

THE BAMPTON BEAM

July 2012

Volume 27, No. 2

Welcome to Summer,

By Louise Timmins-Gray, Editor, The Bampton Beam

May we start by saying a huge thank you to all the people who have contributed to our biggest ever Bampton Beam. It really has been a big feat to get the edition together this time due to having such a busy Spring.

Isn't it great to be British this year with the Jubilee and the Olympics!

But...

THE BAMPTON BEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

We never thought that putting together the Bampton Beam would be such a big job and so we are asking for your help. We require volunteers to help with the burden of getting the Beam together and we also need volunteers to run the website as we find we have no time for this and it is being woefully neglected.

If you can spare some time for jobs such as proofreading, editing, responding to emails, website design and maintenance etc etc then please get in touch with the editorial team. It is hugely rewarding to create something that is enjoyed by so many people but I fear that we do not have enough time to give it the love it needs.

Anyway, for the next edition, we would love to see your photos and hear your stories about the Olympics. Also any holiday experiences you might have this summer and recommendations of great places to go. If you wish to get in touch with us, please email us. It does take some time for us to get back to you so please be patient.

Enjoy the sunshine and lets hope it holds out for donkey derby, We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Have a great summer!

The Beam Team

Email: beam@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

What's in the Beam:

Village life
Arts and Culture
Jubilee Special
60th Shirt Race
Auntie Beam

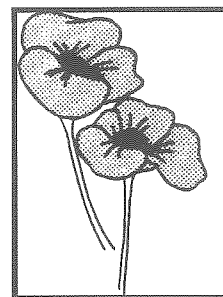
And of course
Rouse's Rambling

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Wear your Poppy with pride

POPPY SERVICE

The War Memorial
Sunday 11th November
10.45am



Followed by a service at
St Mary's Church
11.15am

*'We will Remember
Them'*



Village Life

I think most of you would agree that living in Bampton is a unique experience. Such wonderful characters, a real village atmosphere and sense of community.

I was reminded at the Shirt race that Bampton is actually a town with it's own town charter, however I am glad it has not lost its 'village feel'.

We are always keen to hear about anything that is going on in the village, however big or small.

The following pages are all dedicated to our dear town.

Bampton Zimbabwe Project fair 2012

Thank you to all the intrepid supporters who came to the BZP's Diamond Jubilee Fair on Saturday, April 28th in the midst of some horrible rainy weather, to swell our funds by £1060.28.

It was deeply appreciated and you earned your free coffee! We have been able to send a cheque to ZANE, (Zimbabwe a National Emergency) of £1,000 immediately.

A future event from which we will benefit, is the splendid Plant Sale on Monday 4th June, at Eagle house, from which you can fill your gardens with healthy and unusual plants.

Also, a date for your diaries, the BZP Fair next year, is provisionally booked for Saturday, 13th April, 2013. Hope to see you there!



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Rosebank and the Community Come Together

By Mandie Oliver, Activities Co-ordinator

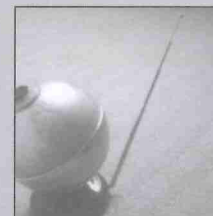
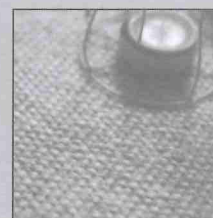


On Wednesday 22nd February 2012, Rosebank Care Home hosted an Afternoon Tea Dance in their local Village Hall for the Residents of Rosebank and older members of the Bampton Community. The event was a huge success and attended by approximately 60 people in total.

A raffle took place at the Tea Dance, which raised £102. These funds have been donated to Bampton Primary School. The Primary School children visit Rosebank 4 times a year and the Residents love to see the children. We wanted to use this opportunity to raise some funds for a local organisation and decided that the children give so much joy to our



Residents that we wanted to give something back to them. A particular thanks has to go to RAF Staff from Brize Norton who attended the Tea Dance and who worked tirelessly to ensure everyone had a good time.



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Rosebank and the Community Come Together



I have been spending time in the community over the past few months, by attending the local Coffee Mornings and Ladies Lunch clubs to make new links with members of Bampton's community. I have to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to everyone for making myself and the residents of Rosebank so welcome. Rosebank is unique because we are working towards bringing both our Residents and members of our village together with the aim of establishing strong links within our Community to improve the quality of life for older people. The Tea Dance was the beginning of what can be achieved when people work together, but, it would not be possible to put on such events, without the help and support of local volunteers.

Jane Roberts, Owner of Rosebank Care Home says "The Dance brought Residents, Relatives and Staff together with local people and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying the afternoon. It is really important for our Residents to feel part of their local Community. We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received. Bampton has a vibrant community life and it is wonderful that people are keen for our residents to be involved".

Over the past few months, I have met some wonderful people in the community who would like to offer their time as a volunteer at Rosebank. So, one of the most exciting things to come out of this networking is that Rosebank is starting a "Buddy" system which will involve members from the community, volunteering their time, by coming into the home and sharing a cup of tea and having a chat with our Residents.



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Belinda Billinge Foot Health Care David Passey Alexander Technique Teacher

Contact us on 01993 851753 bamptonphysio@btconnect.com

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Rosebank and the Community Come Together

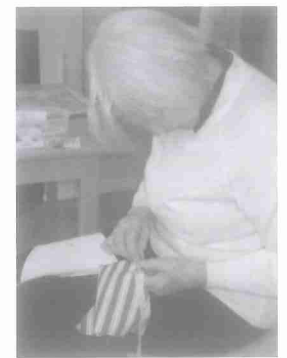


Rosebank residents and staff are both thankful and very excited about the future. In March I took a group of residents to "Crocodiles of the World" in Crawley. We were made most welcome and it was a truly wonderful experience for the residents. A comment from Daphne (one of our residents) was, "who'd of thought at the age of 86 I would be holding a 3 month old Crocodile".

Residents have also enjoyed Easter Celebrations, a visit from Al's Owls which gave the opportunity to stroke and hold a Barn Owl and just last week I took a group on a Riverboat Trip sailing from Eynsham Lock. Although the weather was not on our side we still had a wonderful afternoon and enjoyed tea and cakes on the boat.

Our residents enjoy a whole range of activities and something is going on every day for them from music, singing, sewing, knitting, art and crafts, gardening, keep fit, puzzles, reading, games, quizzes, movies, flower arranging and afternoon tea dances. We also celebrate occasions like St Georges Day and are very much looking forward to celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in June. Nothing is too much trouble and I am always looking for new ideas

A recent donation of books from a member of the community, to update our library has been most welcome, and is already being enjoyed by some of our residents. Thank you. It is always lovely to meet new people, so if anyone would like to pop in and say hello I would be more than happy to show you around, just give me a call 01993 850308. "To be anywhere and have nothing asked of you in any way constitutes "existing"; to have plans, tasks, interests, hopes and dreams means you are "living".



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SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

The Society was formed to improve the quality of life of those living here. It has successfully fought large-scale housing developments. It also contributes in other ways, for instance by securing Sandfords Field in perpetuity for the village.

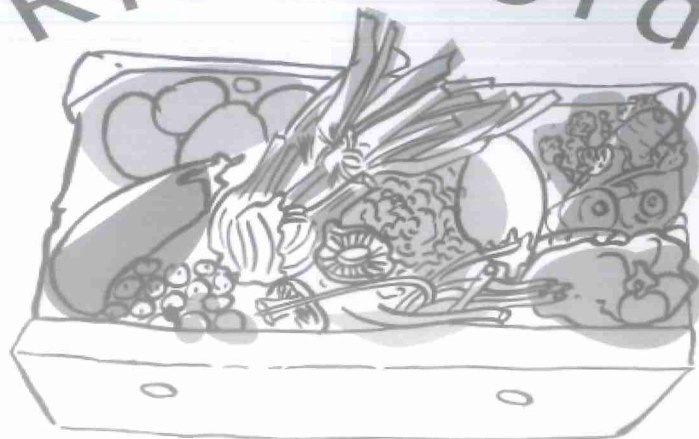
To achieve these aims we need the largest possible membership. If you aren't a member

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Bampton Library

A brighter future for your library

By Lesley Campbell, Lynne Pointer, Robin Shuckburgh,
Jane Wallis

Thanks to all the amazing support of so many Bampton people we can all look forward to a much brighter future for our wonderful library.

Since the last update in the Beam we have managed to secure the financial future of our much valued library - at least for the next three years. This is with big thanks to Bampton Parish Council, the Community Shop and a few key backers who have agreed to act as guarantors.

The plan for 2012 is to run a range of events at the library with the support of BLEST the Bampton Library Event Support team. Already, this great band of supporters have helped to make a success of several events at the library.

The Washing Lines poetry session was very well attended and enjoyed even by those who were not so sure about poetry. In April nearly thirty children of all ages took part in a Spring art activity at the library and on World Book Night four different books were distributed for free. In June we had the author Mel Starr coming to Bampton from the US to talk to us about his mediaeval mysteries based in Bampton.

BLEST now has its own logo thanks to Jo Lewington's wonderful artwork and you may have seen this logo at



the village Jubilee event on our new umbrellas and badges. If you fancy joining the 'A' Team of BLEST then do get in touch by emailing jane.wallis@phonecoop.coop. It's not a big commitment, just helping out with refreshments once a year would make all the difference.

We hope you have already signed up as a supporter of Bampton Library. If you want to receive advance notice of library events and news then please let us have your email address. We all need to keep spreading the message that our library is about much more than borrowing books. Please make sure that you and family, friends and neighbours get along there to find out what's new and what Loraine, our library manager, is planning. Over the summer holidays Loraine will be organising the annual Summer Reading Challenge that has been so successful for the past few years.

If you have any ideas about activities or events that you would like to see at Bampton library then please get in touch or drop into the library. We hope to see you at village and library events in the coming months.

Goodbye Emmie's

By Jane Wallis



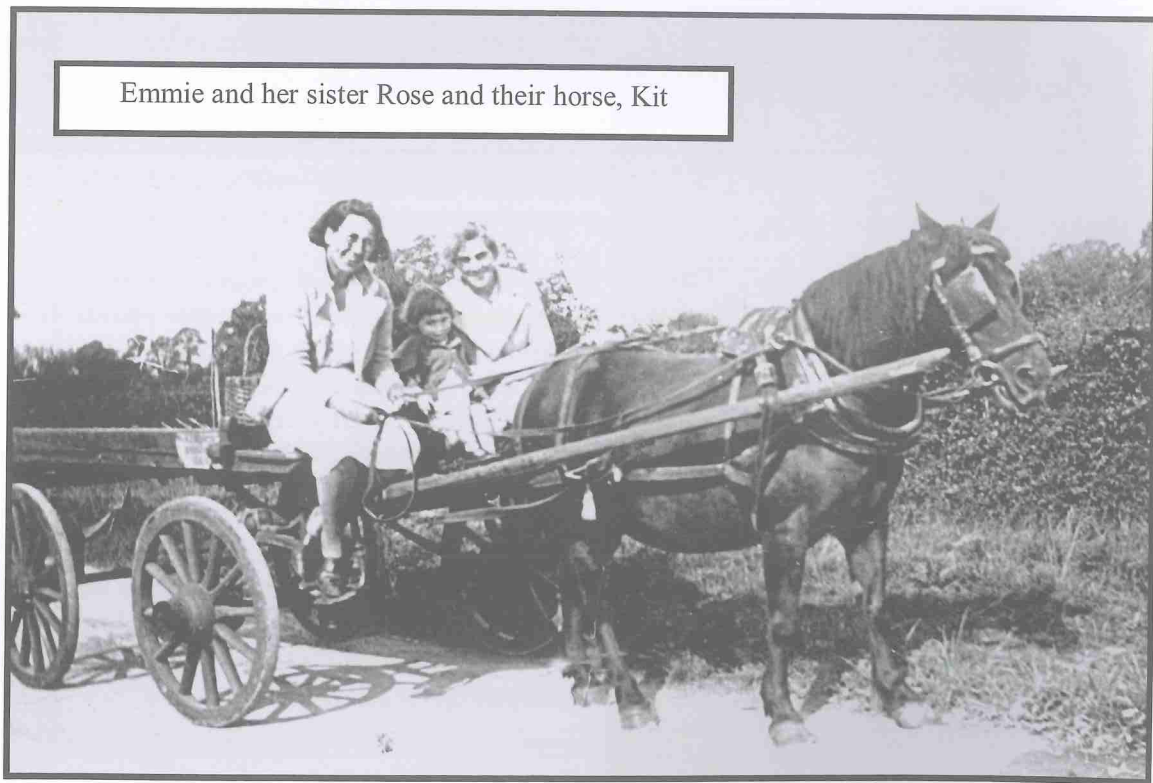
Saturday May 26th was a very sad day; it was the end of the village newspaper shop that had served Bampton people for well over 60 years by the Bishop and Papworth families.

We all knew this great shop as Emmie's but it was renamed this by Tom and Sylvia when they took over the running 28 years ago. This name was in honour of Tom's mother Emmie Papworth, nee Bishop, who had run the shop for 24 years before that. In her day it was 'Bridge Street Stores - Grocer's and Newsagent's', but as Tom says 'everyone used to say they were just popping to Emmie's, so we just called it that'.

But before that, it was run by Tom's uncle, George Bishop, who had an interesting way of running the business - from the window seat of the old Wheatsheaf Public House. This was over the road in what was Bampton's (most recent) old Post Office. George had a good bell on the shop door, and when he heard this ring he would leave his pint - or his empty glass, as he is remembered as the man who could

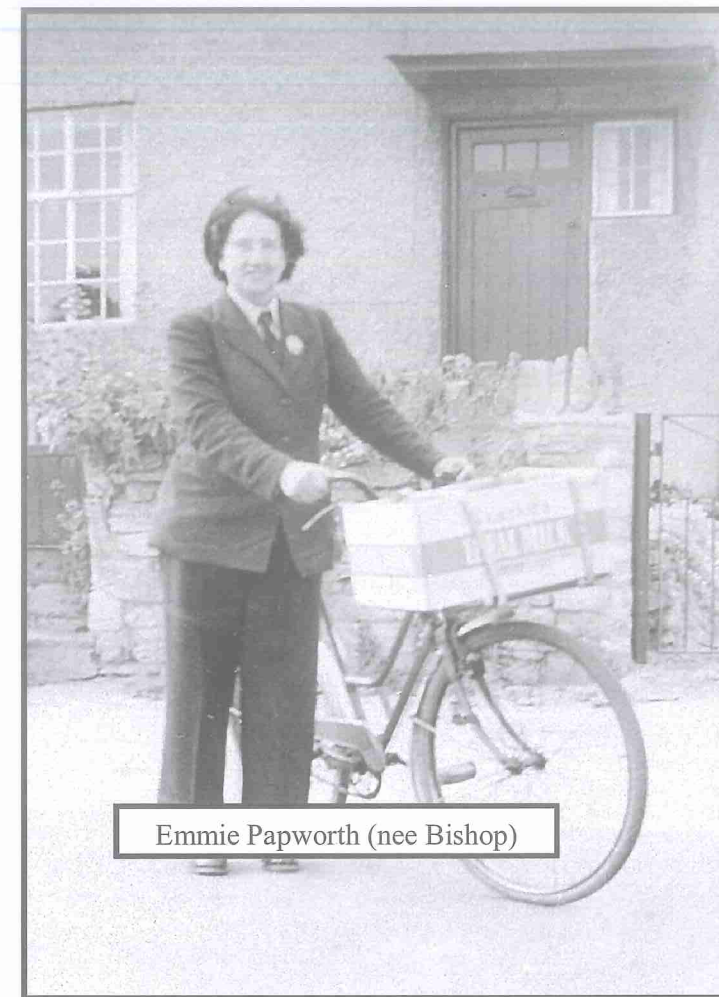
down a pint in record time - to come and serve. Customers would have a much longer wait today given the present traffic on Bridge Street.

In the 1930's Emmie Bishop used to run a grocery round from the shop serving the neighbouring villages. This was one 'horsepower', as it was her horse 'Kit' that pulled the cart. Tom said in a recent film interview for Bampton Community Archive, that he thought it was rationing after the war that killed this off, as 'with rationing there was nothing for her to take round'.



Emmie and her sister Rose and their horse, Kit

Goodbye Emmie's



Emmie Papworth (nee Bishop)

But if that wasn't enough Emmie was also a village postwoman, fondly remembered as ever cheerful and friendly. But Tom too was no slacker, he combined running the business with being a Fireman, and in those days he was on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He later became Officer in Charge of the Fire Station in 1977, a position he held until he retired in 1996.

Both Tom and Sylvia were born in Bampton, Sylvia's family running the Eagle Public House in Church View. This is where she met Tom, who would come in for half a pint on his way home after his shift at the Fire Station, which was then based in the Town Hall.

Budgen's now sells newspapers but it will never compete with Emmie's, who regularly stocked a staggering 700 to 800 different titles of magazines. And it was a family friendly shop too; as Tom says his top shelf dirty magazines where all about gardening!

We thank Tom and Sylvia for all the service they have given and wish them a long and happy retirement - but 'Emmie's' will be so sadly missed.

(Information kindly provided by Janet Rouse @ Bampton Community Archive)



Bampton Community Shop: The History

By Fenella Gray MBE

It was way back in 2004 when a group of ladies had just come out of a meeting held by the RNIB to inform the volunteers that the RNIB Charity Shop – colloquially known as ‘The Blind Shop’! – was going to be closed down – for reasons that are still not really understood, but we were somewhat led to believe that new laws being brought out made it unfeasible for the RNIB to carry on. This as you can imagine was not quite what we were expecting at this meeting, since the Shop was, at least in our view, very successful. Subsequent to the meeting, and feeling a bit dejected after having given our time for so many years to help raise money for the RNIB, we decided to go and have a cup of tea in the Romany and have a good old moan to ourselves!

From that afternoon came the idea of opening our own – i.e. Village – charity shop, and from that idea sprang a fully-fledged project to take it on. The idea of the Shop was to make money to support good causes in the Village, including Village charities. And so, with the help and backing of David Hawkins, who at that time was Chairman of The Parish Council, we managed to secure premises, and duly opened for business on 24th May 2004 – David being invited to do the honours by cutting the ubiquitous ribbon!

However, during our first year of operation, on investigating things, we found that charities are not allowed to financially support other charities, and hence the Shop became *The Bampton Community Shop*, which is a Company limited by guarantee, but which allows us to make grants to any good causes within the Village, including Village charities.

Management of the Shop is in the hands of 4 Directors, a Treasurer, a Shop Manager, and shareholders. All unpaid volunteers. The shareholders, including the Shop Manager, run the shop when it is open. As we are also a not-for-profit type of organisation, all of the profits are paid out in grants to worthy Village causes at the end of our financial year. In the November ‘Beam’ we put in a notice advising readers that if they wish to seek financial support for a Village cause, then they should write to me, care of the Shop, and that these requests will then be considered by the Directors and volunteers at the AGM which is held in February each year. Those requests which are supported by the AGM then go to the Disbursement Committee, which decides how much each request supported by the AGM will be granted. This committee comprises the 4 directors, the Treasurer, 2 shareholders volunteers, and representatives nominated by Bampton parish Council, plus one honorary member.

The volunteers run the shop under a roster system, and the Shop Manager’s job is to keep an eye on things and ensure the Shop runs efficiently, and within the guidelines and rules it needs to comply with. For instance, we are not allowed to sell various items which have safety issues, such as electrical goods, child car seats, roller skates, and so on. In the main we sell clothes, books, toys, puzzles, bric-a-brac and so on. We have limited space to store things so we cannot take large items of furniture, although on occasions we do sell small tables and the like. Also, since Mr Simmonds shut his shop, we sell the bird seed which he used to sell, and which has turned out to be our best selling product! I think the birds in the Bampton area are the luckiest and best fed birds around from the amount of bird seed and fat balls which we sell.

We are very lucky we have the ‘Rag Man’ collection once a week, where we bag clothes and so on which are not selling; and there is also a book collection every two weeks, where we get rid of books which are not selling. These two collections bring in a good return each month, and enables us to keep up with new items being put out on display.

We would all like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers whether you buy or just bring; we could not carry on if it was not for you. We need your recyclable goods, whether its rags or useful items so please think of us before you put them into your bin.

At the end of our 2012 financial year we have given away to Bampton organisations, societies, the church, the chapel etc., a total of around £72,000; not bad for a Village of 1000 houses! So again I say a big thank you to everyone.



David Hawkins Officially Opens the New Charity Shop 2004

SPAJERS

DONKEY DERBY

MONDAY 27th AUGUST

Sandfords Field

First Race 2pm

Jockeys always needed - no experience required



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

Bampton Gardening Club News

By Fenella Gray MBE




The Village Garden Show - The Annual Show is coming soon, but what are we going to put in this year? Not much in the garden seems to be going to be ready, especially if we don't have any rain. The cucumbers will be fine I think, and maybe some of the tomatoes. Will we have any flowers? Or will they all be over by then. This is only July in our household, the Bampton Beam has just been delivered and what do we see but the schedule for the show! It's not that we are great gardeners and win lots of trophies, but we do try and join in to support the Gardening Club. You should do the same!

We grew up with the Flower and Vegetable show. My Mum (the official tea lady), was on the committee for years alongside her friends who were probably a bit more committed to their garden than Mum was! When my Mum was a child the show was always held at Weald Manor, along with the Fete. All the good old side shows were there, bowling for the pig, try your strength and lots more, and of course there were the usual refreshments. When the war came the Show went into hibernation for many years, until some of the great gardeners of

Bampton decided to bring it back to life. And thank goodness they did, because in recent years the Show has attracted more and more entries, which bodes well for the future.

And suddenly it's here and it's all hands on deck. Up early in the morning to pick the flowers - lucky we have been through the vegetables the evening before; picked out some long carrots, not too many worm holes you can see without a magnifying glass, picked so many runner beans to get 5 all the same size, the same with the apples and plums. The prize cucumbers (my Mum having won the cup for a few years running, until last year), are duly picked and the best 2 are lovingly placed in the basket with strict instructions not to put anything on top of them, The tomatoes, - small yellow ones, large red ones - keep the tops on and for goodness sake be careful with them. The 6 herbs are hunted down around the garden, and arranged them nicely. The cakes, scones, jam, pickles, chutney, sewing, written poem are all packed and waiting for the off.



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MARKET NEWS

RIGHTMOVE - Have reported that 70% of its advertised properties have been on their website for in excess of 12 months.
ANDREWS ESTATE AGENT - Their chief executive Michael Robson 'admits that the initial asking prices may have been too high' (*Andrews Website)

CONCLUSION

The bulk of the residential housing market is flat lining because some agents are over valuing properties in order to win their business and a majority of vendors are still holding out for too much money and unable to admit that their property value have fallen.

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Bampton Gardening Club News

By Fenella Gray MBE

And then, we are in the queue waiting to go in, trying to see what the opposition is entering, which is a bit of a job as they have put cloths over the vegetables and flowers to hide them from view until they are staged; and then it's too late to change anything! There's Roy coming along with his wheel barrow loaded up. It's our turn and Gill is at the table at the door where we give our names and collect our exhibit numbers.

All around are people busy with their own entries, laying them out nicely, only to have someone come and move them over as there is not enough room for theirs. Fetching water for the flowers, while trying to see what everyone else has brought and get a feel for the strength of the opposition! Then the feeling of satisfaction that we could do no more with what we have brought along, and we go back home and 'report in' on what we had seen and who we think will do well.

Then the afternoon is here, and we are all excited with what we are about to find out! We walk alongside the opposition looking to see if we have a red, blue or green card next to our entries. The cucumbers have won, Mum is champion cucumber grower once more. The tomatoes have only a second and third, but the bramly apples have a red and the plate of plums a blue. Then anxiously it's over to the cooking and craft tables. I would not like to be a judge, with all the tasting she has to do. At the jam entries there are at least 12 to taste, then onto the marmalade and pickles and chutneys. We have a red card for our scones (cannot believe it!), next to the fruit cake is a little note which says, 'good fruit cake but overcooked around the edges'.

After the prizes presentation, where Mum has picked up the John Smith Cup for the best cucumbers yet again, and me the BHS Membership Cup, for the Garden Club member with most points not having won a prize in the show - cannot believe it either. Then we make our way to the table where the winnings are ready to be collected. It's been a brilliant day yet again at the Show, and although a tiring one, we are also very pleased with ourselves with what we achieved in maintaining the standard at the annual Gardening Club Show.

**Winning Poem
from the Annual Garden Show
2011**

The Garden Show
Feed and water, weed and sow
We do the very best we know

Always a challenge too wet too dry
Too cold too hot but still we try

The rain has gone here comes the
sun
A gardeners life is fraught but fun!

Is that an aphid? There's a snail
Oh no a slug I see its trail

The day's arrived so here we go
To enter our best in the Garden
Show

by Annette Minto



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AUNTY BEAM



Dear Auntie Beam,

Does a Penny in a vase of flowers keep the flowers fresher or is it just an urban myth?

Oh, my dear you are a bit behind the times...Wishful thinking I am afraid. Pennies used to have a high copper content, which would lower the acidity of the water, but nowadays they're so thinly coated they're about as much use to your flowers as they are to you.

Dear Auntie Beam,

I can't seem to find a man however hard I try. I must be looking in all the wrong places. What shall I do?

I recommend trying speed dating. I recently tried it and it's exhilarating fun! It worked out great for me. Another alternative would be to pop down to the RAF base at Brize Norton and grab yourself a hunk in the forces!

Dear Auntie Beam,

I am considering having a boob job to even up my boobs. Should I?

Absolutely not! Embrace what nature gave you. However if this is making you feel down and depressed in any way, perhaps you could visit a clinic to chat about it and weigh up your options. What I did was to invest in some chicken fillets (the ones you get in the undies department not at the chiller section!)

SPORT

Bampton Badminton Club

Meets Tuesday mornings, 10 - 12noon (during term time) in the Village Hall.

If you are not sure, just come and try, (you can always borrow a racket). Coffee at 11am! Contact: Marlene Snow: Tel: 01993 850113

Bampton Social Netball

If you fancy trying your hand at netball, trying to get fit or maybe just looking to be more sociable in Bampton then please pop along! No need to book - just turn up on Tuesdays at 19:30 at Bampton Recreational Ground. For just £2 you can enjoy a 1 hour session on the court and then it's off to The Morris Clown for a well deserved drink (not obligatory but widely enjoyed)! This is a group for all ages and abilities. We do not play competitively - although if there are enough Bamptonians wanting to we will look at putting a team together. If you have a question you can call Jeanie on 07769 514552

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Personal announcements

Obituaries

By Fenella Gray

Jonathan Phillips

Jonathan Phillips was a true Bamptonian, although not having been born in the Village, but he helped so many people, young and old, during the extended time he lived amongst us. He was on the Parish Council for many years, and only retired from the District Council a few years ago. Jonathan was a Major in the Army during the 2nd World War and belonged to the Royal British Legion, where he was Vice President for many years.

The amount of good he did for the Village will be of benefit to the Villagers for generations to come. For instance, he was the major orchestrator in the development of the part equity scheme which has allowed young people of the Village to be able to afford a mortgage and buy a house – notably in Pembroke Place.

He also gave a lot of his time to many organisations, who will no doubt greatly miss him; and if you needed someone to fight your cause, if he thought that you deserved support to get round the bureaucracy, he would do it. Of course, he was supported by his wife Susan, who herself has also been a champion of many good causes in the Village, and I know the people of Bampton would like *The Bampton Beam* to pass on their thanks, and their condolences to the Phillips Family.

Hilda Kent

In Hilda Kent we have lost another true Bamptonian, and although she was also not born in the village, she moved here so long ago she appeared to be part of the fabric of the Village.

Hilda came to Bampton with Margaret Howse, who died several years ago. They met during the 2nd World War when Hilda was in charge of the Land Army girls in Witney. After the war Hilda drove a bus and Margaret was the conductor and for several years took the people from the village into Witney. They moved into Cromwell House where Margaret was the local taxi driver and Hilda started her driving school. Many local people passed their driving test during that time and I am sure they will remember Hilda teaching them.

At 90 Hilda jumped out of an aeroplane for the Bush Club – with a parachute of course! It was one thing she had always wanted to do, and I managed to arrange it for her as a sort of birthday present, but of course she raised money for the Bush Club by doing it. Seeing Hilda in her flying suit was something to behold, and after learning from the instructor what she had to do, she was off into the sky. She only wanted to go back up and do it again when she landed! Many of us will miss Hilda. I know they especially will at the Community Shop where on cold winter mornings she used to bring in coffee, laced with a little bit of something, to warm the 'Ladies' up! I enjoyed it myself many times!! We will also miss the window displays, always seasonally themed, and indeed there are so many little things about Hilda which we will all miss; I'm sure a lot of people will agree with me.

Congratulations

May 26th 2012 Bamptons very own James and Victoria Lovell (right) got married in Abingdon. Many congratulations guys!



Please let us know about your events and about your loved ones. We'd love to hear your stories!

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor and Beam Team

I would like to pass on my congratulations, and that of my husband Fred, to the Editor and all the Bampton Beam Team for what has been to me a very good start on their adventure into the world of journalism! The difference in style they have used is interesting, and just the right thing to do to bring some freshness to the magazine. So keep it up!

I remember my first edition of the Bampton Beam 17 years ago, when I had taken over from Susan Philips, who had been the Editor for 10 years before me. Until then I had not touched a computer – the typewriter was more my thing being a secretary. It must have been the most expensive issue of the Beam to date, with all the overseas phone calls which were made to my harassed husband when I could not get anything to work on the computer. I soon learned that you cannot argue with a computer, but that didn't help!

The number of interesting articles which the new Team put into the January issue was impressive, and bringing back Auntie Beam out of retirement was also great see. All I am waiting for now is Edie Bindweed to start her gardening page once more, and it will be like old times!

I do know that the new Team had some problems with their first issue and it did not come out quite as early as normal. But I would like to point out to everyone who reads the Beam, that it's pretty hard to produce, since you are relying on a lot of people to send you articles, which are sometimes sent right at the last minute – actually also even after the official deadline! Or sometimes articles are sent in very early and they get mislaid in the depths of the Beam's computer!

This new Team are young, have full time jobs, have a lot of animals to look after, and they love sport, which I know they all play with a great deal of dedication and enthusiasm. I wonder myself how they manage to fit it all in. Fred and I were both retired and getting the Beam ready wore us out! Believe it or not it takes at least three solid weeks, and sometimes a few more, to get the Beam ready for the printers, and then you have the delivery to make to the Beam Walkers so they can get out and about delivering. So do please understand that it will take the new Team a little time to get fully organised for the task that faces them! And I must here hail 'The Beam Walkers' who do such a great job in delivering the Beam to the doors of Bampton and Weald. Without them it would be very difficult to continue with the magazine, since to post it, for instance, would cost hundreds of pounds per edition, quite probably making the whole thing unmanageable. So, please support the new Beam Team, as they are trying very hard to get to the stage where the Beam will be efficiently produced and delivered to your door to the quality expected – something which took Fred and I many years to accomplish; and even then having a quick read through when it came back from the printers you could bet your life you would spot a mistake sticking out at you on page 1, which you had missed again and again, even with all of those spellchecking systems available to you! Keep up the good work Team, as everyone would really miss it if you hadn't agreed to take over from us.

Fenella Gray MBE Isle of Man

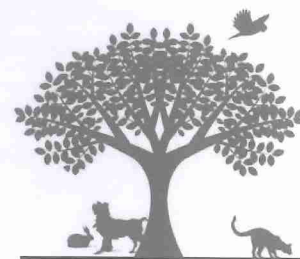
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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

My daughter (20) is an undergraduate at Nottingham University studying for a BSc in Nutrition. In July she is going to a rural village in Uganda with a charity called Teso to do research into maternal nutrition in the developing world. In order to fund this she is looking for 'sponsorship' to help with funding etc. I remember my neighbour's son received money from a Bampton trust or similar for sponsorship for his go-karting competitions and he then wrote an article for the Beam. So, I was wondering if this might be an area my daughter could approach for some funding and she would be delighted to contribute an article about her trip later in the year! We have lived in Bampton for 19 years. I would be grateful for any help you could offer or others we could approach.

Thank you

Catherine Foster

Dear Editor,

We have been exhibiting in the Vesey Room throughout April, and would like to say a huge thank you to the local community for all their support. Not only was the exhibition a huge success, with many sales, but we have been made to feel extremely welcome by all those who visited us. I would also like to thank the committee members, and the sitters, for all their kind assistance during the exhibition. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time in Bampton village, especially all the chats we have had with our visitors. We feel very privileged to have been able to Exhibit here, Bampton will remain in our thoughts for along time, and I'm sure we will return in the future. Thank you once again, for your support and words of encouragement.

Andrew & Jennifer (Ingrained Carpentry)

Dear Editor,

Is it possible to ask your retired Farmer Mr Rouse why on the Burford to Stow road I have notice a number of corn-fields which seems to have poppies planted with it, I notice this last year and again this year, I am sure Mr Rouse Will Know the reason or find out, Joe Stephens,

'I am surprised that Mr Stephens has posed this question for me as I am sure that he knows the answer. Mr Stephens is an avid Massey-Ferguson fan. The area that he is concerned about is known locally as M-F country. Farmers that operate these machines tend to pay less attention to detail than operators of the other Red variety or Green coloured tractors. Hence weeds grow more in these areas. Mr Stephens also knows that in the past, before selective Weed Killers, my Father had us gathering the weeds by hand and burning them. A very early occupation of mine when I was only eight years old was to gather up the Poppies from a field of Linseed for Mr Collins of Glebe Farm just south of the Signal Camp in Weald. But then Mr Collins, my Father and my brothers never were M-F men. Now I have a question for Mr Stephens. As he is no longer involved in Farming, could he be described as an EX TRACTOR FAN?', Don Rouse

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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

My name is Florence Jenkins, I live in Bampton and I'm a Year 9 student at Burford Secondary School. As part of my Duke of Edinburgh course I have decided to collect stamps to raise money for the RNIB (Royal National Institute for Blind People) as a lot of money can be raised when donated stamps are sold to stamp dealers around the world. Every day 100 people in the UK start losing their sight and this money will go towards helping these people. I want to collect as many stamps as I possibly can and I wondered if you could help me by saving your stamps and taking them to the Bampton Post Office or Patrick Strainge Butchers where you will find a special stamp collection box. The stamps can be new or used, or overseas stamps and when cutting off the envelope, there needs to be at least 1cm of envelope bordering each stamp. I will send all the collected stamps off on a regular basis to the RNIB.

Thank you for your support, Florence Jenkins

Dear Editor

I have lived in my little house for a few years now and I love it, the same as I love living in the beautiful village of Bampton. The point I would like to bring up is that of irresponsible dog owners. It is not very nice to walk up ones front path to be confronted with a pile of dog mess. The majority of dog owners that walk their pets on the footpath that runs between Ampney Orchard and The Pieces clean up if their pets stops and there are them that seem to think it is OK to just walk on, or should it be 'why bother INOMBL (its not on my back lawn)'. So come on, be responsible and bag it and bin it. On the lamp post that has been installed on the footpath, WODC have placed a sticker advertising dog walkers of the possible damage to their pockets if they are charged with the offence of dog fouling, so come on and start cleaning up when you are on your morning or evening walks

With Thanks, A disgruntled Ampney Orchard Resident.

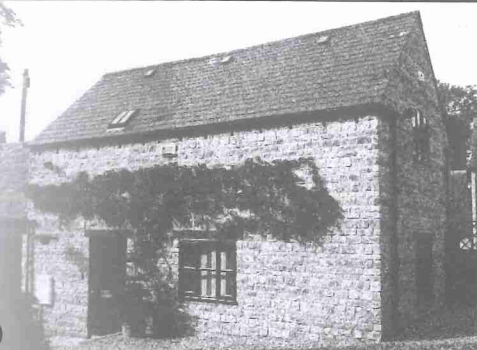
Dear Editor,

We are a new food bank currently setting up in Ducklington near Witney. We aim to provide people in need of food, with food donated from businesses and the public. For what ever the reason that they find themselves not able to feed either themselves or their family, they are referred to us by professional people i.e. health visitors, doctors, childrens centre etc. We are looking for support from big companies to either give us their end of day stocks which would other wise be thrown away or help us financially we are hoping to gain charity status as we grow. We have just set up our on website please do pop along and have a look www.oxwestfoodbank.co.uk We do hope that you will be able to help us in some way how ever small it may seem every little bit helps us to help those in need

Regards Jo Cypher, founder of Oxfordshirewest food bank

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Emmies – A big thank you Tom and Sylvia

By Fenella Gray MBE

I don't know how old I was when I first went into Emmie's, but I must have been quite young as I could barely see over the counter to choose my sweets! In those days it was called Bishop's Newsagents, and with George and Emmie behind the counter.

When Emmie died, Tom took the shop over and changed the name to Emmie's. I think everyone in Bampton knew Emmie Papworth so it was a really a nice thing to do for his Mum.

It still seems strange to go past and not see the papers hanging up outside the shop with the honesty box. There are not many places in the UK, if any, where you can still have honesty boxes, and shows that Bampton is still a good place to live.

This note is just to say a big thank you to Tom and Sylvia from the village for all the years we have enjoyed getting our papers delivered and just being such a friendly cosy newsagents to visit. I think that I can speak for everyone in wishing you both the very best in your retirement - just relax and enjoy it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Zara for taking on the newspaper round now. Don't forget you can purchase the papers in Patrick Strainge's Butchers Shop after 9am.





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(1418)

From Belgrade to Bampton (via Bydgoszcz)

By Charles Crawford

Once upon a time I had what people take to be a glamorous diplomatic career, working my way up the Foreign Office ranks in central Europe. Then in 2007 we decided that that way of life – the unpronounceable in hot pursuit of the unpalatable - was wearing us out. So I resigned, and ended up near Bampton. After some 30 years of living in different capital cities working for the British public, this fascinating corner of England is no less a foreign posting for me. Three examples.

First and foremost, Nature. There is a much loose media talk about Man encroaching on the Environment. Nonsense. The Environment is encroaching on us. Badgers, mice, kites, wasps, herons, foxes, rabbits, MICE, pheasants, magpies, hares, deer, hedgehogs, buzzards, ivy, unnamed stinging things, rain – and did I mention mice? All of them circling our house day and night, straining to spot a moment of human inattention so they can do something damaging and/or revolting. Then there is British Bureaucracy. This has made amazing strides for both better and worse since I first went overseas with the FCO in 1981. When you move house back to the UK from Poland (our last posting) all sorts of utilities and other changes can be done on-line. The Council politely replies to my emails about dangerous potholes and printable web maps of public footpaths. On the other hand, whereas dangerous driving (especially on mountain hairpin bends in dark fog) is encouraged in Bosnia and Poland, England has sneaky ‘speed cameras’ and even ‘speed traps’. In Bosnia and Poland after a car crash the police make some effort to keep the traffic moving. Here the police paralyse half the country. Finally, Politics. Having worked on the appalling consequences of the break-up of Yugoslavia and spent happy years briefing foreigners on the businesslike British system which gives a new government a clear majority, I return to a Dis-united Kingdom where some factions want to make our country smaller and, now, we have a bickering coalition government ourselves. Painful.

One other big family change. For the first time we have a dog. I ponder the mysteries and promise of my new homeland as I plod along overgrown lanes and squelch through drought-stricken fields.

By the way, if you are baffled by Polish names, it’s not as bad as it looks. In Polish a Z usually serves the same function as an English H. So sz = sh, and cz = ch. Rz = the sound made by our S in ‘measure’. If we did things that way, we’d have Manczester United and maszed potatoes. Nothing too tricky.



Charles Crawford was British Ambassador in Sarajevo, Belgrade and Warsaw. He is a founder partner of ADRg Ambassadors LLP: www.adrgambassadors.com, the world’s first diplomatic mediation and consulting panel. His website is www.charlescrawford.biz and he Tweets @CharlesCrawford.....

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I feel more flexible and no longer have shoulder pain. The gym has now become part of my everyday life and as a result I feel transformed both physically and mentally. I feel more confident, more energised and have a real zest for life. The gym is a great place to train. The trainers are supportive and they make keeping fit fun.

A big thank you all round.”



You can find out more about how he achieved his results by contacting the team on

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Questions answered by Able Community Care

Question - My Mother is housebound but really does need to see a dentist. Her old dentist (last visited many years ago) cannot help her. Are there "travelling" dentists?

Answer - The Community Dental Service provides treatment for people who may not otherwise receive dental care, such as your Mother. You can contact them by either contacting your local Community Dental Service (number in your local telephone book) or by going to NHS Direct on 0845 46 47. The call is charged at local rate and the service is open 24 hours per day.

Question - My brother, who is a pensioner lives in Spain. He is a British National who has lived there for the past five years after retiring from work. He lived and worked in Britain for all his life before retirement. He now has a health problem and wants to come back to my home and have treatment under the NHS. However, he has been advised that he is not entitled to free treatment and will have to be treated as a tourist and pay for his treatment in advance. Is this the case?

Answer - Yes, the Government is trying to cut the cost of a healthcare loophole that allows foreigners to travel to the UK for treatment and receive it free when they would have to pay for it in the country where they live. Unfortunately this includes British people who have chosen to live elsewhere in Europe.

Question - I think my health situation qualifies me to register as a disabled person as I understand I can then claim some benefits for myself. Can you tell me how I register as a disabled person?

Answer - You can register as a disabled person with your local council. They have a statutory duty to keep records of disabled people in their area in order to allow councils to plan appropriate services. The council may then check with your GP to seek verification of your disability. Once you are registered you can then receive some concessions as a disabled person such as reduced public transport fares. Being registered as disabled will also stand as proof when applying for discounts from non council services/facilities e.g. British Rail Discount Card

Question - As a pensioner I have been told that I can register with my gas and electrical company for free services. What are they please?

Answer - Gas and electricity suppliers should have a Priority Service Register which gives certain groups of people free services. The group includes pensioners, disabled people, blind and visually impaired people, people with hearing impairments or people who are chronically sick.

The free services available are a free safety check of your gas appliances including fitting special controls and adaptations to help make your gas and electricity appliances easier to use and a Password Scheme that can protect you against bogus callers who pretend to be from your energy suppliers.

Membership of the scheme also entitles you to extra advance warning if your electricity supply has to be cut off for planned work and you can have your bills or a copy of them sent to a friend or relatives if you feel this would be helpful.

There are also other benefits in that if everyone who is living in your home is eligible to become a Member and there are circumstances when your gas supply has been disrupted or turned off for safety reasons, then your gas transporter will provide you with alternative cooking and heating facilities. Bills can also be sent in Braille, large print or via a tape.

To become a Member look on the back of your gas or electricity bill for the phone number and address of your supplier and contact them to join.

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Bampton Baby and Toddler Group has moved to the Willow Tree

Children's Centre (next to Bampton Primary School).

We would like to thank the Children's Centre for allowing us to use their premises for our group.

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club is for children aged between 0 and pre-school age, and their parents or carers. We have been running for over 10 years, and meet every Thursday during term-time between 09:15 and 11:15 at the Willow Tree Children's Centre. There are a variety of toys for children of all ages to play with during the play session, which is followed by refreshments and singing. There is also a baby corner for young babies, with bouncers and soft mats.

At least once a month, we arrange a special activity, such as craft, a visit from Saltbox Music, or story time with our local librarian. The group is a great way to meet others parents and carers, and we also arrange evenings out.

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Rouse's Ramblings. Summer 2012 (1)

What an inspirational Jubilee celebration we have had in Bampton. Starting with the 60th Annual Great Shirt Race, this year of course it had to be special and so it was. This is the first time in all the years that I have been involved with it that we have had to have a re-run. Each year we try to improve on the previous year, I know that you are probably saying that by now we should have got it right! But over 60 years many things have changed, certainly the volume of through traffic and parked vehicles, not to mention new laws relating to Health and Safety regulations as well as the need for the Road Closure act to be legally implemented. So this year we asked for more volunteer Stewards, what a terrific response we had from the people of Bampton and Lew. With this gang of Stewards and with the help of the Parish Council we were able to equip six of them with mobile radios, so for the first time we had a Race Controller (David Hawkins, thank you David) at the Town Hall who was in constant touch with all the stewards who were controlling the road closures. Bringing up the rear was our Tail-end Charlie (Councillor Steve Radband) who would inform the race controller when all the competitors were off of the roads so that they could then be opened to the through traffic again, so in our opinion every thing was under control and nothing was left to chance. After the juniors and intermediate races this was proved to be the case.

What we didn't reckon on was that with the senior race some bright wags would give a 'mock' count down to start the race, when the official starter was nowhere near the scene! The result being that all those inexperienced competitors thought that it was time to go. The Police Car on seeing some twenty prams hurtling towards him decided that the safest thing was for him to put on his Blue Lights and lead the false starters safely through the crowds. The trouble was that all these false racers hurtled past the Official Starter on his way down to start the race. What a dilemma? There was no way on earth that they could be stopped so we just let them enjoy the Beer, declared the race 'null and void' and invited them all to do it all again and have another round of drinks on us!

The perpetrators of this felonious act have since apologised to us. Evidently they have done the same thing now for several years and have never experienced such a positive result, they just could not believe what was happening before their very eyes and found themselves powerless to do anything about it! I just hope that they will think twice about it next year. However I have to admit that it made one of Bampton's traditions just that little bit different.

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Rouse's Ramblings. Summer 2012 (2)

We decided to make a bigger show of the Fancy Dress Parade. We are grateful to Pippa Shay for returning to the microphone (she was a presenter on Radio Oxford for many years) and interviewing the contestants giving them a chance to tell us all about their creations. The comments we are getting is that this aspect made the show even better, we would love to hear your comments; after all it is one of Bampton's major events. Yes it is your Event! The SPAJERs do it for YOU.

Tommy and Sylvia Papworth did the Judging of the Fancy Dress and made the presentations to all the winners. The SPAJERs in return made a presentation to them on their retirement from an extremely long line of family involvement of running Bampton's Paper Shop better known as Emmies. Tommy's Gran served our community with newspapers when I first came to Bampton in 1943. The shop has sponsored Donkeys in our Donkey Derby since it began and in recent years the Paper Shop has been the centre for our Senior Citizens to 'drop off' their response to our invitations. We wish them both a happy and long retirement.

When one gets to Seventy Five it usually is a case of 'Been there, done that, got the T shirt' so it is very exciting to have a new experience, so for me to ride in a Side car of a Motorcycle Combination to start the Senior Race was a first! Thank you Mark MacArthur - Christie for the idea and experience. Mark's original idea was for us to dress up as Wallace and Grommit. Possibly a step too far.

The Bampton Weight Lifting Club held a Sponsored 1,000 Tonnes Lift at the Gym on the day of the Shirt Race, raising money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and at the time of going to Press the total raised has reached just under £700.00. The Total lifted being 1005 Tonnes. Twelve lifters took part in this all day event. Well done all of you.

I am sure that there will be correspondence relating to the other Jubilee events, I would just like to express my admiration for all those people who attended the Sports Day on that extremely wet Tuesday. I certainly did not expect to see so many of you turn up and participate in the events. It is at a time like that that I feel so proud to be a member of the Bampton community. Its time for me to have a 'Grump' We all know that the Country is in a bit of a mess and that there is definitely a need for cut backs, but I am sure that you are all very similar to me in that when you visit an establishment where civil authorities rule you can see several areas where there is unnecessary waste and it bugs you. Two years ago I had a Stroke and was whisked away in an Ambulance, I was instantly connected to an ECG machine with loads of electrodes and wires connected to different areas of my body. On arrival at the JR they took them all off and replaced them all with similar ones to those in the Ambulance, but the Ambulance ones were not compatible with the machine at the JR. What waste, compatible equipment would have been an obvious thought in my book. Just recently Mary's and my 'Free Bus Passes' were renewed.

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Rouse's Ramblings. Summer 2012 (3)

That is a 'wonderful service' I thought to myself, no applications and form filling needed, two new cards delivered by post. Brilliant. The next week we had two more delivered with a different code number upon them, so I enquired from the Council as to what was going on "sorry there has been a 'blip' with our suppliers" they said. "Destroy the old ones and use the more recent cards". This we did, only the following week the same thing happened again and would you believe it the next week as well! Eight cards in all we received, each with a photo incorporated in the card, heaven knows how much that lot cost. They only stopped when I told them that I was going to have to move to a bigger house to accommodate all these cards that they were sending, somehow I don't think that they appreciated my sense of humour.

When is the Council going to cut the Grass Verges around here? All our road junctions are now extremely dangerous with the grass being over three feet tall (should I exaggerate a bit and say one meter?) it is impossible to see what is coming from other directions. We had a better service when it was a man with a petrol driven mower towed by a Horse! The council these days use an enormous Tractor capable of doing many miles in a day yet they just can't seem to keep up with the grass growth. In their book they claim to be making progress. I just can't see it myself. In lots of places individuals are cutting the verges outside their own homes to allow a safer access to the road, but as I quoted in my last Beam article, by doing so they are interfering with Council property! Wearing my Carterton Lions hat, it is with great pride that I can announce that they are the first Lions Club in the UK to be awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, this is described by the Cabinet Office as the MBE for voluntary groups. Several people from Bampton have experienced help from them and others are under review at the moment. If you know of someone who is desperate for help, please get in touch. Each case is reviewed on its merits and a decision is made by a committee. At this juncture I must point out that there is also the Bampton Consolidated Charities Trust that can offer help to Bampton people with the same criteria as the Lions. In July I have the honour of being President of the Carterton Lions for the next year, a very responsible job that I hope I can fill as well as my predecessors. So yes, Bampton which comes under their area, will be very much in their thoughts. The Lions have now got the Car Parking for the Repatriations down to a fine art and it is working well. It is surprising how well the local community is working together to make such a sad event run smoothly and respectfully, providing comfort, sympathy, help and understanding to all those who have lost loved ones under such terrible circumstances. The three main local volunteer groups providing the services are the local Lions, U3A's and the British Legion. It comes as no surprise that Bampton is well represented in these groups. Farming wise, all this rain is doing a lot of good at the moment, all things that grow need moisture; even weeds! The trouble is once the rain starts, does it know when to finish? The last thing that Farmers need is rain at harvest time.

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**Rouse's Ramblings.
Summer 2012 (4)**

What is needed is a nice hot, dry August and September and then we shall all be treated to a very rare sight. Happy Farmers! Farmers with Cattle are really struggling at the moment. Incidents of T.B. reactors in this area are at its highest, causing tremendous administrative and operational problems. Up until quite recently this area was completely clear of TB. In the 50 years that I was farming with well over 200 cattle, we never had a single reactor, many farms operate a closed herd so that no animals are brought in from outside this area therefore limiting the chances of infecting their herds, yet they are suffering, so by my reckoning the infection must be coming from outside sources.

They tell me that the Badger population in the area is now at the highest it's ever been. I just wonder, is there a connection? When I was a milk producer the EEC had strict rules relating to the over production of milk both for the Farmers and for the Country. If a Farmer was over producing he had two options, either pour the milk down the drain or pay a levy to the EEC. Being 'typically British' this country paid the levy immediately but several other countries in the Union were always behind with their payments and indeed I am not sure if they ever paid. Those are the very same Countries who are now having financial problems and asking for money to bail them out. It is obvious to me that they have always lacked discipline and that they do not care about playing by the rules. In my opinion they should be left to sort themselves out and we should not be helping them. 'God helps those who help themselves' and until they start becoming self motivated, self disciplined with honest accountancy and bookkeeping, and being honest with themselves they are beyond help. Have you managed to visit the Bampton Archives Exhibition on Farming in Bampton and Weald? You must before it is too late. I know that I am as guilty as the next person on visiting these trips down memory lane and browsing at the pictures, then I realise that somewhere hidden in a cupboard at home I have pictures that would have complimented this display. Shame on me!

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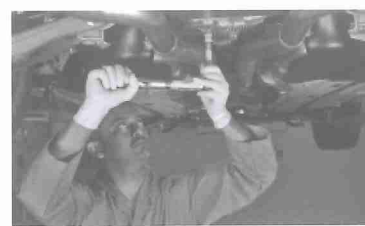
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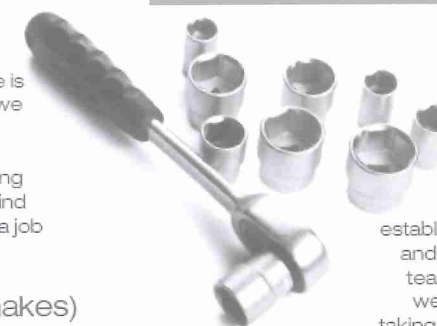
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It's a Pampered Life for me?

Starting a smallholding is not as easy as it looks
....A year in the life of Pampered Farm

by Phillipa Timmins-Gray



So it all started with a Cockerel called Lloyd. Jim, who keeps chickens on Aston Road, had a glut of cockerels and we decided that we would rehome one of them as he was so handsome. He was a shy retiring type and we took him back to our small terraced house in Witney to live in our garden. He lived there quietly for some months letting the weeds grow up in his coop and not doing much at all. Then we made the fatal mistake. We got him a little hen to keep him company and it all spiralled out of control.



We are now living in Bampton and have 40 chickens, 20 sheep, 2 horses and pigs (of varying number depending upon the time of year). It has been a steep learning curve I can tell you but I have enjoyed every second.

Our chickens are a mixture of cute bantams: Polish, Pekin, Silkie, Seebright and any other breeds that I think are pretty at the time. I love hatching out the new chicks and bringing them up.

The other hens we rehomed through the British Hen Welfare Trust. They come to us in a very sorry state and one of the most satisfying things in life is to see them grow their feathers back and enjoy roaming freely in the sunshine instead of being made into chicken pies.



One thing we have learned to cope with is the great British weather. This year started with frost, snow, ice, dark mornings, dark nights, no grass and no rain. This I can tell you is not the ideal situation for a smallholder as you definitely need grass and water. Neither of which was very forthcoming. Still we kept very fit, breaking ice in water buckets and carrying bales of hay about the place.

Then came the dreaded Spring time drought when again we had no grass and no rain (but thankfully less snow). Our fields were bare and everything looked very bleak. Then just as the dreaded hosepipe ban was announced, the heavens opened for a couple of months solid and we all prayed for it to stop as we waded through the mud. As we are going to print, it is about 30 degrees again and all the animals are sweltering.

It's a Pampered Life for me?



Last year we ventured into keeping pigs, which is a muddy business. We have just moved our girls out of their muddy pen into their new pen and they are loving eating all the weeds and keeping their feet dry. There is nothing like making your own bacon knowing that the animal that provided it for you was loved and cared for. They really have great personalities too and follow you almost anywhere for a slice of bread.

We also ventured into sheep last year. We purchased a starter flock of Shetlands, Grey Faced Dartmoors and Leicester Longwools. The Grey faced Dartmoor sheep and the Leicester Longwool sheep are rare breeds. Let me tell you, rare breed sheep are rare for a reason. They are always getting into bother. I heard a very accurate saying once about sheep: They only have two ambi-

tions in life, to eat everything that they shouldn't and to die of any cause that they can find. We even found one of them Velcro'd to some brambles in a hedge once—It looked very bemused!

They are always getting brambles stuck in their long fleeces and they seem prone to every problem under the sun. They are also fantastic escape artists and will get through almost any hole in a fence. We had a spell of a few weeks where we kept finding a herd of sheep in the garden eating the roses and the lettuce seedlings or getting phone calls from the neighbours saying that they were in next doors field. Lots of new fencing later and we (fingers crossed) seem to have solved the problem (for now). Still I am so in love with their teddy bear faces and I think we owe it to the breed to persevere.

Our next step was to find a ram. We found Bernard, our very handsome boy (pictured above) We went on holiday to Cornwall and bought him back with us in the boot of our car (it is a big boot...).



He really is a friendly chap and loves to have his ears scratched. Evidently he is a little bit lazy though. Our lambing this year has been a very prolonged affair, with two lambs born on time, another 5 born 6 weeks later and we had a surprise lamb (pictured right), who we have named Prim (as we are all Hunger Games fans) born only 2 weeks ago. This year we will have to think of a way to have all our lambs born close together. Perhaps some romantic music and oysters??

We did have a very sad time as one of lambs, Dappy was rejected by his mum when he was born so we had to bottle feed him. He was doing really well but then he just died one day. We never worked out the cause. Apparently this is common for bottle fed lambs but it affected us all terribly as we all loved to cuddle and feed him and he was so beautiful. It was nice to have Prim born as it gave us another lamb to worry about and eased some of the pain of losing Dappy.

We had the 'Singing shearer' visit us to shear our sheep this spring. If you need a shearer next year, I would highly recommend him, although he doesn't sing..... After days of back breaking washing and days of drying fleece all over the house, I now have lots of lovely fleece available and hopefully they will go to a spinner shortly.

We were very lucky to have mostly ewe lambs this year so we can slowly increase our flock and had very few problems. I hope it is the same next year. We did have one little ram lamb who is the spitting image of his dad. He will go off to be inspected by the breed association later this year to hopefully start a new career at another farm.

Thank you to so many of you who have offered advice and help when we got stuck.

We are now busy getting ready to go into the next phase with increasing our production and it is a very exciting time!

Check out our Pampered Farm Facebook page for more stories and up to date news.

Arts and Culture

“Love in the Time of Twitter”

Launch of annual Short Film Competition for Relate Oxfordshire

This week sees the launch of Relate Oxfordshire’s first annual Short Film Competition. Visit www.relatefilmfestival.org.uk. Budding film makers or experienced veterans of the silver screen are invited to submit short films on the topic of “Love in the Time of Twitter”, based on the premise that the recent revolution in electronic and social media has impacted on all areas of modern life, including our most intimate relationships.

Information about the Short Film Competition is being disseminated worldwide, and some exciting and unusual entries are anticipated. Screening and judging the shortlist of films will take place on Friday 12th October 2012 at Chipping Norton Theatre as part of a two day Film Festival, and the film which wins will be the one which has most convincingly harnessed the power of film in highlighting current trends in human relationships. In establishing a yearly Film Competition and Festival, Relate Oxfordshire aims to communicate what it does in a fun way to a wider audience. And also to raise much-needed funds so that it can go on supporting the increasing number of people who can’t afford to pay for help. The mission is to develop and support relationships by helping couples, families and individuals to make relationships work better, and by delivering inclusive, high-quality services that are relevant at every stage of life. Relate also helps both the public and policymakers to improve their understanding of relationships, and what makes them flourish.

Relate is the UK’s largest provider of relationship counselling and sex therapy. Their vision is a future in which healthy relationships form the heart of a thriving society. As a member of the Relate Federation, the local organisation has provided counselling services in the county for nearly sixty years. Relate Oxfordshire provides these benefits in Oxford, Banbury, Abingdon, Bicester, Thame and Witney. Although Relate Oxfordshire depends on financial contributions from clients to continue to provide its services, as a charity it is totally committed to helping anyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay.

The closing date for submissions to the Short Film competition is 30th July 2012. Information and regular updates will be added to the website over the coming months. Follow developments on Facebook and Twitter by using the links at the top of the home page. www.relatefilmfestival.org.uk

Contact:
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AN EXTRA FOR DOWNTON ABBEY

By Ann Flute

"Mum" queried my daughter on the phone, "Do you have a National Insurance number?" "Er... yes?" "Well, come in when you have been to the hairdresser, and have a cup of coffee." Extremely puzzled, I went to have my hair done, and was shown a flyer asking for extras for Downton Abbey which had been delivered there.

We had a giggle about it, as they wanted people without dyed hair, and we thought a hairdressers' was probably not the most tactful place to ask that. Being an obedient parent, I went into my daughter's for coffee, to be told that she was going to send in my particulars to the email address on the flyer, that she was going to take my photograph, and, horrors, measure me! I was not particularly worried, as I did not think there was any likelihood of my being accepted, but several emails and texts later and I was in.

I was instructed to visit part of the immense marquee in the Recreation Ground, to be fitted with my costume. Now my daughter had been rather over-enthusiastic with the tape measure, so the clothes put out for me, all neatly labelled and hanging on a rail, did not fit too well. The first garment tried on was a CORSET, which almost dropped to the floor! Several corsets later, and I was unable to bend...at all! Then a dusty pink dress was tried. "You can't wear that," said my delightful dresser, "It looks like a counterpane! I shall find something else." It was on the large side, I have to admit, so when she returned with a black suit, rather elegant blouse, and the hat, I was pleasantly surprised.

Ah, yes the hat. It was similar in shape to one my mother had worn on her honeymoon, at the seaside in 1928, oval in shape, with the brim wider at the sides, and mine, black, of course, had two fluffy feathers, one black and one white, easily recognisable, I hope! Lace-up boots, gloves and handbag completed the outfit, and I was ready for filming day not as one of the elegant guests at the wedding, but a "Villager" outside...suppose it rained?

Filming day arrived, and, thank goodness, it was fine, but with a vicious Nor-Westerley wind blowing which cuts through everything, even that corset! I was instructed as to what time to arrive and signed in at 7.30am in the monster marquee, and was then sent to have breakfast.

I correctly surmised that it would be a long day, and had the works, a full English, absolutely yummy, beautifully cooked, hot and to be eaten in the marquee. We then waited, and waited, and waited. I decided that if I ever was an extra again, I would bring a book at least!

People came and went and then I was called to have the hair done. This consisted of having a grey bun attached to the back of my head, with so many pins that if someone had gone past with a large magnet, I should have been dragged with it! (Amazingly, the hairdressers were on hand all day, to keep us up to the mark...more hair pins!) The sides of my hair were fluffed out, and the hat placed on my head.

When I went back to the marquee, a friend did not recognise me, and looking in the mirror, I did not recognise me either. We all looked SO old!



AN EXTRA FOR DOWNTON ABBEY

More waiting, followed by the dressing up in all those clothes already prepared, and then more sitting. Finally, when everyone was dressed, we were taken to the Deanery, (one of the beautiful, historic houses in Bampton) in buses, to wait for lunch and instructions. Because it was so cold we all opted to sit in one of the two double decker buses provided for us to use as a dining area.

About 1.30pm we were sent to Churchgate House where there was a portable kitchen set up with a large range of excellent dishes from which we could choose, and puddings, too, all of which we ate in our bus, out of that wind!

Finally, at 2.30pm we were shepherded through the churchyard to wait on the green where the director explained what the story line was and what he wanted us to do. We were to cheer the arrival of the bride with her father, in their carriage at the church gate. They would come along Churchview and those of us who had not been involved with the previous day's filming were to be nearer to the Church, so continuity was not compromised, by some of the extras, who had been in the Church two days before, seen cheering the arrival.

Another lady and I were told to be under the large tree, to watch for the arrival of the carriage which was pulled by two magnificent black horses, and then run (Run? In that corset and at my age?) to the side of the carriage as it stopped by the gate and wave, a bunch of flowers by my colleague, and a lace handkerchief by me.

It was at this late stage that I began to feel a complete idiot...I don't know if anyone else did? Clearly, I am no thespian! However, I am very well behaved, so we did what we were told, and were commended by our "sheepdog", a lovely lad, who had really looked after us well all day. We then had two rehearsals to get the hang of the thing, and were deeply amused by the umbrellas carried by some of the crew, used to cover the side of the carriage as it arrived, to shield the actress in her wedding gear, to deceive the paparazzi, who had been sniffing around. One had been spotted by the immense, ex Army guard at the beginning of Church Street in the morning, and he notified the police, who kindly removed the photographer, only letting him back in the evening. It also explained the trouble taken to shield the entire area with screens.

We never did know who the bride was, only seeing Lord Grantham, Hugh Bonneville, who turned and waved his top hat at us. We had two rehearsals, and then they went for a take. At this stage, we were all getting cold, and I became really worried about a friend, who I was convinced was going to die of hypothermia! The wonderful, compassionate crew, however, managed to find rugs for her and the children, and, amazingly, even a hot water bottle for her, and later took them all into Churchgate House to thaw out.

Eventually there were five "takes", with different cameras being used for a variety of angles, some from the overhead camera, and some from inside the carriage. It was fascinating to see how it all worked, and the pre-planning was in every area, impressive. At the end of the fifth "take" they announced a "wrap", and we all cheered! As we left the Churchyard there were trays of sandwiches to keep the wolf from the door as the mini buses took us the two minutes back to be re-united with our own clothes, and we all felt that they had not missed a trick. It was good to be out of that corset and to be warm again.

We had had a fascinating day and were grateful to all the crew, dressers, hairdressers, and our delightful "Sheepdog" (I never did know his name) who had made it all so memorable for us. Can't wait to see if I can spot those feathers!

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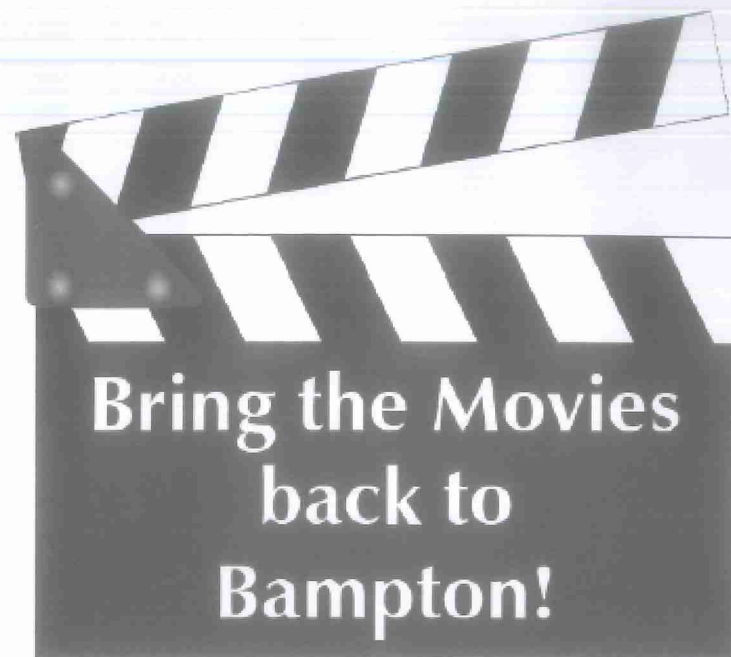
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The Olympic Bell

By David Timmins

"Be not afraid; the isle is full of noises.."
The Tempest, William Shakespeare

Change ringing (the art of ringing church bells) is steeped in history – history going back centuries – and is almost-exclusively a British art. Change ringers have been over many decades and centuries intensely loyal to their foundries who, in turn, have cast, re-cast, retuned and re-hung bells in our church towers over as many years. We still have two of the most famous foundries in the world – John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough and the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which dates back to at least 1570, in London.

To underline the historical importance of church bell ringing, 2013 marks the 300th anniversary of the life of the 'father of change ringing', Fabian Stedman. Although church bell ringing existed well before Stedman, it was pioneers such as he that began to formalise the methods and principles of change ringing. Stedman was born in Yarkhill, Herefordshire in December 1640 and died in London in 1713. During his life, he published two books about the art of change ringing and, undoubtedly, his finest achievement was the Stedman Principle which is still rung regularly today. Church bell ringing still remains the second most popular sound in the U.K., second only to birdsong. There are probably about 5,000 church towers ringing for their own and your pleasure on Sundays, other important days and perhaps at weddings and funerals. So why the present discontent?

Last year, the London Organising Committee (LOCOG) and the London 2012 Ceremonies Ltd (L2012C) decided that it would be a good idea to commission a large bell to be rung on July 27th 2012 as part of the participation in the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics. The opening ceremony itself will be inspired by artistic director Danny Boyle – the film-maker behind *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Trainspotting*. His 'Isles of Wonder' theme for the opening ceremony is inspired by the quote from Shakespeare at the head of this article; indeed the quote will be cast into the new bell. It was almost taken for granted that the new bell would be cast in this country.



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The Olympic Bell

What a splendid idea, you might think, commissioning an Olympic Bell for the London Olympics – the largest bell in Europe - which would be designed, planned, cast and hung by one or other of the two premier foundries in the world – and both based in England! Would it happen? Not on your Nellie!

As far as I can gather from the *Mail Online* and *The Ringing World* within published articles covering the past six months or so, the London Organising Committee has unnecessarily upset both change ringers and, more importantly, one of our premier foundries – John Taylor & Co.

The new bell for the Olympics was always going to be a challenge. At 27 tons, and with a mouth measuring 3.3 metres, it would be a foot wider than the largest bell in Britain, the Great Paul at St Paul's Cathedral, which was cast by Taylor's in 1881. None-the-less, casting such a large new bell would have been logistically possible in the U.K. – especially possible at John Taylor & Co. – even though there may have to have been some adaptation of some of Taylor's heavy equipment. Indeed, Richard Grimmett, General Manager for John Taylor & Co., stated in a letter to *The Ringing World* (R.W., May 4th 2012 p 443) that, "We are disappointed that our 44 tons of casting capacity, making us still the largest bell foundry in the world, has been disregarded..."

So what happened? It appears that John Taylor & Co. was asked by L2012C in August 2011 to provide estimates for casting 'the biggest bell in Great Britain'. Taylor & Co spent 20 days or so of their expert time designing, planning and providing an estimate for such a large bell. Figures were submitted, as requested, early in September 2011 to the L2012C. Within a few weeks, Taylor's was notified by L2012C by Dave Williams, Deputy Production Manager, Staging and Scenic L2012C, that the bell was no longer being considered and "the decision has been made to go a different route for this section of the show..."

Loughborough MP, Nicky Morgan, representing a ward with a massive connection with the Olympics over many years- especially with Team GB, challenged this decision to no avail. Loughborough University is well known as the pre-Games base for Team GB. "I am disappointed," Miss Morgan said. "Taylors is a fantastic company".

Taylors closed their file.

It seems then that within days of Taylors receiving the e-mail from Dave Williams cancelling any further action from Taylors towards the production of the Olympic Bell, L2012C entered into a formal contract with Whitechapel Bell Foundry! Worse than that, Simon Aspland, Head of Procurements and Contracts, L2012C, stated that Taylors had only been approached "for the purposes of ensuring that the quotes provided by Whitechapel were consistent with market pricing".

All that time and effort provided by a British foundry known to have the capacity to cast such a large bell had gone to waste. There seems little doubt that John Taylor and Company Bellfoundry were seriously misled and, indeed, Hugh Robertson MP, Minister for Sport and Olympics and Bill Morris, Director of Ceremonies, Education and Live Sites for LOCOG had little option but to apologise to Taylors.

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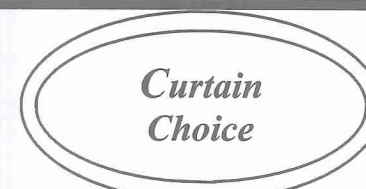
The Olympic Bell

But worse was to follow. All knew that Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd., for all its history and expertise, simply did not have the capacity to cast such a big bell – even though the Company was well known for having cast Big Ben in 1858. None-the-less, the Whitechapel foundry pressed ahead with final designs for the bell. As Mrs Kathryn Hughes of the East London firm stated, "This (will be) a Whitechapel bell and we have supervised every stage. The design, shape, lettering, metal specifications are all Whitechapel." Indeed, cast into the bell will be the logo Whitechapel has used since 1570.

So what happened next? Yes, the contract for casting this huge bell, despite all our British expertise and abilities - and the state of the British economy - has gone to a company in Holland. As Richard Grimmett, General Manager for John Taylor & Co., stated, "...we are disappointed that not only our time has been wasted so blatantly but that another piece of our beleaguered British manufacturing industry has been so badly let down by our own side." (R.W., May 4th 2012, p 443). Mr Grimmett also observes and feels that L2012C has ignored the LOCOG's Diversity and Inclusion Business Charter which was essentially set up to allow firms in this country equal access to Olympic public monies.

So, although the new bell will have been designed and planned in London, it will have to be cast in Holland. Does this matter? A letter written to *The Ringing World* on May 11th by the Revd Tony Graham of Crawley, West Sussex seems to sum it all up (Letters, R.W., May 11th 2012, p 498). Revd Crawley starts his letter, "How much I was looking forward to the unveiling of That Bell. A feeling of pride that here is something we English can make, and make well, has increasingly been eroded over the past thirty years. But no. Like so much else the bell has been Outsourced."

Ah well, the die is cast – and so will be the bell! So why are our British change ringers further upset? It takes little imagination to realise that a huge bell of the order of 27 tons physically would be difficult to swing and struck on its sound bow by a clapper as are our full-cycle British bells. So what is going to happen on July 27th? Will there just be one loud "BONG!" after which the million pound bell will be largely ignored in Stratford as a kind of strange, isolated, static memorial to the 2012 Olympics – a prime target for vandalism and metal theft (the bronze alone being worth around £400k)? When will there be another occasion in anyone's lifetime to ring the bell again? And in Stratford?



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The Olympic Bell

Far better, think many change ringers, should it not have been possible to cast within cost such a large Olympic bell in the U.K. then it would have been better to have spent a fraction of the money on, perhaps, a purpose-built mobile ring of bells that could be moved to different parts of the country to celebrate other occasions after the Olympics. It could always be called the 'Olympic Bells', or some such.

Anyone who managed to hear on YouTube or even on the day the inspiring Whitechapel Bell Foundry's 'Royal Jubilee Bells' as they were brought up the Thames cannot fail to have been moved. The bells had been inspected by HRH The Prince of Wales at the Whitechapel foundry on 15th May, transported to Denton Wharf at Gravesend where they were re-assembled and lifted onto their barge. The 'Royal Jubilee Bells' led the flotilla of a thousand boats down the Thames on the afternoon of 3rd June – a truly mobile ring of bells! One can only imagine how difficult it must have been to ring the bells on a moving platform in the wind (which catches at the ringing ropes) and the rain. Ringing the eight bells were some of the top change bell ringers in the country, led by Dickon Love.

A further stretch of imagination might have produced, once again easily within the million pound limit, *five* smaller mobile rings of training bells – perhaps labelled 'Asia', 'Europe' and so on – coloured appropriately. This initiative could have helped re-vitalise change ringing, increase the declining number of change bell ringers across the U.K., assist with training future ringers and be a far more adaptable ideology. My point is that it takes more than one, single large bell to represent our British change ringing which is the envy of the world. Not for nothing is Britain known as 'The Ringing Isle' and long may it stay so.

As it is, Anthony Smith's letter from Winchester to *The Ringing World* (R.W., April 20th 2012, p 391) suggests that "...many bands will be planning to ring Howard Skempton's composition of *Five Rings Triples for the Olympics...*" - in a way, our ringers are turning their backs on the idea of a 'single' Olympic Bell to a far more challenging and rewarding 7-working-bell method!

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JUBILEE SPECIAL

By Janet Rouse

Celebrations in Bampton were non-stop throughout the weekend.

All Weekend there was a flower festival in St Mary The Virgin , Bampton Archive had an exhibition of Farming in Bampton and Weald Within Living Memory from 1935 and West Ox Arts had an exhibition of Portraits of The Queen and hosted a variety of free 'make and take' art project for children.

Saturday June 2nd saw a Jubilee Decorations Competition with two classes, one for best decorated house and one for the best decorated commercial premises. In the afternoon we were royally entertained by a wonderful group of children playing fiddles, drums and dancing in the Market Square. In the evening the 60th Great Shirt race organised and run by the SPA-JERS (Society for the preservation of ancient junketing) was held, the first one being to celebrate the Queens Accession to the throne.



Sunday June 3rd 'Whatever Became of The Red Shoes?' was performed in the Village Hall by professional actors, winners of the Buxton Festival Award for Best Family Play 2009.

In the evening we held 'Has Bampton Got Talent?' and the answer proved to be a resounding 'Yes' with requests for this to become an annual event. From age three to late 70s people sang, played, danced and recited and all with great joy and great skill. Judges were Zoe Harrison, Trevor Milne-Day and Kirsty Young (Crimewatch & Desert Island Discs).

Monday June 4th A festival of Morris dancing with Bampton's three teams all dancing, both in the streets and in private gardens and they were joined in the evening by teams from all over the country. A joyful day with much laughter and enjoyment and wonderful refreshments to be had in St Mary's organised and run by the Flower Guild. There was a Craft Fair running in the Village Hall and several stalls selling items around Bampton plus the now sort after grand plant sale in aid of The Archive at Eagle House, courtesy of Lis and Tony Page. The music continued in the pubs well into the evening once the dancing ended. Children made beautiful flower garlands with judging at 11am and the first three were then put in the church for the day.



Tuesday June 5th A wonderful Ecumenical Service was taken by Rev. David Lloyd in St Mary The Virgin in which the choir sang such an uplifting spiritual that the congregation burst into spontaneous applause. Jubilee Sports Day at the recreation ground should have started with a parachute jump by the RAF but the unkind weather meant it was not possible. Despite continuous rain, great fun was had by all who ventured along with races for young to senior, rides, archery, tug-of-war, tennis, netball, bowling in the nets, shooting at the goalkeeper, beef burgers given out freely but a donation to the library was suggested and finally medals were given for race winners and all children from Bampton and Weald received Jubilee Mugs. The design on the mugs was by Keira Gilbert aged 7 (left). In the evening there was a fantastic barn dance in the Market Square where well over 400 filled whole square.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Thank you so much to the contributors of the photographs and articles for this part of the edition. We received so many that I am sorry we couldn't include them all. It really was a memorable weekend!

St Mary's Church Flower Festival

This year the annual flower festival had an Olympic theme. The church was open each day throughout the weekend.



West Ox Arts

Portraits of the Queen - an exhibition held in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee at West Ox Arts

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, the West Ox Arts Gallery invited artists from far and wide to submit artwork of any size and media in an open call for entries to be included in their exhibition, *Portraits of the Queen*. An unjuried show, everything received was put on display.

The response from artists eager to get involved in this festive exhibition was tremendous. A diverse collection of work - from the traditional and reverent to the humorous and flippant - poured in from across England and throughout the world.

The Gallery was eager to get the public involved in the exhibition and with arts projects for the kids, and with refreshments for the adults during the Opening Reception, they offered a little bit for everyone. People of all ages were invited to vote for their favourite artwork in three categories:

Most Creative, Most Ambitious, and Most Realistic. SC Gregg's *The Royal Female* won in two categories: Most Creative and Most Ambitious while Peter Wheeler's *Happy and Glorious* won for Most Realistic. Two artists won in the unadvertised and surprise category of Curator's Choice: Mariah O'Neill and Andrew Hazelden.

The countries represented in the exhibition included England, Canada, USA, The Netherlands, Germany, and Iraq.



Fiddles and feet

By Janet Rouse

What a wonderful way to kick-start the celebrations! Fiddles & Feet treated their audience in the Market Square to a truly delightful half hour of music and dance with smiles broad enough to gladden the hearts of all who were lucky enough to be there with their music and dance which held everyone's delighted attention.

Under the guidance of their teacher Felicity Cormack, a teacher with the County Music Service, boys and girls with ages ranging from about 10 to 18 played violins and drums and danced both with and without swords. The collection was for the Oxford Children's Hospital where one of the group members was cared for over many months after a dreadful accident.



The 60th Bampton Shirt Race (a racer's perspective)

By Toby Hopkins



There was the usual excitement on approaching the start line of one of Bampton's finest traditions. The weather was grey, and yet colour, costume and exuberance were there in trolley-fuls. It was an energy-filled, bristling throng of racers practically bulging the street's width just beyond the Morris Clown.

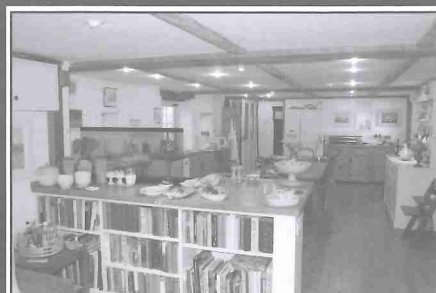
Jubilee bunting flapped restlessly around almost every fence and doorway. Wind whipped around wigs. An atmosphere of expectancy filled the air like the smell of barbequeing meat. A deep-throated dog barked - and then all of a sudden they were off! I quickly walked back towards the Square as the front-runners rattled passed, hoping to catch sight of (amongst others) the Talbot brothers, (wearing wet-suits) who I'd coaxed only the night before to compete in their grandad's old two-wheeled barrow.

Then something strange happened somewhere around Biztro. I saw this guy wearing a bunny-girl outfit in a trolley, calling out something like, "Heh, man - I need pushing..!" Well, excitement got the better of me and I was in like Flynn. By the Romany the bunny-girl's partner (in Hawaiian shirt) had caught up with the madman who'd run off with 'his girl', and after a moment or two of conferring ('What the hell are you doing?!') it was amiably concluded I should ride in the trolley, drink the beer at all the stops - whilst they take it in turns to push. This suited me just fine. (Although I remember one drink was disposed of on my hat). I also recall two cave-women dashing passed at one point, seeing two giant bottles

of brown ale, and then (confirming this actually wasn't a dream) we were turning out of Rosemary Lane, confronted by a bank of cheering / jeering spectators - and sped on to the finish in the Square. The Hawaiian shirt guy then tipped me out and I woke up (a bit).

A hazy moment later Don Rouse announced the race had to be re-started (What?!). I don't suppose the pub landlords were too chuffed, but I was - and encouraged a girl I knew from school to join me in the re-run. 'Great, you can do it properly now,' I thought. My sketchy memory of what happened thereafter has been aided greatly by googling 'Witney TV'. Their footage shows many racers took up the challenge a second time, including the Queen with Coldstream guards, a bearded sea captain with a bizarre-looking boat, two flying 'mad professors', the fire service with their mini fire engine, and the ever-impressive Morris Clown team in 'Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang'.

The most surreal entrants, however, were the two that came without a trolley - as 'air-conditioning units' / 'roof vents' - !? No one quite knew what they were, or what they were doing. Heck -they couldn't even drink the beer in those get-ups! (Natasha and I by-the-way, came 8th). I then went celebrating at the Morris Clown until the early hours, and woke up the next morning in a shed. (God..!) Perhaps the 'roof vents' had the right idea after all.....



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SPAJERS ANNUAL SHIRT RACE

During 1953, two residents of the Village, John Quick and Paul Bovington organised a 'Shirt Race' as a one-off event to celebrate the Coronation. The rules of the 'Shirt Race' were very simple. A team of two individuals, each of whom were to be dressed in a night-shirt, and with some sort of unpowered transport, such as an old pram, were to take it in turns to push each other from hostelry to hostelry, pausing at each to down a half-pint of ale. For the race, nurses from the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford were invited to attend and collect money for the hospital. Such was the success of the event, however, that John and Paul decided to hold it annually, with the money collected going to the pensioners of the Village. The Society for Ancient Junketing (SPAJERS) was born!

In those early days there were some 11 pubs in the Village - at one time the Village had 13 pubs! - but at the present time, the competitors have it a bit easier, as the numbers are now down to four, although many of the residents of the houses which are ex-public houses, still get a table out and offer the drinks!

There are three races at present for juniors, intermediate, and seniors, the latter two normally being combined into a single event, with prizes for the winners and runners-up, and the races are held at the Spring Bank Holiday each year. And while the rules remain basically the same, various types of dress attire are now accepted, since night-shirts are a rare items these days, and a shortage of them some years back nearly led to the race's demise!

It is ingeniously said that the origin of the 'Shirt Race' can be attributed either to the occasion, in 784 AD, when Ethelred the Shirtless, chased the burgers of Bampton through the streets in order to clothe his nakedness, or to a certain action of William the Conqueror's soldiers stationed at Shifford during the beer drought of 1067!

The SPAJERS are still going strong after 50 years – the present committee numbers around 14 members - and are still raising money for the pensioners of the Village. The other major events run by the SPAJERS are the Village Quiz, in April each year, the Donkey Derby and Fete held on the Monday of the August Bank Holiday at Sandfords Field, and of course the Mummers, who perform their play at various locations in the village on Christmas Eve.



The 60th Annual Shirt Race

By Phillipa Timmins-Gray

Well I hope that Don Rouse, our stalwart commentator and master of ceremonies had a 75th birthday to remember. What an event—the 60th Bampton Shirt Race.

In a recent interview with WitneyTV, Don said:

‘Years ago when there were 11 pubs, it was all about drinking and racing and pushing but now its more about involvement with the children and fun in the community’.

I think that just about summed it up. There were scores of spectators watching the build up and the race, all praying that the rain would hold off—which it did, nearly.

The childrens race was so competitive that the guys at the Morris Clown had trouble pouring orange squash fast enough for the competitors at the first stop



The intermediate race was very professionally run—and lightning quick! The winners were Sam Burke and Danny Earls

The adult race then started with the usual crashes, beer spillage and cheering from the crowd. There were the usual mixtures of wheelbarrows, childrens buggies and prams mixed up with some very zany carts.

The 60th Annual Shirt Race



At the end of the race, Iggle Piggle and Upsy Daisy came around the corner followed by a very very long pause before the ladies from Pampered Farm (including the editor of this paper) adorned in their nappies finally bought up the rear, promptly overturned at the last corner and collapsed over finish line

NOTE FROM SUB EDITOR: To see this moment of crowning glory of your Bampton Beam Editor, please look up the video on www.witneytv.co.uk/videos/bampton-shirt-race-2012 at about 8 minutes into the video.

Unfortunately at the beginning, someone had shouted ready steady go without the official starters being there so an official false start was declared and the whole race had to be run again. To the delight of the heavy drinkers among the teams and to the horror of the pubs that had to give away more free beer!

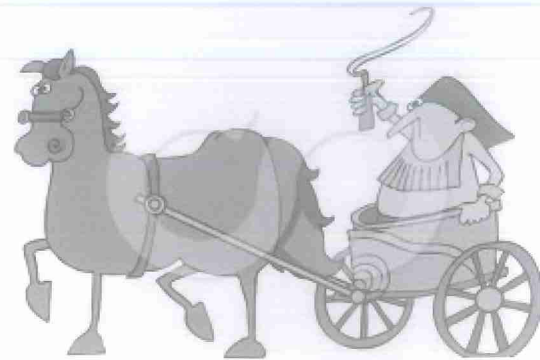
The second official race (with a reduced field due to lack of wheels on some of the carts) was won by Dean and James Bulmer adorning very fetching Union Jack dresses.

A great evening was had by all and I hope that we have more than 3 hours next year to put our cart together!!





The Chariots!



As usual the chariots were outstanding! So much effort goes into preparing these masterpieces every year. Well done!

The pictures here are of the Firemen, the Queens Jubilee team who were celebrating the Queens Jubilee in style, the Titanic team who did very well to steer their half Titanic around the course, complete with their Liaonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, and the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang team

The coveted Chariots Cup was won by the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, an honour only marred by the fact that Chats kept scaring the small children with his very convincing Childcatcher outfit.

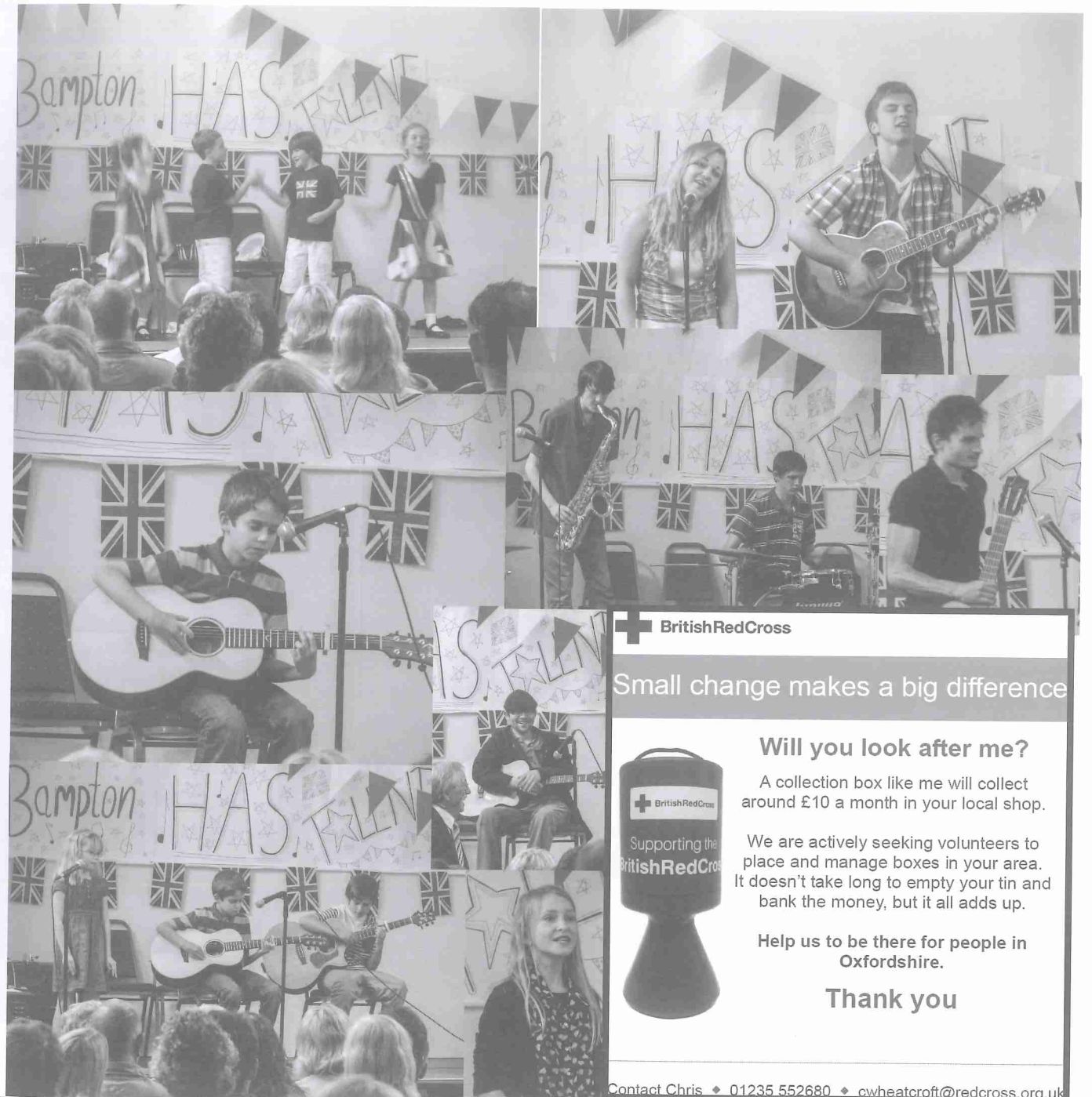


Bampton's Got Talent in the Village Hall

By Janet Rouse

A wonderful evening on Sunday June 3rd organised by Bampton Archive showed very clearly that Bampton has very definitely got talent and from ages 3 to 'very senior' citizens. The mix of singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, poetry and monologues kept the packed hall and our three judges enthralled.

Our three judges were Trevor Milne-Day, Zoe Harrison and Kirsty Young and they each gave honest and encouraging comments. We are particularly delighted that Kirsty is taking an active roll in the life of Bampton.



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Monday 4th June Morris Dancing

Bampton is one of only a handful of places with an unbroken tradition of Cotswold Morris Dancing thought to date back over 400 years.

The tradition has attracted the interest of musicologists and social historians over many years, and the dances have been copied by dance teams across the UK and internationally. Within Bampton, the dances are handed down to new dancers by example, resulting in a slow and subtle evolution; the hallmark of a thriving tradition. There are currently 3 teams in Bampton: Bampton Morrismen (based at The Morris

Clown); Bampton Traditional Morris Dancers (The Horseshoe); and Traditional Bampton Morris Dancers; (The Talbot). The dancers would like to thank all those who allow them to dance in their wonderful gardens.

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Garlands

By Ruth Wheeler

One of Bampton's longstanding traditions is the making of garlands of wild flowers, which children carry around the village before being judged. It would be fantastic to see a large entry this year. The instructions for making a garland are reproduced below:

To make a garland for 2 children you need 2 supple sticks (preferably willow), each about 1 metre long. Bend each stick into a circle and tie at the top firmly. Place one inside the other and tie them together at the top and bottom. Then tie bunches of wild flowers, such as cow parsley and

buttercups, to each of the 3 sides. (May or horse chestnut blossom should not be used). Then place a doll inside the frame, and put a stout stick through the middle of the garland to make a handle for one child to hold on each side. Many thanks to all the children who took part in making a garland this year. I know it is very hard to find flowers these days. Mrs Jenny Webb and Mrs Elward helped with the judging: Thanks to them both.

Mrs Dawn Knight presents a plaque in memory of her daughter Corrina who was killed some years ago to the winners of the garlands. This year the prizes were won by:-

- 1st Prize Xsaviour and Eddy Walsgrove and Devon Townsend
- 2nd Prize Cerise and Pippa Carrington and their little sister
- 3rd Prize Sarah Ader and her friends

All children that took part were given sweets

I would like to thank John and Rose Grant for their sponsorship. Also Mrs Rose Gerring and Mrs E Quick for donations towards sweets.

The weather was kind to us this year. Perhaps we'll be lucky again next year. Keep the old tradition going even if you can only come up with a few flowers. Thanks to all that took part.



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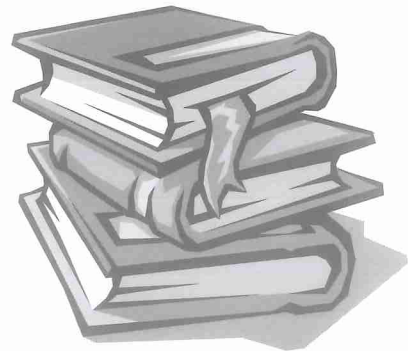
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We've been trading for just over a year now and aim to conduct various special interest promotions every month which is why we're letting you know about this one.

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THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE SPORTS AFTERNOON

Tuesday June 5th 2012

By Graham Haslam

It hardly seemed that 10 years had passed since we celebrated the Queen's Golden Jubilee, but unlike the previous Sports day the weather was to play a significant part, which really put the damper on everything! Preparations had been underway for several months and we had arranged for the Sports sections to organise events of interest and, hopefully, enthuse children and adults to use the excellent facilities offered at the Recreation Ground. We planned to have a Spectacular Opening at 2.30 pm with the RAF Falcons Parachute Team flying in, but at the last minute with the plane on the runway at Brize Norton the heavens opened and for safety reasons the Falcons had to abandon their programme.

Nevertheless, we received tremendous support from many people – Tom Rose with his kiddies roundabouts and candy floss stall, Nick Jones with his fantastic hamburger stand, the Horseshoe for the bar, and the several groups (the Library, the Toddler Group, the FOBS and Pre-school) who showcased their offerings brilliantly in spite of the wind and rain. Throughout it all we were entertained over the Public Address system by a great favourite of Bampton, Don Rouse, who did a terrific job as MC – well done Don!! The Bampton Fire Brigade joined us with a Fire Tender and this delighted young and old alike. Hopefully this will stimulate the people of Bampton to become either a Retained or Part-time Fire Fighter Tel: 800 5 870870 for further information.

The races took place for all ages, with a variety of dress, and the winners presented with medals and we had huge entertainment with the Tug-o-War contest between the Morris Clown and the Talbot. The first pull must have been one of the best ever and lasted several minutes with the Clown winning, but the Talbot came back to take the contest 2 to 1. There was also a Challenge between the FOBS Ladies and the Men, which the Ladies won, due to fact they had twice as many on the rope and, perhaps the "high heels"!

The Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Mugs were distributed to all children aged 11 and under, and the afternoon ended around 5.00pm and by 5.30pm the Recreation Ground was virtually clear and you would not have known that over 250 people had enjoyed a fun afternoon with family and friends. About this time – THE RAIN STOPPED!! Which was good for the Street Parties and the Barn Dance.

Congratulations Bampton for your superb Recreation Ground Facility, with its' new cricket wicket and Skate Park, additions since 2002, the Shillbrook Wood and the thousands of trees which were planted to provide a wonderful legacy for the future and should be enjoyed.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the volunteers, who gave of their time and effort, so generously over the weeks and months before, and on the day itself in such adverse conditions.

Although, the rain had set in the Sports Races began with the Toddlers 3 and under, going through the age groups up to 30+ and finally the 3-legged races. Great Fun!!

The finale to the day saw the presentation of medals and prizes to the race winners and sports section competitions and the gift of Queen's Diamond Jubilee Commemorative mugs to all children 11 years and under (Mugs can still be purchased from Budgen's and the Community Shop at £3.50).

We would also like to thank, all the volunteers who kindly helped and assisted with the running of the Sports afternoon, which we hope everyone enjoyed in spite of the weather and we would ask you to use the facilities at the Recreation Ground and Pavilion to the benefit of the whole family.

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THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE SPORTS AFTERNOON

Archery - The Medieval theme attracted much interest and ... applications for membership were received on the day, for this thriving section which meets on Wednesdays throughout the year. Contact: Jeff Dando Tel. 01993 850643, e-mail jp.dando@ssesurf.co.uk

The Cricket Club is in excellent shape and presently has 70 Junior and 30 Senior members. The new grass wicket has bedded in well and the teams have benefitted from this big step forward. New practice nets are the next project and this will be a welcome addition. During the afternoon a single wicket bowling competition was held and the winner was John Pilkington. For more information please contact: Martin Landray Tel 01993 850939, e-mail martin.landray@ctsu.ox.ac.uk

The Football section arranged a "Beat the Keeper" penalty shoot out competition. The weather added to the fun, and there were play offs in both groups for U 8's and U11's. In the end Mitchell Constable won the U11's and Ben Akroyd the U 8's. Well done to all the competitors. The Bampton youth teams are represented at all ages for U 6 to U 15, with the exception of U 14, so please contact any of the Managers, who look after each age year group. Names & Telephone numbers are shown on the website: www.bamptontownfc.co.uk

Netball is a new addition to the Recreation Ground, as the Bampton Ladies Netball Club has been formed recently. On the day, a great time was enjoyed by everyone who visited the multi-sport court. The Shooting competition was won by Mitchell Constable, despite the weather and later a mini match was held with children and adults playing on each team. All the children received a medal at the end of the game. Club night is on Tuesdays 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm. For further information please contact: Sam Constable 07825 149244 or Bernadette Goves 07780 761822.

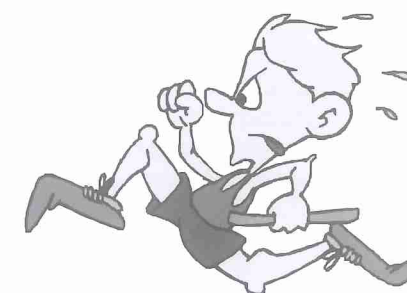
The Tennis Club has club nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the club holds social events and tournaments during the year. The club is now affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association and the Coach is Liz Bamber – Senior Player of the Year in Oxfordshire in 2011. To join please contact: Debbie Landray deborahlandray@btinternet.com, Tel.01993 850939

FOBS and Pre-school braved the elements with their gazebos and produced various displays with "The Hungry Caterpillar", the Street Party and Jubilee activities, such as the letterbox game and a scene from "Those magnificent men in their flying machines" – to give a flavour of life at school from 2- 11 years. Contact: Sue Allen Tel :01993 852882 e-mail susan.allen@brandfish.co.uk

The Library group also braved the elements promoting the value of the books to the village and they were indebted to Nick Jones, who gave all donations for the excellent burgers straight into the Library fund - brilliant! Keep supporting all efforts to maintain our Library, Bampton!

Here are the results :of the races

- Race 1 Toddlers : 1st Alex Thorpe 2nd Joshua Boland 3rd Lucy Cooper
 Race 2 4-6 Girls : 1st Bethan Thorpe 2nd Sophie Vanas 3rd Emily Filkans
 Race 3 4-6 Boys : 1st Ben Akroyd 2nd Christopher Boland 3rd Ben Hooper
 Race 4 4-6 Mixed : 1st Scarlett Monk 2nd Ben Akroyd 3rd Patrick Easterbrook
 Race 5 4-6 Boys : 1st Joe Hale 2nd Blake Moss
 Race 6 7-9 Girls : 1st Ella Harvey 2nd Jasmine Maskall 3rd Pippa Carrington
 Race 7 7-9 Boys : 1st Luke Akroyd 2nd Liam Quilty 3rd Benjamin Vanas
 Race 8 10-12 Girls : 1st Isobel Landray 2nd Esme Fisher 3rd Laura Williams
 Race 9 10-12 Boys : 1st Sam Maskall 2nd Mitchell Constable 3rd Ben Wannell
 Race 10 13-15 Girls : 1st Flo Jenkins 2nd Alison Landray 3rd Neoma Fisher Kealan Robinson
 Race 12 16-18 Girls : 1st Flo Jenkins 2nd Gina Money 3rd Alice Landray
 Race 13 16-18 Race 11 13-15 Boys : 1st Joe Jenkins 2nd James Richards 3rd Boys : 1st Oliver Farmer 2nd Sam Maskell 3rd Benedict Hardy
 Race 14 Over 30's Ladies : 1st Debbie Landray 2nd Natasha Jenkins 3rd Becky Fisher
 Race 15 Over 30's Men : 1st Mark Powell 2nd Peter Grimwade 3rd Mark Lawton
 Race 16 3-Legged 11yrs Mixed : 1st Ceris Carrington/ Ellis Souter 2nd Luke Akroyd /Jake Wilkinson 3rd Ben Maskall / Sam Maskall
 Race 17 3-Legged 15yrs Girls : 1st Alice Landray /Flo Jenkins 2nd Zoe Laughton / Elspeth Martin 3rd Alice Shuttleworth / Lydia Wannell
 Race 18 Adults 3-Legged : 1st Megan George / Jean Money 2nd Penny Fisher / Gill Waite 3rd Alex Miller / Russell Miller



THE BARN DANCE



The weather turned in our favour for the evening and the Market Square was a sight to behold, with toddlers and young people dancing with all ages up to the 80's.

Wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces, not a cross word to be heard and probably around 500 folk having a great time.

The Slow Living Society hosted the Pig Roast and it wasn't long before the Pig disappeared! The band were magnificent under Matthew Green's "strict" control and we are indebted once again to Alford Pallet Recycling, Lew for their generous contribution in providing the trailer for the Stage and combined with the assistance of the local farmers, the Square was just a fantastic place to be, to conclude the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, which ended at 10 pm with the National Anthem.



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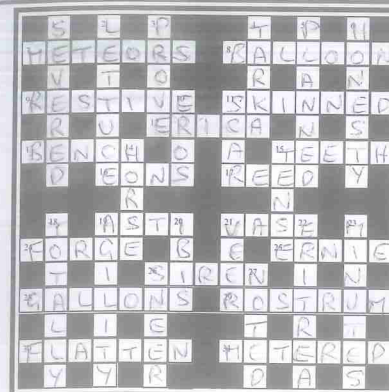
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Solution to the March BEAM CROSSWORD



The winner of the March crossword is Linnit Sangwine of Church Street.

Congratulations, and your prize is £10!

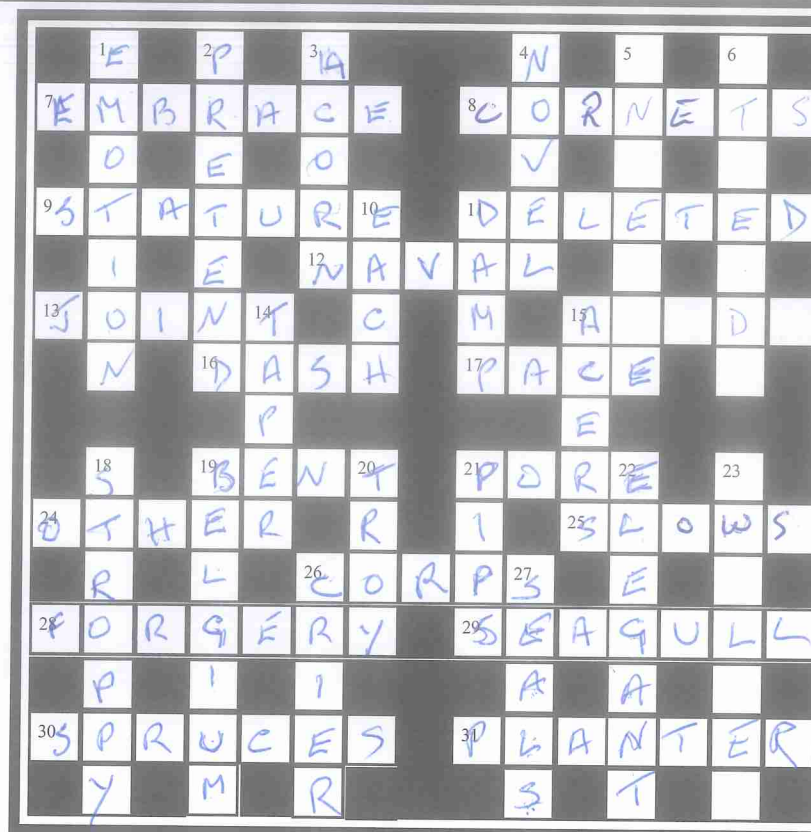
As a thank you to Annette Minto for producing the Crossword, and in line with her wishes, 'The Beam' is donating £10 to The Bampton Bush Club.

Get Well Soon Wishes for Annette Minto from The Bampton Beam

Annette took over from Bill Govier organising the crossword for you crossword sleuths here in Bampton two years ago. We have had our ups and downs with the crosswords, but these days we seem to be back on track!

Unfortunately, Annette had to go into hospital in May for an operation which is going to keep her out of circulation for a while. Before she went into hospital she produced the July crossword which we were so pleased to receive. I am sure she will be missed around the village for a while, especially at the Bush Club, but she is confident that she will be back in time for the Christmas edition. The team at the Beam Headquarters send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 7 To cuddle
- 8 Brass instruments
- 9 Height of a standing person
- 11 Crossed out
- 12 Nautical
- 13 Could be elbow or wrist
- 15 Out of mind
- 16 Rush-hurry
- 17 Speed of Movement
- 19 Crooked
- 21 Small opening in the skin
- 24 Alternative/difference
- 25 Lessens speed
- 26 Military Body
- 28 Counterfeit
- 29 Very noisy bird
- 30 Norwegian firs
- 31 Container for bulbs or plants

CLUES DOWN

- 1 A feeling
- 2 Make believe
- 3 Fruit of Oak tree
- 4 Story book
- 5 Extreme force or strength
- 6 Waits on
- 10 Apiece
- 11 Moist
- 14 Get thinner at one end
- 15 Trees of Maple family
- 18 Bad tempered (slang)
- 19 European Country
- 20 Method of weight for a precious metal
- 21 Fruit seeds
- 22 Graceful
- 23 A broken toe could be!
- 26 He used to make public announcements
- 27 Aquatic animals

Entrants! Please include your postal address with your entry, so that, if you win, we can send you your cheque!

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Meet the team at Spring Hair Boutique!

By Alexandra Tandy

If you're looking for a salon that delivers amazing haircuts, outstanding colour service and a team that really cares about its clients then look no further than Spring Hair Boutique in Bampton. That's right, there's no need to leave the village and head into town for an amazing haircut when we have this stunning salon right on our doorstep!

Artistic Director, Joanne Paterson opened Spring Hair Boutique six years ago with a very clear vision. She wanted to create a salon that was as renowned for its hairdressing skills as it was for its outstanding customer service. Joanne explains:

"As the word boutique suggests, we are not a large bustling salon crammed to the rafters with clients and stylists. Instead, we pride ourselves in being a small, sincere and welcoming salon that cares and listens.


"We like to think of ourselves as the hairdressing equivalent of a personal shopper. So, before any of our stylists pick up their scissors, they'll take time to get to know the real you. Only then can they deliver a colour and cut that reflects your personality; works with your lifestyle; and will be admired by your friends & family."

As well as its amazing customer service, Spring Hair Boutique is also renowned for its signature Indian head massages. Once your hair has been washed, a deep conditioning treatment is applied and the massage experience begins. Lasting for at least three minutes, clients are left feeling totally relaxed, soothed and refreshed.

Working alongside Joanne, who herself is renowned for her amazing hair-up and bridal styles, is a dedicated team with a wealth of experience. They offer the very best in cutting and colouring techniques and use Fuente Tierra Organic-based Colour which is used by celebrity hairdresser Richard Ward (who includes Kate Middleton amongst his clients).

It's ammonia-free so offers a healthier option to colouring your hair but still delivers amazing tones, depth and outstanding shine. It also contains aloe vera, comfrey, orange, grapefruit, and vitamins E and C so, hair is completely nourished as it's coloured. Plus, it covers 100% of grey hair!

Forever conscious of the environment, Spring Hair Boutique also use paraben and silicon-free products from leading brands such as Matrix Biolage, Philip Kingsley and Fuente Wellness.



SPRING
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"In my eyes, a haircut should be as relaxing as a massage and as indulgent as visiting a high-end boutique."

"You should expect a level of personal service beyond no other and leave the salon feeling refreshed, confident and beautiful."
Joanne Paterson, Artistic Director

Spring Hair Boutique is dedicated to you!





Visit us and enjoy:

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- Complimentary signature head massage
- Amazing cut & blow-dry
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www.springhairboutique.co.uk

Meet the team at Spring Hair Boutique!

Joanne concludes: "Spring Hair Boutique is not just about your in-salon experience. It's just as important to us that you feel confident in maintaining your look at home. So, we'll share expert tips ranging from the best professional products for your hair type, to how to achieve the perfect blow-dry. At the end of the day, we're here for you and want to ensure you look and feel your very best!"

5 Reasons to visit Spring Hair Boutique

- * It's the hairdressing equivalent of a personal shopper!
- * Talented stylists & colourists who are dedicated to you
- * Complementary one-to-one consultations
- * Fuente Tierra Organic-based Colour is used exclusively at Spring Hair Boutique
- * It's on your doorstep!



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Simply tell us which village is Spring Hair Boutique based in?

Entry form:

Answer: Spring Hair Boutique is based in

Your name:

Your address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

To receive additional information on Spring Hair Boutique please tick this box ()

Simply return this entry form to: Spring Hair Boutique, Market Square, Bampton, Oxon, OX18 2JH Alternatively, you can enter by email by sending all the information above to info@springhairboutique.co.uk

Terms & Conditions: No purchase necessary. Open to UK residents aged 18 & over (accept for employees, suppliers and family members of Spring Hair Boutique). The prize is non-transferable, non-negotiable and no cash alternatives will be offered. Subject to availability. Winners will be notified by phone once the draw has been made. The judge's decision is final. One entry per person. Details of the winner can be obtained from the promoter Spring Hair Boutique, Market Square, Bampton, Oxon, OX18 2JH. Closing date: 30th September 2012

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'SPOT ON' : BIZTRO

By Amy Atkinson

Bampton is home to many unique places; Colt House for a start, the coffee shop, numerous pubs, the quaint post office and a rather stylish 'Biztro'. Having lived in Bampton since Christmas and never having been we decided in May to pay it a visit. Tuesday evening's at 'Biztro' are British Classics evenings. One homemade, traditional British meal, complete with side dishes and wine are offered for £10 value that we can't really turn down in the current economic climate.

On arrival we were greeted by the lovely team who were genuinely friendly and patient (the latter was a particularly great quality because after a glass of wine or two Louise couldn't stop nattering despite the fact it was clearly past closing time!). A bottle of wine was ordered along with some snacky bits – bread, olives, anchovies (I'm sure there was probably a slightly better name for these nibbles but the name doesn't really matter does it?).



'SPOT ON' : BIZTRO

We were left with the menu and the 'British' dish of the day which was a chicken and bacon pie, but not your standard pie, this was about 6 inches deep filled with succulent chicken, topped with puffed pastry. The majority of the table were ready to order but for me ordering dinner in a restaurant is never quite so easy.

I'm gluten intolerant and though I know what I can and can't eat you can never be certain what goes into sauces or side dishes. The usual practice is that you ask about a dish you want from the menu and the waiter will dash off to the kitchen to ask the chef, and then they dash back to tell you the outcome. This could happen three or four times by which time everyone else in the restaurant is giving you slightly evil looks for being so awkward and using up all of the waiter's time when they are waiting to order too. There was none of this here as the lady waiting on us knew exactly what had gone into all the dishes meaning ordering was a painless task.

When our starters came you couldn't fault them. They were all beautifully presented. The main course followed suit. Fenella and Pip both ordered the 'British classic' chicken and bacon pie which was impressive as mentioned earlier. Louise and I both ordered pork. Having never been a pork fan I was pleasantly surprised. The pork in cider sauce was tender and flavoursome and something I would be happy to try again. So far so good; excellent food, quality service and wine which seemed to keep reappearing but still there was nothing that separated it from any other Biztro style restaurant. Until.....

Desert was like nothing I'd ever seen before. Two out of the four of us ordered pavlova which was piled high with cream, meringue, ice cream and fruit. Completely homemade and totally delicious, this was what makes the Biztro in Bampton unique. It had the most amazing deserts I had ever tasted. The pavlova was the gold medal desert but Fenella's chocolate torte (see picture) was by all accounts a close joint second with the homemade ice cream in a number of flavours. Next time I think I may just be ordering an assortment of puddings.

As I pointed out earlier by this point we had been in the restaurant so long that it was getting very near to closing time but at no point were we made to feel it was time to leave. There's nothing worse than impatient staff standing on your shoulder waiting for you to finish your drinks so they can clear your glass away and usher you out. If you get chance to go I highly recommend it. The food is homemade, delicious and some fantastic promotions can make it an affordable night out without compromising on quality. Another unique gem in Bampton.

NOTE FROM EDITOR: If you are a business who would be interested in having an advertorial or a 'spot on' article in the Beam, please contact us for more information



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New Consultant



because you're amazing

I would like to introduce myself to you all as I am taking over the village slimming world group on Wednesday evenings as from 5th September

My name is Kirsty I have lived in the village for most of my life (some 30 odd years!!) and I like a majority of us have a battle with staying slim as my busy lifestyle constantly interrupts planning of meals and of course the all important social life etc.

I first joined a slimming world group in Witney towards the end of 2008 I have always been a "sturdy girl" should we say but after a sudden slap in the face that my clothes were not meant to be looking like a second skin with straining buttons and had actually gone up another dress size I decided enough was enough I was actually going to do something about it!!!

I had nothing to lose (apart from a stone or 2 excuse the pun) It took me 6 months to get to my target & lose 2st8 1/2lb.



Slimming World

New Consultant

If enjoyed the social side of us all meeting up sharing recipes and motivating each other to keep our weight losses up, which I have to say on the plan wasn't hard. Eating AS MUCH lean meat, pasta and rice as I liked along with lots of healthy fruit salad and veg I was transforming the way I and the rest of my family were eating without feeling deprived.

would still enjoy a take away or a glass of wine or 2 and include it in my weekly plan & still achieve a healthy weight loss.

After having our second child I am coming back down towards my target once again and I am really looking forward to meeting and helping to motivate existing and any new members to the group if leading a healthier lifestyle and wanting to lose a little excess weight is something your thinking about then come along and meet our friendly members who are getting fantastic weight losses and I look forward to sharing the many plans I have to make our weekly meetings fun and enjoyable and most of all:

SUCCESSFUL!

EVERY WEDNESDAY
7pm
Bampton Primary School,
Bowling Green close

VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

Kirsty Gilbert

Tel: 07971 517696

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For further information, contact Janette on 07831 255532 or
Janette@janettecardyfitness.co.uk
www.janettecardyfitness.co.uk

Children Weddings Social Events Sports Portraits



James Wildman Photography

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The Romany Inn

Bridge Street, Bampton
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www.theromanyinnbampton.co.uk
Email: enquiries@theromanyinnbampton.co.uk

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

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Great Live Music Venue

Faringdon Folly Tower and Woodland

This unique unusual 100ft tower is Faringdon's icon and the last major folly to be built in England.

It sits on Folly Hill, within a charming 4 acre, circular woodland of splendid Scots Pine and broadleaf trees, some more than 200 years old.

Check out the fantastic views over 5 counties and find out about the history of Folly Hill, Henry James Pye (of sing a song of sixpence fame), Oliver Cromwell and the very eccentric Lord Berners (the creator of the tower).

Seek out the 24 black birds and giant willow pie, Cromwell's cannon, the fairly useless bridge and more. Please do not feed the giraffes!!

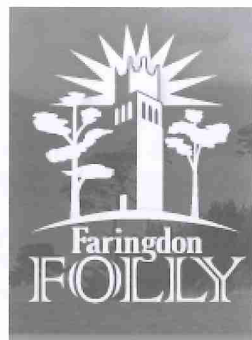
10 minutes walk from Faringdon's historic market place where refreshments are available, and 2 hours free parking.

The tower is open from April to October on the first Sunday of the month, plus Bank holidays. Available for private openings. The woodland is always open. The footpath starts from the Stanford Road. Nearest postcode is SN77AQ

www.faringdonfolly.org.uk
enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

Tel: 0845 475 8386
11am-5pm

Adults £2,
11-16s 50p,
Under 11s
free



PARALLEL LINES

Barbers & Ladies Salon

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Gents Haircut: £11.00 (Walk in Service)

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Tuesday: 10.00 - 7.00pm

Wednesday: 10.00 - 5.30pm

Thursday: 9.00 - 7.00pm

Friday: 10.00 - 5.30pm

Saturday: 9.00 - 2.00pm

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Osteopath

NICOLA POULSON
Osteopath

Email: clinic@bamptonclinic.co.uk

Support HanneyFest for a good cause!



HanneyFest is an annual charity music festival held in The Black Horse at East Hanney over the 17th, 18th and 19th of August. For those of you that are new to the local music scene you are in for a pleasant surprise, the standard of these acts is amongst the highest you will find anywhere. HanneyFest is a FREE to attend festival; all we ask is that you support our chosen charities in some way. This will be the 4th HanneyFest and to date the festival has raised in excess of £6,000. This year's charities are The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance and Hanney Pre School. The festival starts on the Friday night and runs through until Sunday Evening. Parking and camping is available, please see our festival website <http://hanneyfest.webs.com>

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If you're looking for a change in direction or a career where you can make a real difference, then the Foundation Degree in Policing could be just what you are looking for.

FOUNDATION DEGREE IN POLICING

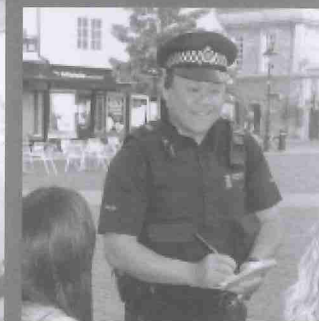
A career that can make a real difference

Developed by Oxford Brookes University in collaboration with Thames Valley Police and Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, this two-year course enables students to practice policing alongside regular police officers and police tutors.



A brand new course from Oxford Brookes University, taught at Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, leading to a nationally recognised qualification.

Based at Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, this portable and nationally recognised qualification, provides a route to becoming a Special Constable and an introduction into how to become a police officer.



Focusing on community policing, relationship building and crime reduction this course would interest anyone looking to embark on a career in policing or to work within their wider community.



For more information call 01865 550550 or email uni@ocvc.ac.uk

Calendar of Events

July	
14th	<i>Oxfordshire Craft Guild Exhibition</i>
20-21st	<i>Bampton Classical opera, Deanery Garden</i>
26th	<i>Open Meeting, BEWG, Talk on Landscapes of Oxfordshire, Village Hall, 8pm</i>
August	
25th	<i>Annual Show, Bampton Gardening Club, Village Hall, 2.30pm</i>
27th	<i>Donkey Derby, SPAJERS, Sandfords, 2pm</i>
September	
7th	<i>Hog roast in aid of Bampton Zimbabwe project</i>
15th	<i>Gardening Club Outing to Newbury Show</i>
22nd	<i>Autumn Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 10am - 12 noon</i>
October	
12th	Relate Film Festival
20th	Gardening Club Coffee Morning
November	
17th	Gardening Club Coffee Morning
18th	Gardening Club Outing to Hop Pocket Shopping Village
24th	Gardening Club AGM
December	
15th	Gardening Club Coffee Morning

THE BAMPTON BEAM

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Contributions are always welcome with the preferred method being email - see below for details.

Contributions by post should be sent to:

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Bampton

Oxon OX18 2JJ

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