

THE BAMPTON BEAM

March 2010

Volume 25, No. 1

Notice of District & Parish Council Elections

6th May 2010*

Elections take place this year for the Parish and District Councils. In Bampton there are 11 members of the Parish Council. You can therefore put an X on your ballot paper *against the names of up to 11 candidates* whom you would like to see on the Bampton Parish Council.

But why don't YOU consider standing for the Parish Council?

It is an important part of the democratic system in this country, and the Council does have a strong voice in local affairs. The custom and practise has been that no Bampton Parish Councillors are affiliated to any political party, and consequently Councillors serve on the Council on the basis of looking after the interests of the Community, as opposed to following a party line - which may not always be in the interest of the Community! So if it's fear of party affiliation which is holding you back, then you have no excuse! General qualifications to be able to stand are as follows:

Citizenship: British, Irish, Commonwealth or EU

Minimum age: 18

Be on the register of electors (deadline for registering is 20th April 2010)

or

Own or tenant land

or

Principal or only place of work

or

Live in Parish or within 3 miles of it

The Candidates Guide and nomination papers will be available in March from The Clerk to the Parish Council, email: sarah.radband@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk, or Tel: 01993 851870, or directly from the West Oxfordshire District Council.

For this year's **District Council** elections, one of our two seats is up for election, that of our sitting Councillor Martin Barrett, who, The 'Beam' understands, is seeking re-election. Good luck Martin.

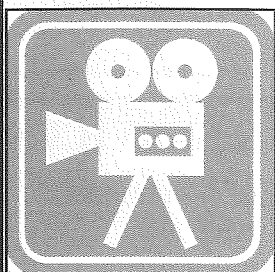
This is your chance to vote - the citizens of some other countries are not as lucky as us, in that we do at least have free and fair elections - so please do take the opportunity to vote.

YOUR VOTE can make a difference.

*In the event that a General Election is called for 6th May 2010, it is understood that the District and Parish Council Elections will be deferred for 3 weeks until 27th May 2010.

Strange goings on in Bampton?

Lights - Camera - Action



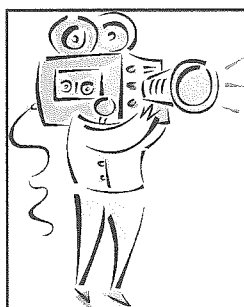
Come April time, you may glimpse some people in rather strange dress walking around parts of the Village.

Don't worry, it will only be ITV shooting scenes for a new period drama series called 'Downton Abbey', which they are scheduling to air sometime during the autumn! For Villagers who may be impacted by the shooting, ITV will be contacting them well in advance to tell

them what is going on, and when, with a view to trying to ensure minimum disruption and inconvenience.

'The Beam Team' would like to welcome ITV to Bampton, and wish them every success with the new series.

And, 'The Beam' understands that, if the new series is a success, the likelihood is we will see the ITV production



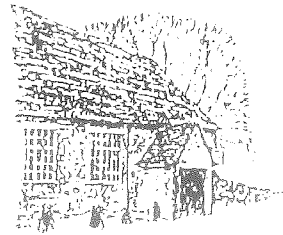
THE BAMPTON BEAM Silver Jubilee

As you will note from this edition's numbering above, this year is the 'Beam's' 25th Anniversary. The 'Beam' was started by Susan Phillips and Siobhan O'Rourke, and was first issued in March 1986. The present Editor took over in 1996.

The first edition is printed in full in the middle pages, and you will note that the 'Beam' has grown from four pages to around 56 today!

The present 'Beam Team' would like here to thank our 'Beam Walkers', who have over the years gone out in all weathers to deliver the magazine. *The Beam Team would also like to wish all our readers a very Happy Easter.*

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.

Disabled toilet facilities.

Lettings Officer: Sarah Radband
Telephone: 01993 210160

BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL - HIRE CHARGES

General Hire	£8.00 per hour
All day and evening	£65.00
Bar use	£20.00

Town Hall & Youth Centre Bookings

Contact Sarah Radband

Tel: 01993 851870

Keys for Town Hall to be collected from the Bampton Coffee House

Parish Council

Contact

Sarah Radband

Tel: 01993 851870

E-Mail - sarah.radband@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

The Bampton 250 Club

The Bampton 250 Club is the local monthly lottery which supports the Village Hall and the Youth Centre. If you would like a ticket please put your name on the list at the Post Office or contact Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321.

October	£25	024	Miss D Mansfield	New Road
	£15	125	Mrs S Smart	Primrose Lane
	£15	240	Mrs A Bardsley	Calais Dene
	£15	108	Mr Tony Scott	Market Square
November	£25	062	Mrs L Borrett	Chandler Close
	£15	111	Mrs P Bradley	Pembroke Place
	£15	174	Mary Miller	Lavender Place
	£15	004	Mrs Bambury	Church Street
December	£100	173	Mr & Mrs R Smith	Bridge Street
	£25	022	Mr M Bishop	Buckland Road
	£15	067	Mrs K Doyle	New Road
	£15	057	Mr M Pearce	New Road
January	£15	209	Mrs R Lewis	Chandler Close
	£25	081	Mrs M Goldring	Broad Street
	£15	011	Toby Perry	Bushey Row
	£15	069	Mrs J Woodley	Colville Close
	£15	204	Mrs J Constable	Albion Place

MOVIES ON THE MOVE

In Bampton Village Hall

The Theatre, Chipping Norton continues to bring up-to-date films to Bampton Village Hall on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 7.30pm **The Time Traveller's Wife**

The long awaited film adaptation of the best-selling book about a love that transcends time. Henry is cursed with a genetic anomaly that causes him to uncontrollably skip back and forth through time. Clare is the woman in love with him, she believes they are destined to be together, no matter that time keeps forcing them apart. Smart, tender and romantic.

Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 7.30pm

An Education nominated for 3 Oscars, screenplay by Nick Hornby, is the story of Jenny, an Oxford bound teenager who meets David, an older man who offers her the chance of seeing a different life. Taking the Audience Choice award at Sundance this year this beautiful film about the loss of innocence is stolen by its young star, Carey Mulligan.

Wednesday 7th July 2010 at 7.30pm

Nowhere Boy Imagine John Lennon's childhood, the poignant and powerful story of the boy who created The Beatles.

Tickets at £4.50 each will be on sale at the Cotton Club from 2 weeks before each performance and at the door. Before each movie there will be a short film from the Bampton Archive. Ice creams are available in between the 2 performances and are 50p each.

We look forward to seeing you at the Movies. Biz Goody

EASTER SERVICES

St Mary's, Bampton

Good Friday

10am Service

Easter Eve Saturday

8pm Service of Readings

Easter Sunday

10.30am Family Eucharist

Methodist Chapel, Bampton

Easter Sunday

11am Family Service

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Fred Gray, Bampton Parish Council

Buckland Road 7.5T

Environmental Weight Limit

In November, after months of discussions with OCC, the Council learned that, notwithstanding various assurances, if the Weight Limit were to be introduced, there could be a negative impact on some Bampton businesses. This the Council learned from a paper sent by the OCC officers to the members of the Transport Decisions Committee (TDC) in which they recommended that the Weight Limit should not be introduced. In the same paper, however, the Council learned for the first time, that exemptions could be granted for some businesses in Bampton, this after months of being told that exemptions could not be granted to any Bampton businesses. And finally, the Council was notified by OCC, that the only way the Weight Limit could be approved would be if the Council 'strongly supported' its introduction 'as advertised', meaning that, for instance, OCC was not willing to look at introducing a permit system.

A special meeting of the Parish Council was therefore arranged for 23rd November, at which the Council decided to 'strongly support' the introduction of the Weight Limit 'as advertised', and this was relayed email to OCC in time for the meeting of the TDC on 26th November. However, the Council also agreed that it would support the application of Bampton businesses looking for exemptions in order to try and reduce any negative impact which the Weight Limit might

have on them.

Based on the email sent to OCC, the OCC officers changed their recommendation to recommending to the TDC that the Weight Limit be introduced. The TDC then approved its introduction. However, the officers also recommended that some small additions and changes be made to the Weight Limit Order, and this was also accepted by the TDC. At the moment, these changes are being made to the Order, and implementation will proceed as soon as the changes are completed. The Council expects that the Weight Limit will be introduced around March / April time.

Finally, while OCC first proposed that the Weight Limit would be temporary, it will be introduced as permanent, meaning that to remove it would require a full consultation exercise.

Transport Needs Survey

After regular lobbying by the Parish Council, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has now decided to conduct a formal review of the bus services which serve the village, and Parish Council wants to use this opportunity to try and put more pressure on OCC on the issue.

Accordingly, the Parish Council, in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), is conducting a Transport Needs Survey and it would like to hear from you *whether or not you use public transport*, since the more comprehensive the survey the better placed the Parish Council will be in lobbying OCC for enhancements.

A Big Thank You

By Cllr S Radband

I would like to pass my sincere thanks to all who helped to ensure the War Memorial was completed by Remembrance Day in November. As you may be aware, the Parish Council paid for refurbishment work to be carried out, and to have Marine Jason Mackie's name added. Banbury Memorials undertook the works and did the enamel lettering free of charge.

Many people of Bampton also donated their time, materials and labour to ensure the surrounding area was fit for the refurbished Memorial. Mr. Dale Turner kindly donated the oak posts and chains, and Mr. Chris Baker donated his time, materials and labour for the erection of the posts, ably assisted by Mr. Wayne Richardson.

I hope you will agree with me, in thinking that they all have done a wonderful job, and that the War Memorial is once again a fitting tribute for the men who went to war. The residents of Bampton thank You all of you very much!!

Inside 'The Beam' is a form which the Parish Council would very much appreciate you taking time to complete. Then all you have to do is to put the form in an envelope and send it to the address provided on the form. No stamp is necessary. Or you can drop it into **The Bampton Community Shop**. Please do help us try and provide the requisite justification we need to improve our local bus services.

Youth Centre

Meetings have continued to be held with the various stakeholders on the proposed move of the Bush Club into the Youth Centre Building. At present, OCC is at the stage of obtaining budget approval, prior to submitting a planning application.

Town Hall & War Memorial

The new self-standing flagpole has been installed, and the old one removed. Cllr. Millar project managed the work. The refurbishment work on

Trees and Shrubs Obstructing the Highway

By Ralph Norman, Bampton Parish Council

The Highways Act 1980 requires that trees and other vegetation do not obstruct the passage of users. The Highway Authority requires a minimum clearance over any part of a footpath of 2.4 metres and over any part of a road of 5.2 metres. The Highway Authority has the powers to enforce these clearances.

If trees or shrubs on your property overhang a footpath or the highway then you should prune them sufficiently to ensure they do not cause an obstruction.

If you find that the footpath is obstructed by overhanging branches then politely ask the property owner if they would prune them or contact the parish council who will take appropriate action to ensure the obstruction is removed. **DO NOT** take matters into your own hands and cut back the branches yourself - in addition to being morally wrong, you may be committing an offence.

the War Memorial, project managed by Cllr Radband, was also completed in time for Remembrance Sunday.

Newbridge Replacement

Officers of OCC made a presentation to the Council on the options to replace Newbridge at Standlake. The Council agreed that a letter should be sent to OCC supporting 'The Green Route' option, and also supporting the bridge being two-lane, not single lane.

Budget and Precept

The 2010/2011 Budget and Precept have been agreed. The budget estimate for 2010/11 is £65,430 against last year's £67,686. However, in order to draw down reserves, last year's Precept was set at £54,000. This year, and with a prognosis that the Council's reserves would be down to around £20,000, the Precept has been submitted based on the full budget estimate.

Youth Club

Since the closure of the Youth Club in December 2008, the Council, has been lobbying OCC Youth Services to re-start it. Various meetings have been held with Youth Services in trying to resolve the Health & Safety issues which were the cause of the Youth Club being suspended, and it now appears that the Youth Club will be re-started in the short term. Confirmation on a date is still awaited from OCC.

Christmas Tree

The Parish Council would like to thank *The Bampton Beam* for funding the purchase of the Christmas Tree and lights, and for helping to organise an official 'switch-on', where 'The Beam' also provided mulled wine and mince pies.

Planning for the future consultation

From 5th February West Oxfordshire District Council is seeking comments on a major planning strategy showing how the District could develop over the next 15 years.

The consultation document is called the Core Strategy Preferred Approach and this identifies the broad locations for new homes, jobs and infrastructure such as roads and schools. Sites for larger-scale development being consulted upon are in Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton.

The Core Strategy Preferred Approach looks at how the housing targets set by the Government for 2006-2026 will be met in West Oxfordshire.

Some 4,100 homes are already built/planned which leaves locations for at least another 3,200 homes to be identified.

In **Witney** at least another 1,500 new homes are proposed of which 1,000 will be in the Downs Road area to the west of the town, along with new schools, open space, community and leisure facilities and a large area for new businesses.

Land to the north of Witney is under review as a possible location for longer term housing development or as a reserve site if land in the Downs Road area does not come forward as anticipated.

Land south of Welch Way has potential for longer term expansion of the town centre.

In **Carterton** we support the Town Council in seeking further growth of the town and are inviting comments

on the options for further expansion – land to either the east or west is preferred for a development of about 1,000 homes.

Improvements are proposed to local facilities with new shops in the town centre.

In **Chipping Norton** at least another 400 homes are proposed of which about 200 will be on land in the London Road area, together with new businesses, health care and education facilities.

Additional town centre shopping and community facilities are earmarked for land between the High Street and Albion Street.

Small scale development to meet local housing and employment needs will also take place in other towns and some villages but sites are not identified at this stage.

Public consultation will take place over the next few weeks up to Monday 22 March.

Exhibitions are being arranged in Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton – further details will be announced.

The Council prefers to receive responses online via <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/CoreStrategy.cfm> although relevant documents will be available for inspection at:

- Elmfield Office and Town Centre Shop, Witney
- The Guildhall, Chipping Norton
- Public libraries in the district

Further information about the consultation and the new 'Planning for the future' (LDF) process will be on <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/CoreStrategy.cfm> from the beginning of February.

Alternatively, for further details, contact the Council's Planning Policy team on:

Tel: 01993 861420. All Parish/Town Councils and many local organisations will be separately consulted.

For further information contact:

Carys Davies / Samantha Simpson
Publicity Office

t: 01993 861615

m: 07771 965360

Safeguarding Adult Awareness

Oxfordshire County Council
Social and Community Services

Adult abuse is when a person is treated in a bad way or in a way that makes them feel frightened or unhappy, harms, hurts or exploits them – particularly by someone they know or should be able to trust.

Some adults are particularly vulnerable to abuse such as people who have:

- dementia
- learning disabilities
- mental health problems
- drug or alcohol problems
- sight, hearing or physical disabilities.

Or who, through age or illness, are dependent on other people to help them or who care for others.

Anyone can be vulnerable to abuse at some time in their lives. Men and women, rich and poor, from any ethnic background can be at risk.

Abuse is not always deliberate. It sometimes happens that people are trying to do their best but feel stressed. Or they don't know what to do because of a lack of knowledge, training or understanding.

Safeguarding people who are at risk from harm as a result of abuse, neglect, exploitation or mistreatment and improving the choice and control people have in their lives are key priorities for the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, including Oxfordshire Social & Community Services and its partners.

We are committed to:

- identifying where individuals are at risk of harm from abuse or neglect and alleviating that risk wherever possible
- enabling individuals to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control within the context of safe and secure communities;
- promoting the wellbeing, security and safety of vulnerable people consistent with his or her rights, capacity and personal responsibility, and prevent abuse occurring wherever possible;
- ensuring that the safeguarding of individual rights is integral to the development and delivery of services in Oxfordshire.

It can be difficult to talk about what is happening. There is help available. It can be better if you ask for help. **Tel: 0845 050 7666.**

Web: www.safefromharm.org.uk

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History of The Bampton Beam

by Susan Phillips

The Bampton Beam grew out of the Newsheet that I had produced for the Parish Council for several years. It was conceived when I met the talented and knowledgeable graphic artist wife of Brien O'Rourke. Siobhan had contacted me as she wished to become involved in Bampton but was not interested in becoming a member of a committee. I had wanted to enlarge the current Newsheet to include various local happenings but was not sure how to go about it but as a joint venture we were able to make it work. I was happy to do the editing and the typing and Siobhan would do the layout and we both gathered the news. The first issue came out in March 1986 - Volume 1 Number 1.

To begin with we used the computer and dot matrix printer which I had and Siobhan was able to reduce the columns on her photocopier. The headlines were done with Letraset and the few illustrations were taken from various sources belonging to the O'Rourkes. The printing was done by Parchment who already printed 'Contact' and with whom I had previously done some business. Both they and Evenlode Press whom we later used for headlines and advertisements were extremely supportive and helpful over the years. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) gave very good advice and also a grant to get us started and ran a number of workshops for editors of village newspapers. The advertising grew and needed someone to take charge of it so for a while Pete Jobson took on the role until other activities needed his time. Siobhan and Brien had started up The Cotton Club, a material shop in the centre of Bampton, and this was used as a very convenient post box and address.

After Siobhan O'Rourke was unable to continue giving so much of her time Les Caddy was persuaded by his wife, Theresa, to help out. He was an excellent teacher and I learnt much from him including how to set out a page and the importance of spaces. He had been a very highly skilled printer before the introduction of modern

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: The Reverend D Lloyd, Dr M Perry, Mrs R Colville, Mrs J Haslam, Mrs J Newman, Mr C Rouse, Mrs S Phillips, Mr G Wiltshire & 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.** If you would like to apply for a grant for the first time, please contact Dr M Perry: **Tel: 01993 850314** for an application form.

technology and was deeply suspicious of anything to do with computers. By the end of our time together he was as enthusiastic as I was! Sadly he died of cancer in May 1991 and was very much missed especially by his family and by all who knew him. Thanks to his efforts The Bampton Beam became a professional and award winning publication.

During those first years many people contributed to the paper which was published three times a year and delivered to every business and house for free by a cheerful band of volunteers - The Beam Team. The first photograph appeared in 1989. Jo Lewington started to illustrate some of the articles and her evocative drawings still appear in its pages. The Crossword became a regular feature and is now composed by Bill Govier. Income from advertisements has been vital and so were the grants given by the Parish Council and ORCC's Initiative Fund thanks to a generous donation from Mr & Mrs J A Pye's Charitable Settlement. It is hard to believe that The Bampton Beam which started in such a small way in 1986 has grown from 4 pages to today's 48 pages and is read by so many in Bampton.

BAMPTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Bridge Street, Bampton

The 5th and 6th of December proved to be a very special, but busy weekend for the members of the Methodist Church. This was the Christmas Tree Spectacular weekend which involved Clubs, Societies, Bampton Primary School, St Mary's Junior Church and various Chapels decorating Christmas trees on the theme of a favourite carol and bringing them along to the Chapel to be displayed. As well as the trees, there was a chocolate tombola stall, a Christmas cards and gifts stall and refreshments consisting of home made mince pies and mulled wine.

Over a hundred people visited the Chapel that weekend and everyone remarked on the warmth and friendliness that they felt upon entering the Chapel. The event raised over £800.00 towards the £14,000.00* still outstanding on the newly completed annexe. The sum raised was most

welcome, but this was more than outweighed by the wonderful feeling of togetherness as each member played their own part in the success of the weekend

Thank you to everyone who helped in making this weekend so special.

On Saturday the 5th December, some members joined with the Choir from St Mary's to sing carols round the tree in the Market Square. Although it poured with rain, many people came along to join in and witness the switching on of the lights. Mulled wine and mince pies were served afterwards in the Town Hall

Sunday the 6th December, members from the Chapel went along to the Talbot Inn and, with the help of Michael the Drummer and a pub full of people, had a superb time singing Christmas carols and songs. Mulled wine and mince pies were provided by Kathy and Keith and we are grateful to them for their continued support for the Chapel.

The following Sunday we held our Carols by Candlelight service and this was led by the Rev. Nicola Blois. The choirs and recorder groups from Bampton Primary School came along to take part and the evening was made more memorable by Rev Nicola Blois saying a prayer for Xavier Walsgrove's gold fish which has died that day.

A Collection in aid of CLIC was

Martin & Carol Barrett

Martin & Carol retired from running The Post Office in January. The 'Beam Team' are sure that our readers would like us to thank them both for providing such an excellent and friendly service during their almost eight years in the Post Office, and for maintaining such a vital facility for the Village.

Enjoy your retirement!

made and £83.00 was sent to this worthwhile cause.

Christmas Day we held an informal service, led by Lynda Coulthard and members joined in the service by reading a poem or sharing Christmas thoughts.

The Methodist Church holds a service every Sunday at 11 a.m. and everyone is welcome join in this weekly act of worship. Refreshments and a time of fellowship always follow the service.

On Mondays from 11.45 to 1 p.m. a light lunch is served to any one who would like to come along. There is no charge, just a donation towards the cost.

If you would like any further information re: the Methodist Chapel, please contact Linden Eley on 01993 702561 or Rev. Ian Duffy 01267 240227.

*We are indebted to many Bamptonians for their generosity in enabling us to complete this fine structure.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 28th April at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

This is a meeting where Parishioners can have their say, get over their point of view, and ask questions! So do come along and listen to what has happened in the Village over the last year, what might be happening in the Village, in the future, and participate in the debate.

The draft agenda is:

- **Welcome**
- **Planning: The Local Development Framework (TBC)**
- **Bampton Library: The Future?**
- **Chairman's Report**
- **Flooding Report**
- **The Local Police Report**
- **The Recreation Ground Charity Report**
- **New Mercury Close Playing Field Update**
- **The Bampton Exhibition Foundation Report**
- **The Bampton Welfare Trust Report**
- **Report From Bampton CoE Primary School**
- **The Bampton Community Shop Report**
- **Reports from County and District Councillors**

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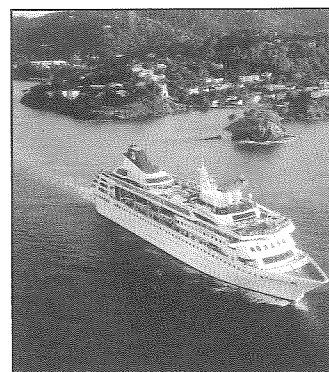
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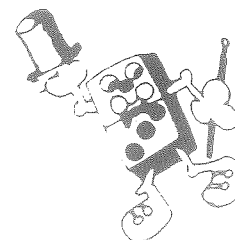
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The Bampton Bush Club Wednesdays 9.45am - 2.00pm 43 weeks of the year.

The Bush Club has now been in operation for over 20 years and we believe that the opportunity it provides for the older people of the area to meet and have a freshly cooked mid-day meal is greatly appreciated, particularly by those who, otherwise, are rarely able to leave their own homes. On most days talks, demonstrations, activities, entertainment or outings are arranged.

We are able to keep the charge to our members at a very low level only because of the Volunteers who give their time free of charge as Helpers, Cooks and Drivers.

Many of the Volunteers have been giving their services since the early days and are, in a number of cases, as old as, or older, than some of the members!

With the passage of time some of the Volunteers have died and others have had to cease their involvement; and the club is having difficulty in finding younger people to fill their places.

Are you able to help in any of the following roles please?

NOTICE BOARD

General Helpers – normally assist alternate weeks 9.30 am – 2pm.

Cooks – approximately once a month 10am – 1pm

Kitchen Assistants - approximately once a month 10am – 1pm

Lunchtime washing up – alternate weeks 12noon – 1pm

Drivers – alternate weeks either mornings or afternoons

If you are willing help please contact:
**Fenella Gray Tel: 01993 851653 or
Veronica Baker Tel: 01993 851040.**

Cancer Research UK Bampton Branch

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25th January, and the amount raised during 2009 was announced as £26,901.10.

Officers for 2010

Chairman	Mrs Doris Cleaver
Treasurer	Mr Michael Cleaver
Secretary	Mrs Eileen Dring

Events for 2010

27 th March	Easter Sale, Village Hall, 10 – 12noon
21 st May	Quiz Night,

Village Hall, 7.30pm
18th September Autumn Sale, Village Hall, 10 – 12noon
17th November Pre-Christmas Bingo, Village Hall, 8pm
3rd December Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
17th December Country & Western Dance, Social Centre, Carterton, 8.30pm For more information contact Doris or Michael Cleaver: Tel: 01993 850682.

The Children's Society Annual Box Collection

Our Collection in October from the kind folk of Bampton raised £595.72, a truly wonderful response during these straightened times. A very big 'Thank you' to all those who keep a box in their homes for loose change. As you can see, it does mount up! Also, our thanks, as usual, go to the Surgery and Budgens, where boxes are kept for us, and to Martin in the Post Office who banks and checks the money.

The Children's Society is committed to taking action to rescue and support children facing fear or harm. Violence, neglect, poverty and discrimination can destroy childhood. So we aim to give hope and confidence back enabling children to face the future with optimism. No-one is turned away.

Your money has a huge impact on young lives. If you are a new collector and would like to receive a box please ring and I will bring one to you. Once again, thank you to all those who help in this valuable work.
Pauline Hawkins Tel: 01993 851066

Bampton Junior Church

The children from Bampton School and the village are welcomed to Bampton Junior Church on a Sunday morning. We run from 10.45am – 11.25am in the Bush Centre. At 11.25am we march back up to church where we join the congregation for drinks. BJC runs every Sunday except for the third Sunday in the month when it is family service.

Dial-a-Ride

The Dial-a-Ride service is a door to door minibus service for those who

NOTICE BOARD

in a therapeutic environment.

Please visit our website www.bridewellorganicgardens.co.uk to find out more about us or contact Alex Taylor on Tel: 01993 864530 about volunteering with us.

Call My Wine Bluff

Maggies Cancer Care is holding the second annual Call My Wine Bluff at the Aston and Cote Village Hall on Saturday 17th April 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Six rounds of wine from around the world

Bread, cheese and snacks

A performance by the tribal dance troupe Covert Bling

The cost per ticket is £15.00.

Contacts

M Holmes 01993 851409; moyra-holmes@btinternet.com;

and

F Sedman 01993 850532 fannysedman@hotmail.co.uk

Maggies Cancer Care support cancer sufferers and their families. Fundrais-

are unable to use or find it difficult to use public transport, such as elderly or disabled people. Drivers are trained to administer first aid and to assist wheelchair users and people with mobility problems.

The Dial-a-Ride service is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. For more details about the service including cost, what areas are covered and what type of journey the service can be used for, contact Tel: 01865 876176.

Volunteering Opportunities Bridewell Organic Gardens Wilcote

Woodworking - We are looking for someone with practical woodworking skills who would be able to spare a few hours each week to share these with our gardeners.

Minibus Driver - Do you have an hour or two to spare each week in order to drive people to and from Bridewell?

We are a charity supporting people experiencing mental health difficulties

Bampton Ladies Group

We are a group of like minded ladies who meet every third Wednesday of the month (excluding August).

We meet in The Village Hall at 8pm.

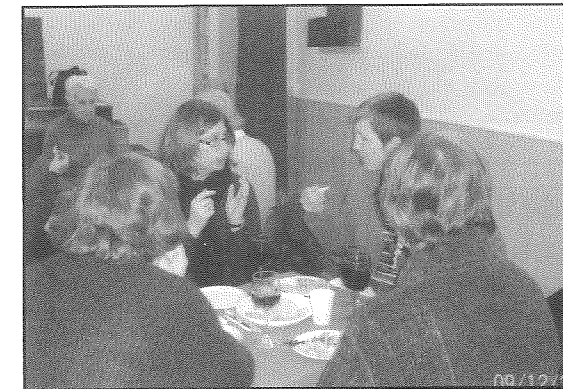
We arrange various talks on interesting subjects, and we also organise outings to places of interest on a regular basis.

We have our annual 'skittles outing' in February each year, and our Annual Dinner in April.

The first evening you come along is £1.

Should you then join it's £10 for the year.

For further information contact Mrs Joan Farthing on: Tel: 01993 851206.



LIBRARY

Work is scheduled in March to re-decorate / recarpet the library, and during a proportion of the works, the library will be closed. **The library will close at 5.00pm on Friday 19th March, and will re-open at 10.00am on Wednesday 31st March.**

ers meet every month for coffee in The Trout at Tadpole Bridge. Why not come and join us?

Contact: Sandy

Sandy.Briscoe@maggiescentres.org

Old Birthday Cards

Lizann still needs your old cards after you have enjoyed them, so that she can recycle them into re-saleable items. Please continue to leave them at 3 Broad Street or The Vesey Room and also the Cotton Club - where they are for sale.

Bampton Drop-In

Held at the Methodist Chapel every

BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday 28th August

Village Hall

Staging 9.30am - 11am

Afternoon Opening 3pm

Prize Giving 3.30pm

Entrance 50p

All entries on the morning of the Show

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Monday from 12pm, where all are welcome. Don't suffer those Monday blues. When you've done your washing up don't just put your feet up with a cup of tea. Instead, why not come and join us at this local facility for a very reasonably priced lunch, where you will be served by a dedicated band of country cooks. You can enjoy a warming bowl of home-made soup, something on toast or a cheesy baked potato, followed by home-made cake, cheese and biscuits, tea and coffee. So come along and enjoy this friendly informal gathering.

Clanfield Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesdays, 9.30am - 11.30am (term time only) at the Carter Institute, Clanfield. We are a group of mums and carers from Clanfield and other villages who meet every week for crafts, games, singing and trips. Our children range from bumps to age 4. If you and your children are looking to make new friends, play or just get out of the house on a Wednesday morning, please come and join us! We would love to see you. Contact Kayleigh Tel: 07765 462042 for more information.

Tell us what you think!

Bampton Library would like to hear from you! Oxfordshire Library Service provides free access to books, information and

NOTICE BOARD

knowledge and it wants to encourage greater use of its facilities.

Bampton Library is hoping to build on its work in the community by asking local people - adults, children and young people - what would make them start to use their local library or use it more often if they are already library customers.

We will be holding consultation events around the town and will be delighted to involve you in the discussions to find out how your local library can add value to the life of your community.

We would like to invite everyone, whether you currently use the library or not, to take part in our consultation day on Thursday April 1st in Bampton Library.

Your newly redecorated library will be open from 10am to 8pm to give all Bampton residents the opportunity to call in, take a look and talk to us over refreshments.

During the day we will have activities to keep your children happy while you can tell us what you would like from your library service.

Or you are welcome to come along in the evening to discover what a treasure house your local library is! Join us for refreshments, tell us what your local library means to you and let us know how we can attract more customers.

If you, or the club to which you belong, would like to be a part of our consultation process, please come along on 1st April, call into Bampton Library or invite us to come to your next meeting.

We look forward to seeing you and to hearing your views.

Loraine Hall
Library Manager
Bampton Library
Old Grammar School
Church View
Bampton
Tel: 01993 850076

Rotary Club of Oxford North

Sightsavers'

60th Anniversary Blenheim Palace Walk

This year marks sixty years of Sightsavers. And what better way to commemorate it than by taking part in the annual Blenheim Palace Walk, organised by the Rotary Club of Oxford North?

The walk takes place on Sunday 28th March, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on a four-mile circuit around the pleasant and safe parkland of Blenheim Palace. You can walk the circuit as many or as few times as you feel able to.

And, if you have a dog, why not bring it along too? Park entry and parking is free for people with walk cards.

For further information and entry forms, please contact:

Chris Evans

On

01865 86439

email drchris.evans@ntlworld.com

Bampton Bush Centre

Hiring Officer
Mr Reece Witchell
Lodge Cottage
Church View
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Oxon OX18 2NE
Tel: 01993 851248

Bampton & Burford Children's Centre

Stay 'n' Play Sessions

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Health Visitor run baby clinic where you can weigh your baby, get advice, etc

(2nd and 4th Monday of the month).

Bampton Pavilion

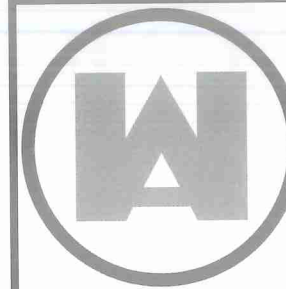
Mondays 9.30 - 11.30am

The Bampton & Burford Children's Centre is managed by the Oxfordshire Rural Children's Centre Project.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ruralchildrenscentre

For more information, contact Teresa on 07917 849073 or Kelly on 07771 608395

Or email: ruralccp@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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

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THE PAVILION

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The Pavilion, has a large hall for social functions, changing rooms, referees' facilities, kitchen and bar and is for hire by members of the public for all varieties of functions such as wedding receptions, birthdays or anniversary parties. It is also an ideal venue for conferences or training courses.

Some General Hire Prices

Pavilion

08:00 - 13:00 : £40

13:00 - 18:00 : £40

18:00 - 23:59 : £80

Whole Day : £160

Football Pitches

Season hire rates for Bampton Soccer Teams: Senior Pitch £22.00 per game

Junior Pitch £18.00 per game

Changing Room £9.00 per game

Season hire rates for Non Bampton Soccer Teams: £32.00 per game

Non Regular Soccer Team Hire Rate: £45.00 per game

Multisport Bampton Residents: £10.00

Non-Residents: £13.00

For more information on the facilities, and the charges for hire please contact:

Ray Willis Tel: 01993 852483 or Mobile: 07766 264684.

Other Sporting Activities

Bampton Town Football Club

Chairman: Martyn Holder: Tel: 01993

840206; email: martyn-holder@btinternet.com.

Secretariat: Murray Disbrey; email:

murray.disbrey@smurfitkappa.co.uk

Junior Contact: Mark Taylor; email:

markm_taylor@hotmail.com

Bampton Weightlifting Club

Chairman: Don Rouse: Tel: 01993

850938.

Secretary: Ray Fielding: Tel: 01993

852185. Mobile: 07855 146949.

Bampton Badminton Club

Enquiries: Lesley Campbell Tel:

01993 852846.

Meets every Tuesday 10 - 12am

Bampton Village Hall.

Bampton Archery Club

Chairman: Gerald Mills: Tel: 01993

850670

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU USE THE RECREATION GROUND

While using skate park

Minor accidents continue to occur on the Skatepark because of the lack of protective clothing. The Parish Council ask all parents to insist that their children wear the appropriate clothing.

Insurance Liabilities

Residents using the Recreation Ground to practice golf, fly kites or model aircraft or even hitting cricket balls should note that they are responsible for third party liability should an accident occur.

Whilst the Parish Council has ample insurance should it be at fault - for example if a slate falls off the roof of the pavilion - we expect all users of the excellent facilities to have their own insurance.

Consider including this cover in your home contents policy. Dog walkers should also have insurance.

Secretary: Jeff Dando: Tel: 01993 850643

The Horseshoes Football Club Sunday League Football

Chairman: Alan Clarke: Tel: 01993 850201.

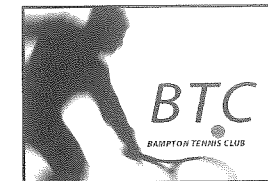
Secretary: Bill Godfrey: Tel: 01993 850014.

Bampton in the Bush Cricket Club

Contact: Pauline Smith Tel: 01993 210140 or Martin Landray Tel: 01993 850939 or E-mail:

martinlandray@ctsu.ox.ac.uk.

BAMPTON TENNIS CLUB



Are you looking to get fit whilst having fun in 2010? Have you considered playing tennis?

Bampton Tennis Club caters for players of all ages & abilities & members meet on two club nights each week.

We play at the courts at Bampton Recreation Ground on Buckland Road. Members are able to book the courts to play at a time that suits them via the club diary kept in Budgens, and membership gives you key number access to the courts.

For those who want to get involved with other members our club nights are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April onwards. Members play at all standards of tennis - so you won't feel that you don't measure up if you're just a beginner! For those who want to improve their game the club has a private coach who is available for bookings. We believe that we represent the best value for tennis in the county, with individual membership at just £30 per year (family membership - two adults and two children is £70, and individual juniors at just £10). If you're interested, come along on a Club Night & be our guest at a free introductory session. Contact the Membership Secretary on: Tel: 01993 824670 for more details.

Easykart UK and World Championships Update

By Patrick Lay

Just imagine YOU are.....

.....sitting less than an inch off the ground, heading into a corner at just shy of 80mph, with only a few millimetres between yourself and the surrounding two, three or possibly four karts. You don't know what the other drivers will do, if something will break and if one mistake occurs – the consequences could be fatal.

In 2009 I competed in the Junior Easykart UK Championship, competing in eight rounds that were contested all around the UK. In my last update, I had just completed the first



Patrick at the Wheel!

half of the Championship and was leading by 17 points. I was on my way to becoming the youngest ever driver in the UK to win the Junior Easykart UK Championship and I was also gradually securing a place on the grid in Siena, Italy – to compete for Team UK in the Easykart World Championships.

Round 5 of the UK Championship was held at Rye House Raceway in Hoddesdon. I had qualified on pole position, but a turn of weather conditions meant that the Final would now be a very wet one. I was held back at the start due to no grip on the part of the circuit I had to start on and so slipped into 2nd place, but on lap 3 I made a manoeuvre for the lead – tak-

ing it and began to pull out 1 second a lap. I then came across a back marker, but a few seconds later was knocked from behind, to find myself facing the wrong direction with my kart half on top of the guy who I had only overtaken a matter of seconds before. A lot of wriggling around in my kart meant that I was now able to carry on – to find myself dropped to 3rd place. I did however chase 2nd place back down, taking the runners-up spot for the third round in a row.

Round 6 and 7 was a double header at Rowrah in Cumbria and I could win the championship a round early during round 7. Round 6 was completely dry with blue skies all day. I qualified on pole position again, taking the Pre Final win by over 12 seconds and again the Final. I increased my lead in the championship and all I had to do was beat my main championship rival the following day.

Adverse weather conditions however, led to all the Pre Finals and Finals being cancelled due to safety reasons, so results were taken from qualifying. I had qualified 2nd, but my main championship rival had beaten me by 0.3 seconds! This meant that the UK title was going down to the wire at

Round 8, less than a month later. Ellough Park in Suffolk, hosted the "Title Showdown" the weather was perfect, with blue skies and endless sunshine. I had qualified on pole position again and won the Pre Final. My championship rival had only managed 5th place in the Pre Final, so I had a cushion between myself and him for the Final. Then the whistle went and I was straight out onto the circuit, weaving and accelerating hard and stamping on the brakes to warm up the kart the best I could. I remembered the perfect start I had planned but as the lights went green, I found myself dropping to 2nd place. I didn't panic and instead sat in 2nd place until lap two, when I took the lead and

pulled out by 4.5 seconds to win the race and the Championship!

Years of karting, training, coaching, grief, dedication and dreaming went into that one race. To win the UK Championship and become the youngest ever Junior Easykart UK Champion was all that I had been focusing on for 2009, but to then be announced to represent Team UK in the Easykart World Championships in Siena, Italy was just the cherry on top of the icing.

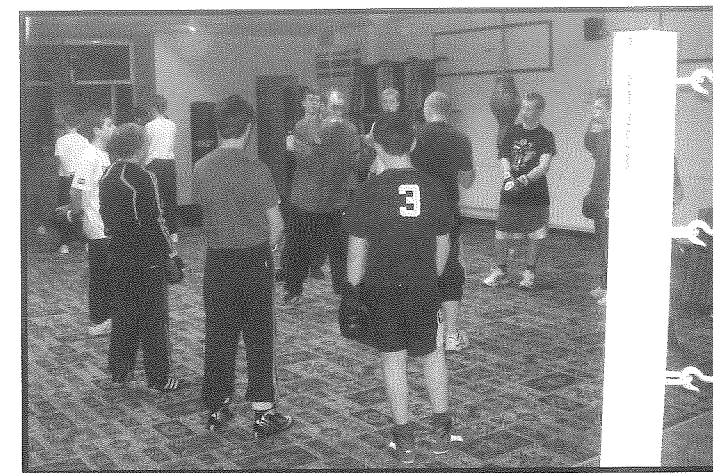
I flew out to Italy in mid October with my Dad and the UK Team and had high expectations as I was ranked #3 in the world for the Junior class. I had no idea what it was like, who I was against or any idea what was going to happen. All the anticipation however was let down, by the most frustrating race weekend I think I have ever had. We had a lot of technical problems due to us not being able to use our own karts, with the Italians and other countries being allowed to use their own. Almost every time I drove the kart I was supplied, I had a problem of some sort. This meant I had qualified 31st out of 65 drivers for Qualifying and when I was knocked out of the Second Qualifying heat – I was left with an un-drivable kart and 10th place on the grid for the B Final. Numerous mechanics, Team UK's importer and my Dad, spent hours preparing and working on my kart for Sunday. This was really important, as I had to finish in the top six to get into the World Championships Grand Final later in the afternoon, being broadcast live to several countries. I managed to finish 4th in the B Final and started 32nd on the grid for the Grand Final. By the third corner however, I was hit, ended up on the grass and left to struggle to finish 25th overall. Not what I had wanted, after having been ranked #3 prior to competing. If it could be called "a silver lining on the cloud" I did however fly back to England as the highest ranked Junior Easykart UK driver in the world.

My final race of 2009 was at Clay Pigeon Raceway in Dorset, for the Easykart E Plate Championships. The one-off race weekend would see the winner of the Final become the first ever "E" Plate Champion of the Junior class – allowing them to use the

Boxing Club

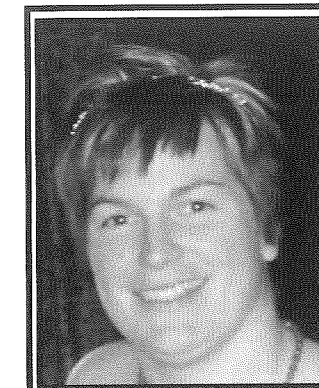
By Ann Setch

Windrush Valley & Bampton Amateur Boxing Club last year became only the 4th boxing club in England to receive Sport England's club mark accreditation. The club's main training venue is based at Carterton Football Club and draws many youngsters and women from all over West Oxfordshire and especially from Bamp-



Training Session

ton. Monday night training sessions are for the mini minors (7 to 11 yrs), from 6.30 to 7.30 pm, followed by a women only session from 7.30 to 8.30pm. Tuesday and Thursday nights, 6.30 to 8.30pm are for mixed training with the only criteria being over 11 yrs. The club is currently searching for



Scottish Cap for Louise Gray

Born and bred in Bampton, Louise Gray gained her first cap for Scotland in their Six Nations match against Wales on Sunday 14th February, which just happens to be her birthday. She came on as a replacement during the second half of the game which Wales won 28-12.

Louise formerly played for The Witney Angels, but is now with the Henley Hawks, and broke into the Scottish set up last year when she was selected for the Scottish A team. Her progress has been such however, that she has been bumped up to the main squad, and is hoping to keep her place in the squad and play in the women's World Cup, which takes place in England, later this year.

Well done Louise. The Editor and Sub-Editor are very proud of your achievements....so far!!

suitable facilities to train directly in the village.

Local sponsorship for kit this year generously came from Tony Scott at Scotts Budgens. All coaches are fully qualified through the amateur boxing association of England and first aid qualified. As a club we work hard with governing bodies to provide a stable environment actively promoting moral values and community inclusion.

We provide a regulated environment encouraging health, fitness and well-being for all ages through boxing training both in a recreational capacity and also on a competitive platform.

As of September this year the club will also be registered to deliver the boxing GCSE, so even if you don't wish to box in the competitive arena

there are still opportunities for any age, ability or gender to get fit both mentally and physically. Club strength at the moment is 48, and eight of our members competing in competitions – and one of our members got through to the ABA novice finals. Contact Ann Setch for more information: Tel: 01993 851156.

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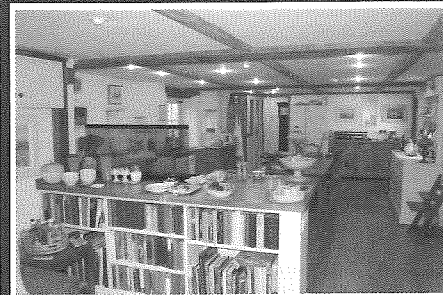


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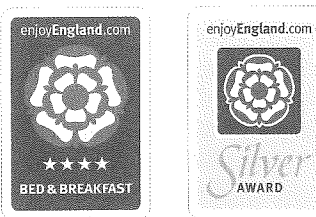


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Website: www.thecoachhousebampton.co.uk



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you aren't a member

DO JOIN NOW

Send your membership fee
of £2 (£1 for OAPs) to:

Society for the Protection of
Bampton
Manor House
Bampton, Oxon OX18 2LQ

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club

By Cerian Cooper

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club is for children aged between 0 and Pre-School age, and their parents or carers. We have been running for over 10 years, and meet every Thursday between 10:00 and 11:45 in Bampton Village Hall. We have a variety of toys for children to play with during the play session, which is followed by singing and refreshments.

Toys range from those suitable for younger babies, to ride-in cars, a play kitchen, and a slide for toddlers. We have a baby corner for young babies, with bouncers and soft mats. We also have a bouncy castle on the first Thursday of each month, and organise seasonal craft activities. All our toys, including the bouncy castle, are available to hire through our toy library.

At least once a month, we arrange a special activity, such as a recent visit from Tumble Tots and story time with our local librarian.

The group is a great way to meet other parents and carers, and we also arrange evenings out. We recently had lots of fun at our Christmas Party, when we extended the session for singing, Christmas games, and a fun Christmas meal for the children.



Our Christmas Party

If you have a child under school age, drop in and join us.

Your first visit is free and subsequent visits are £2.50 for non-members, £2 for members.

For more information, contact Cerian Cooper on: **Tel: 01993 850861**, or just come along!

Bampton CE Primary School News

By Su Allen

At almost a third of the way through the school year it has already been an exceptionally busy time. In September we welcomed not only a new set of children into our Foundation year, but also two new members of Staff, Mrs Anya Pitts teaching Year 2 and Miss Kate Gardiner teaching Foundation. On a less cheery note, we were very sad to lose Mrs Yvonne Taylor, who has been with us for 18 years. We wish her well going forward and know that she will be back to see us on occasion.

In the autumn term, our children were involved in Remembrance

with lessons and projects exploring World War II topics within school; and our youngest and eldest child, Jack Thornally and Jack Trinder, laying a wreath on the War Memorial at the Remembrance ceremony in the Village.

In October, the Harvest Celebration at St Mary's Church was a great success and Bampton Pre-School children joined with us to give thanks. Contributions of food and dry goods were donated to Simon House in Oxford. In a similar vein, across the school, children decorated and filled shoeboxes with Christmas gifts of toys, crafts and personal items such as toothbrushes for the Samaritan Purse Appeal. These shoeboxes were distributed to children in the developing world in time for Christmas.

In the Autumn Term we also welcomed a new Friends of Bampton

School (FOBS) Committee, a body of parents who work not only to raise funds for the school but organise events that will increase the enjoyment of school for children.

The first fundraising event for school was our termly school disco. Here,



The special assembly in aid of the Haiti earthquake which raised £597

Key Stage (KS) 1 children can dance and run through the dry ice fog, eat popcorn etc. to be followed an hour later by KS2 children. These events are lots of fun, and raise almost £100 through the sale of drinks, popcorn and the all important Glo-sticks.

It's behind you! Christmas was a tremendous time for our children with a school wide visit to the pantomime in Oxford to see Jack and the Beanstalk. Despite the breakdown of one of our buses, all the children were enthralled by the Giant, Jack, his mother and of course the Cow. Equally enjoyable for parents were the two Christmas musical shows to explore the Christmas story undertaken by our KS1 and KS2 children. The younger children presented 'There's Something Amazing Going On' and KS2 children presented 'Nativity News'. Both events were hugely successful, with not a dry eye in the house, and raised a total of **£375.42** that was donated by Macmillan Cancer Care.

Spring term – welcome to 2010

Only now (in late January) does it feel

appropriate to call this Spring Term. During the snow, the school was closed for four days, although we know that many of our children were busy building snowmen and being outside.

During the second snow week our children in Years 5 & 6 had the opportunity to go to Yenworthy, an outdoor education/activity centre in Exmoor. Children left Bampton a little later than expected due to the snow, but had four and a half days of walking, snowball fights, building igloos and outdoor lessons. This week is great for children and gives them an opportunity to experience new activities, manage themselves and bond with their peers.

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new library. Everyone has worked very hard over the last six months to build, fit and finish the new library extension, which provides a dedicated space. This is a great addition to our school and provides children access to a range of books, both fiction and non-fiction in a beautiful, calm environment.

Through the autumn and spring terms we have also received new furniture which has enabled us to refit our computer suite with new chairs, and also have storage units and bookcases.

We are grateful to Cordula Simmons for securing this furniture for us and co-ordinating the removal men. This has been coupled with a redecorating programme which means the school is looking fresh and invigorated.

If you have children at the school you will know that they have been learning about the devastating earthquake in Haiti, and, if like me, you will have been moved by their compassion for the victims of that disaster and their passion to help.

At school through a series of special assemblies, children collected together spare change from their piggy banks, parents, parents' colleagues

and so on, and placed these bagged coins onto a map of Haiti. During the assembly many children and staff were visibly moved.

We are delighted to report that more than **£597** has been raised through the children, money that will go directly to the DEC for their distribution.

What's coming up?

We will be holding a **QUIZ NIGHT** open to teams across the village on **Friday 19th March 2010**, where you will be able to pit your wits against our Quizmaster Karen Easterbrook, competing for the Wooden Spoon! Cost is **£6 per team** (up to 6 per team) and a Fish & Chip supper will be available to order.

For more information please call **Su Allen Tel: 01993 852882** or e-mail **FOBS@brandfish.co.uk**. Funds raised from this event continue to support and enrich school life for our children.

In a few weeks time, we are also undertaking a school wide non-electricity day.

This idea, put forward by one of our children, is to help us save energy and limit the impact of climate change. We'll report in the next issue how we got on.

Is it you? On another note, do you fancy a job with us? From **Monday 1st February** we will have a vacancy for a Lollipop lady/man. If you think that this is something you might like to do please contact the school on the details below. This part time role could be easily done as a job share if you would like.

On **Tuesday 25th May at 9.10 am** we will be holding an open morning for prospective parents and pupils.

If you would like further information about Bampton Primary School please do not hesitate to call on:

Tel: 01993 850371, or e-mail us on: office.3131@bampton.oxon.sch.uk.

Volunteer needed

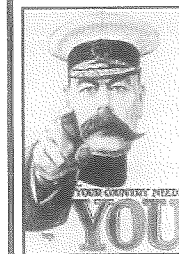
Bampton Baby and Toddler Group needs a volunteer to do refreshments. Our group runs every Thursday (not school holidays), 10.00-11.45 in Bampton Village Hall. We need a volunteer for an hour to make tea/coffee for the parents and carers, and drinks for the toddlers. If you are interested, please contact

Cerian Cooper

Tel: 01993 850861

e-mail cerian@bamptoncastle.co.uk.

Bampton Post Office Needs YOU!



With the retirement of Martin and Carol Barrett, a temporary postmaster has been installed in The Bampton Post Office.

However, 'The Beam' understands that he will be leaving by end March, and while The Parish Council and our District Councillors are all pushing *The Post Office* to install another temporary postmaster, it is obvious that, if we are to continue to have our own post office in the Village, we need a permanent postmaster to take over the reins.

The job is advertised on *The Post Office* website, but if you are interested, but are not quite sure what the job would entail, Martin Barrett would be pleased to talk to you. He can be reached on; **Tel: 01993 210165.**

Bampton Gardening Club

The Committee for 2010 is:

Chairman: Norman Haynes
Sec/Show Sec: Fenella Gray
Membership Sec: Gill Gummer
Social Sec: Ellen Parker
Trophy Sec: Marion Dowling
General Members: Gary Gummer, Richard Wilkins, Jo Hutchins, Dawn Knight and Pam Dowley.

Coffee Mornings

Dates for your Diaries

- 27th March
- 24th April
- 22nd May
- 26th June
- 24th July

Town Hall, 10am - 12noon

Annual Show

Saturday 28th August
 Village Hall

Short Breaks

14th May – 17th May
 Durrant Hotel, Bideford, Devon
 September/October
 Lake District

For more details contact:

Ellen Parker on 01993 843985

**LETTERS AND E-MAILS
TO
THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor
On behalf of The Royal British Legion, Bampton Branch, may I say what a wonderful job the Parish Council has done on the refurbishment of the War Memorial. I believe special thanks are due to Cllr Steve Radband who oversaw the project. Well done! It is a credit to all, and to the Village.

A special thanks also to all collectors of the Poppy Appeal this year, which was a record collection of over £3500. Special thanks also to Lynn Shuker, our Poppy Appeal organiser, for a speedy recovery from her fractured ankle.

Yours sincerely
B Deane
20 The Pieces, Bampton
Chairman, Bampton RBL

Dear Editor
It is with great sadness that, despite trying to sell The Cotton Club for over a year and having several strong candidates, we have been unable to secure a satisfactory ongoing lease for them.

We have very reluctantly had to close a bust thriving business we have invested 7 years in in order to retire. The Cotton Club had become a village institution during its 25 years in the heart of the community.

We would like to thank all of our customers for their support and it has been a privilege to know you all.

Keep sewing
Linda & Roger Kerswill

Plant Sale

The eleventh annual Plant Sale on Morris Dancing Day, 31 May, will be held at Brook House, Bridge Street, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Rayner. From 10 am till 4.0 pm there will be the usual amazing array of plants, trees and shrubs at tempting prices, together with produce, books and cards. This is an event not to be missed. All proceeds to Bampton Archive.

**Craft Fair
&
Refreshments**

**Village Hall
Monday 31st May**

9.30am - 5.00pm

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Sobell House Bereavement Service, Churchill Hospital, Old Rd, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LJ
Tel: 01865 225878 for more details

We do not recommend this work for those who have been bereaved in the last 2 years



Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman, Chairman



Our first meeting of 2010 is our AGM on 5 March, when Jane Wallis will give a talk on 'Place Names of Bampton'.

Our programme for the rest of the year will be:

- 29 April, Derek Turner from the Milestone Society
- 29 July, Tim Healey on 'The Green Man in Oxfordshire'
- 28 October, Pip Cartwright on 'The Rocks and Geology of Oxfordshire'.

Open meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 8:00pm. All are welcome, with attendance free for members, £2 for non-members (or join at the door).

The provision of a 7.5 tonne environmental restriction for Bampton was finally agreed by the OCC Transport Decision Committee in November 2009. It should be in place in March/April when restriction signs should be appearing on the Buckland Road and other approaches into Bampton. Any local businesses who have the need for special access permission will need to apply to OCC. OCC are finalising their plans for the redevelopment of the Bush Club before submitting them to WODC for planning permission.

WODC have published a Preferred Approach document for their Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy for consultation.

The closing date for comments is Monday 22 March. (Go to their website at www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/CoreStrategy.cfm for details.)

The portfolio of documents making up the LDF will replace the current WODC Local Plan—unless the Conservatives are elected to form the new government in May and change the planning structure.

There is also still no news on the awaited publication by OCC of a short list of mineral extraction sites.

If you would like to know more about BEWG or would like to join us please contact the Membership Secretary (Ann Norman) on 850823, or email bewg@sagaman.co.uk.

You can also see our entry on the Bampton web site at www.bamptonoxon.co.uk/bewg.html

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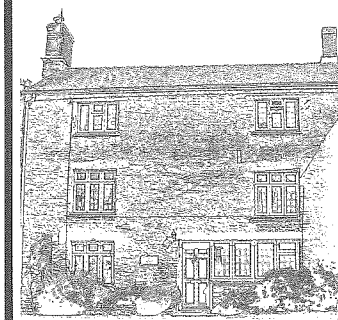
Jack Morton

By Anne Smith on behalf of the Morton family, Andrew, Anne, Frank, Daniel and Alica.

Dad was born in Bampton in a cottage in Mill Green on the 11th September 1922, the fourth child of a family of eight. The family moved from Bampton in 1927 to Waterperry, where he first went to school and thereafter to many villages around Oxford and further afield during his childhood. In 1934 he was back in Bampton again

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in Mill Green cottages where my grandfather worked for Mr J Oliver. In the autumn of 1934 they moved to Rose cottage which was nearer the farm.

This was Dad's first time attending Bampton School where he could recall playing football and practising on Sandfords field. The sports master was a Mr Mathis who played for Oxford City and he arranged games for the team against oxford schools sides. Some of the names Dad mentioned were Dick Wilkins and Spencer Farmer from Clanfield, Pat Hedges from Carterton and Bill Collett from Bampton.

The family moved again twice before returning to a council house in New Road, where Dad and my grandfather were given work helping with the haymaking on a Mr Gerring's farm at Buckland.

Then, when Dad's father talked of moving again, Dad felt he had to make a stand. He would really have preferred to join the Navy but at that time he was too young. Dad could remember Mr J Eeles calling with some groceries one Saturday and asking him if he would like a job as an errand boy 12/6d per week. To take the job though, he had to live in Bampton and with his parents talking of moving again he approached his eldest sister Flo, who was married and living in Primrose Cottages, to see if they could take him in. Flo and her husband Harold agreed to give him a home, and then everything fell into place at for him at age 15; he had a permanent home and a job.

Then Mrs Reynolds the postmistress offered Dad the chance to do an early postal delivery which he took on. This meant getting up at 4.30am for a 5am start in order to complete the round by 7.30am so that he could go on to his regular job at 8.30am.

In the spring of 1938 Dad bought his first bicycle from Warners of Witney; He paid £7 15d for a Raleigh three speed, and this enabled him to get to Witney for the cinema, and to cycle to Swindon to watch Swindon Town at the County Ground.

Dad continued to follow the fortunes of Swindon Town all his life. He also joined the cricket club in may 1938, but was too young to get into the team at that time but a year later he was of



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age and enjoying plating a good amount of cricket.

When war was declared in 1939, it made Dad even more determined than ever to fulfil his wish of joining the Royal Navy. However, he had to wait until June 1941 to join up, and in the interim he was kept busy in the shop. Dad did not talk very much about his experiences in the war but we do know that he survived when his ship, *The Southwold*, struck a mine off the coast of Malta. He was picked up by *The Southwold's* sister ship, and he told us that he did not know how long he was in the water but that it must have been for several hours.

Dad left the Navy in 1949, returning to Bampton where he began work for Constable and son as a roundsman. He purchased a new motorcycle, and with his friend Arthur Beckley, travelled to local cinemas and to Swindon to watch the Town.

In July 1949 Arthur had arranged to meet a girl friend who was visiting her aunt in Bampton. She was also bringing a friend, and this friend was called Diana. The rest is history. They married on 26th March 1951. As a family we moved from Bampton to Christian Malford in Wiltshire where Dad took a job as a driver for a local chicken factory where he worked until his retirement.

During retirement he liked nothing better than walking his dogs and would go for miles each day. It would also be true to say that he was also a very political man and stood firm in his views throughout his life. He was very proud of all his grandchildren and he loved watching them playing in the garden.

Dad was a man that did not wish for much, and was generous to a fault. He was most grateful for the help that he and Mum received when her health was poor in recent years. In an age where we all seem to like to moan about everything, this was refreshing thing but summed up his attitude to life. Sadly Dad never really recovered from losing Mum in early July and died on November 16th, 2009.

As my cousin Marina stated "Dad was a very special person and an inspiration to all who knew him". This is a sentiment that we all agree with, and we miss both Mum and Dad dreadfully.

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Whether that job is full-time or part-time it at all adds up to hours spent away from your children during the day.

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This is an informal log which will record what he or she ate, how they interacted with others and activities he or she enjoyed and so on.

As well as being an effective tool to track development it also acts as a springboard for parents and us to introduce relevant activities for the following session which will help with that child's development.

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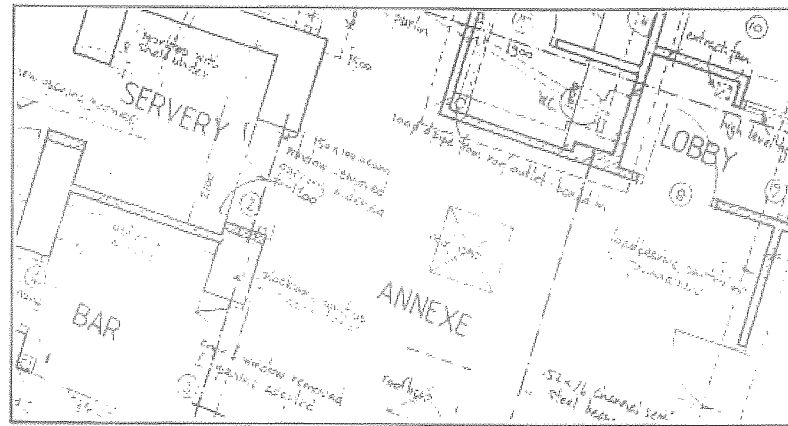
The Bampton Beam

March 1986

Volume 1: Number 1

Village Hall: Work begins

Thanks to the generosity of all those who have made coveted donations and gifts to the Improvements Fund, and help from the Parish and District Councils, we have been able to finalise plans for an extension with new toilets and bar and a modernised kitchen. The work was put out to tender at the end of 1985 and a contract signed with Mr. Churchill of Lew in January. Work started on 10th February and despite the bad weather is now well under way and should be completed by early autumn. We hope very much that the improved facilities will be enjoyed by all users of the hall. As most of the new building work will be outside at the back of the hall, normal lettings will continue as long as possible, but when the new and old parts of the hall are linked together we would ask people to be tolerant of any inconvenience.



The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 23rd APRIL at 8pm; all Bamptonians over age 18 are entitled to attend and vote and it is hoped there will be a big turnout. Offers of help in the day to day running of the hall would be welcome.

Joint fund-raising

The success and popularity of the Village Hall 150 Club has encouraged the organisers to

enlarge the Club in order to help another village enterprise. The Youth Centre. From the beginning of April tickets will be available at £1 a month for the Bampton Village Hall and Youth Centre 250 Club. There will be four prizes each month - £25, £25, £10, £10; a quarterly prize of £100 and an annual prize of £250. The profits of the club will be shared equally between the Village Hall and the Youth Centre. Anyone interested in buying a ticket should contact Mrs. Phillips (850321) or Dr. & Mrs. Perry (850314).

Parish Council: Call for nominations

Local Government elections take place on Thursday, 8th May for one Councillor to represent Bampton on the West Oxfordshire District Council and eleven Parish Councillors. Nomination papers are available from Miss Kent at Cromwell House, Broad Street and must be returned to the Council offices at Woodgreen, Witney by 6th APRIL. It is very difficult for anyone who does not actually live in Bampton to represent the needs and views of the local inhabitants at District Council level and as Bampton grows rapidly in population one would hope that there would be someone prepared to take on this important job. The Parish Council also has a useful role to play and should ideally represent all sections of the community - young & old, newcomers and those who

VOTE FOR YOUR COUNCILLORS
ON 8th MAY 1986

have been here for generations, property owners and tenants, businessmen and shopkeepers, publicans and housewives. The only qualification needed is a love of Bampton and the willingness to give a few hours a month to its welfare. Few people outside the council realise what a debt of gratitude is owed to the Clerk of the Council, Mr. John Ackerman, who over the past 19 years has devoted himself with considerable skill and unflinching good humour to carrying out the wishes of the Council, managing the finances and unflinching good humour to carrying out the wishes of the Council, balancing the budget! Some Council members will be standing for re-election but

there is always room for newcomers. If you feel inclined to stand or know of someone who would be interested, please obtain nomination papers and complete them NOW!

Yearly reports

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will take place in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY, 16th APRIL 1986 and everyone is invited to hear a report of what has been attempted and achieved over the past twelve months by The Parish Council and to what use ratepayers money has been put. You can ask questions, make suggestions and voice your opinion about matters concerning Bampton. Reports are also given on behalf of the Primary School governors and the Welfare Trust.

The Bampton Welfare Trust exists for the purpose of making gifts to the needy, as far as its funds allow, to relieve sudden distress or sickness, help with travelling

continued on back page

BAMPTON WIVES' CLUB holds meetings on the 3rd Wednesday in the month, at the Town Hall at 8pm, unless otherwise stated. Annual subscription £2 and 50p for guests. The future programme includes: Jumble Sale - March 22nd 2pm Lacemaking (talk) - April 16th The Sealed Knot - May 21st Skittles - June 18th
The Fox, Great Barrington Bar-Be-Que - 16th July (at the Pub Games - 20th Aug (Jubilee AGM & Pot Luck Supper - 17th September

BAMPTON YOUTH CLUB activities are held in the Youth Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week at 7.30pm for anyone between the ages of 14 & 21 (20p per session). Billiards and table tennis are available and opportunities for other activities. New Youth Club members are always welcome. The newly appointed Leader, Mrs Chris Connaughton, would also be glad of any volunteer help - especially sportsmen! If you are interested do please telephone 850991 for more information. The AGM will be held on Monday 28th April in the Youth Centre at 7.30. Do please come.

1st BAMPTON SCOUT GROUP The Group consists of four sections which meet in the Baden-Powell Room, Bampton Youth Centre. Enquiries about enrolment should be made with the appropriate leader.
Beaver Colony (6 - 8 years) Leader: Mrs J. Harrison 850101
Monday 4.45pm to 6.00pm
Cub Pack (9 - 11 years) Leader: Mr E. Day 850038
Wednesday 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Scout Troop (11 - 15 years) Leader: Mr B. Hunter
Friday 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Venture Unit (16 - 20 years) this group also includes girls
Leader: Mr M. Hazell 0367 52098
Thursday 7.30pm to 9.00pm

BAMPTON PUMPKIN CLUB
President - Mrs. S. Brookson
Chairman - Mr. J. Gascoigne
Treasurer - Mr. A. Coulthard
Secretary - Mrs. J. Gascoigne
Members - Tom & Frieda Bradley
Bob & Ursula Booth, Jim and Hazel Christensen, Arnold Woodley
It was agreed at the AGM that in future all the names of persons eligible for gifts at Christmas must be notified to any committee member by June.
Future Activities
Easter Bonnet Competition Saturday 29 March at 2.30
50/50 Auction - contact Jim Gascoigne 850119
Street Fair - 5 May (Tombola prizes required)
Proposed Disco in April to choose the May Queen

NOTICE BOARD

THE BUSH CLUB meets every Wednesday in the Scout Training Centre, Church View from 10am to 2.45pm approx. The Club provides coffee, tea and lunch to any retired people in the area. Transport can be arranged by contacting Lynn Shaker, 6 Pockocks Close tel 850830. Anyone wishing to spend the whole day at the Club must notify Lynn Shaker by the Monday morning of the appropriate week so that the "chef" can be informed of lunch numbers. Visitors of any age are most welcome to pop in at any time and the kettle is always "on the boil". Various activities take place such as card-games, dominoes, talks, demonstrations etc but the whole day is spent in as informal an atmosphere as possible. If you can offer to help or have any queries please contact Lynn Shaker.

BAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
Individuals wishing to join either as players or in an official capacity should contact any of the officials listed in the Bampton Directory or attend the AGM usually held in June. Plans are well advanced to form an association of the various clubs using the football field in Buckland Rd. in order to better manage and develop the ground and facilities, but still allowing the clubs to retain their identities and run their own sports. Those involved are the Bampton Gun Club, Haddon United F.C., Bampton Cricket Club & Bampton Football Club. We will once again be organising the "Community Fete" for Monday 26th May to be held on the Primary School Playing field. Applications for stalls etc. should be made to:
J.M. Harrington, 20 Bushey Row, Bampton tel 850401

ACTIVITY BUS is an evening service to Witney - every other Wednesday (9 & 23 April - 7 & 21 May - 4 & 18 June - 2 July) 50p return fare

Alvescot (Post Office)	5.50
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Northmoor (Red Lion)	6.25
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Stanton Harcourt	6.30
Witney (Hospital)	6.40
Witney (Swimming Pool)	6.45

The bus will depart from the Swimming Pool at 8.15pm, pick-up at the Hospital at 8.20pm and return by the reverse route.

YOUNG GENTLEMEN wishing to learn the mysteries of the Bampton Morris should apply to Squire Woodley at Honeymoon Cottage, Queen Street, tel 850420. Musicians who fiddle, blow, or finger nimbly would also find useful employment this coming season and should apply likewise.

BAMPTON MORRIS DANCERS
During the first half of the year the team will be performing at Stowmarket, Suffolk (25/26/27 April) Fairford (17 May) and Bolton, Lancs. area (20/21/22 June). Guest teams for the evening of Spring Bank Holiday (26 May) are Abingdon, Old Spot and Manley Morris (Cheshire). Anyone interested in joining Bampton Morris Dancers contact Squire Francis Shergold Dunlaoghaine, Weald (850476)

WOMENS' INSTITUTE Ladies, are you interested in Arts and Crafts, Current Affairs, Travel, Home or Country? Then the W.I. movement with its own educational College should interest you. Your local meeting is held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Visitors welcome

BAMPTON & DISTRICT NUMISMATIC SOCIETY meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5pm. Venue & further information from S. Brookson tel 850417

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,
There has been a marked decrease over the past year in the amount of litter about the place thanks to the hard work of some shopkeepers and residents but Bampton is still not particularly tidy! I hope that the LITTER BLITZ weekend will make more people aware of the problem and a big thankyou to all who have helped in the tidy-up.
Yours faithfully,
E. Banham, Church Street

Dear Sir,
Is the attempt to stop graffiti in the Town Hall conveniences a case of the cure being worse than the disease? Is this civic vandalism? Is it time, perhaps, to absorb this part of the building back into the Town Hall proper with a different function and build better conveniences elsewhere? It would, of course, need money but cost should be secondary to the will in creating a Bampton that is acceptable in ALL its aspects to ALL its inhabitants.
Yours faithfully,
B.O.R. Calais Dene

Reviews

The reviews published do not necessarily express the views of the editor. Contributions will be welcomed for future editions.

Seasoned traditions

Once upon a time, the Bampton Mummers Play, part of England's vanishing folklore heritage, was not to be missed. This past season's performance, however true to the traditional element it may have been, lacked the sparkle and enthusiasm of former years. But it was not without some excellent role-playing; the Dame was a credit to England's fine tradition of Shakespearian acting.

There was no lack of entertainment in the pantomime production *Cinderella, the Video*, Starting with its name, this show twinkled with wit and humour. I'd have preferred something a little less scatological, but this is a minor point when compared to the enormous level of energy and enthusiasm generated. Playing to packed houses every night, the cast delighted their audiences. I recommend you to get your tickets early next year.

Three years running, the Bampton Singers' Concert was musically the best it has ever been. They are developing into a fine group of singers, ably directed and conducted by Tim Rowe. The excellent menu included traditional fayre served up in tasteful King's College arrangements, plus a slightly more advanced course of hauntingly lovely smaller part works. A bit of spice was added by the Drama group's performance of a medieval mystery play. And the piece de resistance was Catherine Baughan's delicately beautiful soprano solo with the choir singing softly in the background.

VISUAL DELECTIBLES

Philip Inwood's exhibition at the Arts Centre was worth visiting. It is pleasing to see an artist with a single refined mature style. Using broad shapes and saturated colour, he creates landscapes that do not depart from reality as much as intensify the shapes and patterns within the field of view. Almost a miniaturist (sizes of works ranged from approx. 5x7ins. to 18x24ins.), he paints works at affordable prices. B.Z.

Upcoming events

OXFORD YOUTH PROM If you enjoy the spectacle of young musicians playing & singing their hearts out, and having a thoroughly good time in the process, you might like to come next month to Oxford Town Hall, whose Victorian splendours will re-echo to the sounds of the fifth OXFORD YOUTH PROM. It seems a long time since the first Prom was hatched under the wing of the West Oxfordshire Arts Association. Now fully fledged, it is one of a small flock of events sponsored each year by a trust which exists to promote music by and for the young in the county. The Prom is quite a phenomenon - a total of six hundred 7 to 21 year-olds performing on two nights. This year we have BBC Radio Oxford as co-promoters and two famous names as comperes. Lesley Judd and Antony Hopkins, who will also conduct the two Youth Orchestras. If you want a seat, book early; but if you want the full atmosphere, surrounded by the young performers and in the thick of the excitement, promenade. Booking at Tickets of Oxford from April 1st.

BLACK BOURTON MEDIEVAL MURALS APPEAL is to be launched at St. Mary's Church where these exceptional murals are situated by David Perry, a leading authority on the subject who will give a short talk about the restoration work involved. During the evening an informal recital will be given by Keri & Stephanie Williams, Ann Lewis and Bob Nurdun. Coffee will be served and there will be stalls selling cakes and produce. Please come, admission is free, on Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm.

Below: A detail of the Black Bourton Murals, St. Mary's



THE BAMPTON DRAMA GROUP's next production will be *"Proof of the Poison"* on 29/30/31st May at 8.00pm in the Bampton Village Hall. Tickets will be available from Mrs. Ham at £1.50 (£1.00 children/QAPs). Anyone wishing to join the group please contact Pauline Ruff tel 850582

WEST OXFORDSHIRE ARTS ASSOCIATION

WEST OXFORDSHIRE ARTS ASSOCIATION has 4 visual art and 3 photographic exhibitions in the Arts Centre gallery (upstairs in the Town Hall) during the year. Music events ranging from classical to modern are held in local venues including the gallery.

4 - 27 April "A Flowering of Images" photographs by Pamela Toler & Charlie Waite
27 April - an early Music Concert in the gallery.

The Arts Centre is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10.30 - 1.00 & 2.30 - 5.00, Sundays 2.30 - 4.30 Admission to exhibitions is free. For further information about events and membership please call at the gallery or contact Judith Warwick 850137 or 850246

HANDEL'S



'MESSIAH'

Handel's MESSIAH 6 April 7.30pm, St. Mary's Church, Bampton. Come and join in with the Bampton Singers, invited soloists and musicians, conducted by Philip Lange. The Prout edition of the score will be used, and a small number of copies will be available for those who need to borrow them. There will be a preliminary rehearsal for the chorus in the church on Wednesday, 2 April at 7.30pm. A rehearsal with orchestra will be at 3.30pm on the 6 April in the church. The admission charge of £2 for singers & listeners alike (£1 for students & QAPs) will be donated to local charities. For tickets & more information please contact Jean Bassett tel 850403

continued from front page

expenses to hospitals, provide fuel and food for the sick. The Trustees also assist the schools, playgroups, clubs for the elderly and local Red Cross activities. Mrs. Frances Henly, whose efforts as local secretary for over 30 years have been much appreciated, is very pleased to be told of cases where the Trust may be able to help. £2892 was distributed in 1986 for the benefit of young and old

THE PLAYING FIELD adjoining Mercury Close has been purchased by the Parish Council as an amenity for the children at that end of the village.

THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION has been entered again this year. The judges' comments last year were encouraging and the only major criticism was the terrible state at the back of the Village Hall - this is now in hand!

SKIPS for the disposal of household rubbish which is unsuitable for the normal weekly collection will be available - dates & places are displayed on the Parish Council notice-board.

The Bampton Beam

THE BAMPTON BEAM - the successor of the Parish Council Newsheet will be published three times a year, in March, August & November, and will be delivered free to all residents in Bampton (extra copies available at the Post Office)

Contributions for the next issue should be sent to the editor Susan Phillips, Hayton, Lavender Square by 4th August. All news, views & comment is welcome.

Charges for the Noticeboard page are 10 pence a line for Bampton organisations and 20 pence a line for others.

If you would like to advertise in THE BAMPTON BEAM please contact the designer Siobhan O'Rourke for current rates.

We need a volunteer to help with finances and advertising. If you think you could help, contact Susan Phillips 850321 or Siobhan O'Rourke 851105.

Classified ads

(10 pence a line)

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FOR SALE: Brass Double Bed £150 tel 851105

FOR FREE: English Electric fridge 15+ yrs old tel 851105

WANTED: 2'6" Mattress in good condition tel 850321
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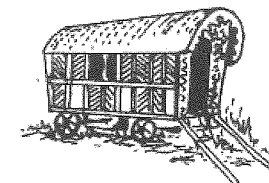
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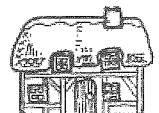
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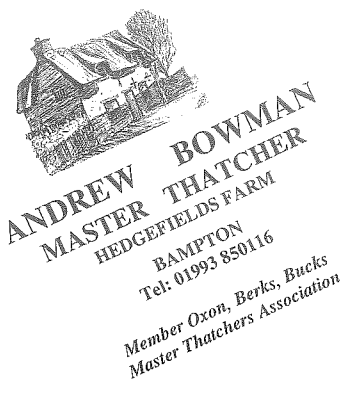
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(1418)

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

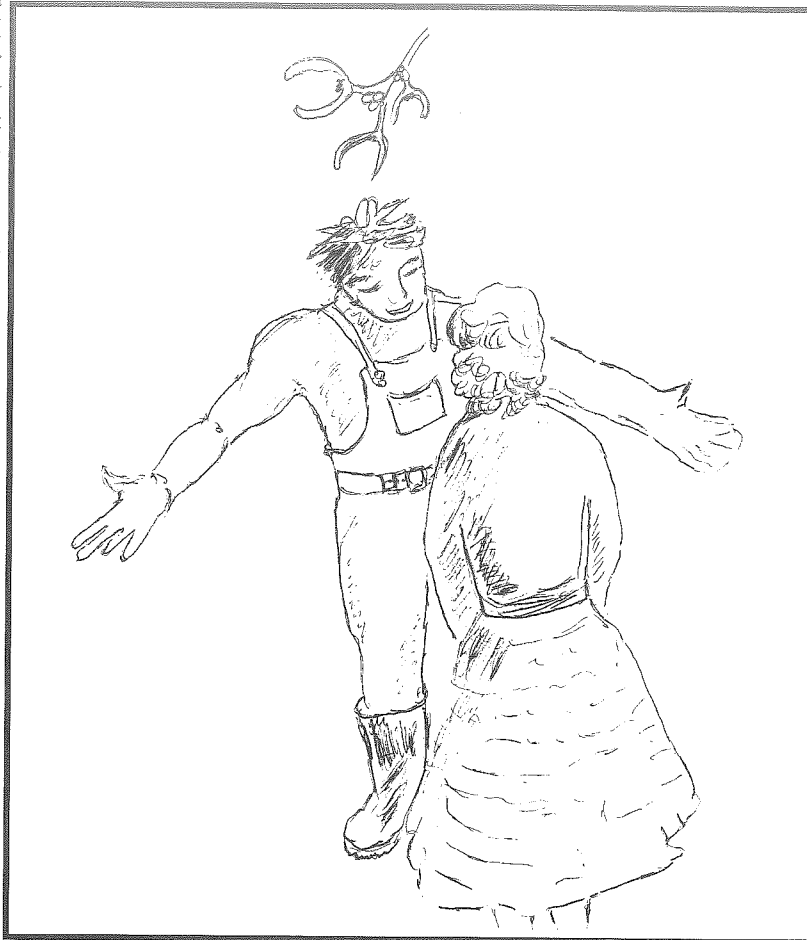
How nice it is now to be on the other side of a bad winter, the sort that affects us about once every twenty-odd years. It is one of those things that lock into your memory. I remember clearly the winters of 1947, 1963, 1981 and of course this year, yet no way can I remember many of those normal winters in between. In 1947 the minor roads like the road to Black Bourton was blocked for several weeks. I remember my father towing a Swan Laundry Van out of drifts that were higher than the van.

Who could forget the winter of 1963? Well actually it was Boxing Day '62 when all the snow fell. We had to take the milk from all the local farms in the back of a trailer and drive to Lechlade on an open tractor without a cab, the damp air freezing on our faces like an ice mask, all because the milk lorry could only get from the dairy in Faringdon to Lechlade on the A361, the A4095 being totally impassable. That year the snow did not clear till the end of March. In those days I used to record the maximum and minimum temperatures, the coldest night

being on the 23rd January with a temperature of 6 degrees Fahrenheit, which equates to -14.4°C - about the same as this year, in spite of 'global warming'! I did notice that that year I recorded peak temperatures of 90°F (32°C) in May right through to September. That was in the days when we accepted what we were given, didn't try to blame anybody or try to turn it into a political issue.

Then of course there was 1981/2 when the diesel oil froze in the en-

gines causing absolute chaos, though I think that this was more of a problem brought about by the oil refineries and the consistency of the fuel rather than the cold air. So be warned, ignore all those 'Global Warmers'; nothing has changed in the last 70 years and we shall still have the same weather pattern in the next 70 years, so now is the time to prepare for 2030! Me? I shall



be too old to be bothered by any of it then.

It is incredible how bad weather and difficult conditions alters people's attitudes. For years now, well, ever since the bad winter of '82, 4x4 owners have been slated as 'Gas Guzzlers', 'Polluters', etc. Definitely not PC - Politically Correct not Parish Council! - and taking up so much space! My word how the bad weather changed things around. Radio Oxford presenters, who were among some of

the worst critics of 4x4 owners, were now appealing for 4x4 drivers to help out for all sorts of desperate needs in the area, from urgent medical help to people getting married and wanting to get to the Church on time. On Television we saw Ambulances and Police Cars being towed out of trouble, mostly by volunteers in their 4x4s. All I can say to us 4x4 drivers is, enjoy the popularity while you can. It won't last!

Another area where the bad weather has changed people's attitudes is that towards farmers. A lot of people have been saying in the media "Why can't

the farmers be commissioned by the local Council to help keep the small rural roads open?" Brilliant! Just what farmers want is to be needed, to be able to play a big part within the community, just like they always used to. "Hang on a minute" the National Farmers Union quickly intervened. "Have you forgotten that this Government has brought out legislation that forbids farmers, no matter how desperate the situation, to use farm vehicles for non-agricultural purposes on the highway?" It's not allowed" Evidently farmers have to empty their fuel tanks of red diesel and replace it with white diesel before they can do such work; as well as getting their insurance policy changed along

with their Road Fund Licences! So, if they followed 'the rules', it might take a bit of time before they can come to your aid!! Thank goodness most farmers ignored such bureaucracy and got on with the job of helping people out. I remember in the bad winter of 1982 when the local Police asked me to go down the road to Lower Lew with my JCB and dig a way out for some senior citizens who were stuck in their home and had not been out for days. No problems at all, and I would do it again today as indeed any farmer

would, but if we were to take notice of all these laws and the legislation that this Government has imposed upon us, we would be too frightened to go outside our own gates. Stupid laws have been imposed upon us by the Judiciary, whereby if you clear the snow outside your premises, and somebody slips up and injures themselves, and could prove that you had not done a perfect job of it, you could be liable. How mad is that? It is not against the law to clear the snow, it's the people that you think you are benefiting that are the problem. Why can't people be responsible for their own actions? If there is ice about then it's going to be slippery! So I hope that the new Government this year will see it as a priority to make it possible for us to help each other out, making the world a better place and allow us to organise events responsibly for the benefit of or community without fear of litigation.

At the Oxford Farming Conference this year the Rt. Hon Hilary Benn, the Minister in charge farming, proved how forward thinking he was in the development of food production. He was advocating that our farmers needed to grow more to feed our nation and to provide more food for the starving nations of the world. Has he been given a load of 'back copies' of the 'Beam' I wonder? I've been advocating this for years! If they were to stop bogging us down with all the paper work and let us do what we know best, we could solve the problem. Back in the 1960s and 70s the British Farmer was one of the most efficient in the world, so much so, that in the 1980s we were limited to Quotas, imposed by the EEC to curtail production! What really amazed me was the way that the Minister was proposing we achieved it. "It needs more small farmers to participate" he claims. What Planet is he living on? Where are you going to find small farmers these days? They were forced to sell up years ago, as they just could not make a living. Using today's system they could get more on 'Job Seekers Allowance' than they ever could from farming.

It is a romantic thought though, full of nostalgia, if you think back to the way we were years ago, using the data from 1945 as it was in Weald. The

first farm on the left, Corner Farm was Ernie Parker, a few pigs and chickens with a couple of cows. Next was Alec Townsend with about the same amount of livestock; then Jack Oliver, 30 dairy cows and a few chickens; Jim Pinnock, a small Jersey herd; next was Owen Ash with a herd of Lincoln Reds, followed by George Collins with some 40 Friesians. And finally at Glebe Farm were people who I think were called Parsons, whom I remember watching milk their few cows by hand, using an old 'Hurricane Oil Lamp' to light the shed. In all about 30 people working horrendous hours and producing about as much milk in a week as Mr Collins is now producing in less than an hour! To me it is pretty obvious that the man in charge of our food production hasn't got a clue. God help us! Time for changes?

In the last 'Beam' I was very pleased to see reference to Judy Cannons, nee Hyde; yes I remember her well. Tom Beresford was the leader of the 1st Bampton Scouts ably assisted by Graham Taylor and Ray Applegate as Patrol Leaders. Ray and Judy ran the Cubs. All of them volunteers and so dedicated to the youth of Bampton, without all the encumbrances that we have to put up with today. The Scout Christmas Parties of the day were so educational. Just once in a year we were allowed to have girls in the Scout Headquarters above the Boys Club in the Old Grammar School! This was the era when kissing between boys and girls only happened at Christmas time with the aid of Mistletoe. I enjoyed a party game called Hyde Park Corner, especially when Judy Hyde was not carrying the torch! I am saying no more. My lips are sealed - but they weren't then!

Talking about Bampton Youth and Volunteers, we are still without a Youth Club. There is a building, there is money to heat it, but as yet the OCC Youth Service appears to be dragging its feet. What is more, there has now been cut backs in their budget so there could be a need for a few volunteers. In my last 'Beam' article I said how much I hoped that it would be up and running by the winter, perhaps I should have said 'Next Winter' which like 'tomorrow', never comes. But we live in hope!

SPAJERS News

By Don Rouse

We are now well into the New Year and looking forward to what it has to offer, and indeed what we have to offer Bampton and our Members.

Our main Fund Raising Events are still the same this year but we are always open to new ideas. At the moment our first event is going to be the 'Brain of Bampton' Quiz Night. Once again it will be teams of six, but this time we will not be providing a Supper.

There will be Nibbles on the Table and with an eight o'clock start the teams will have chance to eat before they get there.

The date is Friday 23rd April and I am sure that I do not need to remind you that it is St. George's Day. I wonder if I should 'brush up' on him? The Quiz is in the Village Hall and the charge is £30.00 per table of six. Entrants to Jeff Dando: **Tel: 01993 850643.**

We had hoped to run another **Garage Sale** this year, but, due to circumstances beyond our control, it cannot be done, and we will have to wait until 2011.

In May we hold our **AGM**. This is a chance for the members of the Public to review our activities and hopefully come on board to help us maintain our very high standards of 'Junketing' for our Senior citizens. Notices of the meeting will be displayed on the appropriate Notice Boards.

You must mark in your Diaries the date of the **Great Shirt Race** is Saturday 29th May, this year, and is the latest date it can possibly be, so let's hope that 'Flaming June' starts three days early.

When I started this report, I wasn't sure whether to begin with our achievements of last year, or look forward to this year, to whet your appetite on what we have in store for you!

Anyway, here is the report on what we have achieved since the last edition of 'The Beam'. First off was our **Bonfire Night**, and what a brilliant success that was, with much better weather than last year. Over £1500 was raised enabling us to make a donation of £200.00 to the Fireman's

Benevolent Fund and £100.00 to a Children's Hospital Fund that is supported by the Morris Clown Catering Corps who were very much in evidence that evening.

So you see other Charities benefit from the Community efforts that we all make. So many local companies, organisations and individuals help us with this event and we would like to publicly thank them all, especially companies like Budgens, Emmie's, The Coffee Shop, Patrick Strange Butchers, Alford Pallet Recycling. A K Timms & Sons, 5A's, and Ads Oxford; without them we could not function so smoothly.

Thanks also to our two senior Publicans for all their help; Oops - sorry Alan and Steve, I don't mean sorry as in age but having served Bampton the longest!

I am glad to report that our Parish Council has been very supportive in all our efforts to raise money and create a wonderful community spirit, actually refunding us the Hire Charge for the Field. Our final thanks go to Ray Willis, the man in charge of the Sports Field Complex, without whose

brilliant co-operation and advice the event could not take place.

Josie's Draw was the next event. A brilliant success, Once again Josie, her family and friends got together over 60 prizes and what has now become a 'Fun' part of the evening, some high value Christmas Items that we auctioned.

I was after some 'Jamie Oliver' meal tokens that had been kindly donated, but I was no match for mine host of the evening! Swanny and Dave were marvellous in providing the entertainment and getting us all in a happy frame of mind. A magnificent total of £884.00 was raised.

Well done to Josie and her helpers. She has already set the date for this year's Draw. It is Friday 12th November at the usual venue, The Horse Shoe Inn, from 7pm onwards. Hopefully Kathy and Allan will offer us their wonderful hospitality once again in the warm atmosphere of the 'Horseshoes'.

Our Band of **Mummers** went out again this Christmas and were extremely successful in raising £1140.00.

What a fantastic effort for one night's work! Thanks to all those who welcomed them into their homes and all those who gave so generously. There were two newcomers to the Cast this year. Robin Dando appropriately played Robin Hood and Simon Chatterton was the new Doctor. Next time you visit A K Timms & Sons you will be able to get the services of a Quack Doctor as well as a House Repairs Doctor!

Finally, a big thank you to all those who took the trouble to fill in and return the SPAJERS Gift Aid Form; with your help, we managed to recover **£781.34** in Gift Aid for the last six years!! Not that we enjoy taking money from the government.....

We were a little bit concerned as to whether we had raised enough money this year to be able to maintain our £20.00 Christmas payout to all our 425 members, however, thanks to all of you who help and support us:

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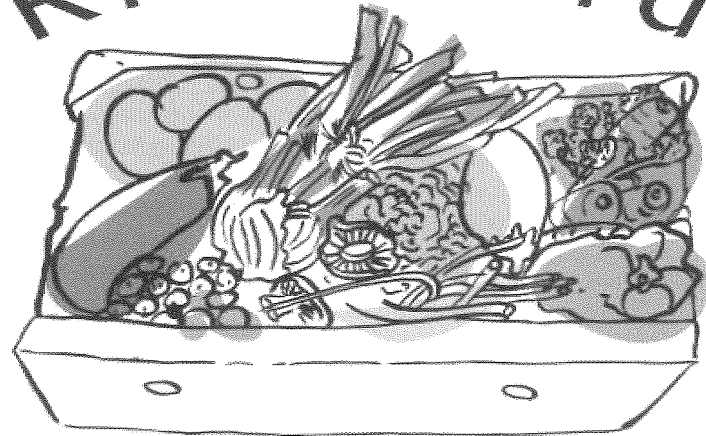
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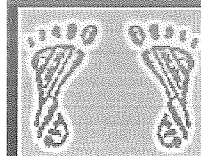
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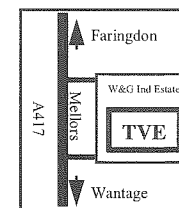
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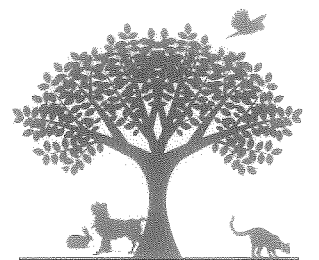
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 Tel: 01993 850137
 Email: gallery@westoxarts.org
 Web: www.westoxarts.org



Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox Arts is an association of artists and art enthusiasts, many of whom take part in exhibitions alongside artists invited from the wider region. We hold up to fifteen exhibitions a year showing a varied range of contemporary, high quality art and crafts by local and national artists. West Ox Arts is situated in a lovely spacious gallery on the first floor of Bampton's Grade II listed Town Hall in the Market Square. Every year three of our exhibitions take place in the Robert Vesey Room located at Bampton Library. The gallery has a shop which sells reasonably priced handmade jewellery, ceramics, glassware and cards. We also organise stage productions, talks, workshops and special events. West Ox Arts is a charity and is part-funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council, it is staffed by a part-time curator and administrator and also volunteers.

Exhibitions in the Gallery
Gallery opening hours
 During exhibitions: Tues-Sat
 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. Sun 2-4pm

Oxford Art Society
6 - 28 March
 A lively and varied Spring exhibition by Oxford Art Society members showing an inspired range of colourful and intriguing imagery in both traditional and modern styles. OAS artists have diverse interests and experience and their variety is part of their strength.

Fabrications
10 April - 3 May
 An exhibition of textiles and mixed media by seven textile artists. The work encompasses hand and machine embroidery, fabric manipulation, piecing and patching, wrapping, printing and collage. Individual themes are explored with drawings, paintings and photographs which then lead on to finished pieces of work. The exhibitors are members of the Oxford Textile Workshop which meets regularly to exchange ideas.

West Ox Arts Printmakers.
Artweeks exhibition
8 - 31 May
 Twenty-two printmakers who are members of West Ox Arts will show their work as part of the Oxfordshire Artweeks festival. They will be exhibiting etchings, engravings, col-

lagraphs, screenprints, lithographs and monoprints and handmade printed books.

Grace and Grit
5 - 27 June
 Juliet Dyer will show sculpture made in stone, wood, bronze and resin and Barry Cottrell will be exhibiting copperplate engravings. The sharp tools of the burin or the chisel are used to create their work.

The Robert Vesey Room
Caroline Maas. Lines and the Landscape
1 April - 1 May
 Caroline Maas makes energetic and lively colour etchings of landscapes. When out walking she sketches the hills and woods and then uses the printmaking process to condense her ideas and bring in unexpected qualities. The Robert Vesey Room opening hours are: Monday, Thursday and 2.30 - 4.30pm and Wednesday & Saturday 10am - 12 pm. If you would like to book this exhibition space for one month please contact **Rosie Tomlinson on 01993 850137**. The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

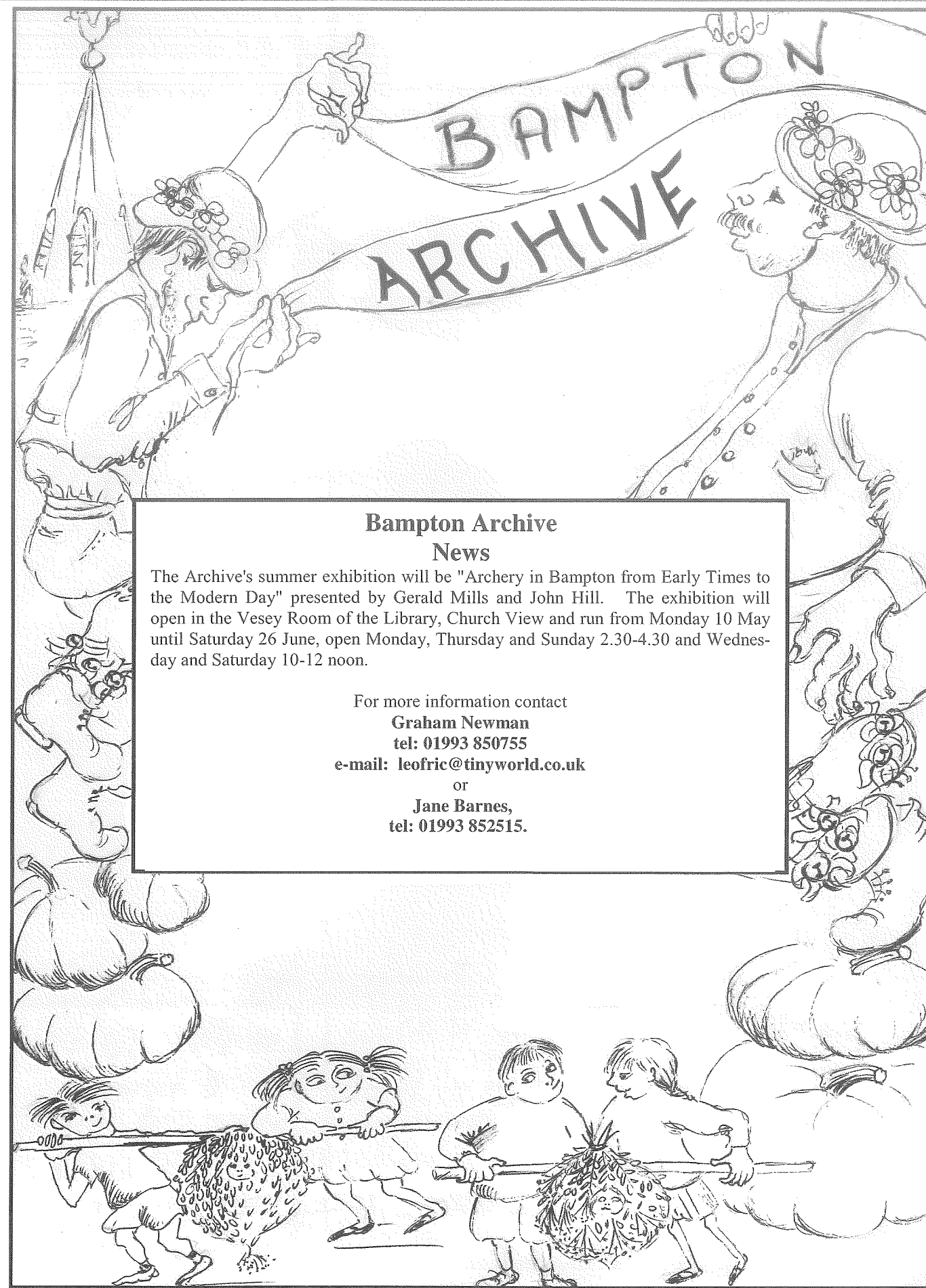
Life Drawing Sessions
 Ongoing life drawing sessions cost £8 for members and £9 for non-members. Life classes meet in the gallery on

Monday mornings 10am-12.30pm and Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm, they are drop in and untutored, so just come along during term times and bring your own materials.

Illustrated Talks
Tuesday 23 March. India: Colour and Light by Steve Empson. The local colour and light in India can be the greatest attraction and challenge for an artist who wants to convey a sense of place. Steve will present and discuss many pictures of the India he has been visiting regularly for thirty years.
Tuesday 20 April The Textile History of Damask by Jane O'Brien. This talk will take you on a fascinating journey through time focusing on the damask pattern and how it has evolved from its elaborate use in Renaissance art and ending with its modern day interpretation. Jane's work can be seen as part of the 'Fabrications' exhibition. Refreshments will be provided at both talks.

WOA Membership
 Membership is open to everyone and new members are always welcome. Benefits include: Discounts on WOA lectures, life classes and workshops. Invitations to private views. Regular mailings of the WOA events guide and newsletter. Discounts for local arts suppliers and framing. Reduced commission rate for exhibitors. Membership fees: Single £20, Family: £35, Student £10. The Administrator is usually in the gallery Tues-Thurs 10.30am - 4pm. Membership forms and details on exhibitions are in the Gallery.

Gallery Stewards
 WOA always needs volunteer stewards to look after the exhibitions. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to see each exhibition. If you could spare a couple of hours each month to support WOA in this way then please contact the gallery administrator **Rosie Tomlinson: 01993 850137** or for the **Robert Vesey Room, Richard Wilkinson: 01993 850406**.



Bampton Archive News

The Archive's summer exhibition will be "Archery in Bampton from Early Times to the Modern Day" presented by Gerald Mills and John Hill. The exhibition will open in the Vesey Room of the Library, Church View and run from Monday 10 May until Saturday 26 June, open Monday, Thursday and Sunday 2.30-4.30 and Wednesday and Saturday 10-12 noon.

For more information contact
Graham Newman
 tel: 01993 850755
 e-mail: leofric@tinyworld.co.uk
 or
Jane Barnes,
 tel: 01993 852515.

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Monday evenings 6.30-7.30 pm Sweat and Tone; 7.30-8.30 pm Body Shape.
Day time classes 9.30-10.30 am Body Shape (blend of yoga and pilates)
(Next course commences 4th November for 6 weeks)

Aston Village Hall

Wednesday evenings (except for 2nd Wednesday of the month) 6.30-7.30pm
Legs, Bums and Tums; 7.30-8.30pm Body Shape.

For further information on the classes, call Janette on 07831 255532:
or email : janette@janettecardyfitness.co.uk.

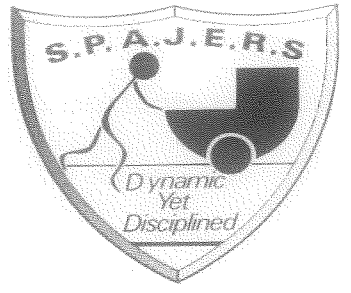


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Saturday 29th May

- 6.45pm Judging of the Best Fancy Dress
 - 7.15pm Junior & Intermediate Races
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 - 8.00pm Prizes Presentation
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The History of the Bampton Weightlifting Club

By Don Rouse

It was in the summer of 1954 that I first showed an interest in Weight Lifting when I came across a part of an old farm elevator that resembled a barbell. I had no idea what I was doing but I enjoyed doing it.

From this I progressed to using 2 buckets of water tied to an iron bar, then as I got stronger I could increase the amount of water in the buckets; my spirit was never dampened by the amount of water that was splashing about as I endeavoured to put more weight above my head. I then came across what was to me the ultimate in progressive training; iron strakes off a tractor each weighing 10lb. They were known as Bower Strakes and with these tied to an iron bar it allowed me to accurately measure the weight that I was handling. I still had no idea

In December 1955 I met up with Albert Woodley, a friend from the village, and after telling him what I was doing in my spare time he then regaled me with stories of a work colleague of his, who was a weightlifter and who was capable of great feats of strength. His name was Brian Crewe and Albert helped arrange a meeting with him at his training quarters in a loft at the back of the Bakers Arms in Faringdon. At the last minute though Brian was unable to make it so he sent his training partner Jeff Manley to meet me. Jeff drew up a training programme and showed me how to do the exercises to give me all-over body strength, something he said that was necessary if I was going to make it as a weightlifter; he also taught me to record everything that I did with the

weights, including my best lifts so that I could measure my progress. I still have these records to this day, yes very single work-out!

With this increasing enthusiasm I was able to convince my father that I was serious about what I was doing and was able to persuade him to buy me a Barbell Set for Christmas and let me have the use of a disused loft to train in.

Every three weeks or so I would visit Brian & Jeff so that they could keep an eye on my technique and devise new training schedules when necessary.

By May 1956 the loft had become too small and unsafe for the amount of weights

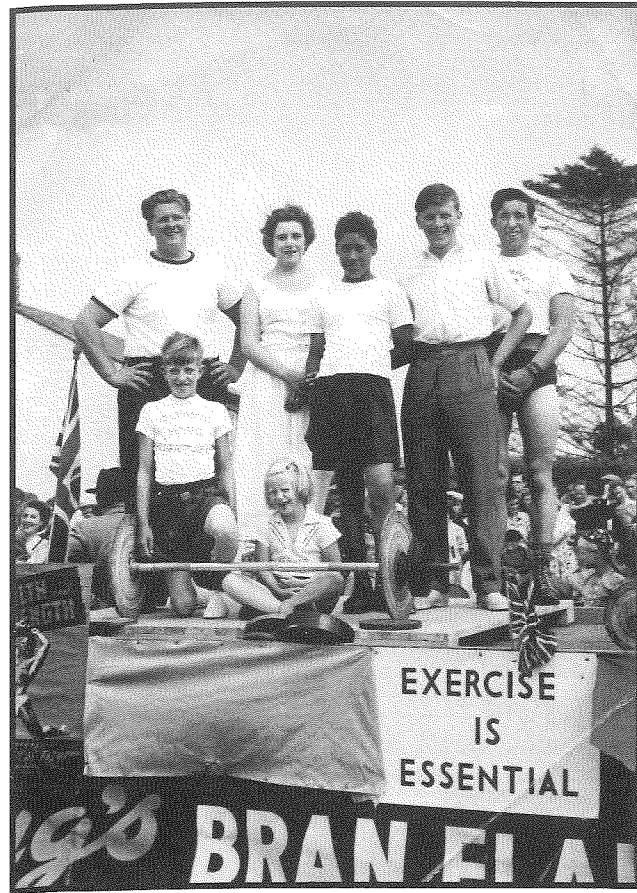
that I was handling, also other youngsters in the village had begun to take an interest in what I was doing, and there was just not enough room for us all.

So it was back to father to persuade him to let us have a Chicken House that he was no longer using to convert into a Gym; the house was about 10 foot by 8 foot so still not particularly large. Out of my wages of £1.00 per week I saved up enough to put a window in and purchase some iron bars and a purpose built platform from the Blacksmith at Clanfield. I also purchased more weights including some 18 inch discs that brought the barbell up to the correct height for weightlifting.

At about this time I wanted to find out more about the sport of Weightlifting, so Brian, Jeff and myself headed for the Witney Weightlifting Club to meet up with Tony Medley who was their Coach, Secretary & Trainer. He was also an official Referee and Instructor of the British Amateur Weight Lifting Association, indeed a good 'find' for us country bumpkins. When Tony learned of my training quarters he nicknamed me "Chicken House Charlie".

Tony gave us a crash course on the three Olympic movements that were, in those days, used in competitions; this was just what I needed, as I was now well and truly hooked on to the sport of Olympic Weight Lifting.

I have always been interested in sport, and up to then I had played rugby and cricket for Burford Grammar School and soccer for our village youth team. But my father's need for me to help build up the family farm business prevented me participating in team sports at the weekends, so weightlifting being an individual sport was absolutely ideal. I was able to train whenever I was free, and for as long as I wanted. There was no need for anyone to be with me during training, though this did give rise to some occasional hairy moments with me getting stuck under a bar that I couldn't get off! It is the quickest way to learn Safety First! It is also surprising how resourceful one becomes when self preservation is needed!! I learned to slide the weights onto the bar without collars, so that when I got stuck, all I had to do was to tip the bar one way



BWLC Carnival 1958

what I was doing or how best to do it, and all I know is that I enjoyed lifting heavy weights above my head.

in the village had begun to take an interest in what I was doing, and there was just not enough room for us all.

and all the weights would shoot off from the one side, quickly pursued by the other.

Here I must admit that training was more fun when Mary would come along to my training sessions to encourage and assist! It is surprising how much a very pretty and shapely young sixteen year old girl can inspire and encourage an eighteen year old lad with aspirations of becoming a champion!

Sometimes to improve my fitness (something that not many weightlifters would do) I would go for runs in the dark around Clanfield, Black Bourton and back. Mary would accompany me on her bike to light up the way for me; in fact you could say that she was carrying a torch for me even then!

By 1957, word had got around about the activities in the Chicken House and there were five or six local youngsters training with me. As there were no youth activities in Bampton at the time it was for them quite a novelty.

One of the great things about weight lifting is the fact that the improvement in performance is noticeable on a daily basis, certainly in the beginning stages. In those days we used a strict programme for training whereby you would keep to the same schedule for some four to six weeks. By recording every workout it was possible to see the difference in the weight that was managed at the beginning of the schedule compared to the end. It was amazing what some of the lads achieved.

With the membership growing so fast, we had outgrown the Chicken House, so my father let us use one of his Barns. With so much enthusiasm amongst the boys it was decided to affiliate to the British Amateur Weight Lifting Association, the National body that controlled the Sport. This enabled us to take part in competitions and with the help of Tony Medley refereeing we were able to get acknowledgement of our achievements. I have always been a believer in using the local Press to the best advantage, so any of the lads achievements were always mentioned in the local newspapers. This had a double effect; firstly, the lads had their name in the paper which gave them a 'feel

good' factor; and the second was that it made people aware of what was happening in Bampton.

To help publicise our activities, we would enter a float into Bampton's Annual Carnival, then put on Weight Lifting Displays at the fetes that would follow, inviting members of the public to try out their strength against

ree; all that was needed was an approved set of scales to verify my weight and that of the Barbell. In the audience was Lester Giles of Giles Sport Shop and he assisted us to his shop where I had to 'strip off' to be weighed in along with the Barbell. I was under eleven stones and the Barbell weighed in at 270lbs, a new



BWLC Fete 1958

our youngsters, this always resulted in more people wanting to join the club. At these fetes I would do odd feats of strength like skipping with a heavy tractor chain, or putting a 56 pound block weight above my head twenty times in twenty seconds. The finale of the show was the breaking of a six inch nail in twenty seconds. The naughty bit of fun that I had with this was to offer the broken nail to members of the audience for inspection. When they took them, the ends that were offered to them were red hot (I used a yellow duster to protect my hands) and they would drop them pretty quickly. Nowadays it takes me ages just to undo a packet of biscuits! By making full use of all the publicity that we could, we soon had many invitations to perform at village fetes around the area, wherever possible we would use this to publicise our activities. On one occasion at a show in Carterton, I broke the South Midland Middleweight record for the Two Hands Clean and Jerk. The performance was refereed by an Official Refe-

South Midland Record. The Newspapers loved the story. I got married in 1959 and moved to University Farm, Lew, taking the Club with me. To start with we trained in one of the barns, but, with only a small amount of persuading, my father let us use the old Chapel that was part of the farm buildings and convert it into a gymnasium. We now felt that there was a need for us to get organised with proper rules, a constitution complete with an operative committee and a bank account. Mr Sidney Pickard, a local well respected businessman was invited to help us get it all together and he was elected to be our President. He was fantastic and we really felt that we were now a force to be reckoned with. The wives and girlfriends of club members formed an organisation called Lew Ladies, and they ran events like jumble sales and dances in Bampton WI Hall to raise funds for the conversion and equipment in the Club. One of the conditions for hiring the WI Hall was that it had to have

proper stewards at all times. You would think that with the club having very strong and fearless men amongst the membership that this was no problem, and it wasn't for the dances, but the jumble sales, where a lot of women, anxious to get their hands on the bargains, were queuing up waiting for the doors to open, was a whole different Ball game! We had to draw 'lots' and the losers got the job!

With the conversion of the Chapel completed we decided once again, to create as much publicity as we could, so as to get more members. An opening ceremony of the Club room with Mr Pickard doing the Honours was planned, and to give the whole event more 'oomph' we challenged the Northampton County Weightlifting team to a competition. Their team included the famous British and Commonwealth Champion Precious Mackenzie. Our President's wife, Mrs

eras to Bampton. I think Mrs Pickard had some very good contacts in the TV world, and this led to us featuring on the news programme ATV Today. They were amazed that such a small place could have such a phenomenal team, containing British Champions and Record Holders. In all, five Bampton Club members have represented their Country in International Matches, the top man being Alan Winterbourne who represented Great Britain in three Commonwealth Championships that were held in Edinburgh, New Zealand and Canada, as well as the Ontario and Moscow Olympics.

In the 1960s the Bampton Weightlifting Club really took off, challenging teams from Bristol, Northampton, Birmingham and London. Many of these teams had international lifters representing them, such as Bristol's Dave Prowse, who later became fa-

have a Social Evening including a dance with local pop groups supplying the music; groups like the '5 J's' and 'Ali and the Kondors'.

The evening event was always open to the public, enabling us to make a bit of money as well as publicising the Bampton Weightlifting Club. At one of these events we were fairly sure that Bristol had cheated about the age of one of their 'Juniors'. The rules state that a Junior had to be under the age of 18 on the 1st of January. I had known this lad for quite a few years and questioned their leader, who was adamant that the lad qualified. At the Social / Dance in the evening one of our girl supporters, very bravely allowed herself to be 'chatted up' by him and went outside with him. After about an hour or so she came back into the hall with a big smile on her face, to report that he was indeed a cheat and that he was 25! I really was impressed by her bravery and determination to seek out the truth for her Town's Team and that she was so willing to put herself in danger for so long; or am I missing something here? The return matches were always great fun, especially the Bristol ones. With the help of Len Hughes, a local Coach Operator, we would organise a Coach load of supporters to make a whole day-trip. People not interested in the actual competition would be taken on to Bristol Zoo for the day, then rejoin us for the evening Social. An amusing tale of one of these trips was when one of the Bampton Lifters started to get friendly with a girl from one of our sister clubs. It was a real clash of the 'classes'. She was definitely upper class, having been educated at the Elms Grammar School, Faringdon. He definitely was not! He had consumed quite a few beers as was his way, and by the time the Coach made its journey home, the young lady was receptive to his approaches and was quite enjoying the attention he was giving her. His problem was that because of the alcohol he could not remember her name, at least six times during the journey home, he would come up to the front of the coach where I was sitting and enquire "Don what's the name of that girl that I am sitting with?" "Claire" I would reply, "Ah yes" he would say and return to enjoy the success that he was getting.



BWLC Church Fete 1961

Hilda Pickard, was the local Press representative so it was all set for a big story and we were not disappointed. But it all backfired!! Members of the Planning Department of our local Council also read the story and they wanted to know how long we had been training there, did we have 'change of use'? They then proceeded to charge us Rates!

The high Media Profile that we had created, led to the Bampton Weightlifting Club bringing Television Cam-

eras to Bampton. I think Mrs Pickard had some very good contacts in the TV world, and this led to us featuring on the news programme ATV Today. They were amazed that such a small place could have such a phenomenal team, containing British Champions and Record Holders. In all, five Bampton Club members have represented their Country in International Matches, the top man being Alan Winterbourne who represented Great Britain in three Commonwealth Championships that were held in Edinburgh, New Zealand and Canada, as well as the Ontario and Moscow Olympics.

Would you believe it? They married, had a family and are still very happy living in Australia together to this day!

We set up and nurtured sister clubs in Shrivenham and Faringdon. As there were still no youth facilities in Bampton I would take a group of youngsters from Bampton, pile them into the back of a big Land Rover, both boys and girls and take them to these clubs. The practice of having so many



Opening of Gym 1963

people on board one vehicle would have been highly illegal by today's standards. Whilst I taught lifting, many of the youngsters used the opportunity to mix with the established members. In fact one Bampton girl actually married one of the boys that she met as a result of these trips. Sorry to say though, it didn't last.

The forming of our sister clubs were a result of me trying to earn extra money. With two young growing children and an enormous house to keep, I was finding things very difficult. In those days we were using Artificial Insemination as a means of getting our cows pregnant. This was a service provided by the Ministry of Agriculture with its base in Faringdon. One Sunday morning the Inseminator visited the farm and observed some twenty youngsters all dressed in their smart Royal Blue Track suits congregating on my lawn. "What's going on here?" he enquired. So we took him around and showed him the Gym. He was extremely impressed and won-

dered if we would put on a display at the Shrivenham Youth Club. So with Barbells and Weightlifters crammed into the back of an old Morris 1000 Van, we went to Shrivenham and gave them a demonstration. The Berkshire Education Authorities (Shrivenham was in Berkshire before the boundary changes of the 1970s,) were so impressed that they employed me on as a Peripatetic Instructor, paying me seventeen shillings and six-

pence an hour (87.5 pence) for a guaranteed two hours a night, with travelling costs. I thought that all my Birthdays had come at once!

Once I had got established and the authorities could see the value of weight lifting in the Youth Service, I was inundated with requests to teach at other youth clubs in the area. At one time I was teaching at Shrivenham, Faringdon, Buckland and Bourton on the Water in Gloucestershire. There was such a demand that we had to get a Bampton Club member to pass the Instructors exams so that he could also teach in Gloucestershire.

The Bampton Weightlifting Club along with the Empire Club of Bristol, supported by Tony Medley, were the instigators of the forming of school-boy weightlifting in the United Kingdom. The first ever British Schoolboy Championship was staged in Bristol, with Bampton and its sister clubs winning five National Titles. Two of the Champions are still living in Bampton but are a bit too old to still be partici-

pants! Needless to say the second British Championship was held in Oxford. The Bampton Club enjoyed a very high profile amongst the hierarchy of the National Governing Body and like all organisations there were some fantastic and helpful people amongst them, but there were also a few, mainly Londoners, who did not like the idea of a powerful village club being in the limelight and promoting National Events in Oxfordshire. One, Hymie Binder, was so sarcastic towards us that I decided to teach him a lesson. Like all things that we promoted, to help out financially we would always run a raffle. It was so easy to get local people to support us, so there were always a few bottles of wine, boxes of chocolates etc, but I always liked to do something different. What did I have of value on the farm and in abundance, and it cost very little? Yes, you've guessed it! Loads of well rotted manure! So at the first British Championships to be held in Oxfordshire, I got my chance. One of my stewards at this event was the very attractive policeman's daughter from Stanford in the Vale who was always up for a laugh. When she sold Hymie his Raffle tickets, she surreptitiously took out a counterfoil as well. So at the end of the evening who better than our attractive raffle ticket seller to do the 'Draw'? No-one, of course. So when it came to the bag of well rotted manure, she 'palmed' Hymie's counterfoil ticket into her hand and Voila. Hymie had won a lovely smelly prize from Bampton. It 'brought the house down', though it did not have quite the effect that I thought it had. In November 2009, after over forty years, I met up with the caretaker of the hall where the Championships were held and he told me about a lovely bag of well rotted manure that he had found in the car park, and had put to good use!

The Bampton Club organised many Championship competitions, probably the most important being the South Midland Junior Championships in the WI Hall Bampton. This was held on the day that Winston Churchill was buried at Bladon.

They say that nothing breeds success like success and as a result of our youth programme we had youngsters from afar wanting to join us. Two

very interesting ones were Colin Fitzgerald and Barry Craft. Colin was from Jersey in the Channel Isles, a very promising Junior Champion who came and lodged with Mary and I whilst getting work at RAF Brize Norton. He blended in well with the other members and represented the Bampton Club in many of their big matches as well as winning area titles. Barry was from Bletchley in Hertfordshire. He felt the same as Colin and I



With 'Darth Vader' 1963

did, that if you belong to a club where the standard is very high, then your standard will rise to those around you. Barry lived in a Tent, where my house has now been built, winter and summer. He wanted not only to be a Champion Weightlifter, but also to go trekking and camp inside the Arctic Circle. During his two years with us he achieved both. He was also one of our 'Star' lifters during our successful defeat of the Leiden team in Holland in 1970.

Weightlifting had become very popu-

lar in Prisons, Young Offenders Institutions and Borstals. By using weights to improve their physiques through body building exercises, they would begin to take a pride in themselves and get some 'self respect' back; to this end the Bampton Club played quite a part. We have taken teams to the Young Offenders Prison in Aylesbury known as Bierton; it was quite an experience for our lads to see lads of their own age locked up 24/7, and

seeing them escorted from room to room with absolutely no freedom. Some of the offences that they were in there for did include Murder! Whilst we were in there we were treated the same way as the inmates. A warden would usher us into a locked room, lock the door behind us then proceed to the next door to let us through to the next chamber

and so on, till we got to the hall where the lifting competition was going to be held. One of our lads, who was coloured, was almost as white as me by the time we got there! It was that frightening. By the time of our last visit to Bierton the strict discipline regime had slackened off no end, with more access to other rooms.

On a couple of occasions we actually hosted matches at Lew, where the teams included prisoners from the jail at Southampton. Everything was fine until one of them wanted to go to the

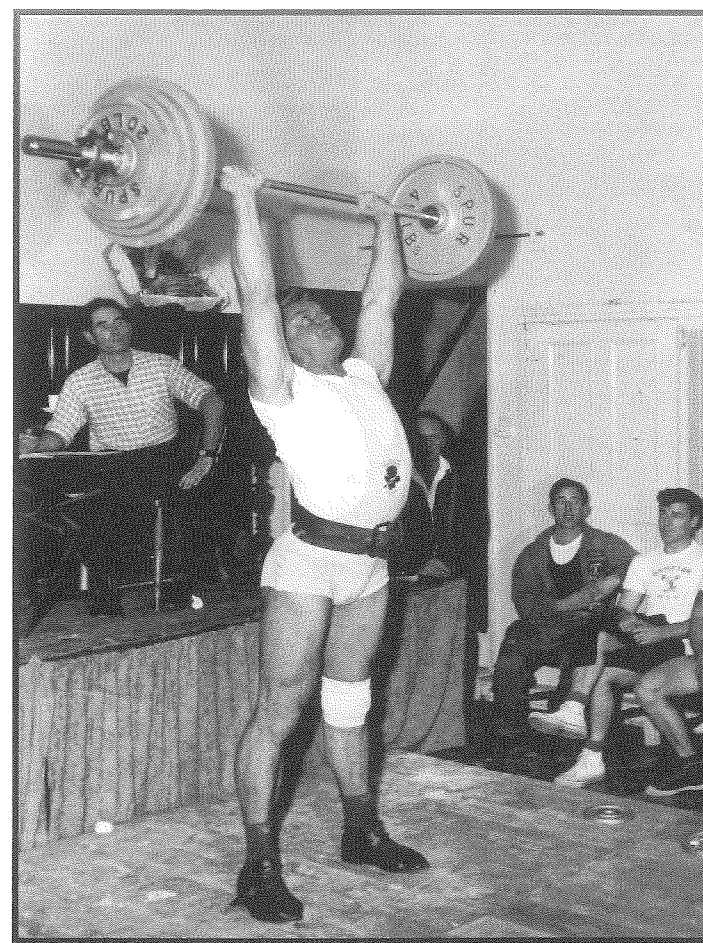
toilet, and the facilities were in a separate building, which meant that two Warders would have to accompany him and watch over him while he did his 'business'. Fascinating!

Another Young Offenders Institution that we visited was in Dorset; this was a more relaxed Institution, but none the less strict security rules were imposed. Our vehicles had to be securely locked in a compound, but we were allowed to walk about without escort. When we got to the gymnasium I realised that I had left my brief case with all my books that I needed, in the mini bus. As I made my way back to the compound, I heard a voice call out "Hi ya Don. What are you doing in here?" It was a lad that I used to teach from Shrivenham. Evidently he had got caught breaking into the Shrivenham Golf Club shop and as a result ended up 'inside'.

A down side of these prison visits was the fact they always entertained us with a meal after the competition, with nice big mugs of adulterated tea which had a peculiar taste, the effect of which was to ruin the lads sex life for a few days!

Talking of which, in those days it was very embarrassing for young lads to acquire condoms to give them a healthy and safe sex life. So using our contacts at the Empire Sports Club, Bristol who had their own suppliers, I was able to offer these as a service to our boys. I must admit that in the early days without Den Welch the leader of the Bristol Club's help, I would have been too embarrassed to go to a chemist to get them, so the Club was indeed very grateful to him. I remember my first attempt to restock when Den was unable to help me. Like an idiot I went into the Chemist's in Faringdon. Behind the counter was one of the young girls who attended the Faringdon Club where I taught and we knew each other well. "Hello Don, what can I get you?" she cheerfully enquired. Well it was too late for me to run back out of the shop and as it had thrown me completely by seeing her there, I could not think straight or quick enough to change my mind to a packet of Aspirins. "A packet of Durex" I spluttered. "Large or small?" she enquired with out so much as a blinking of the eye-lid. Well I had never heard of such a

thing. I thought that they were 'one size fits all' My confused brain was now in a sort of panic 'overdrive'. We are weightlifters, I was thinking through the haze - got to be large. "Oh, large please" I spluttered, trying to make out that I had been buying 'Large' for years. With that she went out to the store room and came back with the biggest box of condoms I had ever seen in my life, all 144 of them! I have met up with her recently and related to her the story of which she was totally unaware and we had a good laugh. Things are so different nowadays, some Youth Clubs are



'Darth Vader' 1963

giving them away as part of the Youth Service!

In 1968 the Bampton Weightlifting Club was honoured to be asked to assist the National Paraplegic team in their preparation for the Olympic Games. The team was stuck at Stoke Mandeville Rehabilitation Centre with no Weights, Bars or Benches, so a quick call from the National Secretary

had us scurrying to the Hospital in a Morris 1000 Van overloaded with equipment and helpers. It was quite an experience for us to see these weightlifters who could not walk, getting themselves out of a wheel chair and onto a bench to do their lifts. That was the one manoeuvre where, because of their pride you did not dare offer help, but you could help load the Bar or hand it over for them. The spirited rivalry and threats that went between them all, was amazing. It was certainly a humbling yet inspiring experience for us.

During the 60s we were invited by Albert Radband who was a former member, to assist in the fitness training of the Bampton Football Club, using the facilities at the Royal Corps of Signals based at Weald one year, and then the new main Bampton School building the next. Also in the 60s and early 70s I led the Oxford Weightlifting teams to Leiden in Holland. The Oxford teams consisted mainly of members of the Bampton and sister clubs which was not surprising as Bampton had won seven of the eight differ-

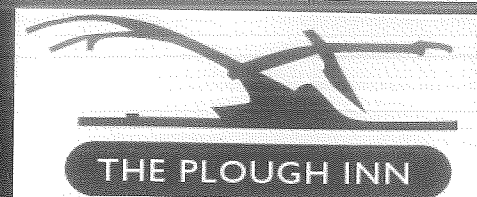
ent weight categories at the South Midland Championships. The involvement with Leiden was a big boost for Bampton resulting in the visit of two large bands to Bampton's Great Shirt Race Event and culminating in the European Champion Marching Band, Amigo, parading through our streets in the pouring rain in 2007

As I was approaching my 50th birthday, I was finding it increasingly difficult to carry on teaching. I had diversified onto other things, so I severed my links with the coaching side of weightlifting and left it in the capable hands of people like Brian Willoughby, Hugh Thomas and then John Davies. By then things were beginning to change dramatically. The competitive sport was rapidly becoming replaced by members training more for personal fitness and physical enhancement. There was a great influx of members training for other sports especially the Martial Arts. The competitive weightlifting sport known as Power Lifting is still practiced in the Club with Bampton still being able to boast of having a British Champion.

The Club still promotes competitions more in the vein of the 'Worlds Strongest Man' competitions, with such tests as pulling a heavy vehicle, carrying and lifting unusual heavy objects; of course they call the competition 'Bampton's Strongest Man'. I am trying to persuade them to bring this show to the Donkey Derby that is held in August in Bampton. I helped at last year's Strongest Man Competition and found it extremely entertaining.

One family name that has cropped up in the Club's records over the last fifty years is that of the Chivers family. In the early 1960s it was Pete, Nigel and Jimmy. Now it is the sons of Jimmy, Shane and Steve.

In 2004 on my retirement it became necessary for me to sell the Club Room at Lew. John Davies who was the secretary and trainer at the time, and me, had the difficult job of finding alternative premises. We managed to find a few alternatives, including an offer from Bampton Football Club to build on their site, but we settled for a room at the Old Bampton School site. We know that our future in the Old School is not totally secure and that these premises are barely adequate for our ever growing membership. It is obvious that there is a great demand for the Weight lifting Club and the services that it has to offer. I do hope that after 54 Years of serving the Town of Bampton and bringing it fame that it will be able to remain here.



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Slimming World

by Christina Moss

Happy New Year!

But before we talk about the New Year with a fresh outlook lets take a look at the latter end of 2009 for Bampton's Slimming World group.

The months of November and December are REALLY tough and in the group we worked hard to tool ourselves with as much information and knowledge as possible to help prepare for the festive period. We looked at buffet foods, restaurant menus and compared coffee shops and fast food places. As the Consultant and receiving feedback from my members, I realised that this type of support and information is not just a Christmas season requirement. Its year round!

If you were to look at the number of things that 'get in the way' of your desire to lose a few pounds it might look something like mine:

Of the 365 days in the year I have at least one birthday a month which involves a social get together, then there is 1 x Christmas, 1 x Easter, 3 x Bank Holidays, 7 x Summer holiday days, 1 x Halloween, 1 x wedding anniversary, 1 x wedding reception, 1 x funeral and 52 weekends.

That added together is over 100 days (3 1/2 months) that I have completely written off as my being able to be what we call 'on Plan' in group. But why have I written those days off? Because realistically, I haven't included the impromptu barbecues when the weather turns nice, the office parties, the leaving parties, the 'had a bad day' nights off the Plan, the 'let's celebrate' moments and don't even get me started on what I pretend to be my 5 year old sweetie trip to the newsagent after school on a Friday afternoon!

My point is that I realised that all of that 'life' that gets in the way to reaching my goals is always going to be there.

We are always going to have days that we will find challenging and feel we have no choice but to give up for the time being. But if we truly want something, we need to look at what control we can regain in our lives. We can aim for them AND reach them with the right information and tools. Arm yourself with those things

then you regain the confidence in yourself and the belief that you can lose weight and 'have a life' at these events. A little bit of change on our part can have a lot of effect on the scales, our confidence and our happiness.

We shouldn't be afraid to ask the chef to prepare our pasta with less oil, to ask if they have skimmed milk, diet drinks or low fat alternatives. We should be PROUD that we are taking the initiative to be more healthy. We With Slimming World you needn't ever feel like you're forever on a diet – our Extra Easy Plan means that people don't even notice the gorgeous food you can eat while losing weight because the members in group can vouch that their families are shocked when they find out the meal they just ate was a Slimming World recipe.

To give you an idea of the great taste you can enjoy here is one of our favourite recipes.

Carrot & Ginger Soup

Ingredients:

1 onion
2 celery sticks
2 garlic cloves
1.5 lbs carrots cut to 1cm
Fresh root ginger
Fry Light
1 3/4pts chicken stock
Salt & freshly ground black pepper

To serve:

Very Low Fat Fromage Frais
Fresh Chives

Method

Prepare ingredients: peel and chop the onion and garlic, trim and chop the celery, peel and chop the carrots, finely grate the ginger.

Spray a pan with Fry Light and cook the onion, celery, garlic and ginger for 2-3 minutes.

Add the stock and carrots, bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes or until the carrots are cooked.

Remove from the heat, allow to cool slightly. Transfer to a food processor, season well and blend until almost smooth.

Divide the soup between 4 warmed bowls, top with a swirl of yoghurt and a few snipped chives and serve at once.

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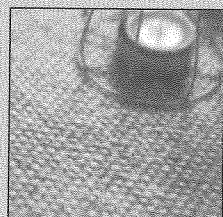
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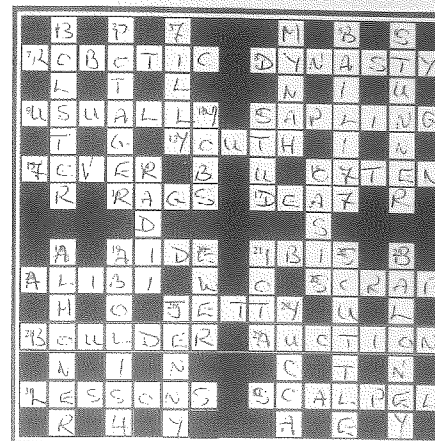
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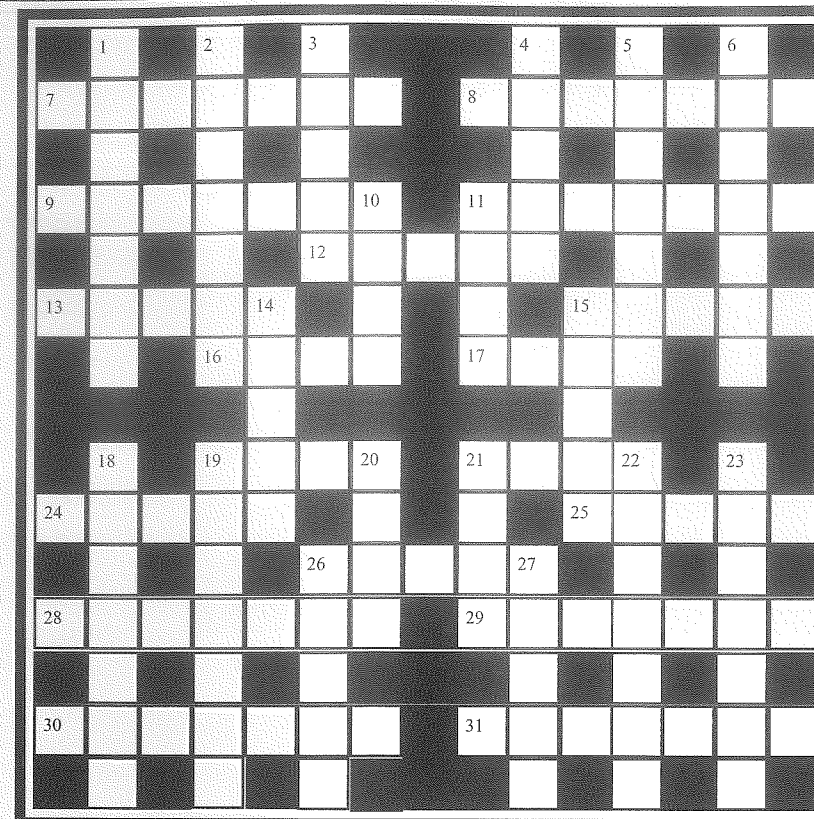
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Solution to the November BEAM CROSSWORD



The winner of the November Crossword is Mrs D Green of Buckland Road. Congratulations, the £10 is yours.
We would also like to donate £10 to Cancer Research UK, as a thank you to Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for 'The Beam'.

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



The Bampton Beam

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1/12th Page £16

Additional Artwork from £20

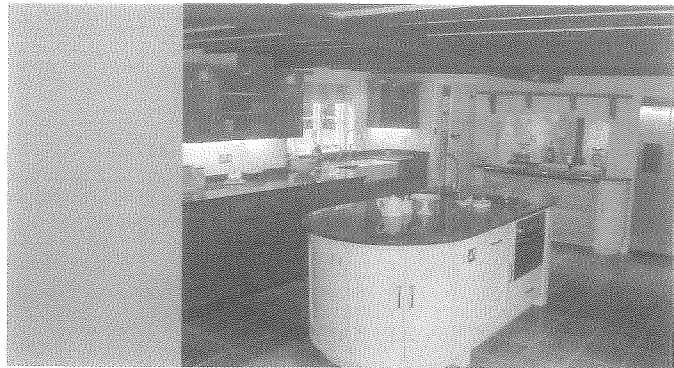
CLUES ACROSS

- 7 A sympathetic relationship or understanding
- 8 Sudden desire or inclination
- 9 A dirigible, a blimp
- 11 State of disorder, chaos
- 12 Young sheep
- 13 Small hill or mound
- 15 Large instrument of the violin family
- 16 Free from pain, anxiety or trouble
- 17 A small freshwater duck
- 19 Loud harsh cry of a donkey
- 21 Notion
- 24 Water nymph
- 25 A distinctive smell
- 26 Once more
- 28 Japanese flower arrangement
- 29 A crate used when making a speech
- 30 A shortage of red blood cells
- 31 Side of coin bearing the value or secondary design

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Fixed amounts of food allowed
- 2 One sent to preach the gospel
- 3 Weak and delicate
- 4 Events regarded as signs of the future
- 5 Argue, bicker, squabble
- 6 Substance used in surfacing roads
- 10 Speed in walking, running or moving
- 11 Be next to or touching
- 14 Owner of large estate (Scotland)
- 15 A small part in a film for a distinguished actor
- 18 The human race
- 19 Small trinkets of little value
- 20 A Hindu spiritual discipline
- 21 The River Thames at Oxford
- 22 Made something suitable for new purpose
- 23 A post-mortem examination
- 26 A blacksmith's block
- 27 Brief written records as an aid to memory

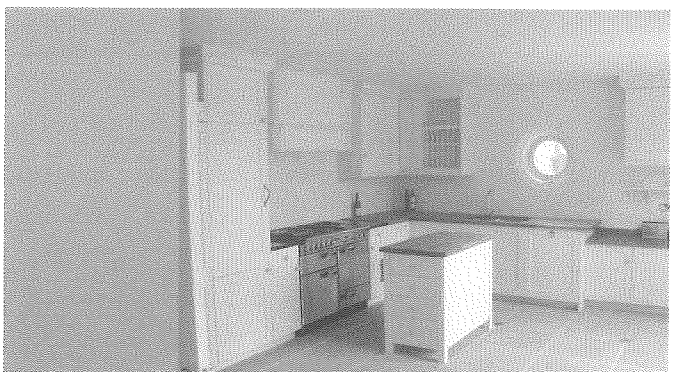
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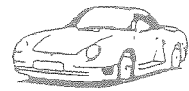
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Calendar of Events

- March**
 5th AGM, BEWG, and talk by Jane Wallis on 'Place Names of Bampton', Village Hall, 8pm
 10th *The Time Traveller's Wife*, Movies on the Move, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 27th Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
 27th Easter Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 10 – 12noon
 28th Sightsavers' 60th Anniversary Blenheim Palace Walk, Rotary Club of Oxford North, 10am
- April**
 1st Consultation Day, Bampton Library, 10am – 8pm
 17th Call My Wine Bluff, Maggie's Cancer Care, Aston and Cote Village Hall 7.30 pm
 23rd Quiz Night, SPAJERS, Village Hall, 8.00pm
 24th Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
 29th BEWG Meeting, talk by Derek Turner from the Milestone Society, Village Hall, 8pm
- May**
 7th *An Education*, Movies on the Move, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 15th SPIERS & BODEN AND FAUSTUS IN CONCERT, St. Mary's
 21st Quiz Night, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 22nd Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
 29th The Great Original Shirt Race, SPAJERS, Market Square, 6.30pm
 31st Morris Dancing Day, Village, Early 'til Late
 31st Craft Fair and Refreshments, Village Hall, 9.30am – 5pm
 31st Annual Plant Sale, Bampton Community Archive, Brook House, Bridge Street, 10am - 4pm
- June**
 26th Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
- July**
 7th *Nowhere Boy*, Movies on the Move, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 24th Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
 29th BEWG Meeting, talk by Tim Healey on 'The Green Man in Oxfordshire', Village Hall, 8pm
- August**
 28th Annual Show, Gardening Club, Village Hall
 30th Donkey Derby, SPAJERS, Sandfords Field, 2pm
- September**
 2nd Outing, SPAJERS, Weston Super Mare
 18th Autumn Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 10 – 12noon
- October**
 28th BEWG Meeting, talk by Pip Cartwright on 'The Rocks and Geology of Oxfordshire', Village Hall, 8pm
- November**
 12th Josie's Draw, SPAJERS, Horse Shoe, 7pm
 14th Remembrance Service, Royal British Legion, War Memorial, 10.45am
 17th Pre-Christmas Bingo, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 8pm
- December**
 3rd Quiz Night, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 24th Mummings, SPAJERS, Village, 7pm onwards

THE BAMPTON BEAM

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