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Bampton Beam

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Volume 32, Issue 1, March 2017



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Bampton Beam

First things first, as you can see from the cover this issue, I want to say a huge thank you for all the donations that I have received following my request for help in funding the magazine. I had hoped to publish an autumn issue last year but for various reasons it was not possible. However, now with additional funding in place, I can now say with some certainty that the future of the magazine is secure.

The new website is well under way and will become more news based, filling in the gaps where the magazine is not current. There will be three printed magazines this year - March - July and November, so with the magazine and website combined the Beam should be as up to date as is possible.

In appealing for funding it did bring forward a great number of comments, most of them very positive and supportive and it is very clear how appreciated the Beam is and how important a local magazine is to this community. That said however a couple of questions and possible solutions were put forward and I need to put forward a full explanation to the current situation...

Q: Why don't you reduce your costs by printing the magazine in black and white only?

A: The Beam is printed in colour as technology has now moved on to the point that the differences in printing costs are almost none.

Q: Why don't you reduce your costs by just delivering the Beam to Bampton only?

A: The Beam used to be delivered by a team of dedicated volunteers around Bampton - over 20 of them. When I took over as editor, I received a large number of comments from residents who were not receiving their copy and it became clear that this type of delivery method was not working. Also in order to sell advertising it's very important to be able to give an accurate delivery date and with a volunteer delivery method this is just not possible. So in addressing this problem I had to look to a Royal Mail delivery service, which can guarantee a delivery time, but comes with a cost. The only problem with this is that the smallest area that they are able to deliver a non-addressed bulk mailing (The Beam) is via the post code sector that covers Bampton, however it also includes the surrounding villages, on the plus side though this does have the added benefit in attracting advertising as the delivery is wider than just Bampton. But more copies equals more cost, I still think this is the best way forward but if anyone has any alternative solutions I would be very happy to hear them.

Hope you enjoy the March issue.



James



**Deadline for all submissions
in the next issue is
June 2nd 2017**

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Bampton Community Shop Lives Again

Bampton's famous Community Shop has finally re-opened after a year of looking for new premises.



The brainchild of a group of local residents, the shop was originally set up nearly 15 years ago to raise money for village clubs and charities.

The idea was simple - a place where anyone could take unwanted items which would then be sold on to support the village. At the time no one envisaged quite how successful it would become. Nearly £150,000 later, over 40 local organisations had benefitted from generous grants. They ranged from sports clubs, charities, arts organisations, youth projects and - following the devastating floods of 2007 - flood defences.

Unfortunately, the much-loved shop closed its doors at the end of 2015. As a result no more grants could be made. 'It was quite a task finding alternative premises,' said Nick Thorpe, one of the directors of the new shop. 'Bampton is a small village and commercial properties do not turn up very

often.'

Fortunately, after nearly a year of looking, a lease did become available - by chance just a few yards from the old shop in the heart of medieval Bampton. The new building used to house the village bakery and still has the overhead loft door where sacks of flour would have been unloaded.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and help from many volunteers, the Old Bakery was quickly redecorated and fitted out. It started to accept donations in early November with the official opening taking place on January 26th 2017.

Almost twice the size of the old premises, the shop sells everything from clothes through bric-a-brac, books and CDs to larger items such as furniture and bicycles which are advertised on a 'Bampton Bargains' notice board. Apart from rags and electrical items, everything and

anything is accepted. There is nearly always a bargain or hidden gem in there somewhere.

'It has been a true community effort,' says David Hawkins, another director and founding member of the new enterprise. 'Everyone is a volunteer, from the directors, through the accountant to the 65 staff who donate their time to keep the shop open six days a week.' And the sense of community does not stop there - everyone involved has a say in where the money will go.

With healthy takings leading up to Christmas, the directors hope to make the first grants in the spring. After a difficult year, it seems Bampton's Community Shop is well and truly back in action.

**For more information please contact:
Nick Thorpe on 07768 035 458 or
npthorpe@btinternet.com**

Aston Parish Community Minibus Help Required!!!

The Aston Parish Community Minibus (APCM) is a registered charity (Charity Commission No: 1063777). It is run on a purely voluntary basis.

It was created to provide a Minibus for social, welfare and recreational purposes for people living in Aston and surrounding villages. The Minibus enables those people who have little, or no access to transport to go shopping and organise outings.

One regular outing that we provide is for "The Bampton Ladies". They are a group of ladies, and gentlemen, that enjoy a fortnightly (Friday) trip, normally to a local garden or shopping centre, although they have been known to travel further afield e.g. Weymouth. Their organiser is Ann Radband.

This is a service that has been running for many years. We are looking for help to enable us to continue this service. It would mean driving the Minibus once every six to eight weeks.

The Minibus also provides a weekly (Thursday am) shopping trip to Witney. There is a central pick up point but shoppers, along with their shopping, are returned to their home address.

New shoppers, of any age, are always welcome to join this trip.

We are also looking for help with this service. It would mean driving the Minibus once every four to five weeks.

In addition to the above, the Minibus



is available for hire, at very competitive rates, on a self-drive basis, subject to conditions of hire.

Unfortunately, one of our volunteer drivers has recently had to step down which leaves us desperately short of drivers and struggling to continue these valuable services to the community.

We are looking to recruit more volunteers to drive the Minibus for both of the above activities.

So, please, if you have some time to spare and would like to join our happy band of volunteer drivers, or require more information on any of the above, please contact either:

Tony Harris

Tel No: 01993 850792

Email: tony.r.harris@btinternet.com

John Ordish

Tel No: 01993 850923

Email: john.ordish@btinternet.com

Bampton Archery Club Archery Training Course begins in April



The first session of the Spring Archery Training begins on Tuesday 4th April 2017, at 6 30pm at the Recreation Ground Bampton and continues for the next 5 Tuesdays. Training is open to males and females over 10 and is led by a fully qualified coach. The cost of £80 includes the use of all equipment required. As numbers are limited please contact Neil Holt on 07949 128494 if you would like to book a place - or prebook for the Autumn training sessions starting in late September.

Going Green

By Anna Pitt

Clearly millions of us love the coffee-on-the-go culture. I read that 2.5 billion coffee cups are used in the UK each year and only one in 400 of them is recycled. Is that going to change, thanks to recent media pressure?

I'm hearing almost daily that another solution to the huge waste coffee cup problem is being trialled or rolled-out somewhere. Some cafés offer a reduced price to customers bringing in their own reusable cup. Others are launching recycling points.

When these schemes get introduced we need to use them. It is up to us to make sure that we carry our reusable cup and support cafés that do give a discount. It is up to us to make sure we return our disposable cups to a recycling collection point.

When I was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's PM in January, Paddy O'Connell thought he'd found an issue that must make my blood boil. He asked why we had to buy a new "squirty" bottle each time, rather than being able to buy refills of cleaning products, without all that extra plastic of the squirting mechanism. I cringed as I said it, but I felt compelled to point out that supermarkets have already tried that and we used to be able to buy refills. Why can't we now? Because there probably weren't enough sales of the refills. Not enough people supported the schemes. So they were discontinued.

How do we make sure that doesn't happen with coffee cups? As consumers, we need to show our support for the recycling and reuse schemes and in doing so we might be able to make sure they don't just fade away.

However, our lanes and footpaths are littered with branded coffee cups. So although I think it is great news that coffee shops are reacting to public/media pressure, if people don't care sufficiently about waste not to chuck it out of a car window or ditch it as they walk home are people going to care enough to return their empties for recycling? We will see.

My personal favourite "coffee culture" is to refuse to use disposables altogether and support our lovely independent coffee shops with a proper cup and time to linger and maybe have cake too!

A busy time at Rosebank

As always, Christmas has been and gone in the blink of an eye (which is one of the reasons we had two Christmas days at Rosebank!) and quickly after we happily saw in the New Year with an exciting party complete with magic show.

But for us, the excitement didn't stop there. We have been busy with activities, celebrations and outings over the past few weeks. Bampton Coffee House has continued to make us all feel welcome and this outing is always popular with our residents. As the weather gets warmer I expect our hot chocolate orders to be replaced with something equally as tasty!

Our monthly toddler group also continues to be something we all look forward to. It's lovely to see parents and toddlers interacting with our residents, and a smile really is the universal language.

Burns Night and the Chinese New Year kept our chef and kitchen staff busy as they prepared tasty, themed meals and treats for us all. With any of our themed events, residents were highly engaged with the preparation and enjoyed learning about the different cultures and traditions.

We were very grateful to Bampton C of E Primary School who invited our residents along to their Chinese New Year celebrations assembly. At the event we were proud to be able to present the school with a donation of £120, as a result of staff collecting



money over Christmas, rather than sending Christmas cards.

Rosebank has lots more exciting outings and activities planned and as always we welcome the community to join us, or to make suggestions of how we could engage with each other. Watch out for more information about our summer fete, which is planned for Sunday 11th June.

We look forward to seeing you soon, and please do get in touch if you would like to take a look around Rosebank Care Home.

Bampton Community Archive atom.bamptonarchive.org

Bampton Community Archive now has a new website which is being populated with pictures, sound recordings, documents and films. There are around 500 individual entries so far; most have several photographs and documents within a single entry. There are over 1,500 individual pictures on there, several films and sound recordings and more are being added by the day. Our first website proved not suitable for what we wanted to achieve; there are around 7,000 items on the original website and over the next few months they will all be migrated into the new site. Do visit our new website now to see the great

work being achieved by your Bampton Community Archive.

Finally, please don't throw out old photographs, documents or films you have relating to people and places in Bampton if you are happy to let the Archive copy them and put them on the website. Everyone has an interesting life; all old photographs have a story to tell even if it's simply noting the style of clothing worn in times past. If you think we should be recording the memories of someone you know, then do get in touch with Jo Lewington via the Vesey room or phone her on 01993 850947.

...in brief

Lechlade Annual Vintage Rally & Country Show

The 3rd Lechlade Annual Vintage Rally & Country Show will take place at ROUGH GROUNDS FARM, (A 361) LECHLADE, GLOS GL7 3EU 3rd & 4th June 2017, commencing at 10.00 am both days.

This year includes Classic Cars, Classic Motor Cycles, Commercial Vehicles, Collections, Miniature Steam, Tractors, Model Tent, Classic Caravans, Craft, for the children Fun Fair, Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, West Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary and much more.

For further information visit our web: site Lechlade Collectors Club or info@lechladecollectorsclub.co.uk

Bampton Archive

The Bampton Community Archive, having worked for several years to raise the money, is delighted to announce that the restoration of the roof of the Old Grammar School will start on the first of March. They offer deepest thanks to their many stupendous volunteers, The Bampton Exhibition Foundation, WODC, CPRE, and all the tour companies, visitors and others who have contributed to this momentous achievement. They will keep a full record of the restoration.

David Lloyd's Retirement

As you may be aware, sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our vicar David Lloyd at the end of September this year and his final service will be a combined Parish Eucharist in St Mary the Virgin, Bampton on Sunday, 24th September at 10.30 am.

On the day before, Saturday 23rd September, members of David's congregations and village residents will have the opportunity to say goodbye to David during an afternoon of activities and entertainment. This will take place at the pavilion on the Bampton recreation ground between 3.00 and 6.00 pm and we do hope you will put these two dates into your diary and come along to say farewell and thank you to David and Jenny.

...in brief

Council Tax Scam

West Oxfordshire residents are being warned to guard against bogus callers telling them their council tax bands may be too high.

Several residents have been in touch with the District Council saying callers from the 'Claims Review Bureau' have contacted them offering to work on their behalf to obtain a reduction in exchange for a fee of about £80. But staff have emphasised that anyone wanting to appeal against their band can do so for free by contacting the District Valuation Office. Cllr Toby Morris, Cabinet Member for Resources, said: "This is a scam and residents must ensure they do not pass on any financial or personal details to these callers. "Appealing against a council tax band does not require a third party and is free. Anyone receiving one of these calls should end the conversation as quickly as possible."

Residents wishing to appeal against their council tax banding can do so by contacting the District Valuation Office on 03000 501 501.

To report a suspected scam, contact Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845.

The District Council has also reminded residents that staff would never ask for a customer's bank details via email.

Community Archive

Since 2006 the Bampton Community Archive has made over 70 films aiming to cover all areas of Bampton's life, both past and present. All the films are now on YouTube and we hope you will find many of them interesting. A full list is available on the Beam's website www.bamptonbeam.co.uk

Witney Festival of Food and Drink

Witney Festival of Food and Drink returns for a fifth year on Saturday, 20th May from 9.00am to 5.00pm at beautiful St. Mary's on Church Green. Find out more about this great community event and fantastic, fun filled day out for the whole family at www.witneyfoodfestival.co.uk. Entry £3 on the door, children under 12 free.

News



Looking for help

Can you help Phillis Townsend with her search for information on her grandparents who owned Townsends Bicycle shop in Bampton in the 1900s. The Townsends had 3 children, Elizabeth, Colin and Rita. Phillis now lives in New Jersey and would love to hear from anyone who might have memories of her grandparents.

Contact: ptownsend28@comcast.net



Sew Happy – What's so Special about a Memory Box anyway?

When Susie Stakes moved to Bampton last year from Askham in Cumbria, it was to be nearer to her family. She had no idea that within twelve months she would be starting up a small homegrown business.

Susie's husband had died the previous year and the family had decided that the only way to fill the huge void he had left was to stuff it with stories and anecdotes from years of laughter and fond memories. Being a practical person, Susie set about making a special box for this purpose. Her love of textiles and sewing played a major part in the design of a "memory box" into which family members and friends could share their stories. It proved a great success and was soon full to bursting with treasured tales. "We discovered that transferring the stories to the box was a kind of therapy in itself" Susie recalls, "and some of them were new to me, which was an added bonus".

Susie has now been inspired to source different fabrics, some recycled, some themed on her love of geometric art deco designs, to make textile memory boxes for others to enjoy. She is also open to



ideas for bespoke boxes for weddings, retirements and other special milestone occasions. Over the last year Susie has grown to love Bampton and the surrounding area, with its rural charm and vibrant people and has joined a number of activity groups and made some good friends. "I've taken the plunge, as they say, and I am embracing this new chapter in my life."

Susie's work can be seen on her website, www.askhamoriginals.com and she can be contacted on 07760 781 388 or via her e-mail address, susie@askhamoriginals.com. Do feel free to call if you or someone you know would appreciate a bespoke box in which to store favourite memories.

Local plan nearer to being adopted

By Martin Barrett

Since we last wrote for The Beam there have been several important developments at the District Council which will affect residents.

Arguably the most important is that the Local Plan has taken a step nearer to being adopted.

It is a very time-consuming process which can be frustrating at times but it is essential that the Council can demonstrate that it has a five year land supply and that it can meet government requirements for housing development. Of course, everyone wants us to find the balance, we need houses and we want places for the younger generation to be able to live to be available at prices they can afford. At the same time, it is most important that these houses are built where it is suitable for them to go which is what most often causes disagreements with developers who are prepared to build wherever they can find someone who will sell them a field. Readers will be aware of another large-scale development being proposed for land off the Mount Owen Road.

The Planning Committee discussed this on 13th February and deferred the application until the meeting in early March. This will enable all members to visit the site to consider some of the issues regarding flooding and highway safety. The planning process will be a good deal more straightforward once a Local Plan is in place. West Oxfordshire District Council has now revised its plan and it will soon begin its examination by an Inspector. Once the examination is concluded any required modifications will be subject to the usual statutory procedures, all of which take time and add to the frustrations, but it is to be hoped that West Oxfordshire will have an adopted Local Plan in place in the last quarter of this year.

The other big debate which is moving quickly concerns the proposal to abolish the existing City, District and County councils and replace them by a single 'unitary' council for Oxfordshire. The proposal is evolving rapidly and whatever we set out here would be out of date by the time it is read. Whilst the debate continues so do preparations for the County Council elections which take

place on 4 May. The current County Councillor for Witney West and Bampton, James Mills, who is also the Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council is not seeking re-election but one of your District Councillors, Ted Fenton, is standing as the Conservative candidate in his place and hoping to bring some kind of simplicity as far as residents are concerned to the system whatever the outcome of the wider debate.

It is very important that new houses are built where it is suitable for them to go, which is what most often causes disagreements with developers who are prepared to build wherever they can find someone who will sell them a field

Parking

Parking in the centre of Bampton has been causing concern for some time and as with so many other matters it is not a simple issue to resolve. Your District Councillors have been working with the Parish Council and they in turn with the County Council in an attempt to improve the situation. Of course, many of the houses in the village were built long before anyone had a car let alone the two or three that some households now have to park when they are not in use. Some of the restrictions are very old and the original purpose of them no longer exists. In other places parked cars are causing problems for people although there are no restrictions. At other times inconsiderate and dangerous parking is already a problem but, of course, the enforcement officer can't be in the village all the time and any amount of review will

do little to help the situation when people are just inconsiderate.

Deer Park Medical Centre

Readers will be aware of the possible closure of the Deer Park medical centre which may affect some Bampton residents. We can report that there is a possibility this closure may be avoided. Without going into the full history we can report that a Witney resident, alleged that the decision by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) to terminate services at Deer Park Medical Centre was unlawful, the reasons included lack of public consultation or engagement, that OCCG should have based any decision on patient needs and that an impact assessment was not properly undertaken.

Judicial review proceedings were issued in December. The outcome of the litigation cleared the way for OCC's Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to conclude this substantial service variation had not been subjected to all the required due processes of consultation and therefore exercised their power to escalate this case to the Secretary of State. We await the outcome.

Meet your MP

Our new Member of Parliament, Robert Courts, has indicated that he would like to get around as many of the communities in the constituency and give residents an informal opportunity to meet him and



talk about matters which are relevant to particular places. He has agreed to come to Bampton early in this round of visits and, whilst it is not absolutely finalized yet, the provisional date is in the early evening of Thursday 6 April for a couple of hours in The Horseshoe on Bridge Street. ➡

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www.rosebankcarehome.co.uk

CHURCHFIELDS: 01865 881440

enquiries@churchfieldscarehome.co.uk

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Parish Council fighting development

By Jacky Allinson

I start my article by saying how pleased I am to be able to write this for the Bampton Beam. Congratulations to the editor for the production of a magazine of such high quality, which provides local interest stories and photographs, fun articles (I am thinking particularly about Don Rouse and his regular piece!), information and so much more. I missed not having the Autumn edition in 2016 as I know many people did, so I look forward to an interesting Spring 2017 edition.

Planning

I hoped that I would not need to comment again about further major planning applications for housing affecting Bampton in 2017 and following on the heels of the approved site in New Road and the application for houses on the Aston Road which was finally lost by developers on appeal. However the Parish Council is currently fighting hard to get council members on West Oxford District Council Lowlands Planning Committee not to approve an application for another 160 houses on the corner of Mount Owen Road and Aston Road. This task is proving difficult. It is made even more vexing by the fact that planning officers have not included any sites in Bampton, other than the approved New Road site, into their recently published draft local plan and yet the same officers and planning committee have seen fit to approve housing on the site adjacent to Station Road in the last month and are now considering approving this site in Mount Owen Road.

There seems to be something inherently wrong with a planning system that is no longer being led by planning officers taking into account local needs and in a sensible way to allow development to take place gradually, and what we now have happening in Bampton. Development in West Oxfordshire seems in part to be driven by the need to accommodate housing land that Oxford City cannot provide, and also by a substantial increase in population numbers driven by government forecasts. The biggest winners in this battle seem to be the large profitable planning consultancy companies who are driving this 'land grab' in the larger villages

"There seems to be something inherently wrong with a planning system that is no longer being led by planning officers taking into account local needs and in a sensible way to allow development to take place gradually, and what we now have happening in Bampton"



and towns and the owners of farm land, principally farmers and Oxford Colleges. I hope we succeed in persuading West Oxfordshire District Council to turn down this application.

Parking

I am going to now say 3 words that I know are causing a number of people in the village a degree of irritation – PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. For some time now it has become apparent that the West Oxfordshire District Council parking team are visiting Bampton with increased regularity and issuing tickets, almost exclusively to residents, for parking 'violations'. The parish council, along with your district councillors have attempted to persuade council officers that they are causing a problem where one did not previously exist, but this line of action has fallen entirely on deaf ears.

The parish council has been in discussion with Oxfordshire County

Council Highway section about a Traffic Regulation Order to make changes to parking restrictions which will hopefully wave goodbye to this officer forever, but these things take both time and parish council money and will happen only after there has been a legal consultation period. Sometimes the bureaucracy of local government is as frustrating to other local authorities as it is to us as individuals!

Cemetery extension

The parish council is currently in the process of purchasing additional land for a cemetery extension which involves a statutory risk assessment and planning permission. It is clear that additional burial space will be needed in the not too distant future, so we are making provision now. During a visit to the cemetery the other day, I felt that our cemetery in Bampton, particularly the later burials in the newer part, now has a much more European feel to it than the older areas. This may be ironic given that the country is leaving the EU? It took me a while to realise that this was because gravestones and memorials were formerly in limestone, a material that the greatest proportion of Bampton is built in. It would seem that monumental stone masons use granite much more now which is not local to this area at all. A lot of granite is imported into the country. For example black granite is largely imported from China, South Africa, Scandinavia, and India. Bampton Parish Council does not have restrictions on the material or style of headstones as many local authorities do. We feel that it is important that people are able to commemorate their loved ones in a way that is comforting to them and reflects the life of the person lost, so I suppose we can expect our cemetery to continue to look more European as we prepare to be 'less' European! 🍷

News from your local PCSO

The Neighbourhood Team have been consistently out and about on High Visibility foot patrols in the Towns and villages over December and the Christmas period. Now the schools have gone back we are doing additional work about keeping safe in the darker evenings and to ensure they are dressed for the weather. We will be starting 2017 as we finished 2016 - continuing to address the concerns over parking near schools. This is a good opportunity to remind parents that we are not parking attendants but we will issue parking tickets to those parents parking dangerously, particularly those who think in the bad weather they can abandon their cars just to save themselves getting wet! We are there to keep children and parents safe and every school is visited so there is no excuse for parking badly.

Instances of Anti-Social behaviour have been at a very low level throughout the neighbourhood over the last month but we are specifically targeting areas in Bampton to ensure all calls have been quickly dealt with by the team and issues have not returned but we will always monitor changes. We have also been completing our core 'Have your say' meetings which consistently have good attendance as residents to come and speak with us about any concerns. Please keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events over the winter months as the advice we give particularly on crime prevention can be seasonal. We are always happy for people to come and speak with us so that we are aware of any concerns.

The team have been out numerous times with the Speed Indicator Device again. The device measures the speed that drivers are going down a particular road. Whilst tickets are not issued due to the results, letters are sent out

to offending motorists. In addition to this the results gives the team good data to pass over to our roads policing colleagues who will, if deemed appropriate, carry out some structured and frequent speed enforcement. There are multiple sites that have been identified by the team and many tickets have been issued with roads policing carrying out targeted and frequent enforcement which has shown excellent results. You have been warned - road safety in our area is always a priority and we will take reports very seriously. Some new sites are also being identified for Community Speed watch and the team have also conducted many "roadside education" sessions for drivers caught in our area.

There has been a handful of 'Burglary Non-Dwellings' in the area during the month - be assured these are being dealt with very robustly. The burglaries have centred around work premises and garden sheds. We know that whilst it is easy to leave your equipment out whilst in the house, opportunistic theft only takes seconds so always move your valuable items like petrol machinery back into a secure place. Ideally chain items like this together and invest in a good lock and security light. As you may be using your equipment less and the evenings are drawing in it would be a great time to ensure outside lights and locks are in good working order.

The Neighbourhood watch scheme in Bampton is also very active and has shown excellent results with the public reporting suspicious incidents that we have been able to deal with quickly. Check the website for further details or come and see us at any of our events. Lastly we would like to wish everyone a Happy and restful New Year.

PCSO Colin Davies

Alvescot Fete 2017 Saturday June 17th

The first meeting of the year was held on January 30th and the new committee has been formed together with lots of fresh faced volunteers keen to help out on the run up to the day. There is lots to do if we're going to match last year's fantastic event so if there is anyone out there who couldn't make the open meeting but would still like to lend a hand, please just get touch with me at the details below. This year we will be celebrating the rural community we all hold dear with a 'Country Fayre' theme. Apart from some traditional favourite stalls and amazing raffle prizes, we're also planning to include some surprise "Ye Olde" elements and some great country entertainment for all ages so please watch out for further details or visit our web site at: www.alvescotvillage.co.uk

Spring clean and help the fete

While the middle of June may seem an age away, this is the time when spring cleaning fever hits at home and in the garden. It's never too early to put contributions to one side for the many stalls we have at the fete. - Those books and CD's that are just taking up storage space now that you have them all on your phone or kindle. That vase and general bric-a-brac that's been stuck at the back of the shelf for an age gathering dust. Clothes and accessories that are good as new but you know you'll never wear again. All of this and more could be someone else's found 'treasure' at the fete so please, don't just take them along to the nearest second hand shop. Hang on to them for just a little longer, perhaps in a box somewhere out of the way, and we'll collect them in June. If you really have no room for storage and just 'want rid', please call me at the number below and we'll do our best to collect them sooner. And gardeners - as you take spring cuttings and sow the seeds for summer, why not just do a few extra and bring them along on the day for our popular plant stall. Tel: 01993 252052

Silent Auction

Last year we were fortunate enough to have some of the most generous prize donations for our Silent Auction, which included a very lucky family having a weeks' holiday in a luxury villa in Portugal at a fraction of the normal cost! It is becoming one of our most well known attractions but of course, is totally dependent on the continued kindness of the contributors. So, if you have a skill or an asset that you would be prepared to share through auction, please do get in touch with me. Anonymous donations will be treated in confidence.

Syria is still in crisis - can you help

Over the last few months over 1000 bags of clothes and bedding have been taken by container lorries and distributed to small towns and villages throughout Syria.

We work with a charity based in Monmouthshire who sort and box donations and we have just received a video which is on You Tube showing the distribution of food, clothing and bedding to needy families. At the moment the donations are sent to a warehouse in Syria from where it is distributed. However there are contingency plans, should this also be bombed, for other refugee camps in Greece and Turkey to benefit. There are almost no schools in the Syrian towns that have recently been visited so any colouring books, pencils, pads of paper or any SOFT toys would be gratefully accepted.

Please contact me if you have any queries. I can pick up donations or they can be left in my garage.

Telephone: 01993 824477

Email jobutt@btinternet.com

Here is a list of other items needed:

Clothing/bedding

Clean Warm clothing for men, women, children and babies are needed. Coats, weatherproof articles, woollens, trousers, skirts, shoes and baby clothes are items in demand. Blankets, duvets and rugs would be appreciated as well. But NO sheets or pillows.

Toiletries

Unisex hygiene products, soap, baby wipes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shower gels, ladies sanitary products, sponges.

Medical supplies

Dressings, bandages, crutches, wheelchairs, walking frames, incontinence pads.

Food

Non perishable in date tinned food, pasta, rice, pulses, longlife milk, tea bags, sugar, babyfood and baby milk, oil and spices.

Update by Lynne Pointer

So many people and every newspaper in December was calling 2016 a real "Annus Horribilis"; but for us SPAJERS it was a great success. We were lucky

with the weather for all our major events and you were all generous with buying Draw Tickets, Drinks, Ice Creams, Racing Strange Vehicles, Sponsoring donkeys, aaaahing at Fireworks and Applauding mummies. The Mummies once again gave a great deal of enjoyment to all on Christmas Eve and a very full Money Box to us. So we were delighted to have been able to give our members A Bumper Christmas Box. (We hope to be able to repeat it but we can't promise). The Committee said I should put our success down to the impeccable, minutely detailed planning that we do, but my mother told me to always tell the truth.

Thanks to all in the village for their support and we hope you enjoyed the fun - we have already booked the Firemagic team for next November and started thinking about where to go for our Summer Outing. Folk even sent us Christmas Cards which was much appreciated and we passed on their thanks to our army of helpers, without whom we could not put on the events that we do.

And though we were sad to say Goodbye to some of our members in the course of the year, we were grateful that the SPAJERS were remembered by them, with final donations.

Quiz Night

This is coming up on Friday April 7th in the Village Hall, doors open 7:30 for a prompt start at 8 pm.

The start time allows most folk to have supper at home first, but if not, bring a picnic hamper along.

Ticket Price of £30 per team of 6 includes nibbles. A Paying Bar is available for wine, beer, cider and soft drinks, and may we remind folks that because of the terms of the licence, this is not a Bring Your Own drinks occasion.

As always the Splendid Trophy will be awarded to the team that shows the best General Knowledge over a wide range of subjects from Gardening to Food and Drinks - and not too many questions on Pop Music from 2000 onwards.

Our IT whizz kid Scotty, provides the questions and answers on an electronic question/scoreboard which rivals that of Eurovision, and makes the whole thing so much more enjoyable than the old-fashioned noisy way. Though it has to be admitted that our costumes are not quite up to Eurovision standards!

We have room for a few new teams this year. Come along and be surprised at how much you don't know, (and some others do!) about the Suez Canal, the habits of Penguins and the length of the river Amazon. Please contact our Secretary

Roger on 01993 850113 or rogmarlsnow@yahoo.co.uk to book a table.

Could you lend a hand

As always we welcome new folk to the Committee (It is not hard work - we keep planning meetings (about an hour a month at most) and paperwork to a minimum). Could you be an extra pair of hands to help out at events, with the putting up and taking down of stands, stewarding The Shirt Race, putting up Gazebos etc?

Membership

of SPAJERS is open to anyone who has lived in the village, including Lew, and Weald, for at least six months, and are, if female over 60 and, if male over 65. Please ask their permission before putting forward anyone else's name to our Membership Sec Jeff Dando on 01993 850643. Your personal data will only be used in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act and your details will not be shared.

Planning an Event or Family Gathering?

Unfortunately we cannot take any bookings for use of Marquees etc at the moment as, like some of us on the Committee, they are beginning to show their age.

Shirt Race

We are gearing up for The Shirt Race on Saturday May 27th this year. Last year's arrangements worked very well, so we expect to run a similar course and road closures this year.

As always this wonderful, unique event depends upon a good supply of Stewards. There will be a meeting for these Friends of Spajers helpers in the week leading up to the event, and if you would like to join them please get in touch with any committee member. We are as ever grateful to those who supply and pour the drinks at the stops. Raffle tickets will be sold by Josie and others before and during the event.

To enter just turn up on the night in the Market Square, where our stewards will remind you about the important safety aspects of the races, before the start.

You take part at your own risk, but our planning beforehand and the Stewards on the night, have ensured that we have run a safe race for many years now. We aim to keep it that way, so please; Parents look after the Little Ones and Everyone take note of the Stewards Instructions.

Here is a brief reminder of the rules, and whether you would qualify for a prize or not.

- Competitors enter in pairs with one pram/conveyance between them, one inside and one pushing.
- The Chariot event is for more than 2 competitors, and only qualifies for a Fancy Dress Award.
- The classes are : Junior for Children under 11 years.
- Intermediates aged 11 to 17 years
- Seniors 18+
- Under age competitors will be supplied with soft drinks; Seniors have the choice of beer or soft drinks.
- One half pint is to be drunk at each stop by one of the competitors, alternately. No spillages.
- One person stays with the conveyance which must be stationary at the Drink Stop.
- Cups must be kept and are counted at the finish.
- In the Junior Race only those who have completed the course without any assistance will qualify for an award.
- At the line up, all racing pairs will be in the front rank. Chariots at the rear. The Stewards may decide to vary the order or the way in which the races are started, depending upon the number of entrants on the night. The Judges decisions at the Finish are Final.

Exciting news of a new challenge and an extra trophy for the Intermediates - watch this space.....



Don Rouse

It is so good to be back after a long break. So many of our organisations and charities have missed out on being kept informed as to what is happening in our community. The Beam is such a useful tool to keep you all informed about what has happened, what is happening and what is going to happen, let's hope that it can continue to give such a marvellous service without causing any unintentional offence. With the help of publicity from the Beam a lot has been achieved in bringing problems that worry us all to the attention of the authorities. The moving of the Chicane in Station Road to a safer position was a perfect example.

I would like to start off my Ramblings with a moan about the large Pot Hole that is outside the toilets at the Town Hall on the side facing the Co-op for over two months now. Well I do admit to having a personal interest in this one. I don't know how many people are like me, in that if you fall over, the first thing you do is to look around and hope that no one saw you before surreptitiously getting up and moving quietly away. Well this happened to me in November. I came out of the Co-op loaded with a two French Sticks, the paper, a lettuce and a bottle of wine. Being a frugal farmer I couldn't be doing with buying a plastic bag to put it all in so I had my arms full, we all know that to cross the road successfully is for a pensioner an achievement in itself. Feeling rather smug at this point I took a small step on some leaves that were in a puddle to make the step up onto the pavement, as they say 'pride comes before a fall' and I fell into the pothole that must be some eight inches lower than the pavement! Nothing was broken not even the bottle of wine, that would have been disastrous as being tee-total to be seen laid in the road with a broken bottle and smelling of wine, my reputation would have been ruined.

In January to my delight I saw the Council Highways department arrive with Rollers, Diggers, Tarmac and many men equipped with shovels, hard hats and Stop/Go signs to control the traffic. Seeing them all assembled around the Town Hall I thought "this is the way to do it!", they are going to make the Town Hall area safe for pedestrians. However I was wrong, in true Oxfordshire Council tradition they had come only to repair the area that was reported to them a long time ago. Potholes that had appeared since then right next to where they were working, were classed as outside their remit, even if only by inches and were of no concern to them.

Why do they do this? We all know that the main cost of getting equipment and engineers to a site is the travelling, once they are there extra work would only cost peanuts. Being typical 'job worth's men' they only did what they were told to do. Jobs worth's are not allowed to use their initiative. If only I was younger, with some of Bampton's volunteer force we would have filled that pothole in whilst they were having their morning coffee break!

After all the pressures of Christmas and the experiences of shopping in other towns and cities with all the accompanying hassles, you really do appreciate the difference to shopping in

Bampton. No matter where in Bampton you go, all the assistants are always so obliging, happy and full of fun, whether it's the Dispensary at the Surgery, the Post Office, Co-op, Estate agents, Hair Dressers or the Butchers, they are always game for a laugh and a bit of harmless banter which is accompanied with a willingness to go that extra bit to make you feel that you are special to them. Yes I do love Bampton.

Carterton Lions are once again raising money for good causes they are putting Easter eggs in both the Morris Clown and the Talbot. In all, the Lions place twenty Easter Eggs around this area and for the establishment that raises the most money, the Lions award them £50.00 for a charity of their choice. In the last two years Bampton has won this both times. The Talbot won it last year with all their money going to Asthma U.K. and the Morris Clown the year before with their money going to the Air Ambulance. I do hope that you will all support them again this year.

I visited the Bampton Youth Club the other day for the inaugural meeting of their teenage section. It was very satisfying to see how the team went to work in welcoming the first 6 teenagers who they hope will form the nucleus of the new teenage Youth Club. We wish them well, every Marathon starts with one step!

I will finish my Ramblings exactly where I started. At the Town Hall. With the expected increase in Bampton's population, something needs to be done about car parking in the Market Square. Everybody is unhappy about the present parking arrangements. The elderly who live too far away from the shops to walk, visitors who want to admire our lovely town, passing motorists who want to just 'pop in' to our shops, all get harassed by the Traffic Wardens who occasionally molest the area and would you believe it? The Traffic Wardens themselves are unhappy with the set up. They feel that the Parking Bays are poorly marked, proof of which was recently on Face book. They were taking a photo of a Bamptonian's (illegally?) parked car as the Mother of the motorist was taking a photo of the Warden's car that was not parked correctly within the designated bay! Now that's going to be interesting!

What needs to be done? The Parish Council, who have no control over the Wardens, District Council (including the Line Managers of the Traffic Wardens) and the County Council need to sit round a table in the Town Hall and TALK until they can find a solution.

There is almost as much ill feeling being created by this problem as there was over the development expansion.

I was recently told about a Traffic Warden who collapsed in the street. A doctor was called and declared that he had died at the scene. The Undertakers were called and they took him away and put him in a coffin. As the undertaker fixed the last screw into the lid, he heard the warden shout out "I'm not dead. Let me out". The undertaker replied "Sorry mate, that is more than my jobs worth. I've already done the paperwork! 🚫"

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Tel: 07920 714937 or Email: dibraygardens@me.com



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Decorating for children

In the run up to Christmas I completed the decoration of three children's bedrooms as part of a local project.

Unusually, there was a television-style 'big reveal' as the family had been away while work finished – so it was an exciting time, with a little anxiety too. We had shared lots of ideas in advance so that even though the rooms were being seen for the first time there were no unwelcome surprises. Happily they loved them.

There's a real joy to designing for children and as spring comes around and new life is everywhere I thought I would share some ideas for decorating children's rooms.

Space for fun

Most children's bedrooms need to do more than simply offer a place to sleep. They are usually play spaces too and often somewhere to study. So, when planning the furnishing of a bedroom it is always worth thinking about what needs to be in the room (bed, desk, storage) and also how to preserve as much empty floor space as possible for occasional train-tracks, un-packing dolls houses, ad-hoc tents, electronic gaming marathons and so on.



Personalise it

Because a bedroom is primarily a place to sleep it's a good idea to keep the dominant colour scheme calming and neutral. Pastel pink and blue will always be a favourite, but fun, colour and interest can also be brought in to the room with a one-wall mural (that can be hung as easily as wall paper) or wall stickers (that are brilliantly temporary). Graham & Brown (online) have a range of wall murals from comic book art to landscapes (pictured, section of London Wall Mural, £60, 3m wide by 2.4m tall). JoJo Maman Bebe (Witney) have a good selection of children's wall stickers (pictured, Transport Wall Stickers, £15).

Texture is a designer's favourite to bring warmth and cosiness to a room, perfect for children. A chunky crochet blanket,

sheepskin rug or patchwork are great, sometimes nothing beats children's own artwork like a large collage and some faux fur cushions.

As children grow up it's great to offer the chance to personalise their room. Blackboard paint has been a favourite for a while, but I have found giant notice boards to be a popular idea and search for great personalised accessories online at Not On The High Street and The Linen Works London for bedding.

Lighting

As with most rooms, it's a good idea to have different light sources. Along with the overall ceiling or wall lights a child's room will benefit from task lighting for reading and homework and a bedside lamp. Then there's decorative lighting that finds the perfect home in children's rooms, like the ever-favourite fairy lights and cotton ball lights – try John Lewis online (pictured right) and click-and-collect from Waitrose in Witney.



Books and toys and stuff

It's rare for any room to be designed without thinking about storage, but in a child's room there's often so much 'stuff' to take care of. There are toys that work well in boxes and chests. Then drawers for clothes and hanging space for party dresses, school uniforms and Sunday-best. Multiple hooks make a useful addition (more than just one on the back of a door) and are very handy to keep the school-to-home-to-bed outfits off the floor. Easily accessed low level bookcases are great and high level shelves can be helpful for parents for items to be kept safe or out-of-reach. High-end



Nicola Priestly

Identity Interior Design Ltd
www.identityinteriordesign.co.uk



timber toy chests can be beautiful enough to last in to adulthood, but for value and flexibility it is hard to beat Ikea's range of bags, boxes, baskets and crates. Most parents will already know not to waste that precious space under beds too – where monsters might otherwise lurk - and pull-out storage

on wheels work very well, unless there's a sleep-over mattress already making use of the space!

Children's rooms are a great place to decorate with a little fun and not feel like you have to stick to rules too closely – whether you are designing for a year or two or going from

child through to teen it's a chance for your child to express themselves and for you to join together in a team effort.

Whilst not the topic of this piece, it is worth noting that when decorating a nursery or bedroom for very young children, special care should be taken to prioritise and ensure safety with paint choices, roller blinds, bedding, hanging items and so on. ➔

Fresh Year - Fresh Diary - Fresh Resolutions!

Right, where were we?

Oh yes - it was May 2016 and there were exciting times ahead in the garden! The promise of annuals and new perennials bought in hope AND expectation. How did they fare? Well, have you ever noticed how gardening joys and disasters often go hand in hand? So it was with me last year - wonderful *Calendula* 'Indian Prince' providing colour and a smile every day for weeks but completely overwhelming its pot mate; an indigo stemmed *Salvia* named 'Love and Wishes' which only recovered from the bullying once the *Calendula* were finally removed at the end of the summer. The *Cosmos* 'Dazzler' were wonderful - but not as wonderful in a crowded, slightly shaded, south west facing raised bed as they were when planted in a sunny, open, south facing border, where they grew to shoulder height and were covered in bloom and bees from August to November. The only slight problem with the latter was that it wasn't in our garden but planted by me in a garden we maintain in Oxford; there's no justice sometimes!

A first as well - our Peony flowered! An ordinary and yet very special Peony. Ordinary because it is the standard red cottage Peony (*Peony officinalis* 'Rubra Plena'), but special because it came from a plant in a garden in Brize that belongs to my oldest client. Dora is 92, and can remember the Peony being moved from their first home to Brize before WWII so my Peony has quite the heritage and can be forgiven for taking 3 years to flower! It looked beautiful under the new foliage of *Cotinus coggyria* 'Royal Purple' with the lilac firework heads of *Allium christophii* and blue sparks from *Centaurea montana*. This bit of beauty made up a little for the complete no show of my *Erythronium* and a dearth of *Dahlia* later in the year. The loss of the former I can't explain but the lack of the latter is completely my fault - not enough attention to snail attacks on young foliage resulting in seriously stunted and weak plants

that never had time to flower. No more slug pellets - I need a toad in the garden!

Autumn was wonderful - the colours everywhere seemed to be deep and intense and I often found myself driving back into Bampton with the late sun on the trees making the light seem golden and warm. In our small plot the *Euonymus europaeus* 'Red Cascade' (Spindle) finally delivered a fantastic crop of its startling orange and pink fruits and brilliant red foliage - the best year yet. It's been slow to mature, not helped by my having moved it twice and I don't think it's trusted me enough to deliver before but now the roots are down and happy.

So, what will 2017 bring I wonder? Well, another of last year's purchases was a climbing rose - Mme Alfred Carriere. She's been planted on an east facing fence so not very easy conditions but she's usually generous and I'm hoping for a show of soft pink, beautifully scented blooms this year.

As I write there's a bit of spring in the air with tubs of *Iris histrioides* 'Lady Beatrix Stanley' and mixed species *Crocus* both poking through the soil in a competition to be the first to flower. The Christmas rose has been flowering gloriously but demurely for weeks and by the time this edition of the Beam reaches you the Daffodils should be in full swing and the *Magnolia stellata* will be beckoning me out in to the garden.

For a bit of additional inspiration perhaps a visit to Bourton House, Bourton on the Hill (open from April) - a garden I've visited before, loved, and can highly recommend, then maybe across the road to Batsford Arboretum?

Finally, plenty of jobs for March, including pruning feeding and mulching of winter flowerers like Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) and Shrub Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) and roses if not done already. I also need to give our climbing Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) a good cut back and choose a replacement for the *Viburnum bodnantense* - she's not suited to a pot so despite being from a cutting and my being ridiculously attached, she has to go, but who will replace her? They will need to have year round appeal and enjoy being pruned - I better get the books out! 🌸



Above: *Calendula* 'Indian Prince' an August offering

Right: A joys of March: *Magnolia stellata*





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Bampton Gardening Club Update

Coffee and craft mornings 2017 everyone welcome!

The dates for our coffee and craft mornings in 2017 are: 18 March, 15 April (Easter Sat), 20 May, 17 June, 21 October, 18 November, 9 December.

Please feel free to drop in and have a cup of coffee or tea. As well as local crafts, we usually have tables selling plants (flowers and vegetables), local produce (cakes, chutneys) and books for local causes, etc. Brilliant for finding little gifts. We also hold a raffle.

Coffee and craft mornings are held on Saturday mornings in Bampton Village Hall, 10 am to noon. If you would like to have a table at the coffee morning to sell your own produce or craft, these are available for a small charge on a first-come-first-served basis – please contact Gary Gummer (01993 851913) for details.

Annual Show Winners 2016

Thank you to everyone who entered our Annual Show on Saturday 27 August 2016 – we had a record number of entrants and entries, which was fantastic! So was the weather – but at least the thunder, lightning and rain held off until the afternoon.

Bampton Garden Club

Annual Show 2017

The date for this years' Annual Show is Saturday 26 August in the Village Hall. A schedule will be available later in the year.

List of Challenge Cups awarded at the 2016 Gardening Club Show

Cup	Awarded for	Winner
Lady Anne Montague Cup	Overall points	Deborah Lowe
Jack Horne Memorial Cup	Runner Up	Zoe Cypher
Chennell Cup	Garden Club Member with most points	Zoe Cypher
Vice President's Cup	Best in Show	Dawn Knight
Mrs P Smith Cup	Judges' Own Choice	Jack Jaynes
Cottager's Cup	Most Deserving Effort in Show	Jo Ader
Ileane Hammond Rose Bowl	Class 1 – 4 Roses	Pauline Davies
Raymond Taylor Cup	Class 2 – Single rose	Pat Robson
Sydney Constable Cup	Class 7 – Sweet peas	Roy Henly
Andrew Pierce Cup	Class 8 – Carnations	Not won
Dolly Stroud Cup	Class 12 – Cactus dahlia	Zoe Cypher
J. Horne B.H.S. Cup	Class 14 – Decorative dahlia	Zoe Cypher
Percy Bowerman Cup	Class 15 – Gladioli	Zoe Cypher
Albert Tanner Cup	Class 16 – 3 Chrysanthemums	Zoe Cypher
Nellie Temple Cup	Class 17 – Chrysanthemums 1 specimen bloom	Zoe Cypher
Win Woodley Cup	Class 21 – Busy Lizzie	Not won
Henry Bone Cup	Class 22 – Begonia	Shirley Bishop
John Smith Cup	Class 25 – Cucumbers	Joan Smith
Keith Reid Cup	Class 29 – Runner beans	B Waite
The Beam Cup	Class 41 – Vegetables on a tray	Deborah Lowe
Frank Collett Cup	Class 58 – 4" flower arrangement	Jo Roe
Rosebowl	Section 2 – overall points	Deborah Lowe
Reg Pratley Cup	Sections 2 + 3 – overall points	Deborah Lowe
Lady Lathbury Cup	Section 5 – overall points	Jo Roe
Grace Wiltshire Cup	Section 6 – overall points	Jo Roe
Liz Chambers Silver Plate	Sections 5 + 6 – overall points	Jo Roe
Win Woodley Challenge Cup	Class 78, under 5s	Jack Jaynes
Betty Adams Cup	Class 78, 6–8 years	Lucas Evans & Milo Cave

We would like to thank our judges: Margaret King, Ozzie Shayler and Dennis West.

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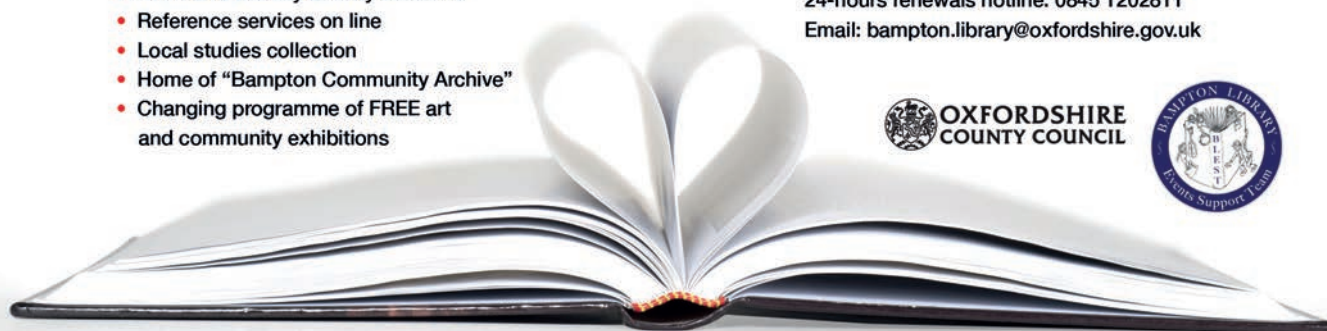
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By Lisa Lane (Upper Thames Living Landscape Manager) Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Coronation Meadows

With the arrival of spring, comes hope. The hope of sunny days, filled with barbecues; of summer holidays, filled with fun; and the countryside filled with flowers.

To my mind, the start of the year is heralded by yellow flowers - winter aconites blooming against garden walls in Aston; lesser celandines in hedgerow bottoms near Kelmscott; clumps of primroses blossoming in Bampton and marsh marigolds, the crowning glory of streams and ditches, around Clanfield. However, above all else, it is the sight of green fields speckled with yellow cowslips at Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve, which for me indicates that spring is in full swing!

In winter, small rosettes of cowslip leaves nestle amongst the grasses, in preparation for their spring time performance. As days become longer and warmer, their wrinkled leaves increase in size. A small flower stalk starts to form and elongate, until finally at the end of April/beginning of May, the flower head rises above the rest of the vegetation and opens, revealing the delicate apricot-scented flowers.

Across our landscape in Oxfordshire, we are fortunate that small fragments of wild flower-rich meadows, home to cowslips, still survive. Once a common site, a staggering 97% of meadows have been lost in the last 75 years.

"Floodplain meadows evolved over many hundreds of years through the need to store the summer grass crop as hay to sustain cattle, sheep and especially horses over the winter months. The system of allowing the vegetation to grow up in the spring, taking a crop in mid-summer and then grazing the re-growth prevented taller, courser species from becoming dominant and created the diverse flower-rich sward that we see today. Once highly valued from an agricultural perspective, the few remaining species-rich floodplain meadows, are now seen as important for different reasons. Whilst still producing a hay crop and being a living window to the rural past, meadows are now recognised as providing a significant nectar source for pollinating insects, such as bumblebees and hoverflies. They support rare plant communities and are vital sources of seed for the restoration of meadows. Increasingly floodplain meadows are valued as flood-storage areas. They trap sediment and store carbon and will be recognised as important for these reasons as the climate changes" (Floodplain Meadows Partnership 2016; www.floodplainmeadows.org.uk).

Since the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

bought Chimney Farm, next to Chimney Meadows National Nature Reserve in 2003, over 80 hectares of floodplain meadows have been recreated and others have been restored. To help with this work, BBOWT was awarded a £207,000 grant to enhance and restore floodplain meadows, from the Biodiversity Action Fund, administered by WREN (a not-for-profit business, which awards grants generated by landfill tax through sites owned by FCC Environment, to community, environmental and heritage projects countrywide).

Part of that project was to look at the development of the 'arable reversion' meadows that the Trust created over 10 years ago. To my delight, the research carried out by the Earth Trust, showed "a dramatic and positive shift in the botanical and invertebrate communities towards the NNR target community" (the meadows from which the seed came).

Not only have we been creating and restoring meadows at Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve, BBOWT are part of the nationwide Coronation Meadows initiative, championed by Prince Charles, to create: "A meadow in every county to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Coronation".

This project has been funded by Biffa Award, a multi-million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to community and environmental projects across the UK.

The Coronation Meadows initiative is celebrating the nation's surviving meadows, by identifying a flagship Coronation Meadow in each county and using seed from it to create new meadows nearby. Chimney Meadows is the "jewel in the crown" for Oxfordshire and has been used to increase the area of this valuable habitat for wildlife in the Upper Thames, "helping to secure our wild flower heritage for the next 60 years and beyond", a key aim of the initiative. The final aim is to encourage people to discover meadows local to them; to visit and enjoy them, celebrate their beauty, recognise their importance and to get involved with their conservation.

So why don't you come and see this seasonal cowslip spectacle? Whilst visiting, look out for sulphur yellow brimstone butterflies, the adults of which, having hibernated amongst ivy and bramble, emerge in March or earlier and will be on the wing in the spring sunshine. Following mating, skittle shaped eggs are laid singly on buckthorn and alder buckthorn and hatch into green caterpillars, the presence of which is indicated by leaf damage. The adults feed on primroses, daffodils, cowslips and dandelions early in the year, but move on to the purple blooms of teasels, thistles, knapweed, selfheal and vetches as the seasons progress.

For further information about hay sales or volunteering at Chimney Meadows call 01367 870904 or see www.bbowl.org.uk 🍷



"Across our landscape in Oxfordshire, we are fortunate that small fragments of wild flower-rich meadows, home to cowslips, still survive"

The Café - Bampton Garden Plants

A raw damp winter's day demands food to feed the body and soul and that is certainly what we enjoyed at the Cafe at Bampton Garden Plants during the last week of January 2017. - *Nicola Seward*

The cafe which opened three years ago, used to be in a small space to one side of the centre but over the past twelve months it has increased in size to occupy an area previously used for growing on bedding plants which, contrary to what one might expect, was delightfully warm and comfortable with an interesting display of photographs, paintings, clocks and plants for sale.

Feeling the need for something to warm us up quickly we both plumped for soup. My companion enjoyed a hearty roasted red pepper and tomato soup served with croutons and a bread roll while I enjoyed the sweet potato and coconut soup which was thick and tasty again served with croutons and a bread roll. In the interests



“Children are catered for with a pick and mix selection of sandwiches and snacks and drinks and the Cafe offers a microwave and bottle warmer for heating baby food.”

of doing full justice to the review and with total disregard for our new year diet resolutions we then moved onto further substantial platefuls! I chose the chicken chasseur which was the hot food special served with roast potatoes and griddled vegetables and it did not disappoint. The chicken was meltingly tender in a rich sauce including mushrooms, shallots and bacon. My companion chose the deep filled quiche lorraine with mixed salad leaves and coleslaw and he was delighted to note that the salad came with dressing served separately rather than drowning in it and the food beautifully presented on the plate with real “eat me” appeal. The quiche passed the Mary Berry test with a crisp pastry shell and a filling which still retained a slight wobble, and tasted excellent too. If these had not appealed we could have chosen from a range of sandwiches, toasted or untoasted, or a substantial filled jacket potato, with a novel build your own filling menu. All the dishes are prepared from scratch in the kitchen at Bampton Garden Plants Cafe starting with that most basic of tools which is a good stock. Morning visitors are well catered for too with a breakfast selection including bacon and sausages from Bampton's butcher Patrick

Strange - who also supplies all the meat used in the cafe - with a choice of teas from Jeeves and Jericho, and a choice of coffee from Ue's in Witney as well as soft drinks and freshly made milk shakes.

Far too full to even consider anything further to eat we inspected the cakes and scones and agreed another visit would be necessary to sample these. The multi talented staff produce delicious looking cakes including such staples as coffee and walnut sponge, carrot cake, Victoria sandwich and citrus cake and these and the quiches can be ordered in advance take away. There is always a choice of two gluten free cakes on offer, and gluten free bread rolls are also available. While the Cafe does not do outside catering they are happy where possible to provide platters of sandwiches for events at home or at the office.

Children are catered for with a pick and mix selection of sandwiches and snacks and drinks and the Cafe offers a microwave

and bottle warmer for heating baby food. Access is excellent for buggies and for wheelchairs with ramps where required though the sandy surface in the car park and the entrance to the garden centre can be a bit messy on the wheels but a quick visit to the sparkling loos, including a roomy disabled loo and baby changing facility, will allow a quick hand wash to get rid of any sandy hands.

Bampton Garden Plants Cafe's convenient location on the Buckland Road about half a mile from the centre of Bampton means that it attracts both locals and visitors with a number of customers arriving by bike. The warm seating area certainly provides a haven for cyclists and walkers as well as customers browsing the plants and garden products and the complimentary access to wi-fi means that even those wedded to their mobile phones and computers can pop in for a quick break!

Looking beyond the chill winter and the need for warmth we talked to Richard, the restaurant manager, about future plans which include the creation of an outdoor eating area and provision of covered parking for cyclists. The menu changes approximately every two months and Richard plans to introduce a fresh pasta option for the spring menu. We certainly look forward to seeing the plans come to fruition and will be returning both to try the tempting baked goods and to explore the lunch and breakfast menu further and to take advantage of the excellent value for money which the Cafe offers. ☘



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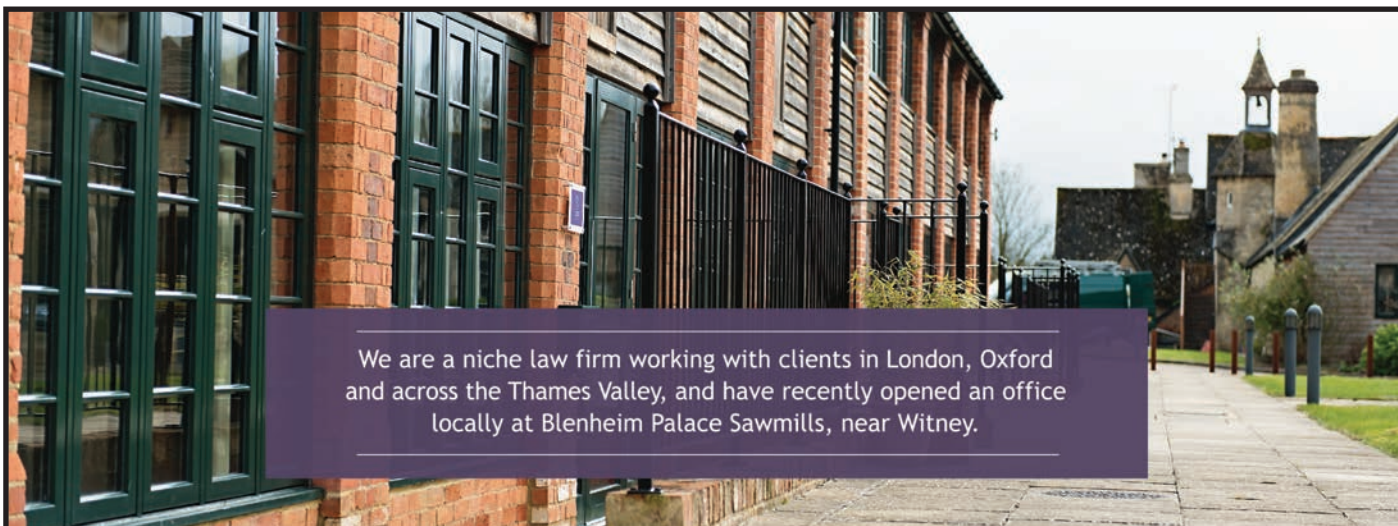
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Since the Treaty of Windsor in 1386, Portugal has been England's closest trading partner and from the beginning wine has been at the centre of that relationship. - Robin Shuckburgh

The wines of Portugal

England's geographical position and resulting climate has meant that we have never really been a great producer of wine, but we have almost always been great consumers. It's true that for much of the time our preference was for French wine but there have been many times when our relationship with the French has been dodgy to say the least, and it was to Portugal that we turned when French booze was forced off the menu. Perhaps the most obvious of these times was in the reign of William of Orange, a protestant King with a strong hatred of the French, who not only banned the importation of wine from France but also of Brandy, thus cementing our trading agreements with Portugal as well as introducing us to the delights of Gin from his home country of Holland, rather to the detriment, it has to be said, of the health of the English poor who took to gin a little too heartily.

As vines had been grown in Portugal since pre-Christian times, the country had developed a huge variety of now indigenous varieties, which made Portuguese wines wonderful and highly distinctive. It was the English who discovered the vineyard, or quinta, in the Duoro Valley who habitually added alcohol to their partly fermented wine, thus stopping the fermentation whilst there was still a lot of natural sugar in the juice making what we now know as Port. Our appetite for this wonderful rich sweet drink was insatiable.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries however, Portugal was to go through a series of disasters that very nearly destroyed the industry completely. First was the arrival of what are referred to by the Portuguese as the "American Plagues".



As vines had been grown in Portugal since pre-Christian times, the country had developed a huge variety of now indigenous varieties

Powdery mildew or Oidium came first, spreading like wildfire from Mr Tucker's nursery in Margate where it first made European landfall in 1845, and reaching Portugal's Duoro region just a couple of years later. In the years before sulphur was used as a chemical control, efforts were made in Portugal to introduce American vines resistant to Oidium, which, in turn, resulted in the introduction of the second and infinitely worse pest called Phylloxera. This aphid like bug was truly devastating and the whole of the European wine industry faced oblivion. As if this were not enough, a third pest arrived from America. A fungal mildew called Plasmopara which spread throughout the Iberian peninsula

so quickly that it's impossible to track its progress. Copper Sulphate proved a reasonably successful antidote to this fungus, but it was only at the end of the 20th century that a reliable pesticide was created. Between 1870 and 1930, around 5 million hectares of Iberian vineyards had to be uprooted several times.

These disasters were not by any means unique to Portugal but she was rather slower than the rest of Europe to find the solutions. She concentrated on finding hybrid vines resistant to the diseases, resulting in the destruction of their reputation for great wine. The hybrids made wine with a foxy or oxidised flavour, unpopular with their foreign markets. She should have followed sooner the rest of Europe and grafted their indigenous vines onto American rootstock. ➕

You can now see Robin on YouTube as he delves into cookery, wine and local foodies, giving an insight into traditional village life and much, much more. Take a look at - The Cotswold Explorer

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Sausage & caramelised red onion pasta with mushrooms & rosemary

This is a simple pasta dish with big flavours. Earthy mushrooms and slow cooked soft red onions are flavoured with sun-dried tomatoes and aromatic rosemary. Tossed with penne and crumbled and fried herby sausage meat from our farm butchery, this makes for a hearty meal.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 large or 4 small red onions
- Oil for frying e.g. sunflower or light olive
- 1 tsp light brown sugar
- 10g fresh rosemary
- 20g sun-dried tomatoes
- 200g mushrooms
- 30g parsley
- 4 pork & herb sausages
- 200g penne pasta
- Olive oil
- 1 tsp balsamic vinegar
- 25g Parmesan, grated
- Salt & pepper

METHOD

1. Peel, halve and finely slice the red onions. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large saucepan. Add the onions and light brown sugar, with a pinch of salt. Cook very gently on your lowest heat possible for 30 minutes, stirring now and then to stop them catching. You want them to be very soft at the end of cooking, but not to catch and burn. Add a splash of water if needed, to prevent them burning.
2. As soon as the onions go in the pan, put a large pan of well salted water on to boil for the pasta. Pick the leaves off 1 good sprig of rosemary. Finely chop them so they look like breadcrumbs. Add the rosemary to the onions as soon as you've chopped it. Finely chop the sun-dried tomatoes. Add them to the onion pan too.
3. Wipe the mushrooms clean with a damp piece of kitchen paper or clean cloth. Thinly slice them. Wash and shake the parsley dry. Chop the leaves. Remove the skins from the sausages and crumble or chop up the meat.
4. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a non-stick frying pan. Add the mushrooms. Fry until lightly coloured and softened. Take the



pan off the heat and transfer the mushrooms to a plate or bowl. Wipe the frying pan out or give it a quick wash.

5. Add a splash more oil to the pan. Add the sausage meat. Cook for 5 minutes or so, initially on a higher heat to give it a little colour, then a little lower to cook the meat through. Keep to one side.
6. Once the pan of water is boiling, add the pasta. Cook for 10-12 minutes, until just tender. Drain and keep to one side. Tossing it in a little olive oil will help prevent it from sticking together, if you have any.
7. Once the onions have cooked for 30 minutes, stir in the balsamic vinegar. Add the cooked sausage meat, mushrooms and pasta. Gently warm it all through. Stir in most of the Parmesan and parsley, keeping a little to garnish. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve topped with the remaining Parmesan and parsley.

Kale Caesar Salad

A recipe by James Dodd, head chef at The Field Kitchen. This dish is always a hit with diners. Leaving the salad to sit for 15 minutes before serving allows the acidity to take away the raw taste and texture from the kale.



METHOD

1. Add all of the ingredients (except for the oil & kale) into a blender. Make sure the eggs are just poached and still hot. Blend.
2. Slowly add the oil, bit by bit until smooth and completely blended.
3. Toss with the kale and leave to sit for about 15 minutes before serving.
4. Top with croutons and a hard cheese, like Parmesan, or whatever takes your fancy. Keep any leftover dressing in a fridge and use within a few days.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 garlic cloves, peeled
- 10 anchovy fillets or capers
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- Juice of 1-2 lemons
- 2 poached eggs (blended hot)
- 250ml olive oil
- Kale, preferably curly



A great Summer weekend for Bampton!

'Bampton Library Community Concert'

**Saturday 24th June,
St Mary's Church, 7pm**

The fun starts on Saturday evening with the return of the 'Bampton Library Community Concert'. Tickets £5 & £3 for under 16's available from Bampton Village Community Shop and on the door. There will be a bar and we have lined up some great acts already - but would you - or your class mates, or sports club - or any other village group like to do a 'turn'? Go on! - the whole evening is always great fun and Jenny Chaundy would love to hear from you. Contact details below.



'Village Garage Sale'

Sunday 25th June, 10am to 2pm

The fun continues from 10am to 2pm on Sunday as the village will be buzzing with the Bampton 'Village Garage Sale'. Why not hold a stall at your house and get rid of all those things you have been intending to eBay and never got round to - it will only cost £10 and is much easier to organise! Just download an application form from the Bampton Beam website and return it by May 20th. Or you can also pick up an entry form from the Bampton Village Community Shop or contact Jenny Chaundy. Late applications can be accepted but won't feature on the official map. Any questions contact Jenny Chaundy, details below.

On the Day - bargain hunters get your Garage Sale Maps from the Gazebo on the Market Square from 8.30am onwards.

Hidden Gardens of Bampton

Sunday 25th June, 2pm to 6pm

Tickets available from the Gazebo in the Market Square from 8.30am.

At 2pm the pace slows and the 'Bampton Community Archive' will restore the village to calmness and serenity with the 'Hidden Gardens of Bampton'. Last time there were over 20 very different gardens to visit from large - small and very small. All were stunning with individual features to thrill horticulturists and 'livestock' enthusiasts alike - with chickens, cats, bees, frogs as well as a few musicians and some elusive fairies! Teas, cakes and lots of chatter also strongly featured!

This bi-annual event raised over £1000 pounds last time and this year the Archive hopes to encourage even more gardens to open their gates for visitors - perhaps gardening friends and neighbours could help each other create pockets of different areas for the many visitors to enjoy. So get your spades out and get digging to make this year's Hidden Gardens the best yet. If you would like your garden to feature contact Jo or Angie details below.

Wider Library News

Lucky to be still open!

Oxfordshire Library Service made further savings of £532,000 during the last budget round. This unfortunately meant the loss of all the county Mobile Libraries as well as a one off reduction to the Book Fund and the loss of some management and support staff.

But the good news is that all Oxfordshire libraries will remain open. So please show your support for Bampton Library during these difficult times.

Have you got a bit of spare time and think libraries are important?

If so we would love to welcome you to help us - especially youngsters - and that means anyone between 15 and 60! If you have schoolchildren involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Loraine or 'Bampton Library Support' would be happy to set them to work to fulfill the community part of their award.

100 Club Winners

In the January draw Ann Radband was the lucky winner of £100, with John Barnes and Pat Barratt both winning £15 and Peter Lloyd and Linnet Sangwine £10 each.

Bampton Community Shop

We would like to acknowledge all the generous support the previous Community Shop gave to the Library. Indeed, the staging costs for the forthcoming Community Concert are being met by one of their last grants to us. Now we are giving a little back to the new shop as Bampton Library Support have taken responsibility for organising and maintaining the book section in the new shop. So please support us - any extras will be on sale at our next bumper Book Sale that will be part of the Village Garage Sale on the 25th June.

Congratulations

Many of you will have met lovely Hana who had been acting as Loraine's relief assistant, and we are delighted to send our congratulations to her and her husband on the birth of their second son. Loraine will look forward to welcoming him to 'Rhymetime' very soon!

Who are we?

'Bampton Library Support' are 5 people who work to raise the £8,800 required annually to keep our library open, and BLEST are 'Bampton Library Events Support Team' a friendly group who help out when we are putting on events - to join with us contact Loraine Hall (Library Manager) on 01993 850076 or bampton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk Cheques should be made payable to Bampton Library Support

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Bampton United FC

Support your local club

Bampton United Football Club (BUFC) is a local community run club. We play on Saturday afternoons at the sports ground and currently have two teams in the Witney and District league.

Our first team play in division 1 which they are currently third in. This month they will be playing in a league cup and should end the season in a good position. Our reserves team are currently playing in division 3 and unfortunately have not had the best season but are continuing to battle.

Signing on

If you are aged 16 years or over, available on Saturday afternoons and want to join your local men's football club then please contact us on 07789533870 or bamptonunitedfc@hotmail.com



Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club

Division 5 winners - 2016

The 2016 cricket season was another highly successful one for BITBCC, as we continued our march up the Oxfordshire Cricket Association league tables, winning the Division 5 title to secure our fifth promotion in six years of league cricket. Our first place was thoroughly deserved as we suffered only two league defeats all season, and remained unbeaten at home.

Away from Saturday league cricket, we continued to play friendlies on Sundays and a mix of friendly and league 20/20 matches during the week. Sundays provide a great opportunity to play some relaxed social cricket, while developing our youth section and welcoming older players back to the game. They are fun to compete in and we even win some of them, notably last season at Cold Ash, Harwell and Langford.

Over the whole of the 2016 season, our fixture secretary, Steve Sheppard, had arranged a total of 47 games. A mixture of weather and player availability meant we were able to complete 32 matches, winning 21 of them. As well as organising our fixtures, Steve has been a regular fixture in our line-ups, and those of other clubs, for more than 50 years, scoring thousands of runs in that time, and claiming the 500th catch of his career in the game last season against Enstone. Steve has now decided to hang



up his cricket sweater and enjoy other summer pursuits – we wish him a very happy retirement and thank him for all he has contributed to Bampton Cricket, especially over the last 10 years.

2017 will mark the tenth anniversary of the cricket club in this form. Over the past ten years the club has grown from playing the occasional friendly, to laying a grass square and competing successfully in league cricket. We now boast a thriving junior section – see information on this elsewhere in The Beam – and play adult cricket three times per week between

mid-April and late September, with our first league fixture at home against Uffington on Saturday April 29th. While our membership has increased in that time, we are always very happy to meet new players, and we welcome all ages, sexes and abilities. We are a friendly club seeking to promote competitive and social cricket for all ages. If you would like to join, please contact the Club Chairman, James Beattie, by e-mail to j.a.beattie@sky.com. To find out more about us please visit our website:

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Occasional Friday evening Club Nights with barbeque and bar

If you are interested please contact our Junior Development Officer Karen Easterbrook by e-mail (jkeasterbrook@hotmail.com)

Art, Craft and Design in Bampton

By Diana Homer, Trustee

Bampton has a wealth of talent. West Ox Arts is at the centre of a varied artistic community, encompassing art, craft and design at all levels.

We welcome everybody who has an interest in the arts, whatever their level of expertise, and enjoy meeting and encouraging beginners in any field. We try to showcase artists who live in the surrounding area. Some of our members are well known artists, whereas others hide their light under a bushel. How often do we brush up against people in the Post Office, shop or pub with no idea of the talent they possess or, that are willing to share their skills with us. We are all bombarded with images from television, magazines, newspapers children's books, packaging etc. but how many of us are aware of the amount of artwork and design that go into these everyday objects. In Bampton there are artists from all fields of artistic endeavour, there are numerous examples of their work, some of which are for sale at West Ox Arts.

Amongst this wealth of talent we are fortunate enough to have *Pip Shuckburgh* as a Trustee, her work relating to Downton Abbey is well known. What you may not know is that Pip has been an illustrator and is known nationally for her artwork in many fields. Having illustrated books for major publishers including the Sunday Times, she has extended her skills to painting in oils; Pip's work has been exhibited both locally and in prestigious London galleries. Another member, who has recently become a Trustee, *Sue Turner*, produces upcycled crafts and papercuts, often selling her work through the Vesey Room along side Pip's Downton Abbey memorabilia. These works find their way all over the world in far-flung places like Japan and America due to the "Downton" effect. Sue and Pip also sell work in the WOA Gallery including cards, of which we have a large and ever changing selection.

Jill Tweed, and her husband *Philip Hicks*, are well known artists exhibiting in London and abroad. Jill, a sculptor of figurative works on a large scale, has many life sized public sculptures to her credit; these can be found in both the UK and France. Jill has had solo exhibitions in many central London Galleries and has taken part in joint exhibitions at West Ox Arts. Jill's husband, Philip Hicks, is a contemporary artist represented by Messum's the prestigious London Gallery. Philip has had many successful solo gallery shows both here and abroad and we are



delighted to have them as members.

Another of our members, *Lesley Williams*, has been studying and making pottery for over forty years, difficult to believe when you meet her. Lesley has exhibited extensively and was pottery tutor at Sunningwell School of Art for twenty years, frequently exhibiting and selling her work through West Ox Arts. *Annie Jenkins*, also a potter, has recently joined us, and sells beautifully painted works of great originality.

Bampton has some excellent photographers, two of whom are fellow members, *Nik Stanbridge* and *Marie O'Hara*. Nik has had two books published, both of photographs taken in and around Bampton and recently exhibited more local scenes as part of the Bampton Community Archive exhibition in the Vesey Room. Marie focuses on gardens and her work has been published in many magazines. After art school Marie became a stylist for magazines and advertising campaigns. On moving to the Cotswolds she discovered her love of gardens and it was here that Marie took up photography professionally in response to her new environment.

Rebecca Hunt known as Beccy, has a home ware business called Chez Beccy; she designs her own fabric and produces handmade unique items for the home. Like Marie, she is inspired by the beautiful Cotswold countryside and her work reflects the area that surrounds us. Beccy's work is sometimes available in the Vesey room, an exhibition space offered to our members, and at craft fairs. Her cards are available at

the gallery.

Audrey Hobley is an enthusiastic member who originally specialized in textiles. Audrey has had a varied career before moving to Bampton about two years ago, having retired as head of art at Wroxall Abbey. Audrey feels that Bampton has given her a new lease of life, enjoying the life drawing sessions and taking part in the social aspects of West Ox Arts.

Yet another member of West Ox Arts, *Angie Bell*, is talented in restoration; an important aspect of artistic work. If you have family heirlooms in need of refurbishing, Angie restores oil paintings, ceramics and gilded frames. If you have anything hiding in the attic that only needs a little professional TLC, Angie is your woman.

Without our members, by no means all of them artists, we could not keep going. Their input both financial and in giving of their valuable time for free, enables us to continue to be the hub of this vibrant artistic community. We try to involve everybody, young and old, in his or her quest to engage with art in all its forms. It doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner or, in fact practice no artistic skills; we enjoy the company of those who value the arts.

I have concentrated mainly on those who support us, but of course it would be difficult to close without reference to *Emma Bridgewater* and her husband *Mathew Rice*, who also live in Bampton. I feel they need no endorsement from me! Perhaps they would like to come and see the work produced here. The stairs, next to the Post Office, may be daunting but the assent is well worth the effort. Come up and enjoy the lovely space we have, open, friendly, original and most of all, relaxing. The shop area is full of unique items of jewellery, ceramics, wood products and much, much more. There is a wonderful selection of cards all produced by local artists. Those of you, who would like to try your hand at craft, or would like to learn more about painting and drawing in all its forms, please come and see what we have to offer. At the time of going to press, we will probably be showing *Life Atelier*, an exhibition of works from life; you can join us to see what normally goes on behind the closed doors on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings!

In conclusion we must not forget the editor, *James Wildman*, an established portrait photographer and publisher of an excellent local magazine! 🍷

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Squadron Leader (ret'd) Stuart Luff Pierce, MBE

1932 -2016

Stuart was born in 1932 in Newcastle upon Tyne. His father was killed in 1940 in Greece and his mother took Stuart and his brother Graham back to the family home in Nottingham where he won a place to attend Nottingham Grammar School. After leaving school in January 1949 he started training to be a surveyor but National Service intervened and in 1952 he was persuaded to sign up for four years rather than the mandatory two so that he could train as a pilot with the RAF.

In 1954 Stuart and Jessie married, having met through scouting activities in Nottingham, and went on to have five children, Andrew (dec'd), Wendy, Carol, Stuart and Chris.

Two years into his pilot training he was offered the opportunity to train as a navigator with a posting to Canada for 12 months, leaving Jessie and Andrew in Nottingham. On his return from Canada his first posting was to RAF Waddington to fly the Vulcan bomber. In 1966 Stuart was posted with Jessie and the children to what was then known as RAF Idris, near Tripoli in Libya, to train Libyans in search and rescue navigation. This posting was cut short as the British withdrew from Libya and he and the family moved to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus where they spent three years.

In 1970 he and the family returned to the UK based at RAF Lyneham and then to RAF Brize Norton as he moved on to transport planes progressing through Britannias, Belfasts and onto VC10s, ending his flying career on VC10s as part of the Queen's Flight flying HM The Queen around the Commonwealth and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher around the world. A meticulous planner his family remember his hours spent at the dining table at home, before a long trip away, with maps spread out and rulers marking out the course and heading and a slide rule to work out distance and fuel requirements, and in the days before computers all having to be laboriously recalculated if the weather forecast changed.



In 1988 Stuart was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours and in 1990 he retired from the RAF having logged over 12,000 flying hours which is more than 6 times the number of hours a modern fighter pilot will clock up. However, his working days were not over and he continued his involvement with flying by teaching meteorology at the flight training centre in Kidlington to future commercial pilots and co-pilots from all over the world until 1997.

He and Jessie and the family made their home in Bampton in 1970 when Stuart was posted to RAF Brize Norton and remained happily here for 46 years during which time he was an active member of various community and charitable organisations including SPAJERS, Royal British Legion, serving as a school governor, and helping behind the scenes with Cubs and Scouts. He was also a keen sailor, sailing and racing his dinghy Kokinelly - named in memory of a rough red Cypriot wine consumed (with moderation) during his time in Cyprus - at Bowmoor Sailing Club, and a member of Burford Golf Club.

Once a navigator always a navigator he retained a very keen interest in the weather and could tell any of his seven grandchildren exactly what the local weather pattern was wherever they were travelling in the world and sometimes to their amazement could warn them of incoming storms before they were aware locally. His taste for travel and insatiable curiosity about the world have rubbed off on his children and grandchildren who continue to follow in his footsteps - or should it be his con trail? - to places as diverse as the Falkland Islands, Australia, Venezuela and Indonesia.

Stuart died suddenly on 27th December 2016 on the Isle of Wight having spent a very happy Christmas with his wife Jessie, his four children with their better halves and the grandchildren. ☘



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ŠKODA

Get involved in your local youth club

If you're aged between 8–13 years – join Bampton Youth Club!

It runs every Wednesday night at the Community Centre from 6:30pm–7:45pm. It offers a range of games and activities including table games, sports, arts and crafts, and a tuck shop stocking a variety of different treats at amazing prices.

It only costs £1.00 annually to join and 50p every week for subs

Our older group has started!

We have made some changes this year with the addition of an older group starting.

This has already proved to be popular with numbers increasing each week since we opened. This has seen existing members returning and new members joining.

This group is a chance to promote older based activities and provide support for young people of secondary school age in the local community, and our volunteers are enjoying meeting new young people.

This group runs on a Wednesday evening (term time only) at the community centre from 7:30pm – 8:30pm and costs £1 per session and £5 annual membership.

We aim to provide food each week at our sessions and a safe place for an older group to socialize.

Younger group

Our younger group is still continuing to run and be successful. We plan activities focused on this group's age to create a



fun atmosphere.

This session runs on a Wednesday evening (term time only) at the community centre from 6:15pm – 7:15pm and costs £1 per session and £5 annual membership.

It caters for ages 8 years old to when they start secondary school where we would encourage them to move in to our older group.

Volunteering

We are always looking for extra help, particularly now with running two sessions. Duties could include help with setting up and packing away, running tuck shop, supervising sessions or providing activities. You would also get to

work as part of a great welcoming team.

If this is something you may be interested in or would like to enquire more please contact Isobel on 07789533870 or bampton_youth_club_1@hotmail.co.uk

Alternatively, you may wish to help to gain some experience to put on your CV, become involved with your local community or need to do work experience for a college course or Duke of Edinburgh award. If so please contact on the details below.

Contact us

Isobel: 07789 533 870
bampton_youth_club_1@hotmail.co.uk



In September last year St Mary's Church was hit by two separate lead thefts just ten days apart.

More than a ton of lead has now been removed from the north aisle transept. Tarpaulin covers were quickly in place thanks to our local relationship with Allsworth roofing company. Some local flooding though occurred in the area of the children's crèche area which has been dealt with. The police arrested six culprits in the London area in November and prosecutions are forthcoming, thanks to our "Smartwater" identification codes on the lead found in their possession. So crime definitely does not pay!

Our insurers reacted positively by promising us full replacement cost recovery cover in future, if we installed a recognised roof intruder access alarm system. Correspondingly a roof alarm system was installed in November and was immediately operational. The alarm is activated by an intruder accessing the church roof using body heat sensors. Then a siren sounds and a flashing blue light comes on, followed by a loud voice advising the intruders "that they are under surveillance and the police have been informed of their presence and inviting them to leave immediately". The process is repeated... if they re-access the roof. Meanwhile work continues liaising with the Historic Churches appointed architect, until the roof repair is completed.

A record number of weddings and an encouraging number of baptisms were held in St Mary's church last year, and several fundraising events and concerts are progressing which contribute to chosen charities and most importantly to the organ renovation project. Regular church attendee numbers are maintaining very satisfactory levels and the volume of church visitors continues to rise inexorably, given the Downton Abbey effect.

Blessed Bees

Blessed Bees is a mother and toddler group who meet regularly in church. Meetings are advertised on the church website www.bamptonchurch.org.uk. For more information contact Celia Humphreys on 01993 850199. Blessed Bees do not meet in August, but after July meet again on 14th September.

Choir

St Mary's Choir performs under the directorship of David New, the Organist and Choirmaster. The Choir sings at the Sunday morning 10:30am service each week, practicing before from 9:45am.

The Choir also practice each Friday in church from 7:30pm until about 9pm to prepare for Sunday and other performances. It is a four part choir, currently with a total membership of approximately 18, and involving an increasing number of children. At sung Eucharists, the choir normally sings a motet or anthem during the distribution of communion.

It is sometimes available for weddings. If you have any enquiries please contact the Organist and Choirmaster, David New on 01993 841807.

Coffee & Co

Join us in Bampton Coffee House in the Market Square on Monday mornings from 10:30am for a chat and a catch up!

Bell Ringing

St Marys has a peal of 8 bells, some of which date back to the 17th Century. In late 2006 the bells were restored for the first time in 100 years at a cost of about £40,000, and all but the heaviest two were removed by Whites of Appleton.

The bellringers practice on a Monday evening and ring most Sundays, as well as for many weddings through the year. They would welcome new members, both experienced and those wanting to try to learn a new skill.

Flower Guild

Our team of flower arrangers produce wonderful floral displays for weddings and throughout the year. The Annual Flower Festival in church takes place over the late May bank holiday weekend. For further details call Gaynor Cooper on 01993 851153

Junior Church

Whilst traditional Junior Church is currently having a bit of a rest, on the fourth Sunday in each month the main 10:30am Sunday service takes the form of a family-based act of worship and children are encouraged to take part in the service by reading prayers, the bible readings and occasionally some performance.

Services

In addition to the main Sunday morning service at 10:30am, there is a weekday service on Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Lady Chapel, and usually a service at 8:00am on a Sunday following the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) format. ☛



THE BOOK CLUB

By Jeanette Voyzey

Jenny Campbell checked herself once more in the hall mirror. Blonde corkscrew curls and a brightly coloured hairclip in place. “Come on Jenny try again” I said quietly to myself. “Bye gorgeous”, Mark my partner whispered in my ear. “Don’t do that to me just as I’m going out”, I retaliated probably more sharply than I meant to. We had been together for three years and he still knew how to press my buttons so to speak. All I really wanted to do was curl up on the sofa for the evening but my stubborn streak pressed me on. I turned by the front door and perched on the arm of the hall chair still uncertain as to whether I should go or not. I stood up for another glance in the mirror, Mark stood beside me smiling over my shoulder. “You look fabulous, stop worrying and give it one more try. What’s the point of ploughing through a heavy read if you can’t discuss it with like-minded people?” “That’s the problem” I countered “they are not like-minded and really hard going”. With a swift smack on my backside Mark ushered me out of the door, at the same time shoving the car keys in my hand.

I sat in our drive for a further few minutes, car engine quietly ticking over, Mark waving to me through the window. “Come on Jenny you will be late, go now”.

I joined the book club a couple of months ago but I didn’t really fit in. Our leader (as I called her) a strapping six footer called Gillian appeared so aggressive in her efforts to bring us all together in a jolly hockey sticks kind of way. I think she felt she had more authority standing up, her pleated tweed skirt flapping as she jumped up and down on two flat feet.

There was a distinct hubbub of noise as I walked in to the hall. Jules sat discussing her family issues with a voice like a foghorn. “Oh you all know, darlings, how hard it is juggling kids, a job and a husband”. Well I had met Mr Jules, a round tubby little man who lent himself to the idea of a possible juggling ball. “What’s amusing you Jennifer?” Jules shouted over to me. I was somewhat taken aback since this was the first time she had even spoken to me. “Oh nothing” I spluttered “excuse me I need the loo”. The village hall (our meeting place) had some very peculiar toilets. The seats were broken in some and in others slid sideways when sat on. On top of this they were freezing cold. I didn’t know if I was shivering with cold or shaking with nerves. The door locks were either broken or completely hanging off so with great dexterity I managed to sit on the loo and hold the door at the same time.

“Right Jenny try again” I said as I pulled up my lacey knickers (they’re my secret weapon and who doesn’t feel better when wearing glamorous underwear?).

When I got back to my chair Gillian was spouting Shakespeare and eschewing her knowledge to any one who wanted to listen

which to be honest wasn’t anybody. Jules was still juggling her private life, Mary decided she knew it all and was busy telling us all how bored she is with the choice of books we had been asked to review, wiping her hand across her brow like a drama queen she informed us all she must have read these books a million times. I tried to explain I didn’t have too much time to read so I was glad of the opportunity to discipline myself. However as I hadn’t had the chance to talk about any of the novels and my opinion hadn’t been asked for I didn’t know why I bothered.

Never too sure why I wasn’t spoken to or acknowledged in any way I was determined to carry on and try to be part of the club and make my voice heard.

Miriam Mouse as I called the shy little grey haired woman in the corner decided to explain the demise of her budgerigar. “Poor little thing, one minute my little Joey was singing away to me and the next he was on the floor upside down”. It was such a long drawn out saga I felt tempted to ask if we were still talking about the budgie when she came to what I thought was the end of the story. “Stop it Jenny” I quietly reprimanded myself.

So far we have parts of ‘Much Ado About Nothing’, Jules and her juggling, Mary and her boredom and Miriam with her budgie. Freda, normally the quiet one of our group, preferred to be called Freddie. As she had sprouted whiskers and a moustache I suppose Freddie was quite apt. She was busy telling Miriam about the demise of the escalator in the department store where she had gone to buy some new underpa... sorry knickers. “Oh you wouldn’t believe how awful it was” she was saying. “One minute we were all sailing quite nicely up to the second floor and then nothing”. I hadn’t realised one sailed up an escalator but its her story and it has very obviously upset her considerably. “Any way there we were” she carried on, even though by then Miriam had started relating her budgie tale again. “Poor little thing, I tickled his tummy but he didn’t move.” “You have no idea how difficult it is trying to walk up something that is supposed to be moving but isn’t”, Freddie continued, “I grabbed the nearest arm I could find, to try and keep my balance”. “I put him in a little box and buried him in the garden you know. I had a little service for him.” “This very kind man helped me to the top of the escalator, it was good to be on firm ground again.” “He’s at peace now under a rose bush.” “Keep up” Jenny said to herself under her breath “I hope that’s the budgie under the rose and not the man on the escalator.”

So between them my book club colleagues all had a tale to tell and not one seemed to be interested in anything I had to say. What could I say to grab their attention, I didn’t ride escalators, own a budgie, have a husband and kids, besides which I can’t

juggle. I knew nothing about Shakespeare and had never read any of suggested books before.

"Excuse me" I said more loudly than intended, "are we going to talk about our last book? I found it rather heavy going so would like to hear other opinions".

"I really am finding my youngest extremely difficult", Jules was off again "he isn't doing too well at school, his daddy and I are really worried about him. We were called to the Head Teacher's office because he had bitten another child." "Does anyone here read Shakespeare?" Gillian was asking. "I really am not sure whether to get another budgie" Miriam was whining on. "I don't think escalators are very safe you know. What would happen if you got a shoe caught when you stepped off or on?" Freddie continued. Well with any luck you would fall through the gap I thought to myself really joining Mary in the boredom department now.


So Gillian jolly hockey sticks shouted across the general muttering, moaning and whining. "Is any one interested in relating their experience of our last book?"

By then I decided to make the coffee. The kitchen at the back of the hall provided me with the sanctuary I needed and as I filled the kettle I made myself a promise not to come back again.

I walked back in with a tray laden with coffee cups trying to divert attention away from the considerable chatter. "Coffee up" I shouted "who wants biscuits?"

Before I could put the tray down on the nearest free table I almost dropped the lot when Gillian shouted with great gusto. "If any one is interested our next book to read and review is "The Book Club" by Jennifer Campbell.

What seemed like a hundred pairs of eyes swivelled towards me and I smiled sweetly before saying "Thank you so much for helping with my research, see you all next month."




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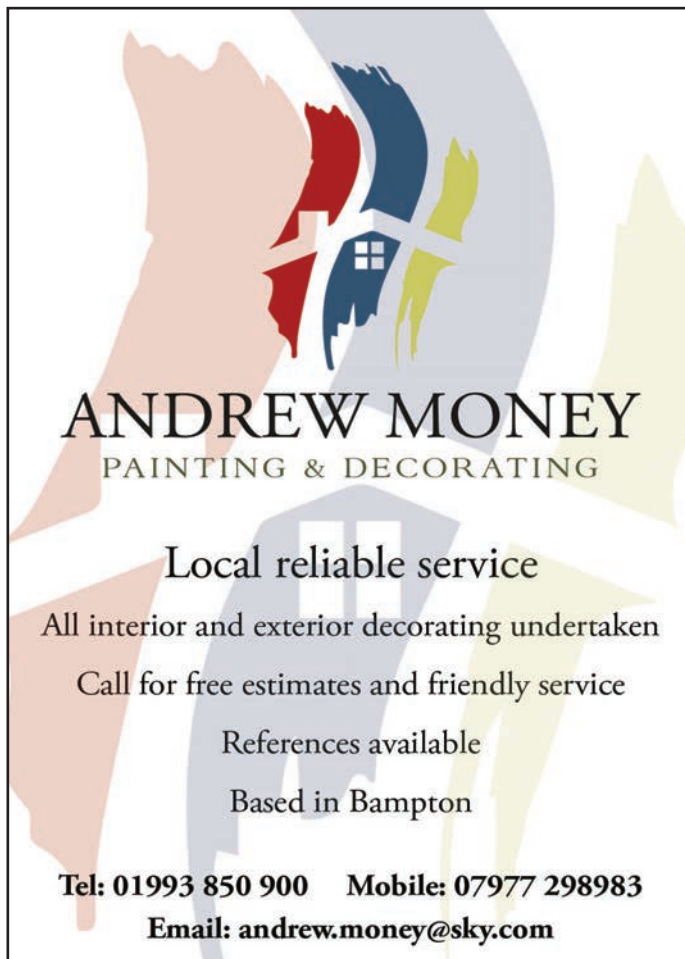

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email: ann-bamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

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nicknurden7@btinternet.com www.nicknurden.co.uk

St Mary's Church

Rev'd David Lloyd Tel: 01993 851222
www.bamptonchurch.org.uk

The Methodist Church

Bridge Street Bampton
Services 11.00 am Sundays
Rev. Fred Ireland
Tel. 01993 867301

Catholic Congregation

St Joseph's Church, Carterton
Sunday Mass 9.00 am at St Mary's
Church, Bampton. Parish Priest: Father
Andrew Foster Tel: 01993 842463

Bampton Library

Old Grammar School, Church View
Tel: 01993 850076
Renewals hotline: Tel: 0845 1202811
Email: bampton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Opening Hours

Monday	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10.00 am – 12.30 pm
Thursday	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10.00 am – 12.30 pm
Sunday	Closed

Bampton School

Headteacher – Miss Carol Phillips
Telephone 01993 850371
Headteacher.3131@bampton.oxon.sch.uk
Office.3131@bampton.oxon.sch.uk

The Willow Tree Children's Centre

Tel: 01993 851799

Post Office

Bampton Town Hall, Market Square,
Tel: 01993 851968

Carterton Police Station

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Wednesday:	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Thursday:	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Friday:	Closed
Saturday:	Closed
Sunday:	Closed

Police non essential call 101

Bampton Medical Practice

Tel: 01993 850257
Out of hours call: 0845 3458995
The surgery is open at the following times
Monday: 8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Tuesday: 8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Wednesday: 8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Thursday: 8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Friday: 8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Weekend: Closed

Reception is open from 8.30 am
until 6.30 pm

Bampton Pharmacy

Opening times:
Monday to Friday: 09.00 am to 1.00 pm
and 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm
Saturday: 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

Carterton Health Centre

Tel: 01993 841718

Witney Hospital

Tel: 01865 904222
Open 10.00am – 10.30 pm daily
Last patient seen at 10.00 pm

Local hospitals

• John Radcliffe Hospital

Tel: 01865 741166
Headley Way, Headington, Oxford

• Churchill Hospital:

Tel: 01865 741841
Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE

• Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre:

Tel: 01865 741155
Windmill Road, Headington,
Oxford OX3 7HE

• Horton General Hospital:

Tel: 01295 275500
Oxford Road, Banbury,
Oxfordshire OX16 9AL

Environment Agency

Floodline Tel: 0845 988118
Emergency Tel: 0800 807060

Thames Water Tel: 08459 200800

Citizens advice Tel: 08444 111444

Email: bureau@wocab.org.uk

West Oxfordshire District Council

General enquiries Tel: 01993 861000
Out of hours Tel: 01993 705056

Recycling centre

Dix Pit, Lynch Hill, Stanton Harcourt
Open 7 days a week 8.00 am – 5.00 pm
Thursday late night
(1 April – 30 September) until 8.00 pm

Oxford County Council

General enquiries Tel: 01865 815 573
Highways Tel: 08453 101111
Faulty street lights Tel: 0800 317 802

Dial a ride service

For information Tel: 0845 310 1111
Email: oxdar@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Robert Courts
Tel: 0207 219 5638
robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk

District councillors

M Barrett Tel: 01993 202 561
T Fenton Tel: 01993 852 082

Bampton Parish Council

Tel: 01993 851870
clerk@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Sports Clubs

Bampton Archery Club

www.bamptonarchery.co.uk

Bampton Badminton Club

Marlene Snow Tel: 01993 850113

Windrush Amateur Boxing Club

Tel: 07887 403401 / 01993 851156

Bampton Cricket Club

Seniors Tel: 07778 578875
Juniors Tel: 01993 850939

Bampton Town Football Club

Tel: 077895 533870

Bampton Social Netball

Tel: 07780 761822

Bampton Tennis Club

bamptontennis@hotmail.co.uk

Bampton Weightlifting Club

Tel: 07855 146949

Societies

Bampton Community Archive

Tel: 01993 850947

Bell Ringers Tel: 01993 850214

Bampton Library Events Support Team

Tel: 01993 850076

Bampton Historical Society

Tel: 01367 810245

Slow Living Society

Tel: 01993 850479

Society for the Protection of Bampton

Tel: 01993 850293

Clubs

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club

Tel: 01993 852438

Bampton Bridge Club

Tel: 01993 842126

Bampton Bush Club

Tel: 01993 850479 / 01993 851837

Bampton Gardening Club

Tel: 01993 851913

Bampton Ladies Group

Tel: 01993 851913

Bampton Theatre Club

Tel: 01993 851123

Bampton Youth Club

Tel: 01993 851156

Scottish Country Dancing

Tel: 01993 845043

Charities

Cancer Research

m.cleaver606@hotmail.co.uk

Friends of Bampton School (FOBS)

Tel: 01993 850772

Royal British Legion

Tel: 01993 210160

SPAJERS

Tel: 01993 850760

The Bampton Exhibition Foundation

Tel: 01993 850167

The Bampton Welfare Trust

Tel: 01993 850314 / 01993 850589

Bampton Zimbabwe Project

lis@lisandtonypage.com

West Ox Arts Gallery

Tel: 01993 850137 www.westoxarts.com

Amenities

Bampton Recreation Ground and

Pavilion Tel: 01993 852483

The Old School Community Centre

clerk@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

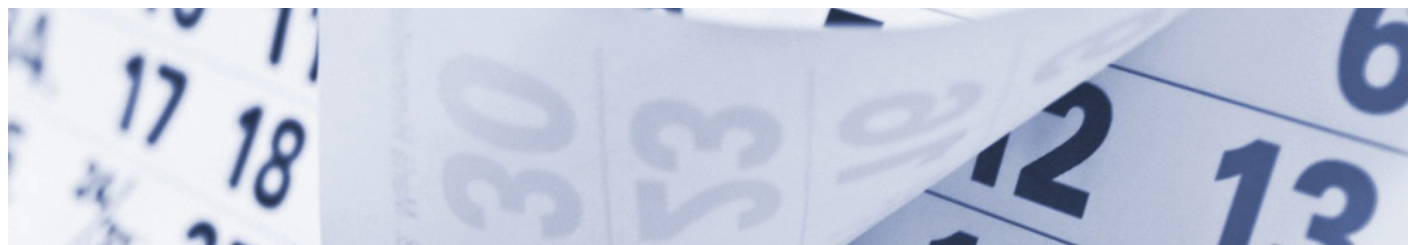
The Town Hall

Tel: 01993 851870

Village Hall

Tel: 01993 850289

Diary



Date

Event

4th April	Bampton Archery Training course begins Bampton Recreational Ground - 6.30 - contact Neil Holt on 07949 128494
7th April	SPAJERS Quiz Night Bampton Village Hall - 7.30
27th April	Live @ Black Bourton St Marys Black Bourton. Ben Holder Jazz Quartet - Doors 7pm
13th May	Alvestcot Fete Quiz Night - Alvescot Village Hall Kim Govan - Alvescot Fete Committee 01993 252052
20th May	Witney Festival of Food and Drink Returning for a fifth year on Saturday, 20th May from 9.00am to 5.00pm at beautiful St. Mary's on Church Green, which provides the perfect setting in the heart of this beautiful, old wool town. Festival Champion Bruce Young of Shaken Oak Products will officially open proceedings at 10.00am.
27th May	Bampton Shirt Race See page 13 for full details
28th May	Vinestock The Vines - Black Bourton. From 1pm
3rd - 4th June	Lechlade Annual Vintage Rally and Country Show See www.lechladecollectorsclub.co.uk for details
17th June	Alvescot Fete
24th June	Community Concert at St Mary's Church, Bampton See page 30 for full details
25th June	Morning - Bampton Village-wide Garage Sale Afternoon - Secret Gardens of Bampton 2pm – 6pm See page 30 for full details
26th August	Bampton Gardening Club Annual Show Bampton Village Hall - Entry details will be available in the next issue of the Beam
14th September	Live @ Black Bourton St Marys Black Bourton. TBC - Doors 7pm
23rd September	Party to celebrate David Lloyd's retirement Bampton Pavilion - 3.00 - 6.00pm
24th September	David Lloyd's last service at St Mary's Church



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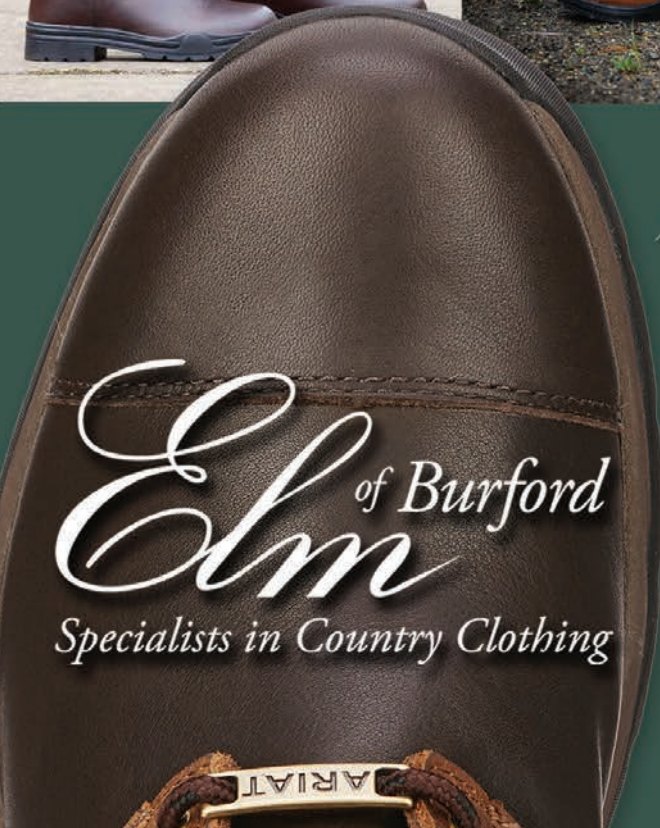
For more details: www.westoxarts.com/workshops--events Max 10 people per session

To have your event included in the Beam diary email editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk



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