

# THE BAMPTON BEAM

March 2008

Volume 23, No. 1

## Bampton Post Office is to stay Open.

by Martin Barrett

I am very pleased to announce that your Post Office has escaped the closure programme. This news came at the end of January, and although the Government/Royal Mail Group have not yet opened the period of public consultation we have been formally notified that we are not to be closed. This is very good news for all in Bampton.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us through yet another trying time. It is through your efforts that the level of business conducted at this office has put us in this safe position. No time for complacency, though. It is clear that all Sub-Post Offices will have to continue their struggle against the Government's determination to close Post Offices wherever it can possibly do so! Next time it will no doubt be a "closure by stealth" exercise.

Over the last few years many products have been taken away from Post Offices thereby slowly eroding incomes. For example: TV licences, MVL savings stamps, pension payments, social services allowances, child benefit payments and so on. We now hear that we are soon to lose the facility to receive payments for some water bills. Even though many of you elected to have pensions paid into the Post Office Card Account rather than yield to the pressure the government agencies brought to bear to convince people (wrongly) that they would be better off using their bank to receive such payments, the footfall of people visiting Post Offices did fall considerably. This led to fewer sales of non-post office goods. All in all a major setback to the viability of Post Offices.

The stealth continues now in the high-tech arena! We are being urged to buy many products over the internet; for example: we can all now download "smartstamps" from Royal Mail, tax our cars, buy Premium Bonds, take out travel, life, car and van insurance online, open savings accounts and purchase various bonds and so on. Very convenient for some no doubt, but all these things represent an ongoing threat. Also, don't forget that the Post Office Card Account will cease to be operative sometime in 2010! The Government has committed something of a U-turn on this inasmuch as they now assure us that there will be a replacement for the PO Card Account. What they have *not* made so public is that Post Office Ltd, will have to put in a bid to operate this replacement. I can assure you there will be a number of interested commercial organisations that will be very keen to submit competing tenders to run the replacement Card Account – it is by no means certain that "son of card account" will be available at Post Offices.

Finally, the government is to cease subsidising Post Offices in 2011! At the moment they subsidise to the tune of some £180 million p.a. I don't need to explain the consequence subsidy withdrawal! Lets hope for a breakthrough and see common sense prevail, and that someone in the current Government develops an awareness of what services their electorate wish for rather than be led by (confused) accountants. Again many thanks for your support. Let us carry on the good fight!

## Flooding...and what is being done

By David Hawkins, Bampton Parish Council

Subsequent to the floods of July last year, WODC formed a Working Group, comprising various agencies and representatives from affected communities, in order to create focus on the situation, especially with The Environment Agency, and to try and clarify as to who is responsible for what – and who will do what! Efforts of the Working Group have led to some short-term measures being implemented - others follow. For more information see the Parish Council page.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

This is a meeting where Parishioners can have their say, get over their point of view, and ask questions! Attendance last year was very good – due no doubt to the feelings amongst some parishioners about the possibility of building houses on Mercury Close Playing Field! At this year's meeting Cllr. Anna Pitt will be showing possible layouts and the type of new equipment which could be used to replace the existing equipment and generally upgrade that facility. She give feedback she received to the questionnaire included in December's 'Beam'.

So do come along and listed to what has happened, and what might be happening in the Village.

The draft agenda is:

### Welcome and Chairman's Report Reports from:

- The Recreation Ground Charity
- The Local Police Report
- The Bampton Exhibition Foundation
- The Bampton Welfare Trust
- Bampton School
- The Bampton Charity Shop
- Possibilities for New Mercury Close Playing Field Layout and Equipment
- Flooding Report
- Emergency Response Plan

## EASTER SERVICES

St Mary's

Good Friday 10am Service

Easter Eve Saturday

8pm Service of Readings

Easter Sunday

10.30am Family Eucharist

Methodist Chapel

Easter Sunday

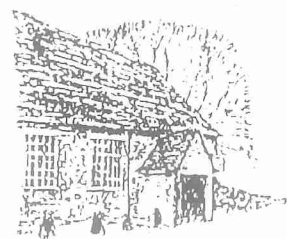
11am Church Anniversary and Family Service

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Carterton

Easter Sunday

Mass 9am St. Mary's, Bampton

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Telephone: 01993 850304

#### BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 8.00pm on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008. All residents of Bampton over the age of 18 are entitled to attend and to vote. The Bampton Village Hall Management Committee is made up of representatives of the various organisations who use the Hall plus five elected members; three other members may be co-opted if needed. New members of the Committee would be very welcome. Nominations can be sent to the Secretary, Haytor, Lavender Square, Bampton OX18 2LR.

#### The Bampton 250 Club

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

October	£25	222	Mrs P Hawkins	Millgreen
	£15	124	Mr P House	Queen Street
	£15	074	Dean Newland	c/o Chandler Close
November	£15	070	Mr & Mrs Ader	Queen Street
	£25	167	Mrs D O'Brien	Chetwynd Mead
	£15	034	Mr & Mrs Williams	Bushey Row
December	£15	176	Mrs P Curtis	Colville Close
	£15	049	Mrs Gerring	Sandfords
	£100	193	Mrs M Temple	Bushey Row
	£25	192	Mrs J Wooloff	Chandler Close
	£15	246	Mrs J Rae	Cheyne Lane
January	£15	072	Mrs C Simmons	Mercury Close
	£15	133	Mrs Pat Smith	The Lanes
	£25	049	Mrs Gerring	Sandfords
	£15	202	Mr J Smith	Church Street
	£15	090	N Tanner	Chetwynd Mead
	£15	007	Mr C Rossie	Church View

#### BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL - HIRE CHARGES

General Hire	£6.00 per hour - meetings, classes etc.
Morning sessions 9am - 1pm	£18.00 - meetings, sales, workshops, parties
Afternoon sessions 1pm - 6pm	£18.00 - meetings, sales, workshops, parties
Weddings*	£65.00 (with bar £80)
Dances*	£65.00 (with bar £80)
Parties*	£65.00 (with bar £80)
Commercial Hire	£11.00 per hour or by arrangement
Badminton (by arrangement)	£4.00 per hour
Hire of furniture	By arrangement
Musical events	£4.50 (Use of Piano by arrangement)

### MOVIES ON THE MOVE

in

#### Bampton Village Hall

Although there is no longer any subsidy available for Movies on the Move the films will continue for the time being in the hope that they will be well supported.

A minimum audience of 45 will be needed for the Village Hall to break even.

The programme for the next few months is:

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm**  
**'And When Did You Last See Your Father?' (12A)**

Starring: Jim Broadbent, Colin Firth  
A parent and a child. The past and the present. Memories and secrets. Can you know someone for a lifetime . . . and not know them at all?

The life of a father. Through the journey of a son.

**Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm**  
**'The Kite Runner' (12A)**

Based on the book by Khaled Hosseini. Starring Khalid Abdalla, Atossa Leoni. In a divided country on the verge of war, two childhood friends, Amir & Hassan, are about to be torn apart forever.

After a glorious afternoon in Kabul and exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament, one boy's fearful act of betrayal will mark their lives forever and set in motion an epic quest for redemption.

Now, after 20 years of living in America, Amir returns to a perilous Afghanistan under the Taliban's iron-fisted rule to face the secrets that still haunt him and take one last daring chance to set things right.

**Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 7.30pm**  
**'Away from Her' (12A)**

Starring: Julie Christie, Gordon Pinsent.

A low-key yet powerful and uplifting story of love renewed amid the ravages of old age.

A short film from the Bampton Archive will be shown before the main film and choc ices are available in the interval.

**Tickets £4.00 are on sale at The Cotton Club, Market Square for 2 weeks in advance and at the door.**

For more information please contact Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321

### BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Brenda Sapsford, Clerk to The Parish Council

#### Mercury Court Playing Field

You will recall that in the last 'Beam' it was reported that some residents had applied for the park to be given Town Green Status. We are still awaiting a decision from the County Council.

#### Public Toilet

I am sure you will all have seen the work that is being carried out on the toilets at the Town Hall.

Originally the council was advised that this would take 6 weeks - a slight under estimate there! When it is complete it will be a 'unisex' facility where the gent's toilet was previously and there will be coin operated cubicles. The entrance to the previous ladies toilet will be boarded up and will be used for a lift when WOA has sufficient money to purchase one.

#### HSBC

The closure of the bank on Thursdays is to be regretted. Cllr. Fred Gray, on behalf of the Parish Council, and the Parish, wrote to the manager at Witney advising of the concern over the reduction of opening hours yet again, and of the larger concern over the possibility of a complete closer in the future - which we were assured a few years ago by the then HSBA manager would not happen. The letter was sent in October, but as yet no reply has been received - so much for 'The Listening Bank' as The Midland Bank was before being taken over by HSBC. Obviously profit before loyalty to long standing customers has played a role here, but for the future, it is to be hoped that the loyal customers will continue to use the facility, in the hope that HSBC will acknowledge this and keep it open.

#### USE IT OR LOSE IT!!

##### Old School Building and Bush Centre Site

The County Council is looking to sell off the site and for the Bush Club and Youth Club to share the old school. OCC held a meeting at which all users of the old school and the Bush Club building were invited, however, in

spite of a very good attendance no positive decisions were made due to a diversity of views as to what should be done on the site.

So far nothing further has been heard from OCC.

#### Recreation Ground, Buckland Road

The facilities and the grassed sports area at the ground continue to be well used. Soccer, cricket, archery, tennis and 5-a-side football and netball in the multisport are just some of the sports that are enjoyed and played weekly throughout the year. Some people continue to exercise their dogs regularly on all of the pitch areas despite signs asking them not to. In addition to the unpleasantness of the fouling of the sport pitches, it creates a health and safety issue for the senior and junior sport teams which use the pitches every week. Also we would ask people to clean up their dog's mess and put it in the appropriate bin provided by the car park.

Another major problem is the damage caused to the grassed sport areas by a few selfish individuals who, with total disregard to damage they cause, drive their cars or motor/quad bikes over the grassed sports areas. We would appeal to all users of these excellent facilities to report any misuse or vandalism directly to the Parish Council Tel: 851476 or Alan Dunbar Tel: 850207 or Ray Willis Tel: 852483.

**PLEASE** help us keep these areas clean for the enjoyment of everybody.

#### Flood Issues Update Bampton

Parish Council continues to host the 2-monthly working group to consider ways of reducing flood water reaching our Village and, should that fail of removing the water as quickly as possible. Representatives from WODC, Environment Agency, Carterton, Brize Norton and Bampton Parish Councils are discussing the options and consider what is affordable and possible in the short term. At the January meeting, we were

briefed by WODC's Chief Engineer who gave the following good news. The clearance of the New Road ditches would be undertaken at the end of January as a one-off gesture. This is great news for Bampton and should allow flood water to flow to the large north/south culvert under Southby rather than overflowing into the New Road properties. **However, it will be up to the New Road house owners to keep their portion of the ditch clear in future.**

A consequence of improving the flow of water from New Road past Ampney Orchard is that the ditch south of Aston Road, that carries this water eastwards towards Aston, must itself be improved to avoid back up. WODC are looking into this task.

WODC hope to have full use of the large flood holding area near the BP garage in Carterton by Easter. This area has been previously owned by Thames Water but WODC will in future direct flood water from the new Carterton estates into this attenuation area. This is also great news for Bampton residents as the flood water should be slowed down for several days. It will also minimise the flooding of RAF Brize Norton and Brize Norton village.

WODC is also looking to construct or find areas that could act as holding ponds immediately to the north of Bampton to slow down flood water either over filling the Shillbrook or allowing water to stream off Mount Owen and reaching New Road, Fox Close, etc, so quickly. This project may take some time to plan and complete.

WODC has received copies of the detailed survey of the Weald drainage system paid for by contributions from Weald residents and organised by David Pullman. This clearly showed the inadequacies of the various drains and culverts in Weald and why the small exit under Mill Green footpath soon backs up and endangers nearby properties. The WODC Chief Engineer hopes to get permission from a local farmer to construct an adequately sized ditch for all Weald flood water to flow unrestricted into the Shillbrook.

The Environment Agency (EA) has agreed to put Phase 2 of the desilting of the Shillbrook south of Bampton

into their 2008 work schedule. Readers will recall that the EA desilted about 150 yards of the river downstream of Clanfield Road last autumn. Although this certainly helped in the heavy rains in mid January, we must keep the pressure on EA to extend the desilting down to the Great Brook. Using the analogy of a bath full of water, a good clear plug hole allows the water to get away quicker even if the taps are still open! Copies of any Parish Council correspondence on flood matters will be displayed on its Market Square notice board. Any further clarification can be obtained from David Hawkins Tel: 851066.

**Environment Agency  
Flood Reviews  
July 2007  
Brize Norton, Clanfield &  
Bampton  
Executive Summary**

Following the recent flooding of July 2007, which affected approximately 300 properties in Brize Norton, Clanfield and Bampton, we have investigated options to improve the level of flood protection. This study aims to outline the extent of the recent floods, record the damage and document the response. Opportunities for any improvements that could reduce flood risk for local residents and businesses will be investigated.

The key findings are that an unusually wet May and June with rainfall up to 195% of the long term average, combined with an exceptional level of unprecedented levels of flow in the Highmoor, Clanfield, Shill and Black Bourton Brooks and their tributaries. Water levels and flows exceeded the capacity of culverts and bridges forcing flood water over and/or around the structures, into roads and residential areas. This caused widespread flooding across the 2 villages and town which was worsened by surface water flooding in places. A number of positive recommendations are made with the objective of reducing the consequences of future flooding. The key recommendations of the review are:

- we will work with riparian owners

to increase awareness of riparian landowner rights and responsibilities on the Highmoor Brook, Clanfield Brook, Shill Brook and local land drainage system to improve maintenance

- we will continue to work with and offer assistance to the Mill Green, Bampton residents on their investigations to construct a flood defence
- we will undertake investigations into the technical and economic justification and feasibility of a Flood Storage Area (FSA) on the Highmoor/Shill Brook
- we will continue with the current maintenance programme
- we will continue to raise public awareness to improve the uptake and effectiveness of Flood Warning Direct – the free access to all, warning service
- installation of a river level gauge on the Shill Brook to enhance the warning service (2008/2009)
- we will continue to work with West Oxfordshire District Council (W.O.D.C) to prevent inappropriate development in the flood plain
- Increased flood resistance and resilience of properties at risk from flooding via flood prevention products and construction techniques
- we will work with communities to produce local flood plans so they are better prepared for future flooding and better able to respond.

**District Council  
Report  
By Mark Booty  
West Oxfordshire District Council**

**Planning applications can now be scrutinised on-line**

In another move to make the planning process more convenient, any planning application submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council since the beginning of January can now be viewed online. This means that anyone, anywhere with access to the internet can simply log on to the Council's website from work or at home and see complete details of the application, including site plans, drawings, photographs and documentation submitted in support of the proposed development.

Since the beginning of the year, anyone submitting a planning application to the District Council online has been able to use an application form that will become standard right across England and Wales from April. Applicants using this online system only need to submit a single form and one copy of each plan. Although people making paper-based applications still need to submit extra copies, it is hoped to streamline the system over time to save on the volume of paper currently required.

**Bigger, better household recycling centre for Witney**

The household recycling centre based in the Welch Way car park has moved to the new Woodford Way car park and has increased the capacity of recycling materials by 40% compared to the old site. Eleven additional recycling bins have been added. New to the site is tetra pack recycling. Tetra pack bins are also being installed at the Coop in Carterton, Sainsburys, Witney and Back Lane, Eynsham.

Householders will be able to bring up to nine different types of recyclable materials to the Woodford Way site, namely:

- Cardboard, paper & books
- food and drink cans
- tins
- Glass
- plastics
- textiles
- tetra packs
- clothes and shoes

Other materials like garden waste, building rubble, car tyres, batteries and any commercial waste must be taken to the Oxfordshire County Council-run tip at Stanton Harcourt. The new Woodford Way car park which opened before Christmas provides 250 spaces including 10 disabled bays. The entire site including the recycling centre provides high security for users with a CCTV camera monitored from the control room at Witney Police Station.

For further information contact on either the planning or recycling contact; Carys Davies or Peter Hawkins Publicity Office Tel: 01993 861615 or 861616 mob: 07771 965360.

**N. J. WOODLEY  
BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

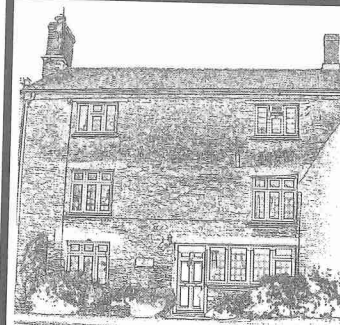
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## Bampton Welfare Trust

Charity No. 202735

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

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

**Trustees:** The Reverend D Lloyd, Dr M Perry, Mrs R Colvile, Mrs J Haslam, Mrs J Newman, Mr C Rouse, Mrs S Phillips, Mr G Wiltshire & Mr G Mills (Aston),

Mrs A Grinsell (Lew).

**Clerk to the Trustees:**

Mr D Pullman,  
Mill Green Cottage, Bampton,  
Tel: 01993 850589.

**Welfare Officer:** Mrs J Newman,  
Leofric House, 81 New Road,  
Bampton,  
Tel: 01993 850755

## County Council Report

By Don Seale  
Oxfordshire County Council

### Briefing Paper for County Councillors Introduction

1. Our response to the flooding in July last year involved three stages covering emergency response, recovery, and longer term prevention. These overlapped to some extent, with the third stage still ongoing and the main subject of this briefing note.

2. Work on longer term prevention has been overseen by an ad hoc grouping of the County Council, five district councils, and the Environment Agency. The group met twice during the autumn last year, and is meeting again in the second half of February. Work to strengthen emergency planning and response as a result of lessons learnt from the July event is ongoing, and indeed was put to good effect earlier in January when flood waters once again rose to a critical level.

### Action taken to date Reviews

1. At a national level, there has been a review by the Environment Agency (published in December) and another still ongoing commissioned by the Cabinet Office and led by Sir Michael Pitt. The Pitt review published interim conclusions and recommendations in December, with the final review due in the spring. Sir Michael Pitt will be visiting Oxfordshire on 18 March to gather views on the interim report. The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee is holding an enquiry, to which the County Council gave oral evidence in November. This is expected to conclude in the early summer.

2. At a more local level, shortly after the emergency response stage concluded, the agencies involved held both a joint debrief and separate more locality based debriefs to identify lessons learned. The outcomes were collated and reported to Cabinet in November. During the autumn, the Environment Agency carried out a number of reviews for specific local areas particularly affected by the July

flooding, with about 15 reviews involving communities in Oxfordshire. The County Council's Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee is currently undertaking a review, and some of the district councils have also done their own reviews.

3. The TV Local Resilience Forum has identified flooding as one of its priority areas for the next year's plans.

### Identifying responsibilities

1. The July event demonstrated, and the subsequent reviews are confirming, that responsibilities for flooding are not always clear both to the agencies involved and the public. The Environment Agency is currently responsible for coastal defence and flood protection for main rivers, but has no overall responsibility for flooding or for smaller watercourses. The County Council is responsible for highways drainage. District councils are responsible for land drainage. Most small watercourses are the responsibility of riparian owners (both ditches bordering their land and watercourses on the land they own), some of whom take those responsibilities seriously while others do not. At the moment there is limited legal enforcement of those responsibilities, although in a few areas the parish council has played a significant role in co-ordinating local preventative action. There is no defined agency having responsibility for water rescues.

2. In order to help in improving public awareness of what individual householders and businesses can do to protect their properties, some district councils in liaison with the Flood Forum have held 'flood mitigation fairs' to advertise the range of self-help options on offer. There was a good attendance from the general public at the fairs.

3. Oxfordshire local authorities (mainly district councils) also have planning responsibilities for new building. The floods last summer highlighted building on the flood plain as a significant issue in some parts of the country, but Oxfordshire

has not been criticised so far by the Environment Agency as having ignored advice in this area. Government planning policy has also relatively recently been strengthened, which should further safeguard future developments. There are also important planning issues in relation to drainage of new developments, regardless of whether in the flood plain (see paragraph 17 below)

### Flood alleviation schemes

1. The Environment Agency is responsible for major flood alleviation schemes, and takes a risk based approach to assessing schemes. These are funded by DEFRA grants and by levies paid by local authorities.

2. The proposal for a scheme for Banbury has been under discussion for several years. Progress has been slow, partly due to funding shortfall and partly to legal difficulties between the various agencies involved. These issues are now being tackled, with the funding gap nearly closed and a management protocol between the various agencies close to agreement, which should open the way for legal difficulties to be resolved.

3. In Oxford, immediate measures such as demountable barriers can be deployed (and were used earlier in January to good effect), and the Environment Agency is also looking into the viability of a mixture of medium term measures and a longer term major alleviation scheme (this would be costly, possibly around the £150m mark).

4. In other parts of the county, the local reviews being carried out by the Environment Agency will be used to identify flood alleviation measures that can be put in place by the Agency and others to better protect smaller communities at risk of flooding in future.

5. Across the region, the Agency is also seeking to increase the range of flood gauges to better predict the timing and extent of flooding where it is likely to occur from main waterways.

### Critical infrastructure

1. The impact of flooding is considerably worsened if critical infrastructure is significantly put out of action as a result, as happened in Gloucestershire in July. Although it appears such infrastructure in Oxfordshire is not so vulnerable, this has been identified as

an area for review as part of local resilience planning. As an outcome from the review of the emergency response last July, it has been recommended the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum ensures realistic and targeted action plans are developed and implemented to protect critical infrastructure sites.

#### What Oxfordshire County Council is doing:

1. The County Council chairs the longer term flooding issues group, which is drawing issues together at officer level. The group has recognised there is a need to formalise reporting on its work, and proposals around this will be taken to the Oxfordshire Chief Executives Group on 21 February so as to achieve greater joined up action planning across the various agencies. The longer term issues group is also collating the lessons learned and recommendations from all the reviews currently underway, and the proposals to chief executives will reflect what is already a clear call for stronger cross agency co-ordination.

2. The county council, as responsible agency for highways drainage, is also looking to improve its work in this area, both directly and through working with others (including riparian owners). The drainage budget for capital schemes has averaged about £500,000 a year and has been topped up to at least £600,000 this year following the July floods. This will enable about 50 local schemes to be put in place. An example of the programme of drainage improvements is in Duke Street in Oxford, where a new pipe is being built to transfer accumulated rainwater to land nearby to reduce the likelihood of pluvial flooding. Gully cleaning is a separate (revenue) budget, at close to £0.9m this year.

3. The County Council is taking a proactive approach to new developments by requiring developers to use sustainable drainage systems for estate roads and encouraging this for estates as a whole. A good example is South West Bicester, where the entire development will incorporate sustainable drainage. We are a leading county council in this field, and are working with district councils to make this approach standard.

4. Consideration is being given to enhancing the emergency response capability of the Fire and Rescue service, although this will have funding implications and would need to be addressed in the context of the overall budget. There remains an issue here to ensure that piecemeal approaches are not taken in good faith by individual authorities to what is a major national requirement which demands consistency. To date there is no indication that government intends to give statutory powers to any body in relation to emergency response.

5. In January the threat of more property flooding meant that response pre-planning had to be put into effect. Learning from the July outcomes an early decision was made to convene Silver command, with all agencies involved across the county. The result was a co-ordinated approach to the provision of sandbags and communication to the public, together with wide ranging visits to at risk areas to promote confidence.

6. Lastly, the Cabinet's budget proposals to Council include extra spending on flooding. There is £200,000 ongoing proposed for increased flood defence levies from the Environment Agency, and £200,000 one off to purchase flood emergency equipment and help fund partnership work on the longer term issues.

### Telecare

The Telecare service has been available in Oxfordshire since October 06, and those who use it will say that is a user friendly success story that can change the lives of older people, the disabled of all ages, and their carers. It enables carers of the disabled or infirm, including those with dementia, to have reassurance that a careful watch is being maintained on the vulnerable person. It can help to ensure that responders are informed when those with dementia wander off or do something potentially dangerous to themselves.

Telecare is a service designed to promote independence, improves safety at home and provides reassurance for carers. It consists of a base unit, linked to a telephone and a personal pendant worn around the neck, on their wrist or on a belt. In addition

there are a number of sensors which automatically monitor the home environment. Most of the sensors are linked to the base unit, without the need for wiring. They detect for potential dangers such as smoke or overflowing water, unusual movements or lack of movement; it can be activated by a carer to ensure that they know where their cared for person is. When activated, the sensor will be responded to by a friendly trained team in the control centre. They are located in Oxford near the Headington roundabout and are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The whole of Oxfordshire is covered from this centre.

The trained staff will assess the nature of the problem and react accordingly. This may be to contact the nominated relative/friend/neighbour who have been provided as key holders and responders or and if necessary the appropriate emergency services.

In Oxford City and the Cherwell District Council Area only; a visiting response service is available. This is for residents who do not have relatives/ friends/ neighbours available to respond. As this service is proving to be extremely useful, Oxfordshire County Council plans to provide this visiting response service across the whole of Oxfordshire in April 2009.

At present, residents in West Oxfordshire who wish to apply for an assessment for the Telecare Service will require 2 responders who hold keys. To request an assessment for the Telecare service.

If you are already in contact with Adult Social and Community Services through a social worker or occupational therapist, contact them directly and ask them if Telecare would help you.

If you have no present contact with Social and Community Services contact the Access Team  
Tel: 0845 0507666.

If you would like to self-purchase only a personal pendant alarm service directly, contact:

Cottsway Tel: 01993 890073

If you would like to purchase a personal alarm and/or sensor service directly contact:

Aid Call Tel: 0800 772266, or

Tunstall Tel: 01977 661234

## News from Bampton C of E Primary School

By Alison Bardsley

### Christmas at Bampton School

December was an exciting and busy time in the school with the Christmas Fair, plays and a pantomime visit. The whole school, from Reception to Year 6 visited the pantomime 'Aladdin' at The Playhouse in Oxford. The children had a wonderful time and were especially entertained when Widow Twanky took a liking to their teacher Mr Atkins and school governor Mr Bardsley!

It is hoped that this will be an annual event.

### Christmas Plays

The Christmas productions were well attended by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. with standing room only as St Mary's church where Key Stage Two performed 'There's Something Amazing going On'. Key Stage One gave a wonderful performance of 'The Nativity' in the school hall.

### Christmas Puddings and Calendars

FOBS would like to say a big thank you to everyone who purchased Christmas puddings and School calendars. The puddings were a great success and will definitely be a yearly thing. So, remember where you can buy your puddings next Christmas.

### Christmas Plates

Every child in the school designed and decorated a Christmas plate. Once the designs were completed a number of parents volunteered to help the children put their design onto a dinner plate. The parents then had the opportunity to purchase these at the Christmas fair. This was a successful fundraising project and the plates made great gifts for family members.

### Christmas Fair

This year the Fair was bigger and better than ever with something for everyone. The children were excited to visit Santa and his helpers in his grotto. There were lots of craft activities as well as the traditional tombola, cake, gift stalls etc. Children (and parents) had the chance to make Christmas decorations and take part in the other activities. The mulled wine

and mince pies added that extra bit of Christmas cheer!

### Yenworthy 2008

Again Yenworthy features as one of the highlights of the school year. On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 am, straight after the Christmas holidays, Mrs Newman's class of year 5 and 6 children loaded their bags, coats, scarves and hats onto the coach that was to take them on their action packed adventure in the wilds of North Devon and Exmoor. All the



Mums and Dads were there to wave goodbye as the children departed. Weather conditions were not the best but this didn't

put the children off hiking on the moors and surfing down the sand dunes! The feedback, post trip, has been excellent. The children, having spent 5 days away from home, apparently loved every minute. They especially enjoyed being challenged by

new and different experiences whilst forming new friendships under very



ents would like to say a big thank you!

different circumstances. As ever the staff enjoyed themselves as well, working with the children in the Yenworthy environment is a rewarding experience and everybody looks forward to a successful trip in 2009!

### Enhancing our School Grounds

The project to improve the school grounds and make them a more exciting place for the children continues. In the past year a willow maze and dome, 17 trees, 8 shrubs and over 100 spring bulbs have been planted with the help of parents and children. An

outdoor stage with some seating, a traversing wall and a rubber matting surface under the trim trail have also been installed. The stage can be used as an outdoor classroom and as a creative play area at lunchtimes. Another traversing wall will be added to the junior playground when the water

table level lowers. Donations from several local charities as well as funding from FOBS have helped achieve this work. The children, staff and par-

### Music at Bampton School

Last year, as part of an initiative to further develop the music tradition in the school, a set of thirty one brass instruments were purchased for the Year 5/6 class. The children from Mrs Newman's have been given a lesson a week in playing the baritones, trombones and cornets – as you can imagine, early on, there was a wonderful noise coming from the class!

However, after just ten lessons, the children gave an excellent first performance at the music assembly in December. They are continuing to make good progress.

The number of children performing in the music assembly meant that it was a tight squeeze for the audience in the school hall. Violinists and guitarists were joined by the two choirs and children playing keyboards, percussion and recorders.

The musical standards at the school are improving year on year.

#### Thomas Leeb:

#### World Renowned Guitarist.

The children were very fortunate to welcome to the school the world renowned guitarist Thomas Leeb who was on a concert tour around Europe. Following a workshop in which the children were able to develop their skills, Thomas performed an amazing concert for the whole school displaying his unique style of guitar playing.

#### A sailing we all went one day .....

Reception Class welcomed a new arrival in their secret garden, in the shape of a sailing boat purchased with a grant from the local authority.

The children can now set sail around the world to see the wonderful sights.

#### Bampton Junior Church (BJC)

The children from Bampton School and the surrounding villages are welcomed to Bampton Junior Church on

a Sunday morning.

We run from 10.45am – 11.25am in the Bush Centre. Children usually come to the church where they listen to the first part of the service and then we troop down to the Bush Centre where we have lots of fun reading bible stories, singing songs and doing art and crafts.

At 11.25am we march back up to church where we join the congregation for drinks and biscuits.

#### BJC dates for the following few months.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Mothers Day Service in Church,

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March,

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April no Junior Church

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Family Service

After this BJC runs every Sunday except for the third Sunday in the month when it is family service.

Why not come along and see what we do?

#### Forthcoming Events

Car Boot Sale – Date to be confirmed Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2.45pm - 4.15 pm

Good Friday Workshop in St Mary's Church – everyone welcome.

With Taize singing, lots of craft ac-



tivities, refreshments and worship as we get ready for Easter.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March - All day cake stall in the Market Square. All donations greatly received.

**If you would like cakes collecting please call Alison: Tel: 01993 850666.**

## NEWS FROM BURFORD SCHOOL

By Mary Alcock

After 13 years as Headteacher, Patrick Sanders retired from the school and the governors, staff and students welcomed Mrs Kathy Haig as his replacement on the first day of the January term.

Kathy Haig says, "I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and tell you something about my history. Some of you may already know that I am a past pupil, I studied my 'O' and 'A' levels at the school from 1978 until 1982. I thoroughly enjoyed my time here and was involved in many trips and activities including a production of Patience!

I qualified as a Home Economics teacher and have taught in a variety of schools in different parts of the Country, including Hull, Keighley, Preston before ending up at Ellesmere Port where I was first deputy.

I am extremely proud and grateful to be able to return to Burford School as Headteacher. I promise you that I will work unceasingly for the good of the students who attend, continuing to build on the excellent reputation Burford School so rightly enjoys."

#### WOBAs

Burford School along with five other schools in West Oxfordshire, has come up with an exciting challenge for 2008; to set up and run their very own Book Award! Students from Years 7-11 are taking part.

The West Oxfordshire Book Award (WOBAs) was launched in December. Reading Groups are being organised to allow students to review, recommend, discuss and finally vote for books they would like to see on the shortlist of four books. This will be voted for by students at the participating schools and will be announced on World Book Day, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The overall prize winning book will be decided by the students themselves from the shortlist and could be either fiction or non-fiction but must have been published in 2007. The name of the prize winning book will be announced at the end of April. A glittering prize-giving ceremony is planned for September where it is hoped that the author will be able to attend.

#### Specialists Status

During the Autumn Term the school was successful in its re-designation as a Technology College. In addition the school was invited to apply for a second specialism of Science. This bid has been successful so from April Burford School will be a combined Technology and Science College. This is fantastic news and will increase the opportunities the school can offer its students.

#### Building Update Phase 3

Approval has been given for the next building phase for a purpose built Drama Studio and eight new classrooms. Building work will begin in September 2008.

#### Burford hosts Argentinians

Burford School hosted St Andrews Scots School from Buenos Aires for three days in January. Teams played 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby and 1<sup>st</sup> XI girls hockey. In the Rugby, Burford lost narrowly 8 – 3, thanks to a Nicolas Allende try which separated the teams in a very hard fought match. Richard Stratford kicked Burford's penalty. In the Hockey, Burford were comfortably beaten 4 – 1, despite a Jane Goodman goal from a nicely worked short-corner.

All in all 40 students were billeted with families during the three day stay, in what turned out to be a very successful visit.

#### Diary Notes

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 for 7.30 pm start, Burford School - **BSA Music Quiz and Curry Night** (with bar) raising funds for a much-needed new mini-bus. This is an evening of great fun; very light hearted and somewhat worrying if you can't remember the names of tunes that you've sung along to for years. (Top Tip - bring a teenager, they know everything!). Tel 01993 823303 for further details.

#### A Village Nativity

By Suzy Robinson

It was a cold, clear night as Mary and Joseph begin their journey, with Jemima the donkey, to search for room at a local inn. They were met at the gate of St Mary's by a large crowd ranging in age from 1 to 81 (the sight of which proved a bit too much for

Jemima who had to take a 'breather'!) The crowd were soon singing carols (led ably by the vicar), as Mary and Joseph followed their angel-held star and headed for the first of the village inns. Behind them came a group of shepherds, drawn from their 'fields' by their own star-carrying angel. They were a motley (and slightly familiar looking) crew, with their shepherd's crooks and cuddly lambs tucked under their arms. And then there were the 3 wise men carrying gifts (not quite from the East!). Guided by their own angel and star,



they battled the crowds to pursue their mission of finding a new born king. They were, indeed, three wise, stunningly-dressed, handsome and much respected members of their community!

On arrival at the first inn they found, The Horse Shoe, Joseph knocked to be greeted by a firmly delivered 'Sorry, but there's no room at the inn' from Alan the landlord. The crowd sighed in unison and sang another carol to keep up the weary couple's spirits. A few yellow-coated 'heavies' persuaded those inside the inn to part with some cash for Bampton Primary and The Spajers and the procession then continued over the road to try The Talbot and The Romany, only to receive the same response, delivered in no uncertain terms! After more carols and more collecting, there was nothing for it but to head for the next and last of the village inns: The Morris Clown. It was a long trek but the carollers sang cheerfully. On arrival at this, his last hope, Joseph knocked loudly..

After a while, the stern looking inn-keeper (known to his regulars as Steve) opened the door. The crowd (adults and children alike) held their breath. 'Is there any room at the inn?' enquired Joseph. 'No, there's no room at the inn' boomed Steve! A great communal gasp, followed by horrified silence! 'But' continued Steve (after his dramatic pause – a career on the stage clearly beckons), 'there's a stable at the back and you're welcome to spend the night there'. What a relief! The crowd breathed and we all followed Mary

and Joseph round to the back of the inn.

As Mary and Joseph disappeared into the stable (and the shepherds and wise men into the inn!) to await their cue), the children were

able to give Jemima all the love and attention she deserved after her long journey. They were then invited in to be the first to see the new (and real!) baby Jesus in Mary's arms. The shepherds and wise men eventually arrived with their gifts and all the adults then crowded into the stable. Grouped around the crib, we joined in a final carol 'Away in a Manger' and in prayer led by the Vicar. It was a very special moment and the end of a fine village celebration of Christ's birth on that first Christmas Day.

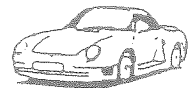
Ever the perfect landlord, Steve had provided the children with hot chocolate, kindly served by the Friends of Bampton Primary, who also provided some very able Marshals for the evening, as did The Spajers.. The grown ups headed for Steve's tasty mulled wine and Jemima stayed on outside the stable for more pats and cuddles from her fans. We raised £130 and many thanks go to all our local publicans, to those who took part and helped and supported in any way and also to those who came along!

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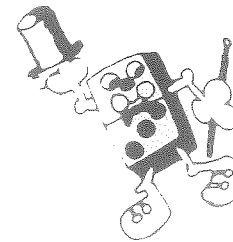
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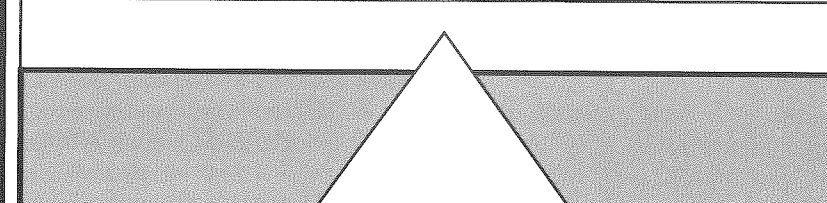
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Dear Editor

I was very pleased to receive my copy of the 'Beam' with all the flood news. It must have been dreadful and my sympathy goes to all those who suffered and will continue to suffer for a long time.

Here on a dry hillside we were safe but our shop at the foot of the hill has 1ft of water in it. There is plenty of criticism of councils who did not carry out preventative measures but I know no complaint from Bampton against the MOD who were responsible for the acres of tarmac at Brize Norton which must have caused the huge quantity of water pouring into the Shillbrook. Prior to this the water would have been absorbed by the farmland which it covered. We cannot predict such a disaster but floods such as Bampton suffered in July will continue as long as Brize Norton acts as a sluice.

Yours faithfully

K.M Wylie. Miss Wylie lived at The Beam for many years and now lives with her daughter Julie in Gloucestershire.

Dear Editor

I am writing to let off steam – about the mindless vandalism which appears to be centred on our church at the moment.

This is the second time within months that the church has been attacked, without doubt by some infantile brainless moron kids (surely no adult), who have nothing better to do than destroy whatever and wherever they can.

Don't they realise that the Church belongs to them too? Hundreds of years of history are there – the stained glass windows are irreplaceable (look that big word up children), and will cost a huge amount to repair.

People visit our Church from all over the world. So many people in the village give freely of their time and energy and not to mention money to keep the roof in good shape and maintain the bells – whether or not they are church-goers.

Apart from anything else, this is the house of God – not that that would mean anything to sub-standard kids like those.

I pity the parents – they must envy people who can be proud of their chil-

## LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

dren's achievements. I also hope those lame-brained vandals are proud of themselves; certainly no one else ever will be.

Name and address supplied to the editor.

Dear Mrs Gray

I read the article in the latest Beam with growing incredulity and emotion. However, I will respond objectively.

- The Artic will very soon be gone for the first time for at least a million years; that is proof.
- Sea level will rise because of the Greenland ice sheet, on land, which too is breaking up & melting
- The Antarctic (on land) is also melting: it contains the remaining 90% of the world's fresh water
- 'Humans' came to the brink of extinction before due to climate change this time maybe not
- Our race is a recent arrival designed to suit Earth now, not as it was, or will be
- Extinction is the norm; some ~99.99% of all species that lived on Earth are gone
- Whether we have caused this change is irrelevant, it is plainly happening just read the IPCC report
- The Sun is certainly not the cause, as has been recently proven. Again more C4 nonsense
- Global warming by carbon dioxide rescued life from Snowball Earth (BBC1 Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November)
- We need to deal with cause and symptoms, it is too late to stop it, just avoid it worse
- Electrifying the railways makes no environmental sense at all: such power "costs the Earth"
- Obvious measures to reduce the energy squandered by each family house and car would help
- The USA is wasting \$bns on untried technology solutions to stem the tide, rather like Canute
- The UK government spends 1,000 times more money on nuclear energy than green energy
- Nuclear is not green, ¾ of the energy used is just lost, not to mention

waste 'disposal'

- The Gulf Stream has been falling in strength every year since measurements began, and directs heat increasingly southwards so Northern Europe is likely to re-freeze back to as we were ~9,000 years ago

I know of no scientists living off this "Golden Egg" we just see the obvious and care about the future for our children. We ('these scientists') are human too.

I agree with one thing, better public transport, in fact why not use our taxes to make it free? That might just reduce 1 person car journeys. As for the floods, the putative excuse for this article, who knows?

Stuff happens.

Yours sincerely

Dr A.W.N Kynaston-Pearson

*The following is in response to the above letter - and will be the last published on climate change, as per the moratorium on the chicanes which Don still tries to get round on occasions! Ed.*

Dear Editor

First of all I would like to thank all of the people who have either telephoned me or caught me in the Village and thanked me for publishing the article on the flooding and climate change in the last Beam. The typical response was "I thought that I was alone thinking this was a load of rubbish". To "it's the biggest scam going"! The above letter from Dr Kynaston-Pearson on the subject is the only one received, which is something of a surprise, although no doubt others do not agree with my views; but that's democracy - which we still have although many would prefer such views as mine to be the subject of censorship - no dissent allowed!

In response to Dr Kynaston-Pearson's letter, I have the following response.

### The Artic Ice Cap

There is no 'proof', as Dr Kynaston-Pearson suggests, that the Artic Ice Cap will 'soon be gone'. There is only hypothesis, opinion, projection, etc, but no proof. Proof will only be evident if and when the Artic Ice Cap actually melts, and this is certainly not certain at this moment in time. This type of response from Dr Kynaston-Pearson is, however, typical of what the environmentalists, the IPCC (the

UN's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change), the media and others do to try and convince us of 'the facts'. They portray hypothesis, opinion, projection, and, very importantly, the output of computer programs as fact. They are not. They are hypothesis, opinion, projection, and the output of computer programs – which can be made to produce whatever the programmer wants them to produce. And it is not for the first time that such reporting has been questioned. The following is one example - there are many!

'The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Third Assessment Report concluded that "it is likely that the rate and duration of the warming of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is larger than any other time during the last 1,000 years. The 1990s are likely to have been the warmest decade of the millennium in the Northern Hemisphere, and 1998 is likely to have been the warmest year."

The primary basis for this assertion was a climate reconstruction that produced the so-called 'hockey stick' shaped graph, which shows that the 20<sup>th</sup> century was unusually warm compared to preceding centuries. A new evaluation of the underlying data used to create that graph by Canadian businessman Stephen McIntyre and economist Ross McKittrick raises serious questions as to its validity. McIntyre and McKittrick examined the construction and use of the data set of proxies for past climate, which were used to estimate the temperature record from 1400 to 1980. Their review found four categories of error: collation errors, unjustified truncation and extrapolation, use of obsolete data, and calculation mistakes. Correcting for these errors, they found that temperature for the early 15th century was actually higher than the 20th century'.

In essence what they are saying is that the data was manipulated invalidly, and hence the hockey stick was discredited.

Interesting to note that Dr Kynaston-Pearson says that the Artic Ice Cap melted around 1 million years ago. So it has happened before? It would not have been possible for man to be the culprit then, so presumably it was the Sun that did it; and a good hypothesis

## LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

is that the Sun will be responsible again if and when it happens; not man.

### Greenland's Glaciers

There are some glaciers on Greenland melting, but at the same time there are glaciers on Greenland actually growing as well - see 'The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming' by Christopher C Horner. The latter are never the subject of comment from the environmentalists and the media, etc. They only report that which supports their argument.

### The Antarctic

Some places in the Antarctic are not melting – in fact the temperature in the middle doesn't seem to be rising at all according to some sources. And bits breaking off are not new – we just didn't have the satellites way back, or the number of environmentalists and eco-tourists going down there with their cameras to take photographs of them! Oh, and bits also break off the Arctic Ice Cap on a regular basis, and have been doing so for a long time; remember the Titanic! It's not new!

Note that the sea level rise issue is not an exact science by any means – just like climate change – although we are supposed to believe that it is. And it is subject to much controversy – controversy covered in many reports such as that by Dr. Nils-Axel Morner, former head of the Paleogeophysics and Geodynamics department at Stockholm University in Sweden, viz: 'The IPCC falsified data showing a sea level rise from 1992-2002'. Falsified data!!!

Another fiddle? Why? To add 'evidence' to the story they want us to believe in my view.

Oh and by the way, the IPCC has again recently reduced its estimate of sea level rise predicted over the next century because of melting ice by half to around 17" - and even that's in dispute! Wonder what their next estimate will be?

Note that I am not arguing that climate change is not happening, but that it is not due to man. So, even if the Antarctic and Greenland's glaciers are melting at the moment - they have done so before - this is not proof that

man is the cause. Environmentalists just throw this type of thing at us - with great photographs of course - and play it as 'proof' in trying to get us to believe it all. I don't.

### Humans

Dr Kynaston-Pearson, you have me here – when was that? Must have been way back since I haven't heard about it; and if it was way back it was surely before man was pumping out CO2. So man-made CO2 emissions were not the cause of this. What then? The Sun? Can only be the Sun.

### IPCC Report

I'm astounded by the comment. "Whether we have caused this change is irrelevant, it is plainly happening just read the IPCC report" So we might not have caused or are causing the change! If we are not causing this change then it is very relevant, because we are sinking billions of pounds into research on the subject instead of spending those billions providing flood defences etc. We are pouring billions into wind farms which don't work – a report published for the Government last year advised that wind farms on average achieve outputs of only between 12% and 20% of their installed capacity. Note that installed capacity is always quoted by proponents, and is not achieved production. That's one of the reasons your electricity bills are so high – wind farms come with various grants which we all pay for.

### The Sun

When the Sun goes south, the northern hemisphere gets colder; and when it comes back up it gets warmer. If the Sun is not controlling the temperature then what is? The correlation would seem pretty sound!

### Snowball Earth

The BBC website says 'There is a controversial theory that for millions of years the Earth was entirely smothered in ice, up to one kilometre thick. The temperature hovers around -40°C everywhere, even in the tropics and the equator. If it did, then virtually nothing could survive this ferocious climate. There are some tantalising geological clues that show this theory may be true but the problem is, the clues and the Snowball Earth theory defy the laws of nature.'

In addition, on another part of the website we find: 'Geoscientists in



Scotland say they have evidence to disprove the controversial "Snowball Earth" theory - the idea that the planet was completely encased in ice just over 600 million years ago.

So a lot of consensus then.

And from 'Wikipidia': 'The carbon dioxide levels necessary to unfreeze the Earth have been estimated as being 350 times what they are today, about 13 percent of the atmosphere. Since the Earth was almost completely covered with ice, carbon dioxide could not be withdrawn from the atmosphere by the weathering of siliceous rocks. Over 4 to 30 million years, enough CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, mainly emitted by volcanoes, would accumulate to finally cause enough greenhouse effect to make surface ice melt in the tropics until a band of ice-free land and water developed'.

So we have had CO<sub>2</sub> levels 350 times what they are today? At this moment, CO<sub>2</sub> comprises 0.054% of the atmosphere. Man-made CO<sub>2</sub> is approximately 5% of that, or approximately 25 parts per million. Minute.

#### Cause and Symptoms

The cause is the Sun, not CO<sub>2</sub> and there is nothing we can do about it. Let's deal with the *effects* of our ever changing climate - and install those flood defences.

#### Electrifying the Railways

Environmentalists love the railways as a means of transport - so do I, except they could be made very much more reliable and efficient - like the Continent! Electrifying them makes excellent sense. Not only would the equipment be much more fuel efficient - diesel locomotives are no where near as efficient as electric ones - they would also provide less pollution - both emissions and noise - and would be more reliable. Left to me I would be building more railways and moving freight to them - as well as passengers by subsidising them as is done on the Continent.

#### Energy Efficiency

I am all for energy efficiency, but let's not penalise people who need larger cars for their families in a draconian and unfair fashion - i.e. Ken Livingston's new tax on large cars in London.

#### USA

Is *not* the only country wasting billions in developing new technology -

### LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

including wind farms - we are, as are a fair number of countries around the globe. Let's put the money into projects which have real benefit - e.g. flood defences, nuclear power plants.

#### Nuclear Energy

The UK Government is not spending a lot of money on nuclear at the moment, since any new nuclear stations will have to be built by private companies - which I totally disagree with; they should be built under the auspices of the government. However, as a proponent of nuclear power let me point out that out of a 1000MW nuclear station you are likely to be able to get about 900+MW produced on average (90% availability), *and when you want it*. Wind turbines would give you 200MW maximum of the 1000MW installed capacity on average if you are lucky - and not always when you need it since the wind is a little bit variable.

In my view wind turbines make little sense, and if they were not subsidised, would not fly commercially.

Nuclear stations are much more efficient than the 25% quoted by Dr Kynaston-Pearson - actually 32% to 35% - and are certainly very much more efficient than wind farms at 12% to 20% - and which are not totally 'green' since they destroy the visual environment.

However, there is a nuclear technology being developed which is the Pebble Bed Reactor (PBR) which promises efficiencies of 40% to 50%, and uses a closed-loop gas cycle using an inert gas such as helium. Hence little to no emissions to the atmosphere.

Since nuclear power is the only real alternative to fossil fuels, unless we cover the whole country with wind farms (not sure even that would be enough to replace our existing supplies!) and accept intermittent electricity supply, then we should be pursuing this technology, until nuclear fusion arrives - which gets rid of the radio activity problem which fission reactors have. This is based on the premise of course that we wish to maintain, or even enhance, our pre-

sent lifestyles, and allow developing countries to develop - not sure that this is what the environmentalists want actually!

#### Gulf Stream

Scientists reported in 2005 that the Gulf Stream was slowing. The self same scientists reported in 2007 that the new data did not support this conclusion.

#### Scientists

The scientists who are against the man-made global warming theory are the ones generally pilloried as being supported by big business. Their bank managers wish! There is no doubt however, that there are thousands of scientists worldwide living off the fruits of global warming research. I believe they could be better employed on other research.

I have children and want a good future for them and future generations. But blaming man-made CO<sub>2</sub> could very well destroy that future since the amount of money going into all of these schemes is likely to have a long lasting detrimental effect on our economy, and the economies of many other nations.

For instance, the latest directive from the EU will mean, if complied with by our Government, that by 2020 around 40% of our energy will have to be produced by 'renewables'. That would mean, say some experts, having to build another 8000 wind turbines - destroying a lot of countryside in the process. This in turn will cost us, yes we the people, billions in subsidies to get them built. It could ruin our economy. All because of the man-made CO<sub>2</sub> lobby!

By the way, the French produce 80% of their energy needs by nuclear power, so not much challenge on emissions for them. And the Germans managed to negotiate an emissions target *higher* than their actual emissions, so not much challenge for them either! They will be laughing all the way to the bank.

But it could be a major disaster for Britain!

Want to read more, then read 'Scared to Death' by Christopher Booker & Richard North, which covers not only global warming but also some other 'scares' such as salmonella and BSE. Copy available in Bampton Library.

Fred Gray

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The new Pension  
Scheme is a threat to  
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## MAYFIELD & GUY

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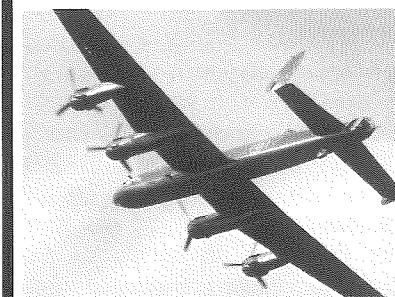
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[www.consumerprotectionagency.co.uk](http://www.consumerprotectionagency.co.uk)

### ABINGDON Air & Country Show

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008 10am - 5.00pm

Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire



#### Attractions Include:

3 Hour Afternoon Flying Display  
Static Aircraft / Aircraft Fly In  
Arena Demonstrations  
Crafts Fayre and Trade Stalls  
Kids Amusements  
Vintage & Classic Vehicles  
Abingdon Car Works MG Rally  
Pleasure Flights  
Onsite Refreshments & more.

#### ADMISSION: On the Gate

Adult £10, Senior Citizens & Children 5-15yrs £5, Under 5s Free

#### ADVANCE TICKETS: On Sale Now!!

Adult £8, Senior Citizens & Children 5-15yrs £4, Under 5s Free

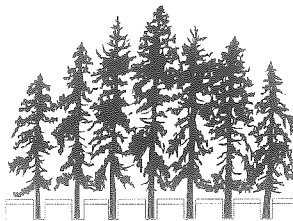
Enquiries: 01235 529142

Email: [neilsevent@aol.com](mailto:neilsevent@aol.com)

Website: [www.abingdonfayre.com](http://www.abingdonfayre.com)

## Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman, Chairman



### BEWG

We have had no open meetings since the last issue of the Beam. Our programme for 2008 starts with our AGM on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March when Frank Sanger will be entertaining us with a fairly light hearted talk on the law. The talks scheduled for the remainder of 2008 are: "Ponds for People" by Rod d' Ayala on 24<sup>th</sup> April; "The Oxford to Fairford Railway" by Stanley Jenkins on 31<sup>st</sup> July; and "Wildlife Crime" by PC Simon Towers on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Open meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 8:00pm All are welcome, with attendance free for members, £2 for non-members, or join at the door. Planning proposals for Bampton have remained fairly low key for the past months and throughout 2007. The only large development application was for eight houses on a disused pig rearing site at Glebe Farm, Weald. This was refused by WODC in December by reasons that it was "beyond the limits of the settlement in an area of open countryside not well served by public transport or pedestrian/cycle facilities, the proposal represents an inappropriate and sporadic form of unsustainable development" and "the provision of only 3 of the units of accommodation as affordable housing with insufficient justification for provision at less than the usual required standard the proposal fails to make sufficient contribution to meeting the affordable housing needs of the area". An application for a development, understood to be for 12 affordable and 8 commercial rent dwellings on another site in Weald is expected at any time now. A decision is awaited from the County on an application from local residents for the playground at Mercury Close to be registered as a "village green".

We are also awaiting proposals from the County on two further matters. The first is the production of a short list of mineral extraction sites, which could include a large site adjacent to Clanfield, Bampton, Aston and Cote. Due to problems that OCC have had with a related planning principles document, the decisions on, and the publication of the short list has been delayed until sometime in 2008. Copies of relevant OCC mineral and waste publications are available in libraries, OCC offices and the OCC web site [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/links/public/mineralsandwastepolicy](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/links/public/mineralsandwastepolicy) where progress and other information are posted. The second outstanding proposal from the County relates to redevelopment of the Bush Club site. Details of the proposed redevelopment, including how the Bush Club will be accommodated, are still awaited. If you would like to know more about BEWG or would like to join us please contact the Membership Secretary, Ann Norman Tel: 850823, or email [bewg@sagaman.co.uk](mailto:bewg@sagaman.co.uk). You can also see our entry on the Bampton web site at [www.bamptonoxon.co.uk/bewg.htm](http://www.bamptonoxon.co.uk/bewg.htm).

### Bampton's Loss

We are very sorry to have to tell you that two very well known Bampton ladies recently passed away, namely Mrs Lucy Slatter, and Mrs Hughes-Owens. Mrs Slatter (nee Fox), was for many years the cook at Bampton's Old School, and also was in charge of the kitchens when Bampton Primary School first opened. Mrs Hughes-Owens was married to the late headmaster of the Old School, and taught quite a few of us to cook and sew long before the chefs on the television came along. Mrs Hughes-Owens moved from Bampton to live with her daughter a few years ago. I am sure the people of Bampton, along with The Beam Team, would like us to express our condolences to the families.

## May Garlands

By Ruth Wheeler  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May

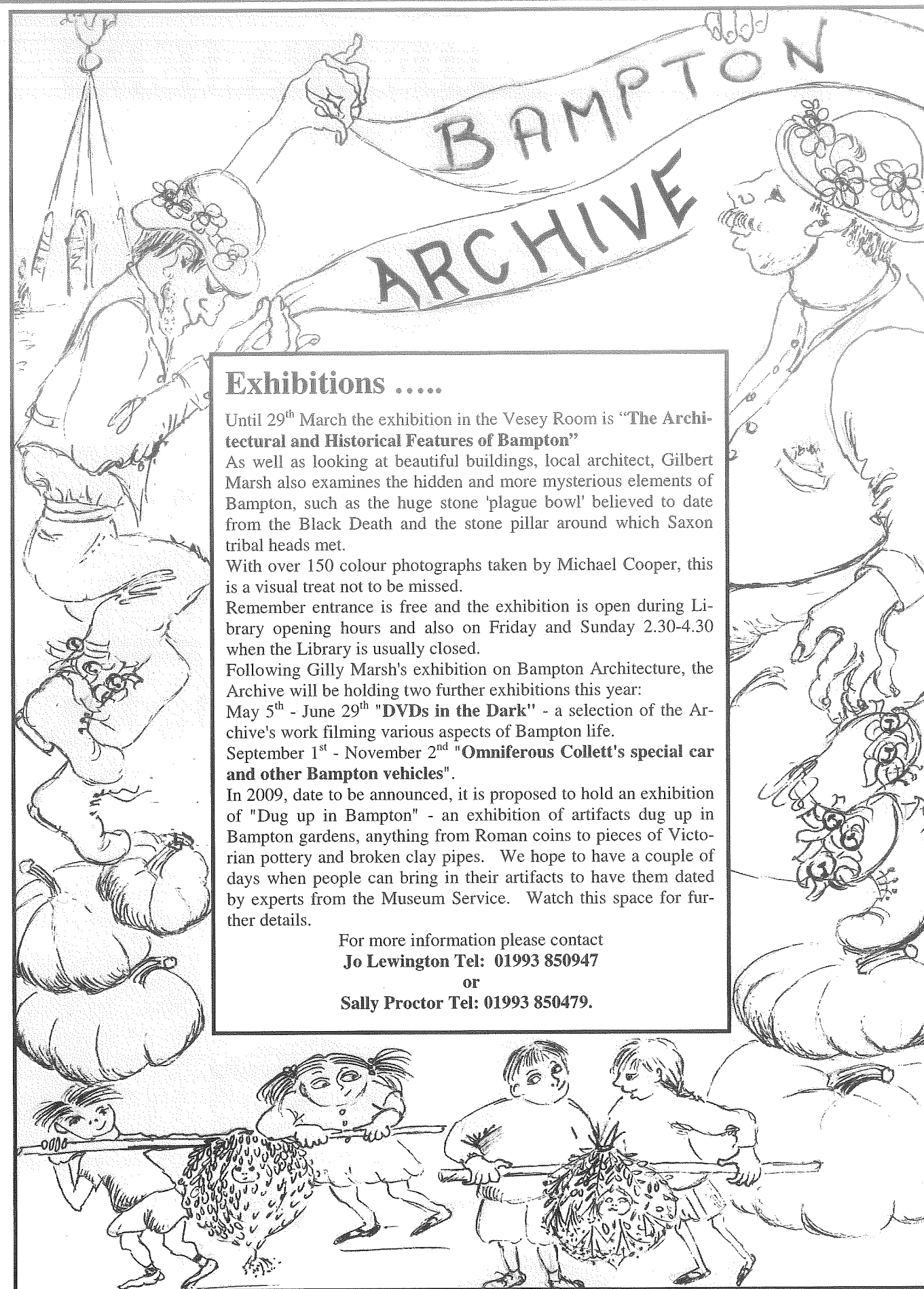
It will soon be Spring Bank Holiday and it would be lovely to see some garlands brought to The Market Square to be judged that day - 11am. A garland doesn't have to be elaborate; a simple one is just as welcome. So please children - and mums and dads (all can help make one) - help to keep this old tradition going!  
**To make a garland**  
Pick as many wild flowers as you can find. Bunch them into small bunches and tie on to a frame - which is made of two circles of willow wood placed inside one another, tied top to bottom. A small doll is placed inside. The garland can then be carried on a stick. The top of the garland can be made up of any kind of flower, but wild ones must be up the sides. After judging the garlands can be taken to the church. Please will you remember it is your responsibility to remove them the next day as they make quite a mess on the church floor when the petals drop. Thank you.

## EASTER BONNET PARADE & RAFFLE

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
in  
The Talbot  
Market Square, Bampton  
Starts at 2pm

In aid of  
The Helen House Hospice

For more information contact  
Ruth Wheeler  
Tel: 01993 850808



### Exhibitions .....

Until 29<sup>th</sup> March the exhibition in the Vesey Room is "The Architectural and Historical Features of Bampton" As well as looking at beautiful buildings, local architect, Gilbert Marsh also examines the hidden and more mysterious elements of Bampton, such as the huge stone 'plague bowl' believed to date from the Black Death and the stone pillar around which Saxon tribal heads met. With over 150 colour photographs taken by Michael Cooper, this is a visual treat not to be missed. Remember entrance is free and the exhibition is open during Library opening hours and also on Friday and Sunday 2.30-4.30 when the Library is usually closed. Following Gilly Marsh's exhibition on Bampton Architecture, the Archive will be holding two further exhibitions this year: May 5<sup>th</sup> - June 29<sup>th</sup> "DVDs in the Dark" - a selection of the Archive's work filming various aspects of Bampton life. September 1<sup>st</sup> - November 2<sup>nd</sup> "Omni-ferous Collett's special car and other Bampton vehicles". In 2009, date to be announced, it is proposed to hold an exhibition of "Dug up in Bampton" - an exhibition of artifacts dug up in Bampton gardens, anything from Roman coins to pieces of Victorian pottery and broken clay pipes. We hope to have a couple of days when people can bring in their artifacts to have them dated by experts from the Museum Service. Watch this space for further details.

For more information please contact  
Jo Lewington Tel: 01993 850947  
or  
Sally Proctor Tel: 01993 850479.



# THE SPAJERS

## Big Spring Cleanout

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008

11am - 3pm

How often have you thought about going to a car boot sale with all your old furniture, books, toys, tools, etc but loading it into the car, out of the car, back into the car at the end seemed too much trouble, well this way you don't have too.

Set up a table in your garden or garage and wait for buyers to turn up. How about your club, charity, or organisation having one? If you don't want to use your garden/garage then why not have a tabletop at the village hall (limited number available)

The S.P.A.J.E.R.S will advertise it extensively at all the big boot sales and local towns etc, we will provide a map of the participating houses to potential buyers, and run a competition to attract them to attend each site...

All it will cost you is £6.00 payable to S.P.A.J.E.R.S and your time for the day, all other profit is yours.

Contact Mat and Jackie Green on **01993 850760** for more information and to book your spot.

**DEADLINE.. booking forms to be returned before**  
12 noon Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2008

## The Annual GRAND PLANT SALE

will take place on  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 10am  
at  
Eagle House,  
Church View, Bampton

We sell big plants for small money - bedding and perennials, herbs and vegetables, shrubs and trees and, of course, a special line in pelargoniums and geraniums.

The frosts will be over (we hope) so come and stock your garden with colour for the summer.

Any contributions of plants, shrubs, tree, vegetables, etc. would be gratefully received by Jo Lewington, Sandford Cottage, Bridge Street or the Pages, Eagle House either before or on the day.

All proceeds to the  
The Bampton Archive  
and

Bampton Zimbabwe Project

# Morris Dancing Day

## Craft Fair and Refreshments

### Village Hall

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am - 5.00pm

Tea - Coffee

Bacon Baps & Filled Rolls

(Morning)

Cakes & Biscuits

(Afternoon)

Refreshments in aid of the

**Royal British Legion**

(Bampton Branch)

## SPAJERS News

By Don Rouse

Well 2007 was a very good year for the SPAJERS, culminating in them being able to give our members the biggest ever Christmas gift. This was made possible by you, the people of Bampton, being so generous in your help and supports at all our events.

### Bonfire Night

Our year ended very successfully with the Bonfire Night raising £2,417.92, which was shared between the SPAJERS, Fire-fighters, Band and Pig Roasters (Oxford Children's Hospital), Bampton Pre-School Playgroup, Church Roof Fund, and the Girl Guides - a true Village Community event that we shall now be running annually.

### Josie's Draw

Josie's Draw was again a brilliant success raising over £800. Many thanks to the new Landlord of the Romany as well as Josie's family and their many friends. Every year the whole village supports Josie, and long may it continue.

### The Mummings

The final money raising event for the



year was, as usual the Mummings. This year although they were short of two venues, they still managed to exceed last year's record amount, the total being £1098. So it is a big thank you to all those of you who invited this 'Scruffy' bunch into your homes and gave so generously.

### Quiz Night

We have arranged another exciting year with many fun and fund-raising events planned. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding our annual Quiz Night in the Village Hall. As usual, teams of

six will try to claim the title of 'The Best Brains of Bampton'! This annual event is always great fun and in typical SPAJER's tradition, raises funds whilst having fun. Get your team booked in now to save disappointment; contact Roger Snow our secretary Tel: 01993 850113.



The Christmas Shopping Trip was a success, and we are looking at something similar again this year - our members like the idea of a five to six hour jaunt. You will be informed in the usual way of our next venture. Another innovation that was used for this trip was getting our members to phone their acceptance through to the organiser. We thought it worked well and allowed us to actually talk to our members. We would appreciate your comments on this or any other aspects of the SPAJERS, although for our annual seaside trip we will keep to the traditional format. I.e. using the Post Office as a base.

### Bampton's Village Garage Sale.

The next big event is our annual Garage Sale. This event has really taken off. It was thought up by our Chairman and his wife and is now being copied by lots of other villages. A bit like our Shirt Race! This will be on the Sunday of the first May Bank holiday, 4<sup>th</sup> May. This phenomenon was established three years ago and is now an important part of the Village

calendar. I am going to hand over this column for Jackie Green to update with the details for this year.

Hi Folks its come to that time of the year again, you've seen 'Cash in the attic' and 'Flog it' on the television, so now comes No TV crews, but stalwart members of the SPAJER's team

helping you to sell your hidden treasures etc. We are proud to announce this, our fourth, 'Big Spring Cleanout'. Don't miss out on the fun and the chance to make a few pounds. Call the Garage Sale Hotline now: Tel: 01993 850760 and speak to Mat or Jackie. **Thanks Jackie.**

### Future Events

Our AGM is planned for the early part of

May. Posters will be announcing the date and venue nearer the time. If you are interested in our organisation and would like to help, please come along or get in touch with our Secretary Tel: 01993 850113.

Other plans for the coming year include the usual SPAJER created traditions.

Shirt Race on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May, please observe the important notice elsewhere in the Beam!

And The Donkey Derby is on the August Bank holiday Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> - don't panic there will be another 'Beam' before then!

### Membership

The National pension age has been altered, but we in the SPAJERS refuse to go along with these new rules. Our criteria for membership is that women must be a minimum of 60 years and men 65. Just like it always has been. And you must have lived in Bampton for a minimum of six months. If you know of anyone who fits that criteria and is not a member please let us know - after obtaining their permission first of course. Our 'keeper of the lists' is Jeff Dando Tel: 01993 850643. We do rely on you to help us keep up to date with everything it's a case of Bampton people helping us to help Bampton people.

All the way from Bampton

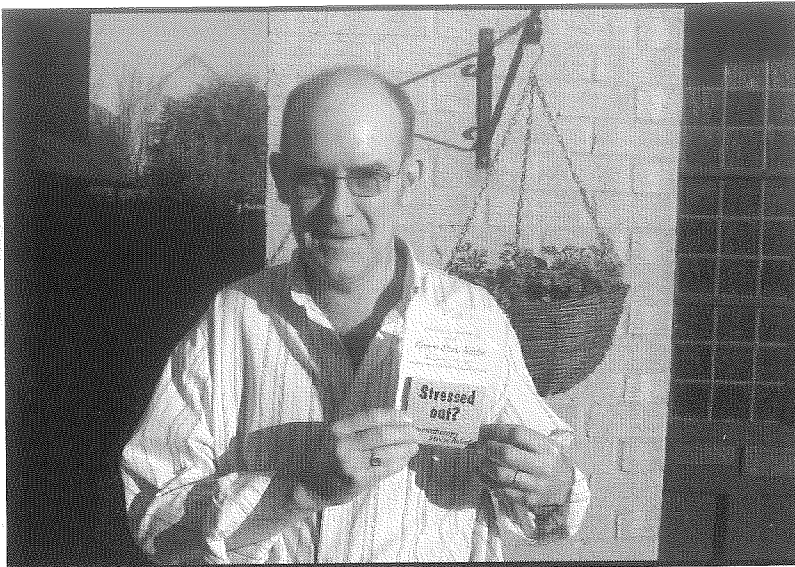
## Aroma Stress Buster – As Seen on TV!

“An innovative idea, great for stressed out adults and kids” is how Janey Lee Grace, the holistic enthusiast, describes the Aroma Stress Buster, an eco-friendly aromatherapy essential oil dispenser designed specifically as an aid to work-related stress, and featured in October by her on The Wright Stuff, Channel 5.

The Aroma Stress Buster, a gold Green Apple Environment Award winner, uses the warm air generated by a computer to vaporise stress-relieving essential oils, releasing their wonderful uplifting aromas into the atmosphere, thus providing a totally natural and eco-friendly approach to instantaneous aromatherapy stress relief at work.

The Aroma Stress Buster uses the spent air generated by a computer to vaporise stress-relieving essential oils, releasing their wonderful uplifting aromas into the atmosphere. Each Aroma Stress Buster comes with two 1-ml glass vials of 100% pure essential oils. The

Aroma Stress Buster is made from acid-free card, and all its components of the Aroma Stress Buster are recyclable. As the Aroma Stress Buster uses the spent air from a computer this helps offset its carbon footprint. The award-winning Aroma Stress



Gary with one of his latest products at Cusbuster HQ

Buster, is available in a wide range of exciting colours and designs, and with an extended choice of 100% pure natural essential oils.

Buyers can create their own unique combination of colours, designs and essential oils using the interactive Aroma Stress Buster website: (<http://www.aroma4u.co.uk>).

The Aroma Stress Buster Gift Factory, which makes the Aroma Stress Buster, specialises in the development of eco-friendly aromatherapy gifts that use pure natural essential oils to promote stress relief. Gary Gummer, Managing Director, commented that “We are delighted that Janey Lee Grace has endorsed the eco-friendly credentials of our Aroma Stress Buster – we continue to work hard to ensure that our products are as environmentally friendly as possible. Our Aroma Stress Busters provide a fun way of relieving stress at work, and in an environmentally respon-

sible manner.” For additional information on the Aroma Stress Buster, visit: <http://www.aroma4u.co.uk> or contact Gary Tel: 01993 851913; [gary@aroma4u.co.uk](mailto:gary@aroma4u.co.uk).

## Important Shirt Race Warning

Your SPAJERS Committee has had many hurdles to climb in the past to maintain the ‘Great Annual Shirt Race’. Since the early 1990s we have had to get permission from the Road Closure Act. We have struggled trying to get insurance with increasing difficulty each year - the thought of people drinking alcohol and racing through the streets in prams, appears to cause panic in the insurance world. We have managed to overcome all that.

But the thing that is going to stop our Shirt Race forever is a repeat of the behaviour by a few thoughtless individuals who indiscriminately threw water bombs the year before last. At last year’s event everyone was well behaved, so please be well behaved again this year - otherwise you will see the demise of the Race. If you want to throw water bombs, do it where there are no young children in prams, or older people who cannot move fast enough to get out of the way, having their clothes ruined, and possibly sustaining injury.

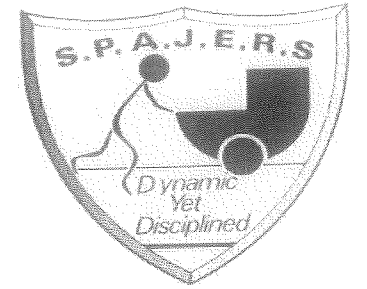
***In other words, do not throw water bombs, or anything else, at our Shirt Race.***

This is a serious warning. There will be no Shirt Race next year if we see a repeat of this kind of behaviour. So please parents, have a word with your youngsters. Don’t let’s ruin a tradition that has been going on since 1953. Remember it is run by the SPAJERS to raise money for all the senior citizens of Bampton, all the Grannies and Grampies. Our Grannies and Grampies!

**So please have fun, but don’t ruin something that is uniquely Bampton.**

SPAJERS Committee

It’s the 56<sup>th</sup> .....



# Bampton



Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May

6.45pm Judging of the Best Fancy Dress

7.15pm Junior & Intermediate Races

7.30pm Senior Race

8.00pm Prizes Presentation

All times very approximate!

**Cancer Research UK****Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

Spring Sale - Village Hall 10 - 12

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Quiz - Village Hall

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Autumn Sale - Village Hall 10 - 12

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Pre-Christmas Bingo Village Hall

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Quiz - Village Hall

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Country &amp; Western Dance - Carterton Social Centre.

**The Bampton Bush Club**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June we have our annual Coffee Morning and Raffle. This is a perfect time to come and visit us and see if you would like to join our club. We are open from 10am until noon drop in for a coffee.

At the moment we are very short of general helpers. If you could give an hour or two once a month we would be more than grateful.

**Drivers:** Once a fortnight for ½ an hour in the morning at 9.45am, or ½ an hour in the afternoon at 1.45pm.

**Cooks:** Approximately once every 5 weeks from 9.45 to 1pm

**General Helpers:** From 9am - 1.45pm on alternate weeks. Times to suit individuals.

Anybody willing to help, please contact: **Fenella Gray Tel: 851653** or **Veronica Baker Tel: 851040.**

**Bampton Zimbabwe Project**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March** Bring & Buy Sale 10am - 12 noon, in The Village Hall, Bampton. Don't forget the Plant Sale on Bank Holiday Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**The Children's Society***Box Collection*

Our collection from boxes people keep in their homes, raised £498.55 this year, a fantastic total. The generosity of Bampton folk never fails to amaze me, especially when there is so much fund-raising going on, and we are very grateful. 50,000 children are helped each year by the Society, children at risk of danger, discrimination and disadvantage. These children and their families receive practical support when struggling with poverty, poor health or the break down of relationships. Sarah was eight when her step father began to sexually abuse her.

**NOTICE BOARD**

She ran away from home and lived on the streets until The Children's Society found her accommodation and the on-going support of a counsellor. Sarah says 'for the first time I feel like I can look to the future with some hope. With the Children's Society I don't know where I'd be. I just hope that other children can be helped and that there will someone there to listen to them'.

Children like Sarah deserve our support and if you feel able to keep a box in your home to collect small change, it's surprising how that mounts up. Please contact me, Pauline Hawkins Tel: 851066 and I will be delighted to bring a box to you.

Thank you to Budgens and the Surgery, where boxes are kept for us, and to all those kind people who give us their change. Also thank you to the Post Office where our money is banked free of charge.

[events@kidneyresearchuk.org](mailto:events@kidneyresearchuk.org)  
or [www.kidneyresearchuk.org](http://www.kidneyresearchuk.org)

**Bampton Junior Church**

The children from Bampton School and the village are welcomed to Bampton Junior Church on a Sunday morning.

We run from 10.45am - 11.25am in the Bush Centre. Children usually come to the church where they listen to the first part of the service and then we troop down to the Bush Centre where we have lots of fun reading bible stories, singing songs and doing art and crafts.

At 11.25am we march back up to church where we join the congregation for drinks.

BJC runs every Sunday except for the third Sunday in the month when it is family service.

**Clanfield Historical Society***By David Slack*

The 2007 season was rounded off with a river cruise from Lechlade and a meal at the Plough in Clanfield.

This year's programme is:

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** The Great Household in Medieval England, Elizabeth Gemmell

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** Saints & Shrines in Medieval Oxfordshire, Tim Porter

**April 15<sup>th</sup>** Oxford Castle, Mark Davies

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** Details to be confirmed

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** AGM & Annual Dinner at the Plough

We are hopeful that we will return to the Institute for the February 2008 meeting. All meetings are at 7:30pm with a chance to enjoy a drink and a chat afterwards. New members are welcome and at the end of the evening, you feel your time has been well spent why don't you join us annual membership is £12.50, free for anyone under 21. **For further details call David Slack: Tel: 810228 or Raena Farley: Tel: 810604.**

**Old Birthday Cards**

The cards are now made by Lizann Murray Clarke. Lizann who still needs your old cards after you have enjoyed them, so that she can recycle them into re-saleable items.

Please continue to leave them at 3 Broad Street or The Vesey Room and also the Cotton Club where they are for sale.

**Dial-a-Ride**

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

The Dial-a-Ride service is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. There is a charge for the Dial-a-Ride service and places need to

**QUIZ NIGHT  
IN AID OF THE RNLI  
SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
7.30PM  
TEAMS UP TO EIGHT  
£6 PER TICKET  
(INCLUDES BUFFET)  
LANGDALE HALL  
WITNEY  
BAR RAFFLE  
FOR TICKETS  
TELEPHONE  
01993 772961**

**NOTICE BOARD**

be booked in advance. The Council's Bus Pass or Transport Tokens can be used on this service.

For more details about the service including information on cost, what areas are covered and what type of journey the service can be used for, see the Dial-a-Ride leaflet where you can find an application for registering to use the service.

**To book a place on Dial-a-Ride, or for more information, Tel: 01865 876176.**

**Bampton Drop-In**

Held at the Methodist Chapel every Monday from 12pm, where all are welcome. Don't suffer those Monday blues. When you've done your washing up don't just put your feet up with a cup of tea. Instead, why not come and join us at this local facility for a very reasonably priced lunch, where you will be served by a dedicated band of country cooks. You can enjoy a warming bowl of home-made soup, something on toast or a cheesy baked potato, followed by home-made cake, cheese and biscuits, tea and coffee. So come along and enjoy this friendly informal gathering.

**Online Directory for Children, Young People and Families**

[www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk) is an online directory of services for children young people and families in Oxfordshire. The new, easy to use, directory provides up to date details of organisations and their services. Information can be found on parenting and family support, counselling, schools, health centres, local advice and voluntary sector organisations, help lines and much more. For more information or help using the directory contact Oxfordshire Children's Information Service Tel: **08452 262636.**

**Book Banks**

Book banks now provided by the Salvation Army means that residents can recycle their books, videos, computer games alongside textiles, shoes, plastics, cans, paper, cardboard and glass. Books banks can be found at:

- Co-op car park, Carterton
  - Back Lane car park, Eynsham
  - Sainsbury's, Witan Way, Witney
- Good quality books are resold, whilst

ously to our appeals and are enabling us to carry out our objective.

**Barn Dance  
with the  
Woodpecker  
Band****In Aid of The Church Roof Appeal****Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> June****St Mary's Church, Bampton  
7.30pm**

Tickets from The Cotton Club

**BINGO NIGHT****Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
Burwell Hall, Witney**

Doors open at 7pm

**The evening will consist of  
Bingo and Raffle**

*Monies raised will go to  
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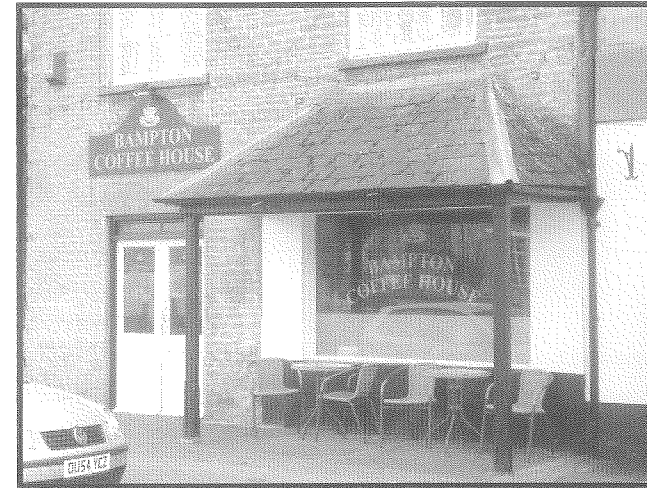


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## New Coffee House for Bampton

Isn't it nice to be able to say to anyone who stops you in the street and asks if there is a coffee shop in the Village, "Yes there's one in the Market Square". Before the Bampton Coffee House opened you either said "well no you have to go to As-ton Pottery or you can get a coffee in any of the pubs".



Bampton's New Coffee House

However, while these facilities all have their own ambience, none are quite the same as sitting in the atmosphere of a good old friendly coffee shop.

Over the years we have had tea shops in the Village., but sadly they have long gone. I can remember when the Poachers Rest, The Jubilee - where the new extension is now - and Pear Tree



Yashar and Kudret

Cottage in Bridge Street were all Tea Shops. With their disappearance, I know a lot of Bamptonians missed them and hoped that some day someone would open a new one. Well that day has finally arrived, with the opening of 'The Bampton Coffee House' in the old 'Temple's'.

Opening hours are 8.00am to 4.00pm Mondays to Saturdays, and 10.00am to 2.00pm, Sundays. The opening times are aimed at catering to a large array of people. Those making an early start can have a full English breakfast - which is also available all day - or breakfast baguettes. Others can just drop in for a quick coffee or tea.

Also on offer are a range of hot and cold drinks, freshly-made sandwiches, cakes and pastries etc. And of course you can choose to have lunch there where the menu includes home-made soup, salads, jacket potatoes, and a selection of burgers.

Yashar and Kudret are the husband and wife team who decided to step out on their own and open the Coffee House, after many years working in the catering industry. They will give you a warm welcome when you drop in.

The 'Beam Team' would like to welcome Yashar and Kudret to the Village and wish them every success in their venture.

**Use it, or Lose it!**

## Bampton Coffee House

Market Square, Bampton

**Tel: 01993 850929**

**Come in and enjoy a range of hot and cold drinks.....**

**Cappuccino - Espresso - Latte - Mocha**

**Various Flavours of Teas**

**Hot Chocolate and Milkshakes**

**Cold Drinks**

**Or stay a bit longer and try out our freshly made offerings....**

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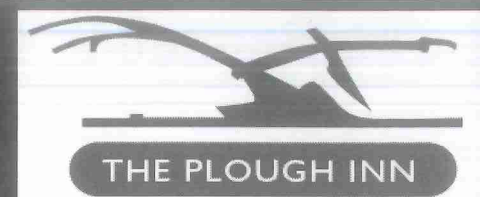
**also**

**Afternoon Teas - Cakes and Pastries**

**Also available to take away**

**Why not try our Spring and Summers Specials!**

**All of our sandwiches are freshly made to order using only the best ingredients and served with salad**



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#### LUNCH

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Choosing off our bar or a la carte menu 7 days a week

#### SUNDAY LUNCH

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

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

#### AFTERNOON TEA

Try our Traditional English Tea.  
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## Kidney Research UK

Support Kidney Research  
by

*Walking London's famous bridges*

London Bridge Walk Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008, starts 11am Distance approx 7 miles, takes 2-3, hours, closing date 20<sup>th</sup> June.

The London Bridges Walk starts and finishes at the newly refurbished Potters Field Park on the south side of the Thames near Tower Bridge. Walkers will cross eight bridges between Tower Bridge and Westminster, including London and Millennium Bridges. Last year, over 1600 people joined the procession, and for many it was their first introduction to the capital.

It costs £8 per person to take part and this price includes a special event T-shirt. There is no minimum sponsorship required but walkers are encouraged to raise as much sponsorship as they can. We have a massive target of £1,000,000 this year – we need your help to reach it! Proceeds will be used to further the work of Kidney Research UK and help improve the lives of people living with kidney disease.

2008 marks the fifth year of this event and we are looking forward to making it the biggest and most exciting walk ever. Kidney Research UK is the leading national charity funding research to save lives from kidney disease. The research we fund focuses on improved treatment and ultimately a cure, for kidney disease. The charity is also dedicated to patient care and educational initiatives. Contact the following;

Tel: 08456 121226 Text 0777 5626263  
Email [events@kidneyresearchuk.org](mailto:events@kidneyresearchuk.org)  
or [www.kidneyresearchuk.org](http://www.kidneyresearchuk.org).

## London Bridge Walk

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008  
starts 11am

Distance approx 7 miles  
takes 2-3, hours,  
closing date 20<sup>th</sup> June

Tel: 08456 121226

WOA Gallery  
Market Square, Bampton  
Oxon OX18 2JH  
Tel: 01993 850137  
[westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 266542

WEST  
OX  
ARTS

#### Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox arts is part-funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council, and staffed by a part-time administrator and volunteers.

West Ox Arts is dedicated to:

- Promoting participation in and appreciation of the arts and crafts in West Oxfordshire
- Supporting the area's artists and craftspeople

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

- discounts on WOA lectures, life classes and workshops
- invitations to private views
- regular mailings of the WOA events guide
- discounts at local arts suppliers
- reduced commission rate for exhibitors

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

#### Gallery opening hours

During exhibitions: Tues-Sat 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. Sun 2-4pm  
The Administrator is usually in the gallery Tues-Thurs 10.30am – 4pm

#### Exhibitions

##### The Art of Recycling: 8 – 30 March

We are all consumers of masses of packaging and materials that so often end up in the bin. Much of this could be recreated and used in a new and imaginative way. This exhibition explores ways of reusing paper, textiles, metal and glass creatively. Val Hunt makes beautiful fish, birds and insects out of drinks cans and ring pulls and Anthony Wilson creates fantastic figures and creatures from metals and plastics. There will be miniature books and rag rugs by Jackie Green and animals and birds made out of paper and papier mache by Annie Wootton and Eleanor Clutton-Brock. Also exhibited will be jewellery by Elisabeth Balkwill and paper collage pictures by Kate Daunt.

##### Photography: 5 – 27 April

Six photographers each with a unique vision of nature. Gordon Stokes photographs the seasonal changes and patterns in nature. Adam Laister explores the effects of light in relation to trees and plants. Ned Rankin focuses on the flowers and butterflies in fields and woods. Sue Douglas looks at the reflections in water. Gunnel Rosengard is an experimental black and

white photographer, and Nigel Wallis puts photos inside wooden boxes.

##### Artweeks: 3 – 25 May

Oxfordshire landscape painting in watercolour and oil by Neville Crowson, Ken Messer, Susan Wright and Bill Bird. Pottery and ceramics by Susan and Ben Drew. Silversmith work and jewellery by Patricia Hamilton. Open all day 10.30am – 4pm

##### Jean Perrott: 1 – 22 June

Jean makes pastel and watercolour landscapes of India and Cornwall. She has a special interest in trees and teaches watercolour painting at Sunningwell School of Art.

### Robert Vesey Room at Bampton Library

The Robert Vesey Room opening hours are: Monday, Thursday and Friday 2.30-4.30pm and Wednesday & Saturday 10am – 12 pm. If you would like to book this exhibition space for one month please contact Ailsa Matheson on 01993 851004. The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

#### Are you sitting comfortably?

WOA always needs volunteer sitters to look after the exhibitions. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to see each exhibition. If you could spare a couple of hours each month to support WOA in this way then please contact the Administrator Rosie Tomlinson for the gallery, on 01993 850137. Or for the Robert Vesey Room, Richard Wilkinson on 01993 850406 or Pauline Brownjohn on 01993 850786. If you would like to join West Ox Arts please ring the Gallery on 01993 850137 for a membership form or call in during opening hours.

Leaflets with details of exhibitions are available at the gallery.

Abingdon College City and Guilds  
Stitched Textiles 7922

28 June – 6 July

A display of contemporary embroidery showing wall panels and hangings, 3D embroidery, book covers and experimental work.

#### Workshops

##### Hooked Rag Rug Workshop

15 March 10am – 2pm

Jackie Green will lead a workshop for adults making rugs. Hook and hessian will be provided. Bring any fabrics from home. Contact WOA administrator to book. Cost: £10, Members: £9, Concessions: £8.

##### Digital Photography Workshop

12 April 10am – 4pm

A practical workshop for beginners and improvers on how to take better pictures. Also useful for artists who want to improve the display of their work. Cost: £14, Members: £12 Concessions: £10.

##### Recycling Workshop for Children.

29th March 10am - 1pm

The Oxfordshire Scrapstore Orinoco is will be holding a workshop inspired by the animals and figures in the Recycling exhibition. Printing techniques will be taught and recycled materials used. Suitable for children of all ages. Young children need to be accompanied by a parent. Cost: £6

##### Life Class

Ongoing life drawing sessions cost £8 for members and £9 for non-members. Life classes meet in the gallery on Monday mornings 10am-12.30pm and Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm, they are drop in and untutored, so just come along during term times and bring your own materials.

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**Patricia Knight**- Physiotherapist  
**Beth Churchill** - Physiotherapist  
**Mary Hopper** - Counsellor  
**Liz Jeffrey** - Massage Therapist  
**Geri Fitzsimons** - Pilates Teacher  
**Steve Christie** - Yoga Teacher.

As well as Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy we now also offer Stroke and Neurological Rehabilitation and Chest Physiotherapy.

## 2008 Blue Bell Walk Campaign

Please help support the 2008 Bluebell Walk Campaign, Sponsored Short Walk for the charity Canine Partners.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008.  
10.30am

Badbury Woods, near Faringdon

The Purpose of Canine Partners is to assist people with disabilities to enjoy a greater independence and a better quality of life and, where possible, to help them into education and employment, though the provision of specially trained dogs, whose well-being is a key consideration.

Canine Partners is a registered assistance dog charity and receives no government funding. The main Training Centre is based near Midhurst in West Sussex. They train puppies from 6-8 weeks of age, and these puppies are carefully selected using specially developed aptitude tests, which help to identify potential assistance dogs. The puppies are cared for by volunteer "Puppy Parents" from the age of eight weeks to about fourteen months. By attending weekly training classes, Puppy Parents learn how to socialise puppies to every environment an assistance dog might work in, such as busy streets, shops, hospitals, supermarkets and bus stations. Following successful assessment, the young dogs begin their advanced training which lasts between three to six months. Each day, the dogs are worked in both the Training Centre and in public, developing and honing their skills in preparation for placement. They learn to use their initiative as well as to respond quickly and reliably when asked.

On completion of their training, Canine Partners can respond to approximately 100 commands, including:

- Operating a pedestrian crossing or lift button
- Retrieving a wide variety of items as required, for example keys, an inhaler, crutches or a phone
- Picking chosen items off supermarket shelves
- Handing over a purse and items at the checkout
- Assisting with dressing and undressing
- Carrying out a range of emergency response procedures

My two puppies Ruby, seven months old and Ellie, five months old, will be walking on the Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April! Please let me know if you would be interested in either taking part or sponsoring them.

Even if you raise £5/£10 that would be great and it also raises the profile of this worthwhile charity.

You don't need a dog to take part!

For more information contact:

**Sarah-Jane:**  
**Mobile: 07753 856446**  
**Email: sarahjanemartin@fsmail.net.**

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The Robert Vesey Room

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### Library Opening Times

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

Tel: 01993 850076

USE IT OR LOSE IT

## Community Walking Group success!

*Bampton Saturday Striders*

Friday's rain thankfully gave way to a glorious crisp and sunny Saturday morning

for the inaugural Saturday Striders Bampton walking group, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. Around 15 walkers enjoyed a 50 minute walk around the footpaths of Bampton, ending with coffee at Bampton



Physiotherapy and Associates. One of the walkers, Doreen Allardice said, "That was really enjoyable, very invigorating. It gave me a real zing!"

There will be a weekly walk starting at 9.30am from the practice at Bushey Row, Bampton, for all abilities and in all weathers! Each walk costs £1 per person. Everyone is welcome!

All proceeds will be going to St Mary's Church roof appeal.



# PELLMANS

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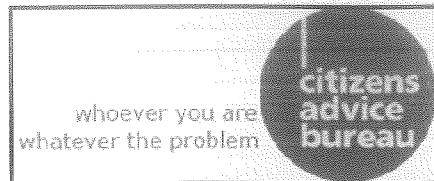
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Charity Number: 1092539

### Do You Want To Make A Difference?

Victim Support is an independent voluntary organisation for crime victims, witnesses, their families and friends. Together with Victim Support areas across the country we provide services and promote the rights of people affected by crime. Our service is delivered by trained volunteers who help us in a variety of ways. Some volunteers work for the community side of the service while others support victims and witnesses in the crown and magistrates' courts. Also we are looking for people who might want to help us with fund-raising or administration. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact Area Office, 45 the Slade, Headington, Oxford OX3 7HL. Tel: 01865 751511/12.



### Maybe Volunteer Link Up Can Help.....!

Are you the organiser or leader of a group that's in need of help? Volunteer Link Up is the Volunteer Centre for West Oxfordshire, recruiting people with time to spare to help people and organisations in need of assistance. We can advertise, free of charge, any voluntary role on the National Volunteering Database, DO-IT, and we also keep details in the office of local opportunities available for volunteers.

As mentioned above, we also recruit people with time to spare to help local people - by driving them to appointments, visiting isolated members of the community in their homes or doing shopping for them, or by doing simple DIY jobs and gardening.

If you think Volunteer Link Up can help you, or if you want to help out in your local community, call us on 01993 776277. Our office is open, Monday to Friday, 9a.m - 1p.m and we're based at the Methodist Church Centre, 10 Wesley Walk (off High Street), Witney, OX28 6ZJ. We can also be contacted by email at westoxonvb@freeuk.com. You can also find out more by visiting our website, which is westoxonvb.org.uk.

### For The Over 60s

Did you know that as a resident of Oxfordshire, when you reach 60, you are entitled to a Bus Pass? Your Sub-Ed is now the proud owner of one - and is using it!

The free fare Bus Pass can be used on weekdays, from 9.00am onwards, and there are no time restrictions at weekends or bank holidays.

The pass may be used on bus services operating in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire providing the journey starts or finishes within the West Oxfordshire District Council area. The pass may also be used on journeys starting from Oxford city centre to any of the Oxford hospitals.

All you have to do is pop in to the WODC Shop on Welch Way in Witney, with proof of your age, two passport size photographs, and proof of your address - a utility bill will do - and you can get yourself organised; they will issue you with your Bus Pass straight away.

And from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, we will be able to use the Bus Pass to go anywhere in England! The limitations are not yet fully known, but a day at the seaside free is certainly on the cards!

If you don't want a Bus Pass then you can have either National Transport Tokens - worth £31.00 - or a Senior Railcard.

Again the WODC Shop will organise them for you - I must say the staff there are very helpful.



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## THE BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

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### BAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB COMMITTEE

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Chairman	Martyn Holder	martynDH@aol.com Tel: 840206
Vice Chairman	Mark Taylor	markm_taylor@hotmail.com Tel: 852903
Secretary	Paul & Corrina Tanner	Tannercatchustanners@aol.com Tel: 210009
Treasurer	Mark Blake	Mark.blake@gtuk.com Mobile: 07787 484192
Junior Secretary	Andy Squires	amsquires@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 852278
<b>Ground Facilities - Manager</b>	Albert Radband	Tel: 210133
<b>Team Manager - Juniors</b>		
Under 8s	Mark Lawton	mark.lawton@onetel.net Tel: 850468
Under 9s	Mark Taylor	markm_taylor@hotmail.com Tel: 852903
Under 10s	Callum Rossie	callumrossie@royalmail.co.uk Tel: 852565
Under 11s	George Rawle	george.rawle2@talktalk.net Tel: 851207
Under 12s	James Angus	james@angusj@freeserve.co.uk Tel: 850533
Under 13s	Ellis Bardsley	ellis@bardsleyweb.co.uk Tel: 850666
Under 16s	Chris Boot	kerryboot@ntlworld.com Tel: 851808
<b>Team Managers - Seniors</b>		
First Team	Chris Jordon	chr1sjordan@hotmail.com Tel: 847241
Reserves	Chris Boot	kerryboot@ntlworld.com Tel: 851808
<b>Veterans</b>		
OVER 35s	Ian Bilton	

### Other Sporting Activities

**Bampton Weightlifting Club**  
Chairman: Don Rouse: Tel: 01993 850938.

Secretary: Ray Fielding: Tel: 01993 852185. Mobile: 07855 146949.

**Bampton Badminton Club**  
Enquiries: Lesley Campbell Tel: 01993 852846.  
Meets every Tuesday 10 - 12am  
Bampton Village Hall.

**Bampton Archery Club**  
Chairman: John Hill Tel: 01993 850513.

**The Horseshoes Football Club  
Sunday League Football**  
Chairman: Alan Clarke: Tel: 01993 850201.

Secretary: Bill Godfrey: Tel: 01993 850014.

### THE PAVILION

The Pavilion, with its large social area, changing rooms, referees' facilities, kitchen and bar is for hire by members of the public for all varieties of functions such as wedding receptions, birthdays or anniversary parties. The Multisport court can also be hired for games or practice sessions for floodlit tennis, basketball, and netball.

#### Some General Hire Prices

<b>Pavilion</b>	
08:00 - 13:00	: £40
13:00 - 18:00	: £40
18:00 - 23:59	: £80
Whole Day	: £160
<b>Football Pitch</b>	: £25 per game
<b>Changing Facilities</b>	: £10
<b>Multisport</b>	Bampton Residents £10.00 Non-Residents £12.50

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

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

#### While using skate park

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

#### Insurance Liabilities

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

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

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

### The Waiting Game

Tim is waiting for a new home. Tim, age 11, has been with short-term foster carers for over a year. After it became clear, he could not return to live with his parents and that his Nan was too ill to care for him, the search began to find him a long term - permanent foster home. Tim needs someone to come forward who could foster him until he can live independently. Ideally Tim will be the only or youngest child in the household. Some months have now passed since the search began but sadly no-one has come forward.

Emma has been living with foster carers for 3 months. She originally went to live with them on an emergency basis. After just a few days it became apparent that the problems at home would take a while to fix and that Emma would need to remain in foster care for some months. Emma has settled quite well with her current foster carers but is not happy to have been placed so far from her home. She finds this makes it difficult to see her family, and friends and she positively hates the 20-mile each way journey to school each day. She is hoping that her social worker will move her to foster carers who live nearer to home but each time her social worker visits the news is sadly the same, "Sorry, but there is no-one available".

Local independent fostering agency, familyplacement.com, is working to help Tim and Emma and other children like them. The agency seeks to do this by recruiting foster carers for children in or near to their home area and by encouraging people to consider fostering as an alternative to work outside of the home. As agency director, Andy Clipson says, "Our foster carers are paid a professional fee in addition to a child maintenance allowance. This allows some people to give up work to start a new career in fostering. Proper rewards do not stop foster carers from loving the kids". "All of the agency's foster carers are also provided with high level support and ongoing training to help them to develop their parenting skills to a higher level."

**If you think you might be able to help. Please Tel: 01993 201514 or email: info@familyplacement.com.**



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## OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

Well once again, the same as last year, the so called 'National Media Experts' are forecasting snow and frosts the likes that we have never seen before! I am writing this on the 10<sup>th</sup> February in brilliant sunshine with Crocus and Daffodils just springing into bloom! So take no notice of the 'Nationals', only believe what you read in the Beam!

I received many comments about my last Beam article regarding the flooding, and the way things were going I thought for awhile that nothing was going to be done. I did see some officials in 'Hard Hats' poncing around in the dry weather inspecting the situation, and I thought "typical, it's when it is raining is the time to inspect!" It is no good checking your guttering when it is dry is it? But I did notice that in the recent rain storms they were indeed out with their 'hard hats' looking at the 'real' situation.

Can somebody tell me why they need hard hats when looking at drains? Surely 'hard hats' are for building sites, when something is likely to fall on

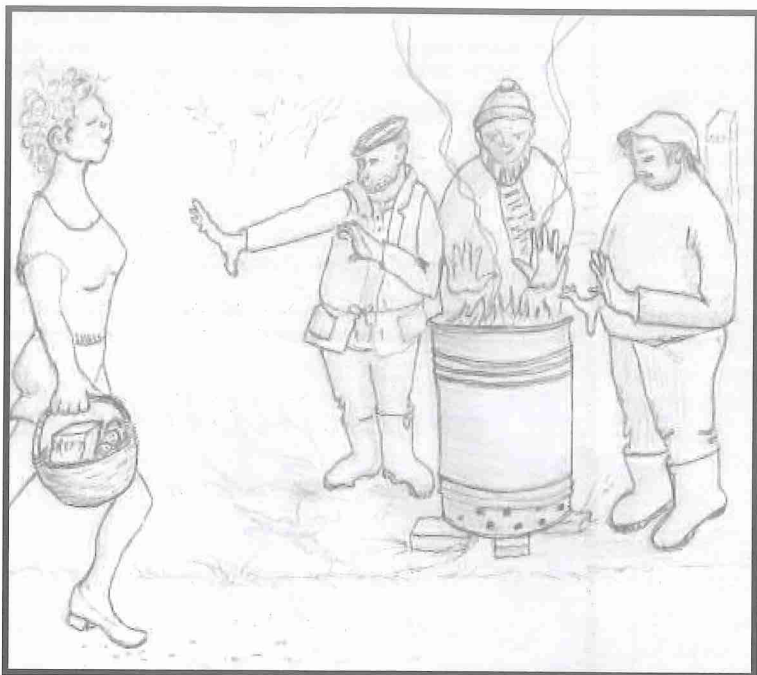
your head? It seems to be the new 'must have' fashion. Last year I saw a man from the Council walking the streets of Bampton with one of those measuring devices, you know the one that has a very small spoked wheel on the end of a short pole? Would you believe it he was also wearing one!

I think it makes the wearer feel very official and very important. But to all our senior citizens beware if they come calling at your door with yellow reflective jackets and a hard hat, it is the oldest trick in the book for gaining your trust, always ask for I.D. before letting them onto your property. It also deflates their ego!

I noticed the Council were digging out the ditches by hand, just as we used to

years ago, on the approach to the village of Brize Norton as part of the Flood Prevention work but they do it so differently nowadays. They had cones and road signs to warn the traffic and would you believe it? Hard hats!! I am sure they gave many a retired farm worker a good laugh just to see them. It did me.

The only 'comfort' equipment that we used to take when we were hedging and ditching was a brazier. I don't mean a woman's 'Boulder Holder',



that is a Brassiere! No, I mean another device for keeping your hands warm. It was an old five gallon oil drum, with holes cut in the side, placed upon a couple of bricks, filled with dead wood from out of the hedge and set alight about an hour before we had our lunch. By lunchtime it would be going well enough for us all to sit around, toast our sandwiches and boil the kettle for our tea. I noticed the Council workers had a nice warm lorry to sit in at lunchtime. They don't make men like they used to, do they? One more question on the hard hats issue. Do the Council officials visiting Bampton who wear these things, take them off or touch the peak in the presence of a lady? Am I living too far in

the past? And before any bright wag says anything, yes there are lots of ladies in Bampton! Just try the Butchers and the Post Office!

I am sure that our Councillors who always give reports to the 'Beam' will be providing you with an update on the situation regarding the 'Flood Prevention' measures. I am very pleased to see a few JCB's and the like in New Road, and I do hope that they are being sensibly employed on well thought out measures to prevent another catastrophe.. They could always nip off for a few minutes and take out the Station Road Chicane! Sorry, I digress! Looking at it all as a bystander I can see big problems ahead. We keep hearing that the answer to it

all is dependent on funding. When so many different organisations are involved and there is something in the region of five authorities on this, there will always be a heck of a lot of dialogue as to who should pay for what! In my book Central Government should treat it like a fire. Put it out then sort out who is going to pay. But no, that certainly will not happen; already there are arguments as to who should pay for the work on the Great Brook that runs to the north of the Thames from Radcot through to Shifford. The Environment Agency says it is not their responsibility.

Thames Water likewise. They are trying to say it is the farmers who should pay! How on earth can they reckon that? Because if a farmer wants to take water out of the brook to water his crops or cattle, he has to apply and pay for, an Extraction Licence from them! I had to apply and pay when I had a windmill on top of the hill.

Who dug the brook in the first place and why? It certainly would not have been the farmers. If you are in any doubt as to whether it wants dredging, take a walk down by the Isle-of-Wight bridge. There are enormous trees growing, falling and leaning right into the Brook; there are reeds and weeds galore; it is amazing that the water

can flow at all! No wonder Bampton flooded, look at your O.S. maps, you can see that it is the main 'get-away' for our water.

I suppose one way of finding out who owns it, would be to cut some of those big trees down for firewood and see who comes after you and take you to Court. That then would be the Agency responsible for the Dredging!

I hope I will not get prosecuted for incitement to commit a crime! You will come and visit me if I get 'locked up' won't you?

I know that I am always going on about the stupid rules and regulations that are being imposed upon us, and I know that I deserve the title of 'Grumpy Old Man', but these new licensing laws are way over the top. I know that our Councillor Mark Booty has done his best to keep all our readers up to speed with all that has been going on. We understand that the Morris Dancers and Mummers do not need licensing, but it seems that even he has had to work hard to fathom it all out.

Wearing my 'Barn Dances for Charity' hat, it appears that in recent years, I and the Halls that I have used, have been breaking, or should I say bending the Law. Mark tells me that any Hall wishing to be used for entertainment, with a bar, must have a Premises Licence, and with a person responsible for the bar having attended a two-day course to get the appropriate qualification. The cost of the Licence alone is in excess of £600.00.

I once put on a dance at Wood Green School, a fantastic venue, which is capable of holding 200 people; this was to raise funds for medical equipment for Bampton Surgery. With the help of many local people we raised something in the region of £2000. Now outsiders like ourselves cannot hire the hall. Last year we raised £500 for charity using this very hall, but because of the Council tightening up on the rules, it will not happen again as the School does not want to get involved with these new licensing requirements. What have the Council achieved by their new draconian attitude? I know of a lot of charities that have used these facilities in the past and are now going to miss out. Surely common sense could play a part somewhere along the line.

I once did a Barn Dance at Langdale Hall for the Doctors, Nurses and staff of the Witney Windrush Practice. The Council, who are the owners of Langdale Hall, insisted upon the promoters supplying stewards for the occasion. It was the first time in over thirty years of Barn Dancing that I have seen Professional Bouncers - you know the sort, dressed in Dinner Jackets, six foot tall, six foot wide, in attendance! What on earth did they think the Doctors and Nurses were going to get up to? In my experience at the end of a Barn Dance the punters can hardly walk let alone throw a punch! Please can we have our Common Sense back?

Talking Farming. There is a lot of fuss being made by the Media about Factory Farming, especially with the chicken industry. To be honest I do not like what is happening either, but as long as the public demands cheap food, then there will always be a way of producing it. For the life of me I cannot see how on earth a profit can be made out of hatching the egg, rearing and fattening the chick, plucking, dressing and presenting it for sale, all

for under £3.00. Considering the Supermarket will take their profit out of it then sadly a few corners will be cut. We have got to get back to properly priced food, allowing enough money for good animal friendly practices.

Before the Government's cheap food policy which the Atlee Government introduced in 1947, market forces dictated the price of food with good animal welfare practices. You got what you paid for. Then came subsidies, food subsidies, which many people misinterpreted as 'Farmer's Subsidies'; things have not been the same since. The demand for cheap food was the reasoning behind Cattle Food Manufacturers using Bone Meal in their food, cutting corners - not cooking it to the right temperature and Hey Presto - BSE.

Back then we were getting £5.00 for an eight week old 'weaner' pig, ready for Bampton householders to take home for fattening. A fair price. We made a profit and the Bamptonians had a pig that the more they fed it and cared for it, the more they had in their larder in the weeks to come.

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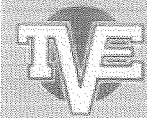
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**Bampton Baby and Toddler Club**  
By Angela Irvin

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club has been running for over 10 years. Every Thursday morning between 10 and 11.45 we meet in the Village Hall in Bampton. Our children, aged between 0 and Pre-School age, play with our large range of toys whilst the parents enjoy a well-earned rest and grown-up chat! Each week we have a variety of toys ready for little ones to explore during the "free play session". We then have a singsong followed by refreshments. Occasionally we have a seasonal craft activity such as Mother's Day or Christmas card making. At least once a month we arrange a special activity - 1st November we have a visit from a photographer, 29<sup>th</sup> November Usborne Books will be selling their range of children's books and 13<sup>th</sup> December we have a Christmas party. We have some events already planned for 2008 including a visit from the Fire Engine. We have built strong links with the Pre-School in Bampton and visit them regularly. Many of the children currently at both the local Pre-School and Primary school met their peers at the Baby and Toddler Club.

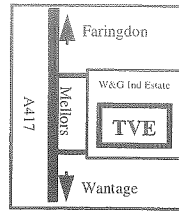
We also have our own bouncy castle, which we set up the first Thursday of every month. The bouncy castle, along with other toys is available for hire through our toy library. For a small fee members can borrow items for a short period. Toys offered through this facility include slides, and "Little Tike" ride-in cars. Great for children's parties! Small size tables and chairs are also available.

We are a friendly group and would welcome new members from Bampton and the surrounding villages! If you have a child under school age, drop in and join us. Your first visit is free and subsequent visits are £2 for non-members, £1.50 for members. If you don't want to face walking in alone (although we honestly are not scary!!) please ring the number below and one of us will meet you outside. We are looking for a volunteer to help with the refreshments and the craft activities. If you are interested please contact Angy on 01993 210096 or Cordula on 01993 852317 for more information.



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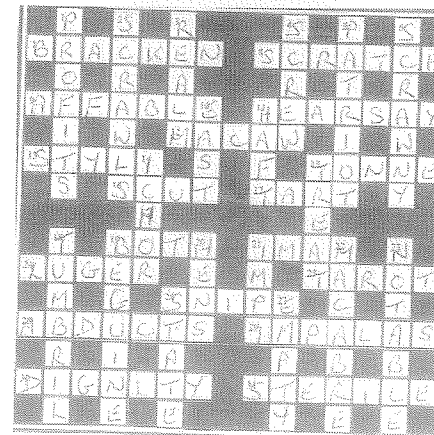
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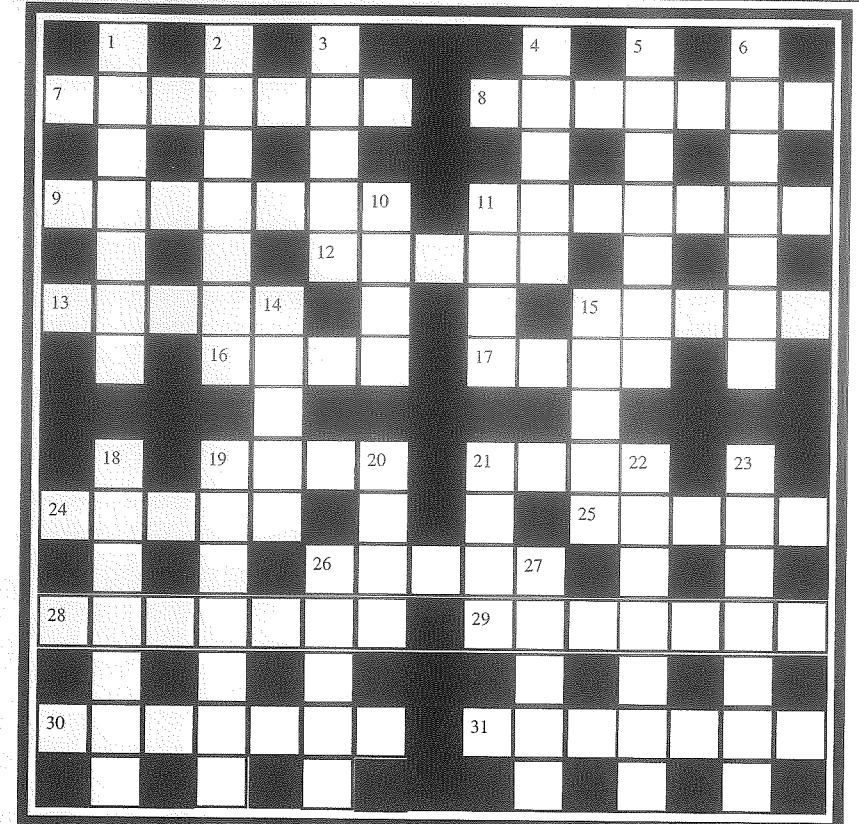
**Solution to the November BEAM CROSSWORD**



The winner of the November Crossword is Ann Radband of Pockocks Close, Bampton. Congratulations, the £10 prize is yours!

We would also like to donate £10 to Cancer Research, as a thank you to Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for 'The Beam'.

**THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD**



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 7 An accumulation of uncompleted work
- 8 A private cavalry soldier
- 9 Problem that prevents progress
- 11 Indecent, disgusting, gross
- 12 For this reason
- 13 Dangerous act performed for a film
- 15 Stadium, amphitheatre
- 16 A father or mother's sister
- 17 A small whirlpool
- 19 Duty or responsibility
- 21 A slight advantage over rivals
- 24 Divisions of the academic year
- 25 Electrical connection to the ground
- 26 A complex Cuban dance
- 28 Choose not to vote
- 29 Mildly entertaining
- 30 Temporary, provisional or intervening
- 31 Permitted, licensed

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1 Light reddish-purple colour
- 2 Art of Japanese flower arrangement
- 3 Walk in a bored or listless way (informal)
- 4 Hush-money, backhander, sweetener
- 5 Magic, witchcraft
- 6 Relating to or resembling a lion
- 10 Retained possession of
- 11 Line behind which darts players must stand
- 14 Shapes something on a lathe
- 15 Traditional saying that is accepted as true
- 18 Poisonous plant of the nightshade family
- 19 Failed to do, left out
- 20 Avoid, ignore or reject
- 21 Napoleon's first place of exile
- 22 Distance over which one can hear
- 23 Device used by police to stop get-away vehicles
- 26 Poison derived from seeds of castor oil plant
- 27 More than sufficient, abundant

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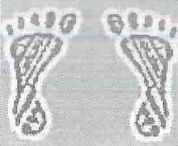
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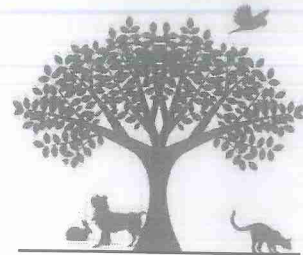
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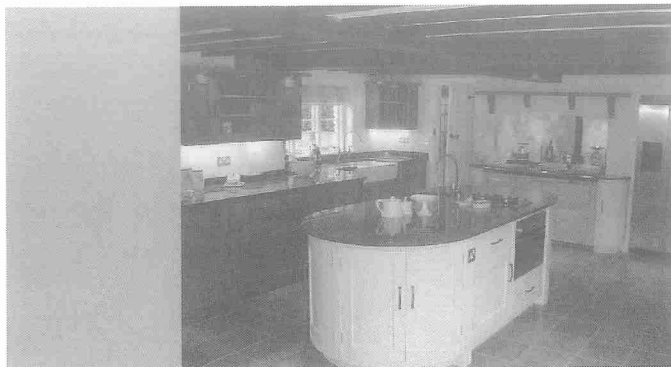


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**Calendar of Events**

- March**  
 5<sup>th</sup> Movies on the Move, 'And When Did You Last See Your Father?' (12A)Village Hall, 7.30pm  
 7<sup>th</sup> AGM, BEWG, Village Hall, 8pm  
 8<sup>th</sup> Bring & Buy Sale, Bampton Zimbabwe Project, Village Hall, 10 – 12noon  
 9<sup>th</sup> Outing to Abbey House and Gardens, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am  
 18<sup>th</sup> Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm  
 21<sup>st</sup> Good Friday Workshop in St Mary's Church, FOBS, 2.45-4.15 pm  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Easter Bonnet Parade, The Talbot, 2pm  
 28<sup>th</sup> BSA Music Quiz and Curry Night, Burford School, 7.30 pm  
 29<sup>th</sup> Cake Stall in the Market Square, FOBS  
 29<sup>th</sup> Spring Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall 10 – 12noon
- April**  
 11<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night, SPAJERS, Village Hall  
 15<sup>th</sup> Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm  
 24<sup>th</sup> BEWG Open Meeting, "Ponds for People" - Rod d' Ayala, Village Hall 8pm  
 28<sup>th</sup> Village Hall AGM, 8pm
- May**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Big Spring Cleanout, SPAJERS, Village, 11am – 3pm  
 7<sup>th</sup> Movies on the Move, 'The Kite Runner' (12A), Village Hall, 7.30pm  
 16<sup>th</sup> Quiz, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall  
 18<sup>th</sup> Outing to Hillier Gardens, Romsey, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am  
 20<sup>th</sup> Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm  
 24<sup>th</sup> The Great Annual Shirt Race, SPAJERS, 6.45pm - approximately  
 26<sup>th</sup> Morris Dancing Day  
 26<sup>th</sup> May Garlands, Market Square, 11am  
 26<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair & Refreshments, Village Hall, 9.30am – 5pm  
 26<sup>th</sup> Grand Plant Sale, Bampton Archive & Bampton Zimbabwe Project, Eagle House, Church View, 10am
- June**  
 6<sup>th</sup> Barn Dance with the Woodpecker Band, St. Mary's, 7.30pm  
 15<sup>th</sup> Outing to, Gardeners World Live, NEC Birmingham, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am  
 17<sup>th</sup> Clanfield Historical Society Meeting, Carter Institute Clanfield, 7.30pm
- July**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Movies on the Move, 'Away from Her' (12A), Village Hall, 7.30pm  
 13<sup>th</sup> Outing to Hampton Court Flower Show, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am  
 31<sup>st</sup> BEWG Open Meeting, "The Oxford to Fairford Railway" -Stanley Jenkins, Village Hall, 8pm
- August**  
 25<sup>th</sup> Donkey Derby, SPAJERS, Sandfords Field, 2pm  
 27<sup>th</sup> SPAJERS Outing  
 31<sup>st</sup> Outing to Wisely Gardens, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am
- September**  
 21<sup>st</sup> Outing to Stourhead Gardens, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am  
 27<sup>th</sup> Autumn Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall 10 -12noon
- October**  
 19<sup>th</sup> Outing to Dean Forrest Railway, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am  
 30<sup>th</sup> BEWG Open Meeting, "Wildlife Crime" - PC Simon Towers, Village Hall, 8pm
- November**  
 16<sup>th</sup> Outing to Birmingham Shopping Centre or Botanical Gardens, Gardening Club  
 19<sup>th</sup> Pre-Christmas Bingo, Cancer research UK, Village Hall
- December**  
 5<sup>th</sup> Quiz, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall  
 19<sup>th</sup> Country & Western Dance, Cancer Research UK, Carterton Social Centre

**THE BAMPTON BEAM**

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While every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, neither the Bampton Parish Council, the Editor, nor anyone supplying information or articles for inclusion in the magazine, can 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 or The Parish Council. Personal views are the responsibility of the author in each case.

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**West Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Services  
 Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection**

**Normal Collection Day**

**Wednesday 26 March**  
**Wednesday 7 May**  
**Wednesday 28 May**

**Revised Collection Day**

**Thursday 27 March**  
**Thursday 8 May\***  
**Thursday 29 May\***

**\*expected but yet to be confirmed**

**For further information: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment)**

**Town Hall Bookings**

**For Town Hall bookings contact Mrs B. Sapsford Tel: 851476.  
 Town Hall keys to be collected from Budgens shop.**