

# THE BAMPTON BEAM

August 1996

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## CIRCLING THE SQUARE

### ONE-WAY SYSTEM

Work will begin on installing a one-way system in the Market Square before the end of August. It is part of a joint initiative from the County, District and Parish Councils which raises significant questions about what the village wants from its focal point.

"Chaos arises in the Market Square because of the current haphazard parking," according to Colin Carrott from the County Highways Department. After fifteen months of discussions the three authorities have produced a plan whereby traffic will only enter the Market Square from the Londis side, and only leave on the Broad Street side. Traffic coming down Broad Street towards the roundabout *will* be allowed in that way *if* using the petrol pumps,

Mr Carrott says, "Parking bays will be marked out in a way which will enable pedestrians, including elderly people and parents with prams to get between cars comfortably and safely." The number of parking spaces will be reduced. It is hoped that seating, flower beds and borders can be incorporated into the scheme, and that it will provide an opportunity to improve the paths around the Town Hall. The work is expected to take about three weeks.

### BEAUTY VERSUS BUSINESS?

The people who expect to be the major losers in the equation are David and Annie Hedges at the Market Square Garage. "We will have to park our cars in front of the Jubilee, up to eighteen cars a day. People in authority have suggested we could put them in Church View or in front of Lavender Place Flats. What would the people living there think of that?

"Some people would like to be rid of the garage. But our customers use other

shops and services in the village. There's nowhere else to get petrol between Witney and Faringdon. The people who would like the garage closed are not the ones who rely on us - often elderly or disabled drivers who are not going to work in Abingdon or Oxford every day." Certainly the garage annoys many people. It is unquestionably ugly. The Hedges agree with that but say they did not build it and the business does not make enough to afford renovation. They applied for planning permission to flatten the garage and replace it with ten flats. They were told this could only be possible if the flats were for sale solely to people over 55. Parish Council Chairman, Jim Taylor, says "Many residents are asking why there should be a garage workshop in the Market Square. The District Council's Conservation Officer has said to us that the car is dictating what goes on in the Square."

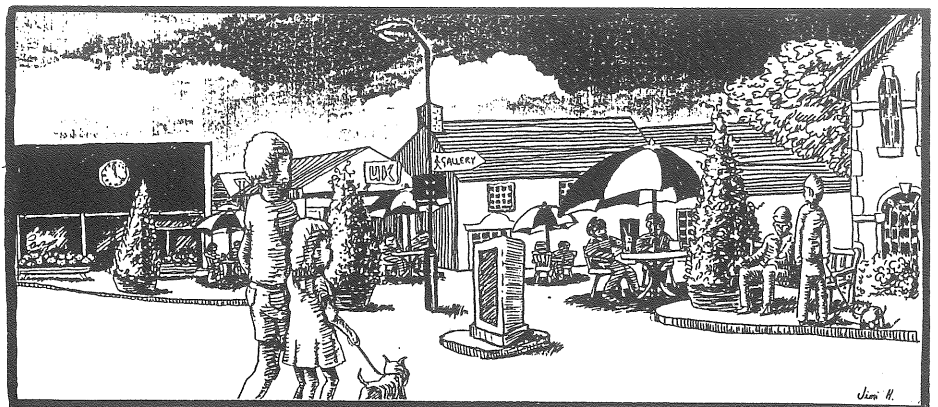
### WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Historically the Market Square has been the centre of village life - where produce was bought and sold, and, apart from the Church, the main place where people

met. It is no longer so. While the fair still comes and Morris Men still perform, much of village activity has spread out and away. It does support shops, but in dwindling numbers.

Do we want some forms of commercial activity in the Market Square? Are we prepared to put up with the inevitable mess or noise that automatically brings? The recycling bins are thought of by some people as a tremendous boon, and they would like to see plastic, clothing and metal recycling as well. But some people living close by are infuriated, again, by the mess and the noise. Where else could the bins go? Must they stay where they are? Would we rather not have them at all? Would we rather have a car park which serves next to no other purpose?

In fact, the planned changes will go ahead whatever we think. Because the site is officially part of the highway these changes do not require planning permission and have been decided. But nothing stays the same. If we have other ideas about how our village's very heart should develop and change we must make our opinions known. **What do you want? The Beam would like to hear from YOU**



*An Artist's impression of what the Market Square could look like in the future!*

**BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

At the Annual General Meeting in April - at which only one member of the public was present! - Jim Taylor reported a satisfying year for the hall and thanked all the members of the management committee who continue to provide this very useful venue for village functions.

The committee is made up of representatives from Bampton organisations that use the hall and five elected members. This year there are only three: Andrew Dawson, treasurer, Hilary Bevan and Susan Phillips - secretary. The following members represent some of the organisations which use the Hall: Alan Dunbar (Spajers), Jim Taylor - chairman (Parish Coun-

cil), Jean Howell vice-chairman (Women's Institute), Terry Argles (Bush Club & St. Mary's CCC), Joyce Lee (Mothers' Union), Jim Gascoigne (Pumpkin Club), Vera Allport (Bridge Club), Francis Denne (WOAA), Sonia Stallabross (BEWG), Christine Kent (Playgroup).

It is very disappointing that the clubs NOT represented are joined this year by The Bampton Ladies Group, The Bampton Gardening Club and Badminton. Both Marian Goldring and Jan Webb have been most useful members of the committee for a number of years and will be greatly missed. If the hall is to stay in good repair and run efficiently it is essential to have the support of the organisations that use

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, BAMPTON**

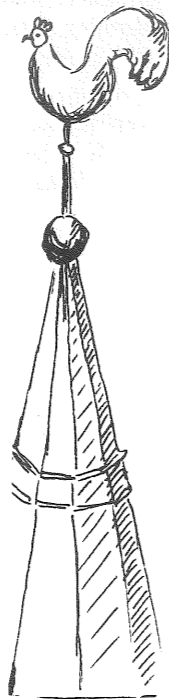
**Annual Accounts** - Although fundraising activities have slowed down considerably this year, the fund has grown by £10,000. The total promised now stands at £46,703. Payments of £5,700 and £1,040 have been made towards repairing the spire and architects' fees respectively. The ultimate goal is still a capital fund of £250,000 to keep the church building in good repair for future generations. The next task is to restore the Norman and West doors to their former glory.

**Benefactors & Friends** - Those who have already supported this appeal by becoming Benefactors and Friends will find their names in a first draft of the book which will be compiled once the target is reached. This is now on display at Bampton Library so please correct any omission or errors (spelling, initials, title etc.) that may have occurred. If you have not yet made your contribution, please consider doing so now and contact any member of the committee for a covenant or gift aid form. **Jonathan Phillips Tel: 850321, Rosemary Colville Tel: 850224, Lord Donoughmore Tel: 850231. Liz & David Rose Tel: 850214, Jill Rogers Tel: 850766, Mike Davis Tel: 851282.**

**A Series of Illustrated Talks** - The committee would like to thank Hilda Kent, Graham Taylor and John Blair for providing three immensely interesting evenings on aspects of Bampton's past and, in Graham's case, the present as well. I don't think anyone who attended will take the ringing of church bells for granted again. Sadly the audiences for the three evenings were very small possibly due to lack of time for proper publicity. Perhaps too it was not an ideal time of year as many people were more than usually busy over half-term and the Spring Bank Holiday.

**Open Gardens** - Lord & Lady Donoughmore and Major & Mrs Robert Colville kindly allowed their gardens to be open to the public on Sunday 30th June and the £317 raised was given to The Friends of St. Mary's. It was very disappointing for those who had worked so hard to organise this occasion that so few came and the amount was far below expectation.

Mr & Mrs Tony Jenkin ran a successful plant stall and teas were served in the Village Hall. The committee would like to thank Lord & Lady Donoughmore, Major & Mrs Colville and all those who helped in any way - gardeners, plant growers, cake bakers, tea makers and general organisers.



it. Perhaps an incentive would be to give those organisations who are represented some sort of discount when using the hall!

Last year the cost of running the hall was approximately £4,000 and the income was £2,774. Thanks to the generosity of a number of individuals who maintain their covenanted donations and the £750 from the Bampton 250 Club there is at present sufficient income to cover this shortfall. Now that the serious damp problem in the kitchen/bar area has been dealt with the committee hopes to improve the rear entrance.

The annual jackpot prize of the Bampton 250 Club was won by Mrs Terry Argles. Terry has been a most conscientious "collector" since the start of the lottery ten years ago.

**APPRAISAL UPDATE**

Work continues apace on the Bampton Village Appraisal 1995/96.

Two thousand individual, 1,100 household, 200 young person's and 1,200 business questionnaires were distributed. So far 1,415 individual, 786 household, 116 young person's and 52 business replies have been returned.

The results are being put on computer and comprehensive analysis has already begun. First results may be available in time for the next edition of The Bampton Beam.

The time this takes depends, in part, on you. If you still have your questionnaire and would like your answers included please hand it in at Abbey Properties.

More owners of computers are needed to help compile the information. This can be done on a floppy disk without using up your valuable hard disk space. It is very easy and can be done by anyone with a DOS OS/2 or Windows operating system. If you can help please call **Denis Lawlor Tel: 850003** between 8pm and 10pm Monday to Saturday. We already estimate from your answers that there are around 300 computers in Bampton so. . .

Finally, the committee and the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who helped distribute and collect the questionnaires, especially Abbey Properties. We are also grateful to everyone who took the time to fill them in.

**THE NEWS FROM BAMPTON - 100 YEARS AGO**

- extracts from The Faringdon Advertiser selected by Simon Garrett -

A hundred years ago the nation was celebrating the longevity of its Queen. Victoria had surpassed George III as the longest reigning monarch in history. Unbeknown to her subjects she still had half a dozen more years of life left.

The criminal trial gripping the nation was that of Mrs Florence Maybrick. She was accused of poisoning her husband, the Liverpool businessman James Maybrick with arsenic. She was cleared. He on the other hand has recently become one of the main suspects in the Jack the Ripper murder case after the discovery of a diary, allegedly written by him confessing to the crimes. Life and death were more precarious then - even in Bampton.

**In sickness and in health**

The standard of medical services in the area have always provoked complaint and compliment in differing measure. *The Faringdon Advertiser* of 5th September 1896 details the facts like the weather or football results.

**"Faringdon Cottage Hospital** - Week ending Sept. 4th - Admitted 4; discharged 1; died 2; remaining in Hospital 6. Gifts - The committee acknowledge with thanks the following gifts - vegetables, Mr Dundas; fruit, Mrs Henderson; grapes, magazines, etc, Miss Crowdy.

At a drawing-room meeting held at Wicklesham on July 27th, it was suggested that a district nurse should be started to visit patients in their own homes, in cases which were not suitable for admission to the Hospital. This suggestion has now been carried into effect and a district nurse has been engaged, and began her work on September 1st. She will undertake cases amongst all classes, under the doctor's supervision, and any applications for her services should be made at the Hospital. The payments to be made by patients will be fixed by the committee."

**First Fire**

Another service which we take for granted today is a hundred years old - the Bampton Fire Engine. On 19th September 1896 *The Faringdon Advertiser* records:

**"Fire** - On Wednesday, about 7.30pm, the Bampton Fire Brigade received a call from Mr Widdowson, of Base Land Farm, where a serious outbreak of fire had occurred at the homestead. On the arrival of the engine, two straw ricks and a barn

were found to be burning freely. The firemen, acting on the instructions of Captain C. Williams, soon commenced operations, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames before any of the adjoining farm buildings were ignited. The cause of the fire is at present unknown. This is the first call the new Brigade has had since its appointment by the Parish Council."

**Reading Room**

Bampton's ability to raise funds for good causes was called into question by implication in an article of 26th September.

**"Reading Room** - A general meeting of those interested in the Reading Room was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr C. Williams being in the chair. The secretary, Mr W.V. Williams, stated that there was a balance of 14s 2d in hand, a rather small sum to commence with, but it was determined that such a good institution should not fall through. It was arranged to re-open the room on the 12th inst."

A committee and officers was formed under the Presidency of Admiral Blackburn. They decided that "An evening paper will be added this year, and also *The Strand* magazine.

**Wedded Bliss**

Finally, beauty tips and lessons for life have always claimed column inches in newspapers, especially in the days before glossy magazines aimed at women became common and affordable. Content is often quite similar but the tone has definitely changed. On 10th October *The Faringdon Advertiser* recommends the following under the heading, **"Hints for the wife"**.

"Do not think that the necessity for making yourself look attractive ends with the termination of courting days. Your husband takes just as great an interest in your good looks as when he was a lover, so you should strive to please him as of yore. Remember that your husband is a man - a human being - and not an angel without wings; therefore do not expect to find every good quality in him, and no

defects. Appreciate all the good points he possesses, and be thankful that his defects are not greater and more numerous than they are. Because your husband loves the children, and takes a delight in fondling them, do not be so indiscreet as to keep them up to greet him with their tired cries when he comes home weary from business. A man can have too much of everything, and the pleasure on Saturday and Sunday



will be enhanced tenfold if the noisy little cherubs are sleeping in peace before the bread-winner returns each night. Strive to take a little interest in your husband's concerns, even though the effect should not prove very successful. Your kindly motives will serve to make you even more dear in his eyes, and he will probably endeavour to take a keener interest in your concerns, even to the extent of advising on the suitability of a new hat or dress. Try to find just ten minutes each day to give your husband those small attentions that you bestowed upon him for hours at a time before marriage."

**BAMPTON PUMPKIN CLUB  
The Street Fair**

The Annual Street Fair held on Monday 6th May 1996, was opened by May Queen Anna Beckett and Freddie the Fox from Fox FM Radio. Anna was attended by Kerry Anderson, Jenny Thorpe, and Emily Smith who all enjoyed a chauffeur driven tour of the street fair in a 1934 Hillman car. Nigel the Clown came and entertained the younger children with his Punch and Judy, and also gave rides in his "bus". There was a bouncy castle to bounce away the day, and a thrilling balloon race. Well done to all who took part. The winner came from Salisbury.



May Queen Anna Beckett with her two attendants, Jenny Thorpe and Kerry Anderson

**MAY BANK HOLIDAY  
and  
WHITSUN BANK HOLIDAY**

Salisbury. There were street stalls selling almost everything, craft stalls, "try your luck" stalls. Refreshments and the Barbecue stall also did a busy trade. For the teenagers there was an all-day disco. In the afternoon the Dog Show was held, with ninety-one entries. The owner of Best Dog was Linda Langton from Witney. Many thanks

which were handed out to various children who were there. His support has been a major factor in helping to keep the May Garland custom alive. We are very lucky to live in a village which has so many of its own customs. Not every village is so lucky!



This photograph shows Lauren Campbell showing an interest in the garlands. A future entrant or judge perhaps!!!

to all who helped make the day go so well.

**THE MAY GARLAND  
written by Ruth Wheeler**

The May Garlands this year were lovely, and congratulations to twins Ellen and Kate Ireland who won first prize. The number of entries this year was low and a bit disappointing. It is a shame that such a lovely old custom lacks support and interest from the village. There are over a hundred pupils at the local school, and to have had only eight entrants, of whom two were from outside Bampton, is a pity. Is it because wild flowers are scarce? They are getting harder to find, but to make a garland from dandelions and cowparsley is not so difficult. If we could encourage more children to try it, then we could ensure that we could keep the custom alive for years to come. The Beckett and Paintin families are to be particularly praised; every year, their children enter with enthusiasm. Thank you too to Mrs Knight's daughter, Tanya, for helping me with the judging. Mr Reg Pratley, once again, contributed the chocolates and the chocolate eggs,

**BAMPTON MORRIS DANCERS**  
It was a lovely day for the Bampton Morris Dance teams to come out and dance for us. In the evening six guest teams joined in the dancing and made it a most enjoyable end to the day.

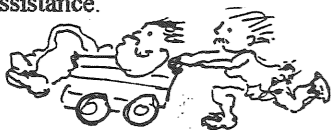
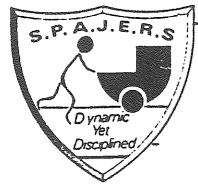


This photograph shows Francis Shergold receiving a silver salver, and his wife Anne who was given a lovely bouquet of flowers. Francis retired as Squire of the Bampton Traditional Morris Dancers.

**SPAJERS  
44th Original  
Great Shirt Race**

The start to the Whitsun Bank Holiday in Bampton is always the Spajers Original Great Shirt Race. This year had

a very good entry and the weather was kind. Bamptonians and visitors turned out to watch and the collection, raffle and tombola made £370. This goes towards the summer outing which this year is to Southsea on 21st August. Bishop Paul Burrough judged the Fancy Dress competition and presented the prizes to the winners and runners-up of the three races. Our thanks to him and also to Dr Mathew Perry who provided medical assistance.



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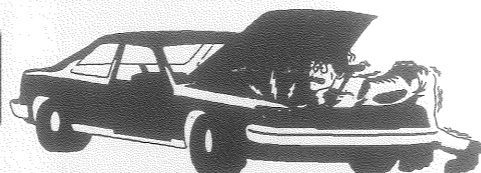
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MEMBER  
(1418)**THE CARERS' CENTRE**

(NORTH &amp; WEST OXON)

Are you looking after someone who is ill or disabled and cannot manage without your help? If so, there is a local Carers' Support Worker offering advice, information and support. **April Marshall** is happy to discuss your needs over the phone or to make home visits.

Also, the Carers' Centre has launched a **Carers' Contact Scheme** and is looking for more volunteers. The aim is to enable carers in rural areas to get information about services locally from a local person. **The Carers' Centre has a wealth of information and advice to offer. Contact April Marshall Tel: (0345) 125546.**

**"ON BEING A CARER"**

by Mary Lynn Winship

Being a carer can be very lonely and even depressing. Often the most pressing problem can simply be getting out of the house, even to shop, let alone socialise. One family member may feel that they do all the caring; this leads all too frequently to lack of communication between relatives who might otherwise be supporting each other. The hours are long, you are constantly on call, and you may get time off every two or three months when the patient may be admitted for respite care. What other job pays so badly? (£36-£60 per week and no other benefits): *and no time off for good behaviour!*

No-one knows when they may find themselves having to become a carer and, no matter who you are, it will inevitably change your life. You may find yourself giving up a promising career, or a job you love, with little prospect of resuming this later, because by then you may be too old.

It can affect the pension you have been saving for, cause enormous disruption to your financial planning and concern over how to pay the mortgage. The whole future can become very uncertain. You may even find yourself considering selling the home into which you have put so much.

**Don't Be Alone**

This is where the Carers' Group is so helpful. It provides a meeting point for expressing your feelings and easing built-

up tension. A listening ear may be all that is required, but there is also practical help available, such as relaxation sessions, and support in dealing with official agencies.

The more people who take advantage of Carers' Groups, the more strength there will be for those groups to work on behalf of carers to get better benefits and support. The more members, the more activities, so please support your local carers group.

**The Bampton Carers' Group meets at the Bush Club, on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm, or you could contact me Tel: 851043.**

Everyone is welcome

**COMMUNITY CARE NOTES**

Access . . . Access . . . Access

**The Art Gallery**

Bampton's historic environment can be a mixed blessing for some. If you are disabled and would like to visit an exhibition at Bampton's Gallery, the long flight of stairs to the first floor may prove an impossible obstacle. The chairman of West Oxfordshire Arts Association tells us that the organisation is very keen to improve access. They have obtained two quotes for a stairlift, and have had extensive discussions with the fire and planning authorities.

Unfortunately, the age and structure of the building mean that a lift could apparently cost a staggering £30,000!!! The Arts Association does not want to give up on this project so any ideas or comments would be gratefully received by the administrator, **Sally Proctor Tel: 850137.**

**LOCAL HEALTH CARE****Focus on Witney  
Community Hospital**

by Linda Mills

**Witney Community Hospital** is a modest place, situated as it is on Welch Way, housed in a two-storey grey modular building of a kind that was fashionable ten years ago. Yet, step inside and the atmosphere is quite different. Some one thousand patients are cared for here every year, by a team which includes nursing staff, full time physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and many others. Medical cover is provided

by local GPs who visit patients as necessary.

Are the patients all elderly? Far from it. There is an increasing number of younger patients, some are transferred from Oxford hospitals, some admitted directly from home. Whatever the age of the patient, the focus is on rehabilitation rather than long-stay care.

**Are there any other services available?** Again, the variety is increasing. There is a thriving Day Hospital, which offers ongoing rehabilitation on three days per week. Earlier this year, a local group of people with disabilities, called Tryards, opened its own meeting day. A little later, The Willows, a social day centre, opened its doors. The North Oxon Carers' Centre has a session every Wednesday morning, and there are several eye and speech therapy clinics. Social Services' Care Managers visit regularly to assess for social care.

**Latest developments.** OXDOC (the new out-of-hours GP service) is based here. Midwives have started a drop-in clinic - absolutely the end of the "elderly only" image??

**Can you help?** Volunteers both supplement and enhance the work of paid staff. **The League of Friends** raises money for patients' comforts, and runs the tea trolley, whilst a band of *volunteer helpers* eases the smooth running of the hospital in many ways, for example by running a Welcome Desk, arranging flowers, and helping in the garden - the hospital would indeed be a poorer place without this cheerful team.

**If you would like to help contact the Voluntary Services Manager Tel: 771211 or Chairman of the League of Friends Tel: 881054.**

**WINTER WARMERS**

By the time we next go to print the sun will have gone and chill December will have fixed the village in its icy grip. To warm everybody up we at the Beam want to hear about your holidays. Where do Bamptonians go and what do they like to do? Contributions from adults and children, as ever, gratefully accepted. Be they horrible or heavenly, long or short, please hand in your tourists' tales to the Cotton Club while the waves are still in your memory.

My memories of the fair coming to Bampton go back to the days when we, as a family, went camping.

My parents locked up the house at the start of the school holidays and off we would go, kitchen sink and all, to camp out in one of my grandfather's fields along Buckland Road.

We had great fun, trying to get across the brook, Tarzan style, or sailing along on an oil drum raft. The most

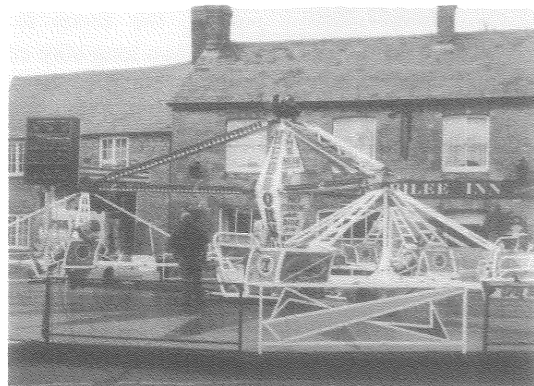
exciting of all was the pulley ride down from the branch of a tree; this was, as far as we children were concerned, my father's best idea of all.

We knew our camping holiday was over when the fair started to come down the road. We would sit on the field gate and watch as the lorries went past, each pulling some peculiar shaped objects which, when put together, made the rides at the fair. We would sit there talking, and imagining what the rides might be that year, and hope that we had saved enough pocket

money to have a ride on everything. The rides were not so wild as they are today but, to us children then, they felt just as exciting. I still remember seeing my sisters on the Tunnel of Love - they liked that sort of thing, but the most exciting ride to me was the Twister. If you were lucky, one of the young attendants, taking the money, would really make the Waltzer car swing back and forth for you, and you would feel quite excited having

## BAMPTON FAIR

by Fenella Gray



The Twister ride in front of the Jubilee Inn



Swallie Forest's stall in High Street

him stay with you for an extra minute or two.

Years later came the Octopus, which was even more terrifying. It spun you around while going up and down in the air. The music would be playing and we would all be singing away at the tops of our voices.

Every year, at some point during the fair, a new goldfish would suddenly appear indoors. One actually lived for ten years, after being near death's door, but revived with a drop of brandy.

Today, seeing my teenage children getting ready to go to the fair, brings it all back. Excitement is in the air as they leave the house with their pockets full of cash -

notes now not coins! And they come home waxing lyrical about the rides they have been on, and excited to show off the prizes they have won at the stalls; goodness me not another fish!! Most of all hearing the music in the distance on a

cool summer evening, takes me

back to those days when we as children would sit on the field gate and watch as the trucks rolled down the road bringing the fair into Bampton.

Long may the fair continue to come to Bampton.

*I would like to say thank you to Mr Alan Pullin for the use of his photographs. The fair will always be supported in Bampton while Alan's here!!*

## BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP

BEWG marked National Environment week in May by involving young Bamptonians in an ongoing project for studying the environmental issues that face Bampton as a rural, agricultural community. Twenty-seven of the children from Bampton Primary School's top class, with their teacher Mrs Jane Carter, met at Knapps Farm Meadow, which Francis Denne is cultivating as a traditional hay meadow to produce wild flowers as well as nutritional grasses. After hearing about the principles underlying environmental conservation and the problems encountered the children split up for a treasure hunt, an impromptu building of hides in the hedge to shelter from the rain and packed lunch in the middle of the hay grass. This introduction to a special environment was followed up in school where the children were separated into thirteen groups, each to decide what would be the best management plan for the field; everyone was asked to illustrate his or her own idea of environment on the cover of notebooks which BEWG had donated.

A month later members of BEWG were invited to the school to see these projects, discuss them with the children and award prizes for the three best drawings. The enthusiasm and intelligent comments of the children testified to the success of this venture and it is hoped to continue it, involving children from the younger classes.

BEWG hopes to mark Heritage Open Days (14th and 15th September) with an exhibition of photographs of Bampton's listed buildings. The venue will be advertised nearer the time.



**If anyone is interested in more information please contact Ann Norman Tel: 850823.**

## BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Jim Taylor, Chairman, Bampton Parish Council

### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

At their meeting on 8th May, Mr T. S. Taylor was re-elected as Chairman and Mrs J. Allison as Vice-chairman.

### CLUSTER MEETINGS OF LOCAL PARISH COUNCILS

The first meeting of chairmen of our group of seven parish councils was held in April. The main concern was the lack of confidence of parish councils in West Oxfordshire District Council Planning Department. As a result, parish council chairmen had a meeting on 30th May with the WODC Chief Planning Officer who was made aware of the problems. The meeting was constructive and a further one will be held later this year.

### THE BUSH CLUB

Parish Council negotiations with Oxfordshire County Council Properties Department have reduced the cost of repairs to the Bush Club building to less than half the original figure.

Draft agreements between the Parish Council and a) the County Council and b) the Bush Club Committee are being prepared.

### MARKET SQUARE

Agreement in principle was reached at a meeting between the County Council, the WODC Conservation Officer and the Parish Council over the County Council's proposals for the layout of parking in the Market Square.

### THE PADDOCK

The land near the Bush Club and behind Church View is being offered for sale on the open market by the County Council.

### STREET LIGHTING

Funding for additional street lighting has been agreed by the Parish Council for Rosemary Lane, the footpath from Broad Street to The Lanes and for the Chetwyn Mead footpath onto Aston Road.

### BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND CHARITY

The Trustees have set up a Pavilion Study Group, with Cllr Lord Donoughmore as chairman, to examine all aspects including sporting requirements, building design and cost, capital funding and financial viability in operating. Their report is expected by October 1996.

### THAMES VALLEY POLICE CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN BAMPTON

The Parish Council gave the following comments in writing to the police before the meeting on 3rd June.

The Council declared the main items of public concern as:

1. **Vandalism**
2. **Lack of traffic control - especially speeding no traffic calming**
3. **Thefts from houses, shops, cars**
4. **Restricted police presence in Bampton**
5. **Delays before police action materialises after contacting the police.**

The Council recognises the police are short of money but people must be confident in them. They do try hard.

The consultative meeting was constructive and subsequent police traffic activity is welcome. However, last year's recorded crime detection rate of nearly 30% for the Witney Police Area leaves considerable room for improvement.

## A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

by Trevor Milne-Day

Many families face the prospect of a close member either in or degenerating into a deep coma without hope of recovery. Medical science is now able to sustain such patients although arguably they have no quality of life at all. It is unfortunate that advances in medicine have outstripped the answers to the moral and legal challenges they pose. We have seen cases in the newspapers of families applying to the courts to allow the hospital treating their relative to turn off the life support systems. Many people feel that these life and death decisions should be more a matter of individual choice.

Against this background it is not surprising that more people are exploring the advantages of making a Living Will.

### LIVING WILLS

The term "Living Will" is a misnomer. It is not a will in the sense that it deals with any part of your property, not has it anything

to do with living, but rather the opposite. In a Living Will you state what your wishes are about medical treatment in the future. For instance you can provide that if you should become permanently unconscious with no likelihood of regaining consciousness, then you do not want any medical treatment other than what is necessary to keep you free from pain.

Under English law a patient cannot compel doctors to take positive action to hasten death. However, generally a refusal in advance of medical treatment, which might be needed to preserve life, would be binding.

It is impossible to cover for every eventuality. Often an individual would like to appoint a person to decide for them whether treatment should be given if they become incapable of so doing. In the terminology of Living Wills this person is called a healthcare proxy.

### THE LAW

At present the law does not recognise this delegation of power by a prospective patient to another but the British Medical Association says it is helpful to have a trusted person being able to express views on healthcare. Most would want to involve a close family member as a healthcare proxy. Others think that the onus of deciding treatment should be given to one with no conflict of interest perhaps more ready to take responsibility for life and death decisions.

As Living Wills have no effect on the destination of the assets of the patient after death, they can be considered separately from existing wills and codicils.

In the absence of clear legislation on the point, there remain a number of practical problems. For example:

- o clear, correct language
  - o keeping the document safe but close at hand
  - o ensuring wishes can subsequently be revoked if the patient changes their mind.
- While Living Wills have little to do with ordinary wills they do share one aim in common - to make things easier for those who remain.

*The author lives in Bampton and is a practising solicitor with Halsey Lightly of Banbury Road, Oxford.*

## HELP PROTECT BAMPTON

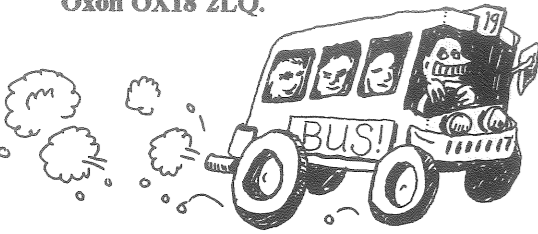
The Society for the Protection of Bampton (SPB) actively seeks to protect and improve all that is good in Bampton.

As an example, the SPB raised the full cost of buying Sandfords Field (about £8,000) which now belongs to the Bampton Recreation Ground Trust.

Bampton is a target for big housing developments; our society is continually trying to curb or stop such developments. To strengthen our negotiating position we need as many members as possible.

### Join Now

It is not expensive. Send just £2 (£1 OAP's) for a three-year membership to: **SPB, The Manor House, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2LQ.**



## BUSES TO WITNEY AND CARTERTON

Not enough people showed any interest in a 7am bus to Witney and a 6.30pm from Witney for me to be able to persuade a bus company to run a service for people to get to work and home again. **Have things changed?**

**Now I am being asked for an evening service to Witney and Carterton at 7pm returning 10.30pm. Is there any interest?**

Please let Jonathan Phillips your District Councillor know if you would like this service and, if so, how often you would use it. **Tel: 850321.**

Demand must be sufficient to assure a bus company it can make it a paying concern.

## BAMPTON YOUTH CLUB

The AGM of the Youth Club was held on Thursday 2nd June 1996 in the Youth Centre. Miss D. Thompson kindly agreed to remain as the club president and Mr F. Piercy, chairman. But it was with much regret and sorrow that the resignations of Mrs E. Branham, Miss M. Ince (treasurer) and Mrs B. Sapsford (secretary) were accepted.

A mere thank-you just does not seem good good enough for these three very loyal ladies, who, between them, have served the Youth Club for over forty years and they will be greatly missed.

However, in their places we now have Mr D. Faithful (treasurer), Mrs S. Faithful (secretary), plus three other enthusiastic committee members, Mr A. Clarke, Mrs C. McLintock and Mr G. Gascoigne.

As far as the club itself is concerned Thursday nights are running very successfully, with leaders Gary Gummer and Tracy Charlton working very hard to keep the members entertained.

Tuesday nights for the 10 to 13 year olds are not as well attended as we had hoped. Leaders Tracy Charlton and Louisa Harvey both devote a lot of their time and energy organising the evenings but it seems at this moment not to be working. We would appreciate any constructive ideas or comments you may have to help us.

### We would like to hear from you

Tuesday evening club will re-open shortly after the Sports Activity Week ends. This is being held at the Recreation Ground, Buckland Road, during the school summer holidays.

Earlier this year with money donated by the late Mr Brookson we purchased a new music centre, but somebody (or bodies) decided they needed it more than the Youth Club. They broke into the building and stole it and even stole the goods for the tuck shop.

Since this sad event, however, we have been lucky enough to obtain a first class pool table, complete with cues, balls and chalk and it is hoped to organise some inter club, competitions, and in the future, funds permitting, we may well be able to buy another music centre.

Over the past twelve months we have had problems outside the Youth Club from some local youths who are barred from the club. But with the co-operation of our local policeman PC Bill Oddy who visits the club as often as possible we hope this will prevent any further problems.

Please encourage your children to join their local Youth Club for without their support the club cannot exist.

**For more information contact Tracy Charlton Tel: 705416 or Gary Gummer Tel: 851913.**

## INTERESTED IN ATHLETICS?

If you are between the ages of 10 and 15, and enjoy running, jumping, anything to do with athletics or

cross-country running, why not come along and join in with us for a training session of the **Witney Road Runners Junior Section?**

We have just completed a very successful winter, and our juniors have won events both as individuals and teams in indoor athletics and cross-country and are at present training for future meetings.

We meet every Thursday night and at least one Sunday each month where all training is based around fun and encouragement.

Anyone interested, please contact "Postie", **Mike Miles Tel: (01993) 771886.**

Adults need not worry about being left out because they are always welcome to help record times and results or maybe run with our main body of members.



## BAMPTON SUMMER OPERA

We desperately need more help if it is to continue. If you are able to help with any of the following -

*props, posters, ticket sales, costumes, stage assistant, painting, scenery, publicity, catering, and fund-raising.*

For a few of these, a small honorarium may be payable.

**Please contact Dr Jeremy Gray, Holcot House, Market Square, Bampton. Tel: 851876**

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**E-mail: sgarrett@globalnet.co.uk**

## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

from Jonathan Phillips  
District Councillor

### LIFELINE FOR VILLAGE SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

A Government consultation paper proposes to give a helping hand to struggling village shops and post offices. Mandatory relief of 50% of current business rates would be available to shops and post offices with a rateable value not exceeding £5,000 where there is a population of 3,000 or less.

In addition, discretionary relief at 50% of current business rates will be available not only to shops and post offices but all businesses operating in villages and hamlets with a population under 3,000 providing they have rateable values of under £10,000.

This is good news for all businesses in Bampton. The District Council will operate the discretionary scheme and welcome it for addressing the needs of all village shops and businesses. This should help preserve the village shops and encourage small businesses to provide much needed local jobs. Regrettably this proposal does not include the public houses.

### HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 14th & 15th September 1996

Heritage Open Days is England's very popular open house weekend. The event organised by the Civic Trust aims to stimulate public awareness of England's rich architectural heritage by allowing free access to hundreds of properties around the country.

For the first time Bampton will be taking part in this annual event. The Church of St Mary's, The Old Grammar School, now the Library, built in 1653 and the Gallery in the Town Hall built in 1838 to designs by George Wilkinson, will be open. A guide *Walk around Historic Bampton* is available - price 25p - from Abbey Properties and features all three buildings.

### IMAGES OF BAMPTON

The book of old photographs of Bampton to celebrate the centenary of the Parish Council in 1994 will be published in late August or September 1996 and will cost £7.95. Those who have already ordered and paid the pre-publication price for copies will be able to collect their books from Abbey Properties.

### BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND Landscaping & Development

Planting of trees and shrubs will start this autumn and a cricket field will be sown. The sub-committee continues to deliberate about the type of pavilion that would be most practical and can be afforded.

**Fundraising** - There will be a **Promises Auction** in the Village Hall on Saturday, 5th October - in 1994 it raised £2,000 and we hope to make it £3,000 in 1996! Offers of help and 'promises' will be gratefully received - please contact **Julie Daw, 7 High Street Tel: 851079.**

**Sports Activities** - After a very successful Open Day enjoyed by all, **Archery** on Wednesday evenings continues to be popular, contact **John Hill Tel: 850513** for details.

**Cricket** - Coaching is taking place on Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 3.30pm, contact **Mike Alden Tel: 846852** for details.

**Netball** - If you are interested, please contact **Sarah Paintin Tel: 850871** for details.

**Multi-sport Week Monday 26th August to Friday 30th August.**

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## "ACTIVITY WEEK"

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FROM 2PM TO 4PM  
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A wide range of sporting activities will be available suitable for all abilities for youngsters from 8 to 14

The cost will be £15 for the week

The sessions will be staffed by top sports persons and will include European Long Jump gold medallist, and Great Britain International, Carl Howard and fellow Great Britain International Kelly Morgan

To register your interest, contact your local co-ordinator  
**Jonathan Phillips**  
(Tel: 850321)

or write to:-  
**The Multisport Club,**  
40 Stockham Park, Wantage,  
Oxon, OX12 9HQ

Dear Mrs Gray,  
I have enjoyed the latest copy of the Beam with its wide range of articles and news. However, I was very disappointed not to see the article I had submitted regarding our Summer Opera on 20th July, nor to find it mentioned in the Diary: there certainly would have been room on the Arts page for at least some information.

Bampton Summer Opera has become a major event in the cultural life of the village, and we have always enjoyed substantial coverage in the Beam. The April edition is most valuable for bringing the opera to the attention of the community in advance of our posters and other publicity. We had also looked to recruit new helpers, patrons and a dancer through the Beam. I hope that this was the result of an oversight and not editorial policy.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Jeremy Gray  
Administrator, Bampton Summer Opera,  
Holcot House, Bampton.

*A reply was sent from the Editor, as follows -*

*Dear Dr Gray,  
I am sorry it has taken so long for me to reply to your letter of the 4th April but I have been abroad for the past few weeks. Firstly, let me agree with you that it is a great shame we could not include the information you refer to regarding the Summer Opera. I assure you it was left out by accident rather than design, but by whose accident I really do not know. I can find no trace of it among the papers submitted to me for the April edition of the Beam. None of my colleagues is aware of it either. Did you hand it in at the Cotton Club? I admit to being at a complete loss as to its whereabouts.*

*If there is anything we can put into subsequent editions which would be of help, please don't hesitate to try again. If the error has been ours, please accept our apologies.*

Yours sincerely,  
Fenella Gray, Editor, The Beam.

Dear Editor,  
As a volunteer for the distribution of forms for the recent Bampton Appraisal, I was extremely disappointed and discour-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

aged by the lack of interest shown when I knocked on the doors of my selected area. Not only did people make it quite clear I was interrupting their evenings, I even had a door slammed in my face at the mere mention of "Bampton Appraisal"! Although it could have, perhaps, been advertised more around the village, I would have expected all Bampton residents to be interested in the future of their village by having their say; at the very least they could have looked at the questionnaires before deciding not to complete them. I feel those who chose not to respond to the questionnaires have no right to complain about any decisions that might result from the appraisal, but, for those who were happy to assist, I thank you! Regards,  
"Andrea, Bampton".

Dear Editor,  
I would like to respond to the article by Major Colville, regarding Brize Norton and Bampton Station, in the April edition of The Beam, and to say how much I enjoyed reading it.  
In 1948 my late husband Tom, then a young soldier, was posted to Bampton Royal Signals Camp. He always used to say that when he got off the train at Bampton Station, he thought he'd got to the back of beyond. Little did he think, he was going to fall in love with Bampton and spend the rest of his life here.  
I myself, travelled to Witney and Oxford very often on this busy line.  
In June 1962, Tom and I took our children on the last train to run on the Oxford to Fairford line. We went from Bampton to Fairford.  
I have still got the tickets which cost 5s. (25p) Adult, and Childen 2s. 6d (12 1/2p). My brother Ken went to work as a porter at the station when he left school. He worked with Mr Dick Day who was also landlord of the Lamb Inn, which was one of the pubs we lost after the war. Mr Day's son Jack lives in the house that once was the Plough Inn.  
Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Freda Bradley, Bampton.

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Dear Editor,  
I received a letter from Richard Buckingham, a former resident of Bampton who now lives in Reading. He has the Beam posted to him and I would like to echo his delight on learning that Sandfords Field has now been saved for village use and offer sincere thanks to Lord Donoughmore and the Society for the Protection of Bampton for all the hard work undertaken to secure the field and the great generosity in providing the funds to purchase the field.

How very important it is to save and maintain all our green spaces and put a halt to encroaching concrete. We have had our full share of new housing programmes in Bampton. Let us concentrate now on beautifying our village and retaining its rural aesthetics and thank you, the Society for the Protection of Bampton, for the lead you have shown.

Sue Casson, Bampton.  
*Isn't it good to hear from somebody who spent their childhood in the village, and still cares about what's happening in Bampton! Thank you very much Richard, and Sue, for passing on the sentiments.*

## ARCHITECTURE AROUND BAMPPTON

written and drawn by Gilbert Marsh



SKETCH OF HOUSE IN BRIDGE STREET  
BAMPPTON

*This is the second sketch in our series illustrating the varied designs of architecture in our village. We would be very interested to hear from anyone who can tell us of the name of this cottage. Write into the Cotton Club if you can help..*

This dignified small house stands next to the Post Office in Bridge Street. This was an important street when the house was built, perhaps the late fifteenth century. The Mill stood at the crossing with Shill Brook and the Manor House stood opposite. Now one passes without a sideways glance, more intent on avoiding the hazards of traffic at this narrow point in the road than noticing the superb architecture of this village.

These early stone roofed houses avoided the perils of burning thatch, which must have removed so many others over the years. Large stone slates near the eaves diminish in size as the roof reaches the ridge. A timber plate buried in the wall suggests that the original house may have been built as two cottages, each with a front door, hearth and chimney. The old front step could have been turned in to the mounting block seen in the sketch, and the ring set in the wall above could have been intended for tethering a horse.

Above is a firemark on the east gable. These pattered discs indicated that the householder was insured with a particular insurance company. It was the duty of that company to assist in putting out the flames.

Marks in the cotswold stone adjoining the Post Office on the east side suggest that the gables were originally symmetrical and that the house was built free-standing.

### BAMPPTON BUTCHER HELPS BLIND DOGS SOCIETY



Pictured here shows Bampton Butcher Mr Patrick Strange with members of the Blind Dog Association. Mr Strange has been able to raise money for this association for many years, through people asking him for "bones" for their dogs. Instead of charging for the bones Mr Strange asks them to put a donation into the tin, which sits on the counter in the shop. His customers are now helping him to collect money for "Dogs for the Deaf".

### BAMPPTON W.I

#### 75th ANNIVERSARY 1996

A Garden Party was held in the garden of Mr & Mrs Edwin Lee. It was a beautiful sunny day, Everyone took shelter under the apple trees for shelter from the sun, as it was such a beautiful sunny day.

Our County Chairman Mrs Pam Caine and visitors from our sister groups, Shillvalley, Clanfield, Brize Norton came to help us celebrate our anniversary. With help from committee members a lovely spread was put on for everyone, and to crown it all a beautifully iced cake, baked by one of our members, Mrs Jo Mutlow. The cake was decorated in green and white icing with the W.I. logo in the centre. As we are not meeting in August, all the birthday girls were given a small pot plant. A raffle was held, each member being given a ticket. An anniversary album was started, in which visitors and members were asked to sign. Also a card sent from County Headquarters will be put into the album. A nice momento to keep for future members to see.



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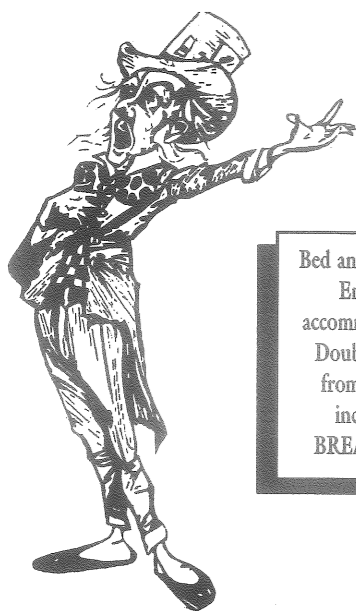
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**BAMPTON YOUTH CENTRE**

The Youth Centre uses the old Victorian Primary School in Church View. This attractive building is of considerable architectural interest - having been designed by William Wilkinson, one of the leading ecclesiastical architects of the day. The Centre aims to provide youth activities and receives limited funding from the County Council. Appreciable support is also given by the "250 Club" but it is, otherwise, dependent on rental income from letting the premises for meetings, wedding receptions and parties. In this respect the facilities are probably the best in Bampton with a large central hall, a pleasant atmosphere and abundant parking. **Liz Banham (850019)** will be happy to make bookings.

The Youth Club's Thursday evening meeting is now firmly established with a wide range of interests. However, the Tuesday evening meeting for younger members is not, currently, very well supported. A concentrated week of activities is planned for the summer holiday to encourage new members. Anyone interested in helping or any young people wishing to join should contact youth leaders **Gary Gummer (851913)** or **Tracy Charlton (705416)** or club chairman, **Frank Piercy (850005)**. Cubs - meeting on Wednesday evenings - continue to flourish with excellent support from parents. The Beavers have now been restarted - also on Wednesday evenings and there are high hopes for the Scouts to recommence operations in the autumn or early in 1997. As always, there is a pressing need for helpers. Contact the Group Scout Leader, **Trevor Wakeman, Tel: 845082**.

For any general matters, please contact **Colin Allport, Tel: 850411**.

**BAMPTON LADIES GROUP**

Bampton Ladies Group (formerly Bampton Wives Group), would be pleased to see any lady (married or single) who thinks they would welcome an evening of light-hearted chat and company. We meet in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 8pm, and try to have speakers to interest most people and the occasional outing. Please come along, the first visit is free, or ring **Joan Farthing, Tel: 851206**

**NOTICE BOARD****BAMPTON WELFARE TRUST**

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

If you need help from the Bampton Welfare Trust, please contact: **Janet Newman Tel: 850755** or any of the trustees: Major R. Colville, Miss K. Wylie, Mrs I. Humphries, Mrs J. Haslam, Mrs S. Phillips, Mrs H. Radclyffe (Lew), Mr G. Wiltshire (Aston), Mr G. Milner (Aston).

**BAMPTON PUMPKIN CLUB**

At the Annual dinner of Bampton Pumpkin Club, held at the Romany Inn on 22nd June 1996, chairman Max Norman extended his thanks to committee members, friends and helpers, for their hard work at fundraising events. He was able to report the 1995 Auction of Produce and Pumpkin Weigh-in raised over £1,000 and this year's 18th Annual Street Fair took over £2,000. The committee is looking forward to the annual weigh-in on 12th October 1996 and would like to hear from potential committee members.

**Date for Diary - 31st October 1996**  
Coach to Cumnor - the Bear and Ragged Staff inn. To book **Tel: (01933) 850918**.  
**Weigh-In and Auction of Produce - Weighmasters - Ron Bateman and John Simpson of Thames Valley Farm.**

Produce for auction all donated by Bampton residents.

**Sponsored by Archers Ales.**

Weekly Bingo also run for Pumpkin Club.

**BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND Promises Auction**

The steering committee is holding a major fundraising event. All proceeds to the building of a pavilion on the Recreation Ground. This event was held very successfully in September 1994. This year we need your continued support for this much-needed facility.

**What is a Promises Auction?**

Anyone can donate a promise. We need all types of promises to suit all types of pockets e.g. babysitting, pet-sitting, two

hour DIY, a day at the races, golf lessons, music lessons, a meal for two etc. Promises are collected then people bid for them. Put the date in your diary now. An event not to be missed!

**Date: 5th October**

Venue: Bampton Village Hall, time: 6pm. Raffle and Bar

Contact **Julie Daw Tel: (01993) 851079** for further details and to donate your promises.

**SPAJERS**

The AGM was held in May. Don Rouse and Frank Hudson were re-elected as chairman and vice-chairman.

The next event will be the **Annual Summer Outing to Western-Super-Mare on 21st August**. Also coming up we have the **Donkey Derby and Fete, 26th August**. Lots of fun for children and visitors alike, with stalls, donkey rides and refreshments.

If anyone has an idea for a stall or could run one, or help in any way, ring **Mollie Dunbar, Tel: 850207**. See you there!

**BAMPTON TRADITIONAL MORRIS DANCERS**

Bampton Traditional Morris Dancers hope that you enjoyed the dancing at Whitsun. We are currently in need of **bowler hats**. We are prepared to pay and would be grateful if anyone who could help would contact either the squire, **Tony Daniels Tel: 851283**, or the secretary, **Martin Landray Tel: 850939**.

**BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP**

The next Open Meeting is on 31st July, in the Village Hall at 8pm. David Derick will give a lecture on Bee-keeping and the Products of the Hive. Non-members are welcome for a donation £1.

**BEWG information contact Ann Norman Tel: 850823**.

**THE ABINGDON CRAFTS FESTIVAL**

The Abingdon Crafts Festival will be held at The Medieval Buildings, Abingdon, on 17th-27th October 1996 (closed Tues 22nd). A high quality show offering you beautiful and unusual gifts for Christmas. (*Medieval Buildings reg. charity 225880*).

**BAMPTON BUSH CENTRE**

The club for retired people continues to meet each Wednesday in buildings behind the Youth Centre in Church View.

We start at 10am and provide refreshments, lunch, and a varied programme of activities.

We are grateful for the continuing help of cooks, drivers and helpers, but urgently need more volunteers. Mothers with babies or toddlers would be welcome, so if you could help in any way, please contact either of the Joint Co-ordinators for more information. **Joan Granville, Tel: 850407**, **Vera Allport, Tel: 850411**.

The recent Coffee Morning held at the Bush Club made £706 towards the renovation of the building.

**BAMPTON BRIDGE CLUB**

The club meets in the Village Hall every Tuesday 7.30 - 10.30pm. The Annual subscription is £5 with a charge of 75p per session. Duplicate Bridge is played the 1st, 3rd and any 5th Tuesday of the month. Rubber Bridge on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

New members are always welcome. For more information please contact: **Mrs Joan Granville, Tel: 850407**.

**ST MARY'S FLOWER FESTIVAL**

A beautiful display of flowers appeared in St Mary's Church during the May Bank Holiday.

The theme was "A Festival of Festivals" and the ladies of the Church Flower Guild had shown great imagination and talent in depicting each particular occasion. There was soft music playing and all who came into the church found it a delightful experience.

Refreshments were served all day on the Monday. A total £902 was raised and, after £250 was taken for expenses, £652 was given to the church funds.

**THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

Thank you to all those people who generously gave up some time to help with our annual house-to-house collection this Easter. We raised £276.86 for which we are very grateful. This was, happily, a little more than last year because we were able to collect in a few extra roads. However, there are still some roads we have to miss out due to a shortage of volunteers. The Pieces, Pockocks Close, New Road and

**NOTICE BOARD**

Aston Road for instance. If you are over 16 and could spare an hour or more to help next year I would be very glad to hear from you. The Society does a worthwhile job helping young people and their families and deserves our support. Please contact me soon, **Pauline Hawkins, Tel: 851066**.

**CANCER RELIEF MACMILLAN FUND****Bampton & Faringdon Committee**

It is some time since we let all our friends and supporters in Bampton know how our branch is progressing with its fundraising.

We would like everyone to know that last year we again improved on the previous year's total - as we have done every year since the branch was founded - and sent over £16,000.

For a good amount of this we owe thanks to our Bampton members. Some of what they do is not obvious in Bampton itself. We have a free table at Craft Fairs organised by someone outside our organisation, but very sympathetic to our work, and these take place at Burford, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Bourton-on-the-Water. We would find it very difficult to run this table without the staunch help of those who make things for us, advise and help with buying, housing our goods, and manning the stalls. Other events are closer to home.

I am sure many of you came to the stall on Spring Bank Holiday and admired the "Morris Dancing Teddy Bears". That stall raised over £300.

Many people will be sad to know that "Mac", our treasurer, has had to retire because of illness: he is at home and still taking a keen interest in our work. He is rightly proud of the fact that since he became treasurer in 1988 we have raised over £100,000 for the fund, and we are deeply grateful to him. We are also very grateful to Mr Douglas Faithful, whom many of you will know for taking on the post of treasurer in Mac's place.

We are about to see the launch of a new Oxfordshire Appeal, and we know we can rely on your continued support. If any of

you would like to join us in, for instance, making things for sale, manning stalls, or shaking a collecting tin outside Tesco in October or November in Witney, we would love to hear from you, and thank you for your continued support. Please contact -

**Mr Faithful Tel: 850606 or the Secretary Beryl Cooper, Tel: 01367 242908.**

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Remembrance Day**

After all the celebrations of last year which were to commemorate fifty years since the end of the Second World War, this year it is seventy-five years since the Royal British Legion formed itself. So...

we mustn't forget

**Sunday 10th November.**

**War Memorial Service 10.45am.**

**St. Mary's Service 11.15am.**

**REMEMBER**

**When we wear our Poppies,  
Let us wear them with Great Pride,  
Remembering the Sorrows of the Wars,**

**And our lads who fought and died,  
Remember the Maimed and the Disabled,**

**Their lives they were prepared to give,  
To make ours a better Country**

**A place for heroes fit to live,  
Make sure that their Supreme Action  
Has not ended in deep regret,  
Let each of us wear our Poppy,**

**We will remember,  
"Lest we Forget".**

*W. E. Evans*

The "Standards" are also taken to the evening service held in the Methodist Chapel, Bridge Street, at 6pm.

**BRIZE NORTON VILLAGE PLAYGROUP**

A job vacancy has arisen at the Brize Norton Playgroup.

The position is for a Playgroup Supervisor who is required for September 1996.

The job entails four mornings a week, and full qualifications are needed.

Contact **Jackie Tel: (01993) 844671**, chair of Brize Norton Village Playgroup.

**HEALTH MATTERS**

Market Square, Bampton,  
written by Suzanne Kelsey

Bampton lost one of its most popular shops at the end of June, when Health Matters in the Market Square closed its doors.

The staff, manageresses Marion Carrington and Lesley Hutchins, are also going to be very much missed for the friendly and helpful service they have provided.



Lesley Hutchins and Marion Carrington say farewell to 'Health Matters'

Marion has been with the shop since it opened on 1st November, 1989, at the time working with Lesley Mellin, who is also an Aromatherapist. When Lesley moved to her own premises - she is now at clinics in Bampton and in Newbury - Marion was joined first by Mary Petchell from Aston and then by the other Lesley. The shop specialised in alternative medicines, providing customers with homeopathic and herbal preparations, as well as standard pharmaceutical lines. It has had very much a 'green' approach, stocking products not tested on animals and advocating welfare-friendly ideals.

Regular customers have been telling Marion and Lesley how much they will miss dropping in for advice - and a chat. They too are going to miss the contact they have had both with local people and with visitors from over a wide area.

Local charities, too, have benefitted from their support, with publicity for their fund raising activities given a place in counter displays.

The future of the premises, which were converted from a former house when the shop was opened, has not yet been decided.

**BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND**

**Bampton Boys Football Club**

**More support please**

Following a good season last year, Bampton Boys hope to field at least 4 and possibly 5 teams for the 1996/97 season. At the AGM held on 3rd July, 1996 the Chairman, David Hawkins, warned the parents that unless they give the managers even more support throughout the season, then the turnover of managers would continue. At the moment, managers feel that they are acting sometimes as 'low cost babysitters' and that one year is as much as they can offer.

On the plus side, the club has 3 very good pitches to use, excellent practice facilities on the multisport area throughout the winter and much support from the club's committee.

We now need all the boys in Bampton to come and join their village club, rather than playing for the much larger clubs in Witney or Carterton. If your son would like to play for one of the following teams in the 1996/97 season contact the team manager, or ex-team managers as follows:

- o U 9s (2 teams) **D. Paintin 851177**
- o U 11s **D. Hickman 650925**
- o U 13s **L. Burley 850793**
- o U 14s **M. Whalley 850048**

New Managers and Assistants urgently required for the U9s and U 13s.



The annual soccer tournament held at the Recreation Ground and which normally attracts over thirty teams will be held on Saturday 31st August (AM U14s and PM U 13s) and on Sunday 1st September (AM U 11s and PM U9s). Each of the age group complete their competition with in half a day.

**BAMPTON TENNIS CLUB**

The new tennis courts at the Recreation Field have been very well used throughout the summer, but there are still many slots remaining vacant and new members will be very welcome.

Membership charges are extremely competitive and give you unlimited use of the facilities:

- Family Membership £50/YR
- Adult Membership £20/YR
- Child Membership £10/YR

Please contact

**Dominic Hodges Tel: 850242**  
for an application form.

**ANDREW BOWMAN**  
MASTER THATCHER  
HEDGEFIELDS FARM  
BAMPTON  
Telephone (01993) 850116  
Member Oxon, Berks and Bucks  
Master thatchers Association

**J. Temple**

**Hardware, DIY  
Fancy Goods & Toys**

Market Square, Bampton, Oxford  
Telephone (01993) 850877

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

**DANETREE**

**VETERINARY SURGEONS**

**- MOBILE SURGERY -**

Tuesday Mornings  
at

Bampton Youth Centre Car Park

For Further Information

Please Telephone  
01367 242777

**THE VIEW FROM . . . SUNNY JAMAICA**

Joan Samuda talks to Linda Mills



Joan Samuda has been living in Bampton since September, 1995. She is here as an exchange teacher, under the auspices of the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers. She has found many differences between life in Bampton and in the bustling city of Kingston, Jamaica.

**Wonderful Weather?**

"I am sorry to say that the weather has conformed to my expectations! What has you heading for a cool drink and the shade, still has me reaching for a jumper."

**Peace and Quiet?**

"In Kingston, capital of Jamaica, you are always aware of activity - horns hooting, people in the streets laughing, talking and arguing about the latest political issues. So to me, Bampton has felt almost 'deadly' silent. It has at times driven me almost to the point of screaming. When I have heard people talking near my home, I have had to use all my self-restraint not to rush to the window and just peek out!"

**Highlights of Bampton**

"I have to some extent become accustomed to the silence. I have also had a wonderful time, especially on holidays. Bampton certainly knows how to enjoy itself, in a way that I feel privileged to have shared. The Mummings at Christmas were brilliant, even though 'I understand eth neary a word.' Art Week and the Teddy Bear Exhibition were great. But the crowning experience for me has to be the Morris Dancers. Men dancing in the street with bells on their trousers! And such an atmosphere of celebration in the village. What an experience!"

**British Reserve**

"Coming from a culture where people think nothing of talking to strangers, I have been surprised by British reserve. I could tell from looks I received in Londis that people realised a stranger was in their midst. Being black, I have been very easy

midst. Being black, I have been very easy to spot in a village like Bampton. People would always smile, then quickly avert their gaze. Good manners, presumably, but I really would have liked to talk."

**Friends and Neighbours!**

"My neighbours have been absolutely wonderful, inviting me in for a cup of tea, and bringing the garden back to order when I lost control of it! One day they left me a note - 'The yellow flowers are dandelions - weeds! They seed everywhere, so pull them out!' I really felt that this couple understood the geographical and cultural differences with which I was struggling. I also made two extremely good friends, teachers at my exchange school, who live in the village. They have been wonderful."

**A Police Tale**

"One day quite early in my stay, I found myself stranded in Witney, having never dreamed that the buses would stop so early. Who to turn to? Looking back I'm not sure why, but I went to the police station. What happened next became one of my best memories of England. I had felt nervous, embarrassed, alone, but I need not have worried. The police officer drove me from Witney to my door in Bampton! But not only that. As we arrived, he said 'We don't want the neighbours wondering what you've been up to, do we?' And with that, he opened the car door for me, picked up my bag, escorted me to the door and shook my hand. I shall always be grateful to the Witney police for such an act of kindness - and of course, public relations."

**And Finally . . .**

"I am delighted to say that I have really come to love Bampton. I know now that its silences will be punctuated by periods of festivity - and in any case, I am getting used to the quiet. I am certain that next year, when I am once again amidst the hot, noisy, busy streets of Kingston, Jamaica, I will find myself praying for some of the peace and quiet to be found here."

**THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

by Constable Bill Oddy

I have recently taken over responsibility for the Bampton area which includes Brize Norton, Bampton, Clanfield, Alvescot, Black Bourton, Grafton, Filkins, Langford, Broughton Poggs, Little Faringdon, Kelmescot, Broadwell and Kencot. I am based at Carterton Police Station and when I am not on duty, officers from Carterton cover 24 hours a day.

**CONTACT NUMBERS**

**Dial 999 - (24hrs)** - for crimes in progress or life threatening incidents. We aim to respond and attend within 15 minutes.

**Dial 01235 776000 - (24hrs police control room)** - to report an incident of a less urgent nature. Example of these are when you discover a burglary has occurred or your car has been stolen and there are no suspects at the scene. We aim to respond within 4 hours.

**Dial 01235 776521 - (8am - 8pm Help Desk)** - for advice on legal matters, information or to contact your local officer, PC Oddy.

The sector commander is also based at Carterton Police Station and is Inspector Paul Brightwell. Carterton Police Station is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm (Friday 8.30am - 4pm) **Tel: 703913.**

**SUMMER SECURITY**

Recently we have been visited by professional travelling criminals. Here are a few ideas to safeguard your home -

1. Liaise with neighbours - ask them to collect mail, cut the grass, and make the house look lived in if you are going away.
2. Cancel milk and papers.
3. Do not put your bin out before you go away.
4. Use time switches to turn on lights, radio's and TV's (radio during the day).
5. Draw curtains in the evening when you go out.
6. Lock sheds and outbuildings, put power tools away in the house.
7. If you go out for the day shut all windows, however hot.
8. Do not leave a key in a hiding place. Please report all crime, however minor. It enables me to target specific areas, times and known criminals with the help of plain clothes officers. I believe that if we work together we can drastically reduce the amount of burglaries and deter unwanted visitors.

At the beginning of the century, the vegetable garden was vital to many, especially families, surviving on very low wages. A well stocked vegetable garden, could keep the wolf from the kitchen door.



The annual Bampton Flower Show, probably emerged as a result of the proliferation of vegetable gardens. It is not known when the first show took place, but Mr Arthur Beckley still has vivid memories of shows held before the Second World War. However, his memory does not extend quite as far back as one of his first excursions to the show in the early 1920s when he won the Baby Show Competition, sponsored by Cow & Gate Baby Milk!

As a youngster, growing up in the village, he remembers when a large Marquee would appear the evening before the show in the field by the side of the lake at Weald Manor. For years Colonel and Mrs Colville let the field be used for the annual event. Early on the morning of the show, he remembers, seeing the men with their wheel barrows, or hand carts, transporting their vegetables, fruit and flowers to the Show field. The women would also be there, taking cakes, wine, eggs, flowers, and sewing to the Marquee for the competitions. Arthur remembers that competition between the village families was much more fierce in those days, than it is today, with everyone vying for the top prizes.

At the show, there would be various other 'attractions' such as beer stalls - no doubt to keep the menfolk happy - a bowling stall, where the lucky winner would win a pig, the baby show; and plenty of other amusements to keep the youngsters busy. In those days, he says, no-one travelled much, so the show was one of the annual highlights for the village people. "You would get all dressed up, in your Sunday clothes, show off to the girls, and enjoy yourself," he says.

**The Return of the Show**

The show, renamed The Horticultural Show, returned to the village in 1971. A few of the villagers decided to re-start the old event. The venue was The George and Dragon. At the meeting, Arnold Woodley, Win Woodley, Betty Collett, Stan Hawkins, John Snooks, Jack Horn and a few others decided to run not one

**BAMPTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

now

**BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB**

**BAMPTON ANNUAL SHOW 1996**

**Saturday 7th September**

but two shows annually. The August show, held in Sandfords field, was The Flower Show, where you would see all the beautiful blooms of summer. To this show, the ladies would bring the wine, cakes etc. In the evening, a Barn Dance would be held in the Marquee.

The second show was held in late September, mostly for the fruit and vegetables, but also the late flowers such as chrysanthemums, and dahlias. This was the show at which the competitions were held for the longest and heaviest marrows and pumpkins, sunflowers and hollyhocks, to name just a few.

Betty Collett is the longest serving member of the committee with 25 years in the job of show secretary and later taking over as committee secretary as well. Betty has now retired and handed the reins to Yvonne Taylor. Betty says that there have been few changes to the way the Shows have been run over the years. Betty remembers that the competitions



Betty Collett enjoying her garden.

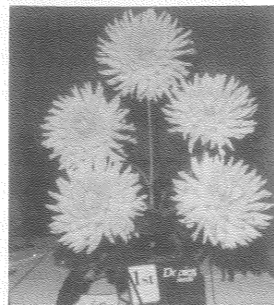
have always been hotly contested, with people coming from all around the district to enter the various classes. Because of the competition the quality of the entries has always been high. In fact, with classes of entry for children and young people as well, there was even competition within families.

Another familiar face who has been entering the show for many years is Mr Les King. Most people remember him running the Post Office, and before that Busby's shop with his wife Stella, they have lived in Bampton for 37 years. Les specialises in Dahlias and won the cup so often, that

he felt he'd better stop competing. After a break of 7 years, he's back to see how the competition lies. He says, "its the feel of excitement on the days

leading to and on the show day itself, that

Les Kings prize Deliahs



makes me enter. Its not the winning, but that's an added extra".

**The Latest Change**

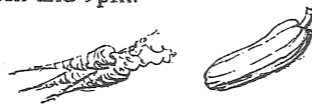
This year, The Bampton Horticultural Society changed its name to The Bampton Gardening Club, in the hope of attracting new members, from the village and beyond. The club has already had two successful outings this year to the Stourhead and Wisley Gardens.

It has also been decided to hold only one show. However, the club hopes that it will attract a record number of entries, since they have managed to accommodate most of the classes from both of the previous years' shows.

In Bampton, we are lucky to still have a lot of keen gardeners, many with their own "specialities". There is Mr George Winfield and his chrysanthemums; Mr Stan Hawkins and his vegetables; and Ken Adams also with his vegetables. There are many more. Over the years of course we have sadly lost people. Many will remember Jack Horn and Arnold Woodley, two people who took their vegetable growing very seriously. Finally, The Bampton Beam would like to wish The Bampton Gardening Club success with the 25th Annual Show.

**Don't forget** - Registration Night is at The Town Hall, on Wednesday 4th September, between 7pm and 9pm.

See you there!



If you would like to write to Auntie Beam the address is Auntie Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2HA. She will do her utmost to answer as many of your queries as space allows. Auntie Beam wishes to say that she cannot give out personal replies.

**Auntie's Beam Gossip**

Rumour has it that ostriches are to be farmed in the fields at the back of The Grange adjacent to the footpath that leads to the Buckland Road. The tough new fence that now surrounds these fields seemed to support these rumours as does the Mad Cow scare that might encourage farmers to try some other source of income. Our local expert on ostriches tells me that it is important for the well being of Bamptonians to be aware of emergency measures should they be attacked by an ostrich. A fool proof way of dealing with the animal/bird is to seize it by the neck and shove its head inside your jacket and under your armpit. The creature then becomes instantly docile thinking that its head is in the sand. We shall have to await the arrival of these new creatures on the British landscape to put this emergency measure to the test. Meanwhile we will have to get used to the idea of grotesque black and white birds on the fields of England instead of black and white cows.



Dear Auntie Beam,  
Why is it that whenever one sees discarded clothing around the village - if it isn't a pair of knickers it is always one shoe, one sock or one glove?  
How are they lost and what happens to the other ones?  
yours,

Dear Yours,  
Can this be a serious letter? Presumably they fall out of the rubbish cart or blow off clothes lines. Or, if they are tiny sizes, they are ejected from the pushchairs and prams by their reckless occupants.  
Yours, Auntie Beam.

**LETTERS TO :  
AUNTIE BEAM**

Dear Auntie Beam,  
First I would like to congratulate the "New Team" on their initial Bampton Beam. A really good effort. #Now my problem must apply to many ladies with such "soft, cuddly, comfy" figures as mine, **its tights.**  
The hip size neede - gives legs the length of a motor way! A smaller size - literally handcuffs the knees together!  
Have you any advice or ideas? **Please!!!** (no diets thank-you).  
Must I really condemn myself to either Norah Batty's knees or Marina's wiggle!!!  
It really is a hard decision  
yours, A perplexed reader.

Dear Perplexed Reader,  
Please don't think of going on a diet for medical reasons. There is nothing wrong with being a cuddly shape. Being cuddly myself, I firmly believe it to be preferable to having body whose only protruberances are shoulder blades and sharp hip bones. I have heard it said that the ridiculous fashion which favours size 8 to 10 is due to the fashion houses being dominated by gay men who, naturally prefer boyish figures. So stay cuddly.  
You can get tights from Evans of Queen Street, Oxford who have tights for the fuller figure women who are not 6 foot tall. Nearer home, Sainsburys Store in Witney have "large size" 40" to 42" hips for height 5' 10" or "fuller size", for 42" to 52" hips and for height 5' 1" to 5' 8". I hope this helps.  
Good luck, Auntie Beam.

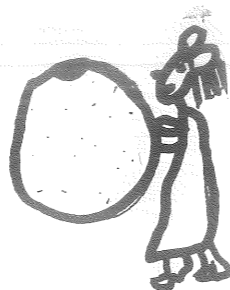
Madam,  
Can anyone tell me why "Folly View", is so-called? The nearest Folly of which I am aware is at Faringdon and that was not built until the inter-war years.  
Has one been knocked down?  
Simon Garrett.

Dear Simon Garrett,  
The occupants of Folly View say that they cannot see the Faringdon Folly even from their upstairs windows. They believe that the view is of Folly House which is down Moonraker Lane just beside the Folly View houses. They have been told that the house is called Folly House because only the front is made of stone, like a facade, while the back of the house is made of wood. If there are any other explanations, I would be interested to know them.  
Yours, Auntie Beam.

Auntie Beam would like to apologise to "On the verge of a nervous breakdown". Don't despair I shall have the answer for you in the next edition of The Beam. Unfortunately, the lady I needed to speak to at the Bampton Surgery was away and returns after our printing deadline.  
In the mean time the problem may have been "washed away".

## Bampton Primary School

Children in year 1 and year 2 have spent the summer term working on 'things that grow'. As part of a wide range of activities, the children re-told the traditional tale of the enormous turnip. Following this they wrote their own stories based on this traditional tale.



Jessica Day, Age 7

### The Enormous Turnip

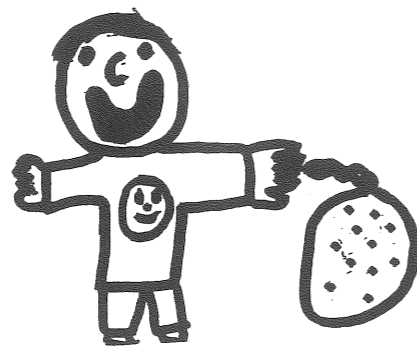
One day an old man planted a turnip in his garden and after about 10 days he had a little shoot and, would you believe it, after about 10 more days, it was huge!! The other turnips were just shoots. One day the old man wanted some turnip so he went in the garden and tried to pull it out, but he couldn't. He wiped his face and called his wife and she helped too. But still, even with double strength, it wouldn't come out. So she got a boy and they pulled and pulled, but still no turnip for lunch! They started to get hungry, very hungry indeed!! The boy got a girl, but it made no difference at all. The girl got a dog, the strongest in the village, and they pulled and pulled. But still the turnip wouldn't move, so the dog got a cat and they pulled and pulled. The cat got a mouse and at last the turnip came out. They went straight inside with their turnip and had it for lunch and there was plenty left for the next day and the next day!!

Ieuan List, Age 7

### The enormous Orange

I planted my seed and it grew into an enormous orange. In a couple of weeks it was very big so I got Charlotte to help me. At last the orange came out, but I couldn't have done it without Charlottes help. The day after that day I made orange juice. We had a tea party and it was fun. We had a good time. The orange juice lasted a long, long time.

Jessica Ritchie, Age 7



Simon Griffiths, Age 7

### The Enormous Turnip

Once upon a time there was a man who lived in his house. One day the man planted a seed. After a week the seed started to grow and it grew and it grew. Then the man tried to pull out the turnip but the turnip didn't come out. So the old man went to the old woman, but it still didn't come out. So the old woman went to the girl but again it didn't come out. So the girl went to the boy but that didn't help. The boy got the dog and the cat and eventually the turnip came out and they all had it for tea.

Robyn Williams, Age 7

### The Enormous Banana

I planted a seed and it grew into an enormous banana. I started to pull it up but it didn't come up. So I called my Mummy. Me and Mummy started to pull. But it didn't come up. So Mummy called my dog and we all started to pull, but it didn't come up. So my dog called my cat and we all pulled and pulled and pop out came the banana.

Kirsty Curtis, Age 6

## BAMPTON YOUTH



## CLUB NEWS

### BAMPTON ACTS ON TOUR

In the last edition we reported on Bampton Acts Drama Group. Since then they have taken their original performance 'And As For Me', about five young women's experiences of relationships, HIV, and Homosexuality, on tour.

Audiences at Chipping Norton Youth Centre, Banbury Youth Centre, The Mill Banbury and The Pegasus Oxford have enjoyed the humour and accessible style of the piece, whilst learning about the issues involved. After performances at Chipping Norton and Banbury Youth Centres informal workshops were also held by the group.

### AIDS AWARENESS - DID YOU KNOW?

1. You can't catch AIDS. You can catch the HIV virus which may or may not turn into AIDS.
2. Lesbians can only carry the HIV virus if they have had a heterosexual relationship.

### NEW POOL TABLE

We have a new 'pub style' pool table courtesy of a grant from the Divisional Youth Committee and a donation by The Bampton Gardening Club. The young people are over the moon with this addition to club. A game costs 20p to cover the upkeep of the table. We plan to invite other local clubs to BYC for pool tournaments.

### DIARY

Juniors (10-13) Activities Week 5th - 9th August

Last senior session before summer break is the 8th August which will be a Disco.

Club reopens beginning September.

### FAREWELL

Sadly I have to bid farewell to Bampton Youth Club and the local community as I'm going to Plymouth to further my professional training. I'm doing a one year Post-graduate Diploma in Youth and Community Work, starting in September.

I have really enjoyed my time as a worker and have been encouraged by the support of the local people. I'm sure that with your continued support Gary, Louisa and the new worker will build on the past two years. I'll take with me some special memories and will definitely stay in touch!

### BEFORE I GO...

As some of you already know I'm doing a sponsored cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats (over 900 miles in 2 weeks). Part of the money raised will go to the club. I'd like to thank those that have already sponsored me and if anyone else wishes to sponsor me please contact me on 702253.

Cheers  
Tracy x

# Arts Page

West Oxfordshire Arts Association, The Gallery, Town Hall,  
Bampton, Oxon, OX18 2JH - Tel: (01993) 850137

Opening hours during exhibitions are: Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am to 12-30pm  
and 2pm to 4pm; Sunday 2pm to 4pm

The Administrator is in the Gallery every Tuesday morning.

Membership fees - Single £12, Family £20, Student £5.



**SEPTEMBER**  
Wednesday 11th September  
The Lenthall Concerts  
The Adelaide Chamber Singers  
at Burford School, 7.30pm.  
For more details and tickets ring 01367  
860588

Sunday 15th September - Sunday 22nd September

## EXHIBITION OF WOAA'S SUMMER '96 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

for young people from 5 - 21 years of age.

Entry Forms at the Gallery or phone 01993 850137. Free entry for WOAA members

Deadline for entries - Friday 6th September

Saturday 14th September and Sunday 15th September

## View the Gallery on HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

England's popular "Open house" weekend.

Normal opening hours. Information about the building will be available.

Thursday 26th September

## WORDPLAY GROUP

The first meeting of the new session for the Literature Group.

Please bring along a favourite piece of writing on the subject of Summer  
8pm in The Gallery

It is proposed to start a creative writing group. If you are interested, please contact  
Margaret Bishop on 01993 850412

WOAA is investigating various ways of making the Gallery accessible to disabled people. Unfortunately the structure, age and grading of the building present problems. We are sorry that the stairs stop disabled people from enjoying the good things we have to offer the community.

## EXCITING NEW WORK-SHOPS

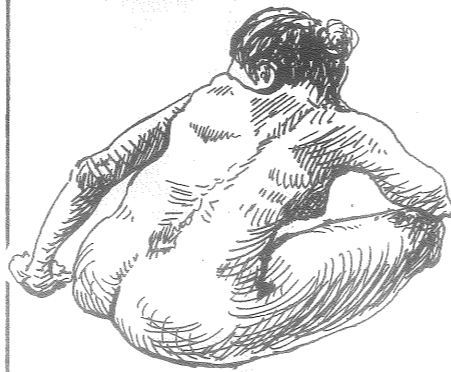
Programme for the Autumn, starting  
September

Details to be announced over the  
summer - keep an eye on the  
notice board in The Gallery!

## AUGUST LIFE CLASSES

Life drawing as usual on Monday mornings, but no classes on Wednesday evenings from 24th July.

Restart 4th September



## OCTOBER

Sun 6th Oct - Sun 20th Oct  
WOAA MEMBERS  
EXHIBITION  
GOOD PICTURES AT GOOD  
PRICES!!

## NOVEMBER

Sun 3rd Nov - Sunday 24th Nov  
VENICE REVISITED

Ann Manly and Dennis Harrison's  
eagerly awaited biennial exhibition

For more details, see the separate  
announcement.

## DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE  
Sunday 8th December  
In The Gallery

WOAA can enjoy reflected glory via Philip Hicks (a member of the central committee) who has had his picture "Sunlight and Shadow: Pietra Santa" hung (and sold) in this year's Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. Further, a solo exhibition of his most recent pictures "Pastures Present" was mounted in July at the David Messum Gallery, 8 Cork Street, London. This collection portrays fifty-six studies of sheep, the inspiration and models for which come from Bampton and the surrounding countryside. Although the exhibition ended on 20th July a number of Philip's pictures will continue to be on show at the Messum Gallery.

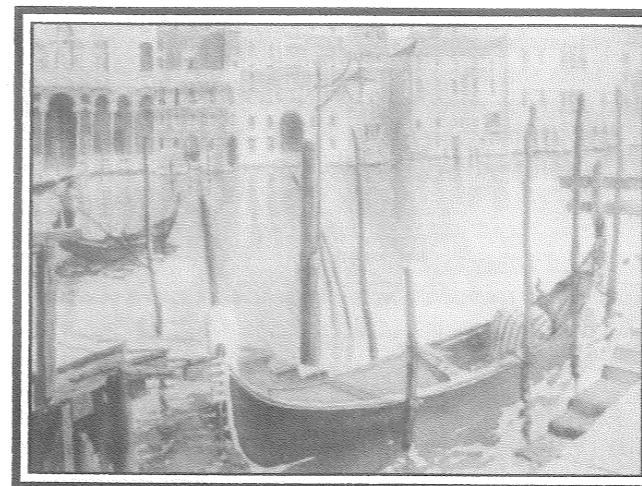
# NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd November - Sunday 24th November  
The Gallery, Town Hall, Bampton.

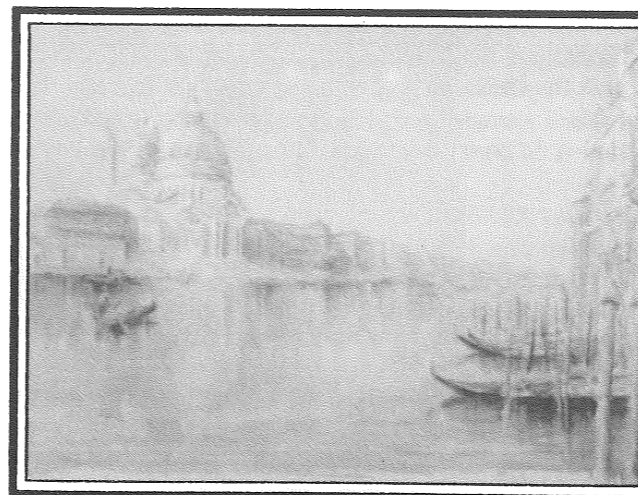


## VENICE REVISITED

Another chance to visit Venice through the eyes  
of our local Bampton artists



DENNIS HARRISON  
and  
ANN MANLY



Besides Venetian landscapes,  
there will also be paintings of the Cotswolds, the Lake District,  
France and Greece and flower studies.  
SPONSORED BY BURFORD GARDEN COMPANY

These two recipes were demonstrated at the Women's Institute meeting in June by Mrs Hiang Holtom. All the ingredients were bought from the shops in Bampton. Hiang comes from Sarawak in Malaysia, where these dishes are authentic of the area in which she grew up.

**Yellow bean sauce chicken with ginger & mixed seasonal vegetables**

- 1 small onion - sliced
- 1 garlic - crushed & chopped
- 2-3 sliced fresh ginger - cut into fine strips
- 2 chicken fillets - sliced into strips
- 1/2 carrot -
- 1 courgette -
- 1 celery stick -
- 1/2 red pepper -
- (all four vegetables cut into thin strips)
- 2 teaspoons soya sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon Chinese five spice powder
- 5 teaspoons yellow bean sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1 heaped teaspoon cornflour
- 7 fl. oz chicken stock
- salt, white pepper & fish sauce to taste

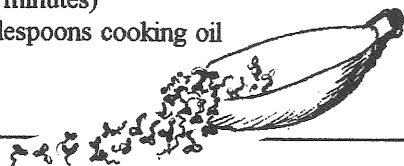
Marinate sliced chicken fillet with soya sauce, five spice powder, sesame oil and yellow bean sauce.

Heat wok or cooking pot, add the oil and fry the onion, garlic and ginger until lightly brown, then add the carrot, celery, courgette, red pepper and stir fry for 1-2 minutes.

Put in the marinated chicken. Stir fry with the mixed vegetables for 1-2 minutes. Pour in the chicken stock mixed with the cornflour. Bring the mixture to the boil. Turn off the heat; add salt, pepper and fish sauce to taste. Serve with steamed rice or noodles.

**Fried noodle with minced pork, leek and bean sprouts**

- 1 small onion - thinly sliced
- 1 garlic - crushed & chopped
- 1 spring onion - chopped
- 1 leek - shredded
- 1 packet bean sprouts
- 4-6 oz minced pork
- 1 pkt (250g) dried noodles
- (pour on boiling water and leave to stand for 5-6 minutes)
- 5-6 tablespoons cooking oil



In a hot wok or frying pan, saute the onion and garlic oil, add the minced pork and five spice powder, stir fry for 1 minute. Add the leek and stir fry until meat is cooked.

Then add the noodle and stir fry for 2-3 minutes. Add the bean sprouts, fish sauce, salt and pepper to taste, stir fry for minute. Sprinkle with chopped spring onion and serve.

**THE FOOD PAGE**

by Gilly French

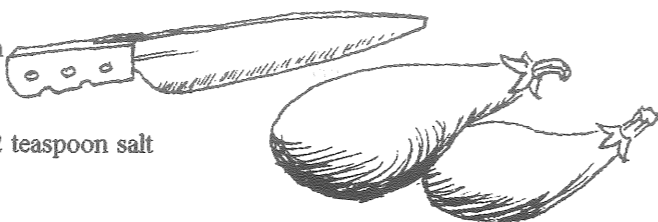
Recently, a colleague suggested in conversation that the reason that aubergines were so 'more-ish' was because they had an unusually high nicotine content. Unfortunately I can find no reference to it in any of my books on food science, although in passing I did discover some of the nasties that could happen to you from eating, eg, green potatoes or too many apple pips. But I digress.

I can't actually say that I find aubergines as tempting as does my friend, because they are usually either watery and tasteless, or absorb too much oil during cooking. The only way around this, as fast as I can see, is to salt the aubergines before cooking. Slice or dice the aubergine, put into a colander, cover with a heavy weight and leave for half an hour; a brown liquid will appear which should be washed off and the aubergines dried with kitchen paper or a clean tea towel. They are now ready to cook, minus their bitter juices, and will absorb far less oil as a result. Here are two favourite recipes.

**Catalan aubergine with cheese and honey (serves 6)**

This delicious recipe is from my favourite book, Paula Wolfert's World of Food, which I have mentioned before. It is based on a medieval dish. 1 cup = 8 fl. oz.

- 3 small aubergines, cut in half lengthwise
- 2/3 cup grated Gruyere
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan
- 1 whole egg, 1 egg yolk
- olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper, 1/2 teaspoon salt
- freshly grated nutmeg,
- 2 teaspoons honey.



Scoop out the aubergines, leaving thin shells. Cut the pulp into large chunks and cook, covered, in a large saucepan of boiling water over moderately high heat until soft, about 10 minutes. Drain and let pulp cool in a strainer. Meanwhile, sprinkle the aubergine shells with 1 teaspoon salt and let them drain for 20 minutes.

When the pulp is cool enough to handle, press out all moisture. Set aside 2 tablepoons of Gruyere; mix the remaining Gruyere and the Parmesan. Place the pulp, cheeses, egg, and egg yolk in a food processor and puree. Add pepper, nutmeg, salt and mix well. Preheat the oven to 425F/220C/gas7. Rinse and drain the aubergine shells and pat dry. Heat 1/4" of olive oil in an 8" pan. When hot, add 3 shells in a single layer and slowly fry, turning once, until they collapse and the attached pulp is tender (about 3 mins on each side). Be careful not to break the shells. Repeat with remaining shells.

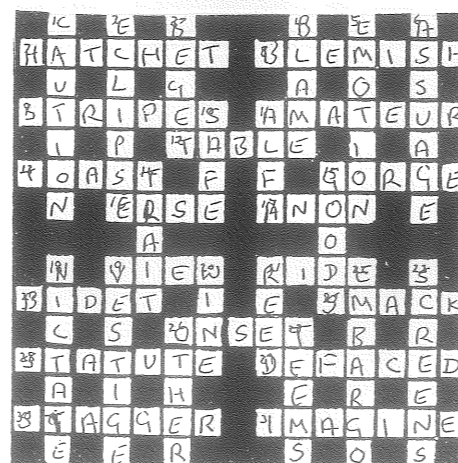
Arrange the shells in a baking dish in a single layer. Fill each with puree, sprinkle with the reserved Gruyere and drizzle a little honey over each. Bake for 20 minutes.

**Grilled aubergines (serves 4 as a side dish)**

- 1 large, fat aubergine
- olive oil, lemon juice, thyme

Top and tail the aubergine and discard the ends. Slice lengthwise and salt as described above. Rinse and pat dry after at least half an hour. Prepare a barbecue or ridged cast-iron grilling pan. Brush the slices in oil and grill each side for two minutes: distinct char lines should appear. Eat immediately or, better, marinade in a dressing made of 3 parts olive oil to 1 part lemon juice, salt, pepper and thyme.

**Solution to BEAM PRIZE CROSSWORD April 1996**



Thank you to all those who took part in the crossword. Unfortunately there can only be one winner, who is Mr David Tompkinson, 11 Ampney Orchard, Bampton.

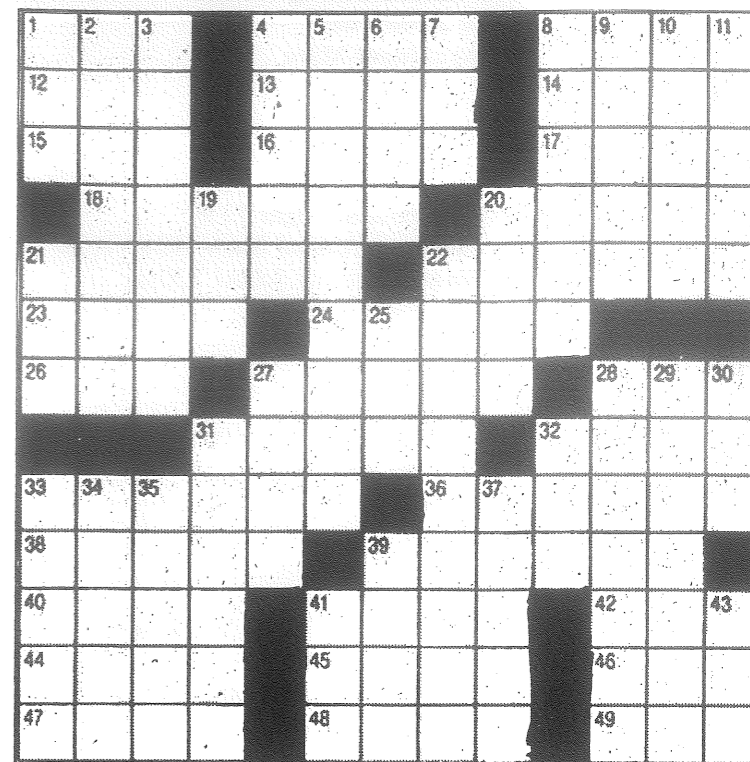
**LOST AND HOPEFULLY FOUND**



While sorting out the house, we came across a camera, which my mother found. It was left in the Village Hall, Morris Dancing Bank Holiday rather a long time ago.

If anyone recognises the family in this photograph, would they kindly let the Editor of The Beam know, via the Cotton Club. Then the camera can be returned to its rightful owners.

**THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD**



**Across**

- 1. Wager
- 4. Write on glass
- 8. Rind
- 12. Gorilla
- 13. -fly pie
- 14. Charter
- 15. Shirt accessory
- 16. Mailed
- 17. Soothing plant
- 18. Scoffs at
- 20. Towhead
- 21. Husky-voiced
- 22. Like evening clothes
- 23. Brink
- 24. Travels by jet
- 26. Small
- 27. -down, relaxed
- 28. Miscalculate
- 31. Zodiac sign
- 32. Thought
- 33. "Once in"
- 36. Not lax
- 38. Perch
- 39. High spirits
- 40. Skip over
- 41. Boxing match
- 42. Cold

**Down**

- 1. Halloween creature
- 2. Happening
- 3. Almost grown?
- 4. Hairpin curves
- 5. So
- 6. Swindle
- 7. Sultry
- 8. Oil-bearing rocks
- 9. Metric pounds
- 10. Golf clubs
- 11. Poor
- 19. Before
- 20. Raised horses
- 21. Chop
- 22. Extinct land animals
- 25. Carry
- 27. Basketball great Cham berlain
- 28. Copy or a newspaper

- 29. Use again
- 30. Squeal on
- 31. Scenes
- 32. Fury
- 33. Scent
- 34. Certain females
- 35. Raise
- 37. Novel's name
- 39. Aim
- 41. Spelling -
- 43. Sombre evergreen

The solution will be published in the December issue of the Beam. If you can't wait until then, send a s.a.e with your entry to The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bampton. Cash prize of £5 for the first correct puzzle pulled out of the hat on Thursday 31st October.

## Diary of Forthcoming Events

**AUGUST**

- 5th - 9th Bampton Youth Club **Activities Week**  
 10th Bampton Gardening Club **Coffee Morning** 10 - 12  
 15th 16th 17th **Bampton Annual Street Fair**  
 21st **SPAJERS Outing to Western-Super-Mare**  
 26th **SPAJERS Donkey Derby**  
 26th - 30th **Multisports Week**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 4th Bampton Gardening Club **Registration Night** 7 - 9  
 7th Bampton Gardening Club **Bampton Annual Show 1996** Village Hall  
 11th **The Adelaide Chamber Singers**, Burford School 7.30pm  
 14th - 15th **Heritage Open Days**

**OCTOBER**

- 3rd Cancer Research Campaign **Coffee Morning**  
 5th Bampton Recreation Groud **Promises Auction** 6pm  
 12th Bampton Gardening Club **Coffee Morning** 10 - 12  
 12th Bampton Pumpkin Club **Weigh-in**  
 17th - 27th **Abingdon Crafts Festival**

**NOVEMBER**

- 3rd - 24th Exhibition **Venice Revisited** The Gallery, Town Hall  
 9th Bampton Gardening Club **Coffee Morning** 10 - 12  
 10th **RBL Remembrance Day**, War Memorial, Market Square 10.45  
 20th Cancer Research Campaign **Xmas Bingo**

**DECEMBER**

- 7th Bampton Gardening Club **Christmas Bazaar** Village Hall 10 - 1pm  
 8th **Christmas Craft Sale**, The Gallery, Town Hall  
 20th Cancer Research Campaign **Country & Western Dance** Carterton

Please let us have your Notice Board (£1.50) and Diary (free) entries  
 before the next deadline - **31st October 1996**

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Contributions are always welcome at any time and should be sent to: **The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o Cotton Club, Bridge St, Bampton.**

**Deadline - 31st October 1996**

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

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

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