**

Do you play bridge? If so why not come along and join the Bampton Bridge Club.. We play on Tuesday evenings from 7-30 to 10pm in Bampton Village Hall. Duplicate is played on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday of each month with Rubber being played on the 2nd and 4th week of the month.. The annual subscription is £6. Members pay £1 per week table money and visitors pay £2. You will find us a very friendly club. For more information contact Frank Hudson on: **Tel: 01993 842126.**

**BRITISH LEGION**

*Wear your Poppy with pride*  
**POPPY SERVICE**  
**The War Memorial**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.45am**



**Followed by**  
**A service at**  
**St Mary's Church**  
**11am**

*'We will Remember Them'*

**Dial-a-Ride**

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

The Dial-a-Ride service is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. For more details about the service including cost, what areas are covered and what type of journey the service can be used for, contact **Tel: 01865 876176.**

**Bampton  
Bush Centre**

Hiring Officer  
 Mr Reece Witchell  
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 Church View  
 Bampton  
 Oxon OX18 2NE

**Tel: 01993 851248**

**A Poem Worth Reading**

He was getting old and paunchy  
 And his hair was falling fast,  
 And he sat around the RSL,  
 Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in  
 And the deeds that he had done,  
 In his exploits with his buddies;  
 They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors  
 His tales became a joke,  
 All his buddies listened quietly  
 For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
 For ol' Bob has passed away,  
 And the world's a little poorer  
 For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,  
 Just his children and his wife..  
 For he lived an ordinary,  
 Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,  
 Going quietly on his way;  
 And the world won't note his passing,  
 'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
 Their bodies lie in state,  
 While thousands note their passing,  
 And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories  
 From the time that they were young  
 But the passing of a Soldier  
 Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
 To the welfare of our land,  
 Some jerk who breaks his promise  
 And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow  
 Who in times of war and strife,  
 Goes off to serve his country  
 And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend  
 And the style in which he lives,  
 Are often disproportionate,  
 To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,  
 Who offered up his all,  
 Is paid off with a medal  
 And perhaps a pension, small.

**NOTICE BOARD**

It's so easy to forget them,  
 For it is so many times  
 That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,  
 Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians  
 With their compromise and ploys,  
 Who won for us the freedom  
 That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,  
 With your enemies at hand,  
 Would you really want some cop-out,  
 With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--  
 His home, his country, his kin,  
 Just a common Soldier,  
 Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,  
 And his ranks are growing thin,  
 But his presence should remind us  
 We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
 We find the Soldier's part  
 Is to clean up all the troubles  
 That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour  
 While he's here to hear the praise,  
 Then at least let's give him homage  
 At the ending of his days..

Perhaps just a simple headline  
 In the paper that might say:  
**"Our Country is in mourning,  
 A soldier died today"**

*Poem supplied by John Grout, Royal  
 British Legion, Bampton Branch.*

**Photographic  
Competition**

West Oxfordshire Tourism is on the lookout for some rather special images of the Oxfordshire Cotswold. It's your opportunity to get one of your favourite photographs shown to the world and there'll be a prize for one lucky winner. For more information please contact: Diane Blackwell: **Tel: 01993 861553**; Email: [diane.blackwell@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:diane.blackwell@westoxon.gov.uk).

**WOA needs  
a new  
Treasurer!**

Our excellent Treasurer is retiring after doing a great job helping WOA over the last few years. We are now looking for someone who will volunteer to be our new Treasurer and play a key role in the development of the organisation. If you are interested and would like more details please contact Rosie Tomlinson at the gallery.

**Coming to Bampton  
this Autumn**

**The Ten Commandments - Just10**  
 A new look at these well known rules for life from the Bible  
 Presented by J. John  
 check the website [www.Just10.org](http://www.Just10.org)  
 More information from local church leaders  
 or telephone: **01993 850046**

**Aston & Cote  
Village Fete**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Family fun day out**

**Plus Car Boot Sale**  
**(£5 a pitch)**  
**2.00pm to 5.30pm**

Village Hall & Playing Fields,  
 Aston, nr Bampton, OX18 2DU

Theme is the 'Swinging 60s'.  
 Wide variety of stalls and activities  
 for all the family to enjoy.

Procession leaves The Village  
 Square 2pm, Fete opening 2.30pm.

For more information:  
**Tel: 01993 850491**

email [acfete2010@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:acfete2010@hotmail.co.uk)  
 or visit  
[www.astonoxon.com/villagefete.aspx](http://www.astonoxon.com/villagefete.aspx)

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## Downton Abbey Comes To Town



Vintage Car and Vintage People



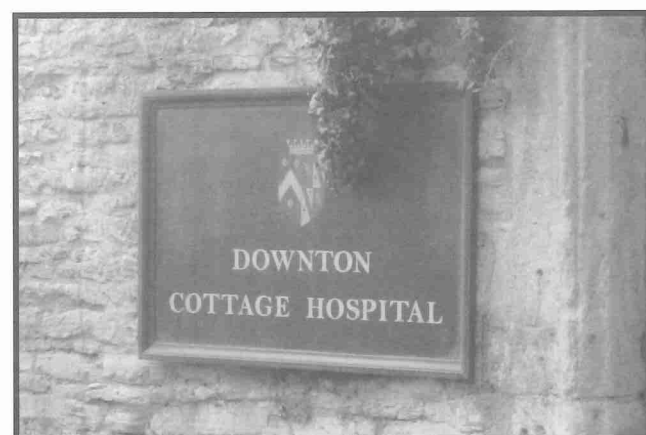
New Village Pub!



Real Vintage Transport



A Magnificent Helter Skelter



NHS Circa 1912!



Not Sure What the GPS Would Make of This!

*Photographs courtesy Bill Govier and the Sub-Ed*

# OUT AND ABOUT



*The Great Original Shirt Race : Young and Old(er)!*



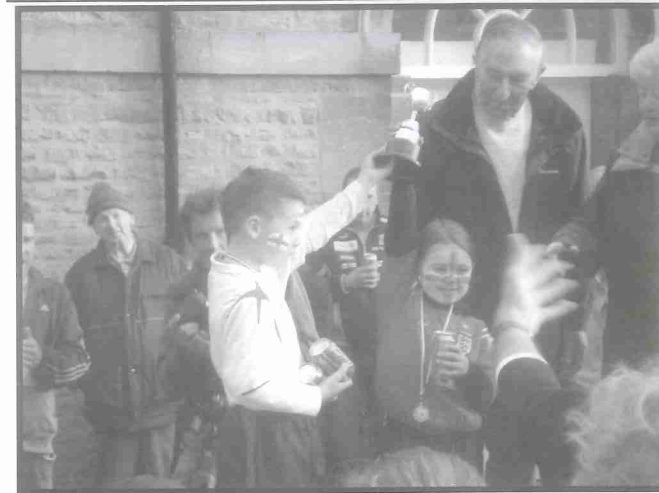
*All Modes of Transport*



*Some Quick.....Some Not So Quick*

# OUT AND ABOUT

## *The Prizes Presentation*



## *The May Garlands*



*The Morris Men  
Another fabulous weekend in Bampton  
Photographs courtesy Richard Wilkins and the Sub-Ed*

# SPAJERS DONKEY DERBY MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

Sandfords Field

First Race 2pm

*Jockeys always needed - no experience required*



**Put in you Diary NOW!**  
**Come and have a great afternoon out!**

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Email : [andrew.money@sky.com](mailto:andrew.money@sky.com)

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All interior and exterior decorating undertaken

Call for free estimates and friendly advice

References available



✦ Ofsted Approved ✦ Child Care Diplomas

✦ Paediatric First Aid ✦ EYFS Curriculum

a home from home  
environment

Vicky Hickman 01993 851 883  
Nicky Hall 01993 851 300

## The Last Hoorah of a Retail Phenomenon

*by Toby Hopkins*

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

It's 3.55pm, and Simmonds of Bampton is preparing to shut for the very last time.

I popped in earlier and not surprisingly the staff (Aaron, June & Mr Simmonds) had been extremely busy – for this was a shop always worth a visit, and today never less so.

I patted the dog, chatted to Mr Simmonds, and picked up 17 household goods (which included 12 bargain light bulbs) for about £9.

The same or similar products from, for example, Boots could easily (I worked out) have cost approximately £23.

It's an admirable wonder to me that a shop this size (floor space equivalent to about a quarter of a tennis court), staffing 2 - sometimes 3 (which also included Iris), where 5 customers inside at one time would result in a kind of amiable gridlock – could radically undercut major high street chains...

Mr Simmonds never made you 'pay' for the convenience of having such a useful shop on your doorstep.

Also, what other shops do, you know, where, if they don't have what you want, the item would be jotted down and, more than likely, be available the following week!

Having a final look around I noticed just how many old tin advertising placards there were, including on the ceiling. My favourite read 'Raja Cigars – 2d'.

There was even one promoting 'Simonds Beer' (a small brewery that got swallowed up by Courage, I was told).

So much was packed in there that you never tired of looking... A charming place, always welcoming, that appeared to exist by the maxim 'What can we do for the community above and before any other?'

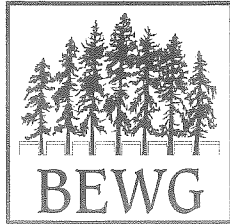
The answer, ultimately, was:

**'A great deal...'**

Happy retirement and Thanks  
Mr. Simmonds.

## Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman, Chairman



On 5 March we had our AGM. There was a very good turnout of the membership and all existing officers and committee members were re elected. The AGM was rounded off by Jane Wallis who gave an excellent talk on 'Place Names of Bampton'. On April 29 we had a very enjoyable talk from Derek Turner of the Milestone. Unfortunately our meeting clashed with the final televised election debate, resulting in a disappointing turnout (I had recorded the debate and watched it later—Derek's talk was better!) Our programme for the rest of the year will be; 29 July, Tim Healey on 'The Green Man in Oxfordshire'; 28 October, Pip Cartwright on 'The Rocks and Geology of Oxfordshire'. Open meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 8:00pm. All are welcome, with attendance free for members, £2 for non-members (or join at the door). Although the provision of a 7.5 tonne environmental restriction for Bampton was finally agreed by the OCC Transport Decision Committee in November 2009, we are still awaiting the installation of the road signs by OCC for its actual implementation. Excuses from OCC abound for the delay, meanwhile Earthline and other HGVs continue to thunder through Bampton. OCC have finalised their plans for the incorporation of the Bush Club into the old school building to make this building into a community centre. The submission of these to WODC for planning permission is imminent, but the parking that they are currently proposing (six spaces) is woefully inadequate. The consultation for WODC's Preferred Approach document for their Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy closed in March. The outcome from this is awaited. (Go to their website at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/CoreStrategy.cfm](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/CoreStrategy.cfm) for details.) Our new coalition government is beginning to announce changes to the plan-

ning system. The first confirmed change is the abolition of the regional bodies. As the details emerge we may find that the LDF is affected. There is at last some progress on the awaited publication by OCC of a short list of mineral extraction sites. The options that they are putting forward for discussion includes the possibility of the area along the Thames from Radcot to Shifford. If this option is accepted then it could have a major impact on Bampton and other local villages. The full public consultation on the options being put forward is expected in the Autumn. Again this could be affected by changes yet to be announced by the new government. If you would like to know more about BEWG or would like to join us please contact the Membership Secretary (Ann Norman) on: **Tel: 01993 850823**; or email [bewg@sagaman.co.uk](mailto:bewg@sagaman.co.uk). Also see our entry on the Bampton web site.

## Library DVD Review

by Toby Hopkins

### Slumdog Millionaire

Last year's big Oscar winner from Britain's Danny Boyle pairs the fairly recent phenomenon of TV's 'Who Wants To Be a Millionaire' with the troubled story of an Indian 'slumdog' boy, Jamal, who at 18 becomes a contestant on India's version of this popular game show... A heavy but well-managed use of 'flashbacks' effectively convey the relevant incidents of Jamal's poverty-stricken and often grim childhood which help him answer the increasingly difficult questions. Backstage he's then interrogated (and more-or-less tortured) by India's Chris Tarrant for doing so well. On top of all this - he's lost the girl he loves..! Will Jamal find her by going on the show..? Will she see him on TV..? Will he win millions of rupees..? Will there be a big Bollywood sing-song at the end..? (Simply visit Bampton library for all the answers...) Chick rating: 8½ Lads' rating : 8

## Rock 'n Rolla

Heralded accurately as a return to form from writer/director Guy Ritchie, who found fame with his criminal caper **Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels**...

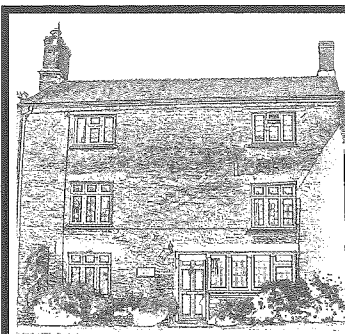
Once again we're in London Town and there's a similar entourage of testosterone-fuelled dodgy geezers going about their dodgy business. Notable amongst them is the likeable portrayal of 'One-two' by Gerard Butler. Otherwise, unsavoury antics abound, and with 'Johnny Quid' (the 'rock 'n rolla' of the title) unsavoury makes way for plain awful. Having such a repellent central character who does not in any way get his comeuppance, rankled... That said, Guy Ritchie is undoubtedly a talented filmmaker; technically excellent, originally stylish and humour-savvy. But can or will he ever make a decent film not about cockney gangsters..? (Funny deleted scene found in 'Special Features', by-the-way...) Chick rating: 6 Lads' rating: 7.

### The Boat That Rocked

At first glance this looks like it could, indeed should be a top-notch Brit-flick (- written and directed by Richard Curtis / good cast / set on a pirate radio ship in the mid '60s...) However, the first 4/5ths of this slopping dirge is dreadfully close to completely rubbish. Kenneth Branagh is kind of amusing, hamming it up as an uptight politician who tries to shut the station down; and Philip Seymour Hoffman (playing the station's top DJ) is never poor. But the plot is, for the most part, unenjoyably stupid and the script is generally worse. (A case of the 'Emperor's Clothes', I feel...) In the final 5th there is at long last a reprieve from cinematic vexation, as excitement mounts - and the ship sinks with Hoffman defiantly standing by his turntables..! One great scene in a film awash with under-achievement... Chick rating: 3½ Lads' rating: 3½

### Be Kind Rewind

Certainly quite silly, somewhat profound, and thoroughly enjoyable... (Employee of an American behind-the-



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-times VHS rental store, and friend try energetically to cover up the fact that in the owner's absence all of the videos have been erased, by filming their own versions for rental...) With the mellowest of nods to **Cinema Paradiso**, French writer and director Michel Gondry delivers a quirky modern essay on the love of 'Film'. (Extra re-makes can be seen at [www.bekindrewind.themovie.com](http://www.bekindrewind.themovie.com)).  
Chick rating: 6½.  
Lads' rating: 7½

**Seven Pounds**

Although a little muddling (- the title's meaning is somewhat unclear), this essentially is a love story - and quite a sweet one.  
Will Smith, looking suitably gaunt and troubled plays Ben Thomas who works for the IRS (- or is he assuming the identity of his brother who works for the IRS..? Again, I was muddled).  
Anyway, Ben is drawn to help people, those that 'deserve' it, and ends up falling in love with one of them (but she is ill). He then finds a dramatic use for his pet Box-jellyfish... Possibly trying to be a little overly-mysterious, this film does have an innately good soul - and Will Smith is simply excellent.  
Chick rating: 7  
Lads' rating: 6

**The Time Traveler's Wife**

You'll have a fine old time trying to work out exactly where Henry (the main protagonist who time travels involuntarily) is coming from as he visits his wife / future wife, Clare, (or how..?!). Thankfully this really isn't too important as the themes of commitment / consequence / fate / belief - and two people who love each other remain clearly paramount.  
Corniness is generally avoided and the end is rather fulsome. Eric Bana playing Henry, whilst being OK - isn't as intense or interesting as this character would seem to demand. Rachel McAdams, however (playing Clare) bolsters proceedings considerably with a lovely and natural portrayal. A 'chick-flick' which should appeal to both sexes...  
Chick rating: 8  
Lads' rating: 6

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**THE BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB SCHEDULE**

Affiliated to The Royal Horticultural Society

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010, Village Hall, Market Square, Bampton

Staging between 9 - 11am: Afternoon Opening 3pm - Entrance 50p: Prizes Presentation 4pm

**FLOWERS & PLANTS**

- 1 Roses x 4 blooms
- 2 Roses specimen bloom x 1
- 3 Roses Floribunda x 3 blooms
- 4 Marigolds x 6 any variety
- 5 Pansies x 5 blooms
- 6 Viola x 5 blooms
- 7 Sweet Peas 5 mixed colour
- 8 Carnations x 3 blooms
- 9 Dianthus x 5 blooms
- 10 Antirrhinums x 5 mixed colour
- 11 Any other flower from your own garden x 5 blooms
- 12 Dahlia Cactus x 1 bloom
- 13 Dahlia Cactus x 5 blooms
- 14 Dahlia Pom-Pom x 3 blooms
- 15 Dahlia Decorative x 3 blooms
- 16 Gladiola Spikes x 3 blooms
- 17 Chrysanthemums x 5 spray
- 18 Chrysanthemums x 3 medium
- 19 Fuchsia (bush) pot max 7"
- 20 Non flowering pot plant pot max 7"
- 21 Cactus Garden pot max 12"
- 22 Single Cactus Plant pot max 7"
- 23 Geranium pot max 7"
- 24 Busy Lizzie pot max 7"
- 25 Begonia pot max 7"

**VEGETABLES**

- 26 Lettuce x 2 any variety
- 27 Radishes x 5 any variety
- 28 Cucumber matching pair any variety
- 29 Tomato x 5 cherry red or yellow with calyx
- 30 Tomato x 5 red with calyx
- 31 Tomato x 5 yellow with calyx
- 32 Courgette x 2 any variety
- 34 Runner Beans x 5
- 35 Dwarf French Bean x 5
- 36 Garden Peas x 5 any variety

- 37 Beetroot x 3 with 3" tops
- 38 Carrots x 3 any variety
- 39 Onions as grown with tops x 3
- 40 Onions from sets x 4 dressed
- 41 Onions from seed x 4 dressed
- 42 Shallots x 5 dressed
- 43 Cabbage x 2 any variety matching
- 44 Potatoes x 5 white
- 45 Potatoes x 5 coloured
- 46 Table Marrow x 2
- 47 Any other vegetable x 2
- 48 Tray of vegetables 5 varieties - 3 of each variety
- 49 6 Herbs 1 stem of each in a vase

**FRUIT**

- 50 Raspberries x 6 with stalks on a plate
- 51 Rhubarb pulled sticks x 3 with 1 ½" of trimmed leaf attached
- 52 Apples - Dessert x 3
- 53 Apples - Cooking x 3
- 54 Plums any variety x 3
- 55 Pears any variety x 3
- 56 Blackberries with stalks x 6
- 57 A plate of any other fruit x 5

**NOVELTY VEGETABLES**

- 58 Longest Runner Bean
- 59 Heaviest Marrow
- 60 A Freak Vegetable

**FLOWER ARRANGING**

- 61 Arrangement of flowers and foliage depicting 'The Bonfire'
- 62 A vase of flowers from your own garden
- 63 Arrangement of flowers not exceeding 4"

**ART & CRAFT**

- 64 Water Colour or Oil not signed with out a frame max 12"x10"

- 65 A Sketch Pencil or Charcoal max 12"x10" unmounted and not signed
- 66 A Coloured Photograph depicting 'Reflections' unmounted and not signed max 12"x10"
- 67 Any black & white Photograph unmounted not signed max size 12"x10"
- 68 A item of knitting open to view
- 69 A Poem not more than 10 lines on 'The World Cup' not signed

**COOKING & BREWING**

- 70 Victoria Sponge 7"
  - 71 Gingerbread
  - 72 Home made Bread Rolls x 5 white or brown (not to be made in a bread Machine)
  - 73 Savory Scones x 5
  - 74 Apple Pie pastry top and bottom
  - 75 Cookies any variety x 5
  - 76 Small cakes x 6
  - 77 1 Jar of Jam
  - 78 1 Jar of Marmalade
  - 79 1 Jar of Chutney
  - 80 1 Jar of Pickled Onions
  - 81 1 Jar of Beetroot
  - 82 1 Jar of Pickled eggs
  - 83 1 Jar of any other pickled vegetable
  - 84 Bottle of any alcoholic beverage
  - 85 Bottle of any beverage non alcoholic
  - 86 Bottle of Sloe Gin
- Classes 77 - 83** please label and date all entries.  
**Classes 84 - 86** please label and date all entries.  
Please will you also provide a glass for tasting and an easy removable screw top or cork for the bottles.

**BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB ENTRY FORM**

Please fill in class number on this form which you would like to enter and bring it with you on the day of the show between 9am - 11am  
Entry Fees - Senior Citizens 20p, Members 20p, Non Members 30p Children under 16 Free

Name ..... Age if under 16 .....

Address.....

Classes Entered.....

Entry fee for above classes .....

We would appreciate the trophies being returned to Marion Dowding, Bay Tree Cottage, Rosemary Lane, Bampton before the end of July or please contact Marion if you have difficulty returning the trophy, Tel: 01993 850167.

**BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB**

Coffee Mornings  
Day Trips  
&  
Holidays

**Coffee Mornings**

Are held on Saturday mornings at Bampton Town Hall, 10am - 12noon. Next one is 24<sup>th</sup> July. The October, November and December Coffee Mornings are still to be booked. Come and visit us for a coffee, gardening advice, sale of plants, vegetables, eggs - or just a chat with a cuppa!

**Trips**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July - Canal Boat Trip  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September - Wisley Flower Show  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Slimbridge  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November Shopping Trip  
December - Westonbirt Lights - Date TBC.

**Holidays**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September: visit to the Lake District (Monday - Friday)  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December: Tinsel & Turkey Sandown. Cost still to be confirmed.

2011: 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July Ireland Trip to Waterford and Killarney. Tall Ship Race - 1 night in Waterford - Killarney The Gleneagles Hotel - 1 night in Waterford - costs still to be confirmed.

As you will see several of the trips are around our own area, this is to keep the costs down, yet still have an enjoyable day out.

Due to the increasing costs it is necessary to know how many seats we can fill on the coach in order to make sure the trips viable. If we don't get enough people, then the trips may have to be cancelled.

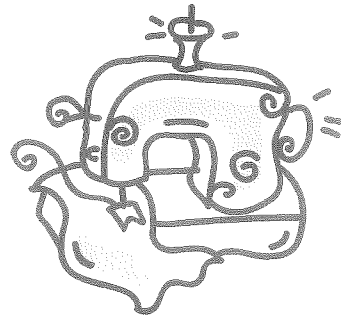
For more details on the Gardening Club please contact Fenella Gray Tel: 01993 851653. For more information on the Trips and Holidays please contact Ellen Parker Tel: 01993 843985.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports the Gardening Club through either by joining us for the coffee mornings, trips, holidays or just the annual show.

Thank you.

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## OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

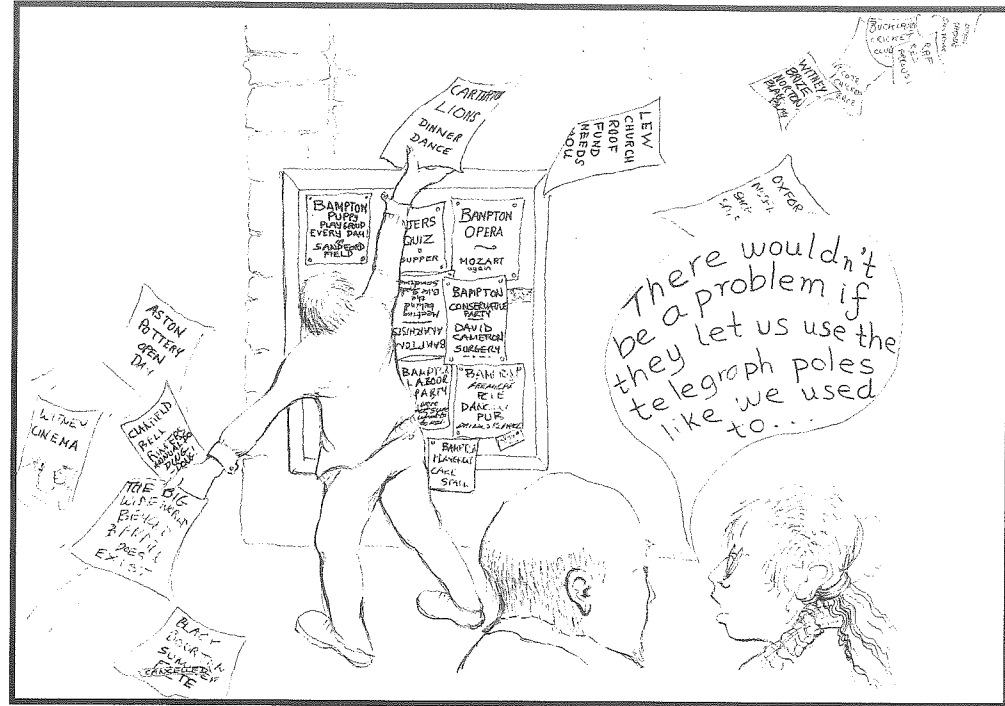
I am old enough to know that when we get a new political party in power, all hell is let loose and we get a lot of changes as they try to impress - 'new broom sweeps clean' and all that. But surely there is no need for our Parish Council to try and jump on the same Band Wagon, is there?

I am referring to our Public Notice Boards. Some bright spark from the Council has gone to the trouble of getting laminated signs made up, taking up valuable advertising space, to warn people not put up posters that do not relate to the Parish of Bampton. I know that they meant well, but obviously haven't thought it through properly. I belong to the Carterton Lions and often put up Posters referring to their fund raising events where Bampton people can help. In return many people in Bampton have benefited from the good works of the Lions. At this moment there is a Bampton family being helped, but we do not shout about it.

Then there is the Cancer Research Posters, usually their events are held in Carterton, yet the driving force is in Bampton by Bampton people. So how do the 'bright sparks' on the Council propose to differentiate between what is Bampton and what is not? May I make a suggestion? Take down your useless signs, thereby making way for more worthy advertising and leave it in the very capable hands of those appointed voluntary wardens who

have what we used to call 'a degree of common sense' and in the past have proved their worth.

*Don; the Notice Boards were put up originally to help advertise events in Bampton, but, if there is space, then events in other locations can be advertised. However, Bampton comes first, and the events advertised should be the not-for-profit or charity type of event; not commercial rock concerts! The new laminated notices were put up because the boards were also being used to advertise 'Goods & Services' - i.e. commercial advertising - and that is definitely not what they are to be used for! They also look a lot tidier now! Sub-Ed.*



Thirteen years ago my appointment to the 'Beam' was as Agriculture Correspondent. With the demise of farming it has been difficult to find things to report, what with that and my retirement from the scene which has led me to be a sort of loose cannon, commenting about all manner of subjects other than farming, subjects that I feel need attention to make our lives better. However farming is still in my blood and when I come across situations that I think the public needs to

know about then I shall shout about it. For several years now I have noticed that there are quite a few fields that remain, what we used to call fallow. To fallow a field as part of the crop rotation was a valuable tool in cleaning the ground and has been used since the Middle Ages, but it is only meant for one year. On making enquiries as to why some fields have been fallow for more than one year, I find that it is 'not economical to plant crops any more'. The price of wheat is so low that it does not pay to grow it. Years ago farmers were getting paid not to grow crops, but that system is now defunct. Evidently the environmentalists want to encourage this system of not growing crops, as it is good for nature. Well all I can say is that I hope that they will take lots of pictures of the rabbits feeding contentedly in these barren fields and show them to the starving children in Africa. Meanwhile all the fields, that, with the expertise, of the British Farmer that could be growing tons of much needed food will lay dormant.

Another situation where the environmentalists are curtailing food production is that of the controversial subject of badgers. When I was farming, TB in Cattle was virtually eradicated - there were one or two hot spots in Wales but nothing serious. Now, since the badger has become a protected species, the disease is rampant. Oxfordshire was once a safe County but now we are in a danger zone where testing for TB in cattle now has to be carried out every two years instead of four. Now if an Oxfordshire farmer wants to sell an animal it has to be tested before it leaves the farm, thus making it costly and a lot more work for all concerned.

If the farmer is unfortunate to have a failure then they are in big trouble. No animals can leave the farm until a series of tests every sixty days can prove that there is no more TB on the farm. Most farmers are geared to a system whereby they sell their animals in the autumn, minimising their work for the winter. Should one of their animals be a reactor then they have problems. They are stuck with a lot of animals that they cannot sell and as it was not part of their plan; they have no food to feed them through the winter, so once more the environmentalists with their blinkered vision are limiting the ability for this country to feed the world. They cannot blame the farmers for the situation; many of the cases of TB appear on what is known as a closed farm environment, where no animals have been brought in, so the only way that the infection could get there is by the wildlife. TB is a horrendous disease in humans; I had a relative die with it, in the bad old days it was known as Consumption. It needs to be eradicated sensibly; it is costing the country thousands of pounds and yet the situation is getting worse, so a whole new re-think needs to be carried out. Let's get TB eradicated from the badgers as well as the cattle.

Wearing my Carterton / Bampton and local area Neighbourhood Action Group hat, I have become aware of how much the general public can help in crime prevention. Recently there was a case whereby the local residents were very observant of what might be called unruly behaviour. The local NAG representative was notified who in turn assisted the local PCSO in putting a stop to it all. You can all make a difference to our Neighbourhood, and if you want to get involved in making Bampton a better place then get in touch with your local Councillor who will point you in the right direction.

I know the farmers in the area are struggling with the theft of farm machinery which to replace would be more than the cost of a house, giving the thieves a nice little earner. I personally think that the agriculture industry needs to help themselves a bit more and fit trackers to such valuable items. Would you believe, very often the same key will fit any tractor; how

crazy is that? Should you see farm vehicles on the road at what appears to you as an unusual time for farmers to be working, please take the trouble to report it. The Police will not mind if it is a false alarm and that the farmer is genuinely working very late; it is better that than some idle thief getting away with several thousands of pounds worth of equipment. They will 'nick' anything. I once had an old bucket full of salt nicked from the side of the road! It was in the bad winter of 1982 - you don't think that the Council nicked it do you?

I am pleased to hear that the Youth Club has started up again; let's hope that some of the parents can work together with the Youth Leaders to make it a Club for the youngsters to be proud of. I know that plans are well ahead to give them the best premises that the Bampton Youth club will have ever had, that includes the 1940s when it was a Boy's Club and met in the Old Grammar School under the guidance of the Reverend Bate-man. The proposed new building is supposed to be up and running by September 2011. Somebody has got to get their skates on if it is going to meet that deadline. I just hope that it escapes any of the recently planned 'cut backs'.

## SPAJERS News

By Don Rouse

For some unknown reason our membership numbers are dropping. Maybe it was because our Editor was a bit short of space in the last edition and had to leave out the piece on how to become a member of the SPAJERS. So I am going to start with this very important information.

You need to have lived in Bampton for at least six months. Ladies to have achieved the age of sixty years and the men sixty-five. Jeff Dando is the membership secretary, and you can contact him on Tel: 01993 850643. For those of you who are into computers, we would like to communicate with you by email. This will enable us to keep you all updated on what is going on and what we are doing. Please therefore send an email to noreply@spajers.org. Please note that

all data will be used in strict accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act and your details will not be shared with any other organisation. We already have 70 members on line and we would like this to grow as fast as possible.

We altered the format of our Quiz Night this year by not doing a meal. All the reports that we have had are favourable. It certainly made it a lot easier for the Organisers without reducing our profit for the night.

The 'Brains of Bampton' were again the Churchviewians.

What a fantastic Great Shirt Race we had this year. More competitors than ever, both in the Fancy Dress competition as well as the Races.

I am beginning to think that the Fancy Dress is becoming more important than the Race! The amount of work that had been put into some of the vehicles was incredible, making it very difficult for the judges to decide who the winners were.

It was a great pleasure for me to accompany our two judges, Frank and Ann Hudson as they went about their task. Frank has given so much of his life to the Bampton SPAJERS; his speciality was always the Great Shirt Race, having won it so many times in his youth. He was Chairman for over ten years and Vice Chairman for over twenty years. So to have Frank and Ann to do us the honour of making the presentations made it a very special occasion.

Every thing went like clockwork with the Races; there were a few minor crashes which added to the fun, but nothing serious.

The thing that impressed me the most was how every body 'mucked in' to help it all run smoothly. Members of the public donned reflective vests to help steward the event, then there were the many 'tin shakers' who did such a wonderful job helping us to raise enough money to run the event as well as giving us a surplus to put into our funds, so that we can maintain the standards that we have set ourselves to give our Senior Citizens a good time.

I would like to mention the role played by our local Police. I was warned many years ago, that if during the Race an incident occurred in the locality, all police help would be

withdrawn immediately. Well there was a road traffic accident on the night, just outside of Bampton, but thanks to the organisation skills of PC Rich Barnes who was in control of everything in the locality, we were still able to run the race in complete safety with the help of our own PCSO Isabel Webb.

The winners this year were:

- Senior Race: William Money & Monty Green
- Intermediate Race: Ted Landray & James Shuttleworth
- Junior Race: Sydney & Mitchell Constable

Oldest Pair who completed the course were: Lynne & Martin Barber, with a combined age of 119.

I am pleased to report that there was only one incident of irresponsible behaviour with the throwing of water bombs; that is something that spoils it for every one and we can certainly do without it.

Next on our programme is the Donkey Derby, and once again we need your help to make it a true Community Event. It will be held as usual on Au-

gust Bank Holiday Monday which this year is the 30<sup>th</sup>. We need sponsors for the donkeys as well as young jockeys to ride them. We need help to run the stalls as well as provide us with items to put on the stalls. We are always desperate for bottles of anything, as the Bottle Stall is one of our best earners. If you think you can help, please get in touch with our Secretary Roger Snow on Tel: **01993 850113**.

Two days after this event on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September it will be our Annual Outing, and as promised last year we are going to Weston Super Mare. Members will be notified in the usual way. Once again if there are any places available on the coaches after our members have returned their slips, then these places will be available at £12.00 per head on a first come first serve basis. The date to apply for these will be one week before i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> August. Application to me on, Tel: **01993 850297**.

This year it is again our intention to run a Community Bonfire Night working with other organisations in the Village. There should be another

Bampton Beam just before then to fully inform you, or you could log on to [noreply@spajers.org](mailto:noreply@spajers.org)  
To finish off the year, Josie will again be holding her traditional 'Josie's Draw', this will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Josie never says "no" to any offer of prizes or help to sell tickets, so please get in touch if you can help.

### May Garland Winners

Many thanks to the children who brought their May Garlands to be judged in the Market Square on May Bank Holiday Monday. It was a little disappointing that there were only three entries, but the quality was excellent, and the three helped keep the old tradition alive for another year.

The results were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alice & Isabelle Landray
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cerys & Pippa Carrington
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sarah Ader & Jessica Bowie

Many thanks to John & Rose Grout for sponsoring the prize money, and thanks to Mrs Rose Gerring for providing money to buy sweets for all the children who were around.

The weather was just right and the Morris Dancers did a splendid job all day long making it most enjoyable, Thanks from Ruth Wheeler

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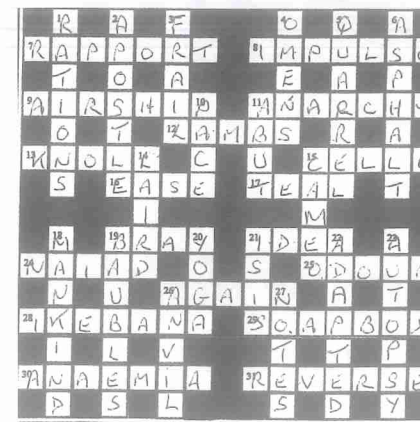
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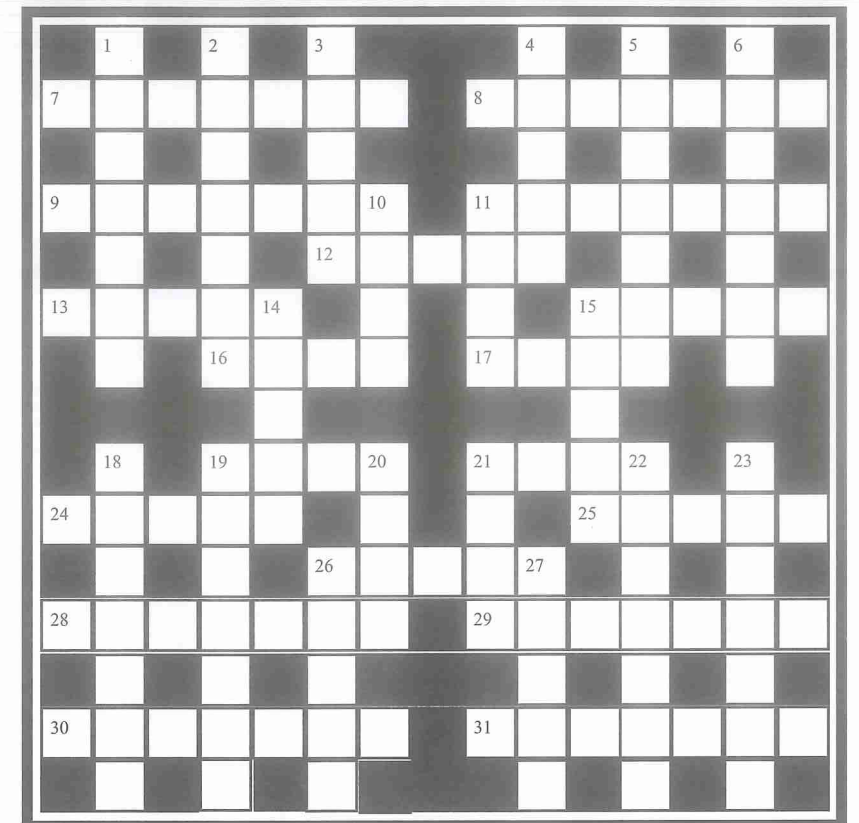
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The winner of the March Crossword is C.J. Clarke of The Lanes, Bampton. Congratulations, the £10 is yours.

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#### CLUES ACROSS

- 7 An attractive and exciting quality
- 8 Mentioned briefly
- 9 Relating to earthquakes
- 11 Person with great skill in a particular area
- 12 Slowly trickled or seeped out
- 13 Scatter things untidily
- 15 Unit of weight equal to 6.35 kilograms
- 16 Long involved story
- 17 Group of three
- 19 Similar in nature or type
- 21 A bribe
- 24 Annual flat race at Epsom
- 25 Criticize in a sly or petty way
- 26 Self-assertive and overbearing
- 28 Alloy of mercury and another metal
- 29 Idyllically happy and peaceful
- 30 Remarkable, exceptional
- 31 Time of life when one is a young male

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1 People using services of a professional
- 2 Builds up over time
- 3 An object that is rare or unusual
- 4 Cirrus, for example
- 5 A tortilla filled with mince or beans
- 6 A piece, portion
- 10 Tropical American shrub, source of cocaine
- 11 Burrow of a badger
- 14 Amusing in a slightly odd way
- 15 Sections of the Zodiac
- 18 State in North Eastern U.S.A.
- 19 Put an end to a system or law
- 20 Required or acceptable standard
- 21 Nonsense
- 22 Italian dumpling made with potato, semolina or flour
- 23 With reference to
- 26 Ordinary and unoriginal
- 27 Capital of Vietnam

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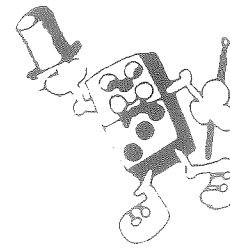
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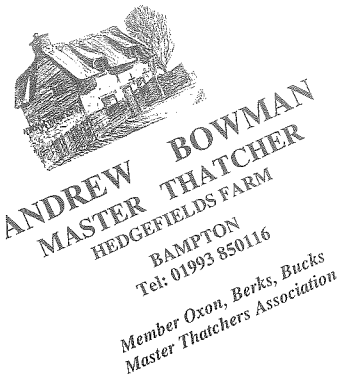
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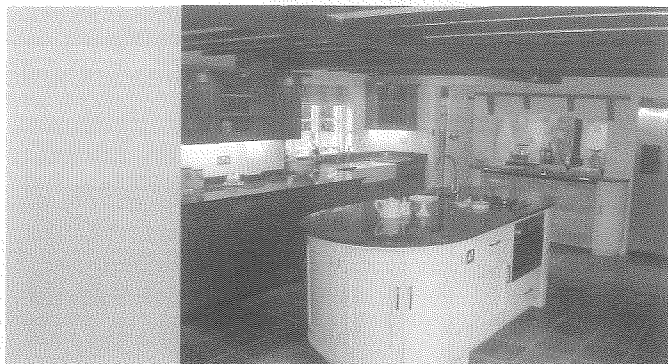
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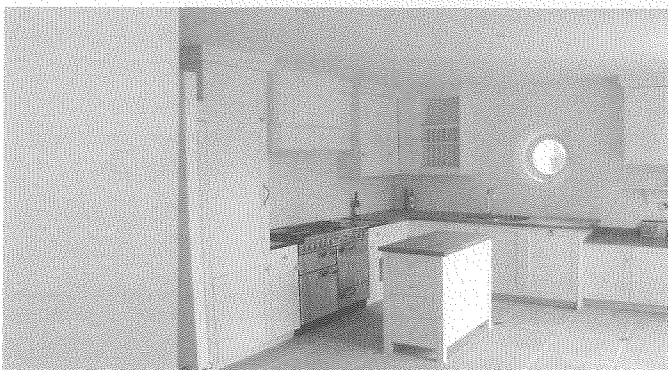
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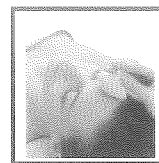
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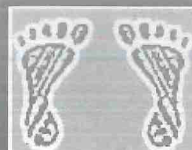
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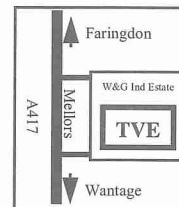
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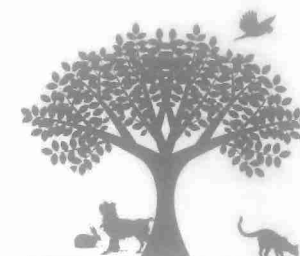
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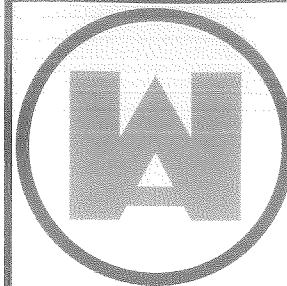
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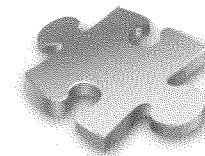
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**Calendar of Events**

**July**

- 7<sup>th</sup> *Nowhere Boy*, Movies on the Move, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Race Night, Bampton Community Shop, Village Hall, 7pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> Supper Evening, Royal British Legion, The Horse Shoe Inn, 7.30pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> *The Marriage of Figaro*, Bampton Classical Opera, Deanery Garden, Bampton, 7.30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
- 29<sup>th</sup> BEWG Meeting, talk by Tim Healey on 'The Green Man in Oxfordshire', Village Hall, 8pm

**August**

- 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Show, Gardening Club, Village Hall
- 29<sup>th</sup> *The Marriage of Figaro*, Bampton Classical Opera, Westonbirt
- 30<sup>th</sup> Donkey Derby, SPAJERS, Sandfords Field, 2pm

**September**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Outing, SPAJERS, Weston Super Mare
- 11<sup>th</sup> Casino Night, Royal British Legion, Village Hall, 8pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Battle of Britain Day BBQ, Royal British Legion, Colt House, 6.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Autumn Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 10 – 12noon

**October**

- 7<sup>th</sup> *The Marriage of Figaro*, Bampton Classical Opera, St John's Smith Square, London
- 28<sup>th</sup> BEWG Meeting, talk by Pip Cartwright on 'The Rocks and Geology of Oxfordshire', Village Hall, 8pm

**November**

- 12<sup>th</sup> Josie's Draw, SPAJERS, Horse Shoe, 7pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service, Royal British Legion, War Memorial, 10.45am
- 23<sup>rd</sup> AGM & Supper Evening, Royal British Legion, The Horse Shoe Inn, 7.30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Pre-Christmas Bingo, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 8pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> AGM, Bampton Gardening Club, Village Hall, 7.30pm

**December**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz Night, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mummies, SPAJERS, Village, 7pm onwards

**THE BAMPTON BEAM**

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