

# THE BAMPTON BEAM

April 1996

Volume 11. No. 1.

## MEET THE NEW VICAR



**Revd & Mrs David Lloyd**

The position of Vicar of the Parish of Bampton with Clanfield (including Aston, Lew and Shifford) has been offered to, and accepted by Revd David Lloyd, pictured here with his wife Jenny. Mr Lloyd is 43 years old and the two Lloyd boys are aged 9 and 11.

Presently teaching Religious Education at Bishops Stortford High School, Mr Lloyd has had extensive parochial experience including a chaplaincy in the Sultanate of Oman and ministries in his native Wales. Mrs Lloyd will also be leaving her current post as pastoral care and learning support assistant in a Hertfordshire boarding school.

The exact date of Revd Lloyd's induction and institution has yet to be finalised but is expected to be in September.

## BUSH CENTRE - SAVED

Months of uncertainty regarding the future of the Bush Centre may be almost at an end thanks to patient negotiations between the Centre Committee, the County and Parish Councils.

It had been feared that repair costs of up to £30,000 would have to be found if the Bush Centre were to continue to provide its much-needed services to older people in the village.

But the likely bill has been substantially scaled-down, thanks to constructive contributions from all concerned.

The Parish Council is now proposing a plan for refurbishment which might cost in the region of £10,000.

The Centre building was put up after the war as a temporary structure with a nominal life of around ten years. The concrete uprights which support it are cracking because of core metal fatigue. Uncertainty about the state of the roof already means the building cannot be used in winds over 50 mph or when there is heavy snow on top.

The County recently warned that because of its own lack of cash resulting from government budget restrictions, the authority could not afford the repairs. It is proposed that the Parish Council should take over the lease and carry out the repairs with financial help from the Bush Centre. The alternative would have been closure.

### FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The new proposal is to phase the costs over four or five years. The Bush Centre will have to find this money from its own coffers and it is expected to target a programme of fund-raising toward the repairs. Parish Council Chairman, Jim Taylor, says the authority intends to restore repairs. Parish Chairman, Jim Taylor, says the authority intends to restore those funds from the local rates. (see Parish Council news, page 17).

A new lease made over to the Parish by

the County could be in effect within six months. The Parish would prefer a five-year term with an option to renew for a further five.

The first year's work would involve improving the site's drainage, repairing the building's broken concrete frames and replacing the corroded metal cores. This may cost four or five thousand pounds. In two or three years part of the building may need underpinning to prevent continuing subsidence, although former investigations are needed to confirm how much movement has already taken place. However the crucial factor will be the roof. If it is decided it has to be replaced, funding could still be a problem.

It is hoped Oxfordshire County Council will agree to allow uncollected rent still held by the Bush Centre to go towards the first phase of work. The Parish Council is waiting for a response from Shire Hall.

### THE LONG TERM?

However the long term future of the whole site remains open to question.

The paddock next door is also owned by Oxfordshire County Council and it already has outline planning permission for five dwellings. The existing Bush Centre cannot last forever regardless of repair and any development may eventually include the land upon which it stands. Single-storey, sheltered housing has been suggested as a possibility at some future stage. By then it is hoped a purpose-built home for the Bush Centre might be part of the plans.

### STOP PRESS

**Just announced - District Councillor, Jonathan Phillips, says Oxfordshire County Council is threatening to sell The Paddocks for private housing. A deal is being sought between West Oxfordshire District Council and a housing association to raise the money to buy it for sheltered housing. If they fail it may go to the highest bidder.**

## YOUR ALL NEW BAMPTON BEAM

For ten years The Bampton Beam has been informing and entertaining us all under the guidance of its founder, Susan Phillips.

Regular readers will know she has finally put aside her word processor and cried, "no more".

A new editorial board has been formed to take over where she left off. (see below) Susan's contribution to the life of the village has been immeasurable in providing a high-class newsletter of thought-provoking articles and essential information. The new "Management" does not believe it can copy her in content or style, so is not going to try!

The "new" Bampton Beam will therefore be different with new regular features and a new look.

Some things will not be changing however: There will still be three editions a year in April, August and December.

Contributions will still be gratefully re-

ceived. Any ideas you have - letters, appreciation of, aspects of life in the village, anything of interest - please send them to us.

There will be a regular agony column, **Auntie Beam**, to try to deal with problems for the young and old.

**Bampton Bygones** will look back at the stories making the local news in the dim and distant past.

It is hoped to include regular features on the environment, cooking, gardening hints; essentially whatever you would like to contribute to continue to make The Beam interesting to its readers.

The Beam will continue to be free, funded partly from grant monies, but mostly subsidised by advertising.

Going out to every Bampton home and business, and beyond, The Beam repre-

sents excellent value for your advertisement and it helps provide the newspaper as a community service. If you want to contribute news copy or buy space, please contact members of the team as listed below.

We are looking forward to it. We hope you are too.

### Editor:

Fenella Gray Tel: 851653

### Assistant Editors:

Simon & Jackie Garrett Tel: 851763

### Sub Editor:

Robin Westcott Tel: 850976

### Artwork:

Jo Lewington Tel: 850947

### Advertising/Business Manager:

Bill Carr Tel: 851729

### Distribution:

Linda Mills Tel: 850774

**If you could help or would like to join the team in any capacity please contact:**

Bill Carr, Fernlea Barn, Bridge Street, Bampton. Tel: 851729

## THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

I would be grateful if you could correct a misleading statement made on the front page of the December issue. Under the heading "Sandford's Field Secured for the Future" it states that the parish is to purchase the field. This is not quite right. The field will be bought by the Bampton Recreation Ground Trust (whose Trustees are the Parish Councillors) and the whole cost will be met by my society (a fact which was not mentioned at all).

My society wishes the field to remain an open space for the use of all Bampton dwellers. We were advised by our lawyers that to have the Trust own the field would give substantial additional protection against the risk of a future Parish Council deciding to sell the land for a profit or building on it.

I shall be grateful if you can set the record straight by giving the correction as much prominence as the misleading article in the last issue.

Lord Donoughmore,  
Chairman,

Society for the Protection of Bampton.

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, BAMPTON

Progress on individual contributions by Covenant and Gift Aid has been slow in the past few months but for tax paying individuals it still remains the most cost-effective way of making a donation. The tax you have already paid is given to the fund at no extra cost to yourself. Please help us to reap the benefit of this tax bonus! Contact Jonathan Phillips Tel: 850321 if you have not already made your contribution. Most organisations in Bampton have donated the proceeds from some fund-raising activity to the Friends of St. Mary's. It is hoped that the few who haven't as yet taken part will be able to do so in the next few months.

A book of Benefactors and Friends is being prepared and a typewritten copy will be on view at the Library or Post Office, so please check that your name is correctly listed. Once the target is reached a final copy of this book will be written and bound as a tribute to all who have subscribed to the fund.

### FUNDRAISING SINCE DECEMBER 1995

**Bampton Summer Opera - Amahl and the Night Visitors - £349**

**Sale of Ann Manly print - £1230**

**Sale of Christmas cards - £136**

**Mrs Gladys John (sale of quilts) - £36**

**Mrs Eeles (sale of plants) - £115**

**Mrs Chambers (sale of Bellringer tea towel) - £50**

**Rod Thomson organ recital in memory of Rupert Bruce-Mitford -**

**(to be added to £200 from previous concert) £41.95**

**Conservative Coffee Morning - £80**

**TOTAL AT 4TH MARCH £44,433**

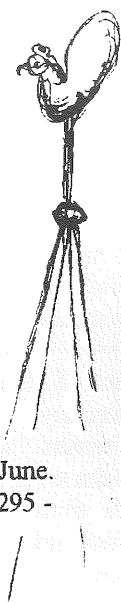
### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**1. Open Gardens - Bampton Manor and Weald Manor, Sunday 30th June.**

**2. Local History Lectures - to be arranged by Sarah Wearne Tel: 850295 -**

Please contact her for details.

**3. Sale of Ann Manly Print - See separate entry.**



## THE NEWS FROM BAMPTON - 100 YEARS AGO

- extracts from The Faringdon Advertiser selected by Simon Garrett -

In spring and early summer 1896 the nation was gripped with news of the Matabele Uprising in Rhodesia. The **Faringdon Advertiser** reported proudly on 11th July that gallant British troops had captured 130 sheep and goats.

The Royal Wedding had captured the public imagination - that of Princess Maud of Wales and Prince Charles of Denmark.

A new Tzar was crowned in Moscow. The ceremony was blighted when 1200 people were killed in the stampede for free food handed out as part of the celebrations.

Nearer home the trial of the notorious baby farmer, Mrs Dryer, took place in Reading. The bodies of six strangled infants has been dredged from the Thames near her home. Their mothers had paid her to have the children adopted into good homes.

An epidemic of smallpox had taken hold in Gloucester - thirty-one cases being reported in one week, five in the same street.

### CRIME

Crime was as great a preoccupation for local residents a hundred years ago as it is today.

Bampton West Petty Sessions of 16th May was told: "George Clack, of Filkins, dealer, was charged with damaging grass at Filkins on April 22nd, the property of John Garne. The defendant pleaded not guilty. The prosecutor, a farmer, stated that he had asked police to keep a look out, as on several occasions grass had been cut and taken away off his farm, his objection was to show that people had no right on his ground. Thomas Clack, a labourer of the same village, gave evidence to the effect that he saw the defendant about twenty minutes to six along by Clock Ground, a field in the occupation of Mr Garne. He had just been mowing the grass and putting it in a bag. The bench inflicted a fine of 1s damage 1s, and costs 9s."

A cautionary tale indeed!

### CELEBRATION AND TRAGEDY

Witness the article of 30th May: "On Sunday the Queen's birthday (ie Victoria,

that is) was honoured by a merry peal on the bells of the Parish Church at 7am. The organist played the National Anthem after Divine Service, the whole congregation standing.

**Inquest:** An inquest was held at the Talbot Hotel on Wednesday, on the body of the infant child of Reyman Wright, a labourer. - In accordance with the medical evidence, the verdict of the Jury was that the child died from convulsions.

**Whitsuntide:** Special Services were held at the Parish Church on Sunday, those at 11am and 6.30pm being full choral. On Monday the two friendly societies held their annual festivals. The Aston Band was engaged by the Self Help Society, and the Faringdon Town by the Victoria Club. The members of each society attended Divine Service at the Parish Church, the Vicar preaching a very appropriate sermon. By the kindness of the Vicar tea was provided on the Vicarage lawn in the afternoon, which was greatly appreciated by the members and the Morris Dancers.

**Cricket Match:** A capital and most exciting game of cricket was played on the Bampton ground, between Alvescot and Bampton on Saturday last, resulting in a well-won victory for Bampton by five runs. N.R.H. Bullen was excellent, his score being 44 not out. Messrs Clare and Oakey played well for the visitors."

## POLITICAL INTRIGUE

"The polling for the election of District and Parish Councillors took place in the National Schoolroom. The proceedings passed very quietly, and the result was declared about 11pm. Only three members of the old Parish Council were re-elected:

Successful		Unsuccessful	
Theo Carter	90	John Stone	52
R.T Rose	85	Henry Smith	42
Admiral Blackburne	82	Caleb Carter	47
Alfred J. Bryant	79	James Pinnock	32
Mark Kerry	79	Joseph Johnson	20
Cambria Williams	78	James Lait	10
J.P. Oates	75		
G.H. Green	67		
W. Swinford	57		
G.W. Dutton	54		
John White	53		

Mr W.A. Rigden and Mr Theo Carter were re-elected District Councillors. Mr John Stone was the unsuccessful candidate."





## Squire's Final Jig

Written by Fenella Gray and Simon Garrett



In his sixty-first year of dancing with the world-renowned Bampton Morris Men, Squire Francis Shergold is retiring. He says it is time to put the boots and ribbons away, and pass the reins to a younger man.

Having moved to the village from Black Bourton at the age of twelve in 1931, young Francis became a groom at Weald Manor. He watched the men practising the Bampton dances outside the Malt Shovel in Lavender Place under the command of the legendary Billy "Jinky" Wells.

It was Whitsun 1935 when Francis had his first taste of dancing. He had done his job of "ragman" (holding the dancers' coats) so well, Jinky said: "You've done very well this morning. You'd better have a dance this afternoon." Francis has not stopped since. He and Jinky danced 110 years between them...

The whole Shergold family are enthusiastic supporters. His mother went around the big houses collecting white clothes to make into costumes for the team. His brother Roy joined the team and once on leave during the Second World War even had to dance in his Navy uniform when the team was short of men.

Francis has performed every function in the team over the years. He's even played for them, although he does not think his musicianship was as good as some. He takes pride above all in being a good dancer.

As a boy in the team he idolised another dancer, Fred Pettifer. Watching Fred he realised all the men had their own individual styles, no two could be exactly the same.

### A GOOD DANCER

"A good dancer" he says, "must, above all, have a good sense of rhythm. He must also be able to show off just a little bit, and enjoy the crowd. He's dancing

for the public and to enjoy their reaction." He says a dancer must also be dedicated. "There are times when he might not want to practise, or when he sees grey skies and reckons there'll be enough turn up without me. But that's no good."

Jinky handed over the job of Squire to Francis in 1949, a post he has held until this year. Along with the duties came



Photograph by kind permission of Mr Derek Schofield

substantial responsibilities. "Actually, one word from me and they did as they liked", he claims. There have been times when he has had to make the final decision on certain dances: if he ruled against it, it was out.

### THE SPIRIT OF THE DANCE

Continuity is vital to the dance. Jinky started his career in the late 1880s. The dance continued despite both World Wars and is believed to have been performed in the village by an unbroken succession of men going back 600 years. The village is home to the Cotswold tradition of dancing. Only four other places in the country can claim a heritage near so impressive.



Francis's team, "The Traditional Morris Men" only dance the traditional Bampton dances which have been handed down through the years. In the 1960s a new dance was added to the twenty-seven original dances called "Shave the Donkey". For Francis it is now as much a part of the the Bampton repertoire as any other song. Proof of the living nature of the tradition.

The dancing starts on Whit Monday morning and goes on all through the day with a break for lunch. In the evening visiting Morris Dancing teams come to dance.

Once the Morris Men only danced at Whitsun, now times have changed and they are out dancing at fetes, folk weekends, and festivals all over the country. Today they also dance to raise money for charities.

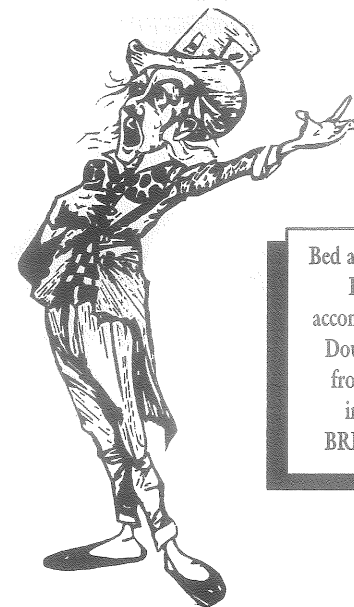
### THE FUTURE

The team's future is now in the capable hands of Tony Daniels, who was elected to take over from Francis. Tony is not new to the dancing. He is following in his father's footsteps. Bill Daniels has danced for thirty-six years and is still going strong. Tony himself has been dancing for thirty

years. He was only five and a half when he had his first dance with the team. He will, no doubt, have plenty of supporters to offer advice and help with his new task of Squire.

Francis however, is not being allowed to put his feet up just yet. He is being given the position of Honorary President with the promise of a welcome at all and any forthcoming performances. He leaves the team proper with one word of warning, "They mustn't stop. That's a serious responsibility. We got down to four men once, but kept the dancing going. In fact, if I thought they were going to stop I'd get out there myself, even now, and dance. That's how important it is to me."

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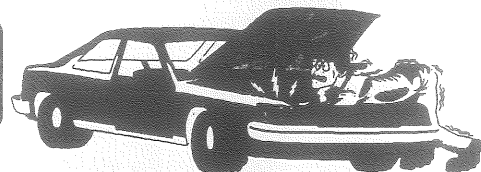
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**BAMPTON'S RAILWAY**

(THE EAST GLOUCESTER BRANCH)

by Major R.A. Colvile

It is unlikely that many readers will have taken the train from Bampton to Oxford, and fewer still to the other end of the line - the outskirts of Fairford. This is hardly surprising as Bampton station was two miles away - by the hump just before the lights on the way to Brize Norton - and the service rather infrequent. The fact that the line was built at all was not due to the anticipation of much income from the sparsely populated area it served, but to railway politics.

There were usually five through trains a day and two more from Bampton to

Western had a virtual monopoly carrying coal from south Wales - its principal source of income which it was determined to defend.

The Midland Railway, the most aggressive of all, proposed a line from Cheltenham to Witney, still independent of the Great Western which would have opened an alternative route at least as far as Gloucester.

The line would have run from Cheltenham via Andoversford, where some work was done, to Fairford where the line would branch to Witney and Faringdon.



Oxford, a journey of forty minutes or more, though the evening up train was slower - collecting large numbers of milk churns on the way. For years sets of three elderly carriages were hauled by small tank engines known as "Metro" tanks as they had spent most of their life hauling a few Great Western trains to the city and cattle trains to Smithfield along the Metropolitan line. When these expired almost any engine was used provided it was light enough for the weak bridges. A daily goods train spent all day working slowly down the line, mostly bringing coal and taking away farm products. Railway companies were very competitive. The Great

However Parliament withheld the power to build this as the Midland had previously agreed not to raid the Great Western area.

All that remains of this scheme was the building by the East Gloucestershire Railway (supported by the Great Western) of the line from Witney to Fairford, completed in 1870, and taken over by the Great Western in 1890. It paid just 27s 6d (£1.37) for £10 shares - even then the income from the line was limited!

Even as late as 1925 the Great Western considered the practicality of extending the line to Cirencester but considered it would give a poor return.

After a busy time during the Second World War traffic declined and it was hardly surprising that the line closed west of Witney in 1962. While it probably made little difference to the public the line had been a major employer in Bampton. Since the station was open from 7am to 10pm it required a double shift of staff. There was a station master, two porters, two signalmen and a relief; for years Messrs Glenister, Wheeler and Cambray.

**HISTORY**

**1841.** Great Western ("God's Wonderful Railway"), built to Brunel's unique Broad Gauge (7ft between rails) opened from Paddington to Bristol.

**1844.** Branch from Didcot (then a small village) opened to Oxford old terminus station (just south of Folly Bridge).

**1851.** The rival London - North Western (L.N.W.R.) branch from Bletchley (on its main line to Birmingham) to Rewley Road opened. This station used some of the ironwork dismantled from the Great Exhibition.

**1852.** With the completion of the Wye Bridge at Chepstow the G.W.R. obtained access to south Wales by way of Gloucester. G.W.R. also completed the Oxford to Birmingham line, though it was another year before the through station at Oxford was built.

**1853.** The Oxford Worcester and Wolverhampton (O.W.W.R.) ("the Old Worse & Worse") reached Oxford from Worcester (now the Cotswold Line).

**1854.** The L.N.W.R. built a loop from their Oxford branch, north of Oxford to the O.W.W.R. at Yarnton. By this roundabout route they ran trains from Euston to Worcester (now the Cotswold Line) for a few years.

**1861.** Opening of the Witney Railway from Yarnton to Witney. By this time every small town wanted a railway to bring in goods, mainly coal and take out their products. It was now possible to reach Witney without using Great Western rails.

**1864.** Opening of the Faringdon branch.





## BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

The Recreation Ground is getting more and more use as more clubs and individuals realise the potential of 18 acres of flat pitches that drain easily, and of the excellent multisport and tennis facilities. Indeed the large car park for over sixty cars



that we thought would be more than ample is often bulging on Saturdays and Sundays as two or three matches are being played at once. The Recreation Ground Steering Committee, chaired by Jonathan Phillips, is looking at affordable projects to improve the facilities and the first of these will be the start of an archery club in the spring. Mr John Hill

has volunteered to start a club for boys and girls over eleven. The Steering Committee will be raising funds for equipment to get the club started. Anyone who would like to assist should contact John on (01993) 850513.

### MULTI-SPORTS COURT

Anyone driving down Buckland Road during weekday evenings couldn't fail to notice the good use being made of the multi-sports court. Soccer teams from Buckland, Brize Norton, Aston, Clanfield and, of course, the village senior and junior teams have all enjoyed the opportunity for winter training under floodlights. The village children have also made good use of the free sessions on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10am until 12am and we are most grateful to the twelve or so faithful "duty persons" who make these possible.

Remember that the facility caters for basketball, netball, tennis, five-a-side, hockey, as well as soccer, so anyone wishing to hire it, please contact Phil McFarlane, Tel: 01993 850433 to secure your booking. Remember that for Bampton clubs and families it is only £5 per hour, including floodlighting, and £10 per hour for bookings from elsewhere.

### TENNIS CLUB

The Bampton Tennis Club is now well founded with over fifty players of all ages involved. The facilities are first class and family membership for only £50 gives you unlimited tennis until the end of March 1997.

Single adult membership is £20 and £10 for a child. Contact Dominic Hodges, Tel: 01993 850242 if you would like to join. At the recent AGM, it was decided to hold club nights every Monday and Thursday after Easter starting at 6pm. It was also decided that the club would play only friendly matches this year and decide at the next AGM whether to join a league for 1997.

To complete the tennis facilities the club would like sponsorship or donations of conifer bushes along the southern and western fences to act as a wind break, also a three seat solid wooden bench (inscribed if you wish). Finally a clock for the shelter. Contact D. O'Brien, Tel: 01993 850188 if you could help in any way.



### THE PAVILION

#### WHEN - HOW AND COSTS?

Whereas, most of our facilities are first class there is a growing need for changing facilities and a small social area where visiting teams can be entertained. The Steering Committee is determined to get a suitable pavilion built as soon as possible but the minimum costs of £100,000 are proving a considerable obstacle. Whereas, we may be able to get possibly £50,000 from lottery grant, it still leaves a massive deficit and it may well be 1997 or even 1998 before construction starts. It may be that the pavilion can be built in stages over the next ten years or so with extensions being added say for the Bush Centre, for a badminton hall or even an indoor bowling green. However, the first objective is to complete **STAGE ONE** and raise £100K - **HELP PLEASE!**

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## ASK A POLICEMAN

Liz Chambers is the Parish Council  
representative on the Witney area  
Community Police Consultative Group

The latest of our four times a year meetings was held in Shrivenham in February. Despite the bitter cold and dark about forty people still turned up to listen. There are about twenty members of the committee from various societies, Councils and so on, including Superintendent Davina Logan from the local division. She gave a brief explanation of the structure of the force locally. The Witney area encompasses towns as far afield as Didcot, Wallingford, Carterton, Witney and Abingdon. The Thames Valley force region covers Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Our part of it has a population of 200,000, 106 villages and six military establishments. It is subdivided into five sectors, each under the command of an inspector.

Over the past few years most time has been taken up dealing with crime, illegal rave parties and the activities of New Age travellers.

Superintendent Logan says, due to a change in the force's crime management strategy and hard work by all officers in partnership with their local communities, a steady increase in crime between 1990 and 1992 has been turned round and the figures are now in decline.

Reported crime fell by 5% in 1993 and by the same amount again in 1994. Detection rates are also on the increase.



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& BINGLEY  
BUILDING SOCIETY

### BRADFORD & BINGLEY

### CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW

Pictured is Bernard Hitchman from Bowling Green Close and his dog Blue, receiving a superb Christmas hamper, the winning prize in the Bradford & Bingley Christmas Prize Draw.

"It was an excellent hamper and we were pleased to see a regular customer win it", commented Mervyn Harris, Abbey Properties office manager.

The County Watch initiative is regarded as cementing good relationships between police, public and local organisations and its success is helping generally to improve the quality of life of those who live and work in rural areas.

Do not be put off ringing the police because their dialing code is listed as Wantage. This is because the switchboard has been centralised and your call will still be put through to the relevant local station eg Witney or Carterton. Routine calls can be connected to officers' personal radios for the cost of a local call. If you require information the operator will connect you with the Helpline which is based at Didcot.

Emergency 999 calls are unaffected and will be put through to the correct station without delay. After 80% of emergency calls officers are on the scene within twenty minutes.

People from Bampton and the surrounding area will have a chance to air their views or put their questions at the next meeting of the Consultative Group in the Youth Centre on Church View on Monday 3rd June at 7.30pm.

If you do not come and you do not ask you cannot expect to know what is going on, and you cannot blame other people if issues are not raised and things are not done!

Committee members do not want to sit in front of an empty hall - why not come along and make a difference? You deserve to be heard.





## The Thames Path... ...Britain's Next National Trail

THE BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Towards the end of 1996, the Countryside Commission will open a new National Trail, The Thames Path.

The path will run along the length of the River Thames, for 213 miles from the river's source in Gloucestershire to the Thames Barrier in Greenwich. This new trail will allow walkers to follow the magical journey that the river makes as it wanders through peaceful, idyllic countryside, passing by the dreaming spires of Oxford, and sweeping on into London. Much needs to be done, however, before

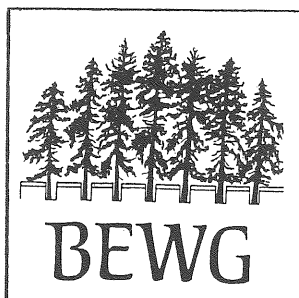
this wonderful route can be followed, and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) working with the Countryside Commission, and the Commercial Union, the trail sponsors, are striving to make this possible.

BTCV's function in the operation, is to enable all those people who are excited about the project to make a contribution to the path's creation. Many sections of the path are already in use, but now these sections need to be linked to open up the trail.

To this effect, BTCV is organising a "Volunteer Acton Day" on Sunday 9th June, when people from all around the area will be coming out to help BTCV carry out tasks such as clearing paths, making stiles, repairing banks, bridges and existing footpaths. For those of you wishing to join in, no previous experience is required: just lots of enthusiasm to help improve your local environment. BTCV will provide all suitable tools and training, you just need to bring a packed lunch!



Near Bampton work will be going on between Old Man's Bridge and Tenfoot Bridge, where winter flooding leads to prolific summer vegetation. We need help to clear a path along this beautiful section of the river, rife with kingfishers, butterflies, cormorants and herons. So come and join us working in an area that really is the epitome of beautiful rural England. For more information please contact Jennie Owen at BTCV Tel: (01865) 810215.



### BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP

#### HOSKINS LANE

Readers will be interested to know that the campaign, waged by the Parish Council and BEWG, to have Hoskins Barn Path (strictly termed Hoskins Lane) designated as a public right of way has been successful. The legal Unit of the Oxfordshire County Council studied evidence showing that this path had been in use by the public for twenty plus years and on the strength of this made a determination in favour of Bampton.

The next step is for the County Council Department of Leisure and Arts - Countryside Section - to make a Modification Order to the definitive footpath map of the county. This will be done in 1999, which is the year when West Oxfordshire District is dealt with. In the meantime the owner has the right to appeal against the decision (though it is thought unlikely), and the path will be open for reasonable use by the public. This very gratifying outcome is mainly due to the magnificent co-operation of long-term Bampton residents who provided a wealth of information about the usage of the path over several decades. Over a hundred responses were collected, to the benefit of present and future walkers in Bampton.

### BAMPTON W.I.

The Women's Institute held its AGM on the 6th March, when it elected its new Committee for 1996.

**President:** Elizabeth Chambers

**Vice Chairman:** Eileen Faithful

**Secretary:** Janet Huck

**Treasurer:** Daphne Gaydon

**Raffle:** Elsie Bye

**Refreshments:** Hazel Shaw

**Publications:** Anne Clayton

**Outings:** Eileen Faithful

**Market Stall:** Jenny Jenkin

**Village Hall:** Jean Howell

**Group Representative:** Jean Howell

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd April at the new time of 2pm - 4pm. Non members are always welcome, with admission of £1.

## LETTERS TO: AUNTIE BEAM



Dear Auntie Beam,

I have recently moved to Bampton with my first baby still under a year old. The village is beautiful and there is obviously a lot going on but I am feeling a little cut off and lost at the moment and would appreciate some advice on the best way to find people in similar situations and to get involved in village life.

Yours, LB.

Dear LB,

Firstly, welcome to Bampton. I am sure you will be very happy here once you have settled in a little more. In the meantime, I think the best place for you to begin to solve your current problem is to talk to Margaret Gould, the Health Visitor based at the Doctors Surgery. She is well-placed to know of other mums and newcomers to the village. Also, the Mother and Toddler Group always welcomes new additions - even if your baby is not at "toddler" stage. Details of contacts and telephone numbers for these and other groups and services in the village are all included in the Bampton Directory available from the Post Office or Abbey Properties.

Yours, Auntie Beam.

Dear Auntie Beam,

I'm in love with a girl who lives in the next street to where I live. The trouble is, she doesn't seem to notice me. Every day we walk to catch the school bus together. I feel that she only thinks of me as one of the gang. It's really getting me down, so please, please advise me what to do.

Yours, Getting Desperate.

Dear Getting Desperate,  
Faint heart never won fair lady! Even if you can't bring yourself to declare true love, you could always find something nice to say to her: how nice her hair is looking or her dress. But the most important thing is to develop your own confidence. Girls, on the whole, like a confident bloke, not a show-off, just quietly confident. You decide what makes you feel good, you'll soon find girls start to notice you.

Good luck, Auntie Beam.

Dear Auntie Beam,

Rabbits, rabbits and more rabbits. We seem to be being taken over by rabbits. Every time the sun comes out, rabbits seem to feel the urge!! Resulting in... more rabbits.

What do you suggest?

Yours, Rabbits.

Dear "Rabbits",

I do feel that this is not a problem for Auntie Beam but for Gardeners' Question Time or for the National Union of Farmers whose number can be found in the 'phone book! Alternatively you could learn to love rabbits. Take a leaf from David Attenborough: he seems to find copulation and reproduction in all its forms endlessly fascinating.

Yours, Auntie Beam.

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# BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP

BEWG held its 6th AGM on 31st January when it elected its Executive Committee for 1996. The four officers and seven of the existing members were re-elected, together with a new member Sally Proctor; she replaces Margaret Howse who has resigned. In his Annual Report the Chairman expressed a warm vote of thanks to Margaret for the hard work she had put into BEWG, particularly the invaluable contribution of her long and wide experience of village affairs.

Following this Geoffrey Fowler, Chairman of the Oxfordshire County Council, gave a fascinating talk on his Oxfordshire forebears; this provided interesting historical perspectives on the social and economic developments in towns and villages of West Oxfordshire. His graphic descriptions were enhanced by a variety of heirlooms, family mementoes and written material. The next Open Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 8pm on Wednesday 24th April when Bridget Smith, formerly of the Nature Conservancy Council, will give a lecture on the history of footpaths. Non-members are welcome, with donations of £1.

BEWG information contact Ann Norman Tel: 850823.

# BAMPTON IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Orders are now being taken at the Post Office and Abbey Properties for a book of Bampton in Old Photographs to be published this summer. It has been compiled to celebrate the centenary of the Parish Council (1894 - 1994).

The special offer at a pre-publication price of £6.50 will be held until the end of May only, thereafter it will be £7.95.

To avoid disappointment place your order now and guarantee your copy/copies. It will be a sell-out. Many previously unpublished photographs included.

# ANN MANLY'S PRINT

The Shillbrook Ford, Bampton - with St. Mary's spire in the background

A limited edition of this delightful print of Ann Manly's painting - numbered and signed by the artist - is being sold, £30 unmounted, in aid of the Friends of St. Mary's.

If you would like one of these prints contact Jonathan Phillips Tel: 850321

# NOTICE BOARD

## BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB

The Coffee Mornings have proved a huge success as was the Christmas Bazaar. A Spring Bazaar is to be held on Morris Dancing Day in May. We have been able to donate monies to various good causes throughout last year, and it is only by raising funds ourselves that we are able to put monies back into the village.

Subs for the year are now due and remain unchanged ie £2.50 per person and £1.25 for senior gardeners. These can be paid at any of the Coffee Mornings.

**Dates for the next Coffee Mornings:** 13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July. Spring Bazaar: Town Hall, Bank Holiday 27th May 10am - 2pm.

**WISLEY GARDENS:** 30th June. Coach £4 members £5 non-members. Free admission to gardens.

**STOURHEAD GARDENS, WARMINSTER:** Sunday 28th April. 9am depart Market Square. Members £4 non members £5 Admission to house £3.60 adult, £3.30 child. (National Trust cardholders free entry but we will need to know in advance). Seats still to be filled. Tel: Jan Webb 851533 after 4pm.

## BAMPTON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION AGM

Friday 23rd February 1996.

The meeting was well attended and the Chairman reported on a very good year. The functions were well attended and profitable. The Chairman thanked all those who came and supported the events. The Treasurer's report was accepted and thanks were given to Dr. Alan Gaydon for auditing them.

The Chairman Mrs Marian Dowding announced that she was standing down and thanked her committee for all their hard work, she said she would be prepared to stay on the Committee. The new Chairman elected is Mrs Elizabeth Chambers who also remains Membership Secretary. The Treasurer was re-elected Mr Douglas Faithful and Mrs Shirley Faithful agreed to stay on as Secretary for another year. We were fortunate to acquire three new Committee members, Mrs Ann Clayton, Mr Brian Standon and Canon Meredith. Mrs Molly Smith will remain as President. Mr Jonathan Phillips was elected as Postal Votes Officer and also spoke very interestingly on various Council issues and answered members questions.

The evening ended with a glass of wine and a chat and getting to know the new Committee.

## CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN, BAMPTON BRANCH

Chairman: Mrs Doris Cleaver

Tel: (01993) 850682

Secretary: Mrs Margaret Smith

Tel: (01993) 850729

Treasurer: Mr Michael Cleaver

Tel: (01993) 850682

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 30th March:

Spring Sale in Bampton Village Hall 10am - 12am

Thursday 23rd May:

Vanishing Coffee Morning

Monday 27th May:

Raffle for Car in Bampton Market Square

Thursday 3rd October:

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 20th November:

Xmas Bingo

Friday 20th December:

Country and Western Dance at Carterton Social Centre

## BAMPTON WELFARE TRUST

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

If you are in need of assistance from the Bampton Welfare Trust, please contact:

Janet Newman Tel: 850755 or any of the Trustees: Major R. Colville, Miss K.

Wylie, Mrs I. Humphries, Mrs J. Haslam, Mrs S. Phillips, Mrs H. Radclyffe (Lew), Mr G. Wiltshire (Aston), Mr G. Milner (Aston).

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Chairman: Mrs E. Quick

Tel: (01993) 850273

Secretary: Mrs R. Wheeler

Tel: (01993) 850808

Treasurer: Mrs B. Collett

Tel: (01993) 850363

Monday 6th May: Disabled Men's Industries goods, and a Table Top Sale, in the Market Square 10am - 4pm.

Monday 27th May: Refreshments will be served in the Village Hall 9.30am - 3.30pm. A good strong cup of Army tea will be served.

## BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The Management Committee is pleased to announce that remedial work to cure the damp problem in the old part of the Hall has been completed. The Parish Council and WODC are thanked for their grants towards this work which has eased the burden on the Village Hall funds. The kitchen, servery, bar area, annexe and toilets will be redecorated in March. Income from lettings was considerably lower in 1995 and the hall continues to be underused during the day. It may be necessary therefore to increase hiring charges if lettings cannot be increased. The Committee is very grateful to all those who support the Hall with annual covenanted donations. This money is vital for major refurbishment work. The Annual General Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Friday 19th April at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and anyone who would be interested in serving on the Committee is asked to contact the Secretary, Susan Phillips Tel: 850321. The Committee is made up of representatives from Bampton organisations that use the Hall and five members elected at the AGM. Meetings are held approximately four times a year and the work involved is not unduly burdensome - the more willing and active members there are, the less for each person to take on! Newcomers to Bampton are particularly invited to share their talents.

## BAMPTON "250" CLUB

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

## BURFORD SCHOOL

20th April - Fun Night for all the family. First race 7.30pm. Tickets at School Office or on door (family £10, single £3.50, in advance). Supper provided.

# NOTICE BOARD

## BAMPTON PUMPKIN CLUB

The Pumpkin Club has once again had a successful year, culminating in the distribution of Christmas gifts and Christmas cards to the village's senior citizens.

If any Bampton OAP did not receive a gift and card, and would like to be included this Christmas then please contact Jim Gascolgne Tel: 850119 or Dave Close Tel: 851302 and we will be only too happy to include you on our Christmas card list. Also, if anyone knows a Bampton pensioner who would like to be included for this Christmas then please contact one of the above.

The Committee would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who helped us organise and run the two major fund-raising events - The May Day Fair and the Autumn Grand Auction. Our appreciation also to all Bamptonians who dipped into their pockets so generously, in support of these functions.

The Pumpkin Club Committee now numbers only five people. We urgently require willing and interested people who are prepared to give up some of their leisure time to help organise fund-raising events. March - May and September - October are the "busy" times. Committee meetings during these periods are mainly at weekly intervals for a couple of hours on an evening. The compensation for attending is that meetings are always held in The Romany Inn!

## BAMPTON YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club has now re-established itself and meets twice per week - for members in the 11 to 13+ age group on Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9pm and for those aged 14 to 21 on Thursday evenings 7.30 - 10pm. Anyone interested in joining should contact either Tracy Charlton Tel: 705416 or Gary Gummer Tel: 851913. There is always a need for help in running the activities of both groups; please call either of the leaders mentioned above or the Chairman, Frank Piercy Tel: 85000.

## SPAJERS

The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing: Started by John Quick (d. 1991) in 1952 or thereabouts as an "anti-telly" society but lost its way!

Raises money in various ways to provide a supper with entertainment (February), an outing (August), cash gift (December). Main events are the Donkey Derby and Fete (August Bank Holiday), the Great Shirt Race (May), and Josey Bucking-ham's Draw (November).

Several public houses and the Bampton Mummings also raise money for the Spajers.

## THE BURFORD SINGERS

The Burford Singers' next concert with The Cotswold Chamber Orchestra, is to be held on Good Friday 5th April 1996 at 7.30pm in Burford Parish Church.

The programme consists of Monteverdi's Gloria for seven voices and Beatus vir, and Haydn's Symphony No. 95 and St. Theresa Mass.

The soloists are Judith Rees (soprano); Meriel Dickinson (mezzo-soprano); Ian Partridge (tenor); Gordon Jones (baritone); Simon Hannigan (bass); Christopher Tadman-Robins (organ); Kate Bailey, Isobel Knowland (violins); Spike Wilson (cello) and the conductor is Brian Etheridge.

Reserved tickets, priced at £9 and £7 (with concessions for students at £5 and £3.50), and any further information is available from Brian Etheridge at the Burford Gallery, Tel: (01993) 822305.

## LIONS COTSWOLD MOTOR FAIR 1996

Sunday 19th May 1996 10.30am-5pm. Burford School

The Motor Fair will be opened by Chris Goffey of BBC TV's "Top Gear" motoring programme and will include:

More than 20 makes of new vehicles on display;

A variety of trade/accessory stands;

Wheel changing competition;

Classic cars displayed by the MG Owners Club and others;

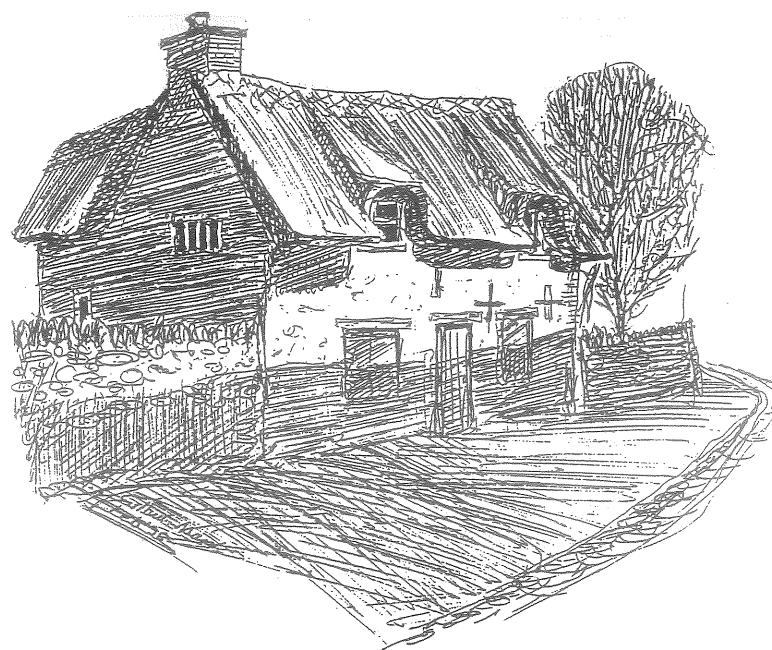
Arena events to provide entertainment for the whole family;

Emergency Services static displays;

Children's play area;

On-site catering facilities;

Free parking - adults £2 - children (under 16) £1.



THE OLD COTTAGE, BELL LANE,  
BAMPTON

## ARCHITECTURE AROUND BAMPTON

written and drawn by Gilbert Marsh

Sited behind the Market Square Garage, the Old Cottage in Bell Lane is a rather neglected survivor of medieval Bampton. Usually in shade from the high wall opposite, it is fighting for recognition of its past life. This cottage could well be constructed of oak trees braced together for the end walls, known as "cruck" construction. About eighty such buildings survive in England. Everything points to this little lane forming the north side of the original Market Square, and cottages such as that illustrated would have been the typical dwelling seen all round the square in the fifteenth-century.

The little window in the flank wall comes from an age before glass was used in windows. Rounded sticks are simply set in a frame through which the smoke was no doubt cleared from a fireplace in the middle of the ground floor of the cottage.

*It is hoped that this sketch of the Old Cottage in Bell Lane, Bampton, will be one of a series illustrating the varied designs that make up our village character.*

## GARDENING COLUMN

by Bill Carr

### CUTTINGS

Many people believe that taking cuttings of favourite plants is an expert and sophisticated art.

When my mother travelled abroad she would take a large spare sponge bag, wrap the cuttings in damp newspaper, then into the sponge bag and hey presto!

**Don't's** Do not wait until the end of the flowering season. Do not take small cuttings.

**Do's** Do take large cuttings (9"-12") when the plants are at their strongest. This advice applies particularly to fuchsias and geraniums.

Cut up the stem about 1/2" to allow the hormone rooting powder to penetrate. Then soak the stem in water and dip it into the rooting powder. Always use a good potting compost when potting up. It is advisable to take several cuttings and work on the basis that you will lose one out of three.

For roses, pyracanthas, hydrangeas etc, use same method but plant directly into flower bed.



### THE TENTH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Congratulations to Susan on her Tenth Birthday Exhibition of The Bampton Beam, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who visited it, and also the wine!!!

The All New Bampton Beam Team would like to pass on their thanks to Susan and her husband Jonathan. We wish her well in all the "free time" she is about to enjoy with her family and personal pursuits.

### THE BAMPTON DIRECTORY

An updated Bampton Directory will be published in 1996. Help will be needed to check facts to gather information from local organisations and to obtain advertising. If anyone could spare some time for this task, please contact Susan Phillips, Tel: 850321

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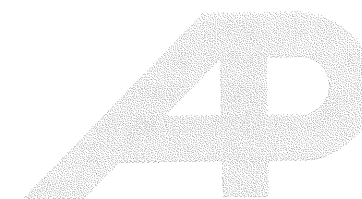


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Dear Editor,  
May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who came to the Birthday Exhibition in January and who kindly expressed appreciation of my ten years as Editor of The Beam. In particular I am very grateful to both WOAA and BEWG who each presented me with a most generous gift. I am very glad to have handed over to someone who knows Bampton so well and I hope she enjoys the job as much as I did. With all best wishes to the new team.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Susan Phillips  
Haytor, Lavender Square.

Dear Editor,  
We have lived in Bampton just over a year and we are astounded at the friendliness of the pretty little village. Recently I was taken ill, and the kindness of the people inquiring about me was overwhelming. I would very much like to thank through The Bampton Beam everyone for their kind thoughts and best wishes. J. Wentworth, Colville Close, Bampton.

Dear Madam,  
In your December issue, there is an article on page 15, headed The Future of Bampton by Jonathan Phillips. In this article he states that there are: "...problems caused by the desperate shortage of low-cost rented accommodation...There is still a great need for more lowcost housing in Bampton and a suitable site must be found by the Parish Council..."

This is a subject which has been discussed on numerous occasions by the Parish Council, our society (The Society for the Protection of Bampton), and by others.

The Parish Council, through The Bampton Beam, invited anyone who was in need of such accommodation to write in. Very few did, and some of those would not have qualified anyway. The remaining qualifications numbered about six. Partly as a result of this apparently small need, the Parish Council set a Village Appraisal in motion, which among other things, should determine what need there is. It is quite wrong, in my view, for our District Councillor to say that there is a

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



great or desperate need when this is far from proven. He should wait and see what the Appraisal shows, and not try to influence how people complete their questionnaires.

Yours sincerely,  
Lord Donoughmore.  
The Manor House, Bampton.  
Chairman, The Society for the Protection of Bampton.

Dear Editor,  
In his letter to you of 3rd December Lord Donoughmore doubts the need for more low-cost housing in Bampton. He seems unable to accept the facts disclosed in the comprehensive Housing Survey carried out by the District Council, the housing authority, the results of which were published in the autumn of 1994. This survey had a very high response rate and proved conclusively that there was a large demand in West Oxfordshire for more low-cost housing and that Bampton was one of the areas with a substantial need. The survey also showed that many young people were leaving the district, not because they wanted to - as they could find jobs - but because they could not find affordable housing.

Having been very much involved in proving the need for the thirty houses at Pembroke Place, I know that there were over sixty disappointed people in 1992, four years after we knew there was a need. I also know that many did not apply until the scheme was approved and they could see that there was some real hope. Private sector rents in West Oxfordshire are among the highest in the country. They are considerably higher than in affluent Horsham in West Sussex but the wages locally are only 70% of the average in the South East. This increases the demand for affordable rented housing in West Oxfordshire. We have a duty to provide for the housing needs of our residents.

Yours sincerely,  
J. Phillips

Dear Editor (Fenella),  
Welcome to The Beam. I am sure you will have the interests of the Bampton people at heart.

Your Dad the late John Quick will always be remembered for his work with the British Legion and the SPAJERS, and Mum Edie still doing her bit as Chairman of the Womens Section of the British Legion.

My memories of John go back farther than that, to when he ran the Gasworks. He was Mr Gasman to the village.

I expect there are people now living in Bampton who did not know that we once had a gasworks.

In those days every family would have a "truck". This was made out of a wooden box on a pram chassis or bicycle wheels and a handle. This truck was used for "fetching and carrying". A visit to the allotments would mean taking the truck laden with tools, then bringing the vegetables home. Another use was to go to the Gasworks and bring home sixpence worth of coke in a bag. You would burn this on the fire to make the coal last longer. Sometimes the coke would just have come out of the furnace, so you would have to return later to collect the coke and truck.

Good luck to you and your team on The Beam.

Mrs Freda Bradley.

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## BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Jim Taylor, Chairman, Bampton Parish Council

The Parish Council wishes the new "Beam" team every success in continuing to provide the parish with such an interesting and valuable publication.

The Council is continuing its financial support to the Beam as in past years. News of Parish Council activities in the Beam is useful to residents who are not able to see Council meeting minutes in the village library.

### PARISH COUNCIL "CLUSTERS"

Following a County Council initiative, Bampton is the first Parish Council to take a lead role in Oxfordshire as part of a "cluster" or group of neighbouring parish councils. We will discuss policies and joint problems - particularly in relation to planning. Such actions should strengthen links between communities and increase parish influence. Our cluster will include Aston, Clanfield, Brize Norton, Alvescot, Black Bourton and Shilton. The first meeting will be in April in Bampton.

### THE BUSH CENTRE

The County Council has asked Bampton Parish Council to consider taking over the lease of the Bush Centre. The County's original proposal involved over £20,000 in building repairs which the County cannot include in their expenditure.

The Parish Council considers it essential that the Bush Centre continues to operate. This day care social service is mainly financed by another part of the County Council!

Consequently, the Parish Council has held meetings with the Bush Centre Committee, with the County Council and their agents, W.S. Atkins. We are negotiating to get repair work done in stages over a number of years, utilising Bush Centre funds as necessary and reducing certain parts of the proposed work by accepting restricted use of the building in severe weather. The Bush Centre funds used would be replaced by annual grants from the Parish Council and provision for this has been included in the Council's 1996-1997 precept.



### SANDFORD'S FIELD

Following delays by the County Council the land transfer will be completed by April and ownership will then be returned to the village.

The Parish Council again wishes to record its appreciation of the funds made available by the Society for the Protection of Bampton to cover the cost of this purchase.

### THE MARKET SQUARE

Oxfordshire County Council has proposed alterations to the Market Square to improve parking and traffic flow. The proposals were modified to assist the operation of the garage. The revised plans were agreed at the February Parish Council meeting. Implementation dates are not yet available.

### BOTTLE BANKS

The new type of containers have received general approval and they will remain in the Market Square for some time.

### GRASS CUTTING

The Parish Council is investigating transferring together all the grass cutting operations in the village, as recommended by the County Council. At present this work is done by a mixture of County and district councils and other firms.

### YOUTH CENTRE

A further grant has been agreed by the Parish Council to cover the cost of a youth leader to allow a second meeting each week.

### TRAFFIC

Yet another meeting has been held with the County Engineer to try to improve road safety. There is a possible easing of Department of Transport regulations later this year which could allow some methods of traffic calming - but these will have to be funded by the Parish Council - as County funds are only available for known accident "black spots".

### BUCKLAND ROAD RECREATION GROUND

This facility forms part of the Bampton Recreation Ground charity for which the Bampton Parish Council is the Trustee. The Sports field has become a very active place particularly for boys' football, the tennis courts and the multi-sports court.

A vigorous development programme includes a cricket field, trim track, landscaping with many trees and, ultimately a pavilion.



### BAMPTON YOUTH CENTRE

The Youth Centre occupies the old Victorian School in Church View and the purpose of its existence is to provide accommodation for the various youth organisations of the village. The Management Committee is a voluntary body and the funding for the Centre comes partly through the Divisional Youth Committee but also from the Bampton "250" Club and by renting out the premises at times when they are not required for youth activities.

The Youth Club has now re-established itself and meets twice per week, Tuesday and Thursday. The expansion into a second evening has been made possible by the generous support from the Parish Council.

The Scouting organisation is, currently, suffering from the absence of trained leaders and this has resulted in, what is hoped to be only a temporary, suspension of the Scouts and Beaver groups. Training can be arranged for anyone who is keen to help with either group and the new contact is Mrs Julie Thompson Tel: 850782. The Cubs continue to flourish with strong support from the parents.

The Centre is an excellent venue for wedding receptions and the larger social functions with a marvellous atmosphere and plentiful parking space. It is available for rental on most weekends and also for activities that can be arranged for mornings or afternoons.

The contact for hiring is Liz Banham Tel: 850019. General enquiries should be directed to the Secretary, Colin Allport, Tel: 850411.

## Arts Page

West Oxfordshire Arts Association, The Gallery, Town Hall,

Bampton, Oxon, OX18 2JH - Tel: (01993) 850137

Opening hours during exhibitions are: Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am to 12am  
and 2pm to 4pm; Sunday 2pm to 4pm



What are you  
missing at  
your Gallery?

WOAA aim to present exciting entertainment in all the arts: music, lectures, classes and workshops, exhibitions, poetry readings, visits to the Gallery, situated in Bampton Town Hall and more. During exhibitions admission is free. If you would like to find out more telephone Sarah Edwards at the Gallery.



Not to be missed!

### EASTER EXHIBITION

Watercolours by Andrew John, Sculpture by Juliet Dyer and Ceramics by Gilly Whittington. Sunday 24th March to Sunday 7th April.



### Literature Classes -

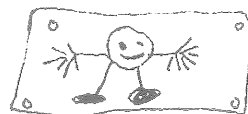
#### WORD PLAYGROUP

Come along and join us in the Gallery Writers Class - Please contact Sarah Edwards if you would like to participate in a series of writers' workshops in September.



### ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

We are keen to foster the natural enthusiasm and creativity of children and hold regular workshops aimed at introducing children to a variety of different media and techniques.



#### A SILVER JEWELLERY MAKING WORKSHOP for 10+ age range - 28th April 10am - 1pm.

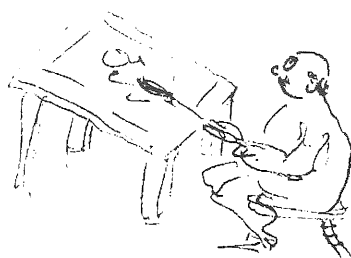
£6.50 (free to WOAA family members) materials £3 - £5. Workshop fees are kept as low as possible and are free to WOAA family members. For more details and to book please telephone Sarah on (01993) 850137, and don't forget to ask her about WOAA's new family membership rates. Save money have fun and support the Arts in your area too!

Look out for our children's summer photography competition: Enrolment forms in the Gallery soon. Entry free.



West Oxfordshire Arts Association  
AGM Wednesday 22nd May, 8pm in  
the Gallery, Bampton Town Hall.  
Wine - all welcome!

Come in and have a look!



## THE FOOD PAGE

With the seasonal egg in mind, here are a few favourite dishes  
that you might not know.  
from Gilly French



### BAKED EGGS

(serves 4)

4 med-large eggs at room temp  
4 tsp single cream  
butter  
salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas4. Brush 4 ramekins with butter and stand in an ovenproof dish. Fill the dish with hot water so that it comes about two-thirds of the way up the sides of the ramekins. Carefully break an egg into each dish. Season with salt and pepper, spoon over the cream and place a knob of butter on the top. Bake in the centre of the oven, uncovered, for about 12 minutes: the whites should be set and the yolks runny. Do not overcook as the eggs will continue cooking for a short while after being removed from the oven.

*This makes an excellent starter or late supper dish. This classic recipe can be varied by the addition of snipped herbs such as tarragon or chives, and by small pieces of chopped ham.*

### ARNOLD BENNETT OMELETTE

(serves 3 - 4)

8oz cooked flaked undyed smoked haddock or Finnan haddock (available from Waitrose)  
3 tbsps grated parmesan cheese  
salt and pepper  
6 beaten eggs  
butter  
3 - 4 tbsps double cream

Switch on the grill to top heat, allowing time for it to warm up. Mix the fish with the cheese and season. Cook the eggs in a little butter in an omelette pan. When the underneath part is firm but the top liquid, spread the fish over it and pour on the cream. Place under the grill until lightly browned and bubbling. Slide onto a serving dish without attempting to fold the omelette.

### EASTER EGGS

It is very easy to make your own Easter eggs. There is no particular skill involved, but you will need Easter egg moulds. These can be bought cheaply from specialist kitchen shops or by mail order.

You will need good dark chocolate, of the highest cocoa solids content that you can find. The type we keep at home is 52% cocoa solids, but you can get it up to 70%. Bournville is not suitable, but supermarkets and specialist shops do sell the better stuff. If you can find couverture, all the better. (I have never found any and would be delighted to hear from anybody who can put me on the right track!)

Melt the chocolate in a bowl standing over a pan of barely simmering water. Add a little (about a teaspoonful) of vegetable oil (this keeps it runny). Coat the inside of the mould with the melted chocolate, pouring and tilting to get an even coating. Leave to set and repeat until you get a layer of the desired thickness. Make the second half in the same way: if you only have one mould you will need to remove the egg half that you have already made before you can do this.

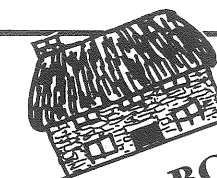
Make sure that any filling is cushioned with tissue paper, then affix the two halves together with more melted chocolate. Home-made eggs do not keep for very long, a day or two at most.

## J. Temple

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Fancy Goods & Toys

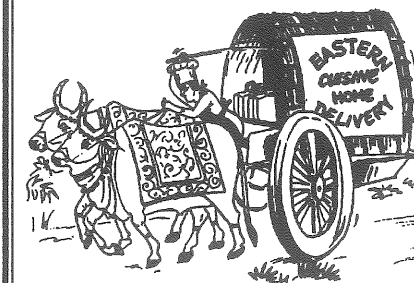
Market Square, Bampton, Oxford  
Telephone (01993) 850877

*"If you can't find it at Temple's,  
you can probably get by  
without it".*



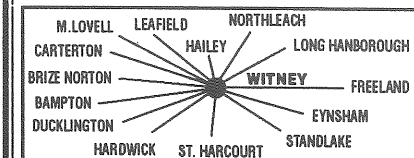
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## Bampton Primary School Yenworthy 1996

### Waterfall walking

I woke up feeling reasonably ready for the day ahead, after hearing Mr Ryde's voice saying "It's time to wake up now ladies". After getting dressed we all rushed out ready for a Yenworthy breakfast, Corn Flakes, closely followed by scrambled eggs- yummy!

We spent the morning in the grounds walking the Spaghetti Tangle. The Spaghetti Tangle is a rope leading over a series of obstacles, such as the middle of the dustbins! Next up, waterfall climbing. Oh no !!!!. Time to get wet!!! It was about a mile down to the waterfalls. When we got there there was a very steep waterfall. It was too steep to climb, and too dangerous, so we skipped that one! The next waterfall was really hard because most of the rocks were slippery and I kept sliding. It was hard, but I made it in the end and came plodding back to the lodge with my wellies full of water, ready for a nice hot shower!

Sophie Hoy

### Caving

Today we got up, got dressed, and had our breakfast as usual. We had been split into two groups. One group would be caving today. I was going today. Soon we were all ready and on our way climbing up to the entrance of the cave. There weren't enough torches so Steven and I had to go in without one. As I had been before I wasn't scared, but we went a different way so it was quite scary, especially without a light. It was dark, and it was difficult to see where the holes were. About half way down we stopped and Allan told us to switch our lights off. He told us a story which was scary because it was in the dark. Everyone switched on their torches and we set off through the Devil's guts. Now we were coming to the dreaded Smartie tube. Quite a lot of people got stuck and everyone got really dirty. Soon we were near the exit, and climbing upwards out of the cave.

Jenny Morris

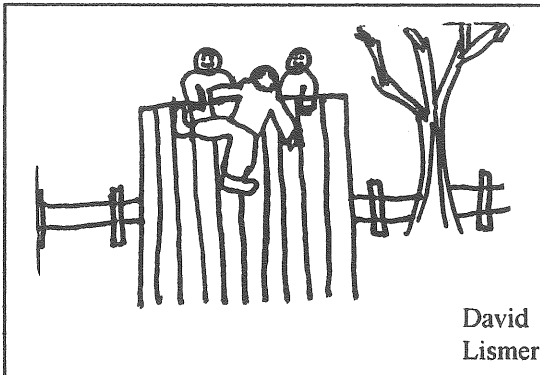
Every year children in Mrs Carter's class visit Yenworthy in North Devon. Yenworthy is an outdoor activity centre where children can experience many stimulating and challenging situations such as waterfall walking, orienteering and pony trekking.

### Coasteering

It was the usual 7:30 start. Today we were going coasteering, so we had to wear lots of warm clothes. Our destination was Lee Beach. It took half an hour to get there.

I was in Steve's group. When we were coasteering we played a game. You had ten points to start off with, then gradually you got bravery points for jumping onto rocks further away. It was very difficult with the gale force winds and the torrential rain. Eventually we got back to our rucksacks ready for our lunch.

Charlotte Daw



David  
Lismer

### Pony Trekking

We all started chatting at once. We had all just woken up and were talking about going home. After breakfast we got ready for pony trekking. I had a very lazy pony. She was very bossy. Her name was Pippa. When it was time to go I kicked Pippa but she wouldn't move. At last I got her going. She wasn't very fast but she was O.K. Half way through Pippa stopped right in the middle of the path and started eating grass!!

Louisa Howard

### CHANGE TO TUESDAYS

Tuesday evening is now junior club night. Club is open from 7.00 - 9.00p.m. for 10 to 13 year olds. The current team of workers and management committee have recognized that a junior club is more appropriate than one that spans 11 to 15 year olds. We hope that if you have children within this age range you will feel confident to allow them to join us.

We will be offering a varied programme of leisure and educative activities in a safe and positive environment. The club is run by Louisa Harvey and Tracy Charlton. Louisa is a qualified teacher with experience of activity based work with this age group. Tracy has been employed as a youth worker for 2 years and has also worked in America on summer camp for 6-16 year olds. Mary Williams a valued local volunteer is also at hand.

In addition we have a team of senior member volunteers. They work on a rota basis and their role is both to support and encourage junior members to be involved, whilst helping with the session and developing their own leadership skills.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### APRIL

EASTER HOLIDAYS - PHOTO GROUP BEGINS. Details available from Tracy in club or phone 702253.

14th -21st NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN WEEK Sponsored clean-up of Sandfords field.

25th - Visit from group of young people from Thailand.

#### MAY

SENIORS AWAKE-A-THON.

#### JUNE

MUSIC MONTH (See opposite)

#### JULY

21st - 28th Photography Group exhibit at Bampton Gallery.

#### AUGUST

SUMMER DAY TRIP Open at all Members and Visitors Details to be confirmed.

### THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who responded to our plea in the last edition. Special thanks to Mr & Mrs Hudson, Alan at the Horseshoes and Steve at the Morris Clown.



## DRAMA ATTACK!

A new drama group, Bampton Acts, have put together a play that looks at HIV, friendship, homosexuality, and pregnancy. The six girls - Sarah Constable, Melanie Jobson, Jody Pound, Vicky Gough, Rose Sollis, and Lindsey Townsend, have worked with Gaye Poole (Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company, pictured below) and Louisa Elliot (from OAYP's Sexual Health Project) to write an original and humorous script, and prepare for its performance.

The project has been running since November. "In that time we have learnt about HIV and people's reactions to homosexuality. We have also learnt a lot about ourselves and each other, and formed closer friendships" says Melanie.

The group's awareness of HIV has increased and they now hope to impart some of this to their audience. You can see the girls show off their acting talents at The Mill, Banbury on March 21st, Henry Box School, Witney on 22nd, and Pegasus Theatre, Oxford on the 23rd. As Melanie says "It definitely shouldn't be missed."



### GIRLS DO US PROUD AT REGIONAL ROCK & POP QUIZ

On Sunday February 11th Vicky Gough and Jessica Pickford represented both Bampton Youth Club and the County in the Regional round of the National Rock and Pop Competition. The contest was held at the Carroll Youth Centre in Winchester. Vicky and Jessica competed against teams from Bedfordshire, Hampshire, Middlesex, and Surrey.

It was an entertaining and close contest with four rounds to test the teams knowledge. At the end of round three Bampton were joint second but in the end Vicky and Jessica had to settle for third place. They were just 8 points behind Carroll and 22 points behind the winners - Spot Youth club from Camberley, Surrey. This was the first time Bampton have represented the county at this event and it was an impressive first performance.

### NATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

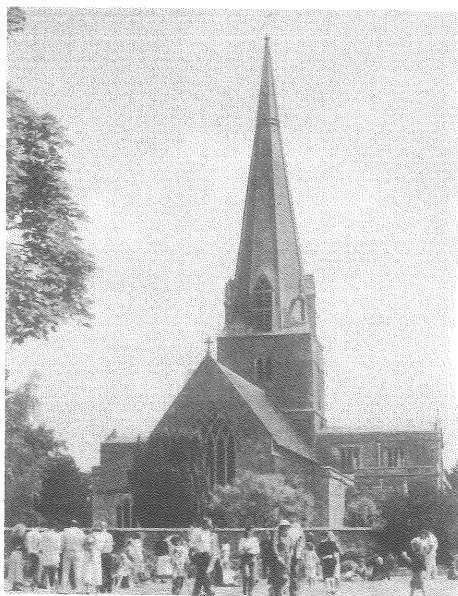
Two local bands Freefall and the Phil and Dave Trio will be performing at the Youth Centre on Sat June 8th as part of the National Music Festival. The Festival is a month long celebration of all kinds of music, and is the brainchild of none other than Mick Jagger! All profits from the gig will go to support the club. More details and tickets will be available late May. For anyone who hasn't heard these bands we guarantee that they will appeal to music lovers of all generations. They're bound to play one of your favourite songs and possibly even the odd Rolling Stones number!

### CAN ANY MUSICIANS HELP?

During the festival we plan to hold music workshops at club. We would like a variety of musical styles to be represented. If any local musicians can offer help with this please contact Tracy Charlton on Witney 702253.

## "OUR CHURCH"

By Bishop Paul Burrough



### St Mary's Church, Bampton

To very many people in Bampton the splendid Church of St Mary stands to grace the whole village by its architectural beauty and to provide two very useful clock faces to the east and south. But beyond that, for many it remains the scene of an occasional funeral or wedding and perhaps a useful footpath if one skirts round the west side.

Yet it is probable that a church has stood on that ground since at least the year A.D. 850 when our local saint, the Abbot Bearwald, was the spiritual head of an area almost the same as the present benefice comprising Bampton, Aston, Clanfield, Lew and Shifford. The remains of his shrine are in the side chapel at St. Mary's but because the brass plate has been removed from the top of his tomb, one can discern the outline of his figure holding the staff of an abbot. His physical remains were probably taken away during the time of Cromwell.

Close beside this lies the stone effigy of Sir Gilbert Talbot who died in 1415, having fought in the Battle of Agincourt and married a Portuguese lady whom he brought to the, then, Bampton Manor, only slight remains of which exist in the present Ham Court. In 1315 Aymer de Valence was given permission to turn this

into a castle - hence the name "Castle View". As the sign outside the Talbot Hotel suggests, Sir Gilbert Talbot produced and bred the Talbot Hounds which were hunting dogs of great fame.

Bampton had grown rich and important through the glove making industry of the Middle Ages and, no doubt, it was for that reason that the later additions were made to enlarge the Church. It seems almost incredible to us that its splendid spire could have been erected in the 13th century and one wonders how many lives may have been lost in such an enterprise. In those days there would have not been any seating in St. Mary's Church so that in a large congregation "the weakest went to the wall", as the phrase goes, for that gave them something to lean against. Probably the nave would also have been used as a market from time to time or for any other village needs for which the Church was the focal point. We who live here have every reason for pride in our Church and the people through the ages associated with it. It must have been well known to St. Frideswide, the patron saint of Oxford, for she fled to Bampton to escape the unpleasant ardour of a zealous suitor for her hand. For a while she looked after pigs in the Weald, and in the east window of the side chapel of "our Church" she is seen near the river with a small pig beside her. If you have never visited St. Frideswide's well near Botley, that is something worth witnessing as evidence of a final link between us and the city and university of Oxford.

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## VOLUNTEER LINK-UP

The Witney charity which links volunteers with those who need help, has moved from its tiny, cramped office in the Youth & Community Centre to more spacious accommodation in the Methodist Church premises in the High Street, Witney.

The increase in volume of work in the office over the last ten years, since **Volunteer Link-up** first moved to the Youth Centre, has meant that larger accommodation was now needed.

Although there are now over 200 volunteers currently registered with **Volunteer Link-up**, more new volunteers are always needed to keep up with the volume of requests for help. Assistance is given not only in Witney but Carterton, Eynsham, Bampton and surrounding villages.

The range of needs for volunteers is vast - from working with children to elderly frail people, and those who have a physical disability, learning difficulty or mental illness. The tasks range from practical help like driving, garden tidying or interior decorating, visiting, supporting young families or those with depression and other mental health problems to helping in day centres, creches, adult basic education classes, committee work and many, many more. Volunteering gives you a chance to use your skills and expertise, develop new interests and meet new people.

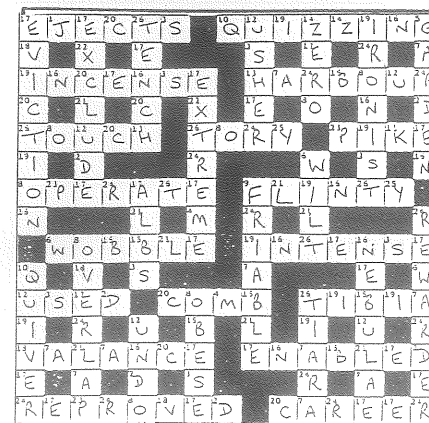
We are looking for more volunteers in all areas of West Oxfordshire, especially those who can drive and are willing to use their cars for transport - mileage expenses are paid at 28p per mile - and those willing to visit elderly, lonely people.

Access to the new office is from the rear of the Methodist Church off Waitrose car park, and from the pathway linking the High Street to the car park by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society office. This pathway is now called Wesley Walk. The new address is the following:

**Volunteer Link-up,  
Methodist Church (rear entrance)  
10 Wesley Walk,  
off High Street,  
WITNEY.**

Tel: (01993) 776277 (as before)  
Office hours are Monday to Friday  
9am - 1pm.

## Solution to BEAM PRIZE CROSSWORD December 1995



Apologies for the usual error and congratulations to all those who spotted it!

Fourteen correct solutions were received and the winner of the £5 prize is -

**Mrs S. Keating,**  
Chetwynd Mead, Bampton.

## Annual Subscription - £2.50

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

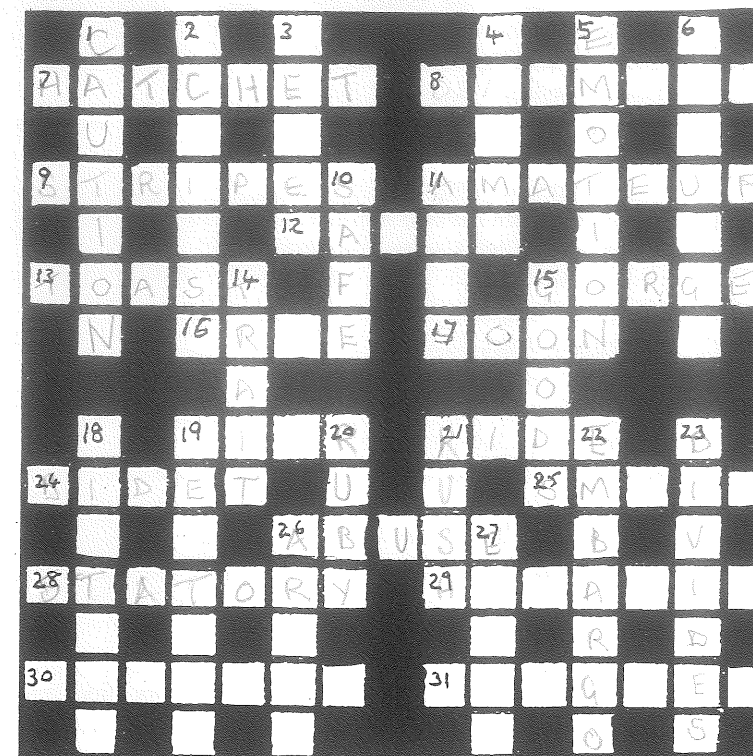
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## THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

7. Tomahawk
8. Fault or Flaw
9. Bands of Different Colour
11. Non-Professional
12. A Syllabus or Index
13. A Proposal of Health, etc
15. Ravine
16. A Gaelic Language
17. Immediately
19. Prospect
21. To Lie at Anchor
24. Bestridable Bath
25. A Distinguishable Flavour
26. Violent Attack
28. Written Law
29. Disfigured
30. Dispose Alternately
31. Suppose

## DOWN

1. Heedfulness
2. Throw into Shade
3. Bring About
4. Imputation of a Fault
5. Strong Instinctive Feeling
6. Mitigate
10. Secure
11. Esparto Grass
14. A Characteristic
15. Merchandise
18. To Wink
19. A Trace
20. A Rich Red Colour
21. An Aquatic Grass
22. Prohibition of Trade
23. Partitions
26. The Second of Two
27. Rains Heavily

The Beam Team would like to donate £5 to the Pumpkin Club as thanks to Mr Bill Govier for the crossword puzzle in this edition of The Beam. The solution will be published in the next issue; if you can't wait until then, send a s.a.e. with your entry to The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bampton. Cash prize of £5 for the first correct puzzle opened on 15th May.



### Diary of Forthcoming Events

#### APRIL

- 5th **The Burford Singers** Burford Parish Church 7.30pm  
 13th **Bampton Gardening Club Coffee Morning** 10 - 12  
 19th **Bampton Village Hall AGM** Village Hall 7.30pm  
 19th **SPAJERS The Legendary Quiz Night**  
 20th **Burford School Fun Night First Race** 7.30pm  
 24th **BEWG Open meeting** Village Hall 8pm  
 28th **Bampton Gardening Club Outing to Stourhead Gardens** Warminster 9am

#### MAY

- 6th **Bampton Pumpkin Club Annual Street Fair**  
 6th **Bampton B.L. Women's Section Table Top Sale** 10 - 4  
 11th **Bampton Gardening Club Coffee Morning** 10 - 12  
 19th **Lions Cotswold Motor Club Motor Show** Burford School 10.30 - 5  
 23rd **Cancer Research Campaign Vanishing Coffee Morning**  
 25th **SPAJERS Annual Shirt Race**  
 27th **Morris Dancing and Childrens Garlands**  
 27th **Bampton B.L. Women's Section Refreshments** Village Hall 9.30 - 3.30  
 27th **Bampton Gardening Club Spring Bazaar** 10 - 2  
 27th **Cancer Research Campaign Car Raffle** Market Square

#### JUNE

- 8th **Bampton Gardening Club Coffee Morning** 10 - 12  
 30th **Bampton Gardening Club Outing to Wisley Gardens**

#### JULY

- 7th **Burford School Summer Fair** 2 - 5.30  
 13th **Bampton Gardening Club Coffee Morning** 10 - 1  
 Please let us have your Notice Board (£1.50) and Diary (free) entries  
 before the next **deadline - 28th June 1996**

### THE BAMPTON BEAM -

is published three times a year and distributed free to all residents in Bampton. Extra copies available from the Post Office and The Cotton Club.

Contributions are always welcome at any time and should be sent to: **The Editor, The Cotton Club, Bridge St, Bampton.**  
**Deadline - 28th June 1996**

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

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

The team would also like to thank **ORCC** for a grant from The Rural Initiatives Fund, and the donation from Mr & Mrs J.A. Pye's Charitable Settlement.

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