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# Bampton Beam

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Volume 32, Issue 2, July 2017



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## JULY



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## From the editor

# Bampton Beam

**Welcome to the Summer issue of the Beam.** A really short editorial from me as space is at a premium (excellent I hear you shout). I was very concerned to hear about the closure of Lavender Place Flats especially when I realised the ages of the residents and how much of a community it was. I can't imagine how stressful receiving an eviction notice is but I really hope that Cottsway Housing look after the residents as they have stated opposite..

During the last couple of months we have all been witness to the diversity of our society in the debates on the general election and I can't see a clearer

example of how a society should be judged than how we care for the elderly and venerable now brought into sharp focus in our own small community. It was planned that we would publish an interview in this issue with our MP Robert Courts but the Prime Minister decided to have an election instead. With luck our new MP will chat to us soon... Finally a message from Bampton's Postmaster - you may not be aware, but he has to travel from Reading every day, so if he happens to be a few minutes late in opening - have a little understanding!!

Enjoy your summer...

## St Mary's Church, Bampton – New Carillon

**For anyone living close to the St Mary's Church, or further afield with the wind in the right direction, you may have noticed some new tunes being played on the church bells. This is called a carillon, a system by which a tune is played by hammers striking the outside of the bells.**

Until about 12 years ago, there was an older mechanism in place. This played via a physical mechanism whereby the tune was triggered rather like a musical box, by a rotating drum with many tines. This dated from the early 1900s and gradually the tines broke, leading to notes being missed. Eventually, so many notes were missing that the tunes became unrecognisable and painful to listen to, especially as it played four times per day, and it was switched off. At the time, its replacement with a newer digital version was thought to be too expensive, there being other priorities for St Mary's church funds.

A former resident of Bampton has now generously donated, via a legacy, for the re-instatement of the carillon. Ian Smith, and his widow Pat, both former residents were particularly fond of the

carillon in its previous form. Ian sadly died after a short illness in late 2015. Due to some technical difficulties, it has taken some time for the new mechanism to be installed, but it is now up and running. There are a few adjustments still to come so you may hear some changes and episodes of testing over coming weeks.

The tunes will play at 9 am (other than on Sundays), and 5pm. Although it is possible to vary the tunes played, perhaps at different times of the year, the tunes currently scheduled are :

**Monday** – Abide with me

**Tuesday** – Love Divine

**Wednesday** – Breathe on me, breath of God

**Thursday** – How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

**Friday** – Fight the good fight

**Saturday** – Home sweet home

**Sunday** – O thou who camest from above

We hope you enjoy listening to the tunes and that they will become part of Bampton village life once again.

*Peter Grimmade*



**Deadline for all submissions  
in the next issue is  
October 27th 2017**

## Beam Information

### Editor

James Wildman  
editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk

### Contributors – July 2017

Di Bray, Don Rouse, Anna Pitt,  
Nicola Saward, Nicola Priestly,  
Robin Shuckburgh and  
Mark McArthur-Christie

### Advertising

James Wildman  
editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk

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### Contact details

Bampton Beam  
Dairy Farm House, Buckland Road,  
Bampton, Oxfordshire OX18 2AA  
Email: editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk

**www.bamptonbeam.co.uk**

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# Lavender Place Flats set for closure

Having received a letter and several phone calls about the eviction notice received by the residents of Lavender Place Flats the Beam approached Cottsway Housing for a formal response on what is going to be a very worrying time for its elderly residents.

## From the residents of Lavender Place Flats

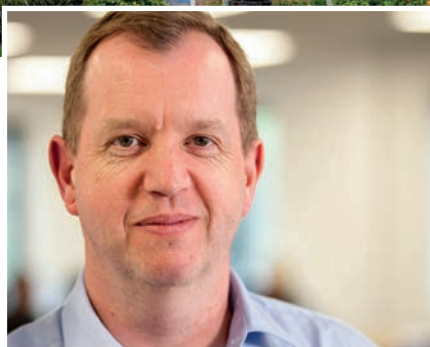
Dear Editor. The flats at Lavender Place in Bampton are social housing, a mixture of bedsits and one bedroom flats for the over 55's. They started life in 1969 as a warden controlled facility – now long gone with the advent of financial cuts and so called 'community care'. 15 people presently live in the flats – four in there eighties, three in there nineties, two almost housebound. One lady has lived there since it opened, another for twenty seven years – and so it goes on. People have a myriad of medical issues, one on his cancer journey and another battling loss of sight.

Over the years the flats have been a hub of social activity for the village – bingo, craft sales, fund raising for cancer research, knit and knatter etc. All of us who choose to gather for coffee and raffle mornings, tea in the afternoon, birthday celebrations, impromptu suppers etc. We provide support and companionship for each other. Most people thought they would see their days out here – alas this now seems not to be as Cottsway Housing have given us an 18 month eviction notice. We are shocked and dismayed by this and while we realize that none of what we say make any difference – we what to heard!

## Cottsway's Head of Housing Rob Hawkins, (pictured) explains the difficult decision to close Lavender Place and offers reassurance to the 15 residents and their families:

### What's the history of Lavender Place?

Lavender Place is a former council property. It was transferred to Cottsway Housing Association in 2001, along with the remainder of West Oxfordshire District Council's housing stock. Built in 1969, it is a mix of one bed flats, bedsits and a three bedroom house.



### Why has Cottsway decided to close the scheme?

Cottsway is fully committed to ensuring that it develops new properties in our area that meet the needs of older people. Our Older Person's Strategy sets out our approach to meeting the need for well designed, accessible housing. A review revealed that Lavender Place is unsuited to the modern needs and aspirations of older people and so the difficult decision was taken to close the scheme.

### What about the tenants living at Lavender Place, what happens to them?

We are working closely with the 15 tenants at Lavender Place, who have been assigned a Cottsway community welfare officer to work alongside them.

We fully understand the concerns that arise, when older people are asked to move and there are specialist staff at Cottsway, who are very experienced and will work to ensure residents have a smooth and

relatively stress free move to new homes.

All residents will be supported throughout the process, are entitled to financial compensation and will be given priority on the district housing list.

### How quickly will people be expected to move and what support will they get?

Our aim is that all residents will have moved by December 2018. We are providing residents with all the information they need about the changes, including a clear description of the support and compensation that they are entitled to.

Our community welfare officer will help each resident individually with their move. We can provide support based on the level of help that the resident says they need. We can help residents to find and view a new home, organise removals and arrange postal redirection. We can also help with carpets, curtains and decorating. A compensatory disturbance allowance covers the cost of this. We can also arrange a transfer of internet connection and the reconnection of utility services.

**Cottsway based in Witney, is the largest housing association in West Oxfordshire with over 8,000 customers. The association provides a range of housing in the area including Lavender Place, an independent living scheme for over 55s.**



## An unexpected inheritance

**Bampton resident Nicky Gottelier had known from about the age of 15 that she was a 5 times great niece of Jane Austen through her brother James.** When her father died in the early 1980s she inherited a tiny box containing a very plain turquoise ring and a letter. She put the ring in a drawer and more or less forgot about it. In 2012 she thought it would be interesting to get the ring valued, particularly as the 200th anniversary of Jane's death would be in 2017 and there seemed to be renewed interest in her life and books.

Nicky and her husband, en route to Paris, decided to call in at Sotheby's, in London to seek an appraisal. Having telephoned before going, they were politely told that our find was unlikely to be of any significant value! However, the ring was appraised with a value of between twenty and thirty thousand pounds, as the letter was proved to be genuine, from a close relative of Jane's which gave it authenticity.

Nicky wanted the ring to go to the Jane Austen Museum in Chawton in Hampshire but they were only prepared to offer a significantly smaller amount and so reluctantly she decided that it should go to auction in London.

On the day of the auction Nicky, her husband and two sons went to Sotheby's and as we sat in the auction room, all were stunned when the bidding opened at £50,000 !!! This increased rapidly with keen bidding via telephones from all over the world! It eventually sold for \$250,000 dollars to the American pop singer, Kelly Clarkson. Needless to say we were slightly stunned with this amount (she didn't get that amount !!) and they all needed a drink so went to a hotel and had a bottle of Champagne....to toast Great Aunt Jane!



Sadly Miss Clarkson was not allowed to keep her purchase as the then Minister of Culture, Ed Vaisey put an export ban on it, having consulted with the V and A Museum as it was considered to be a national treasure!

A fund was set up by the Jane Austen Museum to raise the sum to repay Kelly Clarkson and the required amount was achieved very quickly. She was very magnanimous but understandably disappointed that she had not been given any information that the ring might not be allowed to be exported. The ring is now on display at the Jane Austen Museum in Chawton. As a postscript Nicky was contacted early last year by Fox TV in the USA about a programme that they have been airing, called Unexpected Inheritances, and after much emailing it was decided that they would include her story and make a 1/2 hour programme. So at the end of last year ten people came to Bampton for a whole day and interviewed me at home and in the Vesey Room, and the half-hour programme was aired in the States a few months ago. Sadly it is not available to view here but, who knows, we may see it in the future !

## Autumn Archery Training Course



**Autumn Archery Training sessions begin Tuesday 5th September 2017, at 6 30pm at the Recreation Ground Bampton, and continue for the next 5 Tuesdays. Training, led by a fully qualified coach, is open to males and females aged 10 and over. The £80 fee includes the use of all equipment required. To book, or as spaces are limited, prebook for the Spring Training Sessions, contact Neil Holt on 07949 128494.**

## Going Green

By Anna Pitt

**In the three years I've worked as a Love Food Hate Waste Champion for Oxfordshire County Council, I've found that one of the most common food waste problems people have is knowing how much pasta or rice to cook.**



The recommended portion size for pasta for an adult is 100g of dried pasta per person. I use one of my camping mugs as a measure, which helps me cook the right amount. The suggested serving for rice is 75g (dry rice) per person, and I find this generous, so I cook 65g per person for my family.

If you do have rice and pasta left over, you can reheat it or use it cold the next day. The important thing is that you cool the rice or pasta quickly, either by spreading it into smaller portions or running it under cold water and draining it. Then refrigerate. If you are reheating, make sure you reheat it enough so that it is piping hot throughout. Stir it part way through cooking to make sure that heat is evenly distributed.

You can freeze rice and pasta too. Even if you have just a small amount of rice or pasta left, you could pop it into an ice cube tray in your freezer and then when it is frozen you can transfer the blocks into a freezer bag or tub. You can then use it to bulk out soups and give texture.

An easy way to measure out the right amount of spaghetti is to use coins. One person's recommended portion of spaghetti is the size of a one-penny coin and two people's spaghetti is the size of a two pence piece.

*Anna's book, Leftover Pie: 101 Ways to reduce your food waste will be available on Kindle from 8th July and in paperback from 8th September.*



## A new classroom at Bampton School

In January work started at Bampton CE Primary School and Nursery to build a new classroom. It has been a vision for Bampton CE Primary to be able to grow to become a single form entry school (this means a classroom for each year group) for some time.

**For a year the ABC fundraising committee, made up of enthusiastic parents and supported by many people in, or linked to, the village, set about raising the money to build a new classroom.**

In one year the committee raised £17,991 through fundraising events and the Buy-A-Brick appeal. News then broke of a building development off New Road and the Chair of Governors was proactive in negotiating and securing 106 funds for the school to supplement the growing fund in order to make this wish a reality.

Once the building development started the school requested the release of the 106 funds and the project could begin. Now five months later they are nearing completion and are busy organising the interior

purchases to establish this as a working classroom.

The classroom will be used for their year four children and will be first used on our "Shuffle Up" Day on Thursday 6th July. This is when the current year six children visit their secondary schools and new starters come and visit for the day. The rest of the children spend the day in their new classroom with the teacher who will be teaching them the following year. The classroom will then be fully used from September 2017.

The school would like to thank all those who have supported this vision, both practically and financially and worked with them to support it becoming a reality.

[www.bamptonprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.bamptonprimaryschool.org.uk)

## If you go down to the woods today...

**Summer is a brilliant time of year when the countryside bursts into life, and many would argue that woods are at their best. Here the Woodland Trust talks about its work to plant more trees, and why they need help protecting one of their sites in Witney.**

The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. Its vision is a country rich in native woodland, for the benefit for wildlife and people. The Trust also owns and looks after over 1,000 woods – covering an impressive 22,500 hectares of land.

One of the charity's main aims – alongside protecting and restoring ancient woodland – is planting trees and creating more woods. Woodland coverage in England currently stands at just 10%, and the Trust has already planted 32 million trees to combat this, but wants to plant a further 64 million by 2025. One of its bigger planting schemes was Woods on Your Doorstep (WOYD), where the Trust created 250 new community woods to mark the millennium. Although they were once bare, these sites are now home to trees that have grown into young woods. Shillbrook Wood, near Bampton, was a WOYD creation. The 9

acre site was planted by local people, with native species such as ash, willow and alder and was named after a stream that runs through a nearby village. They also created grassy routes around the wood, with views overlooking Bampton and Aston Church. It can be reached via a public footpath leading south from Bampton, and is well-loved by local dog walkers.

However, Shillbrook has recently suffered at the hands of fly tippers and anti-social behaviour. There have been campfires lit in recent months, and these have damaged the ground flora, and pose a wider risk to the wood itself. The Trust is appealing to anyone using the wood to report this sort of behaviour both by contacting [wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) and calling the local police on 101.

Philip Munro, assistant site manager for the Woodland Trust, said: "Shillbrook Wood is a great example of how the hard work of local people can create a wonderful resource for nearby communities and wildlife. We desperately want to make sure it is kept safe and welcoming for all, and need people to be vigilant in caring for it." To find out more, go to [woodlandtrust.org.uk/visit-woods](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/visit-woods).

## ...in brief

### Helen Grimwade

This October Helen will be heading out to Mwanza, Tanzania to volunteer for 6 weeks at the Forever Angels Baby Home. Helen is looking to raise £1000 and all money raised will go directly to this grass roots charity (not to pay for her trip!) £1000 will pay for...

- a months supply of milk for the Baby Home OR
- Two orphan babies & families to go through Maisha Matters program OR
- 6 months salary for a SEN carer OR
- 200 mosquito nets

If you would like to know more or donate please visit:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Grimwade](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Grimwade)

### Bampton Town FC

Bampton Town Youth FC are looking for new players for all age groups in the following teams for the 2017/2018 season. They are also looking for new coaches to help with teams, full CRC check will be given and any help with qualifications.

#### Team contacts –

U6's coach required  
U7's Des Walsh -07900412269  
U9's James Bryden 07713251058  
U11's Graham Wilson 07788107361  
U12's Nat O'Brien 07415788747  
U13's Chris Hickman 07880352638  
U14's Pete Illingworth 07818061119

### David Lloyd's Retirement

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our vicar David Lloyd at the end of September this year and his final service will be a combined Parish Eucharist in St Mary the Virgin, Bampton on Sunday, 24th September at 10.30 am.

On the day before, Saturday 23rd September, village residents will have the opportunity to say goodbye to David during an afternoon of activities and entertainment. This will take place at the pavilion on the Bampton recreation ground between 3.00 and 6.00 pm and we do hope you will put these two dates into your diary and come along to say farewell and thank you to David and Jenny.





## Update on the Old Grammar School

**As you will all know the Bampton Community Archive have been working extremely hard over the last few years to raise the money to help restore the Old Grammar School to its former 17th century glory.**

The more observant amongst you will have noticed the building swathed in scaffolding and gathered that the work has begun. The roof tiles are being removed, trimmed and replaced and the

work will be done by mid-July. All very exciting and when it's done I will write and tell you all about it, who has helped us in the project and where we go next. Meanwhile there is an amazing exhibition on the history of the Bampton Fire brigade, compiled by Tom Papworth, which is showing in the Vesey Room. Please do visit; it's a great insight into the vital role these brave people have played in the village over the decades.

Also visit the new Archive website to see the enormous improvements made over the last year by Janet Rouse, our digital archivist, with the help of Nik Stanbridge's computer wizardry. [atom.bamptonarchive.org/](http://atom.bamptonarchive.org/)

If you want to have a look at building progress look at: [www.thecotswoldexplorer.co.uk/downton-bampton-grammar-school/](http://www.thecotswoldexplorer.co.uk/downton-bampton-grammar-school/)

## Summer has arrived at Rosebank Care Home

The warm weather has arrived at Rosebank and they have all been making the most of their garden and getting out and about in Bampton.

**The residents enjoyed their annual trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park as well as stepping aboard the Rivertime for a gentle two-hour cruise from Swinford Toll Bridge.**

They also joined in with the Bampton bank holiday celebrations, particularly enjoying the traditional folk dancing and fish and chips!

Their garden at Rosebank is now filled with colour thanks to the hard work of our residents, sowing seeds and caring for young plants throughout the spring.

The recent general election was a strong talking point for many of the residents and they were very proud that they were able to help individuals to make their vote count at the local polling station.

Rosebank opened its doors to the community last month and brought the



seaside to Oxfordshire, at their popular annual summer fete.

Relatives, friends and members of the local community joined residents and staff for an afternoon of fun with entertainment and beach games for all ages and a raffle raising over £900 for the home's residents' fund. The seaside theme was

complemented by a punch and Judy show, traditional ice-cream and homemade lemonade, donkeys and live entertainment from the Wantage Male Voice Choir.

Local butcher Patrick Stainge fed hungry guests with a tasty BBQ and Bernard Jones filled the garden with an array of seaside tunes with his traditional organ playing.

Care Home owner Jane Roberts said: "It was so lovely to see so many people come and support our annual fete this year, creating a memorable afternoon for our residents.

"The theme was suggested at a residents meeting in December that we should bring the seaside to the home, so everyone had the opportunity to relive happy memories."



# Can we stop 'speculative development'

By Ted Fenton

At the time of writing we are a week away from the General Election, campaigning which overlapped with that of the County Council elections on 4 May.

**I am extremely grateful to be able to report that I was elected to represent Witney West and Bampton on the County Council and, of course, Martin Barrett and I continue to represent Bampton and Clanfield on West Oxfordshire District Council.**

Elections are extremely busy times, for candidates and for the officers at the Council who have to run them and they do rather dominate business whilst they are in progress and what can be reported because of the so-called purdah rules. However, some very important work has been continuing at WODC during the early part of May, namely the delayed second part of the examination of the 2031 Local Plan. The process is a complicated and involved one that has taken a great deal of time and effort to get this far. There is more than a touch of irony in the additional complication that the Planning Inspector, Mr Simon Emerson, who began the



**If the current plan is found to be "sound" by the inspector it should be adopted by WODC in the latter part of the year returning a much greater level of control to the Council**

examination has retired during the period whilst the examination was suspended and has been replaced by Mr Malcolm Rivett. The third and final stage of the examination will begin on Tuesday 11 July. Full and extensive details can be found on the West Oxfordshire District Council website.

I'm sure that most people are aware of the vital importance of this plan to the District but in a nutshell until it has been adopted by the Council we will continue to find it very difficult to resist planning applications put in by developers who

have less concern for preserving the character of our villages and towns than making money out of building wherever they can. Residents of Bampton are all too aware of the effect of such "speculative" development proposals. If the current plan is found to be "sound" by the inspector it should be adopted by WODC in the latter part of the year returning a much greater level of control to the Council as to how the need for housing is met.

## Lavender Place Flats

At the beginning of May there was a great deal of concern in the village when some details of Cottsway's plans for the redevelopment of the Lavender Place flats emerged. This concern was compounded as rumours spread. I have asked Cottsway for a meeting so that I can have a clear picture of what the plans are and they have agreed to this. Clearly there will be anxiety until everyone has some certainty and I will be arguing the case for residents when I have the meeting.

## The state of our roads

There has not been a great deal of time for any County Council business since the elections but I have already had the chance to bring up the roads; not only their state of repair but also the speed at which some motorists use them. More money has been committed to the Fix my Street website by which members of the public can report problems such as potholes. It does work but officers have asked me to point out that any photographs uploaded should not be too close they need to be able to recognise the place when all they have is a postcode which can cover quite a sizeable area. 📍







### CHURCHFIELDS CARE HOME

Pound Lane, Cassington,  
Oxford, OX29 4BN



### ROSEBANK CARE HOME

High Street, Bampton,  
Oxfordshire, OX18 2JR



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## Individual care for Individual people



## It's about housing, stupid!

By Richard McBrien

**The Parish Council is traditionally seen as the lowest - some might say lowliest - of governmental organisations.** But in the light of recent events higher up the chain, I think we can stand proud - at least we haven't made a complete shambles of our office. We have not been forced into bed with our rivals in Carterton or been photographed holding hands with an egocentric, trigger happy billionaire from Swindon.

So what have we been up to over the last few months? Mostly it has been the unglamorous business of keeping things going in the Parish. Whether it is trying to have potholes filled, moving the flagpole (thanks to Steve Radband and his helpers for doing this for us) or making sure the verges get cut, we have been diligently ticking off the little things that affect everyday life in a village.

The recreation ground is one of our larger responsibilities and continues to go from strength to strength. There is always a certain amount of vandalism and there have been some unofficial raves (those Bush Club members get everywhere). But both have been kept to a minimum thanks to added CCTV cameras and the vigilance of our Community Police Officer, Colin and very hardworking lengthswoman, Louise.

The Downton coaches continue to cause a problem - which is likely to increase with the announcement of a feature film. The Parish Council has invested in signs advising which roads are too narrow for coaches and this has had some success. However, it has also funneled those coaches which refuse to drop off in the Market Square and then use the Recreation Ground Car park to double park by the church. We are now considering installing more signs to prevent this, but don't really want a village full of nagging signs.

The Parish Council met with our new MP, Robert Courts and had what diplomats used to describe as a robust exchange of views. Mr Courts appeared to listen to our concerns (at least his assistants took copious notes) but it remains to be seen whether he is in a position to actually act on any of them.

One of the problems residents often complain about is not knowing what is going on (not generally, you understand - though we've all felt that on a Friday

night after the pub) but in terms of local decision making. They feel decisions are made and changes suddenly sprung on them with no warning. The Parish Council has been making efforts to improve its communication with the village but is aware it is not perfect. Printed minutes are posted on the official village notice board in the Market Square as well as being put on the website. Any suggestions of how to improve this further would be very welcome.

Which leaves the biggest threat to our village - and one that affects all aspects of our lives: housing. Or more specifically, unwanted speculative developments. Since 2013, we have had to accept 167 houses at New Road (currently being built), another 9 houses being approved on Station Road and most recently, a further 160 at Mount Owen Road. And there is more in the pipeline.

The scandal is, none of these sites was under consideration in the local plan. A plan that was democratically agreed and approved by our District Council.

How could this happen? How can a village like ours be transformed in just a few years? Against the wishes of the vast major of residents? Thanks to an oddity in current planning guidance. It's a dry but important point that in the absence of a Local Plan which identifies a 5 Year Land Supply for development, the Government has determined there must be a presumption to grant planning permission. It makes no difference if the development is wanted or needed. None at all. The only stipulation is whether new houses will cause 'substantial and demonstrable harm'. And the interpretation of that phrase lies with the local council - in our case WODC.

The Parish Council and local pressure groups made a very robust stand on this. We pointed out that Bampton took over a 1000 years to grow to a population of 2500. With the new developments, that is set to rise by over 40%. In just a few years. Surely that would cause 'substantial and demonstrable harm'? Not according to the developers - or, as it turned out, West Oxford District Council.

We strongly argued such rapid increase would put impossible strain on the school, the transport system, the sewage plant and the surgery. Not to mention the

increase risk of flooding. Would that count as 'substantial and demonstrable harm'? Apparently not.

At the meeting of the Lowlands Planning Committee to decide on the proposed 160 houses, most councillors appeared to be against the development. Many argued it was in the wrong place, at the wrong time and would likely overwhelm the village. But then they voted it in.

Why? Because the Council's Planning Officers - who are of course not elected but appointed - argued if permission was refused and the application went to appeal, the Council might very well lose. And that would cost them a considerable sum of (tax payers') money. It was a finely balanced argument but in the end the developers won (when do they not?) and we, who actually live here, lost.

In the end most of the WODC Councillors - albeit reluctantly and with the exception of the ones directly connected to the village - took the least risky option. They voted through a development which many of them had conceded is unwanted, unnecessary and undesirable. As a result our village will be changed. Forever.

Whose fault is this? Clearly it starts with any local landowner who stands to make millions and the speculative, absent developer who takes a percentage of those millions. But we have no control over those interests. The ones we do have influence over - and we hoped might support us - are our elected Councillors. The ones we voted in. The ones who assured us they would stand up for our interests. And then didn't. They had their reasons, of course, but unless we as a larger community stand up to developers - whatever the risk - we all stand to lose. Right across the county.

From the lowly status of the Parish Council this is very frustrating. Despite our best efforts, we could not stop two large developments. And we are very likely to face more applications in the near future. If we want to keep Bampton the thriving, beautiful place it currently is, we are going to have a fight on our hands - all of us. After all, if there is one thing we all know to be true, it's that once a village is destroyed it is destroyed forever. If we are not careful, the only reminder of how Bampton used to be will be a box set of Downton Abbey. Do we really want that? 🍷



# The School of Jealousy

**B**lasio suspects Ernestina. The Countess loves the Count. The Count fancies Ernestina. The Lieutenant meddles. Blasio pretends he fancies Lisetta. The Countess pretends she fancies the Lieutenant. Everyone fights. But they live happily ever after – perhaps.

In a nutshell, that's Bampton Classical Opera's *The School of Jealousy*, a cynical and witty comedy about marriage, desire and – well – jealousy! The composer is the great, if infamous, Antonio Salieri, and the performances in the beautiful Deanery Garden are on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 July at 7.00pm. In the late 18th century, this was one of the most popular operas across Europe but, as tastes changed, it fell out of circulation. In the past year it is suddenly back in favour, with new productions in Germany, Italy, Austria and Uruguay. The Bampton performances will be the first in this country since 1786. The music is fast and energetic, full of good tunes and invention. Mozart learned a trick or two from this opera and, if you like Mozart, you'll love this!

The atmosphere at BCO is idyllic and relaxed – bring a picnic and a garden chair, and enjoy one of the loveliest operatic experiences to be had anywhere. Last year the Times Literary Supplement declared that Bampton is “as delightful as country house opera can be” and the company is repeatedly praised and recommended by the UK's leading critics and on BBC Radio.

This year we welcome Anthony Kraus, from Opera North, to

conduct. Bampton employs some of the UK's most dynamic young professional singers, often catching them early in their careers and nurturing their remarkable talents. For example, a current production at the Glyndebourne Festival, *Hipermestra*, features a trio of Bampton tenors – Mark Wilde and Benjamin Hulett, who both sang several times here in the early 2000s, share the world-famous Glyndebourne stage with Alessandro Fisher, joint first-prizewinner of last year's prestigious Kathleen Ferrier competition, who makes his Bampton debut this summer in the role of the philandering Count.

The acoustic in the Deanery is excellent, so you can enjoy every word of the lively English translation. No wonder that loyal audiences return year after year, confident of a remarkable and special experience in a beautiful setting.

Tickets are selling fast – not surprisingly given our national reputation. Tickets from Anthony Hall at 1 Deanery Court, Broad Street OX18 2LY, tel 01993 851142, or online at [www.bamptonopera.org](http://www.bamptonopera.org). And, as always, there's a small quota of FREE tickets for Bampton residents who have not attended before and may not otherwise be able to afford them – please contact Anthony for details.

On Saturday 22 July there's also an afternoon concert of chamber music in St Mary's Church at 3pm (tickets at the door), and there are free pre-performance talks before both opera performances at 4.30pm. – *Jeremy Gray*



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Times Literary Supplement

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## Update by Lynne Pointer

**There was agreement on the Saturday morning of the Shirt race, as we were selling Draw Tickets, that it is only after you have retired from a position that everyone else realises all that you have done. And then three new people are employed to do the same job.**

This is certainly true in the SPAJERS committee. Our trusty Secretary of some 15 years, and committee member of over 20, Roger Snow has recently retired and we are finding out exactly how much he efficiently and quietly did for us and the village. Paperwork has increased over the last years, and of course Roger had a wide network of contacts and village knowledge to draw upon. So "Hats Off!" to you Roger and thanks for all you have done. Which of course also includes the lovely Marl, who like all SPAJER family and friends, cheerfully lent a hand when called upon.

Due to a bit of a mixup over bookings, we weren't able to hold the Quiz Night in April this year. Apologies to those who were ready and willing to answer questions on the great crested newt and the exact recipe for Sallmugundy (what do you mean "It's not in Delia!"). Normal service will be resumed next year, we already have the date booked.

### The Great Original Shirt Race

Once again a great success, with an astonishing array of Fancy Dress on show. Judging the Fancy Dress is not an enviable task, but Rev. David and Jenny Lloyd seem to have come through unscathed. We hope they have happy memories of the event, one of the many they will be involved in as they say Goodbye to us over the next few months.

It can't be the first time a bath tub has been used - I seem to remember Frank Hudson being involved with one a good few years ago, but I don't think he had a working shower in his. It may not have been the fastest entrant but it was certainly "Mean and Clean". One of the drivers, who was not able to negotiate our diversionary route with his particular vehicle, parked and then walked into the Market Square to see the show. He came back vowing to visit properly next year. Like a new American friend on the Monday, he was amazed at what we get up to in these parts.

Our diversionary routes work well but we shall be reviewing them, along with all aspects of the Shirt Race, to see if we can make things even better for all concerned.



We need to ensure that local folk have safe parking for vehicles and that through traffic can pass along easily. Better signage has helped, but we are always happy to hear of any suggestions that you have to improve things.

We are grateful to have had some extra stewards join us and to those who provide the drinks at the Watering Holes or "Drinks Stops."

Many, many thanks to all our Stewards who help with ensuring a safe and fun occasion for all, spectators as much as those actually running the race.

Many thanks to everyone who dropped something in the collecting tins, and to those shaking those collecting tins.

The valuable funds raised will go towards running the Summer Outing, which this year is on Wednesday August 30th. Members will receive an individual invitation nearer the time, but put the date in your diary now. We also hope to have enough funds to run a shorter December Shopping trip, as we have done in the past.

### The Donkey Derby

The Donkey Derby will be on Monday August 28th. this year; so save up your pennies, (and pounds). Many of the old favourites will be on offer (no I don't mean the committee members) and hopefully some new ones. As always any extra hands to put up and take down the stalls will be welcome. And if you are over 6 years old and under 8 stone (approx 50 kg) you might be lucky enough to get to be a jockey. Not many opportunities to ride a donkey these days, so make the most of it. People who choose to live in other parts of the country are always amazed at the variety of

things that go on in this village. Just seems normal to us.... It's worth it just to see the donkeys follow along in their line as they go back into their trailer for the journey home. And it is good to know that every year an animal inspector comes along to check that they are all happy, healthy and comfortable during their day with us, as they are at home on the sands at Weston Super Mare.

The Shirt Race, the Whit Monday Morris dancing, the Donkey Derby are all part of the many things that make Bampton such a good place to live. Please help us, especially you younger folk, to keep them alive. You don't have to be a Senior to Join the Spajers committee, and we would welcome any younger folk particularly. Not arduous and paperwork is kept to a minimum, as we share duties out as much as possible, (see above re Roger).

Speaking about Bampton being a good place to live, isn't it nice to have the carillon back at 9 am and 5 pm? Especially useful at 5 pm when you are out working in the garden; a reminder to tidy away the tools and begin to think about what to have for supper.

### Membership

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





## Comment

# Don Rouse

How are you coping with the so called modernisation of our local Banks? The problems that they cause to us senior citizens by their closure programmes are horrendous. Take HSBC. Bampton had a very friendly Branch that was so helpful with the staff going that extra bit to be of service to the Bampton community. So many people and organisations used it. The powers that be then decided to close it, so reluctantly we all had to go to Carterton which was upsetting and for those without transport was difficult to get to. I did find the staff at Carterton, every bit as friendly as those who worked in Bampton, so it wasn't too difficult to adapt. Now they've closed the Carterton Branch as well we have no alternative but to go to Witney which I find a 'bit of a bind'

Our Post Office at Bampton is very helpful and will handle cheques for us. They supply you with envelopes and send the cheques on at no cost. Yes I know that we have to move on and that Internet Banking is the modern thing but there are many pensioners who do not own a computer and are struggling to cope. I am not against progress, but I do find that things are moving a bit too fast.

I remember when I was young how we used to take the 'mickey' out of our old folk when they would start talking about "the good ol' days". Now I am obviously one of those 'old folk' as I am saying the same thing about the "good old days".

Let me give you an example. About thirty years ago. My wife was running a very successful Hotel and Restaurant at University Farm and where possible she always used local suppliers and would make a daily trip to Bampton for supplies. On Mondays after a busy weekend she obviously had need to go to the Bank, and the Butchers to collect fresh meat. 'Emmies' was our newsagent so we had an arrangement for them to deliver our newspapers to the Butchers on a daily basis. However on Mondays Patrick Strainge closed at midday, so if Mary couldn't get to Bampton in the morning before they closed she would telephone Patrick for him to take her order and the newspaper around to the Bank next door. In the afternoon she would go to the bank, carry out all her money transactions and leave the bank carrying her newspaper along with the meat and eggs that Patrick had taken round. I know it takes some believing, but that's how things were then. It was of course before those crazy P.C. fanatics took over our life. Can you imagine what the boffins in H.Q. would have made of the CCTV images that they would have seen from the Bank?

I love having new experiences. I was recently asked to do a presentation to the Annual Open Parish Council meeting on behalf of the Bampton Youth Support Fund. I was so impressed by all the reports from the different volunteer organisations that do so much work for the benefit of Bampton. It gave me a very warm feeling to think that there are so many Charitable organisations in Bampton to help the genuine needy. There was a disappointing 'down side' to the evening though, and that was that there were more people giving reports of their good work than there were people to hear about them. After all this was an Annual Public Meeting organised

by the Council, where residents could question those organisations that are there for the benefit of the community. Either there is great apathy in the Town or the people are very happy with what is being provided. I do hope that it is the latter.

Speaking of volunteers, what a brilliant group we now have in charge of our Youth Club. To raise funds, the leaders approached Carterton Lions for a giant Easter Egg similar to those that the Lions give to the Talbot and the Morris Clown to raise money for Charity. As their application was too late for the deadline; the Lions have to buy them in bulk, the Lions made up a decorative basket of eggs for the youth club to make use of as they wish. Using great initiative the club held a market stall outside the Talbot and turned the basket of eggs into a £260 profit. Brilliant!

Incidentally, thanks to the generosity of the customers at the Talbot £200 was raised for Asthma UK. Likewise the clientele of the Morris Clown raised £179 for the Air Ambulance. Though this year was the first year for three years that Bampton did not win the prize for the most money raised from the Easter Eggs. This year Carterton Social Club came first followed by the Talbot then the Morris Clown.

In all the Lions invested £335 in eggs and all their wonderful supporters turned that into an amazing £2,000 profit.

Can somebody please explain to me how the new houses that are being built in Bampton as 'affordable homes' are totally out of the reach of our youngsters. I have personally experienced a young first time buyer with over 50% deposit fail in his attempt to buy because the starting price is over the £250,000 mark where help can be obtained from the government.

In press reports when planning permission was granted, it was stated that a percentage of the houses were going to be affordable. Now to my way of thinking that means that those with limited capital, with help from the Government's 'help to buy' scheme, could indeed buy. Obviously this is not the case, so either I've got it wrong and I know that I am not alone, or the developers got planning permission on false pretences.

Why can't the Council go back to the 'good old days' days. Build houses for the people of Bampton, only this time don't sell them off? We lived up New Road for 6 Years and it gave us a good start in life.

In the last edition of the Beam I wrote about falling down in a pothole whilst carrying a bottle of wine for my wife. This time I am writing about something even more embarrassing. So many times I've written here about how dangerous it is to cross the road between the Town Hall and the Co-op and being the sort of person who always likes to help, I noticed a little old lady standing outside the Town Hall looking worriedly towards the Co-op as all the traffic was hurtling by, so I gently took her arm and helped her across the road. When I got to the other side, she said how kind I was and pointed out that I should not have bothered as she was waiting for her friend to come out of the Toilets before they got back onto the Coach to take them to Blenheim. She had no intention of crossing the road! ❖



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# A virtual boutique

Recently sitting with a friend in the sunshine - and after two glasses of wine - our talk of allotment gardening turned to interiors and she planted an idea in my mind.

She suggested that the empty shop on Rosemary Lane in Bampton would make an excellent interiors boutique. That if I opened a boutique there, then she would love to run it.

This seed could not have found more fertile ground and it seemed to me like she had had the most brilliant idea.

Sleepless nights followed as I mentally planned the interior, researched beautiful potential stock and dreamed of retail success.

The reality-check came from a little research in to how challenging it is to be an independent retailer. Together with an existing business and weekends with small children, that - for now at least - put an end to traditional shop-front dreams. But the idea didn't entirely fade.

In my work, it's been impossible to miss people's increased appreciation and value of items made by hand, with craft and artistic skill. I consider this is a happy side-effect of the dominance of digital media and communications. I can't read a press release or interiors magazine without the

repetition of the current buzz-word 'atelier' (a workshop or studio, especially one used by an artist or designer from the Old French astelle 'splinter of wood').

So instead of a traditional shop, I have launched a virtual 'Rosemary Lane' that exists online.

At least weekly I will seek out, purchase, photograph and showcase a coveted item sourced locally that demonstrates this hands-on value, perhaps a vintage treasure or a piece of work from an artist.

I would love for Beam readers to follow the project and send me ideas for who to

showcase or where to treasure hunt. My aim is to use items purchased or donated to raise money for a homeless charity. Find the project at [www.identityinteriordesign.co.uk](http://www.identityinteriordesign.co.uk) or on Instagram search for Rosemary Lane Bampton.



Nicola Priestly

Identity Interior Design Ltd

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



This year I am very pleased to be putting together an exhibition of the history of Bampton using a study of a selection of homes and the people that live in them today. From the oldest to the newest and spanning as many types of home as possible there will be tales of ghosts, social controversy and architectural merit. The exhibition will be held in the Vesey Room (next to the library) this September.

If you know that your house has an interesting history, or was part of an interesting period or event in Bampton's past please contact me and I would be pleased to talk to you. ☺



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I have my fingers crossed that this is going to be one of the best summers ever.

# Looking Good So Far...

On my final evening potter around the garden yesterday I spotted one or two things that brought out the familiar gardener's shout of "Look!" - and that would be the more positive of the two "Look" options, i.e. the "Look" that precedes "it's going to flower this year" as opposed to the "those b\*\*\*\*y slugs have had the tops off my Zinnias" version. My exclamation was because of the discovery of buds on both my Agapanthus pots. Now one of them has flowered before and its cultivar name is lost in the mists of time but the other pot is filled with Agapanthus "Arctic Star", potted up in May 2015 and yet to flower - exciting! Needless to say that the Agapanthus that I planted in the ground many moons ago has never flowered either and I don't think it ever will - completely my fault, too much room and too much shade, will I ever learn?

The Agapanthus came from Avon Bulbs, an excellent nursery for bulbs, corms and tubers of any kind. They're based in Somerset but have a good, straightforward website and high quality plants. At the same time as the Agapanthus I bought some Tulbaghia violacea 'Silver Lace'. This too is yet to flower but the foliage is a delicate silver green which arches nicely over the top of its terracotta pot and has an earthy, herby smell that I like so I'm willing to forgive it. When, and if, it flowers, they will be starry and violet on the top of slender, wiry stems and hopefully worth the wait.

Tulbaghia originate from South Africa and so can need some winter protection, but they do well in pots and are not huge so can easily be transported in and out of greenhouses or conservatories. There is a non-variegated version of T. violacea which is hardier and more willing. They need minimal water through the winter and then benefit from fresh compost in the spring and regular water through the summer - the classic requirement of soil that is 'moist but well drained'!

It is often the case that non-variegated options of plants do better - less delicate in many cases. One notable exception to the rule I've found is Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum x hybridum*). This, as those of you who grow it will know, can be a wonderful plant for a shady corner, looking beautiful planted alongside ferns and other shade lovers. It has tall arching stems with droplets of cream flowers in May. It does suffer from one problem however, Sawfly, or more specifically, the larvae of the Sawfly. They hatch out at a similar time to the flowers and, my goodness, how they love the leaves of *Polygonatum*. It reminds me of the human response to the arrival of the Asparagus season - on the menu everyday. However, loving *Polygonatum* but only having limited space, I opted for a smaller version -

*Polygonatum x hybridum* 'Striatum', which, as you might guess from the name, is variegated and much less popular with Sawfly larvae.

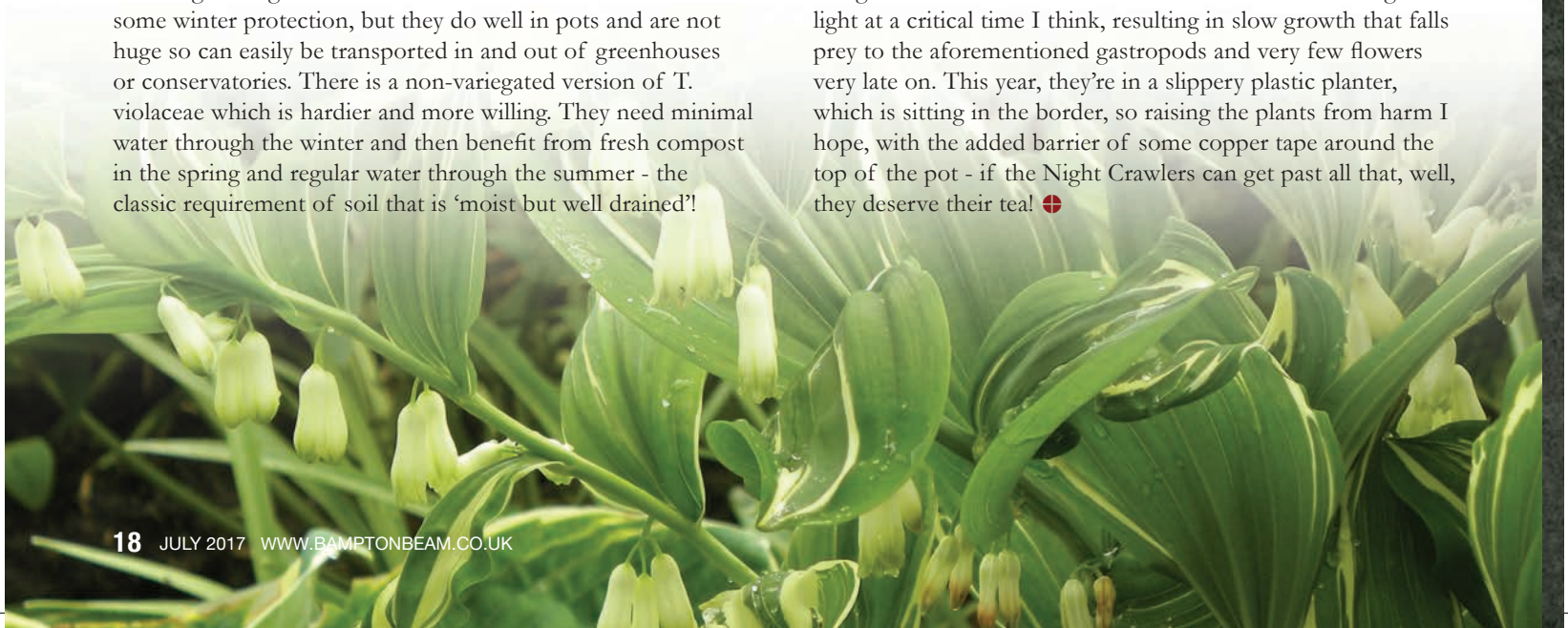
Sourcing less usual cultivars of garden favourites can be tricky sometimes. Another good nursery I've used in the past, and one that specialises in plants for shady places, is Long Acre Plants. Again based in Somerset, but also with a user-friendly website and some wonderful alternatives to the Garden Centre standards.

There were some other "Look!" moments last night - Dahlias planted out and all

doing well and my Sweet Peas have survived the slugs and are making their way up the sticks. I have a very poor track record with Sweet Peas. I try them almost every year - sometimes grown from seed, sometimes from plugs, but planting them straight into the borders never seems to work - not enough light at a critical time I think, resulting in slow growth that falls prey to the aforementioned gastropods and very few flowers very late on. This year, they're in a slippery plastic planter, which is sitting in the border, so raising the plants from harm I hope, with the added barrier of some copper tape around the top of the pot - if the Night Crawlers can get past all that, well, they deserve their tea! 🍵



Left: Sweet Pea 'Chance'  
Below: Tulbaghia violacea 'Silver Lace'







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# Gardening Club

**Bampton Gardening Club's Annual Show will be held on Saturday 26 August in Bampton Village Hall.** The schedule is printed opposite, and will be available for download on the Beam website and as hard copy at retailers throughout the village in July/August. Copies will be sent to all members.

**The show is open to all** – members and non-members, adults and children. Everyone is welcome. We have a children's section, but children are welcome to enter any of the other classes (entry for under 16s is free!). There are 78 classes to enter – not only for flowers and vegetables, but also for crafts and cooking. This year you can get your entry forms in before Show day – we will be taking entries on Thursday 24 August in the Town Hall (in the little room next to the Post Office) between 7 and 8.30 pm. Just fill in your form and bring it along. You can also enter on the day of the Show, as usual, between 9.00 and 11 am.

## Challenge cups

Due to increases in the costs of getting the cups engraved with winners' names we, reluctantly, have had to put up the entry costs. Your first entry will now cost £1.00, and subsequent entries will be charged at 30–50p each depending on whether you are a Club member. Again entry for under 16s is free! We look forward to seeing all your entries on 26 August.

## Coffee and craft morning dates – a reminder

21 October, 18 November, 9 December – all in Bampton Village Hall, 10 to noon.

## Rules

1. The show is open to members and non-members. Anyone may enter any class, irrespective of age.
2. Only one entry is allowed per entrant, per class.
3. Exhibits must be the property of the exhibitor, unless otherwise stated in the schedule, and must have been in their possession for at least 6 months (cooking classes excepted).
4. Any prize may be withheld or modified if exhibits are considered unworthy of the prize offered.
5. All exhibits are to be staged (venue: Bampton Village Hall) between 9.00 and 11 am on the morning of the show.
6. No exhibit may be removed after it has been staged until the cups have been presented.
7. While the Committee will take every care of the exhibits, it will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
8. Entry judged as 'most deserving effort' must not have been awarded a prize.

## List of Challenge Cups

### Cup

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

### Awarded for

Overall points  
Runner Up  
Garden Club Member with most points  
Best in Show  
Judges' Own Choice  
Most Deserving Effort in Show  
Class 1 – 4 Roses  
Class 2 – Single rose  
Class 7 – Sweet peas  
Class 8 – Carnations  
Class 11 – Cactus dahlia  
Class 14 – Decorative dahlia  
Class 15 – Gladioli  
Class 16 – 3 Chrysanthemums  
Class 17 – Chrysanthemums 1 specimen bloom  
Class 21 – Busy Lizzie  
Class 22 – Begonia  
Class 25 – Cucumbers  
Class 29 – Runner beans  
Class 41 – Vegetables on a tray  
Class 57 – 4" flower arrangement  
Section 2 – overall points  
Section 3 – overall points  
Section 5 – overall points  
Section 6 – overall points  
Sections 5 + 6 – overall points  
Class 77  
Class 78

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

**Entry forms for the Show will be taken on Thursday 24 August in the Town Hall 7–8.30 pm OR at Bampton Village Hall on Show Day (26 August 2017) between 9.00 am and 11 am**  
**Afternoon Opening 2.30 pm – Presentations 3.30 pm**

**Refreshments – Raffle – Entrance 50p**



# BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB

## SHOW SCHEDULE – 26 August 2017

### Section 1: GARDEN FLOWERS

1. Roses x 4
2. Roses single bloom x 1
3. Roses floribunda x 3
4. Marigolds x 5 any variety
5. Pansies x 5
6. Viola x 5
7. Sweet peas x 5, any colour
8. Carnations/dianthus x 3
9. Antirrhinums x 5, mixed colour
10. Any other flower x 5, any variety
11. Dahlia cactus bloom x 3
12. Dahlia pom-pom up to 52 mm x 3
13. Dahlia pom-pom over 52 mm x 3
14. Dahlia decorative x 3
15. Gladiolus spikes x 2
16. Chrysanthemums x 3, spray
17. Chrysanthemums specimen bloom x 1
18. Specimen bloom, any variety
19. Non-flowering plant in a pot, max 7"
20. Cactus in a pot, max 7"
21. Busy Lizzie in a pot, max 7"
22. Begonia in a pot, max 7"
23. Other flowering plant in a pot, max 7"

### Section 2: VEGETABLES

24. Radishes x 5, any variety
25. Cucumber, any variety with 1/4" stalk
26. Tomato x 5, cherry red or yellow with calyx
27. Tomato x 5, red or yellow with calyx
28. Courgette x 2, any variety
29. Runner beans x 5
30. French beans x 5
31. Beetroot x 3, with 3" tops
32. Carrots x 3, any variety 3" tops
33. Onions x 3, as grown with tops
34. Onions x 3, dressed
35. Shallots x 5, dressed
36. Cabbage, any variety with 2" stem
37. Potatoes white x 5, any variety, washed
38. Potatoes coloured x 5, any variety, washed
39. Table marrow, max 15"
40. Any other vegetable
41. Tray of vegetables, 5 varieties, 2 of each
42. Herbs x 6, 1 stem of each in vase

### Section 3: FRUIT

43. Raspberries x 5, with stalks on a plate
44. Rhubarb x 3, pulled sticks 1 1/2" trimmed leaf
45. Apples x 3, dessert
46. Apples x 3, cooking

47. Plums x 3, any variety
48. Pears x 3, any variety
49. Blackberries x 5, with stalks
50. Plate of any other fruit x 3

### Section 4: LONGEST & HEAVIEST VEGETABLES

51. Longest runner bean
52. Heaviest potato
53. Heaviest onion
54. Freak vegetable

### Section 5: FLOWER ARRANGING & CRAFT

55. Arrangement of flowers and foliage depicting 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'
56. Arrangement of flowers from your own garden
57. Arrangement of flowers not exceeding 4" in any direction
58. Water colour or oil – not signed
59. Pencil or charcoal sketch – not exceeding 12"x10" unmounted/not signed
60. Photograph coloured depicting 'Water' – not exceeding 12"x10" unmounted/not signed
61. Photograph black and white – any subject/not exceeding 12"x10" unmounted/not signed
62. Item of any stitchwork (knitting, sewing, etc.) – not to exceed 18" (not machined)/open to view
63. Poem entitled 'Cats' – no more than 10 lines/not signed
64. Any other craft – not furniture

### Section 6: COOKING & BEVERAGES

65. Victoria sponge 7"
66. Fruit cake 7"
67. Fruit scones x 5
68. Quiche
69. Decorated cup cakes x 5
70. Jar of jam
71. Jar of jelly
72. Jar of marmalade
73. Jar of chutney or pickle
74. Jar of any pickled vegetables
75. Bottle of homemade wine
76. Bottle of any other beverage

### Section 7: CHILDREN'S SECTION

77. Draw a picture of something seen in your garden – A4
78. Make a vegetable monster

**Get your entry forms in early - Early Bird entry  
24 August, Town Hall 7 – 8.30 pm**

## Entry form

**Entry fee: £1.00 first entry; for each subsequent entry (one item per class): Senior Citizens: 30p, Members: 30p, Non-members: 50p, Children (under 16): FREE**

**Name:**..... **Age (if under 16):**..... **Tel:**.....

**Ring classes entered:** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

**Total no. classes entered:**..... **Entry fee due:**..... **Member:** y / n..... **Exhibitor no.:**.....

**Please note, no additions to entries can be made once form has been entered**



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# This Sunday will be the 18th of June...

“So what?” comes the cry from Beam readers (at least, the younger ones). Some older Bamptonians may remember the day in 1962 when the axe fell on the Witney-Fairford line of the East Gloucestershire Railway and Bampton was, once more, marooned in the Bush. Cars were the answer. Everyone would have their own transport, so there was no longer any need for rural rail.

## Hindsight, anyone?

Now, as developers scramble to pack Bampton's countryside with as many hutches as they can squeeze profit from, we could do with the railway back again. Traffic on the A40 is moving so slowly that the County Council are rumoured to be considering parking meters. But there's not much chance of a resurrected railway.

And car pollution is back on the agenda. Specifically diesel pollution from private cars. Strangely, politicians seem to think this is different diesel than the stuff used in domestic heating, lorries, trains, buses and taxis. So they're wading in with a big tax stick. The diesel car on your drive is now worth around 30% less and the end result will be a shedload more cash for the Treasury and naff-all reduction in pollution. So you might be thinking about an electric car. And why not? They're green (at the point of use), they're cheap, there's no tax on them (yet) and, if you get the right one, they go like tar off a shiny chrome shovel. Your ever-dedicated Beam scribes have plans to test drive a Tesla for the next edition (we'll bear the hardship somehow) but what about the electricity? How do you plug your leccy car out here in the village in each night if, like many Bamptonians, your house was built before garages and you have no drive?

## We decided to investigate...

The easy and simple route would have been simply to run a wire from the house, across the pavement under one of those little plastic cable covers, to the road. But, even as thought formed, the sound of County Hall's offices filling with newly born Health & Safety kittens warned me off. I'd probably end up spending a stack of money on a new electric car only to find that the Council wouldn't let me charge it. Easy and simple is, after all, generally not the Council-approved way.

For once I decided to play by the rules. I just needed to find out what they were. But it'd be a cinch - right? After all, the Government are behind electric cars, so getting a charging point sorted should be as easy as picking up a parking fine in Oxford.

There are grants for electric car charging points as well as electric cars themselves. If you fancy a look - cars are here: [www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants](http://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants) and [www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles) for charging. If the links are too long, just type in “electric car grant” and ‘electric car charging grant’ to Google. But these aren't for on-street charging points, they're for off-street charging for people with drives.

That was no good to me, so I began by searching the County Council website (as the .gov website suggested I did) about how to get on-street charging points installed. There'd be a whole library of helpful information - right?

**Nope.** There was a slightly miserablist page that said unless I was driving at least 50,000 miles I should consider a small petrol or diesel car. Given an entry level Tesla will run for just 249 miles on a charge, 50k would take a while to drive. I also remembered when the council's transport supremo drove a V8 Jaguar, so this advice raised a wry smile and thoughts of Zil Lanes. The page went on to suggest I

contact a third party charging point installer for more information. It also advised that I lift share (anyone fancy sharing to Tower Bridge at 5am at short notice? Thought not), use a taxi, a bus or just not go anywhere. Back in the real world, I called the charging point installation firm. Once I mentioned I didn't have a driveway, they told me to talk to the Council.

## Round One to Kafka.

**But I was determined.** More Googling sent me to the Air Quality team at Oxford City Council. The very helpful officer there (no - seriously) said she wasn't able to help as (logically) Oxford City Council just look after the City not the county. But she sent me a page of useful links and wished me well.

Still no joy, so I tried our local team at West Oxfordshire District Council.

*“Hi - I'm trying to find a way to run an electric car out here in Bampton. My house doesn't have off-street parking, so I park on the road. Is there any way I can charge an electric car on-street?”* I sent a link from the .gov website about grants for local authorities to instal on-street charging points too, just to try to be helpful.

The reply from Woodgreen was courteous, but a little circular:

*“Thank you for your email, can I please ask you to forward the details through to Oxfordshire County Councils (sic) Highways department in the first instance?”*

**So I did. And waited for the reply.** In the meantime, WODC were still trying to help, and said they'd talk to the Parking Team to see if they could give me some advice. I couldn't work out why the Parking Team were the source of all wisdom on car charging points, but I am not wise in the ways of local government. So I did some more waiting. It seemed sensible as I had no desire to pick up a ticket for charging my leccy car. They didn't hang about with a reply - I heard back from them in seven days with:

*“Thank you for your enquiry relating to installation of an electrical vehicle charging point in Bampton. Whilst there are grants available West Oxfordshire District Council, (WODC) does not have the resource capacity at present to make the necessary arrangements and installation of a charge point”.*

WODC enforces the on-street parking regulations on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), this is where our remit stops in terms of being involved in activity on the highway.

As I understand the grant system, any local authority can apply for a grant however it is for 75% of the cost and the work needs to be carried out up front then the amount claimed back.

WODC would need to get permission from OCC as the highway authority. There would be an on-going cost/resource implication relating to insurance, who would be responsible for maintenance, who pays for the electricity and who has overall responsibility. It is unfortunate that OCC appear not to have the resource capacity to deal with this which is why I suspect your query was passed back to us.”

**I was right** - the Parking Team is actually the We Like Fining People Team. The officer who'd replied clearly wanted to help but was trying to claw her way out from a Sleeping Beauty-style thicket of red tape. And there my ideas, time and, bluntly, the will to live, ran out. I gave up on the idea of an electric car, simply because I have no idea how I can find a way to charge it legally and safely. I've tried to weave my way through the complexity created by the City, County and District councils and none of them appear to know - or won't tell me - how I can do it. In fact, they all think the other one is responsible. Instead, I've gone back to scanning AutoTrader for unsuitable V8 Jaguars. After all, if you can't beat 'em... 🍀

# Ye Old Swan - Radcot

“There is nothing, absolutely nothing, so much fun as messing about in boats” said Ratty to Moley in Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows*, but sitting in a delightful pub garden enjoying good food and drink watching people messing about in boats might be a close second. - *Nicola Saward*

**Y**e Old Swan at Radcot sits on the side of the Thames at Radcot Bridge which is thought to be the one of the oldest crossings dating from the 1200s. In addition to the 30 moorings owned by the pub there is a steady stream of

passing craft from narrowboats to canoes. The pub changed ownership in November 2016 and is now owned by Alan Watkins of microbrewery The Old Forge Brewery and has undergone a complete refurbishment both inside and out. Internally the original stonework has been exposed and some unused areas brought back into use. The traditional bar has large open fires at both ends and is decorated with an eclectic variety of “watery” ephemera including a canoe and a coracle hanging above the bar as well as vintage, and some quite rare, advertisements on the walls.

Other areas have wonderful open fire places, deep window reveals and flagstone floors and the whole area is garlanded with dried hops - very appropriate for a pub owned by a microbrewery.

**“The pub changed ownership in November 2016 and is now owned by Alan Watkins of microbrewery The Old Forge Brewery and has undergone a complete refurbishment both inside and out.”**

Externally the gardens have been transformed with the creation of decked or paved seating areas as well as seating scattered around the garden and beautiful planting under the canopy of some mature trees including a magnificent copper beech. Earlier this year the new owners created a BBQ area with family friendly BBQs held every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 8 pm. An outside bar is currently under construction due to be open for Radfest on Saturday 15 July.

We enjoyed a very good lunch, sampling one of the three Old Forge Brewery real ales on tap and choosing from a small but interesting menu supplemented by a daily specials board. My companion started with kale, tender stem broccoli and pea soup which was a vivid green and very tasty. I tried the mezze plate of

pitta bread, olives and a lovely lemony hummus. I chose one of my favourites for my main course and had home roasted ham, egg and chips. All tasty and the chips were perfect - crisp on the outside and fluffy on the inside. My companion had an unusual burger

comprising two Portobello mushrooms sandwiching slices of grilled goats cheese and served in a bun spread with hummus and served with onion rings and a mixed leaf salad. As he is a confirmed carnivore I was very surprised at his choice but he declared it delicious so I also had a bite and it was! Puds are of the traditional types including Bread and Butter pudding and Sticky Toffee pudding or alternatively a cheese platter. We could have opted for steaks, fish and chips



or lighter choices or a snack from the bar such as home pickled eggs. Friday’s evenings are “Fish and Fizz” - fish and chips for 2 and a bottle of Prosecco for £30 starting at 6.30pm. Sundays offer a traditional roast as well as the summer offering of a BBQ in the garden.

In addition to the moorings there are a number of pitches available for camping and caravans and these are very popular for events such as Radfest live music event on Saturday 15 July and the Vintage and Classic Vehicle and Engine gathering to be held on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 August but you don’t have to be attending one of these events to enjoy the idyllic surroundings. Later this year, probably in the winter when it is a little quieter, work will be carried to improve and resurface the camping area and the car park.

There is no doubt that this is a pub with wide appeal - from the family with small children who will appreciate the highchairs, children’s menu and the easily accessible and very clean loos including baby changing facilities - to the passing walkers and boaters looking for good value food and drink - to the locals wanting real ale on tap and a cheerful welcome. Well worth a visit whether it is a sunny summer Sunday for the BBQ or a chilly winter day when open fires and delicious hot food are needed. ☀



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Full and half days available-9am-1pm-£15 or 9am-5pm-£30-snacks, lunch/tea provided.



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# English wines forever?

It will have been hard for you to miss the fact that there has been something of a rise in the reputation of English wines over the last few years. You won't be alone if you have read that English sparkling wines are "beating the French at their own game" and that all the famous Champagne houses are stalking the rolling hills of West Sussex looking for land to buy, presumably to supplement their production of the real thing.

Far be it from me to be the one to pour cold water on this enthusiasm, but a little perspective might be a good idea.

Whilst even a sketchy trip around the valleys of the Chiltern Hills near Henley on Thames will give you the firm impression that England is turning into a version of Périgueux in Henley rather than the other way around, the fact is that our vine acreage is still pretty tiny. It's somewhere around 3500 acres, which is the same as New Zealand had in 1971, when Hugh Johnson, one of the greatest wine writers of the 20th Century, allocated just a tiny box at the bottom of the Australian page of his Wine Atlas to

a 40 word description of NZ wines. On an optimistic note, however, New Zealand now has over 30,000 acres under vines and their farming world has moved from a complete reliance on sheep, to the hugely successful production of wine: All in a single working lifetime.

There's a good reason why sparkling wine is taking the lead in English wine production. The acidity in grapes ripened under the less than satisfactory English sun can be an advantage to the production of fizz, whilst in still white wines it has a tendency to persuade the growers to make a less than dry wine, and too often they taste like a compromise. Add to that the fact that because of the scarcity of Cooperatives almost all English wines are made at the vineyard, a costly exercise, and you will see why they have rarely been perceived as value for money.

There is no doubt, however, that English fizz is improving all the time. Led by Dutch businessman Eric Hereema, who bought the established Nyetimber from Chicago-born Stuart and Sandy Moss in 2006, the ambition to make sparkling

wines that even the Champenoise have to take seriously has been realised. We now hear that the big grocers are looking at having their own-label English fizz, all of which is very encouraging.

It will take quite a lot more of a change of climate, however, before really great red and white still wines are produced in this country on a regular and reliable basis. Certainly there will be vintages with exceptional sunshine and all other conditions falling into place, such as no early frosts, when our brave vine growers will have a bumper year. Hopefully there will be just enough of these to keep up their moral and persuade them that the incredible grind and financial risk of making wine in England is still worth it.

Here are some wines available locally for you to try. I am pretty certain that if you haven't had an English wine for a while you will be very pleasantly surprised. 🍷

*You can now see Robin on YouTube as he delves into cookery, wine and local foodies, giving an insight into traditional village life and much, much more. Take a look at - The Cotswold Explorer*

## Nyetimber

**Classic Cuvée.**

**Price: £33.99**

**from the Oxford Wine Company.**

*(say Robin sent you and you may get a discount)*

Nyetimber was planted by Americans Stuart and Sandy Moss in 1988 and since then English sparkling wine production has never looked back. The couple were looking for a site that could rival Champagne, and they found it in the heart of West Sussex. Their vineyards have soil very similar to the Champagne region (predominantly chalk), and, believe it or not, the climate isn't massively different! Made from the same grapes as Champagne (Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier), Nyetimber is also made in exactly the same way. Now covering a staggering 438 acres, Nyetimber is the only UK sparkling wine producer that uses only estate grown fruit, thus maintaining



maximum quality control from vineyard to bottle. Today, Nyetimber leads the way in an area that is reaching global appreciation. Who said the English can't make wine?

## Furleigh Estate Rosé

**Price: £27.95**

**from the Oxford Wine Company**

A dry, refined wine with subtle fruit flavours of red berries - strawberry, raspberry and cranberry. There is a floral note of rosehip, and a citrusy acidity. 60% Chardonnay 35% Pinot Noir 5% Pinot Meunier. Furleigh Estate is set in the stunning Dorset countryside, just five miles from the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. Those dinosaurs who wandered this land millions of years ago have laid down their bones to make the perfect soil to grow world-class still and sparkling wines. The estate was established in 2005 when Ian and Rebecca Hansford purchased the farm and meticulously turned it into the world-class vineyard and winery it is today. The estate consists of 80 acres of rolling fields, lakes and woods set in an Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty. The vineyard has 22,000 vines each tended individually by the Furleigh Estate team. Varieties are mostly the Champagne varieties of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, but there are also some Bacchus and Rondo for the Furleigh still wines. The estate excels at sparkling wines made traditionally from Champagne grapes, all estate-grown. Its Classic Cuvée 2009 (the maiden vintage) won the International Wine Challenge English Trophy and Furleigh have won 10 medals at big London competitions.

## Chalk Valley

**English Sparkling Wine**

**Price: £14.99 from Aldi**

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A summer favourite of Riverford Cook Anna. Serve this salad at room temperature to enjoy the flavours at their best. Grilling the aubergines on a barbecue would be even better, heightening their smoky flavour.

Serves 8



## Grilled aubergine, feta, olive & mint salad



### INGREDIENTS

- about 6 tbsp pine nuts
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed to a paste
- 5 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 150–200ml extra virgin olive oil
- 3 aubergines, sliced lengthways 5mm thick
- approx. 160g feta, crumbled
- good handful of black olives, e.g. Kalamata, pitted and halved
- handful of basil leaves



### METHOD

1. Lightly toast the pine nuts in a dry frying pan, tossing them frequently, until golden.
2. Make a dressing by whisking the crushed garlic with the vinegar, olive oil and salt and pepper to taste. How much oil you need will depend on the strength of your balsamic vinegar, and personal taste. Go easy on the salt as

the feta and olives will all be a little salty anyway.

3. Heat a cast-iron griddle pan until very hot. Brush or rub the aubergines with some of the dressing (just enough to coat on both sides) and grill them in batches until they are soft to their centres and have nice grill marks, about 3–4 minutes on each side.
4. Assemble the salad by layering the aubergine with the pine nuts, feta and olives and drizzling the remaining dressing over as you go.
5. Finish by tearing or finely slicing the basil and mint leaves and scattering them over the top.

### Variation

You could also make this recipe with grilled courgette strips.

## Tomato & courgette pasta bowl

This is a light, one-pot dinner, where the taste of simply cooked vegetables shines through. If you can't find small pasta shapes, break spaghetti into small lengths. Serves 4

### METHOD

1. Heat 3 tablespoons of oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion and fry very gently, stirring now and then to stop it catching, for 10 minutes.
2. Add the garlic and stir for 2 minutes.
3. Add the tomato purée, tomatoes, courgettes and carrots and stir for 2 minutes.
4. Add the stock and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil. Add the pasta, reduce the heat and simmer for about 10 minutes, until the pasta is just tender.

5. Shred the basil leaves and stir them into the sauce, with half the Parmesan.
6. Check the seasoning and serve drizzled with a little extra virgin olive oil and sprinkled with the rest of the cheese.

### Variation

Swap the wheat pasta for some rice pasta or cooked beans, such as cannellini, to make a gluten-free version.



### INGREDIENTS

- sunflower or light olive oil, for frying
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 5–6 tomatoes, depending on size, skinned & diced
- 2 courgettes, cut into 2cm dice
- 2 carrots, cut into 2cm dice
- 1 litre chicken or good veg stock
- 200g small pasta shapes e.g. orzo, small conchiglie or macaroni
- handful of basil leaves



## 'Old Grammar School' News Page!

Things are happening at the Old Grammar School and to reflect this latest phase in the long history of service to Bampton people the three organisations that maintain and share this building will now share this page.



### Library News

Summer Reading Challenge - with special Bampton Activity on 17th August  
This year's Challenge theme is 'Animal Agents' with illustrations by Tony Ross. Be ready to enroll your child/grandchild on the 15th July so they have plenty of time to take up the challenge of reading 6 books

during the school holidays.

And there will be a special 'Summer Reading Challenge Activity' on Thursday 17th August in Bampton Library between 2.30 and 3.30 pm.

### Volunteering opportunities at the Library

Loraine has young 'D of E' Volunteers and Home Library Volunteers working with her at present. If you, or one of your family, would like to join them Loraine would be happy to hear from you. Especially if you would like to run/help with 'Rhymetime' the pre-school activity held on Tuesday mornings during term times. Or organise a 'Knit and Knatter Club', or indeed if you have any other ideas!

### 100 Club Winners

April winners: Kathryn Wannell £50, and Lizann Murray-Clarke and Susan Phillips both winning £15 and Peter Walsh and Pat Deverson £10 each.  
Support your library by taking one of our spare numbers!

### Donations

Daphne Gaydon's family kindly gave £150 to the Library 'for giving my Mum (who stopped reading at 97+) a great deal of pleasure over many years'.

### Who are we?

'Bampton Library Support' are 5 people who work to raise the £8,800 required annually to keep our library open. Contact Loraine Hall (Library Manager) on 01993 850076 or [bampton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bampton.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk) if you can spare some time to help. Donation cheques made payable to Bampton Library Support.

### Library Opening Times

**Monday:** 2.00 - 5.00 & 5.30 - 7.00

**Tuesday:** closed (except for 'Rhymetime' (term times) at 10.30am)

**Wednesday:** 10.00 - 12.30

**Thursday:** 2.00 - 5.00

**Friday:** Closed

**Saturday:** 10.00 - 12.30

## Bampton Exhibition Foundation

### The Bampton Exhibition Foundation, or BEF, is a local charity dating from 1906.

The Grammar School, built in 1640, finally closed its doors at the end of the 19th century, when the National School, now the Community Centre, was built in Church View. After a few years as a Parish Meeting Room, a charitable trust, the BEF, was created with the aims of maintaining the grammar school, and "promoting the education (including social and physical training) of young people under 25".

The upper room was used by the Guides and as a Working Men's club. Awards were made each year to Scholarship boys who went to Grammar School. However the building was not fully used and eventually became run down. The staircase to the unsafe upper floor was removed, and, due to the efforts of Major Colville in the early 60's, the building was improved and let to the County Library, and used for various

clinics. Now the BEF could pursue its aims of maintaining the building and providing bursaries and help to the young people of Bampton

Until this year the trustees have been concerned that the roof, last renewed in 1911, would soon require expensive work, and have been gradually building up the reserves to deal with this.

With the arrival of Downton Abbey and the work of the Bampton Archive and the income from the many tourists this has brought, the situation has changed. Bampton Archive would like to restore the upper floor of the Old Grammar School as a more permanent home than the Vesey Room; this required the restoration of the roof with insulation and other costs. BEF supported this aim and have made a contribution to the cost of restoring the roof, which is well under way.

This means that BEF will be able to

devote more money to the education of the under 25s, if applications increase.

In the past BEF have received few requests, although we have done all we can to make this fund known. We have helped with musical instruments, specialist work and leisure clothing and equipment, books for university reading lists, gap year travel for charitable causes, go cart racing costs, costs of the primary school Yenworthy week, quiet rooms for needy children, and other items. This shows that help is available for a wide range of needs, you just need to ask!

### Apply to the Trustee who administers the bursaries:

**Nigel Wallis, 2 Castle Mews, Bridge Street Bampton, OX18 2HA,  
email: [nigel.wallis@phonecoop.coop](mailto:nigel.wallis@phonecoop.coop)  
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# The future's bright The future's orange!!

It's been a great season for Bampton U12's - for many years of playing together in the Witney & District we finally entered the world of competitive football - placed in the 'A' league for our first season, the boys played against some of the best teams around. - *Chris Hickman*

**We started the adventure away at Bicester and managed to get a 2-1 win, a great start! A number of positive results saw us move up to to the top of the league!** However pre Christmas we hit a bad run, still playing well but results just not falling our way. The only way to get out of this rut was to keep playing the way we know how, passing, moving, high fast pressing football and the victories came. The final end of season league position of 3rd place was a great achievement for our debut competitive season!

While the league campaign was ongoing we also had the Cup competition running - our first round tie, away to Chipping Norton was a 5-2 win for us, second round Hook Norton another 5-2 win for us - then came the crunch match a home tie vs Tower Hill - always a tight game the Bampton boys were magnificent and we can away with a 2-1 win. We

were through to the semi finals!! Nerves were building! We were drawn to play Yarnton at home, a win will take us to the final of the cup!! we won 2-0 another great team performance - the final here we come - we play Bicester the team we beat on the opening day of the league season, confidence was high, but nerves were higher! The day came Carterton FC was the venue and a massive amount of support from parents, grandparents, friends and family - the biggest game the boys have played and the best amount of support you could wish for - it's like a European night at the famous Anfield - home of Liverpool FC. We go 1-0 down early on in the first half, we needed something and we got it - a smashing free kick from half way hits the cross bar and drops to our striker who stabbed the ball into the net - we were level 1-1 and so it stayed until full time, we enter extra time and despite a number of chances

just couldn't score that all important goal - so we end up in a penalty shootout - the worst way to lose and win a final - a best of 3 penalty shootout - I nominate our takers - we talk about placement, positioning and ensure the message gets to the boys that "we win together, we lose together".

We take the first penalty, keeper guesses the correct way and saves it! We have tears, the poor lad is upset and while consoling him I'm thinking, we can come back from this, we're the better team, we've played the better football we can come back I'm saying to myself ... we didn't... we lost 3-1.

Despite the defeat the boys are winners to me and to the army of supporters we had watching us and cheering us on! We played some exceptional football at times this season and is a great foundation to next season as we move to 11 v 11.

Photographs by James Wildman.co.uk









## Sport - Football

Bampton United Football Club (BUFC) is a local community run club. We play on Saturday afternoons at the sports ground and currently have two teams in the Witney and District league.

**Our first team finished the season in 4th place and will continue to play in division 1 next season. Our reserves team battled well and will start next season in division 4.**



### **WE NEED YOU!**

**We are looking to recruit players aged 16 years and over to join our reserves team. If you are interested in playing local, friendly football and want more details or wish to sign on please contact us on 07789 533870 or [bamptonunitedfc@hotmail.com](mailto:bamptonunitedfc@hotmail.com)**

### **Albert Radband 6-a-side tournament**

On Saturday 5th August we will be holding our annual 6-a-side tournament at Bampton Recreation Ground. There will be a BBQ and bar available on the day and we still have some spaces left for anyone interested in entering a team.

Teams can have a maximum of 9 players who must be aged 16 years and over. The entry fee is £30 per team and the winning team will receive a minimum £60 cash prize, medals and beers. Registration will begin at 9:15am and matches will start at 10am. If you are interested in entering a team please contact 07789 533870 or [bamptonunitedfc@hotmail.com](mailto:bamptonunitedfc@hotmail.com). Alternatively if you wish to volunteer on the day or offer services such as refereeing please get in touch!

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# West Ox Arts - Behind the scenes

By Diana Homer, Trustee

**Most of the time, the gallery has the air of a quiet refuge, far away from the bustle of everyday life, but then suddenly, everything changes. A new exhibition has to be set up, and the old one taken down ready for collection.**

This happens about once a month when the gallery becomes a hive of activity. Don't be put off coming up the stairs when this is going on, the shop never closes and you can get an idea of how much work goes into setting up an exhibition. You may find John Barnes, our indefatigable Chairman, up a step ladder taking down pictures and filling in holes, not to mention checking the lighting and dealing with any repair jobs. Augusta McLean, our part time Curator, and recent graduate from Brookes, will be overseeing the apparent chaos with her artistic flair. We find that young graduates bring in fresh ideas and new artists to exhibit, but by paying them a pittance, we run the risk that they will leave us to further their careers elsewhere. However, we hope to keep them long enough to bring the YBA's to Bampton.

In addition to the Curator we have a part time administrator, Fiona West, who comes in on a Wednesday. Fiona makes exquisite silver jewelry, which is for sale in the shop. With two part time employees we, the Trustees, make up the rest of the opening hours together with volunteers. Without our loyal volunteers, we could not operate. We are also helped by grants from local community projects, such as the community shop, the Parish Council and of course the Birkhead Trust. We are very fortunate to be at the centre of this thriving community of Bampton.

At West Ox Arts we are always looking for new challenges whilst continuing to improve our regular workshops and social activities. Regular drop in sessions are held and organized by our hard working Trustees, Kathy Philson and Tricia Waples. The Still Life and Arts and Craft Groups meet regularly, not to mention Monday morning and Wednesday evening life drawing sessions, which are also run by our members. We hold evening talks with refreshments, including the odd glass



## As a charity, involvement in charitable events is high on our list of priorities

of wine! (non-members welcome) This makes for a pleasant sociable evening. We are always interested in hearing from our members, or anyone considering joining us, and welcome any suggestions regarding the programme of events we organize. We have recently expanded into the marketing arena with Sue Turner organizing a survey on line: the survey was completed by a large proportion of our members and gave us a good consensus regarding future planning and events. When Pip Shuckburgh has forgotten what hard work it was, we hope she will repeat her very successful Pop Up Oil Painting Class for Beginners. This was

open to members of the public, but of course they didn't get the members discount!

As a charity, involvement in charitable events is high on our list of priorities; in June we collaborated with Heartsone Arts who organized an exhibition in aid of The Heartstone Fund. This fund was set up to help young artists to make the transition to professional status through mentoring, teaching, funding materials and studio space. The exhibition included sculpture, paintings, drawing and prints, as seen in the before and after photographs of the Gallery. Apart from being held here, it included a garden exhibition held at the homes of our members, Angie Bell and our chairman John.

Sometimes there are hiccups in our programme with artists pulling out at the last minute. (Fortunately this doesn't happen very often!) Quick thinking and a change of direction are required at these moments. It is not easy finding an artist, or group of artists, to fill the gallery at short notice. Most artists are fully committed to selling their work through all the media now available as well as local galleries. It makes it difficult for an artist to keep enough work in hand to manage a solo exhibition. However, this is where contacts, in all areas of the arts, helps to keep the gallery a going concern. The shop is always

stocked with members' work, original pieces of jewelry, ceramics, woodwork, scarves and much, much more. Art in all its form is represented here. Talent is abundant and if you need a gift for a special occasion come up and see what original pieces are available at a reasonable cost. In August we have a Contemporary Craft Exhibition with unique works for sale. Do come up and enjoy the exhibition even if you don't want to buy anything. Crafts people, like all artists, welcome those who respect their work and appreciate the time and skill involved in the making. We sometimes have talks and demonstrations by the artists themselves and it is a very enlightening and enjoyable experience. As you can see, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes. As in most areas of expertise, the easier it looks the more difficult it is to achieve! ♦



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# Get involved in your local youth club



## Easter fundraiser

**On Saturday 8th April we held our annual Easter cake and book sale and raffle. This was an incredibly successful event and we raised £260 for the club.**

We would like to say thank you to everyone in Bampton that supported us through stopping and buying items on the day, making cakes and donating prizes. Also, to the Talbot for allowing us to hold the event, to all of our volunteers who made the day possible and our parents who contributed to the event.

Finally, a big thank you to the Carterton Lions who donated a fantastic Easter basket for our first raffle prize, Chapters Hair Design for their voucher and Patrick Strainge Butchers for their cheese board.



## Our Aim

Bampton Youth Club operates from the local community centre on Wednesday evenings (term time only.) We aim to create a welcoming, safe and friendly environment for young people to grow in to young adults. We look at tackling issues facing the youth of today and are hoping to provide future workshops focused on everyday life that young people do not always get the opportunity to learn about e.g. savings, voting and taxes. These will run alongside our weekly session activities of arts and sports.

## Sessions

- Our junior group for ages 8 – 11 years runs from 6:15pm – 7:15pm
- Our senior group for ages in secondary school runs from 7:30pm – 8:30pm

**If you are interested in becoming a member come along to a session or contact us on the details below.**

## Volunteering

We are always looking for extra help, particularly now with running two sessions. Duties could include help with setting up and packing away, running tuck shop, supervising sessions or providing activities. You would also get to

work as part of a great welcoming team. If this is something you may be interested in or would like to enquire more please contact:

Isobel on 07789533870 or [bampton\\_youth\\_club\\_1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bampton_youth_club_1@hotmail.co.uk)

Alternatively, you may wish to help to gain some experience to put on your CV, become involved with your local community or need to do work experience for a college course or Duke of Edinburgh award. If so please contact on the details above.





# Daphne Violet Gaydon

21st July 1918 – 4th January 2017

Written by: Graham John Burton (son in law) & William David Gaydon (son)

**Daphne Gaydon lived in the village of Bampton for 37 years until she died at home aged 98. She made many friends in the village and was very much loved and respected. She will be remembered for her kindness and her varied and much valued contribution to village life.**

She was born in Worthing as the first WW was drawing to its close. She had an elder sister, Constance whom she saw very little during childhood because of the circumstances of the family but to whom she became close in later life.

Her father came from a military family, and her grandfather was a Brigadier General in the Grenadier Guards and fought in the second Boer War. Daphne's father however became an invalid on account of what she describes as an unsuccessful operation. She carried a lot of sadness because of her father's invalidity. He died in c1936 when Daphne was only 17.

Her mother, who she remembers as small and pretty, came from a Norfolk farming background. She was always busy looking after the home and garden and seeing to the needs of her invalid husband.

Daphne's school years were a mix of learning and extended home time due to having to support her mother as she cared for her invalid father. Daphne sought various employments including retail work in London. She then decided to join the Wrens; the female branch of the Royal Navy. Her first posting was to a meteorological office at Lee-on-Solent. The commanding officer greeted her with "You've got your School Certificate of course so let's get on". Mum says she didn't see any reason to tell him that she hadn't passed it! Mum never looked back. She caught the eye of a young lieutenant in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve called Alan Gaydon.

After two years they married in August 1942 at Burgess Hill, Sussex. Their honeymoon was one night at the Ritz Hotel in London and a few days on a boat on the River Thames. She says they were happy but had nothing in the bank!!

For their first five years they had to be apart for a lot of the time. Alan was involved in the war against Japan and his responsibilities in mine sweeping continued until 1946

Their first house was a remote cottage by a river at Hanham, near Bristol. Gillian was born here in the middle of a freezing winter January 2nd 1947. Andrew was born in 1948 and then William in 1951. In between the family moved to Keynsham in 1949. No doubt these three children fought and squabbled like siblings do, but their mother was convinced.

Daphne has been heard to say that she did not do anything special with her life. It is true after the second WW she did not 'go out' to work. Instead she 'stayed in' and did an amazing amount of highly skilled work.

First of all, she was a brilliant seamstress who made all her children's clothes. She also made children's soft toys. She was a very good cook always wanting to learn new recipes and she was a very successful gardener growing all her own fruit and veg with plenty to spare for others.

She was always willing to learn new skills. This is well

illustrated by the remarkable way in which at the age of 90 she started to become computer literate and she learnt how to email! During the 1970's her children got married and she and Alan did some travelling. Their longest journey was to New Zealand where they stayed seven months. Visiting New Zealand was definitely a highlight for them both. Together they also visited Norway, The Netherlands, Thailand, South Africa, Australia and a number of trips to Canada.

By the beginning of the 1980s they were already settled in Bampton. Throughout her time in the village she and Alan were faithful members of St Mary's church; both became active members of Burford Golf Club and they played Bridge.

In August 1992 Daphne and Alan celebrated their Golden Wedding. In 2002 they reached their Diamond Wedding. When Alan died they had been married nearly 69 years. Recently in the weeks before she died she said more than once, "I've had a good life".

After their diamond wedding, Alan began to suffer memory loss and he was in time diagnosed with Alzheimer's. These next few years were not at all easy for Daphne. However, she patiently and carefully looked after him until her family managed to release her from thinking that there was no alternative. She frequently visited Alan in his Care Home in Farrington until he died in 2011.

By late autumn 2016 she began to show signs of having had enough. She 'took to her bed' at around that time. However, on 5th December she fell and broke her hip and for the next three and a half weeks she was first in the John Radcliff Hospital in Oxford and then Witney Community Hospital.

She was so grateful to all the nurses at both hospitals for all their love and care and they for their part all thought she was a very special lady. During the month of December Gillian, Andrew and William all played their part in caring for their mother. Andrew came from Canada; William with his wife Kristine spent Christmas and New Year with her and prepared the house for her to come out of hospital. So she was able to come back home.

Gillian celebrated her 70th birthday on 2nd Jan with her mother who sat up to the table with the rest of us. On 3rd it was clear that she had pneumonia. The concern was that she should be as comfortable as possible. So she was given some medication and we prayed that she would have a good night. She woke in the morning saying that she had had a good night but her condition worsened during the day and by 10 15 pm it was evident that the end was near. At 10 30 pm Wednesday 4th January 2017 she left us and we thanked God for her and the memories she has left us with. 🍀







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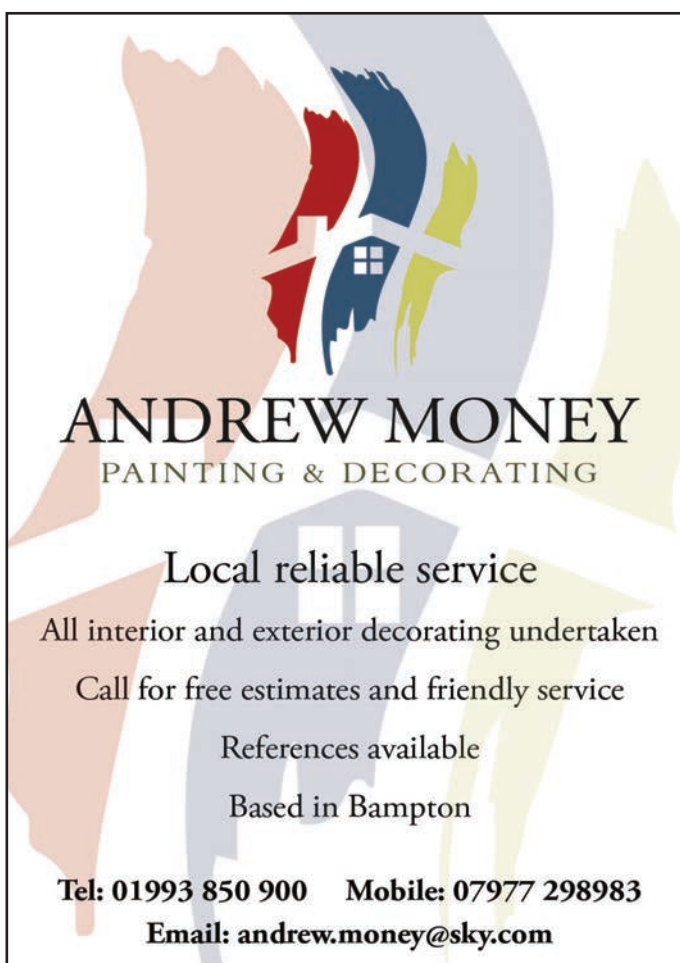
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# Useful Information

## St Mary's Church

Revd David Lloyd Tel: 01993 851222  
www.bamptonchurch.org.uk

## The Methodist Church

Bridge Street Bampton  
Services 11.00 am Sundays  
Rev. Fred Ireland  
Tel. 01993 867301

## Catholic Congregation

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

## Bampton Library

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

## Opening Hours

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

## Bampton School

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

## Post Office

Bampton Town Hall, Market Square,  
Tel: 01993 851968

## Carterton Police Station

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

## Police non essential call 101

## Bampton Medical Practice

Tel: 01993 850257  
Out of hours call: 0845 3458995

The surgery is open at the following times

Monday:	8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Tuesday:	8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Wednesday:	8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Thursday:	8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Friday:	8.15 am to 6.30 pm
Weekend:	Closed

Reception is open from 8.30 am  
until 6.30 pm

## Bampton Pharmacy

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

## Carterton Health Centre

Tel: 01993 841718

## Witney Hospital

Tel: 01865 904222  
Open 10.00am – 10.30 pm daily  
Last patient seen at 10.00 pm

## Local hospitals

### • John Radcliffe Hospital

Tel: 01865 741166  
Headley Way, Headington, Oxford

### • Churchill Hospital:

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

### • Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre:

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

### • Horton General Hospital:

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

## Environment Agency

Floodline Tel: 0845 988118  
Emergency Tel: 0800 807060

**Thames Water** Tel: 08459 200800

**Citizens Advice** Tel: 08444 111444

Email: [bureau@wocab.org.uk](mailto:bureau@wocab.org.uk)

## West Oxfordshire District Council

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

## Recycling centre

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

## Oxford County Council

General enquiries Tel: 01865 815 573  
Highways Tel: 08453 101111  
Faulty street lights Tel: 0800 317 802

## Dial a ride service

For information Tel: 0845 310 1111  
Email: [oxdar@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:oxdar@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Member of Parliament

Robert Courts  
Tel: 0207 219 5638  
[robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk)

## District councillors

M Barrett Tel: 01993 202 561  
T Fenton Tel: 01993 852 082

## Bampton Parish Council

Tel: 01993 851870  
[clerk@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Sports Clubs

### Bampton Archery Club

Jeff Dando 01993 850643

### Bampton Badminton Club

Marlene Snow Tel: 01993 850113

### Windrush Amateur Boxing Club

Tel: 07887 403401 / 01993 851156

### Bampton Cricket Club

Seniors Tel: 07778 578875  
Juniors Tel: 01993 850939

## Bampton Town Football Club

Tel: 07789 533870

## Bampton Social Netball

Tel: 07780 761822

## Bampton Tennis Club

[bamptontennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bamptontennis@hotmail.co.uk)

## Bampton Weightlifting Club

Tel: 07855 146949

## Societies

### Bampton Community Archive

Tel: 01993 850947

**Bell Ringers** Tel: 01993 850214

### Bampton Library Events Support Team

Tel: 01993 850076

### Bampton Historical Society

Tel: 01367 810245

### Slow Living Society

Tel: 01993 850479

### Society for the Protection of Bampton

Tel: 01993 850293

## Clubs

### Bampton Baby and Toddler Club

Tel: 01993 852438

### Bampton Bridge Club

Tel: 01993 842126

### Bampton Bush Club

Tel: 01993 850479 / 01993 851837

### Bampton Gardening Club

Tel: 01993 851913

### Bampton Ladies Group

Tel: 01993 851913

### Bampton Theatre Club

Tel: 01993 851123

### Bampton Youth Club

Tel: 01993 851156

### Scottish Country Dancing

Tel: 01993 845043

## Charities

### Cancer Research

[m.cleaver606@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.cleaver606@hotmail.co.uk)

### Friends of Bampton School (FOBS)

Tel: 01993 850772

### Royal British Legion

Tel: 01993 210160

**SPAJERS** Tel: 01993 850760

### The Bampton Exhibition Foundation

Tel: 01993 850167

### The Bampton Welfare Trust

Tel: 01993 850314 / 01993 850589

### Bampton Zimbabwe Project

[lis@lisandtonypage.com](mailto:lis@lisandtonypage.com)

### West Ox Arts Gallery

Tel: 01993 850137 [www.westoxarts.com](http://www.westoxarts.com)

## Amenities

### Bampton Recreation Ground and

Pavilion Tel: 01993 852483

### The Old School Community Centre

[clerk@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Town Hall** Tel: 01993 851870

**Village Hall** Tel: 01993 850289



# Diary



Date	Event
15th July	<b>Adventure Plus Family Fun Day</b> An opportunity to spend the day having fun with friends, family or even by yourself. The activities on offer include: archery, a mobile climbing wall, bushcraft, a tricky trail, arts and crafts and many more surprises on the day for you to look forward to. Free entry, with a small charge for activities. No booking necessary. <a href="http://www.adventureplus.org.uk/familyfun">www.adventureplus.org.uk/familyfun</a> . Tel. 01993 703308
21st - 22nd July	<b>Bampton Opera</b> The Deanery Gardens - Bampton - Tickets £35 Tel: 01993 851142
23rd July	<b>Fun dog show and BBQ. 10 novelty classes (£2.50 per class).</b> Free entry but donations for parking appreciated. 11am- 4pm Meadow Farmhouse, Buckland Road OX18 2EL Tel: 01367 870357 for more information.
11th August	<b>Total Adventure Summer Holidays</b> Adventure Plus TA Holidays are fantastic activity holidays for young people aged 8-15. They are based at Windmill Farm, Clanfield OX18 2SN. Activities may include canoeing or kayaking on the beautiful of the River Thames, archery, fencing, circus skills, mountain biking, arts & crafts, bushcraft and much more! To find out more telephone 01993 703308 or visit <a href="http://www.adventureplus.org.uk/ta">www.adventureplus.org.uk/ta</a>
26th August	<b>Bampton Gardening Club Annual Show</b> Bampton Village Hall - Entry details will be available in the next issue of the Beam
28th August	<b>SPAJERS Donkey Derby</b>
5th September	<b>Autumn Archery Training sessions begin at 6 30pm</b> Recreation Ground Bampton. Training, led by a fully qualified coach, is open to males and females aged 10 and over. Contact Neil Holt on 07949 128494
14th September	<b>Live @ Black Bourton</b> St Marys Black Bourton. TBC - Doors 7pm
23rd September	<b>Party to celebrate David Lloyd's retirement</b> Bampton Pavilion - 3.00 - 6.00pm
23rd September	<b>Cancer Research UK (Bampton) Autumn Sale</b> Village Hall, Bampton on Saturday 23rd September. 9.30 until midday, admission free everybody welcome, Doris on 01993 850682 for further information.
24th September	<b>David Lloyd's last service at St Mary's Church</b>
22nd November	<b>Cancer Research UK, pre Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall, Bampton,</b> Eyes down 8.00pm, everybody welcome, Doris on 01993 850682 for further information
8th December	<b>Cancer Research UK (Bampton) Quiz night in the Village Hall, Bampton</b> Friday 8th December. Teams of FOUR must be pre-entered. Doris on 01993 850682 for entry forms or further information

To have your event included in the Beam diary email [editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk](mailto:editor@bamptonbeam.co.uk)



# Burford Dolls House & Miniatures Fair ~Burford School~ Saturday 28th October 2017 10.30am - 3.30pm



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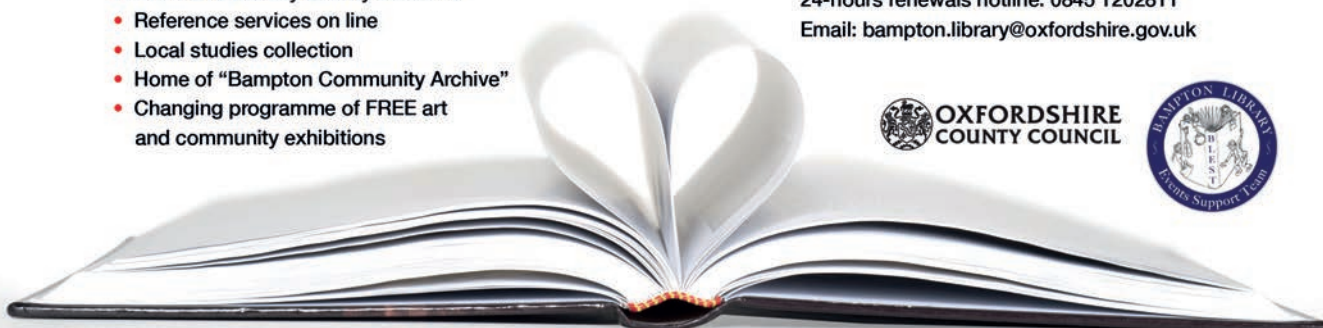
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