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Bampton Beam

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Volume 30, Issue 2, June 2015



A great British summer

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June



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From the editor

Bampton Beam

Welcome to the summer issue of the Beam. A short editorial from me this issue as just before going to print I received a wonderful letter from Mrs Joan Tooke. Given its contents and recent VE Day anniversary memories and celebrations, I really wanted to publish it in this issue. With the rise of emails and TXTs, it is such a pleasure to receive a handwritten letter, and this was a very special one.

It's also like to give a quick introduction to the new members of the team; Fiona Richmond, who has joined as deputy editor and Robin Shuckburgh, our very knowledgeable wine expert. Fiona volunteered for the role much to my surprise – I hope she doesn't come to regret it!

Have a great summer.



James

James Wildman Editor

Dear Editor

Many elderly people will be thinking about what they were doing during the war and I am one of them. Unhappy at home I gave my wrong age and joined the Women's Land Army. My mother lied for me and signed the forms as she understood why I wanted to leave home. I ended up in Dairy Farm House (now your home). At one time about 12 happy girls lived there, not posh. In fact it was very basic, but always a really wonderful place to be.

Our housekeeper was Miss Hartley and our works supervisor was called Mary. Two really nice people. Miss Hartley was a bit old fashioned but always did her best for us. We all worked hard and gained the respect of the local farmers as we worked very hard in all weathers. The food was very plain, but we were always very happy in the fresh air. The job I hated most was thrashing.

Being near Brize Norton we got invited to the dances – no going out in the interval for a snog – as there were guards on the exit doors. That also applied to dances at the US camp, but the food was so good and always plenty of it. We had to go to church parade from time to time. The girls looked very smart in their hats and polished shoes.

The day the war ended I'll always remember – a big bonfire at the back of the hostel, plenty of drink and food. I don't know where it came from, but what a night we had. The sad times when people seemed to vanish so you had to guess why they were not around any more.

My time in the Land Army had to come to an end as my mother was ill and I was needed at home. Other girls left to get married. I had no choice but to go home but fate played its part, I met a sailor on leave, love at first sight and we were married for 68 years. My husband passed away in January aged 91, we were made for each other. I used to tell him about my happy days in the WLA. So here I am, alone, but not alone as I have so many happy times to look back on. I have a wonderful daughter and family, and I did get my badge for Land Army service, which I am very proud of.

The people of Bampton were very kind to us during our stay, so to those who remember us. Thank you.

Mrs. Joan Tooke

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Cover: Morris Dancer

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in the next issue is
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Aston Road – developments

The latest enquiry into the proposed housing development that took place in April has been postponed yet again! - This drama could run longer than Downton Abbey.

The Methodist Church in Witney on the 21 April was the latest venue for the enquiry, this time the Society for the Protection of Bampton (SPB) was in attendance with a barrister and an expert hydrologist thanks to the generosity of the people of Bampton.

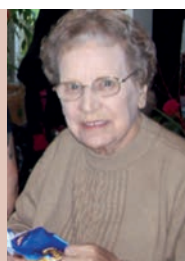
What happened? Gladmans the developers immediately asked for a further adjournment blaming the Environment Agency for failing to sign off the scheme in time. In fact they refused to sign at all. You have to wonder that if after two years of work Gladmans cannot persuade the Environment Agency that this is a safe site on which to build homes, then surely there must be better greenfield sites elsewhere.

All parties are due back on 3 November, more than a year after it started. The Planning Inspectorate recently issued figures for each Inspector, how many appeals they heard, percentage allowed etc. Our Inspector, Terry Phillimore, hears about 48 appeals a year but the success rate of the appellants has dropped in the last three years from 52% to 37%. A crumb of comfort as we head off into the summer.



Taking to the skies!

92 year-old Vera Elwood is taking a sponsored microlight flight on 20 June. She will be attempting to raise money for the restoration of the church organ in St Mary's Church, Bampton. If you would like to sponsor Vera, contact her on 01993 850 449.



St Mary's Church organ appeal

St Mary's Church has recently launched an organ appeal to raise £150,000 to rebuild and improve their 200 year-old pipe organ, which is at the centre of the church's music making. It provides the glue which holds the fabric of our music life and worship together.

Work is scheduled to start in June and will last until the end of this year, but there's still a lot of money to be raised. Further details about the project can be found on the church website www.bamptonchurch.org.uk/organ. Although all the pipes will be reused and added to, the rest of the workings of the organ require a complete overhaul and in many cases complete replacement. Added to this, the sound from the organ tends to be trapped in the south transept and is almost completely lost at the rear of the nave, even with "full organ",

when the church is relatively full.

The proposed works will aim to solve these problems whilst providing an instrument for the 21st century which apart from routine maintenance should not need significant further work for many decades.

A number of events are planned throughout the coming year, and the first of these was a concert in the church on Saturday 14 March when the Choir of Somerville College, Oxford, sang Faure's Requiem among other favourites. The second will see the return of the ever-popular Moonrakers – a mix of Celtic and folk music, on Saturday 25 April.

Tickets for future events are available from Bampton Physiotherapy and Bampton Coffee Shop, and also can be purchased online at www.bamptonchurch.org.uk/organ/orgevents.html

Four Paws Pet Hotel

The first phase is complete.

The newly refurbished building has been open for just six weeks, and is thriving. They had an open day on 28 March, and nearly 200 people went to have a look around. Clients were delighted to see such a huge transformation, and the dogs are now able to enjoy their own rooms in a light and airy, hygienic, warm and luxurious environment, with two walks a day on their fully secure one acre meadow and all for a very competitive price.

They were delighted to have seen a great deal of new business over the past few weeks, which hopefully means word is spreading that the former facility is not only under new ownership but given a much needed renovation. Not only are they providing holiday accommodation, but day care too. A number of clients are already enjoying this option, and the freedom of a day out knowing that their dog is being well looked after and exercised.

For more information visit their website, or call on:

Telephone: 01993 850671

www.thefourpawspethotel.co.uk

...in brief

Your best friend

mybestfriend is run by Jon and Clara Roff. They started the business in early 2015 after seeing an opportunity to offer a combined dog grooming, dog walking, doggy day care and home boarding service which would enable them to incorporate their love of animals into their everyday lives. They utilise secure GPS tracking collars when your dog is in their care, which allows clients to access the easy-to-use on line app to track their dog at any time providing that extra level of security for your best friend.

Based in the village of Langford, mybestfriend is ideally situated to provide services across the Cotswolds and they offer a collection and drop off service for the convenience their clients. They are proud to be part of the National Association of Pet Sitters and Walkers, the Pet Industry Federation and they are also fully qualified City and Guild groomers.

They are offering a 10% discount for bookings in June.

www.mybestfrienddogcare.co.uk



Bampton War graves

The Air Cadets from 2120 (Witney) Squadron visited Bampton's war graves on Saturday 21 February. Bampton Parish Council would like to thank them for taking the time and effort to come and clean and tidy the war graves at our cemetery. It is excellent that young Air Cadets feel it is important people do not forget the sacrifices that so many young men made in the past, and young men and women are still making even now to ensure our freedom and liberty is upheld.

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News

Historic Shirt Race



William Hampton came across two old photos of his granddad Henry Hampton and his friend George Hunt who won the first Bampton shirt race and kindly sent them to the Beam. In the photo outside the George and Dragon pub, Henry is the one pointing at the camera and George pushing. In the other photo Henry (Harry) is the one on the right with the trophy, and George is next to him.

Marie Curie Nurses



Marie Curie speakers are available to give talks about the charity. It is a great opportunity for local clubs, groups, schools, churches and companies to learn more about the organisation. These talks can vary in length and can be tailored to suit your requirements. Marie Curie Nurses provide free hands-on care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes as well as vital emotional support for their families. It can make such a difference for patients to be able to be cared for where they normally live, surrounded by the people and things they love and cherish. If you are interested please contact Rebecca Dade on 01179 427132 or email: rebecca.dade@mariecurie.org.uk.

Well done William



My name is Will Broderick and I am 11 years old. My Dad and I decided to climb Snowdon to raise money for St Barnabas, which is the hospice that cared for my Nana in her final few days.

We got to the mountain in the early morning; it was a bright but wet day. Little did we know our walk was about to become dangerous thanks to 80mph winds. It took a gruelling three hours to make it to the top against the winds which made us feel like

quitting. Whilst I was sitting on a rock, the people to the right of me nearly blew off the side of the mountain and when I was heading back down towards home, I nearly slipped off too! It was so much harder going down the mountain than up it!

I was so pleased to have walked so far, in such windy conditions and I am even more proud to have raised £568.00 for St Barnabas! Thank you to everyone who supported me!

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Lynn Carter

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Alternatively, you can email us **enquiries@rosebankcarehome.co.uk**

or visit **www.rosebankcarehome.co.uk** for more information

“Finding the right Care Home for a relative is very hard, but on visiting Rosebank, two closely related facts immediately helped me decide this was where I would like Ruth to stay – the level of interest shown by all the staff towards the residents, and a higher than average ratio of staff to residents than I had seen anywhere.”

Dr John Mumford



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The Bampton Community Shop

Bampton Community Shop has once again completed its yearly allocation of funds to various "good causes" within the village



The donations include those to small clubs and charities, sporting organizations, Bampton Primary School, Bampton Methodist Church, a donation of £2,000 for the continuing flood defence improvements to our village and a donation to the Parish Council for their use in supporting good causes which have not received direct support from the Community Shop.

All in all, they gifted £18,000 (just beating last year's figure). This was a tremendous success when you consider that the shop was closed for three weeks to allow them to make some changes including reorganization and refurbishment and some maintenance work which, of course meant no income for the period. The increase in turnover and profit meant that they recouped not only the loss over the period of closure but also enabled them to pay for the costs of all the work carried out and the cost of legal fees.

They have received a huge number of comments, letters and messages about how much better the shop is following the changes. This is due to many new customers using the shop and, to the shop's surprise, new people bringing in donations which they would normally have donated elsewhere.

All this has been possible thanks to the hard work and good management of Patrick and his team of volunteers who have kindly given their time to the cause.

Their thanks go to all those members of the public, both locally and from areas outside Bampton, who donated goods in the first place to make the entire operation a success.

The shop goes from strength to strength. If you are interested in receiving funding for

your organisation then the procedure is:

- 1) All applications for a grant of funds should be made by the closing date of 31 December 2015. They normally start to determine their fund allocation in mid-February.
- 2) All applicants will need to provide a detailed list of items for which funding is required.
- 3) All applicants must provide the organization's bank account details (including current balance). If the organization does not have a bank account please state this in your application. You can still receive funding but the process is slightly more complicated.
- 4) Successful applicants will be required to use the funds allocated within 12 months and we will require receipts for all expenditure covered by the grant. If the total spend is less than the grant allocated, the Board will determine whether the surplus must be returned or retrospectively granted if it has been used for some other (approved) activity.

Please note that whilst they will consider each application according to its own merit, priority will be given to those applicants who have not received funding before.

Applications should be addressed to Martin Barrett, Wychwoods, Church View, Bampton, Oxfordshire OX18 2NE.

If you apply for funding and you received funding last year, it is essential you submit receipts in support of purchases/payments for which funding was granted last year.

Going Green

By Anna Pitt

Do you find reading a novel can often tell you something about yourself as much as it tells you something about the characters in it? Reading Mark Haddon's 'The Red House' made me realise that the Pitt family has way too many books. I wouldn't want my house to be a book free zone like that of the family holidaying in The Red House, but it would be nice to have some shelf or cupboard space to spare.

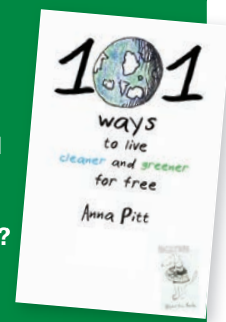
Last year I did my best to try to cut down the number of books that are decorating my walls and gathering dust, selecting ten books every month to give away to friends or to the community shop. I also tried to avoid buying as many books. I'm not reading less, but I am trying to borrow books from the library rather than buy them.

This year I am aiming to part with another 120 books, which I'll be donating to the BLEST FEST book sale, taking place on the weekend of 20 and 21 June. The proceeds of the book sale will be divided between Bampton Library and the Bampton Community Archive.

I never re-read a novel. With so many great books to choose from I think life is just too short! I think the reason I still hang on to books is that I hope someone else in the family will read them. To get round this problem, my plan is that by the time you are reading this article I will have selected my target books and I'll give my family one weekend to browse my 'temporary bookshop' and select anything they think they might read. Unless the book is picked out of my 'bookshop' by the Sunday night it will be boxed up for BLEST FEST.

If at some stage they do want to read one of the books, they can always get it from the library anyway. So my books may as well go to someone who wants to read them now, not in ten years time.

Right, decision made...I just need a big box and some will power. Who is joining me?



The Great Original Shirt Race

This is being written before the event, but I am sure it will be a good fun evening whatever the weather and racing conditions. I can't help wondering if any of the fancy dress will reflect the recent general election and just what plans are being made in the Morris Clown. You really never can tell. Pleasurable memories include a "chariot" complete with piano and candelabra one year; several Downton Abbey re-creations; and particular families who always throw themselves into the event, often quite literally, regardless of age. For my money the real nature of the event is captured in that wonderful, early picture of Cyril Smith and his partner John (Raddy) Radband with their modified pram (If you have not seen it, then go down to the Vesey Room and look in the Bampton Community Archives).

For the benefit of anyone new to the village, the following have all been put forward as the origins for the event "remembered" by the SPAJERS in 1952, and recreated ever since:

- a shirt race was first held in 1461 during the reign of King Edward IV – no reason for this happening is given.

or

- during the reign of King Ethelred the Unready (late 900s AD) the King chased the good burghers of Bampton in "an unsuccessful attempt to clothe his nakedness". Or were they chasing him out of town because he was late getting into his breeks?

or

- people got lost in the early morning mists as they made their way down the gardens to the privy in their nightshirts.

Many, many thanks to all our stewards who help with ensuring a safe and fun occasion for all, and to those who provide the drinks at the obligatory watering holes. Many, many thanks also to everyone who dropped something in the collecting tins.

The Quiz Night

The quiz night was again a hard fought evening, with the "Old Church Viewians" emerging as the winners. Our quizmaster, Scottie did a grand job. Thanks are also due to helpers and partners for running the bar, serving nibbles and keeping things running smoothly. We had a full house of teams and if we had all got together no doubt could have answered every single question. Quiz nights always provide a few



surprises, and I often find myself thinking, "How come you know that? You were the last person I would have expected to know that".

A suggestion for a tie-break in the case of a heat, was that the team who could first set up the electronic question and scoreboard apparatus from scratch would win. (Thinks back to early days in school when all teachers had cracked fingertips from the drying effect of holding sticks of chalk to write on a blackboard).

The valuable funds raised at the quiz night will go towards running the summer outing, which this year is to Weston-super-mare on 2 September. Members will receive an individual invitation nearer the time, but put the date in your diary now.

The AGM

Our AGM went smoothly, (apart from a certain committee member who called in on a neighbour and over an hour and a glass or two later, suddenly remembered where she should have been.....) and don't forget we are always happy to welcome new people as helpers. This could be for the organising committee or for specific events if you can't make meetings. We have been very pleased that a couple of new faces have joined us. They will testify to the fact that it is not too onerous and that SPAJERS like to keep bureaucracy to a minimum.

Donkey Derby

The Donkey Derby will be on Monday 31 August. this year; so save up your pennies (and pounds), old china for the crockery breaking, books, garden plants, bake a cake or two, get new glasses to take good aim at various targets and look forward to having a good old chin wag with folk from the other end of the village. And if you are over 6 years old and under 8 stone (approx 50 kg) you might be lucky enough to get to be a jockey. Not many opportunities to ride a donkey these days, so make the most of it. People who choose to live in other parts of the country are always amazed at the variety of things that go on in this village. Just seems normal to us

Membership

Our membership is open to anyone who has been resident in the village, including Lew and Weald, for at least six months, for women over 60, for men over 65. Get in touch with our membership secretary Jeff Dando on 850643, and remember to ask them before putting forward someone else's name. If you prefer email then send your details to spajers@googlemail.com. Your personal data will only be used in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act and your details will not be shared.

Summer wedding or big birthday coming up?

Remember if you are planning an event that we have two marquees, which can be used separately or together. We will be happy to erect them and take them down again for you, in return for a donation to the funds. Phone Mat on 850760 for more information. ☺

...in brief

Oxford Wine offer

Special offer for Bampton Beam readers. 15% discount. Minimum order six bottles mixed. Delivery free within seven miles of Bampton or collect from Oxford Wine Company. Call 01865 301144 and quote reference "Robin 1855."

De Chansac Old Vine Carignan, Pays de l'Hérault. Usual price £8.99. Offer price £7.64.

Sauvignon de Touraine, Domaine Guy Allion. Usual price £9.99. Offer price £8.49.

Village fête

On Saturday 4 July, Friends of Bampton School will be hosting the annual village fête. In keeping with the date this year's theme will be all things American! Gates open at 12.00 pm. Come along for stalls, games, hotdogs and more. Entry £1.00. All proceeds to charity. If you would like to book a stall please email alicekbjones@aol.com.

The Bush Club

As well as a delicious home cooked lunch and pudding, members of the Bush Club have been enjoying some 'different' entertainment over the past few weeks.

There's some serious sport going on with the Bagatelle Challenge where teams compete against each other for trophies with gold, silver and bronze medals for the highest individual scorers.

Renee Woodward 97 was 'cock a hoop' with the first medal she had ever won with an amazing individual score 'of 370! Recently Sarah Main of Hats Whiskers delighted us with her beautiful range of individual ladies' and gents' hats. With true Bush Club spirit, the members were happy to try on and model different hats and parade around to Abba's 'Dancing Queen'. The gentlemen looked very dapper in their top hats and during the morning there was much mirth and laughter.



Seated dancing and exercise is very popular and members have enjoyed some wonderful performances from Robin Martin Oliver's Choir, Bampton Primary School,

David Hawkins and Geoff Rayner. There are a few places available at the Bush Club so if anyone is interested in coming along please contact Sally Proctor on 01993 850479 for more details.

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Local plan setbacks

By Martin Barrett

Firstly, you will all be aware that Councillor Mark Booty did not stand for re-election this year. My sincere thank you to Mark for all the excellent work he has carried out over the years as Councillor, Cabinet Member and Deputy Leader of the Council.

Mark Booty worked tirelessly for many years and is highly respected by the council. I'm sure we all wish him well for the future. A second cabinet member, Simon Hoare, stood down in order to stand as a parliamentary candidate in the general election. Both have represented Bampton: Mark as District Councillor and Simon as County Councillor for West Witney and Bampton. Speaking of the election, I am sure the results are going to be very interesting. (Unfortunately, the deadline for going to press for the Beam closed before the election results.)

The Local Plan

Earlier attempts to get a local plan adopted suffered setbacks for reasons beyond our control. However, the latest version has undergone public consultation and in the light of that, and after review and due processing it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. If all goes well with the Inspectorate it is likely the plan will be adopted in the first quarter of 2016. Moving on, I am pleased to report that WODC has, once again, maintained its services without increasing Council Tax. For the fifth year running we are still enjoying the second lowest council tax in the country. Band D property charge will remain at £81.63, less than half the national average. This equates to £1.50 per week per household for all services provided by the council, quite a lot for 21p per day!

Our policy of shared working arrangements with Cotswold District Council is still saving us some £22.5m per year and we are now working with Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Cheltenham Borough Councils to deliver more efficiency savings and protect public services. The Council's '2020 Vision for Joint Working' is for four independent councils determining their own policies, priorities and decisions

supported by a small number of expert advisors who commission and monitor services, either from the private and voluntary sectors or from local authority-owned service delivery companies. This innovative partnership is working to establish a jointly-owned local authority company to provide services required by

I am pleased to report that, according to National Health England, West Oxfordshire is a very healthy place to live and meets WODC policy of making West Oxfordshire a great place to live and work

each individual council, enabling each council to protect frontline services, whilst remaining as independent authorities with their own councillors representing local people. The venture is expected to save in excess of £55 million over 10 years. As of last November, the 4 councils collectively received £2.9 million from the Government's Transformation Challenge Fund.

I am pleased to report that, according to NHS England, West Oxfordshire is a very healthy place to live and meets WODC policy of making West Oxfordshire a great place to live and work. Of the 32 health indicators published, West Oxfordshire is well above average in all but three of these. The district is generally well-served when it comes to clinical services. However, there are a number of county-wide service issues which are cause for concern. These include community hospitals, delayed transfers of care, primary care services, ongoing changes in substantive care services and, of course ambulance services.



Ambulance response times

This has been a major concern for several years. The Government has set a target that, for immediately life threatening incidents a response vehicle should reach the incident in less than eight minutes on at least 75% of occasions. The latest figures show they succeed on only 55% of occasions. Bearing in mind, the attending vehicle may not be an ambulance; it could be a community first responder, a fire services vehicle or a rapid response vehicle. If it is a "conveyancing" vehicle ie. an ambulance, then the target is for a vehicle to be at the scene within 19 minutes for 95% of the time. Current data shows success for only 88% of incidents. Being such a large rural area it is clearly very difficult for any ambulance service to meet these government imposed targets, especially when they are underfunded! I've met with ambulance service staff and must say they are a positive, dedicated team who do a wonderful job in trying to meet the targets (which in my opinion are all very well for urban areas but are somewhat unrealistic for large rural areas such as West Oxfordshire.) Nonetheless, we will continue to seek improvements in the above health related and other matters. 📍

Parish Council

Update by councillor Dave Hussell

I have been a member of the BPC for approximately one year now and have found it to be a very interesting role.

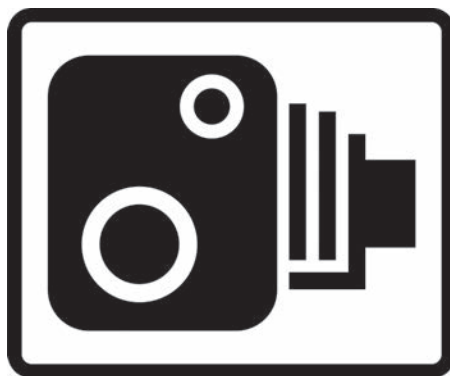
As a new resident of Bampton (only four years) it has been a revelation to discover how much work is involved. The BPC members are passionate about supporting the parishioners on all levels from the infrastructure of the village right down to the welfare of all who reside here in the lovely village/mini-town of Bampton.

THE BUDGET

As we all know WODC and OCC have a tight budget and undoubtedly spend a lot of time prioritizing the funding they are allocated by the government. Therefore I was very pleased that we secured £11,000 to have the village road markings repainted and two new VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) fitted. Even more pleasing was when the word "EEP" turned into "KEEP" when they returned to finish the job!

SPEEDING

As we are all aware people speeding



through the village is still a problem and although the police continue to conduct random speed checks, discussions on further measures to try and calm this problem are still ongoing by the BPC.

HIGHWAYS

More recently the leak in the road adjacent to the beauty salon "Polished" seemed to take an age to get fixed. However numerous phone calls, e-mails and general persistence to Thames Water seemed to pay off – eventually!

Incidentally, if any of you see any problems regarding highways, there is an app called FIX my Street which is easy to use on your smart phone or electronic device. I have used it a few times and OCC/WODC have been very prompt in reacting and fixing the issues concerned.

LITTER

Changing issues slightly, there seems to be a big problem with litter around Bampton at the moment. Our new Lengthsperson has been surprised by the sheer quantity she has had to clean up. I am sure some of you will remember the Wombles! As we are a bit thin on the ground with wombles, we should all endeavour to keep our streets litter free.

AND FINALLY

On a final note, the BPC is here to help and work hard to try and offer a fair, unbiased service to you all and as such are happy to address any issues you have. 🍷

Street Wardens

Update by Vic Grinsell

My helpers and I would like to thank all those who help and support what we do in making Bampton a cleaner and safer place.

Our work on the Aston Road is now complete. The trees and vegetation has been cut back. The work was carried out as I feel we have a duty of care to all our residents, in particular our senior citizens who were having great difficulty in walking along the pavements without having to go onto the road. Safety for everyone is paramount to us.

As for the roads and pavements, the laying of tarmac is beyond us. Whenever I approach the County Council Highways department, I am told that as their budget has been slashed by central government, there are no funds for such work.

As we are now enjoying being a tourist destination which brings money into the area, surely the state of our roads and pavements is important to the way that the town presents itself.

Many residents have complained to



me about vehicles parking on pavements and grass verges. This practice is very dangerous for pedestrians as well as damaging kerbs, making it very costly to repair. Where grass verges are concerned these break down into mud pools which are unsightly and can never be repaired.

Regarding 'fly posting and fly tipping' these practices are illegal and subject to prosecution and heavy fines. The Parish Council have provided approved notice boards for your posters, there are four sites for you to use. Regarding the dumping of

rubbish in our ditches and hedgerows, why not go that extra mile and take it to the council tip.

In conclusion I would like to thank an unsung hero Trevor Hawkins. He always supplies us with the tools and his time when that extra bit of muscle is needed, and all for free. Robin Baker also is of great assistance to us. What you might call a real community effort. In spite of lack of funding we will continue to do our best to keep our streets and paths, safe, clean and tidy for the benefit of the community. 🍷



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Local Notices

BAMPTON 250 CLUB

The Bampton 250 Club was set up some years ago to raise funds for the village hall and the young of Bampton (£750 each every year). In addition there are monthly draws for a £25 and three £15 prizes plus quarterly draws for £100 and an annual draw for £250. Membership costs £12 per year (or £1 per month) and, as the name suggests, is limited to 250 people. There are currently a very few spare places available; anyone interested should contact Anthony Hall on 851142.

Winners: February – April

February

£25 148 Mrs J. Pearce
£15 69 Mrs J. Males
£15 82 Mr & Mrs
Murray-Clarke
£15 242 Gill Gummer

March

£100 29 M. McArthur Christie
£25 28 Mrs M. Snow
£15 152 Mark Snow
£15 147 Wendy Radband
£15 250 Sandra Haynes

April

£250 50 Ray Proctor
£25 196 Mr & Mrs Faithfull
£15 72 Marie Belshaw
£15 209 Mrs R. Lewsi
£15 112 Sue & Kevin Smith

Think before you light

The main outdoor season has not long begun, but already some Bampton residents have been troubled by smoke from bonfires.

While there is no law against the lighting of bonfires, there are national guidelines about showing consideration to residents when doing so. This not only a concern to immediate neighbors as smoke carries over extensive areas.

The ill effects on health caused by air pollution are well known. Bonfire smoke and smells add to existing pollution levels making them worse, and even small amounts cause distress to sufferers from a number of health conditions. Recycling services by the local council offer the means of disposing most garden waste and

can advise on dealing with any excess.

When a bonfire is lit, neighbors should be notified in advance so that they can take precautions by closing windows and doors to prevent smoke from entering the house where it can linger.

Care should also be taken to ensure that only dry material is burnt, damp material will smoulder and produce more smoke. Also consider the wind direction – will it blow over a road and reduce driver visibility.

Bonfires should never be left unattended.

Community Plan

The collation of the Bampton Community Led Plan (CLP) residents' survey questionnaires, which were submitted to our CLP Committee, has been completed and they accurately reflect Bampton residents' wishes for the maintenance and the improvement of our town. A good consistency of responses from the various areas in Bampton was received, which has served to validate the survey results. We received a total of 1252 completed adults' questionnaires and a further 129 young peoples' questionnaire responses from 543 households in the town, which has given us the level of representation we sought. We are now compiling various tables and graphs to show clearly the resulting data in the plan. Meanwhile we have been asking the various public bodies, involved in maintaining and improving Bampton, for their comments and have already received some useful responses. Many of the town's traffic problems listed in the CLP survey are already being addressed as this letter is being written and other problems and solutions suggested by respondents are under consideration by the public bodies concerned. By the time you read this letter the Community Led Plan should be published and the public access arrangements to the plan will be posted on the Parish Council's notice board in the market square.

Our CLP committee would like to thank all the residents who took the time and trouble to complete their survey questionnaires. Your participation was much valued.

Douglas J Clare – Chairman – Bampton Community Led Plan

Bampton Community Archive

The current exhibition in the Vesey Room is entitled 'Witney's Forgotten Airfield' and is the work of Peter Davies. It runs until 27 June and is accompanied by a catalogue which is available for purchase. It tells the story of the airfield from its opening in 1918 until its closure in 1951 during which time it served as an RAF training unit, base for tennis, horse racing and motorcycle speedway as well as for Witney and Oxford Aero Club and Witney Aeronautical College. At the outbreak of WW11 it was taken over by the De Havilland Aircraft Company and was instrumental in returning hundreds of aircraft into service including hurricanes and spitfires.

The weekend of the 20/21 June promises to be an interesting and entertaining one with the 'Blest Fest' event taking place. On Saturday 20 June, there will be free talks and workshops by professional authors for children and adults in the Old

School Community Centre. There will also be many stalls, including one by Bampton Archive, selling interesting produce and items and a community concert in St Mary's Church from 7.30pm until 9.30pm. On Sunday morning the ever-popular village garage sale will be held, followed in the afternoon by the much-loved 'Bampton's Hidden Gardens'.

Please note that the summer times are now operating for the Vesey Room and these are 11.00pm - 1.00pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm Monday to Saturday and 2.30pm - 4.30pm Sunday.

The Vesey Room is very busy this summer as many tours have been organised to



view some of the locations for the filming of Downton Abbey as well as having an increasing number of visitors to our exhibitions. If you enjoy meeting people and are interested in volunteering to become a sitter please contact Vanessa Argles on 01993 852853 or email her at vanessaargles@hotmail.com.

www.bamptonarchive.co.uk



Dear Editor

Following Don Rouse's comments in previous editions about the annual fair I thought it would be helpful to clarify certain points.

Bampton Parish Council has no control over the annual fair.

The rights to hold a fair in Bampton are granted/held by 'The Lords of the Manor of Bampton' and many years ago a clerk looked into these manorial rights and was unable to track down the ownership.

The parish council receives NO money from the showman running the fair as we have no right to receive any money, and the only thing we do is to ask that they keep to the dates of the fair charter which is based around Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 August. We have a framed copy of the original fair charter in the town hall, with a translation into English (it's only very small and not at all impressive!). We have tried in the last few years to notify the owners of properties in the Market Square and Lavender Square about the impending arrival of the fair by advertising the dates, although three years ago when there was a new showman running the fair, this unfortunately went awry and people were quite naturally upset. We subsequently notified the showman that he must adhere to the Charter dates and he has.

The parish council has therefore no right or control to move the position of the fair from the Market Square. We have not discussed the principle of whether it

would be acceptable to relocate the fair onto land owned by the recreation ground Trust but suspect we would have to spend considerable sums of ratepayer's money taking legal advice if we wanted to try to enforce a move.

Whilst some residents would no doubt welcome a change of venue for the annual fair, there might be others who would not want to see it moved from its central location. The area now taken up by the fair over 3-4 days is substantially less than in years past, when as a horse fair, much of the village was taken over as can be seen from old photographs. Only thirty years ago it extended down the High Street to Bushey Row as well as filling the Market Square. The fair is now entirely contained within the Market Square and to a limited extent Lavender Square so it does affect parking and where the bus stops in those areas for the time it is here, but that situation has remained largely unchanged except that perhaps more people now drive to the shops when in the past they walked.

The council hopes that Beam readers will find this explanation of the situation regarding the annual fair enlightening.

J Allinson
Bampton Parish Council

Dear Editor

It was an August evening, a year after Pip and I blew in to Bampton. The windows were open and we could hear the local lads enjoying a beer or two on the green outside the church; lots of laughter, plenty of good-natured abuse and banter. Plenty of beer was sunk too, with bottles and tins littering the grass. At about 11.30pm, everyone decided to leave. One of the lads reached into his pocket and pulled out a black plastic sack. He held it open while his mates gathered their beer cans, bottles and fag butts and dumped them in the sack. He tied the neck and left it by the library bin. Still joshing each other, they strolled home.



We'd realised Bampton was a special place before that, but that evening made the point more powerfully than anything else we'd seen.

Cut to twelve years later. We're still here (sorry), and have acquired what we thought was a puppy but is, in fact, a small carthorse who needs a lot of walking. That means I'm often chasing her through the little copse north west of the village. And that's where the rubbish in the picture came from. Some of it was strewn along the path. Some was bobbing up against



the bank in Shill Brook. Some of it I had to take out of the puppy's mouth. And there was a trail of the discarded sweet wrappers leading back across the field.

That's one day's rubbish. And it was only as much as I could carry - I ran out of pockets for the rest.

The little copse is, like Bampton, a beautiful place. There are deer, rabbits, owls and a couple of red kites up there. It's a quiet spot to sit and see how muddy the puppy can get too. But having to stop her choking on bottle tops, tetrapack seals and plastic is rather less peaceful. Pulling thrown-away polythene drug wraps out of her mouth before the remaining hash in the bottom poisons her is just bloody unpleasant. At least I'm there to do that. Deer, rabbits, owls and kites won't be so lucky.

I'm not going to sound off about 'the youth of today' the ones I know in the village are a lot brighter, more responsible and better citizens than I was at their age. I suspect it's a minority who simply didn't think before they dropped that little lot or the usual strew of cartons, packs and bottles that fills the hedges around Sandford's Field. Be nice if they did next time though.

Mark McArthur-Christie
Bampton



Comment

Don Rouse

Do you ever get the feeling that when you have served on a committee for a few years and nothing much seems to happen you tend to ask yourself “what’s the point, what am I doing here”?, when suddenly a lot happens and it all feels better and worthwhile?. Well that’s how I felt about the neighbourhood action group. Take illegal parking in the disabled bays in Bampton. Readers will recall that I mentioned this in the last edition of the Beam. At the last NAG meeting in March, the Bampton representative also raised the issue and mentioned the fading markings on the disabled bays. Within ten days the job was done, with new distinct white markings. Brilliant.

Another issue which is always raised at these meetings is speeding. Bampton has now got new speed indicators installed at the entrances to the town! Just one problem though, why there? As a motorist, one has to approach the chicanes at the town entrances slowly and with great care as they are so dangerous. That is why the council spent an awful lot of your money on them. I did say at the time that they were positioned too far out of town to have an affect on the speed of the motorists in the town, but that is a separate issue. These new devices need to be actually in the town to be effective and remind motorists of the speed limit. Witney has one on the Curbridge road out of Witney and for me it works very well. To prove my point, a police speed check was carried out recently in Bampton and by far the greatest number of people caught speeding were leaving the town not entering! I am against ‘witch hunts’ for motorists and I am all in favour of prevention rather than cure, so please councillors, re-site these valuable devices to a position where they will be more effective to the benefit of motorists and pedestrians alike.

What did you make of the road works fiasco outside the Co-op at Easter? A water leak in the middle of the road for several weeks, then just a few days before Easter they decide to dig the road up to carry out the repair. They repaired the leaking pipe but came totally unprepared to restore the road to its original state, so we were left with a hole in the road and traffic lights to cause confusion all over the Easter weekend.

As readers will know, I have an aversion to the EEC and all the bureaucracies that accompany it. Back in 1975 when the EEC brought in new rules, anyone digging a hole in the road had to have official qualifications and the right paperwork to do so before the job could commence. What I think went wrong outside the Co-op was that the man qualified to dig the hole did not have the qualifications to refill the hole. That man had indeed gone away for Easter. Why else would anyone come to do a repair in the road and not have the materials with them to restore it completely? If this is not the case, could the person from the Council who is responsible for ‘holes in the road’ inform the Editor in time for the next Beam because we all want to know

how they could have got it so wrong. Somehow I think that their excuse will be “We use outside contractors”.

The Carterton Lions have been busy in our area. At their art exhibition in February, children from Bampton Primary School entered the schools section and showed a very high standard, gaining several awards.

The Talbot and the Morris Clown ran Easter egg raffles and raised a lot of money for two valuable local charities. The Talbot supported the Asthma UK Charity and the Morris Clown supported the Air Ambulance. They also raised the most money of the 18 Easter eggs that were distributed in the Carterton Lions area. On behalf of the Lions I would like to thank both establishments on my ‘patch’ and all their generous clientele for supporting two very worthwhile charities.

Every fourth Saturday in the month Carterton Lions hold a car boot sale on the recreation ground in Carterton to raise money for all local charities. If you are interested in either helping or your organisation needs help then contact the secretary Maddy Radburn on 01993 772241.

In the March issue of the Beam, I mentioned that no one had taken me to task about the issues that I’ve raised in previous issues of the Beam, i.e moving the Annual Bampton Fair which clogs up our market square, to the sports field. Well that has all changed. I have just received an email from the Chairman of our Parish Council, and they don’t come much higher than that! I understand that she has now sent a copy to the Editor which will be published for you all to read. I certainly appreciate the fact that she has indeed read my article and has taken time to respond. It goes to show that our council takes notice of issues that bother us and does care about what we think.

So my advice to everyone is, if you are troubled by what is going on in your community then tell a councillor. If you do not get a response then write to the Beam. It is after all your magazine and as I’ve just said, our councillors read the Beam.

As I shall be away on election day I have elected to use the postal vote system. What a palaver that has turned out to be. I applied some six weeks before the election day and my application was acknowledged. Then on the 21 April I received a letter from West Oxfordshire District Council saying that the papers would be posted first class two weeks before the election. Then it goes on to say, and I quote “However it cannot be guaranteed that they will be posted then and although they will be sent first class, there will be no guarantee that they will be delivered next day” Where has all the positive thinking and decisive action gone?. Somehow WODC does not fill me with much confidence.

Following on from my comment in last month’s Beam, I see that the oak trees are well ahead of the ash. So according to my interpretation of folklore, we are in for a good summer. So check your hose pipes and watering cans now. ☀



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ŠKODA

Bampton resident Tony Page died on 16 March at the age of 86. Tony and his wife Lis moved to the village in 1998, and quickly became a part of village life with his particular interest in local history.

Tony Page

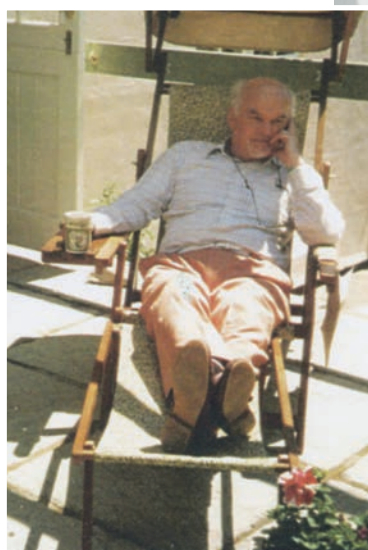
5th June 1928 – 16th March 2015

Tony spent his early life working in theatre as a stage manager before moving into television in 1956. Starting as a floor manager with ATV at Elstree studios, he later moved into management. He was involved with many productions including *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, *The Muppet Show* and *Edward VII*. Tony and Lis met in 1950 and were married in 1960. They had two children, Martin and Mary Ann, and lived for many years in Redbourn in Hertfordshire.

In 1982 he was relocated to Central Television's Birmingham studios and the family moved to Staffordshire. He eventually took early retirement in 1988. After their children left home, they decided that their home in Staffordshire was too big for them so they downsized, choosing Bampton as it was about half way between their son and daughter.

Not long after their arrival Tony and Lis were asked if they would assist in the running of the Bampton Theatre Club which they did for 17 years. The vitality and solidarity of Bampton village life was always a special concern of Tony's and he and Lis developed an idea for fostering that community spirit by linking it to another community elsewhere, particularly one in need. After a good deal of research, in 2003 they started the Bampton Zimbabwe Project, a registered charity which aims to support the people of that country, whose lives have been devastated by the present oppressive government. This is done by a variety of fund-raising events in which Tony was heavily involved. He was active in investigating methods of funneling aid to people and groups in need which would avoid the risks of embezzlement by government or criminals; a number of charities have benefitted over the past twelve years from this careful approach, during which time Bampton has sent approximately £4,000 per annum to Zimbabwe. To produce this result, the Project committee has organised a variety of fund-raising events, including particularly an annual fair in the village hall, all of which have had the additional aim of strengthening Bampton community life. Tony played a key role in the conception and execution of all these projects.

At the start of the Bampton Archive in 2002 Tony undertook the preparation and printing of the catalogues which accompany each exhibition. With no background in this kind of work he taught himself desk top publishing and became responsible for all the printed matter used in the Vesey Room. The sale of the items Tony devised and produced enabled



the archive to purchase the equipment necessary for the digital archiving of Bampton's history. He was frequently called upon to print tickets and posters

for other village activities.

He did some research into the history of Bampton, writing a small booklet, "Bampton Town, its Castle and the Earl of Pembroke". He also wrote and produced the two books "Downton in Bampton" which are hugely popular with visitors who come to Bampton in large numbers for the "Downton Experience". By the time he had single-handedly printed and bound over 2,000 copies it was decided that the work should be put out to professional printers. But he and Lis were like a printer's workshop – producing, packaging and displaying postcards, posters, catalogues and notices, all beautifully designed and with great attention to detail. Tony also, knowing nothing of the technology, produced a touch-screen for the Vesey Room on which it is possible to research a large part of the Bampton social history that is stored by the archive.

In the autumn of 2014 Tony put on an exhibition in the Vesey Room entitled "We Will Remember Them", commemorating the men of Bampton who lost their lives in the wars between 1914 and 2014. The research for this took about two years and he found it very emotional, which those looking at the exhibition also felt. The books he produced to go with this exhibition are a great tribute to his hard work, his attention to detail and the generosity with which he gave his time.

Tony will be much missed, not only by the archive for which he did so much, but also by the many organisations in the village which he always seemed willing to help.

A memorial service took place at St. Mary's Church in Bampton on 24 March attended by over 100 people. ☛

St Mary's Church

LITCHFIELD
Cathedral



"The cathedral was amazing and very beautiful. I loved how many things we could join in with and I got to light a candle for my Grandpa. I loved walking in and seeing everyone waiting for us and I feel very lucky to have been able to sing there." Isabel Jones

The choir visit Litchfield Cathedral

On the 18 April St Mary's Church choir travelled to Lichfield Cathedral where they performed Evensong as a visiting choir. Organised by Choirmaster David New, the choir travelled down by coach and on arrival were able to tour the beautiful cathedral and learn about its rich history, before attending rehearsals in the Cathedral School. Those of us who are not in the choir took the opportunity to visit the town itself,

including a walk through gardens of Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of Charles Darwin. We returned in the late afternoon to take our seats and see the choir process into the cathedral. The Evensong performance was wonderful and the choir were something to be proud of; it was a privilege to be part of their experience and I know they all had a wonderful day too. *Alice Biddiscombe*

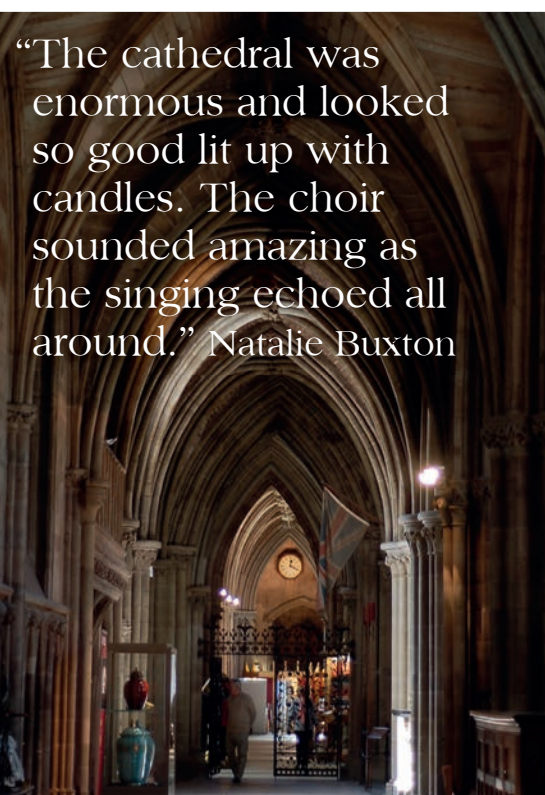
Announcements

Baptisms

22nd Feb	Frederick William Marchant
8th March	Owen Charles Cook
12th April	Matilda Grace Richardson
26th April	Hazel Clare Rainey

Funerals

11th March	William Arthur Fowler
24th March	Anthony Page
7th April	Colin Rennie
24th April	Joan Florence Holloway
1st May	Patricia Nicholls
8th May	Gerald Patrick Watson (Pat) Taylor



"The cathedral was enormous and looked so good lit up with candles. The choir sounded amazing as the singing echoed all around." Natalie Buxton

I hope this edition of the Beam finds you well and enjoying the longer evenings and better weather. I have been off for a little while but am now back in Bampton and as it had been some time since I last wrote an article I thought I would endeavour to give an update on as much as possible about all things policing in Bampton.

For those of you that don't know me I am PCSO Colin Davies and I am based at Carterton Police Station and have been the PCSO for all the villages that the Beam gets sent to and a few more for the last four years. My details are at the bottom of this article for anyone wanting to contact me directly.

Speeding and parking

I am sure speeding and parking are the issues you would like updates on first – both are taken very seriously by myself and the team and are being dealt with robustly. The current sites for structured speed enforcement by us and roads policing are Buckland Road, Aston Road, the main road through Clanfield, Black Bourton and Alvescot. Other sites are being looked into and statistics being collated for ongoing enforcement. You have been warned! Regarding parking it has been brought to my attention that there are a number of areas of concern all of which I am aware of. Without writing an exhaustive list any vehicles parked on the pavement in anyway, on double yellow lines, within ten metres



of a junction, parked on a bend or in loading bays are liable for a parking ticket from me or the council parking attendants who have been notified for further enforcement.

Crime prevention note

Crime remains very low in Bampton and keeping it like that would be great, so some simple precautions will help prevent opportunistic crime. Ensure that your sheds and garages are locked when you go out and large items of petrol machinery are chained together along with your mountain bikes. This makes these valuable items much more difficult to carry. Marking with your postcode will also help us identify stolen property. Don't leave anything of value clearly visible in your cars or houses, particularly if you have left windows open for some fresh air. These crimes are rare but don't take long so simple steps really help. For those interested in current crime in the area either check crime mapping on the internet or sign

up to TVPs community alert page www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/ I send frequent locals messages on here about current crimes.

Anti Social Behaviour

Anti social behaviour in the village is always a priority and any reports will be investigated fully. With the summer months coming I will be working at all times of the day and night and patrolling frequently. Anyone wishing to report individuals or groups acting in an anti social manner should go through the 101 non-emergency number so it is recorded. If I am on duty I will attend or be made aware on my return. I am aware of the areas of concern and will be very robust in my approach to nip any issues quickly in the bud.

Lastly I hope you all have an enjoyable summer and I will see more of you at the community events in the village or whilst I am out and about. Many thanks

**PCSO Colin Davies c6584
Carterton Police Station**

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Official fuel consumption for the FABIA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 46.3 (6.1) to 72.4 (3.9); Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2) to 91.1 (3.1); Combined 58.8 (4.8) to 83.1 (3.4). CO₂ emissions for the FABIA range are 110 to 88 g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Scouting in Bampton

Fiona Richmond gives a personal account of how setting up a Beaver Colony seemed like a good idea at the time... three years ago

Just over three years ago, it seemed like a great idea to set up a Beaver Scout colony in the village. My son suddenly became very enthusiastic about being a Cub, so we investigated. Whilst Scouting was very active in Witney, it transpired that there was no group in Bampton. And that Beavers (age 6–8) came before Cubs (age 8–10). And that scouting was open to boys and girls. Fantastic.

So we spent some time with a wonderful Beaver Scout Leader in Witney, the Witney Buttercross group, and her colony, to get to grips with what it was all about, and immerse ourselves in the chaos of a Beaver meeting. Undeterred by joining in with cake decorating, rolling boiled eggs down a hill, bird spotting and many other things, we set up the 1st Bampton Beaver colony in spring 2012. Luckily, the colony was quite small to start with, as trying to work out the ways of scouting was quite a challenge.

We were ably supported by all the parents, who helped out at meetings and turned up at 'planning' meetings at the pub, which certainly improved my knowledge of village life, and my knowledge of the pub. Thanks to the parents, we arranged visits to the fire station (a firm favourite), ran sports evenings, did craft activities, managed a 5-mile hike (with the help of sweets) and have been to numerous camps.

We attended our first camp that summer. One World Camp held was at Thame show ground, and four Beavers plus parents turned up on one of the hottest weekends of the year along with 5,000 other Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and more from across Oxfordshire. The range of activities was amazing, as was the opening parade. Watching the best part of 5,000 young people walk by in costumes from around the world was something none of us are likely to forget.

The colony started to grow, until we reached around 15 Beaver Scouts, and the group has stayed more or less the same size ever since. As my son and other Beavers grew older, it became apparent that there was a need to set up a Cub Pack. So once again assisted by some of the amazing leaders from Witney Buttercross, and Bampton's own Assistant Cub Scout leader, we



set up a Cub Pack. It now has around 15 Cubs, who have gone on hikes, had a weekend camping, tried kayaking, undertaken climbing, built bird boxes, found out about sharks and much more. We couldn't do this without the help of our parents and leadership team.

We are now trying to find someone who would like to set up a Scout Troop, as some of our Cubs are needing to move up quite soon. Recognising the limit of my own abilities, this is one challenge that I'll have to pass up. We are now also in need of someone to join the Beaver leadership team, to ensure we can keep the Colony going.



We asked our young people what qualities a leader should have and this is what they think:

- Helpful
- Fun
- Always prepared
- Sense of leadership
- Brave
- Energetic
- Likes camping
- Outdoorsy
- Likes challenges
- Creative
- Good with knots

Does that sound like you? Would you have some free time once a week to be involved with running meetings? If so, we'd love to hear from you. As one of the Cubs said:

"Make it happen – Sign up today!"

Whilst it has been more of a challenge than I could have ever foreseen, I have had the privilege of getting to know some amazing young people, whose energy and enthusiasm never ceases to impress me. We are hoping to get a cart sorted for the shirt race again this year, so keep an eye out for us and give us a cheer as we run past.

Please get in touch. Contact Fiona Richmond, bampton.akela@gmail.com or look for Witney Buttercross Scout Group on Facebook. 🍷

The Beaver Shout

1, 2, 3

Who are we

We are Beavers

Can't you see?

B.E.A.V.E.R.S

Beavers!

...Followed by
much rushing
around



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Downton

At the end of March, the Downton actors returned to the village. The screens were up at St Mary's Church and police were in attendance – so something secret was going on. For dedicated fans I think it's easy to work out what it was...

Abbey



Photographs by www.jameswildman.co.uk

For users of Facebook who follow the Beam, you will have seen that I posted a gallery of images following the filming. The response was amazing with the post viewed over 19,000 times and reaching Downton fans worldwide.

Lovely, long days give plenty of time to be out in your garden – which is just as well; as per usual, there's plenty to do in the garden, which should be blooming beautifully.

An edible garden

Feed your summer hanging baskets and planters once a week with a liquid feed and make sure you deadhead them regularly, to ensure they give a stunning show of flowers all summer long. For a hanging basket with a difference, why not make an edible hanging basket? Fill your wire basket with herbs of your choice; maybe parsley, thyme, chives, salad leaves and nasturtiums; which make a colourful addition to any salad bowl. All these plants should be available in small pots at the garden centre. Liquid feed once a week, just like your flowering baskets.

Strawberries and rhubarb are yours for the picking now. Net your strawberries to stop the birds getting to them first and put straw around the plants to keep the fruit off the ground.

A liquid feed such as tomato food every 7-10 days should ensure a good crop for you. Now I'm not a fan of drizzling balsamic vinegar over my strawberries; give me a punnet of strawberries, and a pot of clotted cream and I'm very happy and unless; like me, you're training for a marathon and temporarily teetotal, enjoy them with some chilled champagne!

Gently pull rhubarb from the plant, do not cut it. And incase you didn't know, all that the leaves are good for is the compost heap! They will make you very ill if you eat them. The stems however, are very good to eat ... Gently steamed until cooked but not mushy, with or without sugar – honey and cinnamon is a delicious alternative – and served with cream or custard. Yum!

If you are lucky enough to harvest a good crop of rhubarb, treat yourself to home-made rhubarb liqueur for the winter.



For every 1lb of chopped rhubarb add 1lb of sugar and if you want to spice it up peel a chunk of ginger 2–5cms (1–2 inches) in size. Put all these ingredients into a jar large enough to also hold a full bottle of gin or vodka for every pound of fruit. Seal the jar and when the sugar has dissolved (usually takes a week or so) add your chosen spirit, give it a good stir, then reseal the jar and hide away for a few months. It will be perfect at your Christmas party – if you can wait that long!

Even if your garden isn't edible there's still plenty to do. Quick growing hedges like *Lonicer nitida* and privet need trimming to keep

them neat and under control. Box hedges and topiary specimens need to be clipped too to maintain their shape.

You'll be weeding round in circles at this time of year! Regular hoeing between vegetable rows and around plants in borders will keep the weeds down. Then you can throw some slow release fertiliser such as Growmore or chicken manure pellets round the plants in the borders and vegetable garden.

It's an endless tale of weed, deadhead, sleep, repeat, but as this is the time of year for open gardens, make sure you take a break and sneak a peek into other people's gardens – be a nosey neighbour! You will be able to share hints and tips with fellow gardeners, see plants you simply must or must not have for your own garden and take away design ideas

with you if you are looking to 're-jig' your own green space. Alas, my own changes are STILL in the planning stages – I'll get to it one day! Happy gardening. 🍷





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Gardening Club

Bampton Gardening Club's Annual Show will be held on Saturday 29 August in Bampton Village Hall. The schedule is printed in this issue of the Beam, and will be available for download on the Beam website and as hard copy at retailers throughout the village. We will also put a copy on our new Facebook page (Bampton Gardening Club) – please check it out! Entries to the show will be taken on the morning of the show between 9.30am and 11.00am.

As usual the show is open to all – members and non-members, adults and children. Everyone is welcome. There are over 80 classes to enter – not only for flowers and vegetables, but also for crafts and cooking – and a large number of impressive-looking cups to be won. Please note, if you were lucky enough to win a cup in 2014, return it (clean please!) to us at one of our coffee mornings or directly to Marian Dowding.

Please note, that if your child would like to enter our colouring-in competition (class 83), a picture is available for download from the Beam website. A copy will also be included with hard copies of the schedule.

Rules

1. The show is open to members and non-members. Anyone may enter any class, irrespective of age.
2. Only one entry is allowed per entrant, per class.
3. Exhibits must be the property of the exhibitor, unless otherwise stated in the schedule, and must have been in their possession for at least 6 months (cooking classes excepted).
4. Any prize may be withheld or modified if exhibits are considered unworthy of the prize offered.
5. All exhibits are to be staged between 9.30am and 11.00am on the morning of the show.
6. No exhibit may be removed after it has been staged until the cups have been presented.
7. While the committee will take every care of the exhibits, it will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
8. The entry judged as 'most deserving effort' must not have been awarded a prize.

Coffee and craft morning dates – a reminder
20 June, 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 12 Dec – all in Bampton Village Hall, 10.00am - 12.00 pm.

List of Challenge Cups

Cup

Lady Anne Montague Cup
Jack Horne Memorial Cup
Chennell Cup
Vice President's Cup
Mrs P Smith Cup
Cottager's Cup
Ileane Hammond Rose Bowl
Raymond Taylor Cup
Sydney Constable Cup
Andrew Pierce Cup
Dolly Stroud Cup
Ken Adams Cup
Percy Bowerman Cup
Albert Tanner Cup
Nellie Temple Cup
Win Woodley Cup
Henry Bone Cup
John Smith Cup
Keith Reed Cup
The Beam Cup
Frank Collett Cup
Rosebowl
Reg Pratley Cup
Lady Lathbury Cup
Grace Wiltshire Cup
Liz Chambers Silver Plate
Win Woodley Challenge Cup
Betty Adams Cup

Awarded for

Overall points
Runner up
Garden club member with most points
Best in Show
Judges' own choice
Most Deserving Effort in Show
Class 1 - 4 Roses
Class 2 - Single rose
Class 7 - Sweet peas
Class 8 - Carnations
Class 12 - Cactus dahlia
Class 14 - Decorative dahlia
Class 15 - Gladioli
Class 16 - 3 Chrysanthemums
Class 17 - Chrysanthemums 1 specimen bloom
Class 22 - Busy Lizzie
Class 23 - Begonia
Class 26 - Cucumbers
Class 30 - Runner beans
Class 43 - Vegetables on a tray
Class 60 - 4" flower arrangement
Section 2 - overall points
Sections 2 + 3 - overall points
Section 5 - overall points
Section 6 - overall points
Sections 5 + 6 - overall points
Classes 82 and 83, under 5s
Classes 82 and 83, 6–8 years

Please note, Bampton Gardening Club's Annual Show is open to all – members and non-members, adults and children. Everyone is welcome

Entries for the Show will be taken on show day (29 August 2015) between 9.30am and 11am

**Afternoon opening 2.30pm – Presentations 3.00pm
Refreshments – Raffle – Entrance 50p**



BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB

SHOW SCHEDULE – 29 August 2015

Section 1: GARDEN FLOWERS

1. Roses x 4
2. Roses specimen bloom x 1
3. Roses floribunda x 3
4. Marigolds x 6, any variety
5. Pansies x 5
6. Viola x 5
7. Sweet peas x 5, any colour
8. Carnations x 3
9. Dianthus x 5
10. Antirrhinums x 5, mixed colour
11. Any other flower x 5, any variety
12. Dahlia cactus bloom x 1
13. Dahlia pom-pom x 3
14. Dahlia decorative x 3
15. Gladiolus spikes x 3
16. Chrysanthemums x 3, spray
17. Chrysanthemums specimen bloom x 1
18. Specimen bloom, any variety
19. Fuchsia (bush) in a pot, max 7"
20. Non-flowering plant in a pot, max 7"
21. Geranium in a pot, max 7"
22. Busy Lizzie in a pot, max 7"
23. Begonia in a pot, max 7"

Section 2: VEGETABLES

24. Lettuce x 2, any variety
25. Radishes x 5, any variety
26. Cucumber matching pair, any variety – ½" stalk
27. Tomato x 5, cherry red or yellow with calyx
28. Tomato x 5, red with calyx
29. Courgette x 2, any variety
30. Runner beans x 5
31. French beans x 5
32. Garden peas x 5, any variety
33. Beetroot x 3, with 3" tops
34. Carrots x 3, any variety 3" tops
35. Onions x 3, as grown with tops
36. Onions x 3, dressed
37. Shallots x 5, dressed
38. Cabbage x 2, matching pair, any variety
39. Potatoes white x 5, any variety
40. Potatoes coloured x 5
41. Table marrow, x 2, matching pair, max 15"
42. Any other vegetable x 2
43. Tray of vegetables, 5 varieties, 2 of each
44. Herbs x 6, 1 stem of each in vase

Section 3: FRUIT

45. Raspberries x 6, with stalks on a plate
46. Rhubarb x 3, pulled sticks 1½" trimmed leaf
47. Apples x 3, dessert
48. Apples x 3, cooking
49. Plums x 3, any variety
50. Pears x 3, any variety
51. Blackberries x 6, with stalks
52. Plate of any other fruit x 3

Section 4: LONGEST & HEAVIEST VEGETABLES

53. Longest runner bean
54. Heaviest potato
55. Heaviest onion
56. Freak vegetable
57. Heaviest marrow

Section 5: FLOWER ARRANGING & CRAFT

58. Arrangement of flowers and foliage depicting 'Downton Abbey'
59. Arrangement of flowers from your own garden
60. Arrangement of flowers not exceeding 4" in any direction
61. Water colour or oil – not signed
62. Pencil or charcoal sketch not exceeding 12"x10" unmounted – not signed
63. Photograph coloured depicting 'Bampton' not exceeding 12"x10" unmounted – not signed
64. Photograph black and white – any subject not exceeding 12"x10" unmounted – not signed
65. Item of any stitchwork not to exceed 18" (not machined) open to view
66. Poem not more than 10 lines 'Battle of Waterloo' – not signed
67. Any other craft – not furniture

Section 6: COOKING & BEVERAGES

68. Victoria sponge 7"
69. Fruit cake 7"
70. Fruit scones x 5
71. Apple pie
72. Decorated cup cakes x 5
73. Jar of jam
74. Jar of jelly
75. Jar of marmalade
76. Jar of chutney or pickle
77. Jar of pickled onions or shallots
78. Jar of pickled eggs
79. Jar of any other pickled vegetable
80. Bottle of homemade wine
81. Bottle of any other beverage

Section 7: CHILDREN'S SECTION

82. Garden on a plate
83. Colour in a picture of a garden
(available for download on the Beam website)

Please check the rules before entering – rules can be found on www.bamptonoxon.co.uk

Entry form

Entry fee per class (one item per class): Senior Citizens: 20p,
Members: 20p, Non-members: 30p, Children: FREE

Name:

Age (if under 16):

Address:

No. classes entered:

Entry fee due:

Clanfield and Bampton Historical Society

The society's 2015 season began with three very different talks, ranging from the peace and beauty of the English country house to the treachery and cruelty of the Indian Mutiny of 1857, but starting somewhere in between, when Bill King told us of the part played by the River Thames in the preparation for an invasion which, thankfully, never landed.

In May 1940, after the remnants of the British Expeditionary Force had been evacuated from Dunkirk, and the might of the German Army stood on the French coast poised to invade Britain, rapid defences were deployed in case that happened, and no part of that defence was more important than the Thames

Stretching more than 200 miles from west to east, the Thames, and its tributaries, form a natural barrier to any mass progress if an invading army, having landed on the South Coast, wanted to move north. So for hundreds of years the bridges over the Thames have played a vital role in British history, including the first that was built over the river, at Radcot just a mile or so from Clanfield's Carter Institute, where Bill gave his talk. The armies of Queen Matilda and King Stephen fought there, as did the Roundheads and Cavaliers during the Civil War.

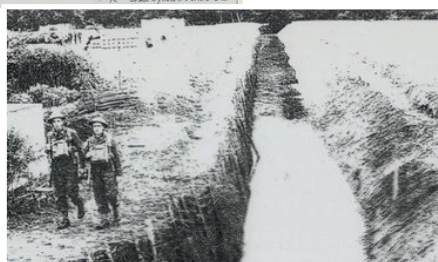
In World War II, while the forces rescued at Dunkirk were sent to the north of England to regroup and be re-equipped – almost all of the best British armaments had been left behind in France – the Thames Valley was being readied for the expected invasion.

In just two months an anti-tank ditch had been dug across the country, from the Medway to the Somerset Levels, and all sorts of static defences laid out along the Thames, many of which can still be seen today, pill boxes were built every half-a-mile from Teddington to Lechlade, together with embedded concrete blocks in a variety of shapes to stop everything from tanks to motorcycles on roads and especially bridges. Smaller towns, including Witney, Burford and Faringdon, were turned into 'anti-tank' islands.

The Upper Thames Patrol had been created as early as 1939, to protect the river and up to a mile on either side of it; as Bill told us its initials (UTP) were



Top: UTP review
Left: Radcot Bridge defences.
Below: Anti tank ditch.



facetiously said to stand for 'Up The Pub' because many of its local headquarters were in public houses, including The Swan at Radcot and The Rose Revived and The Maybush, north and south of Newbridge, which were fortified to defend the bridges. The UTP was on patrol 24 hours a day from its formation in 1939 until it was disbanded in 1944.

Thanks, above all, to the RAF, but also to a Navy still strong despite their losses, and to the home defences, searchlights every 6,000 yards from London westward and anti-aircraft batteries that could fire eight shells a minute, the invasion did not happen, but Bill King's detailed account of the preparations made in case it had, and much else of Oxfordshire's contribution to the war effort, made for a fascinating evening.

FOUR FAVOURITES

Oxfordshire has its fair share, or maybe more, of country houses and Alastair Lack told the society about four of his favourites. Two of them have been occupied by the same families since they were built, including the county's most famous, Blenheim Palace, built on land given by Queen Anne to John Churchill, later Duke of Marlborough, to celebrate his famous victory over the French.

It was designed principally by John Vanbrugh, though Churchill's wife Sarah had wanted Christopher Wren, and there were mishaps aplenty, including a falling out with Queen Anne, before it was completed. And when it was, Vanbrugh, by then persona non grata, was turned away when he tried to visit.

Alastair told us that when the Orangery was being built much of the stone 'disappeared', only to reappear later as part of some of the buildings, including Barclays bank, in adjacent Woodstock. The gardens created by 'Capability' Brown were so extravagant that when George III visited for the first time he remarked grumpily: 'We have nothing like this at Windsor'.

Sir Robert Dormer bought the manor of Rousham in the 1630s and, with interruptions for the Civil War, began building the house in which his descendants live to this day. His son, also Robert, inherited in 1649, and ensured its enhanced continuation by marrying twice, each time to an heiress, his second wife was the daughter of Sir Charles Cottrell, and it was his son, Colonel Robert Dormer-Cottrell who called in William Kent both to refurbish the house and lay out the 25-acre garden which is a masterpiece of classical references.

Although the gardens are open to the public, the house is only rarely so and then only with organised groups. Our society was able to arrange such a trip some years ago – shown round by the present incumbent, Charles Dormer-Cottrell – and we also went to Chastleton House, another of Alastair's choices.

Once the property of Robert Catesby, the estate was bought by Witney woollen merchant Walter Jones, who pulled down the existing castle and built the present house between 1607 and 1612, and whose family lived in it for over 300 years. It has hardly changed over the years, but the family fortunes diminished – it was such a cold house that priceless tapestries were cut up to patch over cracks in the wall - and in 1991 it passed to the National Trust, who also own the fourth house in the talk, Ashdown House.

Ashdown was built in 1662 by William Earl of Craven for Elizabeth of Bohemia, the hapless 'Winter Queen', daughter of James II, but she died before she could live there. Although near to Lambourn, the house is so isolated that no other house can be seen from it, and it is, said Alastair, the least visited of any house open to the public in England or Wales.

FAMILY TRAGEDY

Many people, when investigating their family's history, discover something disturbing – maybe a sheep stealer hanged for his crime or a boy transported to

Australia for taking a loaf of bread – but few can have encountered the wholesale tragedy that Paddy Walsh did.

Paddy Walsh, of Irish descent, was born in India, at Khargpur, where his father Jack had worked on the Bengal Nagpur Railway from 1923 until 1948, when, like so many Europeans, the family left, following the partition of the sub-continent in 1947. Jack had followed in the footsteps of many generations of Walshes and it was while looking into their stories that Paddy came to the Indian Mutiny of 1857, one of the most harrowing episodes in the often-troubled history of Anglo-Indian relations.

After delving deep into archives over some five years, Paddy found that no fewer than 16 members of the Walsh family had been killed during the uprising, including his great-great grandfather William, his wife, their six daughters and four sons-in-law and four grandchildren, with stories of promised safe passage from besieged towns such as Cawnpore being then reneged upon with merciless massacres of men, women and children. Paddy's great grandfather, John William and his younger brother Henry, who were at college in

Lucknow, were among the few family survivors.

Paddy gave us a brief summary of all that led up to the mutiny, of how the East India Company, though essentially a trading company, had 'divided' India into three parts, Madras, Bombay and Bengal, gradually usurped the powers of many of the Indian princes, creating their own armies in the process. The catalyst for the mutiny has often been said to have been when Indian soldiers – Moslems and Sikhs – were told to grease their guns with cow and pig grease, which would have been strictly against their religions.

Paddy said that orders had been given for them to use beeswax and linseed instead, but in April 1857 a group of sepoys, thinking this was a trick, refused to obey orders, were sentenced to 10 years hard labour and this triggered off the mutiny that quickly gathered strength with such appalling consequences. ➤

Alan Smith – Chairman
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WWW.WESTOXONSTEAM.CO.UK

Out and about ...with the children

Wondering where to take the children over the summer? Fiona Richmond finds out where to go

Kilkenny Lane Country Park

With one of the best selections of play equipment in the area, the adventure park must be one of the best destinations on a sunny summer day. There is a fantastic range of unusual equipment, from hammock swings and dragon-shaped seesaws, to a large sandpit and huge wooden climbing structure.

There are unusual touches, like a willow maze, a totem pole and a river bed complete with bridges; perfect for recreating the story of the 3 billy goats gruff. Bring a picnic, as there are picnic tables. There are no other facilities though, and this was flagged as an issue by my 3 young reviewers. The appearance of an ice cream van was clearly a plus.

Most of the equipment is in a good condition. However, one swing is broken and the sandpit only now has one working digger with the mill structure no longer working. If you are intending to spend time in the sand, bring your own buckets and spades.

If you've not been before, finding it can be tricky, as it involves driving through the maze-like Shilton Park. The parking area although small, has now been tarmacked, which makes parking slightly easier. The



Above: View from the Faringdon Folly. Below: Cotswold Wildlife park

park itself is rather exposed, so can get very chilly when the wind picks up. Overall though, it certainly gets the thumbs up.

Kilkenny Lane Country Park, Elmhurst Way, Carterton, Oxfordshire OX18 1EY
www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org

Faringdon Folly Tower

Folly Tower and Woodland offer lots of opportunities for summer fun. Set your children the challenge of finding the four-

and-twenty blackbirds from the nursery rhyme in and around the folly, as well as looking for numerous sculptures, including a buzzard, hare and bat. Look up to see Lord Berners high in a tree branch, and a troll below. There are plenty of tree stumps to clamber over, as well as fantastic views of the countryside. There are benches for picnics as well as a couple of sitting areas.

If you fancy something slightly more challenging, then turn up on a Saturday between 12pm and 3pm and Efootless Slacklining will show you how to balance on low level lines between the trees. This free session runs every Saturday, unless it's raining, and you'll get a free tutorial. With a little patience, you'll soon be mastering walking along the line and maybe even a trick or two.

Faringdon, SN7 7AQ
www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Cotswold Wildlife Park

A firm favourite with most locals, Cotswold Wildlife Park is definitely worth a mention. It is expensive, and the range and cost of food suggests packing your own is much the best option, but the park is well laid out, with a fantastic range of animals,



and the added bonus of a large playground. Recent additions include a giraffe walkway, allowing you to go eyeball to eyeball with the giraffes, and a much needed snack (and coffee) stop near the playground.

Bradwell Grove, Burford Oxfordshire
OX18 4JP
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Millets Farm

Again another firm favourite is Millets Farm which seems to work very hard to provide a range of activities throughout the year. There is a large variety of farm zoo animals from across the world and a children's play area is located next to it. There is a mix of swings, slides and other playground equipment for all children to enjoy.

For those with kids who are willing to walk a bit further, Phoebe Wood is right alongside Millets. This ten-acre site has woodland and wetland walks along the banks of the River Ock, as well as picnic facilities.

The Falconry Centre is also on the same site, and in the summer there is a Maize Maze, with lots of other children's activities throughout the holidays.

Kingston Road, Frilford, Nr Abingdon,
Oxfordshire OX13 5HB
www.milletsfarmcentre.com

Sherborne Park Estate

Located just off the A40 on the way to Cheltenham is Sherborne Park Estate, which features an ideal walk for families, with hidden delights on the way. Although the route is described as 'moderately' difficult, with a few bits of woodland that are likely to become muddy, it is a very manageable 2.5 mile route, which takes in peaceful farmland, woodland and the village of Sherborne itself. A short part of the route is next to the road, but the road is very quiet.

There is a shop and tea room in the village, which might prove a useful break.

So what's in it for the kids? There are some fun sculptures along the route, some of which need a keen eye to spot, as well as an unexpected play area in the middle of the woods, with a fabulous den. Take a picnic and let the kids run free for a bit. Perfect for a sunny afternoon.

If you've still got time, pop across the A40 to Lodge Park for a scamper around this National Trust lodge and a game of croquet in the lawn.

Lodge Park, Aldsworth, near Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL54 3PP
www.nationaltrust.org.uk



White Horse Hill

Another National Trust site to visit is White Horse Hill near Uffington. The internationally-renowned White Horse can be seen for miles away, and a game of "who can spot the horse first" makes the short journey go a bit quicker.

To the east lies Dragon Hill, a small roundish hill with a flattened top. It is said to be the site where St. George, England's patron saint, slew the dragon. The blood poisoned the ground and left a white chalk scar for all to see. See if you and the kids can spot it, as we've never managed. On the top of the hill is an Iron Age hillfort known as Uffington Castle. It's worth letting children know this isn't an actual castle, to avoid disappointment. Any disappointment however can be overcome by a quick race around the rampart. Fantastic on windy days, if you take a kite. And the National Trust sometimes has kids' activities in the summer, such as mini beast spotting.

Uffington, Oxfordshire, SN7 7UK
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

And for rainy days?

We'll cover this in more detail in another next issue, but Oxfordshire – and Oxford in particular – is blessed with museums, including:

Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PH

Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW

Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PP

Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ

The Story Museum, Rochester House, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP

Enjoy your summer! ☀

If you have suggestions or a review of a favourite place you'd like to share, do let us know and we will feature it in a forthcoming issue.

Hidden Gem in the Woodland

At a distance, children's parties always seem like a good idea and through my rose-tinted glasses I picture the occasion: I hear the squeals of laughter and see the joys of party games. In reality, it is two hours of chaos, over-excited children and fractious parents all crammed into a space seemingly no bigger than a proverbial shoe box. But help is at hand.



Turkey Creek at Westmoor Farm offers the best kept party secret. Instead of the usual two hours we opted for a sleepover party and it was remarkably chilled. Relaxing within the safety of semi mature woodland there was no need for rose-tinted glasses: it was reality. The children ran around the campsite, stick collecting for the open fire, tree climbing and making dens, while I sat contented with a glass of wine. The campsite offers two yurts and a log cabin for those less inclined to pitch their own tent. Though the four compost toilets are back to basics they are really not smelly at all, and there is also an eco hot water shower for cleaning up after a hard day's play. The children were also allowed to race up and down the track on the "fastest gokart in the west". We timed our fastest run at 29 seconds and I challenge anyone to beat it! At the end of the day the shattered children crashed in their ready prepared yurt and before long the sound of contented snores drifted through the still night.

The next morning the cockerel wakes the sleepy children as the sun rises, reminding us that we are on a working farm. There is time to have bacon sandwiches cooked on a rekindled open fire, buy some fresh free range eggs and poultry from the farm, before heading home, mum, dad and children happily exhausted, with plenty of happy memories to cherish.

Karen Easterbrook

www.turkeycreek.org.uk

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Writing his first wine column for the Beam presented **Robin Shuckburgh** with a small problem. Where to start? Wine is such an enormous subject, constantly changing and endlessly fascinating and almost infinite ...

The Rhone Valley

This beautiful area of south east France, stretching north up the river Rhone from Avignon to Vienne, is divided into two distinct regions. The Southern Rhone or Rhône méridional has flat open countryside, easy to work and manage, despite some of it being covered in large pebbles, and the Northern Rhone or Rhône septentrional, steep and forbidding; so much so you can be forgiven for wondering why anyone would think of growing vines there. However, vines have been grown in the Rhone valley from Roman times and although there are some good whites and pinks from the south and some exceptional whites from the north, I am going to concentrate on the reds for

which the region is most famed.

In the north the predominant red grape variety is Syrah, commonly referred to in the new world as Shiraz, but in the south there is a confusing plethora of different grapes. The habit of naming wines after the grapes from which they are made, particularly single varieties, is a fairly new one. It certainly served a purpose, making it much easier for the new wine drinker to tell what he or she was buying, but it had the effect of diminishing the importance of the blender, and in some cases hugely altering the style of wines made in traditional areas. It's also sometimes confusing. If you labelled, quite accurately, a bottle of Chablis and a bottle of Western Australian Chardonnay with just

the name of the grape (Chardonnay), when you drank them you would think one of them must be lying.

In the southern Rhone, however, the dark art of the blender is very much alive and well. Some of the wines, for instance the famous Châteauneuf-du-Pape, are allowed to blend up to thirteen different varieties together, (although most use three: Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah). In my view, despite the fact that a huge amount of distinctly ordinary wine is produced here, a few of them are some of the most exciting wines around.

If you have any wine related questions, please email robinsuck@btinternet.com and I will do my best to answer them.

Searching the local wine shops and supermarkets for Rhone wines I recommend the following:

From the south.

Cotes Du Rhone, 2014. Aldi.

I first came across this wine in the unlikely surroundings of a small village in the Gers in south west France. Their local Aldi was selling it for a ridiculous €1.70. In Carterton it costs £3.89 but that is still astonishingly cheap for a sound and simple Côtes Du Rhône which is very nice to drink.

Côtes Du Rhône Villages, 2013, Waitrose

I realise that at £7.39 this wine is nearly twice the price of the one above but I still think it is great value. The "Villages" in its name is a higher qualification which means it comes from a more closely controlled region.

Côtes Du Rhône. Palais des Anciens, 2012. Morrisons

At £8.99 a bottle you would expect this to be in a different league from the above. (After you have paid the £3.00 ish to the costs of duty, bottle etc. every extra penny is on the wine) In some ways it is. There are no rough edges and it's clearly very well made, but in the process it seems to me to have lost a little of its individuality and feels a little safe.



Côtes du Rhône Réserve de Fleur, Les Coumbarelles 2013, Oxford Wine Co.

This is a huge and incredibly good value wine, made from a terrific blend of Syrah and Grenache, with black fruit flavours. At £8.99 I would say this is the best value so far.

Vinsobres, Cru des Cotes Du Rhone. 2013. Waitrose

Promoted in 2006 from a "Côtes Du Rhône Village" "Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée" (AOC) to a proper AOC in its own right, Vinsobres is an increasingly popular wine area. This, at £9.99 from Waitrose, is as good as the above, just not quite as weighty.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, 2013, Morrisons

You begin to get an inkling of the Morrisons' buyer. This has all the characteristics you want from Châteauneuf, but light. At £13.99 I had hoped for more of a mouthful. Absolutely no questioning the expertise though. It's sound and well made; just a little boring. I preferred the Coumbarelles

From the north:

Crozes Hermitage, 2012, Morrisons

This time a jackpot has been hit. A wonderful Syrah from the hills around Hermitage itself, this wine would knock spots off many new world attempts at what they call Shiraz. At £9.99 it's probably the best value wine here.



The Lamb Inn, Crawley

There are some fail-safes when it comes to restaurants: if the restaurant is owned by a national chain, the food will be indifferent. If the menu is long enough to be published in paperback, or laminated, the food will be indifferent. If the menu uses the words 'nestled', 'succulent' (unless a specialist cactus eatery) or 'indulgent', the food will be indifferent. Likewise, a pub with a chalkboard listing its local suppliers, a short, adjective-free menu and a choice of four dessert wines is going to be good. *By Mark McArthur-Christie and Pippa Shay*

Rachel and Matt Weedon have arrived at the Lamb in Crawley via L'Ortolan, Fallowfields and The Lords of the Manor in Upper Slaughter. Starting in November last year, they've moved in, updated and redecorated the whole place and clearly have plans for the future. But what about now?

Matt is pretty clear about what he believes makes a good pub. "Anyone in the village should be able to walk in and find good local food at a price they can afford." And that's what he and Rachel are doing at The Lamb. With knobs on.

Even the PLC chowchains can manage to make a decent job – by and large – of an expensive slab of steak. But proper cheffing is about taking everyday, often unprepossessing ingredients and making them remarkable. Matt takes venison liver, caramelises it, puts it on toasted brioche and tops it with a pheasant egg with venison gravy. Normally, that combination would be heavy enough to sink a small boat. Not here. The flavours are dense and complex, but they don't cloy and the venison reduction manages to be light but rammed with flavour.

Pressed ham hock can end up being either Death Valley salty or just flabby, indifferent and a bit joyless. This was meaty, savoury and salt enough, then cut with capers and Bramley apple.

The Bramley turns up again in the mains, with a pork chop that arrives with mashed potatoes that have enough butter beaten in to be glossy. Glossy mash. Imagine. With the smoked bacon and cider pork gravy, you could just eat it on its own. The pork chop is from Butt's Farm and, more specifically, an Oxford Sandy and Black pig. It died in a noble cause indeed.

There's a steak and ale pie that makes those puff pastry-topped pub apologies hang their bouffant heads in shame. Gravy that you could stand a spoon up in. Pastry that's been made, not manufactured and that's just as much part of the whole as the meat. If you're determined to roll home, barrel-fashion, order puddings. Caramelised lemon tart with raspberry ripple ice cream. Proper ice cream that's enjoyed the intimate acquaintance of a lot of raspberries and been nowhere near Unilever. The lemon tart's zing cuts straight through it too.

How about this for an unlikely combination: lemon parfait, blood orange soup, olive oil cake, orange sorbet and almond crisp. That's one dish. And it works. The blood orange soup gets made



with Cointreau, dessert wine and fruit. That's it. The parfait manages to be crisp but still melting and the soup deserves to be a solo menu item.

You like beer? Splendid. Four handpumps on the bar featuring well-kept and not overchilled Brakspear and Ringwood's Boondoggle. Wine? The list manages to sneak in some belters like a Château Filhot Sauternes and Aussie Shiraz 'You Me and The Gatepost' from Ferngrove.

You'd think after all this rhapsody that you'd need to gold-plate your credit card before facing the bill.

Nope. Starters kick in around £6.50-£7.00, mains average about £18.00 and puds £7.00. That's somewhere beyond rapport qualité prix.

Matt's clearly got a huge love for what he does. He'll talk with enthusiasm about the state of modern cooking, his focus on local produce cooked in context and the care with which nothing goes to waste. He's proof that the people with the greatest talents say the least about themselves; you'll have to go looking to discover he won his first Michelin star at Glenapp Castle and his second at Upper Slaughter. - *Mark*

If you were hoping to go to The Lamb at Crawley for a meal my advice is to go soon before we kidnap Matt the chef. Seriously. From the first morsel of beautiful homemade bread with the most delicious butter (plus the bonus of Marmite butter too) right through to my dessert of lemon parfait with blood orange soup I was in food heaven. Each course was wonderfully, artistically presented without being pretentious. My starter of pressed ham hock arrived decorated with fresh flowers, my main course of homemade steak and ale pie was accompanied by a little jug of the most delicious gravy I've ever tasted and beautifully prepared fresh seasonal vegetables. Every mouthful of food was exquisite, the portions generous and Rachel and Matt who run the place are friendly and passionate about what they do. They use the finest ingredients, the food is homemade and freshly prepared and it really shows without extortionate prices.

Dogs are welcome and there's water, treats and a bed ready for them. Candles flicker against the exposed brick walls, blackboards are written with pride about locally sourced produce and the place is spotlessly clean. If our plans to kidnap Matt don't work out then we may be forced to move to Crawley to make this pub our local. Extremely highly recommended. - *Pip*

Seriously. Go there now. 🍷



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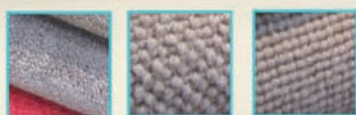
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INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg potatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Olive oil and butter for frying

METHOD

1. Wash the potatoes well, no need to peel. Par boil them for 5 – 10 minutes depending on the size of the potatoes. Drain and allow to cool.
2. When cool grate the potatoes. Season with plenty of salt and pepper. Shape the grated potato into discs about 110mm in diameter and 20mm thick. Heat the oil and butter in a frying pan to a medium heat and using a spatula place the potato cakes into the pan. Fry for about 2 minutes on each side until they are golden brown. Remove from the pan, drain on kitchen paper and set aside on a baking tray covered with baking parchment.

Mushroom and spinach rosti topped with melted cheese and a soft poached egg (v)

INGREDIENTS

- An onion, chopped
- A few chestnut mushrooms, quartered
- 2 or 3 handfuls of baby leaf spinach
- A knob of butter
- Salt, pepper, chopped parsley, grated nutmeg
- Grated mozzarella

METHOD

1. Warm the oven to about 200°C
2. Sweat the onion in the butter until soft, add the mushrooms, cook for a few minutes, add the spinach, salt, pepper, parsley and nutmeg to taste. Pile some of the mixture onto each of the rosti, top with grated mozzarella.
3. Place in the oven for about 12 minutes until cooked through and the cheese has melted.
4. Meanwhile poach the eggs, place one on the top of each rosti before serving.



Chicken, bacon, mushroom and spinach rosti topped with melted cheese and asparagus



INGREDIENTS

- An onion, chopped
- About half a chicken breast per rosti, cut into strips
- Chestnut mushrooms, quartered
- 2 or 3 handfuls of baby leaf spinach
- A knob of butter
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh tarragon, chopped
- Grated mozzarella
- Asparagus spears

METHOD

1. Warm the oven to about 200°C
2. Sweat the onion in the butter until soft, add the strips of chicken, cook through. Add the mushrooms, cook for a few minutes, add the spinach, salt, pepper and tarragon to taste.
3. Pile some of the mixture onto each rosti, top with grated mozzarella.
4. Place in the oven for about 12 minutes until cooked through and the cheese has melted.
5. Meanwhile cook the asparagus in a pan of boiling water for about 5 minutes, place 2 or 3 spears on the top of each rosti before serving.

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In our new irregular column, local costume designer Becky Box plunders the village community shop to turn someone else's cast offs into a new outfit...



2 outfits for £10

We set Becky the challenge of finding a complete outfit from the Bampton Community Shop, with just £10.00 to spend. Whilst many will be very familiar with the shop, there are still some of us who are unfamiliar with what it had to offer and Becky was one of these. So it was with a degree of trepidation that she set off to see what she could pull together.



“Take the time to have a really good look around, as it's worth it once you find that gem”

Becky was delighted to realise that the shop has a huge stock of high street clothes, from East and Whistles, to Zara and New Look. Be prepared for a good rummage, and you are sure to find something lovely. With advice from the staff, who she found incredibly helpful, Becky managed to pull not one but two outfits together from the stock that day, all within budget. Most of the clothes tend to be contemporary and you'll be spoilt for choice if you are looking for a handbag. There is also a wide range of jewellery, both vintage and contemporary.

For the first outfit, Becky found a print dress from Tu at Sainsbury, which she teamed with a Fat Face crochet cardigan and red handbag from New Look – perfect for a summer garden party. She added a necklace, which she updated slightly with some different beads. For the second outfit, Becky went for a more casual daytime look, combining a pair of Whistles skinny jeans with a high street top, and a small leather purse. Adding the crochet cardigan in case it gets slightly chilly, this would be great for a summer's day. The shop is less well stocked with

shoes, so you may need to source these elsewhere – or have a dig around to see what's lurking in the back of your wardrobe...

So, 2 outfits for £10.00. Money very well spent! With profits going to Bampton charities, the Community Shop is well worth a visit. 🍀

Do you have an event you need an outfit for? If so, why not challenge Becky to find something suitable at the Community Village Shop. Budget no more than £10.00! Contact us by emailing editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk

Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club

Your chance to play

At the time of writing (30 April), the Cricket Club played three pre-league warm up friendly matches at Stonesfield, Fairford and Wootton, losing the first and winning the next two. As this is three more than the weather allowed us to play in 2014, it could be deemed a successful start to the season. By the time the Beam hits your doormats, we will be well into our 5th league season and will have a clearer idea about where the summer is taking us.

Only 16 different players have taken to the field in those three matches, and whilst we have several others waiting for the season to start in earnest, it does serve to highlight our continuing problem in attracting new players. We are not alone in that of course as research has shown a 7% decrease in the total number of players playing cricket in teams – down from 908,000 in 2013 to



844,000 in 2014.

We are especially short of numbers for our Friendly Sunday fixtures, friendly being the operative word here. We are determined to keep Sunday non-league cricket flourishing in the village, and enthusiasm is more important

than outstanding ability. So please come along and make yourself known if you fancy a run out (not literally a run out of course, although those can be quite amusing). Or call Steve on 07919 344336 (stevesheps22@gmail.com).



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Bampton Tennis Club

Junior Easter course

Another fantastic Easter course at Bampton Tennis Club by Liz and Peter!

Helped by some brilliant April weather, we all flourished under some brilliant coaching and everyone came away having learnt something new. We all met different people and made lots of new friends. The course climaxed with a doubles tournament so we could all add a competitive element to the skills we had already learnt. On behalf of all the lucky participants, I would like to thank Liz and Peter for another brilliant four days of tennis, and would highly recommend the course to any other youngsters who enjoy playing by Max Sutton 🇬🇧



Club evenings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from about 6p.m. and all standards will be made very welcome.





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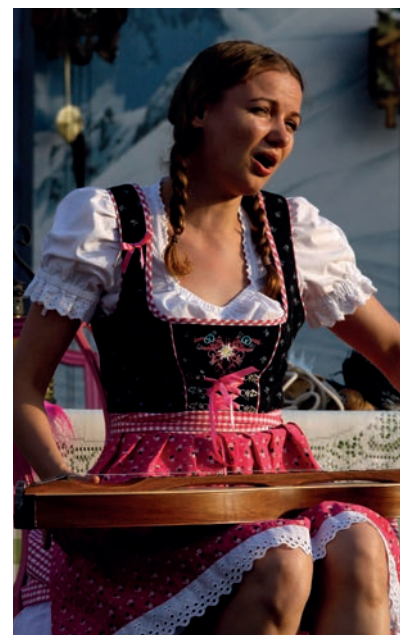
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Murderer or rival?



Left: Aiofe O'Sullivan
Above: Anna Starushkevych
Right: Nick Merryweather

The Italian composer Antonio Salieri has a somewhat murky reputation as the supposed poisoner of Mozart, as sensationally told in the play and film *Amadeus*. In fact there's little truth in the story, although the two were certainly keen rivals in 18th-century Vienna. Salieri was in fact a famed opera composer in his own right and a great teacher (of Beethoven, Schubert and Liszt) and it is a tragedy that his glorious music is now not better known. Enter Bampton Classical Opera, purveyors of the obscure and wonderful, who in July will mount the first UK production since the 18th century of Trofonio's Cave (La Grotta di Trofonio).

Premièred in Vienna in October 1785, just a few months before Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Salieri's wonderfully lyrical romantic comedy Trofonio's Cave was one of the runaway successes of its day. The librettist Casti claimed he wrote it "to mock the devil, and the magical exorcisms practised by sorcerers and charlatans". In this light-hearted but thought-provoking tale, the idyllic romances of two young couples are confused through the mischievous interference of the wizard Trofonio. And you may find that, in the Bampton production, Trofonio and his magic cave have a certain familiar appearance about them...

The story is zany, and the music is amazing: tuneful, colourful and varied. With its rich orchestration and glorious ensembles, it is hardly surprising that Mozart should have imitated it in two of his most famous operas, *Così fan Tutte* and *Don Giovanni*.

Surprise yourself! Bampton performances are always given in English, in witty and lively new translation. You don't need

to know anything about opera to enjoy them – storylines are clear, acting is fantastic. Come and hear some of the very finest young professional singers working in the UK; this year's cast includes exceptional singers set to become the stars of the future. Discover why Bampton is praised nationally as one of England's very finest small-scale opera festivals. Audiences travel from across the UK and indeed from abroad to see opera in Bampton – don't ignore what's on your doorstep!

Surprise yourself! Bampton performances are always given in English, in witty and lively new translation. You don't need to know anything about opera to enjoy them – storylines are clear, acting is fantastic.

Performances in the beautiful Deanery Garden (in St Mary's if wet) are on Friday and Saturday 17 and 18 July, at 7.00pm. Tickets are available from Bampton Physiotherapy (mornings), or online at www.bamptonopera.org. (If you live in the village and have never been to BCO before, you can come for free through a scheme operated in recognition of support received from the Parish Council – just call Anthony Hall 01993 851142 – free tickets are strictly limited, so apply soon!).

Jeremy Gray (Artistic Director)

Get involved in your local youth club

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

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

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

Community Link Up

As some of you may be aware Bampton Youth Club is affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth. They have been able to offer us support and guidance in many areas as we were one of the first clubs who signed up to their Community Link Up (CLU) project nearly three years ago. CLU has been able to provide training to volunteers and advice in many areas. The aim of CLU was to help youth clubs set up, open and run in rural areas. It has been an incredibly successful project and is sadly now coming to an end so we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone involved in the CLU project for all their help and we look forward to exciting adventures in the future with all the team from CLU who will be continuing in various roles at Oxfordshire Youth.

Bowling

On Wednesday 22 March the youth Club attended a bowling session at the bowlplex arena at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford. This was funded by Oxfordshire Youth to mark the end of the Community Link Up programme. All of the young people enjoyed it and it was a great evening with lots of fun had by all.



**Are you doing Duke of Edinburgh?
Or have some spare time on Wednesdays?
Then come and volunteer at your local Club!**

Due to the massive success of the Youth club we always want to recruit new volunteers. You would get to join a great team, gain new skills and experience and be supporting your local community and you can commit on a regular or flexible basis! If this sounds like something suited to you then get in touch using the contact details shown.

Volunteer Awards

On Sunday 19 April the volunteers took a trip to Cutteslowe Park in Oxford to attend a volunteer celebration day. This was hosted by Oxfordshire Youth with several award categories from outstanding volunteer of the year to personal achievement award and aimed to recognise all the hard work that volunteers in the youth sector provide. It was a fantastic afternoon (even if the weather wasn't so great) with four volunteers receiving nominations for the work they do. It was also a great chance to reflect on everything covered in CLU in the last three years.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers for their great work at youth club as without their hard work we would not be able to run!

Easter fundraiser

In our last article we were preparing to hold our annual Easter cake sale and raffle fundraiser. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us that day either by baking cakes, buying raffle tickets or purchasing

anything. It raised vital funds needed for the club to buy new equipment and to continue to run high quality sessions with the total amount raised £196.35.

Personal thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to two local gentlemen who have kindly donated funds towards the youth club recently.

One is Alistair Foreshow who raised funds through the Sharon Foreshow memorial darts competition and Joe Wright from J Wright Plumbing and Heating.

Dates for diaries

Please note that the club will be shut on the following dates (these fall in line with the school holidays as we are only open term time);

- 27 May
- 29 July
- 12 August
- 26 August
- 22 July
- 5 August
- 19 August
- 2 September

Contact Us

Isobel: 07789 533 870

bampton_youth_club_1@hotmail.co.uk

Welcome to Funbeams

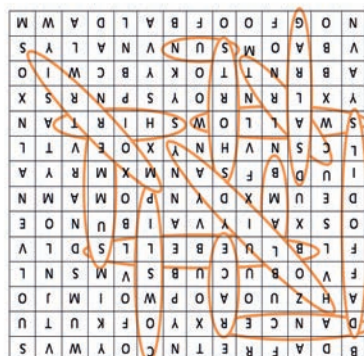
This month we have a summer-themed word search and a picture for you to colour in.

B	D	A	F	R	E	T	N	C	O	Y	W	V	S
D	A	N	C	E	R	X	Y	O	F	K	U	T	U
A	H	Z	U	O	A	O	P	W	O	I	M	J	O
F	V	O	B	U	C	U	B	S	V	M	S	N	L
F	L	B	L	U	E	B	E	L	L	S	D	L	V
O	S	X	A	I	Y	V	A	I	B	U	N	O	E
D	E	U	M	X	D	Y	N	P	O	M	A	M	N
I	U	D	B	F	S	A	N	M	X	M	R	Y	A
L	C	S	N	V	H	N	Y	X	O	E	V	T	L
S	W	A	L	L	O	W	S	H	I	R	T	A	N
Y	X	L	R	N	R	O	Y	S	P	N	R	S	X
A	B	R	N	T	T	O	K	Y	B	C	W	I	O
V	B	A	O	M	S	U	N	V	N	A	L	Y	S
N	O	G	F	O	O	F	B	A	L	D	A	W	M

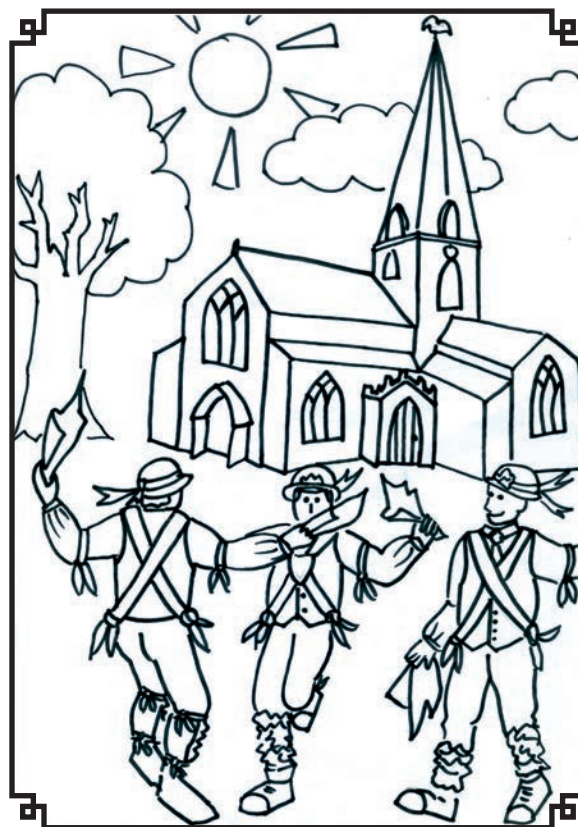
Find the following words

Morris
 Dancer
 Garland
 Shirt
 Race
 Cart
 Bluebells
 Lamb
 Daffodils
 Swallows
 Holiday
 Summer
 Shorts
 Cowslip
 Sun

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A successful OFSTED inspection

In March, Bampton CE Primary School, was visited by the Ofsted inspector and following two days of scrutiny was judged to be a “Good” school, an improvement since our last inspection 2 years ago. - Carol Phillips, Headteacher

The key areas where improvement was noted were: leadership and management; the quality of teaching and the achievement of pupils. The report stated that “School assessments, pupils work, and results from national tests show that the different groups of pupils’ make good progress overall in reading, writing and mathematics”.

Early Years provision is judged to be “Good”, teaching is good. Staff plan well together, carefully recording individual children’s progress and using this information to plan activities that build on previous learning.”

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (which took place shortly after our Ofsted inspection) agreed that we are a “Good” school and identified the belief that underpins our drive for excellence; “The emphasis on valuing each child as an individual and meeting them at

their place of need has ensured that the quality of teaching and learning has improved and that progress and standards of achievement are now good”. Our school action plan will continue to build on the successes of the last two years as we strive, for our children’s sake to become an “Outstanding” school. We will be looking at further developing our curriculum to provide more engaging and inspiring learning opportunities for our children.

Our Weather Watch Week was an example of the themed learning weeks we are finding very successful. During this week children used their maths skills as a focus for studying, recording and reporting on the weather. We had a visit from Brize Norton MET office staff who shared with the children how they predict and report the weather. Otter class made a weather station with the help of Mr Pearce, our caretaker.



The weather data was recorded daily and the information was shared with our link school in Bushey. We then helped Radio Oxford report the weather from our own school grounds!

The focus stayed on developing maths skills in a fun and exciting way when we had a visit from the puzzle man!. The children spent time solving mathematical puzzles and problems. The older children supported the younger children and then faced some tough challenges of their own!. There was a wonderful buzz throughout the day as the puzzle man visited each classroom and engaged the children in some challenging maths work, which of course did not feel like work at all! We are very grateful to the Friends of Bampton School who kindly paid for this amazing day. 🍀



Rounders Prize

The school won over £300 of Aresson Rounders Equipment in a national design competition.

“The pupils had a lot of fun creating their bats and were very excited to submit their designs. They cannot wait to try out the new equipment from Aresson.” *Wendy Coping*

BlestFest 2015

Join us for 'BlestFest 2015' - June 20 & 21 – two special days!

You will have received the programme for our most adventurous event yet and know that we are joining with Bampton Community Archive, Bampton Church, and Friends of Bampton School (FOBS) and several other village organisations to bring you two days of fun and entertainment. If you have not received a programme copies are available at Bampton Library and Westbrook Framers on Bridge Street.

It all starts on - Saturday June 20 for 'Stalls and Stories' - 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Sandfords Field will be the admin hub for the first day of the festival – at the 'BlestFest' gazebo you can collect your pre-booked tickets for the talks and activities for children and young people that will take place in the Library and the Old School Community Centre (Bush Club) that day.

All children's sessions are led by professional authors and entertainers and include 'An Undersea Adventure' for 4 – 7 years, 'Dragon's' for 7 – 12 years and 'Characters and Location' (complete with mini tornado!) for 11 – 14 years.

There will also be about 20 stalls and a 'Beat the Goalie' competition to entertain you and 'tea and cakes' courtesy of FOBS available in the Old School Community Centre... and a 'Bumper Book Stall' at the Library.

(We would love to have donations of books for this stall – just ring Jenny Chaundy on 01993 850918 or pop them into Westbrook Framers when you are passing.)

Booking for the children's sessions opens on June 2nd - Tickets are free but limited in number and will be allocated on a 'First come..' basis.

You MUST PRE-BOOK your tickets for the children's sessions (for collection on the 20th June) by ringing 01993 851377 or emailing jane.wallis@phonecoop.coop

You will also be able to purchase tickets for all other 'BlestFest' events including community concert tickets (if any remain) and tickets/maps for the next day's garage sale and hidden gardens.



Chloë the world's only Dragon Whisperer comes to Bampton for BlestFest

Saturday 20th ends with a community concert from 7.30pm to 9.30pm

For the finale of the first day we have organised a special longest day summer evening concert showcasing talent from Bampton and beyond. Bar available.

Join us at St Mary's Church, Bampton. Tickets £5.00 & £3.00 conc. (under 12 & over 60). Tickets from Bampton Coffee Shop, Westbrook Framers, and Bampton Physiotherapy (mornings only) and from the Admin Gazebo (if any remain) or contact details as above.

All proceeds divided between Bampton Library and St Mary's Church Organ Fund.

The 'BlestFest' admin point moves to the gazebo in the Market Square as the festival continues into Sunday with the ever popular

'Village Wide Garage Sale' June 21 10am – 2pm

Garage sale – stalls

Although the official deadline has passed late entries for stalls can be accepted up to Friday 19th June, although these will not appear on the official map - however written directions will be given out with the maps.

Community Shop Grant

Many thanks to Bampton Community Shop for the grant of £300 which enabled us to buy two gazebos for the forthcoming 'Blest Fest' weekend.

And more thanks

To Bampton Parish Council for the third grant of £5,000 for the Library Fund from the money they received from 'Downton Abbey' filming. As this is the last such grant from the Parish Council we would wish to place on record how important the £15,000 received has been towards raising over the £50,000 needed to keep the library open for the next five years. We would also like to thank Anthony Hall for £200 additional funds from the 'Village Hall 250 Club'. As we had already received £500 from Anthony this brings the total to £700. Thank you!

Library '100 Club' Draw April results

Congratulations to : £50 Annabel Johnston, £15.00 Jane Walker, £15.00 M.R. Powell, £10.00 Trevor Milne-Day, £10 G & M Read.

You could be lucky too as we have a few numbers available - if you would like to support your library at the cost of £12.00 per year contact Lynne Pointer on 01 993 851 930 or pick up a slip from the library.

Library Walking Club

The Library Walking Club is now up and ...walking! If you would like to join us for short local walks from Bampton contact Jane Wallis on 01993 851377 or give your name to Loraine in the library and we will get back to you.

More Library Cutbacks

Unfortunately we have heard that Oxfordshire County Council's Medium Term Financial Plan involves another cut of £250,000 to the Library Service Budget (for non front-line services), so we are pleased that Bampton Library is safe for the next five years during these very difficult times. So use and enjoy the library while you can!

Complete the form from our programme, download an entry form from the Beam website or collect one from Bampton Coffee Shop or Westbrook Framers.



Garage Sale – Buyers

Come to the Market Square from 9.00am on Sunday June 21 to buy your map showing stall locations throughout Bampton, price £1.00.

And after the bustle and excitement of the Garage Sale relax in the peace and quiet of the 'Hidden Gardens of Bampton' - 2.00pm to 6.00pm

This very special bi-annual event allows you to visit over 20 Bampton gardens that are usually hidden from view.



Maps and entry tickets, £3.00 per person, available from the admin gazebo on Saturday 20 June 10.00am - 3.00pm and from the admin gazebo in the Market Square on Sun 21 from 9.00am to 4.00pm. *All proceeds to Bampton Community Archive.*

What else is happening for 'BlestFest'? Book Quiz - for Adults and Children!

Test your literary knowledge. Pick up a copy of the junior or senior 'BlestFest Book quiz' from the library and other places in the village and see if you can win book token prizes (multiple correct entries

decided by draw).
Free entry for children
– Adult entry £1



Grand Prize Draw

Proceeds from this year's grand prize draw will be shared with Bampton Community Archive to assist them improve and preserve the Old Grammar School building - the home of Bampton library.

Tickets on sale from Morris Day and the grand draw will take place on Saturday July 18 at the library.

More than just books...

Come to BlestFest on Saturday 20 June to find out! A special Library Service display will showcase all that is available
- from free family history research programmes to free reading group books
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VE Day celebrations

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The Germans surrender. After the suicide of Hitler on 30 April 1945, it was left to Grand Admiral Donitz, who had been President of the Third Reich for a week, to surrender. Donitz travelled to General Eisenhower's HQ at Reims in France and, in the presence of senior officers from Britain, America, Russia and France, surrendered unconditionally to the Western and Russian demands on 7 May 1945.

The British rejoice. All over the country people held fancy dress parades for children, got drunk, made a din, sang and danced in the streets, and went to church to give thanks to God for victory.

The Event. It would be a tragedy to allow the 70th Anniversary to pass and be overshadowed by the General Election and so the stage was once again set with copious amounts of bunting, posters and union flags decorating the Horseshoe Pub. There was a feeling that you could have been at the original event as people mingled, packing out the pub with many in their wartime fancy dress. We did not however dance in the streets, this was mainly kept indoors due to the weather.

The little party kicked off and the crowds assembled. After negotiations, David New played the piano straight after choir practice. He did this and amazed all with his talents, playing solidly for a couple of hours. Providing an incredible atmosphere, people sang along to some rousing traditional songs of the time. Finishing with a patriotic national anthem.

Trevor Martin the landlord and Rob O'Connell, the chef very generously provided food and donated all proceeds to the British Legion. Rob cooked up delicious fare of the era, and his generous portions demonstrated that 1940s rationing was a thing of the past. This coupled with cake provided by Nikki Buxton raised over £60.00.

The Bampton branch of the British Legion would like to thank all those who made the evening possible and also those attending who made the event so successful. Donations and the sale of the commemorative pins raised £232.33 for the poppy appeal.

If you are interested in joining the details can be found at
www.branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bampton





Murder Mystery

Who 'Dun' It? - we didn't know?

Bampton folk need to read more detective fiction as the murders remained unsolved in the recent Murder Mysteries – but this didn't stop people thoroughly enjoying two very special evenings. And as Bampton Classical Opera, who wrote and staged the event, shared the proceeds with the Library Fund we got a 'swag-bag' of nearly £500 from the 'crimes'. Thank you to all those who worked so hard!



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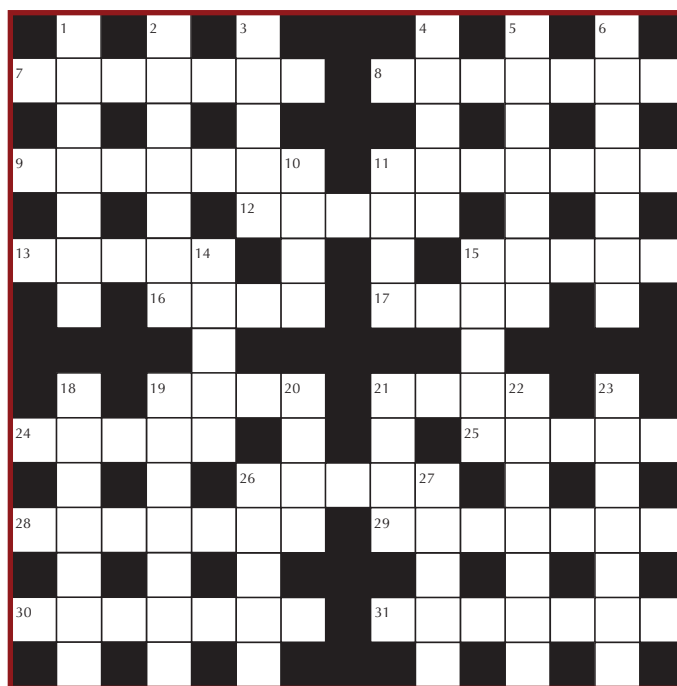
June Crossword - compiled by Annette Minto

Clues - Across

- 7 Part of horse's leg
- 8 A local village
- 9 Incredible
- 11 Makes up
- 12 Hertfordshire town
- 13 Loud nocturnal noise?
- 15 To decorate
- 16 Run-down neighbourhood
- 17 Fruits of the hawthorn
- 19 Perimeter
- 21 Type of window
- 24 Perform a service
- 25 To rush
- 26 A trainee
- 28 Part of speech
- 29 Sound of a bell
- 30 Under developed
- 31 Perceiving sound

Clues - Down

- 1 A boy's name
- 2 Seen at Henley perhaps
- 3 Barely sufficient
- 4 Telling porkies!!
- 5 Climbs
- 6 Source of current
- 10 Harsh or formidable
- 11 Unit of measurement
- 14 To avoid
- 15 Level with the sea (naut)
- 18 Domesticated polecats
- 19 End of the day
- 20 Combination of style and vigour
- 21 Can he tell the future?
- 22 European country
- 23 Reducing plant size
- 26 Made well
- 27 Italian river



The answers from the March issue

Answers - Across

- 7 Typhoon
- 8 Juniper
- 9 Maiming
- 11 Objects
- 12 Dingo
- 13 Tenor
- 15 Steer
- 16 Ouse
- 17 Eros
- 19 Peri
- 21 Gain
- 24 Molar
- 25 Aesop
- 26 Olive
- 28 Prelude
- 29 Expects
- 30 Swindle
- 31 Actions

Answers - Down

- 1 Gyrate
- 2 Shampoo
- 3 Hound
- 4 Dumbo
- 5 Bisects
- 6 Weather
- 10 Give
- 11 Ogle
- 14 Ruler
- 15 Sofia
- 18 Borrows
- 19 Pauline
- 20 Idle
- 21 Give
- 22 Nemesis
- 23 Hosting
- 26 Oddly
- 27 Exact

There were no entries in March

To enter the crossword either email your completed crossword to editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk or send it to Bampton Beam Crossword, Dairy Farm House, Buckland Road, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2AA

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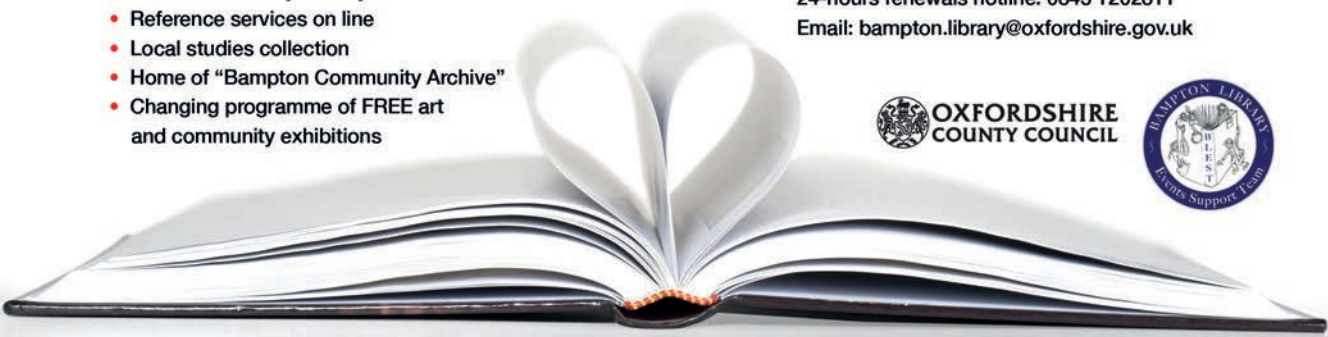


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Useful Information

St Mary's Church

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

The Methodist Church

Bridge Street Bampton.
Services 11.00am Sundays.
Minister Rev. Ian Duffy
Tel: 01367 240227

Catholic congregation

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

Bampton Library

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

Opening Hours

Monday	2.00pm – 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
Sunday	Closed

Bampton School

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

The Willow Tree Children's Centre

Tel: 01993 851799

Post Office

Bampton Town Hall, Market Square,
Tel: 01993 851968

Carterton Police Station

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

Police non essential call 101

Bampton Medical Practice

Tel: 01993 850257
Out of hours call: 0845 345 8995

The surgery is open at the following times

Monday:	08:15 am to 6:30 pm
Tuesday:	08:15 am to 6:30 pm
Wednesday:	08:15 am to 6:30 pm
Thursday:	08:15 am to 6:30 pm
Friday:	08:15 am to 6:30 pm
Weekend:	Closed

Reception is open from 8.30.am
until 6.30.pm

Bampton Pharmacy

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

Carterton Health Centre

Tel: 01993 841718

Witney Hospital

Tel: 01993 209458
Open 10.00am – 10.30pm daily
Last patient seen at 10.00 pm

Local hospitals

• John Radcliffe Hospital

Tel: 01865 741166
Headley Way, Headington, Oxford

• Churchill Hospital:

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

• Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre:

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

• Horton General Hospital:

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

Vets

Jackson Veterinary Clinic Ltd

17 Black Bourton Road
Carterton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3HQ
Tel: 01993 842717

Environment Agency

Floodline Tel: 0845 988118
Emergency Tel: 0800 807060

Thames Water Tel: 08459 200800

Citizens advice Tel: 08444 111444

Email: bureau@wocab.org.uk

West Oxfordshire District Council

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

Recycling centre

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

Oxford County Council

General enquiries Tel: 01865 815573
Highways Tel: 08453 101111
Faulty street lights Tel: 0800 317802

Dial a ride service

For information Tel: 0845 3101111
Email oxdar@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Rt. Hon. David Cameron
Tel: 01993 702302

Local councillors

M Barrett Tel: 01993 202561

Bampton Parish Council

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

Sports Clubs

Bampton Archery Club

www.bamptonarchery.co.uk

Bampton Badminton Club

Marlene Snow Tel: 01993 850113

Windrush Amateur Boxing Club

Tel: 07887 403401 / 01993 851156

Bampton Cricket Club

Seniors Tel: 07778 578875

Juniors Tel: 01993 850939

Bampton Town Football Club

Tel: 01993 850437

Bampton Social Netball

Tel: 07780 761822

Bampton Tennis Club

bamptontennis@hotmail.co.uk

Bampton Weightlifting Club

Tel: 07855 146949

Societies

Bampton Community Archive

Tel: 01993 851041

Bell Ringers Tel: 01993 850214

Environmental Watch Group

Tel: 07920 714937

Bampton Library Events Support Team

Tel: 01993 850076

Bampton Historical Society

Tel: 01367 810245

Slow Living Society

Tel: 01993 850479

Society for the Protection of Bampton

Tel: 01993 850293

Clubs

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club

Tel: 01993 852438

Bampton Bridge Club

Tel: 01993 842126

Bampton Bush Club

Tel: 01993 850479 / 01993 851837

Bampton Gardening Club

Tel: 01993 843985

Bampton Ladies Group

Tel: 01993 850801

Bampton Theatre Club

Tel: 01993 850019

Bampton Youth Club

Tel: 01993 851156

Scottish Country Dancing

Tel: 01993 845043

Charities

Bampton Community Shop

gm.haslam@btinternet.com

Cancer Research

m.cleaver606@hotmail.co.uk

Friends of Bampton School (FOBS)

Tel: 01993 851164

Royal British Legion

Tel: 01993 210160

S.P.A.J.E.R.S. Tel: 01993 850760

The Bampton Exhibition Foundation

Tel: 01993 850167

The Bampton Welfare Trust

Tel: 01993 850314 / 01993 850589

Bampton Zimbabwe Project

lis@lisandtonypage.com

West Ox Arts Gallery

Tel: 01993 850137 www.westoxarts.com

Amenities

Bampton Recreation Ground & Pavilion

Tel: 01993 852483

The Old School Community Centre

clerk@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

The Town Hall Tel: 01993 851870

Village Hall Tel: 01993 850289

Diary



Date

Event

Now until 27 June	Witney's Forgotten Airfield by Peter Davis – Bampton Community Archive
20 June	Coffee and craft morning – Bampton Village Hall, 10-noon.
20 June	Rosebank Care Home Summer Fete with entertainment – 2pm till 4pm
20 June	Blest Fest – Stalls and Stories – 10am to 3pm - Sandfords Field
20 June	Blest Fest – Community Concert from 7.30 to 9.30pm St Mary's Church, Bampton, Tickets £5.00 and £3.00 conc
21 June	Blest Fest – Village Wide Garage Sale - 10am - 2pm
21 June	Blest Fest – Hidden Gardens of Bampton - 2.00pm to 6.00pm Full details of Blest Fest can be found on pages 50 and 51
4 July	Village Fête – Bampton School – Gates open at 12.00pm
18 & 19 July	Bampton Classical Opera: Gluck Il Parnasso confuso, Bertoni Orfeo. 7.00p.m. the Deanery Gardens. Tickets from Bampton Physiotherapy (mornings only) or 851142.
19 July	Chamber Concert , the Philidor Quartet. 3.00p.m. St. Mary's Church. Tickets £5.00 on the door.
29 August	Bampton Gardening Club Annual Show
31 August	SPAJERS Donkey Derby
2 September	SPAJERS Summer Outing
2 September	Bampton Cinema The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3 (the 1974 version)
7 September – 31 Oct	The Restoration of Ham Court by Matthew Rice – Bampton Community Archive
12 September	Concert by The Brian Kay Chorale St Mary's Church 7.30pm - in aid of the church organ appeal
19 September	Cancer Research UK – Autumn Sale Village Hall, Bampton. 9.30am until 12.00pm. admission is free, everybody welcome. Further information: Doris Cleaver 01993 850682
2 October	Barn Dance in St Mary's Bampton with the Woodpecker Band At last – the long-awaited return of the Village Barn Dance to be held in St Mary's at 7.30pm. Even more exciting; the Woodpecker Band will play for the dancing with Matthew Green as the caller! It will be a great evening of music and dance with a hog roast and bar. For further information and tickets contact Suzy Macpherson 07811 676078. Tickets (includes hog roast and pud!): Adults £15.00, Under 14s £12.00
7 October	Bampton Cinema Midnight's Children (2013)

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



Looking for care and/or assistance within your own home? Are you self funding? From 10 hours to 24 hour live in care.

Many people use domiciliary care agencies to receive care at home, however this is not the only option. You could also consider employing your own carer or personal assistant through My Care My Home.

What is My Care My Home?

My Care My Home work with councils across England and Wales to provide advice and support to anyone who has to pay for part or all of their care themselves. There are many advantages to employing your own carer/ personal assistant.

Consistency

You have the same carer(s) consistently who you have chosen yourself and like their manner and personality, and are confident in their competence.

Loyalty

Their loyalty is to you personally and they become committed to you and your welfare at all times.

Calibre

The pay they receive from you can be higher than that received from a Care Agency. This can attract carers with more experience, knowledge and/or higher qualifications.

Flexibility

You can agree with them just exactly when and how you want your care delivered, what tasks and duties you want them to do, and how you would like them to deliver it.

How can My Care My Home help you?

If you want to employ your own staff directly My Care My Home can support you by handling all employment matters such as:

- Job description and advertisement.
- Shortlisting applicants. Arranging and conducting interviews with you in your own home.
- Obtaining necessary documentation such as references, disclosure and barring service, copies of qualifications, etc.
- Managing the payroll and ensuring that tax, NI, and other deductions are made correctly and the carer is paid on the agreed dates.
- Providing monthly visits to monitor the performance of your carer(s) to ensure you are happy with the service you are receiving.

For more information about this service, or any of the other services that My Care My Home provide, then please speak to one of our care advisors or visit our website at www.mycaremyhome.co.uk

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