

THE BAMPTON BEAM

April 2003

Volume 18, No1

Bampton's Pre-school Playgroup New building needed – Help required!

As reported in the last 'Beam', Bampton's well-established and successful Pre-School Playgroup needs a new building.

Playgroup has contacted a firm specialising in nursery and playgroup buildings. They have come up with plans for a custom built building which will be a great improvement on our existing building. It will include access for the disabled, a quiet room for younger children and a veranda so that the children can play outside even if it is raining. Despite difficult access to the site the company can assemble the new building in two weeks. If all goes to plan this building will be erected in the summer of 2004 and ready for use in September 2004 by children in the village who today are just six months old.

The cost of the building will be in the region of £80,000 - £100,000. We need your help on two fronts. Firstly, fundraising. Once we have planning

permission we will be applying for capital grants. Organisations provid-

The other help we need is of a more practical nature. We need your help to

form a Building Sub-Committee. Whilst all the parents and staff on the Playgroup Committee do a sterling job we feel we do not have enough time or expertise to do this on our own. If you have time or expertise in raising funds or managing building projects then please contact Sarah Radband on



The Pre-school Playgroup

ing grants do so much more readily where there is wide and active support for the project across the local community. We plan to raise a proportion of the money needed by holding a series of fundraising events, including

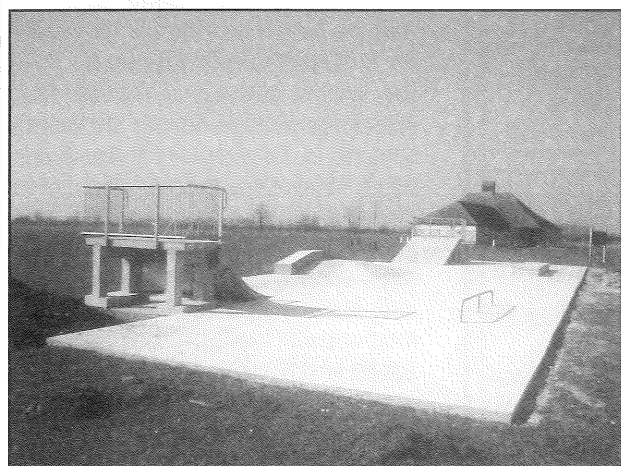
- a bingo night
- a masked ball
- a duck race on Morris Dancing day
- a fete and sports day in the summer.

We would be very grateful if you could support these events and make them a huge success.

852828 or Jo Ader on 850328.

If we do not get this project off the ground then Playgroup may be unable to continue beyond 2004. This would be such a shame as we have just had an excellent OFSTEAD inspection and are in line for a Quality Assurance award from Oxfordshire Education Department. The Playgroup has a committed and motivated staff, excellent links with the school and a very good reputation.

We have served this community for twenty-seven years. We would like to continue to do so.



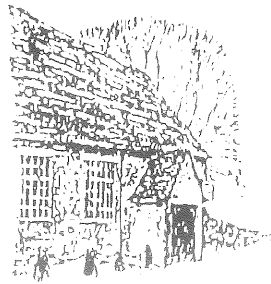
The Skate Park is Ready

By Alan Dunbar

After a long delay due to the weather - it was either too cold or too wet to pour the concrete - our latest Village facility is now open. This is one facility we will not have to remind people to 'Use or Lose', since already the youngsters are practising their skills - and improving them - on the Skate Park. The main thing is for the kids to be sensible, to wear protective clothing, and enjoy themselves - rumour has it that an 'Over 65s' club is being formed to take the youngsters on at their own game!

A big thanks to the SK8 committee and all of those who made it happen. *And a big thank you to you Alan - Ed.*

Bampton Village Hall



An excellent venue for meetings, classes, parties, performances & fund-raising events. Main hall with stage, curtains, lights & piano. Well equipped kitchen and servery with separate locked bar. Badminton court marked and equipment available. Modern toilet facilities.

Lettings Officer: Mrs. Susan Walker
Lamplight Cottage, Bridge Street
Tel: 01993 852361

BAMPTON '250' CLUB

A monthly lottery which raises money for The Bampton Village Hall and The Bampton Youth Centre.

List of Winners

NOVEMBER

£25	209	Mr H Hallam	Lavender Place
£15	109	Mrs V Handley	Queen Street
£15	112	Mrs D Pullin	New Road
£15	047	Mrs Bruce-Mitford	(deceased)

DECEMBER

£100	004	Mr F Lomas	Bowling Green Close
£25	120	Mrs James	Lavender Place
£15	203	Mrs Dring	The Lanes
£15	143	Mrs R Wheeler	Bowling Green Close
£15	212	Mrs J Chance	St Mary's Court

JANUARY

£25	096	Josh Perry	Queen Street
£15	038	Mr K Munro	Ampney Orchard
£15	105	Mrs J Allinson	New Road
£15	163	Mrs D Landray	Church View

FEBRUARY

£25	210	Mr & Mrs Mellor	Cheapside
£15	146	Mrs D Davies	Calais Dene
£15	036	Mrs J Garrett	Black Bourton
£15	087	Mrs N Jenkins	New Road

The final draw for 2002/2003 – the £250 prize – will take place at the Village Hall AGM on Monday, 28th April.

The 2003/2004 year starts in April and if you would like a ticket in the popular local lottery, please put your name on the list at the Post Office.

If you would be interested in putting your name on the waiting list please contact Mrs Susan Phillips Tel: 850321.

BAMPTON FOOTPATH MAP

Free copies available from BEWG, Abbey Properties, The Post Office

The Bampton Footpath Maps, designed by BEWG, and first published in *The Bampton Beam* in 1999, have now been produced in leaflet form.

Funding has been provided by grants from the Bampton Parish Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, and the accumulated profits from the Bampton Directory.

Collect a copy and start walking!

BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

From 1st January 2003 the new charges will be:

General Hire £5.00 per hour - meetings, classes etc.

Morning sessions 9am – 1pm
£16.50 - meetings, sales, workshops, parties etc.

Afternoon sessions 1pm – 6pm
£16.50 - meetings, sales, workshops, parties etc.

Weddings/Dances/Parties 6pm – 1am (Midnight on Saturday) £55.00 (with bar £70.00)

Preparation time £1.00 per hour

Commercial Hire £10.00 per hour

Badminton (by arrangement) £3.00 per hour

Hire of furniture: by arrangement

Musical events £4.50 (use of piano by arrangement)

EASTER SERVICES

St Mary's

Easter Sunday 20th April

United Church/Chapel Service
10.30am

The Methodist Chapel

Easter Sunday 20th April

No service in Chapel – United service at St Mary's 10.30am

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

Church, Carterton

Easter Sunday 20th April

Mass 9.00am - St. Mary's Church, Bampton

For other Holy Week services, please see notice board in church porch or contact **Tel: 01993 842463**

St. Mary's Church

We will be holding a Harvest Barn Dance in the nave of St. Mary's Church on Friday 19th September 2003. The Woodpecker Band will lead the dancing and we are hoping that some guest musicians will add extra special Harvest flair to the evening. Last year's Barn Dance was a total sell-out so early purchasing of tickets is advisable. Tickets will go on sale on Friday 15th August. Further information please contact **Colin Cordy Tel: 851296**.

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*By David Hawkins,
Chairman, Bampton Parish Council*

Possible New Build of 100 Homes at New Road

The Parish Council were taken completely by surprise at the February meeting when Jonathan Phillips, District Councillor, announced that he had persuaded fellow District Councillors to support his proposal for 100 new houses off New Road to be included in the 2nd Draft of the Local Plan. This was against the wishes of District Planners who had heeded the pleas of your Parish Council, of SPB with its 600 members, and of BEWG with its 150 members that Bampton should not have a major build over this next decade. Without consulting any of the above organisations, Mr Phillips had spoken with the owner of the land and had agreed that 50 of the dwellings would be affordable housing. Readers will recall that your Parish Council has always recognised the need for more low cost housing in Bampton. Indeed, a Steering Group under Lord Donoughmore's chairmanship, has been set up to examine potential sites whereby 6 to 10 dwellings per year might be built. Mr Phillips had been invited to be a member of this Group. The Parish Council were appalled at this precipitous action by Mr Phillips and have asked for a written apology for causing embarrassment to all concerned, but as yet have not received one.

Of major concern to the Council over Mr Phillips' action, is that fact that if this land were to be included in the Local Plan, then Bampton would have little or no say in who would be allocated the affordable housing built on it! This would be a matter for the District, with people with connections with Bampton getting no preference on the allocation of affordable housing at all. Indeed it is likely that such housing would be allocated to people with no Bampton connections, seen the size of the District waiting list, which is around 2000 at this moment in time. On the other hand, land which is not identified for building purposes in the Local Plan, but which is then identified as an opportunity site at a

later date, does offer people with connections to Bampton preferential treatment in the housing allocation. It is important that Villagers realise this, and that Mr Phillips has, by his precipitous action, potentially jeopardised the availability of affordable housing in the Village for people with Bampton connections.

The matter was discussed at length at the March meeting of the Parish Council and a vote of *No Confidence* was passed by the Council on Mr Phillips.

We will have a chance in mid 2003, during the consultation phase of the latest draft of the Local Plan, to object to this proposal to build the 100 houses, and the Parish Council will do so in the strongest terms, as will, we understand, SPB and BEWG. In the meantime, the Parish Council Steering Group will continue to meet to review where there may be opportunity sites within the Village, which comply with the Local Plan's policies (they would have to be infill or rounding off sites) which could be put forward for affordable housing.

If you feel you would like to support the Parish Council in this matter, please write to me and also copy your letter to: Mr I Morrow, Head of Plan-

ning Services, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon OX28 1NB.

It is your Council's view that we must stop this land being allocated for housing in the Local Plan, for the good of Bampton, it's residents, and those people with Bampton Connections seeking affordable housing within the Village.

Flood Scare

By and large, Bampton escaped the flooding experienced by Witney and other local villages over the New Year. Whoever cleaned out the Shillbrook during the autumn did an excellent job and the water rushed onwards towards the Thames. There were, however, many ditches that overflowed and the Parish Council has asked the Environmental Agency to conduct a full survey of Bampton's drainage problems so that we are well prepared for the next heavy down-pour.

Traffic Calming

County Highways did a traffic survey along the Clanfield Road in early December which showed a very high traffic flow particularly at peak times. The average speed also left a lot to be desired as it passed the Elephant & Castle. On the basis of this survey, the Parish Council is optimistic that the County will construct single lane priority points (Buildouts) on all 4 roads. These can be a pain to hasty motorists but have proved very successful in

Bampton Welfare Trust

Charity No. 202735

The Trustees may make gifts to the needy in Bampton, Aston, and Lew – as far as their funds allow – to relieve sudden distress or sickness, help with travelling expenses to hospitals, provide fuel and food for the sick. The Trustees also assist the local primary schools, playgroups and clubs for the elderly in that area.

Trustees: Vicar of Bampton with Clanfield, The Reverend D Lloyd, Mrs R Colvile, Mrs J Haslam, Mrs J Newman, Dr M Perry, Mrs S Phillips, Mr C Rouse, Mr G Wiltshire and Mr G Mills (Aston), Mrs A Grinsell (Lew).

Clerk to the Trustees: Mr D Pullman,

Mill Green Cottage, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850589.

Welfare Officer: Mrs J Newman,

Leofric House, 81 New Road, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850755

other villages, in bringing down average speeds.

Bus Services

In general, the new bus timetable is proving most popular. However, buses from Oxford in late afternoon were being held up by very heavy traffic and problems were being experienced in passenger getting their connections on to Clanfield and Carterton.

An adjustment to the schedules has been effected, which seems to have helped in sorting out the problem. Your views about the new services are welcome and should be relayed to Fred Gray on 851653.

Market Square Improvements

Plans for the 2nd phase of the Market Square improvement project are now well advanced and **will be on display in the Town Hall on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April.** Comments for or against any of the modest changes will be most welcome from residents. All being well, work will take place over a 4-week period in autumn.

Chewing Gum

The Parish Council would be most grateful if parents could ask their children not to drop their chewing gum on our pavements. At the moment, there are massive amounts of the gum littering our streets. We are making every effort to have the gum removed.

Bampton

Weight Lifting Club

The Parish Council have been informed that the Weight Lifting Club, which at present uses premises in Lew, would very much like to move to Bampton in the near future. We are considering making land available adjacent to the car park in the Recreation Ground for the club, should they be able to raise the funds for the new build.

Use of Pavilion

Now that the Christmas and New Year rush of parties is over, there are slots available for private functions. Charges have been kept low to give you excellent value and the facilities are ideal for wedding receptions or anniversary parties. Please call **Ray Willis on 01993 852483** to book the Pavilion, Multisport or to reserve pitches.

News from WODC Environmental Department by Sara Willis

In the thrust to improve and promote environmental sustainability in the District, the WODC's Environmental Services Department is undertaking an array of initiatives; a summary of the main ones is as follows.

Energy Efficiency Advice to Home Owners

Last year Energy Efficiency Advice advised 500 households on how to save energy, which resulted in a reduction of 28 tonnes of carbon being released. You can obtain free energy saving advice by calling 0800 512012.

Recycling - Waste Composition Analysis

A seasonal study looking at what people throw away is being undertaken by WODC. So far they have performed an autumn and winter sort, and will be doing a spring and summer sort. The resulting information on what people throw away, and what they recycle, will be used to gain insight into current levels of waste and identify areas for potential improvement. The study will also earmark socio economic groups that do recycle, and those that don't, allowing the council to create a more targeted waste and recycling strategy for groups within the district.

Recycling Rate

The council is pleased to announce that they have already exceeded next years recycling rate of 10%, and the current rate of 12% is going to be monitored in line with future government targets.

Christmas Card Recycling Scheme

West Oxfordshire District Council collected 1.1 tonnes of cards - 157,143 cards in total - in this year's first sponsored Christmas card recycling campaign. As a result, Clean Away donated £1000 to Hailey Community Woodland - A good effort by local residents!

Air and Noise Pollution : Emissions Monitoring

As a part of the governments new 'Clear Skies' directive two areas in the district are currently being moni-

tored with regard to implementing schemes to minimise air pollution. These are Horse Fair in Chipping Norton and Bridge Street in Witney. WODC has formed a joint strategy with Oxfordshire County Council to undertake further studies.

Let's Work Together West Oxfordshire Housing

West Oxfordshire Housing is a not-for-profit social landlord that owns, and has management responsibilities for approximately 3,600 homes throughout West Oxfordshire. In Bampton, we have properties in Aston Road, Bowling Green Close, Bushey Row, Chandler Close, Colville Close, Fox Close, Lavender Place, Manor View and New Road.

The Tenant Participation team actively encourages the involvement of tenants and residents to achieve improvements in housing, the environment and the community and can offer support, advice and a grant to help set up a local tenants and residents group.

These groups can include private home-owners and can be a group of neighbours who get together regularly to discuss and tackle local issues and influence our services.

We have recently sent out questionnaires to some of the above areas to help us identify residents' concerns. We have had a good response, and would like to thank all those residents who have completed and returned them. We will be reviewing the replies and hope to arrange a meeting in the near future to hear people's views and suggestions. Ideally, we would like to set up a residents association - a group of local people who know the local issues and are willing to work together to make improvements.

We'd be interested to hear your views. If you would like to find out more about getting involved or setting up a local residents group, contact **Dee or Andy, the Tenant Participation team, at West Oxfordshire Housing Tel: 01993 890000** or write to our freepost address:

**Tenant Participation Team
West Oxfordshire Housing
Freepost (SCE 14617)
Witney. OX29 7BR**

The New Licensing Bill by David Cameron MP

Is the cost of getting a licence for a pub about to increase? Will our pubs need special licences when the Morris Men dance in them? Will the 400-year old tradition of Morris Dancing in Bampton be threatened as a result? Will more pubs close? Will village fetes need to be licensed? Why is all this happening?

All these questions and many more were asked when I spoke in the Village Hall in Bampton at a public meeting called to discuss the Government's new Licensing Bill. The meeting was called by Alan Clarke, landlord of the Horseshoe and attended by musicians, publicans, Morris Dancers, Mummets, Parish and District Councillors, and members of the public. Alan had already been to one of my surgeries and I had started to make inquiries with the Government, but the meeting has armed me with a new list of questions to ask Ministers.

What is essential is that changes should not threaten traditional village life - and that we should only make changes if there are clear benefits.

The Government's licensing bill is supposed to be about making licensing simpler and letting pubs stay open longer, if that is what landlords, customers and local people want. Most of us would say "Amen" to that. So what has gone wrong?

Three proposed changes seem to be causing the problem.

First, the responsibility for licensing is going to move from magistrates to the local (District) Council. Yet magistrates have done the job well and at a low cost for years. Publicans at the meeting, including Lesley Semaine and Barry Baggatt from Witney and Steve Mace from Bampton all said "if it ain't broke don't fix it." They want to know whether local councils will charge more, inspect more frequently and drive up costs.

Second, in future every publican will need at least two licences. They will need a liquor licence, as now, in their

personal capacity. And they will need a "premises licence" setting out what sorts of entertainment they plan to hold in the pub. But most of the pubs in Bampton have never had an entertainment licence - why do they now need them? What happens if there are objections? Will there have to be public hearings? How much will the new bureaucracy cost?

Others at the meeting, like Jonathan Phillips and Lord Donoughmore asked whether every event that involves either entertainment or the sale of alcohol will now need a "premises licence"? What about events at the Churches, the Village Hall - or in people's gardens where the Morris Men dance on Whit Monday? What about the Donkey Derby? Will Sandford's field have to have a licence? Third, the Government is scrapping the age-old "two in a bar rule" which states that if two musicians or fewer play in a bar no special entertainment licence is required. Matthew Green, representing the Bampton Morris dancers explained how, for over 400 years, the Morris Men have practised their dancing in the pubs of Bampton. Usually accompanied by just two musicians, no licence has been required. Is all this going to change - and what's the point?

Other questions from traditional musicians, new bands and members of the public followed. Don Rouse asked whether the Mummets would need a licence as they sometimes collect money. He brought the house down when he added "Although I know you only throw the money at us to get us out of the pub!"

After more than an hour, we retired to the pub to have a drink and warm up. To me, it was one of the most useful meetings I have held for a long time. The concerns came over loud and clear - and the list of questions is now winging its way to the Department of Culture Media and Sport. I will report back when (or if) I get some answers. But thank you to everyone who came and contributed.

You can contact David at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or by e-mail camerond@parliament.uk.

Thank You—The 'Beam Team' would like to thank our stalwart 'Beam Walkers' for the wonderful job they do every year. Without them it would be impossible for everyone to receive their copy of The Bampton Beam delivered straight to their homes.

Parish Press Briefing Jan—Feb 2003

Food Directory

The new Oxfordshire Food Directory is now available. This is an invaluable source of information about local food producers in Oxfordshire. You can find everything from pork to potatoes, farmhouse cheese to flour! Get a free copy by sending an A5 sized SAE to: The Oxfordshire Food Group, School of Planning, Brookes University, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0BP. Email www.oxfordshirelocalfood.info

Stop Junk Mail

Leave the Paper on the Trees

Residents in Oxfordshire can rid themselves of unsolicited junk mail thanks to a scheme pioneered by Oxfordshire County Council. 500,000 tonnes of junk mail is thrust through peoples' doors in the UK every year. Most of it ends up in the bin and therefore goes to landfill. It is one of the commonest gripes by Oxfordshire's residents that they don't want all this junk. However, you can now help to reduce this by contacting the Junk Mail Hotline **Tel: 01865 816070** and requesting a copy of their junk mail package. It provides a range of solutions, including taking your name off junk mail databases, stopping the delivery of random junk mail and ensuring that companies stop sending you unsolicited mail.

News from the Community Action Group Project in Oxfordshire

The CAG project can help local communities reduce their rubbish and has now been running since early 2002. Several new groups have been created and activities have ranged from junk swaps to garden waste shredding, tool collections and furniture recycling. With waste reduction and recycling targets becoming ever more strict local communities can play their part by setting up groups and implementing rubbish-reducing initiatives. Funding is available and there are added benefits for group members in the form of new skills, new friends and added input into the community. **Contact Kate Aydin, CAG Development Officer Tel: 01865 815959 or e-mail kate.aydin@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

N. J. WOODLEY BUILDING MAINTENANCE

COMPETITIVE RATES

15 CALAIS DENE, BAMPTON, OXON.

Tel: 01993 850753

Mobile: 07799 655385

A. SIMMONDS *The Old Fashioned Village Store*

Market Square, Bampton
Tel: 01993 850204

Traditionally Baked
Bread and Cakes

...
Groceries
Confectionery

...
Discounted Toiletries
and
Household Cleaners

...
Logs ... Coal
...
Large Range of
Pet Foods & Requisites
...
Free Local Delivery

TEMPLES MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON TEL: 01993 850877

DIY, Ironmongery, Paint, Wood, Cement, Sand,
Gravel, Toys, Gifts, Candles.
Gardening Equipment including Mr. Fothergills
Seeds and a wide range of Compost.

A Range of Car Accessories
Windscreen Wipers, Plugs, Batteries etc.
DRAPER STOCKIST & AGENTS FOR SWAN
DRY CLEANING

COME IN AND LOOK AROUND
WE ALSO DELIVER LOCALLY


Don't go anywhere else until you've been to
Temples!



ANDREW BOWMAN
MASTER THATCHER
HEDGEFIELDS FARM
BAMPTON
Tel: 01993 850116
Member Oxon, Berks, Bucks
Master Thatchers Association

**HAIRDRESSERS
DRESSMAKERS**
Have Your Scissors
SHARPENED

P
O
L
I
S
H
E
D



B
A
L
A
N
C
E
D

Tony Hughes
10 St Mary's Court
Weald, Bampton
Oxon. OX18 2HX
Tel: 01993 851458



LOGS

Well-seasoned Cut to any size

Deliveries 7 days a week

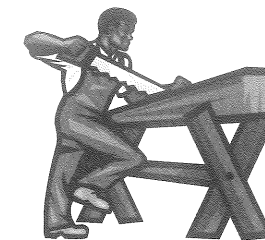
Please Ring George

on

01367 253097

or

07970 692292



SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

The Society aims to stop excessive developments in the village, such as large housing estates, and encourage suitable developments. So far we have been very successful.

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

DO JOIN NOW

Send your membership fee of £2 each (£1 for OAPs) for the period up to December 2006, to
**Society for the Protection of
Bampton
Manor House
Bampton, Oxon OX18 2LQ**

Go for greens

If you're eating out, try somewhere different - come to **g**reens

Choose from just a starter up to three courses. Using the finest, local ingredients, our New World and European menu will have something to tempt you.

A basket of bread, unlimited iced water and coffee with hand-made chocolates are all included in the price!

Open 12noon - 2.30pm

7.00pm - 9.30pm

(Last Orders)

Closed Sat Lunchtime & Sunday Evening

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

Tel: 01993 893000

WITNEY LAKES
RESORT



Enjoy

at Witney Lakes Resort

Downs Road Witney,
Oxfordshire. OX29 0SY

Dear Friends and Customers

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, notelets, letters and messages and visits during my spell in the J.R. All these mean a great deal to me. My sales ladies June and Iris (both of whom have worked in my shop longer than my 21 years) along with the help of friends have kept the shop open and running, and I hope to be back in the shop soon.

Thank you all once again for your continued support

Yours Faithfully
Adrian Simmonds

Dear Mrs Gray

As relative newcomer to Bampton, it's hugely reassuring to see how much the village is cared for, and the work various groups do to make sure it retains its character as a very special place to live. We have never lived anywhere as welcoming, well cared-for and friendly.

Recently, I've noticed mention of proposed traffic calming in the village. At the same time, I've noticed the 'traffic calming' that has been inflicted upon Yarnton and Long Handborough, turning them into ugly, bump-strewn, sodium-lit, noisy, congestion-clogged sub-urban landscapes more redolent of Blackbird Leys than West Oxfordshire. I'm extremely concerned that the Council may draw ideas from the schemes used in Handborough and Yarnton. I'd certainly recommend them as excellent examples of how not to do it.

The character of both villages has been thoroughly spoiled and I would hate to see Bampton follow. If any calming is to be introduced here, could I make a plea that it's nothing like the intrusive mess that has been inflicted on those two villages?

As ever with traffic, doing something in one place leads to an effect in another. In this case, any traffic calming on the main through-road would divert vehicles up Church View – a wholly unsuitable road for through-traffic.

I think this needs careful watching to ensure that if any calming is implemented it does not simply move the problem elsewhere, making it worse in the process.

LETTERS and E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

At the same time, humps and bumps in the main road will create an immense noise nuisance for the residents there – not to mention increased pollution and vibration as vehicles rev over the humps. This is the nuisance that led Ian Beesley in Oxford to take a JCB to the hump outside his house! Having stood by the bumps in Handborough, I can vouch for the din that traffic – particularly heavy lorry traffic – makes as it attempts to get over them.

It may be the case that traffic calming in Bampton would make it a noisier, uglier and more polluted place. We need to look at the problem from all angles.

Yours sincerely
Mark McArthur-Christie
1 Bourton Cottages
Bampton

As far as I am aware, the Council is pursuing the installation of so called Buildouts on the four main roads entering the village, and not speed bumps. Nor is it the intention to install any traffic calming measures inside the village itself. The OCC Highways engineers have advised that the Buildouts will slow traffic entering the village at its extremities and when this happens, experience shows that the traffic does not speed up again. Surveys in the centre of the village have also shown that in general traffic is not exceeding the speed limit – although you will always get some drivers who drive too fast. I also understand that the Council's traffic and transport representative is active in trying to reduce the amount of HGVs using the village as a through route, and is discussing the issue with the OCC. He has also written to various HGV companies to ask them not to route their vehicles through the village, and has had some positive responses.

Ed.

Dear Editor,

Today I received my copy of The Beam, which is one of the ways I have of keeping in touch with all the goings on in the village.

Don Rouse is right, it is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Miss Farmer. How I agree with him you always addressed her as "Miss Farmer" never "Mary".

For the last few years every visit home to see my Mom, an afternoon was set aside to visit her. She loved to talk of old times with me but was always full of questions as to my daily routine in America, we compared schools and every aspect of daily life. On the occasions when she wrote me she always signed her name - Mary (Farmer) but when her letter was answered it was always addressed as "Dear Miss. Farmer", because that was the way I thought she should be addressed. When I come over this year something will be missing, not being able to spend an afternoon with Miss. Farmer.

She will be sadly missed, especially by me.

Yours sincerely,
Olive M McCabe
33 Whiting Street
Willimantic CT 06226
U.S.A.

Dear Editor

A plea for bells!

No not church bells - bicycle bells. Do you remember when every bike had one? My friend and I spend many happy hours walking the quieter lanes around Bampton. Occasionally on our jaunts we meet other health seeking folk on their bikes. Now we would be the first to admit that our hearing is not as acute as in years gone by, but bicycles are a very quiet form of transport. Suffice to say, the other day I nearly caused a rider to fall because I did not hear their approach. A bell rung whilst a few yards away, would protect both the heart of the pedestrian and the limbs of the rider. Please could these tinkling sounds come back into use?

Yours sincerely
Mavis Newing.

Dear Editor,

I would like to put a suggestion to the

people of Bampton. It is about time we had a social club here. The entertainment in Bampton is non-existent. I know we have four public houses here but they can be a bit boring! If you want good fun and amusement you have to drive at least 6 miles or catch a bus. We do not endorse drink/driving.

If we had our own social club at Bampton, we could have some good entertainment without having to go out of the Town. There is plenty of room at the Recreation Ground so come on people what do you think?

You never know it might bring back the community spirit that seems to be lacking. It could be a place to be proud of and a place the whole family can go to together. No more babysitters.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Lewin

40 Bowling Green Close,
Bampton.

What do you think? Let's hear your thoughts on the subject.

Ed.

Dear Editor,

Affordable Housing

In the December issue of the Bampton Beam I wrote an article on the this subject and made it clear that I was now in favour of building on a site in Bampton where the developer was prepared to make 50% of the houses low cost. I received a number of comments in support of the suggestion but not one comment or letter against these views. I therefore felt justified in promoting the inclusion in the Local Plan Review to 2011 of the New Road site for development.

The Housing Needs Survey carried out by WODC makes alarming reading. Despite the fact that I gave each Parish councillor a summary of its findings, the Parish Council has taken grave exception to my action in this matter which I deeply regret.

The Parish Council strategy is to try to find 'exception sites' acceptable to the planners where the land is provided cheaply so that houses built on it would be affordable. This is proving to be almost impossible to achieve as there has already been so much 'infilling' in Bampton and no land-owners are prepared to offer land at such a low price. WODC has only

achieved 36 houses in the whole District by this method over the past 6 years! This is not solving the affordable housing problem.

I feel very strongly that it is my duty as a District Councillor to do what I can for the local people who want to live in this District where they have family connexions and this I will continue to do as I stated in my election leaflet last year.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Phillips – District Councillor
for Bampton, Clanfield and Black Bourton.

REGINALD ERNEST ROUSE

12th February 1905

17th February 2003

By Helen Brown

Many people in Bampton will remember him with great affection. He was an avid reader of 'The Bampton Beam' and enjoyed receiving it by post after he went to live in Hunsdon with Helen. She and her daughters would like to thank friends in Bampton for their continuing contact and concern over the past seven years.

Born in 1905 he had only 'elementary' education. He should have left school at age 13 years. But as a vacancy occurred for a 'Carter's Lad' at a nearby farm, he was allowed to leave school at twelve and a half.

Though he has said that he had very little education, he once told me how to plough a field with a team of horses – and although he probably didn't realise it – that involved mathematics, - setting up the poles to show when you had to start to turn the horses, so that he plough behind went right to the edge of the field, and setting the poles so that he horses came straight back into line for the next furrow. He also told me about how he and his brothers set up a 'Cat's Whisker' system to receive radio broadcasts.

When they moved to Bampton, he was 64, he was always helpful, he walked dogs, he found what he called 'elderly' people who couldn't manage walking their dogs and looking after their gardens, and although he had only previously grown vegetables and

fruit – to feed the family, he learned how to look after flowers too. He had three or four gardens that he looked after, and also mowed the Bowling Green.

He was 90 years old when he came to live with me. I had set aside part of my garden for him to cultivate and grow the vegetables that he enjoyed growing. He did that, and provided me and my family with lots of Runner Beans etc. but took the excess to other people in the village who didn't grow their own. Part of my duty to the Parish Council, was to distribute money from the Chester Charity to two people in the village once a month. He asked if he could deliver it, and have a 'chat' to them. As one lady was housebound, and nearly as deaf as him, he used to take the money – and I wouldn't see him again for about three hours – he would say 'The old lady is very lonely and enjoys a chat'. Since the 'old lady' in question was probably several years younger than him – I thought that was cheek! That is my Father, Grandfather, and Great Greatfather – he had a wicked sense of humour, but above all he loved people, loved being able to help people, and would do so without question whenever he could.'

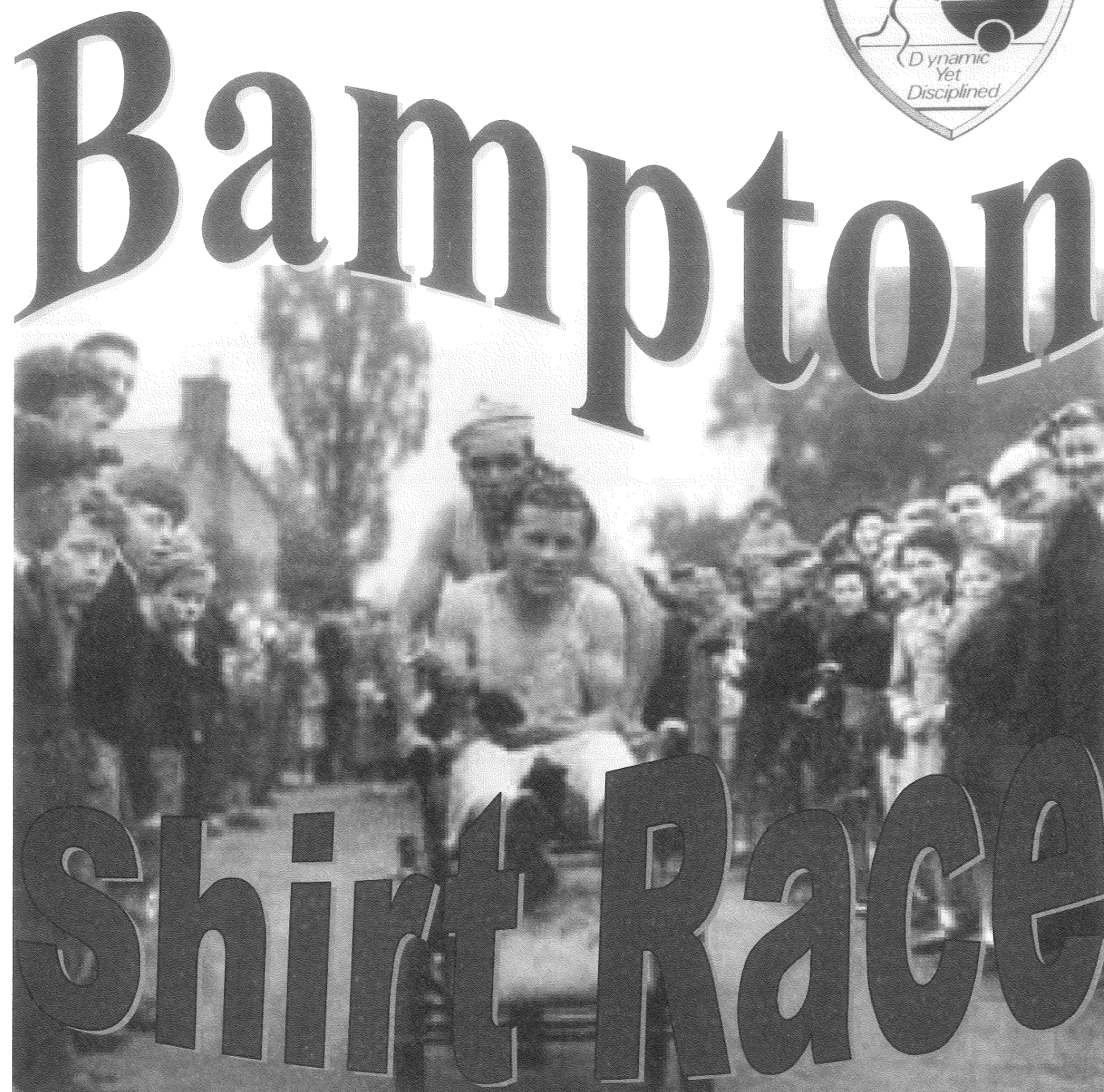
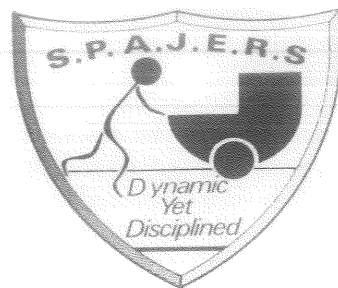
AGE Concern

**OXFORDSHIRE
City & County**
Voluntary Work that makes a
Difference

Our Information & Advice Service is looking for volunteers: To help staff the Telephone Helpline at our office in Oxford and to visit people in their own homes to help with form filling and benefits checks. No particular qualifications required. People of all ages welcome. We offer training, plenty of support and expenses. For more details telephone:

**Sandra or Jenny
Tel: 01865 247852**

It's the 51st



Saturday 24th May

6.30 Judging of the Best Fancy Dress
7.00 Junior Race
7.20 Senior Race

Star Guest Pippa Shay from Radio Oxford

Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman

The Executive Committee continues in its efforts to have the speed of traffic through the village reduced. The Oxford County Council Traffic survey has been completed and a bid for funding from next year's community budget has been made by OCC. It is hoped that the existing traffic-calming measures can be refurbished and further measures introduced. Others, including the Parish Council and a newly formed group, RATS (Residents Against Traffic) are also vigorously pursuing this matter.

The Committee was pleased to hear from its Footpaths representative that a new footpath has been opened at Shifford Lock, which allows the Thames Path to continue along the northern bank, instead of going over the bridge.

A most interesting talk was given in October by Jenny Freeman of the Historic Chapels Trust. Ms Freeman explained that the Trust owns a wide variety of buildings throughout the country, from a Lutheran Chapel in Tower Hamlets, to a medieval Peel tower in Northumberland, former home of Recusants, and including, of course the nearby Cote Chapel. Sixteen properties in all are owned by the Trust, with sixteen more "in the pipeline". The Trust, which is funded partly by Lottery grants, private donations and fund-raising, is often a last resort for "no hope" buildings, though is unable to take on all those which require restoration. Local people are encouraged to use the Trust's buildings – for concerts, lectures, weddings, baptisms and the like, so that they are living places and not museums.

On 30th April, Chris Newman of Wytham Woods, will speak about badgers, and on 30th July, Jim Osborne will speak about the National Trust. These meetings will all be held in the Village Hall and non-members are welcome for a donation of £2.

Two large development proposals at the end of 2002 were the cause of some concern. One at Fair Acres Nursery on the Buckland Road was for 11 large dwellings. The other at Littlemead at the junction of the Aston and Buckland Roads was for 2 three-storey terraces (one of 4 houses, the other of 3 houses) and a three-storey block of 6 flats. In January we learned that the Fair Acres proposal had been withdrawn (WODC planners had recommended refusal) and the Littlemead proposal was refused by WODC (following a record number of objection letters – almost 200).

WODC is now well into the production cycle of its next Local Plan, which will carry us through to 2011. The first deposit draft was published for comment at the end of 2001. At that time we were pleased to learn that no large development sites were proposed for Bampton, but objections to the first draft from developers requested the inclusion four large sites for us. At the beginning of 2003 we were again pleased to learn that both the WODC Cabinet and planners had recommended that none of these sites should be included in the second draft of the Local Plan. It was therefore with some dismay that we, the Parish Council and the SPB learned in

February that WODC had agreed, following pressure from Jonathan Phillips (one of our two District Councillors), to include a site in New Road for 100 dwellings (50% to be affordable housing). Despite the inclusion of affordable housing, much needed in Bampton and the rest of West Oxfordshire, our dismay was at the impact that a proposal of this size would have on Bampton, where small pockets of development are more appropriate. The PC, BEWG and SPB all expressed their concern to WODC but it was too late to change their decision at this stage.

At the time of writing, the agreed amendments to the first draft can be inspected at the WODC offices at Woodgreen or on their website at www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/lpreviewtext.cfm. The second draft is scheduled for publication in early summer, when there will be a six-week public consultation period for comments on the changes. A public enquiry into any outstanding objections is likely to be held in 2004.

W.I. MARKETS

Masonic Hall

Witney

8am—10.45am

Come along and buy fresh
Vegetables

Eggs

Assorted Cakes

Savouries Pies

Assorted Handmade Cards

Knitted Articles

Garden Plants

Flowers

Vegetable Plants

The last Friday in the Month

brings out a Craft Stall

Everything home-made or
Home-grown

Come along and visit us
Refreshments on sale

BAMPTON FAX BUREAU

Call in and send a fax message or ask for details of special schemes

Emmie's NEWS AGENTS

Bridge St. Bampton
Tel: 850467

Newspapers delivered anywhere in Bampton

SICK WASHING MACHINE POORLY COOKER?



THE APPLIANCE DOCTOR IS
"ON CALL"

TELEPHONE FOR
FREE ESTIMATE OR
ADVICE
WITNEY 705947



Evening and Weekend Calls at NO Extra Cost
Comprehensive Stock of Parts

LIVE-IN HOME & PET MINDING SERVICE

Call Jacqueline & Merv

077 333 567 72

for more information

Basic Rate: £10.00 per day

Extra Pets

Dogs - £1 per day extra per dog

Cats - 50p per day extra per cat

Many long-standing clients

References available

Only a few dates left for 2003

LITTLE CHICKS CHILD MINDERS



Are you looking
for good quality
childcare?



Full or part-time?

Then give us a call

01993 210013

Registered Childminders

First-Aid Trained

PELLMANS

Solicitors

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxon OX29 4TB

- Business and Employment Law
- Divorce - Finances, Children & Cohabitation disputes
- Property - Residential and Commercial
- Wills, Probate and Trusts

Tel: 01865 884400

Fax: 01865 884411

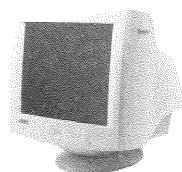
Evening surgery at North Leigh by appointment

Systems & Solutions

Your Local Computer Shop

New Computers

Computer Repairs



Computer Components

27 Fettiplace Road, Witney, Oxon, OX28 5AP

Phone: 01993 706161 Fax: 01993 703770

www.systems-and-solutions.co.uk

THE PITSTOP

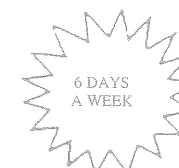
QUALITY PARTS, COMPONENTS & ACCESSORIES

THE COMPLETE MOTORING SERVICE

ROLLING ROAD ENGINE TUNING

STATE OF THE ART DIAGNOSTICS

CAR REPAIRS
SERVICING
MoT WORK
BREAKDOWNS
DISCOUNT CAR PARTS



ALSO HOUSING
OXFORD CARB SERVICES
Weber • Solex • Pierburg etc



01993 850654

Unit 1, Viscount Court, Station Road, Brize Norton

Bampton Library

and
Robert Vesey Room

Old Grammar School
Church View
Bampton

01993 850076

Opening Hours

Monday

2.30pm - 5pm
6pm - 8pm

Tuesday

Closed

Wednesday

9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday

2.30pm - 5pm

Friday

2.30pm - 5pm

Saturday

9.30am - 12.30pm

The Robert & Doris Watts

Residential & Nursing Home

30/32 Black Bourton Road
Carterton,
Oxfordshire OX18 3HA
Tel: 01993 844923/843102



18 Single Rooms
2 Double Rooms
All With Modern Facilities
Tastefully Decorated
Nurse Call System

The Robert & Doris Watts Residential & Nursing Home is a family run home offering a high standard of nursing in a warm and homely atmosphere.

The fees represent excellent value for money.

Life Lease Purchase Also Available

In a new initiative, the concept of purchasing a lease-for-life is now being offered.

Such leases offer major benefits to clients of the home, and their estate.

Call us now for further information.

Or why not call in and see us? We will make you very welcome.

News From Bampton Primary School
The School Alphabet

A is for Art Day the children enjoyed when Paul Maple came and showed them the way.
B is for Barn Dance FOBS arranged, The Woodpecker Band came and played and played.
C is for Choir at St Marys Bazaar they sweetly sang.
D is for Disco just watch those kids dance!
E is for Eldret, Wendy and Alan came to Assembly and of their tandem they told, from Lands End to John O' Groats they rode.
F is for Family Carol Evening again a success with minced pies and mulled wine and generous gifts.
G is for giving and what nicer way to the Salvation Army our Christmas donations went together with boxes of presents we sent.
H is for Hockey improving greatly with a professional player coaching

the games.
I is for Information Technology we now have 15 work stations in our I.C. T suite.
J we are Just a very good School.
K is for KS1 who went to St Marys of "Special Places" to learn.
L is the Ladies who had a great Shopping Night.
M is for Magical Candle Light. At the Methodist Church the Recorder groups played and the Choir and the Brownies sang some refrains.
N is for Nativity, and with the help of KS1 "It's a Baby" reminded us how.
O is for Ofsted Report, the school did well.
P is for Parents. Thanks for all your support.
Q is for Quiz night, yet again a success.
R is for Raising of funds by Fobs.
S is School Council which the older

children run and raised on their own over 39 pounds.
T is Teacher, all ours are great.
U is the Understanding which our children gain.
V is the Visit Mr Williams class made to learn about cars at Nuffield Place.
W is Wisemen and one was late as I learned from KS2 in their Christmas play.
X marks the spot, Bampton C of E is the place to be.
Y is for Yenworthy with its outdoor pursuits, where the children stayed for a week on Exmoor in the wind and rain and had a fantastic time.
Z is for Zeal and for Zest, visit our school its "Simply the Best"!

Forthcoming Event
Friday 13th June : Fashion Show
7.30 at the School.

ORINOCO The Oxfordshire Scrapstore is back !!!

Orinoco is a charity funded by The National Lottery which collects all sorts of scrap materials from local businesses and manufacturers in Oxfordshire which would otherwise be thrown away and end up in landfill sites. Orinoco encourages the re-use of scrap through creative activities with teachers and workers from voluntary and community groups and schools. Visiting the scrapstore is a unique experience. It is full of fab and funky, weird and wonderful items as well as plenty of ideas to feed your creativity and imagination, and open your mind to the potential of making rubbish into useful and beautiful things!

Becoming a member of Orinoco enables you to obtain scrap materials at low cost as often as you want so you too can get creative at the same time as saving our environment. Membership also includes a quarterly newsletter with junk art ideas in-store training workshops and a programme of outreach events.

The Community Re-paint scheme is up and running. Are you re-decorating or planning to paint a mural at your school, community group or even at home?

If so free paint is available for collection from Orinoco between 11am and 3pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. (We ask for a donation for the paint)

The stock includes household paints such as emulsion, gloss and undercoat in a wide range of colours. If you have any unwanted tins of paint taking up space in your shed please take them along to B&Q in Banbury, Oxford or Abingdon. The tins should be at least 1/3 to 1/2 full, undamaged, not leaking and not more than 10 years old.

We welcome new donors of scrap!!! We will collect your waste for FREE and you will be helping many community groups as well as the environment. We look for off cuts, ends of lines, ends of rolls, packaging materials, plastic, paper, shiny bits, card board tubes, stickers, beads, buttons, fabric etc... Anything that is clean and safe. You will be surprised at what can be used. If in you are in doubt, ask us before you throw it out!

We will also be re-launching the mobile scrapstore, bringing a van full of exciting scrap materials to several venues around Oxfordshire.

Volunteers - we need you!!! If you are interested in getting involved with Orinoco's projects please give us a call!

For further information, to become a member or book a workshop please contact **Zoe Blount Tel: 01865 761113 or email orinoco.scrapstore@lineone.net**.

Orinoco The Oxfordshire Scrapstore, Bullingdon Community Centre,
Peat Moors (Off The Slade), Headington Oxford OX3 7HS

RAGWORT
Now is the time to act!

Everyone who cares about our environment and countryside will recognise the plant Common Ragwort (Senecio Jacobaea). It is an obvious weed in July and August when it grows up to 3 feet tall with ragged edged leaves and a yellow flower, but it is **now** that we need to act to eradicate this poisonous plant.

Some useful information about Ragwort

Common Ragwort is a listed weed under the 1959 Weeds Act, to allow it to grow, flower and spread contravenes the law.

Further legislation is planned this year when Mr John Greenway MP brings his Equine Welfare (Ragwort Control) Bill before parliament.

The poisons in Ragwort are called pyrrolizidine alkaloids (Pas). These are dangerous to humans and animals. Evidence of PAs in eggs, grain, milk and honey has been recorded. If you had Ragwort growing on land last year it needs treating with a MCPA or a 2.4-D herbicide as soon as the young plants appear in April. A non-toxic environmentally friendly spray is also available called Barrier H.

Never allow animals into areas where

Ragwort has been sprayed until all the plants have rotted into the ground. The only way to deal with fully-grown Ragwort is to pull it up and burn it.

Always wear gloves and long sleeves to cover your arms when handling Ragwort and remember to wash your hands when you have finished.

Ragwort retains its poisonous properties whether growing, sprayed or dried in food.

Ragwort kills horses, donkeys, cattle, sheep and many other plants. Oxfordshire is one of the most beautiful counties with a wonderful spread of animal and plant life and we all need to be involved to protect it from the spread of this dangerous weed. Join the BHS campaign to eradicate this weed by dealing with any plants you find on your own land. If you see any areas of Ragwort growing please report it to either myself or The Oxford County Council Environmental Services department **Tel: 01869 241144** with full details of the location.

For leaflets, further advice on spraying or help identifying Ragwort please contact BHS welfare officer **Miss D M Harris Tel: 01993 702844** or visit the web site, www.bhs.org.uk/welfare and follow the links for Ragwort or visit <http://members.aol.com/bhssouth/page12.html> for details on the research that has been undertaken.

The Morris Clown Wins Accolade

The Morris Clown has been given the 2002 accolade by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), Oxford City and District area, after coming first in a poll run by their members. Landlord Steve Mace reckons this traditional old fashioned pub got the vote because of the variety of beers he offers, as well as the atmosphere in



The Mice at Play While Steve was Away!

the pub itself. He is well noted for saying "We are proud not to do food!", and of course, the 'Ladies' is notably outside in the cold, while the 'Gents' is inside in the warm!

Steve has been in Bampton for ten years and served an apprenticeship under his father Tom who has been here 26 years.

The pub serves two regular beers and has one guest barrel at the ready for the thirsty clientele to try. Over the last year he has offered some 150 different varieties. "Trade is good" Steve says, partly because there are now fewer pubs in the village than ever before - four having disappeared in the past ten years - and the village is also still growing

Steve's just back from a skiing holiday, but while the cat was away the mice certainly came out to play! While Steve and 15 other regulars were on the Piste (probably in more ways than one!), Anita and Caroline (two of his barmaids) had a great time - food was even served we hear. And, together with Pete Illingworth, Pete Jobson, and Andy Money, a 'Hawaiian Cocktail Party' was even put on.

With Steve back, it's back to basics!

Bampton in the Bush Cricket Club
2003 Fixtures

MAY 11 th	KILKENNY	HOME
MAY 24 th	MINSTER	HOME
JUNE 1 st	ASHBURY	AWAY
JUNE 8 th	STEEPLE ASTON	HOME
JUNE 15 th	KILKENNY	AWAY
JUNE 22 nd	YARNTON	AWAY
JUNE 29 th	EYNSHAM	HOME
JULY 2 nd	KILKENNY	HOME
JULY 13 th	ASHBURY	HOME
JULY 20 th	YARNTON	HOME
JULY 27 th	MINSTER	HOME
JULY 28 th	TOURING TEAM	HOME
JULY 30 th	KILKENNY	HOME
AUG 3 rd	SUNNINGWELL	AWAY
AUG 17 th	EYNSHAM	HOME
AUGUST 24 th	LONDON ERRATICS	HOME
SEPTEMBER 7 th	MINSTER	AWAY

The Right Reverend Paul Burrough MBE MA

A man of unshakeable devotion and dedication to those less fortunate than himself, regardless of colour, creed or class.

Nicknamed the Flying Parson for his work performed mostly on foot or on a bicycle, in Rhodesia from 1969 until 1981, The Right Reverend Paul Burrough died peacefully on the 27th January 2003 in Banbury aged 86. He was ordained Bishop of Mashonaland, Salisbury, Rhodesia following his Chaplaincy to Overseas Peoples in Birmingham where he spent 3 years. He mostly lived in a caravan and moving from parish to parish, doing his pastoral work amongst the Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities.

Bishop Paul's father, having been a Naval Chaplain during the Great War, was a Canon in Oxford. He was educated at St Edward's School, Oxford and then at St Edmund Hall, Oxford where he obtained a degree in Theology. At school he developed TB and was wheelchair-bound for 4 years. It was this misfortune that caused him to take up rowing, and he was in the successful 1937 and 1938 winning Oxford Boat Race crews. He then entered Ely Theological College but only 10 days later the 2nd World War broke out and he volunteered for the Royal Signals. In 1942 he was captured by the Japanese in Singapore, and he spent the next 3½ years in Changi Prison of War Camp. Here there were no doctors or priests and he acted as both, carrying out 53 burials during the first few weeks of his ordeal. He operated a secret radio, the penalty for discovery being death, from which he learned of the Hiroshima bomb. For his morale-boosting leadership qualities in the P.O.W. camp he was awarded the MBE.

He returned to Ely and was ordained a Deacon. In 1950, the then Archbishop of Canterbury (Geoffrey Fisher) asked him to go to Korea as a missionary. Here he spent 8 years, working mainly amongst homeless lepers, and where he also set up and orphanage for children of the Korean War. He learned to read and write the language fluently, but following a visit to England it was discovered that he had TB again and he was forced to remain in England. He then took up his post in inner-city Birmingham, and following his successful pastoral work with the immigrants there he was sent to Rhodesia and ordained Bishop of Mashonaland. During his 13 years there he had the unenviable task of coping with the Guerrilla War and the impossible political situation surrounding Ian Smith's UDI. He was a priest not a politician. He will also be remembered for undertaking a walk of some 470 miles around his Diocese with a Matabele guide and a pack horse, this method of transport endearing him to his beloved Africans. In 1971 he returned to England and became Assistant Bishop of Peterborough.

He retired to Bampton, at the age of 69 still undertaking pastoral duties and where he lived with his wife, Bess, whom he married in 1962, but who predeceased him. He is succeeded by his stepdaughter.

The Beam Team would like to pass on the villages warmest thoughts and deepest sympathy to his family, as I feel sure we all have our own special memories of Bishop Burroughs!

Bampton Websites

Bampton's official Website can be found at www.bamptonoxon.co.uk. It contains a wealth of information on the Village, and is being accessed regularly by Web users all over the world.

There are also excellent 'unofficial' Websites around, for instance www.ox18.com. Anyone with non profit-making events around the area can advertise on these sites free. For the official Bampton Website contact fredgray@witneyserve.net, or on 01993 851653. For OX18 contact David Oakley at dave@ox18.com.

The proposed wildlife sanctuary in the churchyard St Mary's Bampton

A work party Saturday 12th April Special-subject training-day events during 2003/4

All Oxfordshire churchyards were surveyed by an independent ecologist in the 1990s. Despite burials and other short term and piecemeal upheavals much of their areas have remained relatively undisturbed, free from chemical weedkillers and fertiliser and so have survived with indigenous flora.

Some of that flora, or species of flora, has been found to have survived from the time before the churchyards boundaries were walled or fenced from ancient pastureland and wood.

Some churches still have open churchyards - that is they have room for further burials. Others are closed and have been for many years and so have minimal disturbance except for well-intentioned maintenance or management. 'Management' could just be grazing. Where no maintenance or management occurs, the churchyards descend into an abandoned state too incompatible for the continued survival of the ancient strains of flora.

Anywhere with a wide variety of flora has a spread season of vegetation, flowers and seed, each of which attracts and sustain a wide variety of insects and their grubs. That provides the base for a food chain that attracts birds, small mammals and maybe some reptiles (i.e. lizards or slow worms).

The Bampton churchyard being closed, it falls upon the County to be responsible for it. The County provides the standard £600pa for the Church Council to maintain it, on its behalf, in such a way as the Church Council sees fit. For some years the Church Council has had the whole of it regularly evenly mown over the growing season. In 2002 the contractor retired and the new contractor wants to charge more per cut, so fewer cuts would result from the same total sum.

This has led to the Church Council enquiring about the BBOWT scheme for managing churchyards in the diocese to encourage wildlife. (Some 20,000 churchyards, countrywide, are in similar schemes)

BBOWT (Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) visited our site last November when 28 species of ground flora were identified. Another visit will be made this spring when other plants should be more evident. Its preliminary suggestion has been made to only close-mow alongside the footpaths, mow elsewhere at intervals and to consider mowing some areas only once a year.

A more structured plan may put up on what and where to do or not do things after the second survey and based on significant finds.

Such a project will require general workparties and the Church Council plans to have its first on Sat 12th April. It is hoped that there are individuals or groups in Bampton with special interests that may wish to be involved.

BBOWT offers training-day events to help with such projects. If you are interested in any of the subjects (see below) please contact **Jenny Parrish Tel: 850664**

Beyond that, there will be a need for a managing plan and teams or individual helpers accepting responsibility for tasks: trees, bushes, ivy control, composting, seeding, planting, bird owl and bat boxes, etc., etc.

Whatever, it will not be an overnight fix but there is a prospect of more natural and seasonal colour in our churchyard, a habitat that attracts more butterflies with more birdsong. That in its turn could attract more interest in the site for locals, visitors, the school's nature classes and the like to and so engender more involvement in the site.

Depending on demand, training events BBOWT is considering for 2003/4, include the following -

- wildflowers; grasses; lichens; birds;
- mosses; butterflies; bats; insects;
- management of churchyards for wildlife; environmental education in churchyards.

If you have an interest in one or more of these events, please let Mrs Parrish know.

BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA 2003

By Gilly French

Bampton Classical Opera has received national recognition for its energetic and amusing revivals of glorious eighteenth century opera. Last year we were given the ultimate accolade in *The Times*, which described us as "the epitome of opera-in-a-garden - and exceptional value for money".

This year we present two deliciously melodic and funny productions. The first is a revival of last year's Cimarosa opera, *The Two Barons of Rocca Azzurra*, a comedy of deception and mistaken identity and sung by a top young cast, which you can catch again at Westonbirt in Gloucestershire, only an hour's drive away, on **19th July** and also at our new London venue, St John's Smith Square on 18th September.

However we are particularly excited about our Bampton production, which will be the first ever in this country of *Falstaff* by Mozart's great rival Salieri, on **25th and 26th July** in the Deanery garden. It is a setting of Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor* and concentrates on Falstaff's attempts to seduce Mrs Ford and Mrs Slender (Mrs Page in the Shakespeare) as much for the wealth of their husbands as for their charms. The wives lead him on in order to trick him, but Mr Ford becomes deeply suspicious, and plots with Mr Slender. Servants Bardolph and Betty complete the cast. Falstaff is tricked three times - hidden in a laundry basket and tipped in the Thames, dressed as an old cook and beaten, and scorched and pinched by 'spirits' in Windsor forest at night. He promises repentance. Bampton favourite Mark Saberton is busy feeding himself up in preparation for appearing as the corpulent hero. We are also delighted to welcome back regular singers Amanda Pitt, Nicholas Merryweather and Mark Wilde as well as three new singers including Joanne Thomas who has represented Wales in the Cardiff Singer of the World competition. Murray Hipkin from English National Opera makes his conducting debut, and it promises to be the best Bampton event yet.

As always Bampton Classical Opera is indebted to the Parish Council and the District Council for financial support, and to our wonderful friends who seem to keep the whole event afloat. Going to a Bampton Opera is a bit like going to a great outdoor party - bring a chair and a picnic and don't miss it!

Booking information

Falstaff - Advance tickets £20 Friday, £25 Saturday, available 1st April from Abbey Properties, Music Stand in Witney or by post. All booking information **Tel: 020 7963 1116**. Please note that prices increase by £5 after 17th July so **book early** to save money!

The Two Barons of Rocca Azzurra - advance tickets £25 for Westonbirt (£30 after 11 July) available 1st April from 020 7963 1116. Booking for St John's Smith Square opens 1st August **Tel: 020 7222 1061**. All other information **Tel: 020 7222 1173**.

Opera Anywhere

Following on from successful recent productions, *Too Hot To Handel* has been commissioned from the writer and director, Robin Martin-Oliver. *Too Hot To Handel* is set in the decadence of ancient Rome amid the hilarious confusion of the royal household.....Hail Caesar!!

Many of our singers have studied at leading conservatoires, some sing as layclerks in the colleges and some have performed in high profile venues such as the Royal Albert Hall. We will be performing *Too Hot To Handel* during March in Stanford in the Vale, Harwell, Abingdon, Sunningwell and Chipping Norton Theatre. Tickets for Stanford in the Vale on Saturday 1st March and Harwell Village Hall on Saturday 8th March can be purchased locally. For the Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon on Friday 7th March, and Sunningwell Village Hall on Saturday 15th March, tickets can be purchased from the Oxford Playhouse.

For further information check out www.operaanywhere.com.

THE BUSH CLUB NEEDS YOU!

The Bush Club needs people aged 60 and over.

**We meet every Wednesday in the Scout Hut,
Church View 10am—2pm**

Collection arrangements can be made for you

**Come along and enjoy a day out in a different environment
then your usual one.**

We provide morning coffee, lunch and tea.

Most weeks we have entertainment or a speaker comes to visit

**Sometimes we go on a trip somewhere - Pantomime at Christmas, Lunch
out at The Ferryman Inn, Millets Garden Centre**

Strawberry Tea at the Manor and lots more.

We celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival.

Raffles and Coffee Morning

And if that's not enough we have a game of Bingo or a Sing-a-long.

Why don't you come in and visit— drop by for Morning Coffee -

Join us for Lunch - or come and listen to the entertainment.

You don't need to stay the day with us, come in to suit yourself.

For more information contact

Vera Allport Tel: 851411

Or

Barbara Daw Tel: 851491

**Cooks, Drivers and Helpers are urgently needed. An hour or two now
and then would be very helpful.**

**IF YOU DON'T USE THIS FACILITY HERE IN THE
VILLAGE WE MAY HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN AND
THAT WOULD BE AN AWFUL SHAME FOR THOSE
WHO ALREADY DO USE IT AND ENJOY
A SOCIAL DAY OUT.**

Bampton Classical Opera Free Tickets

As last year, the Parish Council, which sponsors the Bampton Classical Opera, has 10 free tickets for the performance of Salieri's 'Falstaff' in the gardens of The Deanery on Friday evening 25th July 2003. These are available to adults or secondary school pupils - residents of Bampton will be given priority - who have no previous experience of opera. For more information, please contact **Jonathan Phillips Tel: 850321.**

Adopt-a-Gardener Scheme

Do you enjoy gardening? Would you like to support your local school by developing/maintaining their grounds. If so, then Emma Murray, the Schools Sustainability Officer at the County Council would like to hear from you. She is trying to match interested volunteers with local schools. Emma can be contacted

Tel: 01993 350458

e-mail:

emma@twohillend.fsnet.co.uk

David Cameron Advice Centre Dates

David Cameron MP is holding Advice centres across West Oxfordshire. These include:

Friday 25th April 5pm—7pm

Warwick Hall, Burford

Friday 16th May 5pm – 7pm

Bartholomew Rooms, Eynsham

Friday 6th June 5pm – 7pm

The Corner House, Charlbury

Friday 27th June 5pm – 7pm

Gallery Room, Witney

To make an appointment please contact: West Oxfordshire Conservative Association, 10 Bridge Street, Witney, Oxon OX28 1HY,

Tel: 01993 702302

e-mail:

tory@witney10.fsnet.co.uk

camerond@parliament.uk

Bampton Museum by Jo Lewington

The Bampton Museum had a successful exhibition on the subject of 'Bampton Shops and Trades' with over 70 photographs - some dating from the 19th century - some oral history, some very interesting old ac-

NOTICE BOARD

counts books showing just how cheap things used to be, and various other bits and pieces. The next exhibition, also to be held in the Robert Vesey Room of the Bampton Library, will be called 'The Bampton Tradition of Morris Dancing'. We have a large collection of photographs to choose from and there will again be some oral history and some musical recordings. If you have anything you think may be of interest to the Museum collection please let one of the committee know or speak to Janet at the library.

This March is our first anniversary. We have achieved 4 exhibitions, and we now have sufficient computer equipment to put nearly 700 images on a database. Our collection of oral history is growing. Later this year we shall be adding video recordings and music to our database. Our thanks go to Roy Barratt who has done almost all the copying and printing of old photographs; to Tony Page who has striven to get the data base going; and to Mark Laister without whose technical skills we would have found ourselves faced with a blank screen! Thanks too to all those Bamptonians who loaned photographs or who gave the time to give recordings and information.

The Bush Club

Cooks, Drivers and Helpers are urgently needed. An hour or two now and then would be very helpful. The Club meets every Wednesday in the Scout Building, Church View, and caters for up to 40 pensioners. We provide tea, coffee and a hot meal. For more information please contact **Barbara Daw Tel: 01993 851491.**

Old Birthday Cards

Please continue to give me your Birthday Cards, after you have enjoyed them, so that I can continue to make money for worthy causes. This year the following received £100 each: Mullers Homes (Bristol); Bampton Museum; Junior Church; Alan and Wendy's sponsored ride from Land's End to John o' Groats for the Perthes Association. £50 to Sobell

House and Multiple Sclerosis; and a little to the Vesey Room for their kindness in letting me sell them there.
Daphne Gaydon, 3 Broad Street

Youth Centre

By Colin Allport

Bampton Youth Centre was founded in 1984 when, following a major fund raising effort by local people, the old Victorian primary school was renovated for use as a meeting place for youth activities in the village. The running cost of the Centre is met partly by generous financial support from Bampton's 250 Club with the remainder coming from rental income. The County Youth Service pays rent on behalf of the village youth club but we are very much dependent on hiring the premises to third parties for meetings, parties, receptions, discos and other gatherings. The main hall of the Centre has a particularly pleasant atmosphere; there are good facilities plus ample car parking space in the old playgrounds. The rental charges are highly competitive and anyone interested in hiring the Centre should contact the **Hiring Officer, Jill Ruck Tel: 852010.** The Secretary, Colin Allport (850411) is always happy to provide general information.

In the past few months Rachael Newman has commenced using the Centre for the Bampton Group of the Piggott School of Dance and holds regular children's dance classes. Any parent with children interested in joining the group should contact **Rachael Tel: 852355.**

Both the junior Youth Club, meeting on Tuesday evenings, and the senior group, which meets on Thursday evenings, continue to flourish and are very well attended. We are pleased to report that the senior youth leader, Gary Gummer, is now fully recovered and back in action and will be happy to hear from any young people interested in joining and also from any parent who might be able to help. Gary can be contacted **Tel: 851913.** Our MP, David Cameron called in during a senior evening shortly before Christmas and he will be arranging for a Youth Club group to visit the Houses of Parliament later this year. Sadly, the Scouting Group is still sus-

OUT AND ABOUT

The Mummers in action on Christmas Eve



Kitchen Staff at the Bush Club



The Usual Good Time Was had By All



The Real Behind the Scenes Workers!

Our MP David Cameron gives a talk at The Bush Club



OUT AND ABOUT

Gardening Club Starts the 2003 Expeditions



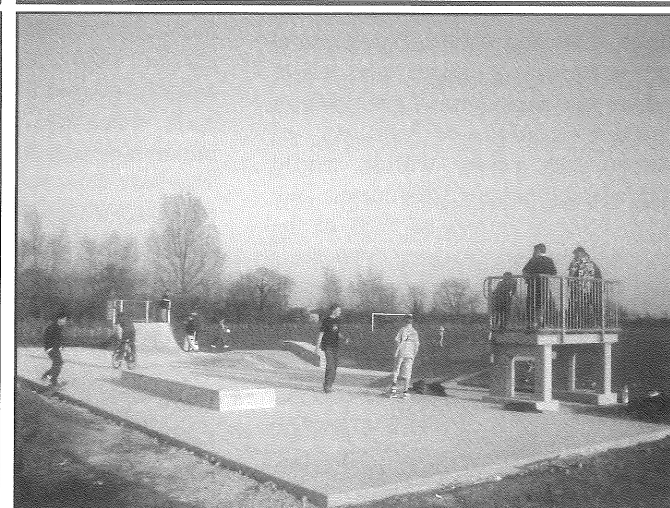
Skate Boarders in Action



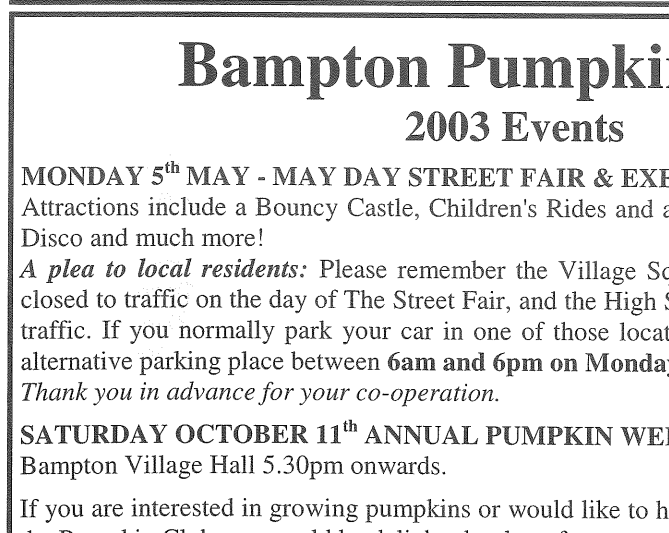
Returning from *Holiday On Ice*



A Popular Attraction



A Day at Cheltenham Races



But where is the safety gear???

Bampton Pumpkin Club 2003 Events

MONDAY 5th MAY - MAY DAY STREET FAIR & EXEMPTION DOG SHOW:

Attractions include a Bouncy Castle, Children's Rides and amusements, Bar, BBQ, all day Disco and much more!

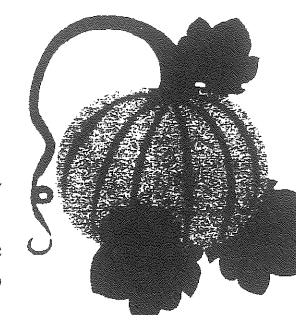
A plea to local residents: Please remember the Village Square and Lavender Square are closed to traffic on the day of The Street Fair, and the High Street has only one lane open to traffic. If you normally park your car in one of those locations, *please* could you find an alternative parking place between **6am and 6pm on Monday 5th May 2003**.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11th ANNUAL PUMPKIN WEIGH-IN AND AUCTION OF PRODUCE:

Bampton Village Hall 5.30pm onwards.

If you are interested in growing pumpkins or would like to help with either of these events, or require further information on the Pumpkin Club, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact **Carolyn Main** on **01993 210076**.



pended due to lack of trained leaders.

The Childrens Society

The annual box collection this year, including boxes held by Londis and the Surgery, raised £450.99 - a wonderful amount and so welcome at Christmas time when we are thinking of people who have less than ourselves. If anyone would like to keep a box at home please contact me, **Pauline Hawkins, Tel: 851066**, and I will be very happy to bring a box to you. Thank you again to all those who made such generous donations.

Bampton Exhibition Foundation

The Foundation exists to maintain the Old Grammar School building (now the Library), and to provide financial support to young people residing in the Ancient Parish of Bampton, Aston, Lew and Weald. The financial help is for young people who would like to participate in any academic or sporting course or activity of educational value which would otherwise be beyond their means. We try to offer a bursary of 50% of the amount required. Anyone who feels they qualify (or knows of someone who may do so) should contact the Correspondence Secretary, **Roger Snow, 40 Bushy Row, Bampton, OX18 2JU or Tel: 850113**.

Cancer Research Bampton Branch

The Annual General Meeting was held on 27th January, where it was reported that the amount raised in 2002 was £12,270, which was much higher than the year before.

The following were elected to the new committee:

Chairman : Mrs Doris Cleaver
Tel: 850682
Secretary : Mrs Eileen Dring
Tel: 850333
Treasurer : Mr M Cleaver
Tel: 850682

Events planned for 2003 are:

Saturday April 12th
Easter Sale, Village Hall
Monday May 5th
Balloon Race
Friday May 23rd
Quiz Night, Village Hall

NOTICE BOARD

Saturday September 20th

Coffee Morning, Village Hall

Wednesday November 12th

Bingo, Village Hall

Friday December 5th

Quiz Night, Village Hall

Friday December 19th

Country & Western Dance, Carterton Social Centre

Bampton French Book Club

Having recently moved to Bampton from Swindon where I ran a French Book Club, I am wondering whether there may be interest in the village to set up a similar club here. The Swindon club proved very popular amongst those who had attained a good standard of French - roughly A level - and who wished to maintain this level without committing themselves to formal weekly language classes. The meetings would be roughly every two months, where a book which had been chosen in the previous session would be discussed. The only cost involved would be the purchase of the book - less than £5 per session. Interested? Please contact: **Grace Wilkins, 3 Beam Paddock.**

Bampton Bridge Club

The Club meets in the Village Hall every Tuesday, 7:30 pm to 10pm. Duplicate Bridge is played on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday of the month.. Rubber bridge on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. The annual subscription is £5 with a charge of £1.00 per session. New members are always welcome. For more information contact, **Joan Granville, Tel: 850407**

Bampton Ladies Group

We are a very casual group of ladies who meet in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month at 8pm. We have speakers or go on outings and just have a pleasant evening together. Posters are put up around the village, so if you spot one and would like to come along please do. The membership is £6 yearly but your first visit is free. For further information please contact **Joan Farthing Tel: 851206**.

Sobell House Hospice Charity

Can you help us to provide funding for the running costs of your local hospice by holding a fundraising event?

The Charity needs to raise around £800,000 this year to provide hospice care, which is not covered by the NHS. We are hoping to contact people who read *The Bampton Beam* to ask if you would consider holding a summer fundraising event for us. This could be a BBQ, garden party, open garden event, or even a sponsored event.

We all hope that hospices will be there for us if we should ever need them. Can you help us to raise much needed funds to ensure that Sobell House Hospice can continue to maintain the range of care that they would wish to provide?

If you are interested in providing support in this way, but you would like some advice on how to go about organising an event, please contact the Charity Office on:

01865 883339

Thank you.

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Police	Witney	01993 703913
	Carterton	01993 893951
	Urgent	01865 266000
Witney Hospital		01993 602900
Minor Injuries Unit		01993 602966
Power Cuts		0345 708090
Gas Emergency		0800 111999
Water & Sewerage		0645 200800
BT General Enquiries		0800 309409
BT Line Fault		151
Env.Services		01993 770222
Abandoned Vehicles		01993 770308
Bulky Waste		
Collection		01993 770222
Witney Town Council		01993 704379
Tourist Information		01993 775802
Citizens Advice		01993 705691
Train Information		08457 484950
Trading Standards		01865 815000
Bampton Surgery		01993 850257
- out of hours		01993 851616
Witney Health Centre		01993 703641
Stagecoach Witney		01993 702197
WODC		01993 702941
Lost & Found		01608 659029
Clerk Parish Council		01993 850776

THE ANNUAL 'SODEM' RUN (Society of Drivers & Enginemen)

A cold Saturday morning last November brought strange sounds into many



*Tim Tomlin's Burrell Road Locomotive
'Lord Nelson'*

a small village around West Oxfordshire.

Why, you may ask?

Well, it was the annual *Society of*

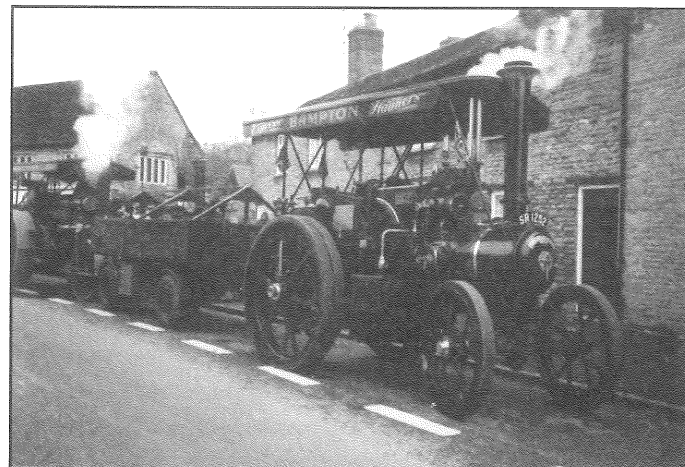
The noise of the wheels turning on the tarmac road, and the toot of the many

whistles acknowledging each other as they arrived and stopped outside the *The Romany*, must have made most of you inquisitive.

It certainly did me. The noise sounded so familiar, having grown up with traction engines in the family. My father, John Quick had two: *Pandora* (most people will remember her); and *Bampton Castle*. As chil-

dren we all had our set jobs to do when it was race day. My younger sister and I had the job of polishing the brasses. The other three siblings had various other jobs allocated, some clean, and some not so clean!

The smell the steam traction engines never leaves you, so up to the village I went, last November to see what was going on. And the sight was fantastic! Honestly, I have never seen so many Traction Engines all to-



Tim Tomlin's Taskers 'Jolly'

Drivers and Enginemen's road run.

The run starts at John Wharton's yard in Witney, and ends at the Trout Pub in Lechlade. There they are met by another group of Drivers and Enginemen who have driven up from the Swindon Area.

That Saturday morning in November must have made most people wonder what was happening in the village.

gether at the one time for many many years. And the enthusiasm of the people who turned out to see them was great.

Some of the engines I had seen as a youngster - new owners now but still as gleaming as ever. A great sight! Hopefully this coming November, we will again see the Traction Engines in Bampton in all their splendour.

HELLO FROM THE COTTON CLUB

You may have noticed some changes recently at the Cotton Club, Bridge St. After many years Lynn Finley decided to focus on her other interests and sold the Cotton Club to Linda and Roger who held a Grand Opening on November 30th which was attended by many family and friends. (*The Sub-ed notes with satisfaction the auspicious day of the Grand Opening - St. Andrew's Day!*)

They have restocked the haberdashery, threads and ribbons and returned to the original ethos of the shop concentrating on mainly cottons, linens, lawns and wools, whilst still maintaining the full range of patterns. There are deliveries arriving each week so do pop in to see what's new. They are very happy to continue as the drop off point for *The Bampton Beam* and to act as the ticket office for the theatre shows.

With over 20 years experience in patchwork and 40 years in dressmaking, Linda is always happy to offer helpful advice and a guiding hand. She has worked in Liberty's fabric department, been involved in a fabric launch and has taught patchwork and quilting.

She will be starting patchwork classes in September from absolute beginners to more advanced lessons. There will also be an informal 'Patch & Chat' group for patchworkers to meet together over a cup of coffee. If anyone is interested please leave your details at the shop.

Occasionally Roger or their daughter Natalie can be found in the shop when Linda has an appointment elsewhere; they are always happy to help and will find out the answer if they don't know it. They would like to thank everyone for their kind comments and warm welcome which has made them feel so welcome in Bampton.

We are delighted that Linda and Roger have volunteered to remain as the 'Beam's' Post Box. We wish them every success with their new venture. Ed.

Carpenter/Handyman A Bonner

Carpentry Decorating
Electrical Plumbing

Fencing
Shed Building

Any Job Undertaken

Tel: 01993 850850
Mob: 07802 413008



Quality Fabrics
for
Patchwork
&
Dressmaking

**NEW STOCK ARRIVING
EVERY WEEK**

THE ANNUAL 'GLORIOUS' PLANT SALE

Eagle House
Church View

**Monday 26th May
10am - 4pm**

Lots of Plants to buy
or
If you have any to spare
bring them along!

All proceeds go towards
The Bampton Museum.

THE POST OFFICE

Bridge Street
Foreign Currency
Stamps
Pensions
Variety of Cards
Stationary
etc

The new Pension Scheme is
a threat to the existence of
Bampton's Post Office.
Please continue to support
us by collecting your
pension here!

THE HORSESHOE INN

Bridge Street, Bampton
01993 850201

Your Hosts are Alan and Kath Clarke

The Horseshoe public house was rebuilt in 1923/24 after the original pub burned down in 1923. This makes the Horseshoe the only purpose-built pub in Bampton!

Relax in our lounge bar in front of an open log fire with a pint of real ale or fine wine. Or, if you like pub games, then try our other bar with its a pool table, dart board, music and Sky TV. We also have a walled garden where, in the summer, you will see 'Aunt Sally' been played, and from April to the end of May, on Sunday evenings, we have Morris Dancing.

Come and join us - we know that you will make it a regular habit



PATRICK STRAINGE

(Butchers)

Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon

Tel: 01993 850350

Quality Meat Direct From Our Family Farms

Hire of Pig Roasts for Parties etc.

Extensive Range of Cheeses Now Stocked



Don Rouse Cars

Fully Qualified P.C.V. Driver

AIRPORTS & SEAPORTS

Business Trips

COURIER SERVICE

Air Conditioned Luxury

PEOPLE CARRIER

Up to six passengers

NON-SMOKING

Telephone
01993 851480

Mobile
07770 533764

DANETREE Veterinary Surgeons

14 Coxwell Road
Faringdon

Oxon. SN7 7EZ

Tel: 01367 242777

Surgery on
Thursday Mornings
(by appointment only)
at Bampton Library

www.danetreevets.com



N Nurden

Motor Body Repairs

1 Rosemary Lane

Bampton

Oxon OX18 2NF

Tel 07970 255594

Free quotations

Insurance work undertaken

= P&S Builders =

Unit 10, Northmoor Park
Church Road, Northmoor
Oxford OX29 5UH

Office: 01993 851700

Mobiles: 07764 281289 or 07747 612826

All Building Aspects Covered

including

Design and Build

FREE ESTIMATES

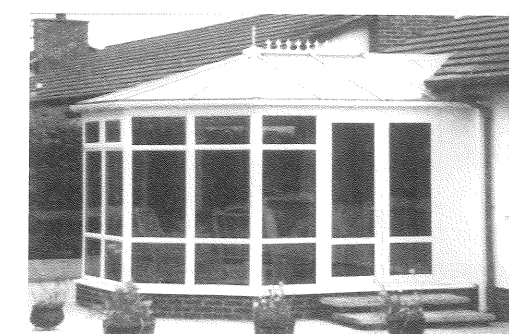
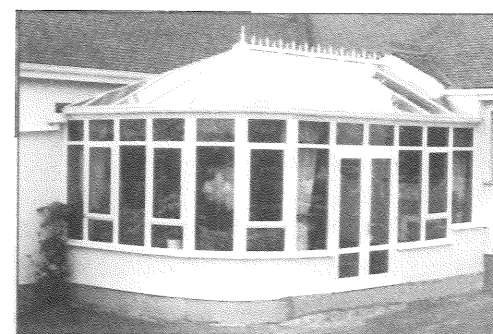


Lynwood Leisure Buildings Ltd.

Suppliers and Installers

of

**Conservatories, Windows, Doors
Garden Buildings**



**Failed Glass doesn't mean new Windows
Replacement Glass supplied and fitted
Call us on 01993 842257**

BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB
Bampton Only Competition

Class		Kindly Sponsored By
1	Best Window Box or Tub (Commercial) 1 st £10.00, 2 nd £6.00, 3 rd £4.00	The Horseshoe Inn
2	Best Window Box or Tub (Private) 1 st £10.00, 2 nd £6.00, 3 rd £4.00	The Morris Clown
3	Best Hanging Basket (Commercial) 1 st £10.00, 2 nd £6.00, 3 rd £4.00	The Romany
4	Best Hanging Basket (Private) 1 st £10.00, 2 nd £6.00, 3 rd £4.00	Emmie's Newsagents
5	Best Kept Private Vegetable Garden 1 st £10.00, 2 nd £6.00, 3 rd £4.00	Temples of Bampton
6	Best Kept Private Small Front or Back Garden. 1 st £10.00, 2 nd £6.00, 3 rd £4.00	Abbey Properties
7	Best Kept Bampton Allotment 1 st £10.00 2 nd £6.00 3 rd £4.00	Bampton Parish Council

The above classes will be judged on site, between Monday 14th and Friday 25th July. Please put your entry forms into the box which will be in Patrick Strainge's Butcher's Shop, Bridge Street from 14th June until 25th June.

ENTRY FORM FOR OUTDOOR EXHIBITS

Entry Fees – Senior Citizen £1, Members £1, Non-Members £1.50p.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Name

Address

Please note below special instructions/directions to help the judges find the exact location and way into your garden. The Gardening Club regrets that the Judges are unable to enter any gardens containing loose animals.

.....

.....

The Bampton Gardening Club are holding two shows this year—if you have not received a schedule already and would like to join us please contact Fenella Gray Tel: 851653.

Or pick one up from Temples, or Patrick Strainge The Butchers.

BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB
SUMMER SHOW
Saturday 28th June 2003
AUTUMN SHOW

Saturday 20th September 2003

Youth Club, Church View, Bampton

Doors open for staging 9am—11am —Late Entries 9am –10am

Open to the Public from 2pm

Instead of Registration Night Patrick Strainge has offered the Butchers Shop to be the new collection of your entries.

Please place them in the box marked Bampton Gardening Club, between Monday 14th June and Wednesday 25th June.

Remember we do have late entries on the Show day—but would prefer the majority of entries to use the box at the Butchers.

More information on the Autumn Show will be in the August edition of The Bampton Beam.

Don't forget the Bampton Only Competition, a entry form is included in The Bampton Beam. The entries bring in a certain competitiveness between the shops and pubs each year and now it is running into in the Private entries.

DUE TO THE HOLDING OF TWO SHOWS THIS YEAR WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE RETURN OF THE CUPS AT THE COFFE MORNING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 10th MAY OR RETURN THEM TO CHRISTINE MACLINTOCK 2 MANOR COTTAGES WEALD TEL: 850736

TRIPS ORGANISED FOR 2003

11th May Malvern Spring Show

Saturday 31st - May Bath & West Show, Shepton Mallet

22nd June - Wychbold Garden Centre, Droitwich

13th July- Day trip to Western Super Mare

23rd—30th August - Scottish Highlands Holiday

28th September - Malvern Autumn Show

12th October - Wisley

16th November - Christmas Shopping trip, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol

Saturday 13th December - Tour of London & Carols Singing at Trafalgar Square

For more information contact Social; Member- Ellen Parker Tel: 843985,

To pay your subscription—Membership Secretary Gill Gummer Tel: 851913

The Bampton Gardening Club Committee would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who joins us in our many different activities we offer.

THE COOKERY CORNER

by Emma Deacon

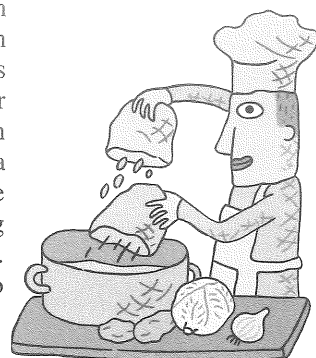
We are very grateful to Emma for stepping in to the breach left by Gilly French! Emma volunteered to keep the cookery page going, even though she's only 18 years of age!

Emma starts her Media Studies degree course in October, and feels that writing for the cookery page will help her with her work. We wish her every success in her studies.

And she does have some cooking credentials - her postal address is The Poachers Rest, Bampton!

Noodle. Mushroom & Ginger Soup

This oriental soup was an attractive option for me to cook during this cold season and the spices will certainly do the trick warming everyone up! The ginger used in this recipe is nutritious and even listed in some pharmacopoeias. As Shakespeare's clown puts it, "ginger shall be hot I' the mouth too" (Twelfth Night). This is a healthy vegetarian option and the thread noodles are a refreshing change from the normal variety. Thai soups are quick and easy to cook, so what are you waiting for?



INGREDIENTS

(serves 4)

15g or 1/2 oz dried Chinese mushrooms (bought from most supermarkets if not use 125g or 4 oz field mushrooms)

1 litre or 1 3/4 pints of hot fresh vegetable stock (can use vegetable stock cube)

125g or 4 oz thread egg noodles

2tsp sesame or sunflower oil

3 garlic cloves, crushed

2.5cm or 1 inch piece of ginger, shredded finely

1/2 tsp. mushroom ketchup

1 tsp. light soy sauce

125g or 4 oz bean-sprouts

coriander leaves, to garnish

Soak the dried Chinese mushrooms, if using, for at least 30 minutes in 300ml or 1/2 pint of the hot vegetable stock. Remove the tough stalks and discard, and then slice the mushrooms. Reserve the stock

Cook the thread egg noodle for 2 minutes in boiling slightly salted water. Drain and rinse. Set them aside.

Heat the oil over a high heat in a wok or large frying pan. Add the garlic and ginger, stir and add the mushrooms. Stir over a high heat for 2 minutes.

Add the remaining vegetable stock with the reserved stock and bring to the boil. Add the mushroom ketchup and soy sauce.

Stir in the bean sprouts. Cook until tender and serve immediately over the noodles, garnished with the coriander leaves.

What's on over the Bank Holiday May 24th – 26th

Shirt Race

The Shirt Race evening starts at 6.30pm with the judging of the Fancy Dress. The 'Juniors Race' then follows at 7pm, with 'The Seniors' at 7.20pm. We then have the prize presentations. There will be plenty of beer, and plenty of frolicking about, so beware! The SPAJERS will also be about with their money tins so keep your loose change available and don't forget Josie's Tombola. For more information, or if you would like to help in any way, please contact **Don Rouse Tel: 851480**.

May Garlands

It's time once again to start thinking about Whitsun and garland making, the Morris Dancers dancing, and all those other things happening in the month of May. After such a disappointing year in 2001 with the number of entries for the garland's being so poor, 2002 certainly made up for it. Sadly the only drop of rain which came down that day was when the judging was taking place so we all had to move into the Village Hall. It was lovely to see so many garlands, everyone had worked so hard to make this possible. The winners took them to the Church where they were put on show along side the Flower Festival.

To make a garland is very easy. All you need is two hoops, which you cover with wild flowers. These wild flowers can be dandelions, buttercups, cow-parsley – in fact any wild flowers which are easy to find. Tie into small bunches and attach them to the hoops with string. Fix the two hoops together so they form a 'ball' shape. On top, fix a bunch of flowers – years ago the top posy had to be made up of red peonies.

Sit your favourite doll or teddy in the centre, find a long stick or broom handle to hook through, two people to carry it, and you've got yourself a Traditional May Garland. I do hope to see a few of you at the Market Square, now that I've given you the 'know how' of what to do! For more information please contact **Mrs Ruth Wheeler Tel: 850808**.

Morris Dancers

Dancing starts on the streets of Bampton at 7am on Monday 26th May. There are three Bampton Teams which will perform for you during the day. You can buy a programme from the Town Hall - it will tell you where the different teams will be dancing around the village. Do try a piece of the 'fertility' cakes, which are carried around the streets with the dancers. In the evening, starting around 5pm in the Market Square, visiting teams come to join in the dancing and make merry! This is when the real Bampton comes to life!

LETTERS TO: AUNTIE BEAM

Dear Auntie Beam,

I thought this subject would never have to be brought up again - but rather sadly I felt I had to say something once again. It's 'dog-poo'. What a shame.

Our village was really doing nicely, you could walk down the streets with out any fear of stepping in it.

Unfortunately, unless you keep reminding people this smelly business will keep cropping up time after time. The other day, I watched as a family walked along the high street and let the dog (it looked like a greyhound) do a 'whopper' and just left it lying there. Would they have liked it if their little one had stepped in it? I shouldn't think so. Sandford's Field is another place people don't seem to think they need to clean up after their dog has relieved itself.

Come on everyone get those pooh bags out again, Temples sell pooper-scoopers, and there's no excuse. We have plenty of dog pooh bins around the village; **use them please**.

Yours A pooper scooper user

Dear pooper scooper user,

It's a shame that some people are beginning to slacken off once again. It is a horrible thing to happen to anyone if you accidentally step into a dog mess. And for those dog owners who ignore the need to clean up, there is a costly fine if you are caught. It only needs one person out one day with a camera then you could be in for a fine of £3000!

Please everyone use your plastic bags and keep Bampton nice and clean.

Yours Auntie Beam

Dear Auntie Beam

Please could you tell me who's idea it was to move the bus stop into the Market Square, because I would like it moved back as it is unsafe for people to cross the road and when there are buses parked side by side you can't drive through. I think the idea of it being put there was suggested by the Upper Class people of Bampton that have only lived in the village a few years and the idea of it is to stop the fair coming once a year.

I would like to take this opportunity to

thank Jonathan Phillips for fighting for more housing in the village it is long overdue

Thank you from someone who has lived in Bampton all their life.

Dear Writer

Since I didn't quite know who arranged for the bus stop in the Market Square, I had to ask a very nice man from our Parish Council for the answer. He told me that, when the Parish Council was told that we were going to get two bus services for the Village, the question was raised as to the safety of the existing bus stops outside of the Romany and Horse Shoe. The concern was that the 18 and 19 services have to meet to allow people to interchange between the two buses, and if they tried to do that at the two existing bus stops, it would mean both buses being double parked in the main road, because car drivers use the bus stops to park their cars.

The Parish Council therefore arranged to meet with the Oxfordshire County Council (highways department), the police, and Stagecoach, to discuss the situation, and they all came to the conclusion that the Market Square would be a safer place to have the buses interchange, although no place in the village centre is ideal. The only problem is that when the OCC arranged for the road markings to be painted, the contractor did not make them long enough to take two buses, and sometimes with the cars parked in the Market Square too close to the bus stop, the buses have to double park, but I haven't seen this happen too often myself.

The very nice person from the Parish Council has asked me to point out that people do not have to cross the road to get to the bus stop in the Market Square, since both the 18 and 19 are 'Hail and Stop' services, and can therefore be stopped anywhere on their routes in the Village. Of course, where people can use the correct bus stops, it does mean that the buses don't have to stop on the main roads, and that does help safety. As for the Fair, there is no need to worry, as it will still take place. Stagecoach are making arrangements for the buses to meet elsewhere in the village for the days the Fair is here.

Let's be thankful that we do have reasonable bus services, even though it



If you would like to write to Auntie Beam the address is; Auntie Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge St, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2HA. She will try to answer as many of your queries as possible.

would appear that not everyone can be satisfied all of the time.

Dear Auntie Beam

I am one of the few people who were actually born in Bampton. My parents and grandparents would tell stories of things which happen around the village, and consequently they live on with you, and hopefully you pass them down to your family and so on an so on.

One of these stories concerns the round stones at 'Pudding Corner', now called Prospect Place.

I left the village for a while, but have come back to enjoy retirement here. Not long after I returned I drove down New Road, and noticed that the stones were not there anymore. I wondered if the council had moved them because of them being in the way when the tractor mows the grass verges.

It's quite a funny story the history of them, and if you are interested I will let you have it to print in the next edition if the Beam.

I would be interested if you could find out anything about them as they are part of the village inheritance.

Yours A Bamptonian

Dear Bamptonian

I find any story concerning the stones interesting. I shall have to speak to Edie about this one, as she may know something about it. I do recall something about a husband burning the puddings hence the name of 'Pudding Corner'. Please do send me your story, and in the mean time I will try and find out about the whereabouts of the stones for you.

OXFORD
DOUBLE GLAZING
Established 1964

Simple, Straightforward Advice

Buying double-glazing need not be complicated! Let us advise you on windows, doors, conservatories, patio doors, sash windows and secondary glazing - no pressure, no obligation.

Call (01865) 517200

E-mail: info@oxforddoubleglazing.com
www.oxforddoubleglazing.com

Opening hours:

9.30 - 5.30 Monday to Friday
10.00 - 4.00 Saturday

Showroom

3 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7JL



GREY GABLES GARAGE

CURBRIDGE, WITNEY, OXON OX18 7PD

Telephone
01993 702609
Fax
01993 774169

NEW SKODA

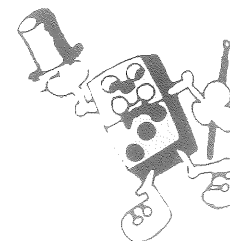


DEALER

New & Used Cars
of other makes available

MOT and garage repairs

DOMINO



Quality Menswear

44 Corn St. Witney
Tel: 01993 771413

FORMAL HIREWEAR
SPECIALIST

EVERYTHING FOR THAT
SPECIAL OCCASION

IMMEDIATE HIRE OF

Dinner Suits
Morning Suits

AGENTS FOR

Highland Wear
Page Boy Suits
Lounge Suits

THE STANDLAKE GARAGE

Proprietor: Peter Saxel
153 Abingdon Rd, Standlake, Oxon OX8 7RR
Tel: 01865 300203

**REPAIR AND
SERVICING TO ALL
MAKES OF CAR**
(Collection and Delivery Service)

M.O.T. TESTING STATION - PETROL
DIESEL - ACCESSORY AND
CONFECTIONERY SHOP - TYRES,
BATTERIES & EXHAUST SYSTEMS
ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
(Fitting free of charge when supplied)
WHEEL BALANCING
CRYPTON TUNING
COAL, PARAFFIN, BARBECUE FUEL

**DON'T HESITATE TO
CALL US
ALWAYS HAPPY TO
ASSIST**

LONDIS



MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
UNTIL 10PM

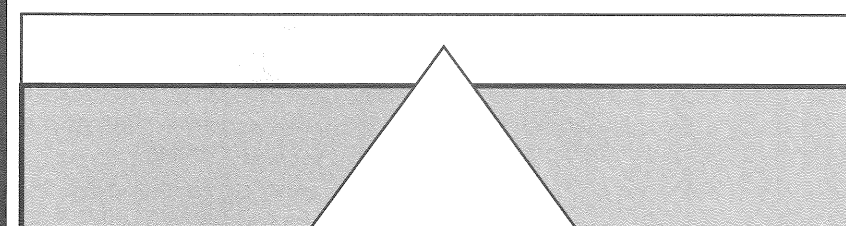


YOUR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SHOP
AT YOUR SERVICE

ELECTRICAL METER KEYS CHARGED · NATIONAL LOTTERY · TOP UP MOBILE PHONE CARDS
'ET VOILA' FRENCH BREAD BAKED ON THE PREMISES · FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES
FRESH MILK & CREAM · FREE RANGE EGGS · WINES, SPIRITS, BEERS & CIDER
COOKED MEATS & BACON · FROZEN FOOD & GROCERIES · POSTAGE STAMPS · VIDEO HIRE

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL 10PM
BANK HOLIDAYS UNTIL 10PM

WE DO NOT CLOSE FOR LUNCH



R. Cooper

BUILDERS - PAINTERS - DECORATORS

CARPENTRY - JOINERY - GENERAL HELPERS

SPECIALISTS IN DRY STONE WALLING

The Old Gasworks, Aston Road, Bampton
Oxon OX18 2AL
Phone/Fax 01993 851851

BOJANGLES

Rosemary Lane, Bampton
01993 850850

All aspects of hairdressing
Woven Highlights + Perms
Gents & Children
Senior Citizen's Days

Tues, Wed, Thur 8.45am - 5pm
Fri 8.45am - 5.30pm
Sat 9am - 2pm

**Appointments not
always necessary**

Do you suffer muscle aches
or pain caused by injury,
occupation or lifestyle?
A course of Remedial/Sports
massage could help!

Contact
Dawn Puckey
MGCP IHHT ITEC
'Bodytalk'
Bampton
Tel: 01235 524309

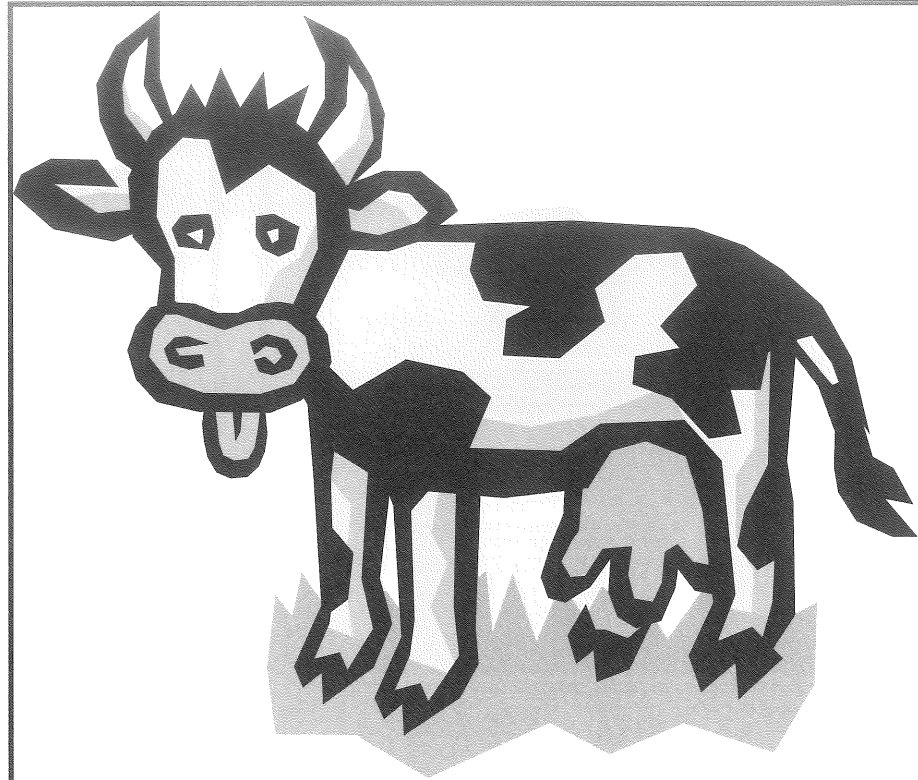
OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

The changeability of our weather never ceases to amaze me. I am writing this on a cold and miserable February day, everything is dormant and dismal, yet when you read this I am sure that the sun will be out, overcoats put away, the garden will need digging and the lawn will need mowing! It seems like only yesterday that we were last doing these jobs. I suppose it is what you might call the perpetuation of life. Like the little girl in ITMA, (a radio show of the 1940's) "Its being so cheerful that keeps me going!" Before I ramble into my nostalgic mode I had better bring you up to date as to what is happening down on the Farm. Good news, my informants tell me that the price of young calves and stores are rising. Store cattle are what you might call teenagers, difficult to look after but quite possibly with a good future ahead of them. These firmer prices are due obviously due to an upturn in the beef trade. I would like to think that readers of the 'Beam' have taken notice to what I have been saying all these years that British Beef is the safest and best. That might sound flip-pant, but that is all it would take for a turn-around in British agriculture. It is for us to be as patriotic as the French, as recent events prove that they put themselves first and to hell with the consequences! If prices remain firm, more animals will be kept, making more organic manure for the land. If there are more animals, then there will be more corn eaten, making it better for the arable farmer. Please make a

note of today's date. It is the first time since I have been writing these articles that I have had something *positive* to say about prices! Mind you, when they are down in the gutter they can't go any lower and the only way is up.

At the moment the worst section for profitability is the dairymen. The price of milk paid to them is only two



buildings are part of our heritage yet now they are totally obsolete; they are too small to get a tractor in for cleaning out, and to do it by hand would be too costly and time consuming. So now they are just in the way and of no use to anyone, unless of course they are converted into offices and the like. Otherwise they will just fall into disrepair and become an eyesore and a blot on the landscape. I just hope that they will not be lost forever.

I understand that there is a proposed change in the law regarding "set Aside" In the past, farmers would elect certain fields for the scheme then the following year they could elect different fields, providing that the percentage was the same. This way it could form part of a rotation and be part of the pattern of our ever-changing countryside. The proposal is that in the future ten per cent of any fields that are elected to be in the scheme must remain that way forever. Barren and boring!

I am told that farmers might be able to get an income from this land if they plant trees! I think that it is a shame that our

government does not give any credence to the idea of using Set Aside to grow oilseed rape on this land for the production of bio-fuel for diesel engines. I understand that if all the land on Set Aside were utilised in this way, it would produce one eighth of our diesel needs! Why won't the government back it? Because to make it viable and competitive with fossil fuel they would have to give up a small percentage of the tax that they enjoy from it. Yet this fuel, being vegetable based, would be non-pollutant. I still remain hopeful that I may yet be able to run my car on *Flower Power*! Talking of planting trees on this land could mean that Bampton would be

thirds of what we were getting when we were farming six years ago! Yet their overheads have gone up, as well as there being even stricter animal welfare and hygiene controls. You and I know that the price to the consumer has not gone down at all over this period of time, in fact it has risen. This means that everyone - producer and consumer - is at the mercy of those with the power. In my time it was the Government but now it is the supermarkets; definitely not a healthy situation.

One aspect of farming that is causing me concern, is the deterioration of the old traditional type farm buildings, the old cowsheds and stables. These

able to return to its original name of Bampton in the Bush. Browsing through the History part of Bampton's Web page, I see there is some doubt as to how we got the 'in the Bush' bit. Well I have a theory! When we first came to University Farm way back in 1959, which was pre-Dutch Elm disease, we would look down over Bampton and all you could see sticking out of the trees that concealed Bampton, was the majestic spire of St Mary's Church. So my theory is that 'Bampton in the Bush' was so named by a group of twelfth century Noble Nomads who had taken up temporary residence on Lew Barrow!

Now for my nostalgic mode. As I still potter around on my five acres of land, not having access to the modern equipment that my larger counterparts have, I have to resort to rather rustic means of achieving my objectives. I can't help thinking that when my generation and the one before me move on to those lovely pastures in the sky, who will there be to teach the skills of yesteryear? Skills that have been passed down through the centuries; simple things like setting a scythe so that the cut material forms a neat swath alongside the reaper. Thatching, all the hay and straw ricks were thatched, so most farmers had either a resident thatcher or knew where they could get hold of one. Just to prove my point about these dying skills, my word processor claims that the words 'Rick and Thatcher' are not in the dictionary! Obviously the person who programmed it is not a romantic and has never participated in the fun that can be had behind a hayrick! He or she probably had to make do with the bike shed! Poor deprived souls.

I saw Prince Charles on Television the other day doing a spot of hedge laying. Brilliant! Trouble was there was no ditching. These two jobs always went together hand in hand. Done by hand the spoil from the ditch that was always rich in nutrients due to the rotted leaves etc, was placed around the roots of the hedge making it strong and healthy. Nowadays ditching is done mechanically and it is pretty well a physically impossible task to place the spoil around the roots, as it has to be pulled away from the hedge and deposited on the bank

My brothers and I can boast a skill that was taught to us by the German prisoners of war. We can tie a sack of potatoes quicker and safer than any one else, yet it can be undone quicker with the string still whole! But we all know that potatoes come in plastic bags and boxes, so our skill is now just a party piece.

Talking about things tied up with string, people always used to laugh at me because my trousers were always tied up with string. Now you will not believe it, but there is a story behind this. You see, my father always said that you should always put a piece of string in your pocket at the beginning of the day and by nightfall you will have used it. He was so right. To make sure I had a piece with me I always tied my trousers up with it, sure enough by nightfall I would have had need of it to either tie a gate up, mend a fence, used it as a collar for a new born calf or secured something that was falling off the tractor. Trouble was I had to go home with my hands in my pockets to stop my trousers falling down.

Well now that is enough of my personal secrets. Have a happy Easter everyone.

On behalf of all of our readers, we would like to congratulate Don Rouse on being awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours list. Speculation is rife as to which aspect of Don's activities the MBE was awarded for, but we here at 'The Beam' are in no doubt that the award was given for his undying support, via his articles in 'The Beam' - we understand that HM is an avid reader! - to the British Farming Community, and his relentless call to 'Buy British'! During a post award interview, Don let it be known that we can still call him 'Don', and that 'Sir' is not required! Don, congratulations from us all, and please keep the articles coming!

S.P.A.J.E.R.'s News

by Don Rouse

Our membership of over four hundred received a £10.00 Christmas present last year. Our grateful thanks to all of you who have supported our events and given so generously to our cause. Let us hope we can do as well this year.

Our fund raising has already got off to a good start. Josey's Draw was a tremendous success. She and her friends and family with your help managed to raise the record sum of £860.00. Thank you Trevor and the staff at the Romany who were so helpful, not forgetting Swanny Lane of course who always makes the show go with a swing.

The Mummers not to be out done also managed to raise the highest ever amount for their efforts at Christmas, with a total of £730.00. I know that they go around in funny clothes and with their faces blackened, so that nobody knows who they are, and I know that they will not thank me for this. But I do feel that after an effort like that, I should name names! So on behalf of the SPAJERs thank you Geoff Dando, Toby Perry, Bruce Piercy, Nick Thorpe and Mathew Green. Also of course thanks to all those wonderful people who invited them into their homes and gave so generously.

Our calendar of events this year begins with the Quiz night, which will be on Friday 11 April. Teams of six, details from either **Roger Snow Tel: 850113** or **Al Newing Tel: 850809**.

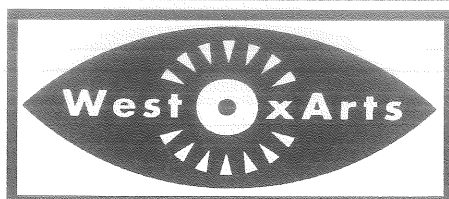
As we all know the 'Village Hall' is Bampton's biggest venue and has room for only ninety people (sorry Councillors I am not criticising. Honest!). It will be the first fifteen teams to enter that will get the places, so please get in there quick!

Tickets are £6.00 per person, which will include supper, as always there will be a Bar.

We have noticed in Bampton that there is a growing number of you using 'Mobility Vehicles', so for our Shirt Race, Saturday 24th May, this year we would like you all to participate in a special Class for 'Best Decorated Wheelchairs or Mobility Vehicles'. So don't be shy, give it a go! If you know of anyone who wants a little persuasion to enter, I hope we can count on you to do it!

Our A.G.M. will be held in May and we are always looking for people to help us. We are still looking for young people to train up for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Frank and I would like to think that we could go on forever, but we both know that it is not in the best interest of this organisation. Notification of the meeting will be put up on the Notice boards.

**Don't forget these dates -
Friday 11th April - Quiz Night
Saturday 24th May - The Shirt Race**



West Ox Arts

W.O.A. Gallery, Market Square, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2JH

Tel: 01993 850137 E-mail: westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk

Opening Hours: Tues - Sat 10:30am - 12:30pm and 2pm - 4pm; Sun - 2pm - 4pm

Membership fees - Single £15, Family £25, Student £7.50.

WOA Gallery Exhibitions

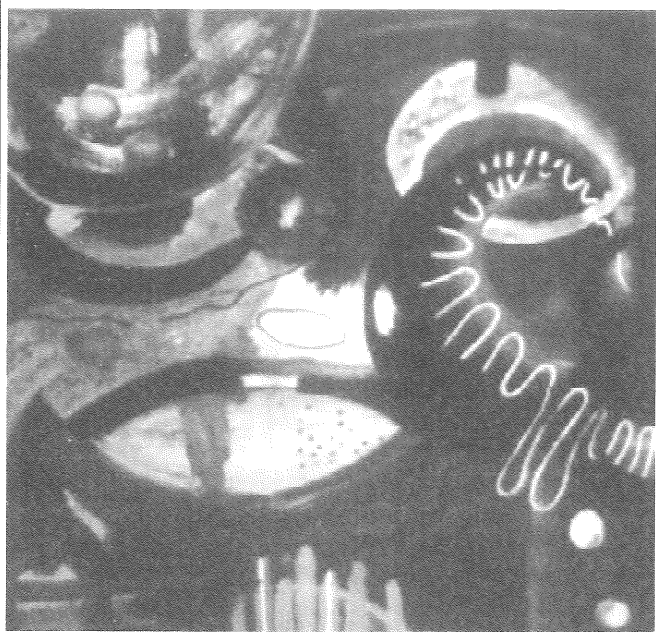
Sunday 23 March

Sunday 6 April

Driven to Abstraction

Paintings by Ingrid Grubben

A diverse series of abstract paintings. Suggestive of movement and contrast, they reflect an imaginary world made up of fragments of visual information arranged into an ordered chaos.



Saturday 10 May

Sunday 1 June



WOA members' strut their stuff in their annual Members' Exhibition held as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks. Work in a variety of media.

WOA News Recent Highlights

The past few months have been busy ones! We've taken part in The Big Draw (and helped to set a world record for the

Sunday 13 April

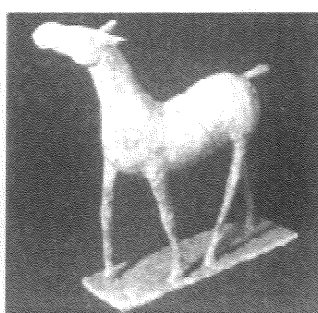
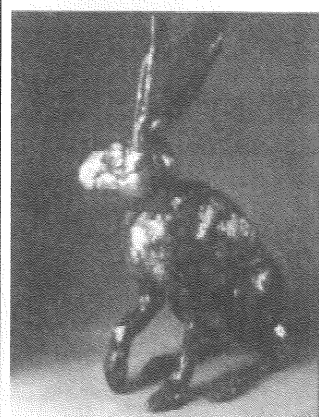
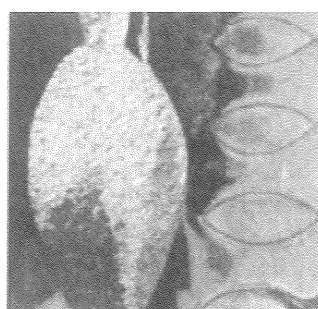
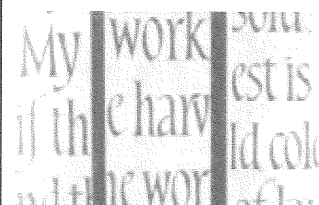
Sunday 27 April

Stone, Fire, Paper, Water

Partly inspired by a traditional children's hand-game, this exhibition brings together four artists, each working in a different discipline

Poetic letter cutting by Alec Peever, metal animal sculptures & automata by Rachel Higgins, beautifully observed papier mache animals by Annie Wootton and hanging glass tiles on a watery theme by Julia Newbould.

Special Gallery Event: Renowned letter-cutter Alec Peever will be giving a demonstration of his work in the Gallery on Saturday 19 April, 2-4pm.



most amount of people drawing at any one time), enjoyed a candlelit evening of vibrant gypsy music performed by the Orbestra Ensemble, and been featured on local radio and television.

Recent exhibitions have included 'Forest', the popular Southern Arts Touring Exhibition which temporarily transformed the gallery into a woodland glade - appropriately enough for our location in Bampton in the Bush!

We've also organised several arts workshops in local schools as part of our outreach programme promoting participation

in the arts in West Oxfordshire.

Onwards and Upwards

Over the past year we've welcomed over 3,000 visitors to the Gallery, from as far away as Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and even North America, as well as our loyal local supporters.

It's a terrific number, but we'd like to do better!

WOA is very aware that access to our first floor gallery is problematic for some visitors and so we are delighted to announce that we have received planning permission to install a Taurus stair lift (like the one at Oxfordshire County Museum in Woodstock).

This type of stairlift has a 'sit on' facility as well as being fully accessible by wheelchair users and will enable many more people to enjoy our gallery exhibitions and events.

Fundraising is underway and we'll keep you posted of progress.

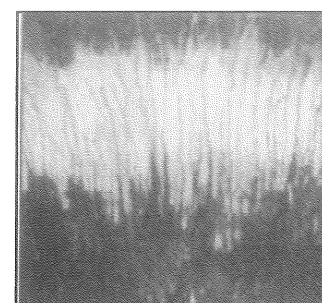
Saturday 14 June

Sunday 29 June

4 to 6 Feet and Clean

A site-specific exhibition, by Brenda Whormsley, celebrating the surf, sea and coast of North Devon

Enter a space filled with paintings, photographs and sounds together with beachcombing finds...coming out of the walls!



Special Gallery Event: Brenda will conduct a special 'guided tour' of the exhibition and talk about her work on Sunday 29 June at 2.15pm

Robert Vesey Room Exhibitions

April Art in Bampton

May Bampton & Morris Dancing

An exhibition presented by the Bampton Museum

Robert Vesey Room Opening Hours

Monday & Thursday 2.30 - 4.30pm.

Wednesday & Saturday 10am - 12noon.

If you would like to book this exhibition space for a month please contact the Administrator on 01993 850137 or Ailsa Matheson on 01993 851004.

The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

It's a great way of seeing the exhibitions and of meeting people - be they Bampton residents or visitors from further afield.

If you could spare a couple of hours a month to support WOA in this way, then please contact the Administrator (for the Gallery) on 01993 950137, or Barbara Daw (Vesey Room) on 01993 851491.

Gallery Life Drawing Classes

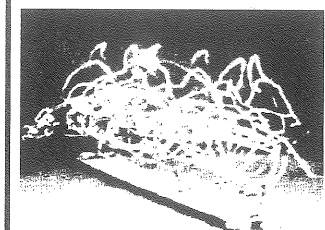


Untutored sessions take place on Monday mornings, 10am - 12.30pm, and Wednesday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Gallery, and are aimed at those without need of guidance. No booking necessary. Pay as you attend.

WOA members £6.
Non-members £7.50.

For more information, please call the Gallery on 01993 850137.

Flights of Fancy with Rachel Higgins



Sat 26 April, 10am - 4pm, Bampton Village hall.

Learn to make mechanically flapping birds using a crank mechanism. Birds will be made out of wire, card, plastic, feathers and any other odds and ends you might like

to bring along. Children must be accompanied by an adult; not suitable for children under 6. Book your places now with Abigail Ballinger, WOC Administrator on 01993 850137 or call into the Gallery.

Tickets £20 (WOA members), £25 (non-members), £15 full-time students.

Meet the Maker: Alec Peever

Letter cutting demonstration in the Gallery.
Saturday 19 April 2 - 4pm

Brenda Whormsley

'Guided tour' in the Gallery. Sunday 29 June, 2.15pm

Framing Workshops

Learn how to use the W.O.A.'s under-pinner and save money on your next exhibition's framing costs.

The workshop sessions will be of three hours and numbers restricted to six so that each person should complete one frame

Cost £10 plus materials.

To book a place contact Richard Morbey on 01993 851004.

Bampton Cars



Your Reliable and Friendly Service



National and Local
Air and Seaports our Speciality

Competitive Rates

Tel: 01993 851900

Fax 01993 851909

Use us Once - Use us Always

The Morris Clown

A True Free House

A better quality insult from your hosts

Tom and Steve

Over 100 Guest
Beers a Year

High Street, Bampton,
CAMRA Member Since 1997
(Campaign for Real Ales)

Proud not to do
Food!

Darts

Aunt Sally

Bar Billiards

Licensed Integral Function Room

Enjoy the contemporary atmosphere and Moulin Rouge Décor of this old coaching inn, which is the only pub we know to have fully absorbed the principle of the emancipation of the fairer sex, with having the ladies' toilet outside! The gents of course is inside in the warm!

Cotswold Bed & Breakfast

Comfortable and well appointed accommodation in a
quiet backwater of Bampton, Oxfordshire
(on the edge of the Cotswolds 8 miles from Burford)

Ample off road parking

For information and booking

Tel: 01993 852703 or 01993 851126

E-mail: poshmargaret@btopenworld.com
or Encompass5@aol.com

Quality local produce direct from the field to your fork

Home produced
Lamb & Beef

Local Preserves, Apple
Juice,

Clotted Jersey Cream,
Butter, Cheese

Home-made Cakes and
Pies

Fruit & Vegetables

Free Range Eggs



FOXBURY FARM SHOP
BURFORD ROAD
BRIZE NORTON

Shop open Thursday, Friday
and Saturday 10am - 6pm
01993 844141

Situated just off the A40
between
Burford & Asthall Barrow
roundabouts

Ready made meals
using Foxbury Farm
Meat

Flour, including
large 16kg bags,
suitable for bread
making Machines

And lots of Farm
animals to see in the
new Foxbury Farm
Friends Barn

PHILIPPA RAYNE
Registered
Osteopath

Cranial Osteopathy
for Babies

FIONA FARMER
Chartered
Physiotherapist
(Spinal and Sports)
Therapy + Acupuncture

LESLEY MELLIN
Reflexologist
+
Aromatherapist

MOONRAKER LANE,
BAMPTON
OXON. OX18 2JH
(above the Dental Surgery)

TEL: 01993 851359

E. TAYLOR & SON
Established 1885

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

A caring personal service from a
family business

Funeral Directors

BRIAN TAYLOR & PETER SMITH

Tel: Carterton 842421

(24 hr Personal Service)

Witney 702123 9am - 5pm

Home Arrangements - Private Chapel of Rest
SET IN LANDSCAPE GARDENS
Golden Charter Funeral Prepayment Plan

Curtain Choice

Makers of Fine Soft Furnishings
*A personal and professional service for
all your*

CURTAINS, BLINDS, LOOSE COVERS ETC.

*To arrange a home visit and a quote
without obligation telephone:*

01993 843103

E-mail: enquiries@curtain-choice.co.uk
www.curtain-choice.co.uk

ABBEY PROPERTIES ESTATE AGENTS

*Specialising in the sale of property in
Bampton and surrounding villages*

OUR UNRIVALLED KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL
AREA COMBINED WITH OUR PROFESSIONALISM
AND WILL TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE
PRICE AT ALL TIMES MAKES

ABBEY PROPERTIES
THE OBVIOUS CHOICE TO
SELL YOUR HOME

*For marketing advice and a free valuation entirely without obligation,
contact YOUR local agent.*

MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON, OXON.

Tel: 01993 851881 or Fax: 01993 850953

See also our Website www.abbey-properties.tv

The Romany Inn

Bridge Street, Bampton

01993 850237

Your Host: Trevor Johnson

A Fine Old Hostelry

Bar

Relax over a drink in our convivial
surroundings in our L-shaped bar,
with its oak beams, and its basket
log fire set into a pillared alcove.

Accommodation

The Romany Inn boasts an excel-
lent range of accommodation.
There are 11 single and double
rooms - all ensuite. All have tea
and coffee making facilities, and
come equipped with a remote con-
trol colour TV.

Restaurant

Enjoy a meal in our softly-lit dining
room, with its open brickwork and
gleaming brasses and copper
canopied fireplace. Wide choice of
menus, including vegetarian. Or
you can eat in our comfy bar-
restaurant with its open log fire.



Electric Vehicles Ltd

Moonraker Lane, Market Square, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2JH

THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SPECIALISTS

- * Regular routine maintenance
- * 24-hour emergency breakdown service
- * Spare parts for most makes of vehicle from stock
- * Service exchange units (diffs, motors, steering boxes)
- * Replacement batteries and chargers
- * Body repairs and rebuilding facility
- * New and used vehicle sales department
- * Charger and battery service facility
- * Electronic control specialists

ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

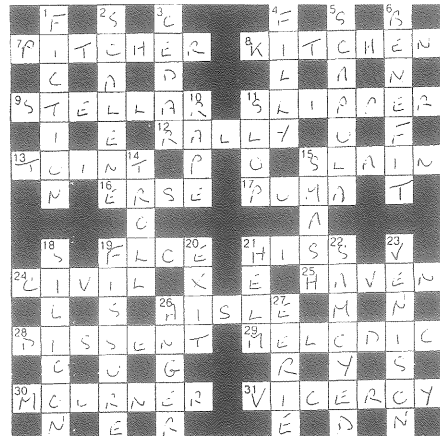
For Details Telephone WITNEY (01993) 850714/850025



(1418)

Solution to December's BEAM CROSSWORD

The £5 winner for December's crossword is Kay Neeves of Albion Place, Bampton. Congratulations!



We would also like to donate £5 to Cancer Research, as a thank you to Mr. Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for us to enjoy.

The Bampton Beam Adverts

Why not give your local business a lift?

Advertise in 'The Beam'

(and get a free advert on the Bampton Website!)

The rates for 'The Beam' are very reasonable. So why not call the Editor now and book your spot for the next edition?

Tel: 01993 851653

Examples

Full Page £100

Half Page £50

1/3rd Page £30

1/6th Page £25

1/12th Page £16

Additional Artwork from £20

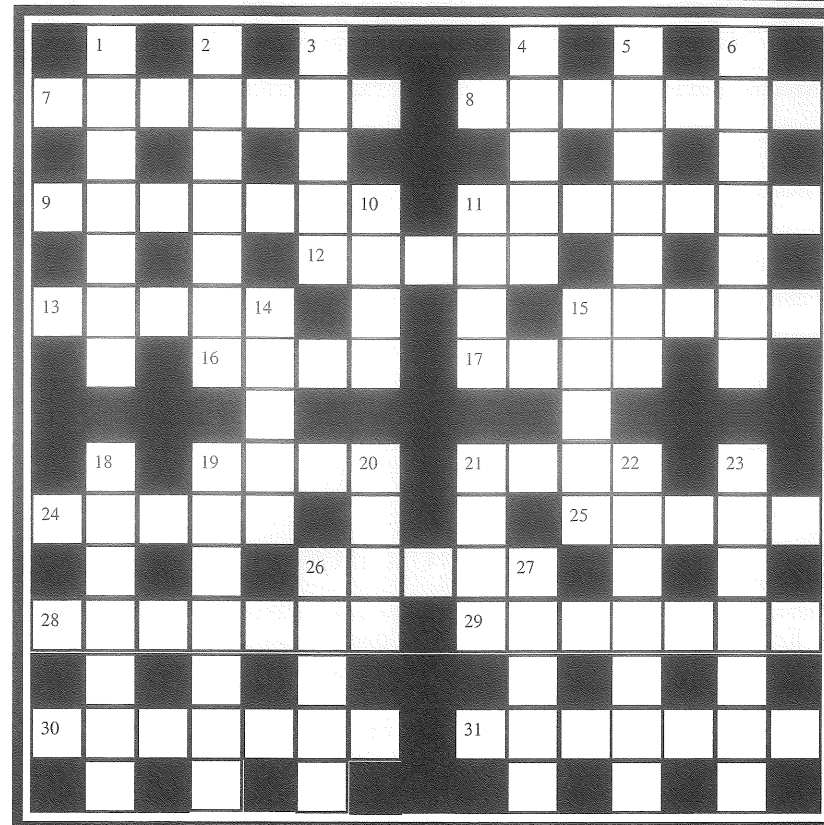
Town Hall Bookings

For Town Hall bookings contact

Mrs B. Sapsford Tel: 850776.

Town Hall keys to be collected from Londis shop.

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Width
- 8 An intellectual (slang)
- 9 Leaps
- 11 Decapitates
- 12 Applause, social distinction
- 13 Utters a long wailing cry
- 15 Zero (slang)
- 16 An exclamation used to gain time
- 17 A species of mountain goat
- 19 Mechanical repetition or performance
- 21 Colour of unbleached liners
- 24 Male personal assistant
- 25 Declare valid
- 26 A course, tufted, grass-like plant
- 28 Graduated glass tube with a tap
- 29 Egg-shaped
- 30 Waterway beneath a road
- 31 Warship with oars arranged in three banks

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Gaseous element discovered by Sir W Ramsey
- 2 Food flavouring extracted from orchids
- 3 A definite period in development
- 4 The lesser white heron
- 5 Fabulous Arabian bird
- 6 A small turfed enclosure
- 10 Offscourings
- 11 Indonesian island east of Java
- 14 Slide the bolt
- 15 Striped animal of the genus equus
- 18 Blank, expressionless
- 19 Keep, set apart
- 20 A fencing foil
- 21 Therefore
- 22 Always the same
- 23 Highest in authority or power
- 26 Out-and-out
- 27 To turn inside out

Calendar of Events

- April 6th** Outing, Gardening Club, Chepstow & Lydney.
11th Quiz Night, SPAJERS, Village Hall.
12th Easter Sale, Cancer Research, Village Hall.
19th Coffee Morning, gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
30th BEWG Open Meeting, Village Hall.
May 5th Balloon Race, Cancer Research.
5th May Day Street Fair, Pumpkin Club, Village Centre.
10th Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon.
11th Outing, Gardening Club, Malvern Spring Show.
23rd Quiz Night, Cancer Research, Village Hall.
24th The Great Annual Shirt Race, SPAJERS, Village, 7pm.
26th The Morris Dancers, Village, Early 'til late.
31st Outing, Gardening Club, Bath & West Show.
June 13th Fashion Show, FOBS, School, 7.30pm.
21st Alvescot Village Fete, The Rectory, Alvescot.
22nd Outing, Gardening Club, Webb's Seeds of Wychbold.
26th Duck Race, Bampton Playgroup, Mill Green.
28th Summer Show, Gardening Club, Youth Centre, 2pm
28th Masked Midsummer Ball, Bampton Playgroup, Bampton Pavilion.
July 12th Fete and Sports Day, Bampton Playgroup, Bampton Pavilion.
12th Garden Party, West Oxon Conservative Association, Clanfield.
13th Outing, Gardening Club, Seaside, Market Square, 9am.
19th 'The Two Barons of Rocca Azzurra', Bampton Classical Opera, Westonbirt.
25th/26th Salieri's 'Falstaff', Bampton Classical Opera, The Deanery Garden, Bampton.
30th BEWG Open Meeting, Village Hall.

West Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Services Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Timetable Easter and Spring Bank Holidays

Normal Day	Substitute Day
Friday 18 April Monday 21 April Tuesday 22 April Wednesday 23 April Thursday 24 April Friday 25 April Monday 28 April Tuesday 29 April Wednesday 30 April Thursday 1 May Friday 2 May	Tuesday 22 April Wednesday 23 April Thursday 24 April Friday 25 April Saturday 26 April Monday 28 April Tuesday 29 April Wednesday 30 April Thursday 1 May Friday 2 May Saturday 3 May
Monday 5 May Tuesday 6 May Wednesday 7 May Thursday 8 May Friday 9 May Monday 12 May	Tuesday 6 May Wednesday 7 May Thursday 8 May Friday 9 May Saturday 10 May Back to normal
Monday 26 May Tuesday 27 May Wednesday 28 May Thursday 29 May Friday 30 May Monday 2 June	Tuesday 27 May Wednesday 28 May Thursday 29 May Friday 30 May Saturday 31 May Back to normal

THE BAMPTON BEAM

The Bampton Beam is published three times a year and distributed free to all households and businesses in Bampton. Extra copies are available from the Post Office, Emmie's, Abbey Properties, Temples and The Library.

Editor

Fenella Gray Tel: 851653

Sub-Editor

Fred Gray Tel: 851653

Artwork

Jo Lewington Tel: 850947

Treasurer

Christine McLintock: Tel: 850736

Advertising:

Fred Gray: Tel: 851653/Fax: 851892

E-mail: fredgray@witneyserve.net

Photography

Ian McLintock

Fred Gray

Distribution

Vacant

If you would like to help or join the team in any capacity please contact:

Fenella Gray Tel: 851653

Contributions are always welcome and should be sent to: **The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, OX18 2HA.**

Next deadline - 28th February 2003
 While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in *The Bampton Beam*, the editor and publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any error that may occur.
 The views expressed in *The Bampton Beam* are not necessarily those of the Editor. Personal views are the responsibility of the author in each case.

The Beam Team wishes to thank The Cotton Club - quality fabric suppliers - as well as the 'Beam' letter box! Also thanks to the **Parish Council** and all of our **advertisers** for their financial support each year.
 If you wish to have *The Bampton Beam* posted to yourself or a relative or friend on a regular basis, please send your name, address and cheque (made payable to The Bampton Beam) to: The Bampton Beam, Subscriptions, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2HA. Annual Subscription - £2.50 for UK, £5.00 for overseas.

BAMPTON LIBRARY IS NOT JUST A LIBRARY

**There are
Books
(fiction and non-fiction)
Best Sellers
(soon after publication)
Talking Books
Videos
Free use of Computer
Children's Section
Books on Wheels
also**

**The Robert Vesey Room for exhibitions of local
artists and exhibitions of photographs and oral
history from the Bampton museum.**

Coffee and Tea and Biscuits

Library opening hours

Monday 2.30pm to 5.00pm & 6.00pm 'til 8.00 pm.

Wednesday & Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Thursday & Friday 2.30pm to 5.00pm

The Robert Vesey room opening hours

Monday, Thursday and Friday 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Wednesday and Saturday 10.00am to 12.00noon.

Use it. Don't lose it.