

THE BAMPTON BEAM

December 2003

Volume 18, No3

Save Our Post Office

Do you use the Post Office to collect your Pension?

Do you collect your Family Allowance from the Post Office?

If the answer to any of the above is NO, then please consider doing so.

While it may be easier to have your Family Allowance or Pension paid into or out of your Personal Bank Account, please help to keep our Post Office viable by opening a Post Office account into which they can be paid. You can then draw them directly from the Post Office - and enjoy a walk at the same time!

You can cancel your current arrangement with your own Bank, and forms are available at the Post Office for you to open a Post Office account and arrange for the allowances to be paid into it.

Remember you can also pay your Utility Bills, renew your TV Licence, and pay your Road Tax at the Post Office!

Surely none of us would be happy having to take letters, parcels and other post to Witney or Carterton, what with the queues so often experienced in those locations.

Please take the steps above today and help to save the **Bampton Post Office**. If everyone uses the Post Office as suggested it will remain viable.

Use It or Lose It!

It's as simple as that!

Renovation work in the Market Square



The Market Square Development has started, as can be seen from the above photograph. While some delay was experienced at the start of the work - due to the late delivery of some essential materials - the 'Beam' has been advised that the work will be completed more or less on schedule by mid-December. However, the 'Beam' also understands that the new bus shelter - which is not part of the WODC scope, but comes under the Parish Council - will be installed in January, because of the availability of the builder to do the work.

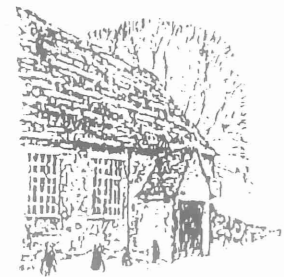
Affordable Housing Needs Survey

Included with 'The Beam' is a questionnaire aimed at determining what the situation is in the Village concerning demand for affordable houses. The aim of the survey is for the Parish Council to obtain a **TRUE PICTURE** of the needs of Bampton people in respect of affordable housing. Please do complete the form, and return it to the Parish Council in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS



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: Martin Barrett,
The Post Office, Bridge Street, Bampton
Tel: 850304

The Bampton Village Hall

In the New Year the Bampton Village Hall Management Committee is planning to carry out further refurbishments in the Hall. The old stone flag stones in the bar/kitchen lobby are to be removed and a new tiled floor will be laid in the lobby and in the bar. This area and the kitchen will then be redecorated. It is hoped that all regular lettings will be able to continue during this time.

All old buildings suffer from damp problems but the use of dehumidifiers in the main hall and in the kitchen has helped greatly in the past couple of years.

Income from lettings has decreased this year. Although Carterton Community Education Centre has made bookings for a number of daytime classes - Yoga, Belly Dancing, Salsa Dancing - they have not taken place due to lack of interest and the Village Hall has lost a good source of income.

If you have any ideas for an activity that could take place in the Hall, please get in touch with the Lettings Officer, Martin Barrett Tel: 850304 or any member of the committee. You will find names and telephone number in the Notice Board outside the Hall.

BAMPTON '250' CLUB

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

List of recent winners

Month	Prize	Number	Winner	Address
JULY	£25	053	Mrs Miller	The Pieces
	£15	052	Mrs Mansfield	New Road
	£15	195	Mr Grout	Bridge Street
AUGUST	£15	174	Mrs E Amos	Aston
	£25	187	Miss L Davies	c/o Church View
	£15	178	Mrs M Barrett	c/o Church View
	£15	231	Mr G Cook	c/o Bowling Gr Close
SEPTEMBER	£15	216	Mr & Mrs Wareham	Bridge Street
	£100	157	Mrs Bartlett	Cheyne Lane
	£25	139	Mr & Mrs Davis	Calais Dene
	£15	175	Mrs V East	Bowling Gr Close
	£15	060	Mr J Glover	Landells
OCTOBER	£15	124	Mrs Gutteridge	Bridge Street
	£25	161	Mr T Mace	High Street
	£15	050	Mr & Mrs Proctor	Bridge Street
	£15	030	Mrs D McFarlane	Pococks Close
	£15	247	Mrs C Hawcutt	Broad Street

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

St Mary's Bampton
21st December 7.30pm

This year's St Beornwald's day concert is entitled *A European Christmas*. Given by a group of sixteen of our finest singers and a small string ensemble, it will feature Scarlatti's *Christmas Cantata*, Charpentier's hauntingly beautiful *Messe de minuit*, composed for Christmas Day, and seasonal anthems and carols, all by candlelight.

We are delighted to welcome Bampton-born Gregory Rose to conduct. Enjoy a warming glass of Jacky Allinson and Pauline Smith's special mulled wine in the interval and start the festive season in a good mood! Tickets are £9, from Abbey Properties, Music Stand in Witney or from Tel: 01993 851876.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Methodist Chapel
Bridge Street, Bampton

Sunday 7th December -
 Carol Singalong and Quiz
 The Romany, 8pm mince pies and mulled wine

Wednesday 10th December -
 Carols by Candle Light
 The Methodist Chapel 7pm.

Wednesday 17th December
 Christmas Celebrations for Chapel members and friends only 7pm.

Thursday 25th December
 Christmas Morning service led by Rev'd Martin Whiffen 10.30am

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
Arkell Avenue, Carterton

Thursday 25th December
 Christmas Day 9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church, Bampton
 For other services, please see notice board in church porch or Tel: 01993 842463

St Mary's Church View, Bampton

Wednesday 24th December
 Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Thursday 25th December
 Family Eucharist - 10.30am

Thursday 1st January
 Family Eucharist - 10.30am
 For other services, please see notice board.

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By David Hawkins, Chairman, Bampton Parish Council

Affordable Housing Survey

The Parish Council are keen to know the attitude of all residents to possible future builds of affordable housing in the village. They are also keen to know exactly what the need is. Although we get regular updates from WODC about the waiting list for such housing, we are not sure just how desperate applicants are to come specifically to Bampton. Please complete the survey form enclosed in this edition and return it as soon as possible.

Local Plan Comments

Of the 680 letters received by WODC for the whole area on the latest draft of the Local Plan, 351 were about the proposal to build 100 new homes off New Road. There were 310 objections and 41 in support. WODC will consider all these letters later this year before the inspector considers the plan in July 2004 at the public inquiry.

More Work Units in Bampton

The Council considered an application from the owner of Fairacres, Buckland Road to build 7 industrial units on the site that he has used as a market garden. Whilst the Council welcomes any attempt to bring new jobs to Bampton, the proposed design was thought to be completely out of character with buildings in our village. We await further developments.

Market Square Improvements

Phase 2 of the long awaited Market Square improvements started on 20th October and are planned to take some 7 weeks to complete. New paved areas, a complete resurfacing of the pitted roadway, plus new seating and the planting of trees, should hugely improve the area. A new bus shelter next to the Village Hall will also be most welcome. Please bear with the contractors during the 7 weeks when parking is going to be disrupted. Our thanks go to WODC who are funding and masterminding the project along with our project officer Graham

Haslam.

Traffic Calming Build-outs

The plans for the 'buildouts' were displayed on the Parish Council notice board for 4 weeks and have been generally well received. Build-outs are planned for 3 entrances to Bampton plus a flashing speed indicator to be positioned on Buckland Road where it was thought to be too dangerous to construct a build-out - although this is being taken up again with the OCC by our 'Transport' Councillor. Priority at each build-out will be given to vehicles leaving the village. We are still awaiting to hear the start date.



No need for Buildouts in this age!
Bill Govier on the A4095 - Station Road
Outside Hobbs Buildings
1936!

Skateboarding on the Tennis Courts

Skateboarders have caused serious damage to both the tennis courts and the multisport area surfaces. Now that we have built the excellent Skatepark we would appeal to skateboarders to please use the Skatepark, and keep away from the other areas.

Protective Clothing

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. Which parent will be the first to have to turn off the life support system for their child following a very heavy fall?

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.

'No-ones' Land

After much research by Alan Dunbar, the square piece of land in the Pieces (next to No 18) has failed to find an owner. The owners of the 4 adjacent houses opted not to take on ownership back in the 60s and the builders have since gone out of business. WODC and OCC both decline to take on ownership. It would appear that the 4 present owners may have to maintain the patch in the future.

Poor Drainage by the Surgery

The long running drainage problems along Landells has annoyed many patients on their way to the surgery. Water pools all along the road nearest the pavement and pedestrians are soaked by passing vehicles. The Parish Council and the surgery staff have both complained to OCC Highways and have sought urgent action.

Annual Fair

The Council received more complaints than normal for the Annual Fair that arrived in early August in the Market Square. Noise

late at night, not opening in the afternoons when families had travelled to Bampton to enjoy the rides, and less than considerate actions during the setting up of the equipment were all relayed to Councillors. Although the rights to hold a fair go way back in history, we will be passing on the complaints to the organiser.

Recycling Bins

The Council were pleased to hear that from April 2004, the recycling bins will be emptied weekly rather than fortnightly as at present. We understand that householders will be able to get extra bins if required.

Parish Press Briefing September 2003

Free legal advice over the telephone

The Community Legal Service funds free legal advice on civil issues across the country. It is currently rolling out a new service in West and South Oxfordshire, and the Vale of the White Horse, providing free legal advice on debt and welfare benefits issues over the telephone. The phone service is particularly aimed at rural areas, where legal advice is hard to get. Trained legal advisers are available to help with any debt or benefits problems or queries, and are happy to provide continuing legal support (like you would find with a solicitor) until the problem is resolved. To get advice, call one of the following numbers.

Debt	0845 120 2951
Welfare Benefits	0845 120 2954
Welfare Benefits	0845 120 2940

Calls will be charged at local rates, and you will not be charged for anything else.

The West Oxfordshire Nightstop and Prevention Project

The West Oxfordshire Nightstop and Prevention Project has been developed by West Oxfordshire District Council, in partnership with Banbury Young Homelessness Project, as an innovative response to the need to tackle the issue of youth homelessness in a rural area.

The Nightstop scheme provides emergency overnight accommodation for homeless Young People aged 16-25, with volunteer host households. The placement is on a one night at a time basis with a host, but can be extended daily depending on the availability of hosts and the needs of the Young Person, with the potential for a Young Person to stay with a different host each night until more permanent accommodation is found. Hosts will be asked to provide the Young Person with a warm welcome, evening meal, washing facilities, bed and breakfast and importantly a listening ear or a bit of 'space'.

The prevention sessions are in place to ensure that Young People within the District have access to and have participated in education and training regarding Housing, Homelessness and Leaving Home. These sessions are expected to run alongside the Citizenship model, which is now part of the curriculum, and will be made available to all schools in the area. Previous sessions have proved to be very successful, particularly in giving pupils information on what is available in terms of housing and in helping to dispel myths and stereotypes surrounding homelessness.

Anyone interested can contact the project development worker, Claire Maher, Tel: 01993 775718 or e-mail claire.maher@btconnect.com

Strengthening Industry Links

Free training for voluntary and community groups

Oxfordshire County Council is providing free training for local voluntary and community group as part of a project to strengthen the voluntary sector in Oxfordshire. The strengthening Industry Links project links voluntary organisations who are seeking training for staff and volunteers in information technology, community work skills and capacity building with training providers, and funds any training undertaken.

Individuals in 15 groups in the County are currently studying desk-top publishing, graphic design, newsletter production, website design and volunteer manage-

ment through the project.

Training Opportunities

Courses run by local training providers, and available free to voluntary sector organisations, include:

Information technology

Desk-top publishing: improving publicity for your organisation
Website design using FrontPage or Dream Weaver

Using email and the internet

Using MS Excel for financial management

Setting up and managing a database

Capacity-building and community work

Volunteer management

Health and safety; working with challenging behaviour

Developing and implementing policies

Contact: Olivia Rowland at Oxfordshire County Council Tel: 01865 815212, or email Olivia at: olivia.Rowland@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Funding for

Children's Projects

The Local Network Fund offers £250-£7000 grants to small voluntary and community groups for projects with children (from ages 0-19)

To qualify, projects must be working to address disadvantage in some way. This could include providing activities for children and young people facing rural isolation or limited access to opportunities.

To discuss an idea for a village project, contact David Fisher at Oxfordshire Rural Community Council Tel: 01865 883488. Contact Margaret Hughes or Iris Webb Tel: 01865 225598. For an application form Tel: 0845 113 0161. Assistance is given with travel expenses if requested.

Volunteers Needed for The League of Friends of the Churchill Hospital

We need helpers to assist in the cafeteria to support those who already give their time. We would really value any help from ladies and gentlemen, of whatever age, who may be able to spare a few hours a week, between 8am and 4pm on Mondays through to Fridays. Contact Margaret Hughes or Iris Webb Tel: 01865 225598. Assistance is given with travel expenses if requested.

District Councillors Reports

Bampton Fire Station

by Mark Booty

District Councillor

While there is much interest in Bampton as to the situation regarding the New Road proposals in the WODC Structure Plan (more on that later), I have to say that there are some other issues which are creeping up on us and which I would like you to pay some attention to.

Bampton Fire station has a long and very respected history and it would indeed be a shame to lose it. The reason I bring this up is that, whether you have noticed it or not, there is constant reference in the press to the gentle fight for a Fire Station in Carterton. It seems to have been dismissed by the fire authorities who have pointed out that Carterton is served very well by Bampton, Burford, Witney and even the RAF Brize Norton crew. And if Carterton were to open a Fire Station it would certainly impact on Bampton and Burford - they would probably close.

The reason I am bringing this to your attention is that I am aware that around West Oxfordshire District Council it seems to be raised at various meetings, and I am also aware that there are some County Councillors who are bringing it up at County meetings.

The time to stop this lunacy is now, before it becomes a serious issue. So if you see any reports anywhere, please do write in to the publication and express your views. There is no basis in reason for changing the existing stations; in my view, all of the arguments are political, and are not based on reason.

New Licensing Laws

Licensing laws are something which to now have been fairly simple and seldom touched most of our lives. However, now there are going to be a whole new raft of them and they are to be managed by the District Council rather than the Magistrates. I won't bore you with the detail but there are some things which we need to watch out for; for instance, 'any venue which holds entertainment, or any

venue which sells hot food after 11pm will seem to need a premises licence, and a personal licence holder who is responsible for the venue'. This will include the obvious places like the Village hall, Town Hall, Bush Club, Youth Club, Recreation Field Pavilion. This is to be expected, however what the new laws seem to also include is any barn or marquee where a dance is held! To get a premises licence will need inspections from Health and Safety etc etc. I am told Morris Dancing is exempt, but the words I have seen suggest that the music is exempt but I still have no answer about the Dancing!

There will be a road show when Bill Oddy will come and explain the detail. I hope it takes place in the Village Hall so that you can come along and understand all the implications. I have asked what the situation will be concerning Carol Singers, Mummers, The Shirt Race, The Donkey Derby, etc, but as yet have not had a clear answer.

If we get this wrong then there are a whole host of both our traditions and charitable fund raising events which may get bogged down in red tape.

New Road Proposals

Finally, the current position regarding New Road proposal as I understand it. The Council officer in charge of the consultations and letters received regarding the whole plan is Tina Rowley. Tina will bring a report to the development control committee (members who sit on both Uplands and Lowlands planning) in either December or early January. This committee will discuss any amendments to the overall plan it deems appropriate and will make some recommendations which will go to Cabinet (hopefully in January). It will then go to full Council if there are any changes to the overall plan. I will keep the Parish informed as the dates become clear.

Finally, have a great Christmas. West Oxfordshire is still rated as one of the best places to live in the UK and when you look around you in Bampton I believe you can see why.

Housing Needs Survey

by Jonathan Phillip

District Councillor

WODC has been asked by the Parish Council to carry out a Housing Needs Survey in Bampton. This will be sent to every household in Bampton in the spring. As at 1st October 2003 there are 250 applicants on the District Housing Waiting List who want to live in Bampton - up from 200 a year ago. WODC is keen to get more detailed information of people's needs in Bampton and from those who no longer live in Bampton but want to come back to live here because of family support in the village. Many on the Housing Waiting List have not completed the Bampton connection details which are vital if more affordable houses are to be built in Bampton.

You may get extra housing points if you can demonstrate a Bampton connection. The survey also tries to ascertain how many will want housing in the next few years so if you have anyone in your household who will need housing in the near future, do let WODC know. This is important so that your housing need can be assessed.

As you know some low cost houses may be built in the New Road if the Planning Inspector agrees to the inclusion of this land in the Local Plan. The owner of the land has requested that 50% of the houses be affordable for those in need in Bampton and surrounding villages. I have been told that it seems likely that if the development goes ahead this will be accepted. I can still see no acceptable exception site being found where only affordable houses would be built. The Parish Council has discussed about 15 possible sites with WODC Planners but I cannot see any of these coming to fruition in the near future and being affordable.

Given the concern over the 100 houses, the Editor contacted the Chairman of the Parish Council for comment. He advised that the Parish Council had written to the WODC seeking assurances that if the 100 houses were built that people with Bampton connections would receive priority.

Here is the reply from the WODC:

"Dear Mrs Sapsford
**WEST OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL
 PLAN 2001**
- PROPOSED BAMPTON HOUSING SITE

Thank you for your letter of 15 October concerning the draft local plan housing allocation at Bampton.

Normally Section 106 Agreements restricting occupation of new affordable homes to people in housing need who have a connection with that parish or neighbouring parishes are directed at rural exceptions sites, not allocation sites in local plans, although I appreciate that the housing allocation at Bampton arose largely in response to local need.

Any development on the New Road site is likely to be several years away. Detailed consideration of the content of a S106 Agreement is a little premature at this stage. Content will be determined by circumstances, including national legislation, prevailing at that time.

However, I can tell you that the 'model' S106 Agreements currently used by the Council as local planning authority contain the following requirements:

where houses are to be owned and managed by a Registered Social Landlord (RSL), they shall be let or sold (shared ownership) in accordance with an agreement between the RSL and the District Council. It is this side agreement that will cover arrangements for nomination of occupants.

Where houses for sale are to be discounted below normal market prices (normally discounted by about 40%) they are to be made available for purchase by persons nominated by the District Council. This requirement will apply to first and subsequent purchasers.

As you appreciate, the provision and control of affordable housing is complex, and becoming even more so now that the District Council is no longer the direct provider.

Yours sincerely
 Planning Policy Manager"

It is clear from this letter, that if the New Road site remains in the Local Plan, the allocation of houses will be the domain of the District Council. Whether the landowner's request - that the 50 'affordable' houses will be allocated to people in Bampton or

surrounding villages - will even be considered by the WODC is open to question; the WODC letter certainly does not make positive reading on this issue. The letter suggests that the WODC are almost certain to use the 'S106 (Model) Agreement' as a basis for allocation, which would give no priority to people with a Bampton connection.

On this basis, it can be concluded that it would be extremely unlikely that people with Bampton connections would be given any sort of priority for houses built on the New Road site, and only those with enough points on the WODC housing allocation list would have a chance of obtaining an 'affordable house'. It should be noted that, under this situation, the housing points awarded may not necessarily include a 'Bampton Connection' allocation, and will depend on the 'circumstances, including national legislation, prevailing at that time', to quote the WODC letter again.

The only sure way of ensuring that affordable houses built in Bampton will be allocated to people with genuine Bampton connections, is for such houses to be built on 'exception sites'; these are sites which are not allocated for building in the Local Plan. If the New Road site remains in the Local Plan, then people with Bampton connections are likely to have to just take their turn like everyone else on the WODC housing allocation list queue.

Courtesy on the Roads

You have all probably noticed that we have had rain of late! But if you're like me, you've probably forgotten what rain is like, and what it can do to our roads.

Some of our back roads in Bampton are not in a very good state of repair - the Parish Council is trying to do something about this - and unfortunately, puddles form. In particular there is a real nasty patch as you venture along Llandells towards the Surgery, and recently one of our 'Beam Walkers' was drenched at this spot by an inconsiderate passing motorist!

So motorists, please be aware of the road situation, and please give consideration to people on foot.

Otherwise our 'Beam Walkers' might stop walking!

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Sandra or Jenny Tel: 01865 247852

Bampton Tennis Club

As the nights start to draw in and winter approaches it seems a very good time to reflect upon the year at Bampton Tennis Club. We have held a number of tournaments including a 'Roaming Tournament' where players were able to try out their skills on village courts. In addition to this we have had a number of adult friendly matches against local teams.

In response to demand we have been running two Club nights during the summer months (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Players turn up from 6pm onwards, pair up and play - swapping around depending on numbers. It is informal and friendly, and all standards of player are welcome. For those interested we hope to start a regular weekend club afternoon in the winter months.

This year has also seen an increase in junior involvement. After initial difficulty in finding a coach, we held after-school coaching during the summer term with local coach Mark Jarman. The course proved very popular and the children had great fun as well as improving their tennis strokes. Sixteen children split into two age groups took part. In addition to this there was an intensive four-day course held in the summer for 6-15 year olds and run in conjunction with West Oxfordshire District Council. Thirty-two children were involved. Besides all these 'organised events' it has been great to see the courts used more this year with all age groups making use of this excellent facility we have in Bampton. Please contact the membership secretary, Karen Easterbrook Tel: 01993 850772 for more information. As a member of Bampton Tennis Club you can reserve a court by using the booking diary held in Londis. Membership fees are £50/family, £20/adult £5/child and runs from 31st March - 31st March. You will be kept informed on any courses we have planned and also have the opportunity to join in the many events held during the year.

We have set our AGM date for 28th January, at 8pm in the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along to this meeting. The committee will then plan the events of the next year. We look forward to welcoming you on court soon!

PELLMANS

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Memories of Bampton
 By Bill Gibson

I arrived in Bampton, to Weald to be exact, in January, 1948 and it was without doubt the happiest posting I ever had.

The signs though, when I arrived at Oxford railway station in the late afternoon, were not very promising. After getting off the main line train and waiting for some time, the tannoy informed us, in a broad accent, that the "train in the bay was the 'something or other time' stopping at Yarnton, Cassington Halt, Eynsham, South Leigh, Witney, Brize Norton and Bampton. That wasn't too bad, since I had been on stopping trains before, but when I got to the bay and saw a little side-tank engine pulling two brown and cream coloured carriages, I nearly crossed the platform to make my way back to Paddington.

When I got to Brize Norton and got off the train - it seemed in the middle of nowhere to me - with only oil lamps to see by (which a porter soon put out), there was no transport waiting for me; life was at it's lowest ebb. But the transport soon came and took me to Weald, and I thought things might be on the up. The camp seemed deserted but I was given a bed space, and soon someone from the Pioneer Corps found me and asked me if I wanted a drink. "Too true mate, but where, in the NAAFI?". "No". "In the Mess?". "No". "In the Canteen?". "No". "From a case under your bed?". "No, in the village, and it's only a short walk!" And so, I took the first of many walks to Bampton, to the Talbot to be exact, where Horace Worth poured me the first of hundreds of pints I drank in the town.

SPORT

I found the local people very easy to get on with, and after a couple of nights, they found out I played soccer. I was then asked to turn out for the village team and did so on a couple of occasions, though the then Secretary of the Witney and District Football League (Jack Busby?) had to be kept in the dark about the 'outsider', and I was told on no account was I to tell anyone my name as I had not been registered as a player!

I remember one game in particular. It was against 6MU on the airfield, where I was spoken to by a referee for the only time in my career. I had played a lovely sliding tackle on this winger - not knowing that the pitch was grass covering shale, and grazing myself down my right side - but it didn't matter because the ball was out of play. But the 'ref' blew for a foul against me, and so I asked, in my usual dulcet tone, "what for ref?" . . . "two footed tackle" . . . "Never, that was a perfect sliding tackle!" . . . "I'm the referee, it was two footed, and any more cheek from you and you're in trouble"; and that was that!

I had been playing for Tow Law in the Northern League and here I was being cut down to size by a Witney & District Premier League referee! Sic transit gloria.

Shortly after that the camp joined Division Two of the Witney and District League and it was then that I found out about Oxfordshire country soccer. I had been brought up on good playing surfaces at school, miner's welfare parks and army pitches, and it was a bit of a shock to find myself playing at Alvescot between the tufts and pats. During one game, I had the ball, and was delicately pushing it on deciding whether to go further upfield or pass it, when I was hit by something big! Along with the ball, and possibly some grass and a pat or two, I went flying! I had been hit by a fullback by the name of Aubrey something or other. I thought the pit men were hard, but from that day pattern weaving soccer in Oxfordshire was out!

An interesting side issue of playing out in the country was that every Saturday at 6pm, a lorry left Weald for Witney. The Passion Waggon, as it was called, and as we did not have enough time for tea, shower, and change for the trip - we often only washed our hands and face - there we were parading in our lovely battle-dresses or civvies and polished shoes looking quite smart; if only our admirers had known most of us had knees,

calves and arms caked in mud.

I also played a few times for and against Bampton at cricket. The best games were those at Bampton. I believe Fred Rouse was captain, when Mike Hiron, built like a bull and as strong as an ox, bowled some of the fastest stuff I ever faced. The pitch at Bampton was true, but somehow Mike got the pill to rear, spit and shoot as I have never seen before or since. A great village bowler. On one occasion I was tempted to score runs, and I was doing quite well just staying in when this chap came on to bowl. He bowled me a gentle ball about twelve inches outside the leg peg, which finished outside the off peg in the gloves of I believe Vernon Cannons behind the stumps. After a couple more of these deliveries, I thought that this chap couldn't bowl a steady line, and so I fancied my chances of scoring some runs. The next ball came down, and I knew it was going for six! I stepped back in front of my wicked and executed a perfect pull over the mid wicket boundary only to hear, again I believe Charlie Painter at point, saying 'thankee bwoy' as the ball drolled up into his hands. I had met a leg-break bowler, Vernon's father I believe.

Other members of the team I vaguely recall were. Fred Rouse, I believe he was the captain, Roy Stroud, Chrissy Timms, and Jim Barton. We were a bold set of young lads and did enjoy our games, and the most peculiar thing is that I do not remember any 'rain-affected matches'!!

DRINKING

Drinking in the local pubs was the main evening pastime, and there were quite a lot of them, though my time was mainly spent between the Talbot, George and Dragon, Jubilee, Elephant and Castle, the Swan - if I fancied a long walk - the New Inn, and the Wheatsheaf. I enjoyed drinking in the Talbot, and George and Dragon, for the company, the Elephant (before it was done up) where the landlord was, I believe, a Morris Man, possibly a fiddler. I had only known sword and clog dancing up the North East and found talking to him easy and interesting. The Jubilee was good for Garne's beer - or was it Hunt Edmunds? - and the company. It was when drinking in

the New Inn that I recall being hungry and buying, for the first time in my life, a pickled egg, which was duly dumped in a packet of crisps. Haute cuisine indeed – and no Macdonalds in those days!

Now I had been told “to watch out for Ernie Daniels if you go into the New Inn”. Well I watched out on many occasions and I still don't know what I was looking for, since I found him to be a loveable old chap in the ‘Greengrass mould’, that liked a pint and a chat. The Wheatsheaf was different, for that's where the young bucks, army and civilian, assembled to chase the landlord, Old Man Cozier's granddaughter, Joan Coleman, and her friend Mary Gavin. Others there that I recall were his wife Gran naturally, his daughter Annie Dee,

Nellie, and various others who came down from London regularly. There were some nice families that used to go in there too, the Bartletts from the house



across the road, and the Newitts from Clanfield. Ben Govier, and the Stallards from I believe Faringdon, also spring to mind.

Old Man Cozier had at one time been out in Malaya working on the railway and at times on a Sunday, the favoured Signals chaps would be invited to stay on for lunch after the pub had closed - this was generally a curry. They were wonderful and I have never ever tasted better.

One of the regulars there was Harold Reason. Harold either ran a book or was a runner for the Witney bookies. He got around the village quite a bit on his bike, and if there was anything

interesting going on Harold knew it - and if he didn't then it wasn't worth knowing. Another regular was George Bishop. He had the paper shop nearly opposite the pub. Now George had the habit of letting an occasional loose word stray into his conversation. Annie didn't like that and would give out a tut-tut when she heard him. I always found him a bluff, likeable chap.

My initiation into Bampton drinking happened when (I believe it was) Tom Bradley - a soldier who married and turned ‘local’ - said “come down tomorrow Gibbo we need you”. I didn't know what for until I got there next day and found it was Morris Dance Day. My job was to help drink the beer the team(s) couldn't manage! Another fretful hangover.

Also in those days there were quite a

lot of gangs of Irish navvies in the district, and some of them had their lodging in The Wheatsheaf. It was there that I was initiated to St. Patrick's Day. I never knew such a person or celebration existed until I wandered in there one day and was introduced to Guinness! By then I was well acquainted with hangovers, but that one had to be experienced to be believed.

CHARACTERS

Over the time I was in the village, I met many characters. Two were the brothers Dougie and Gerald Reid from the farm in the village. We ‘erks’ envied them for the elder brother had a very sporty car and

would go to Bristol for a night out. Bristol, we were lucky to get to Bampton or Witney! And then there was ‘Long John’ who kept the antique/bric-a-brac shop next door to the Horseshoe public house along with a warehouse type of building round the corner on the road to the church. I never bought anything in those days, I wish I had been into antiques then, but I do recall he had some lovely Bristol Blue glass cylinder-type bottles that hung in the window for years. And then there was George Dafter, he was a gentleman. He had a slight impediment in his speech which really endeared him to me. George, when I knew him, was the postman and if I was in Bampton in the morning and he had some mail for the camp he would often pass it over to me for delivery on my return.

It was safe with me as I had signed the Official Secrets Act!

I met George many years later when he came to live in St. Mary's Court in Witney. I had by then been

kicked out of the Army on medical grounds, but he was still the same old George and we had many a natter about the days when we were both in Bampton.

There was the Townsend lady, Dora, that opened, with other ladies, the canteen in the camp. I got to know her brothers Sonny and Jack Townsend quite well when I settled down in Witney. Sonny was a Morris Man and Jack a staunch Swindon Town supporter, and would always say when we left after having a talk ‘look arter yourself’. Sonny died in Witney, and Jack went to live in Pontypridd, where his wife Evelyn came from. He is also

no longer with us.

As we didn't have an army doctor we had to go to the local one, and he was also quite a character. He was a largish, bluff Scotsman who supported Celtic. As I followed Newcastle we got on quite well and had some good discussions on football in the surgery. I don't know how good he was as a doctor for he never prescribed anything! Then there was Pat Hiron; tall, smooth ex-Guardsman, always friendly to us Signals chaps. And Harry Hampton a big ginger lad, always with his girl (I think) on his arm. And old Ernie Shepherd, well I say old because he seemed old when I knew him in 1950. He used to fire his gun for the start of the Shirt Race. Jimmy Richardson was the policeman. It was always a guessing game returning from Witney to Weald on a bike with no lights. Did we go the direct way or turn right, pass the Church on the right and turn again at the Wheatsheaf, so that he wouldn't see us? I did get shouted at a couple of times but I really don't think he was bothered, we weren't harming anyone. Tom Bradley was a character both in the Army and as a civilian, he married a local lass, Freda Daniels. Roy Foster, a cook in the Army Catering Corps, and he was a very good one too. He married another good looking local girl and was posted with the Gloucesters to Korea where he was made a PoW. Part of our duty at Weald was to monitor the signals we were sending to War Office, and looking one day at the casualty lists I saw that Roy was missing in action. The feeling I had when I met his wife and mother-in-law before they had been informed, when they told me they'd heard from him, and knowing what I did, can never be explained. I saw him in Korea when he was repatriated and a few times afterwards in Witney and Bampton, he was a great chap, and I never once heard him complain about his lot.

Cyril Applegate was the taxi proprietor at the garage opposite the George and Dragon. Len Hughes took over Cyril's business I believe. He was larger than life, always seemed to have a cigarette on the go. Len also ran a bus that took us to Silverstone. In those days there were none of the queues

there are today. He also ran it to Witney to pick up the girls for the dances we held in camp.

Money was seldom a problem for us, as we were reasonably well paid, and in harvest time, Mr. Collins the farmer at Weald would always employ us - I was grateful for the extra cash. I did feel a little guilty though when he built a milking shed at the bottom of the lane that ran alongside the camp and some of us helped ourselves to the cream from top of the churns! I suppose that's how we came to be big healthy lads - we had to be to keep up with the Bampton life! There was Ernie Hunt, a big pleasant lad who worked on the coal lorries. He was always willing to have a chatter over a pint.

I really don't think we ever had any trouble in the village, which is surprising, considering that there were a lot of young soldiers and quite a few local lads about. It was seemed to be a happy relationship between us. But I do remember a spot of hooliganism. A drinking gang of us making our way back to camp and pretty merry had to pass some roadside red oil lamps near the Mill Green. The temptation was too great and a couple of them found their way into the brook. Next night in the Wheatsheaf, Annie Dee was going on about some hooligans who had thrown some lamps into the stream, and in a fit of pious outrage I sided with her and wished the miscreant no good at all only to notice my mates looking at me in a funny way - I must have had a skinful the night before, I don't remember a thing about it.

It was some time in 1950 after attending a Drill and Duties Course at Kingston Park Barracks when the Officer in charge of the course thought he saw potential in me. I was posted back to War Office first to Kingston upon Thames, then to Woolwich. I was engaged to the Witney girl who is now my wife and made frequent trips back to Witney, but not to Bampton, and after service in Korea from where I was discharged on medical grounds, I came back to get married and settled in Witney.

But I will always remember my days in Weald and Bampton. I had a great time!

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The following is an e-mail which was sent to the Aston 'Voices', and forwarded to 'The Beam' for reasons that will become obvious!.

Tony,

It was great finding that a musical group from so close to my hometown was in the United States attending the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee in California this year.

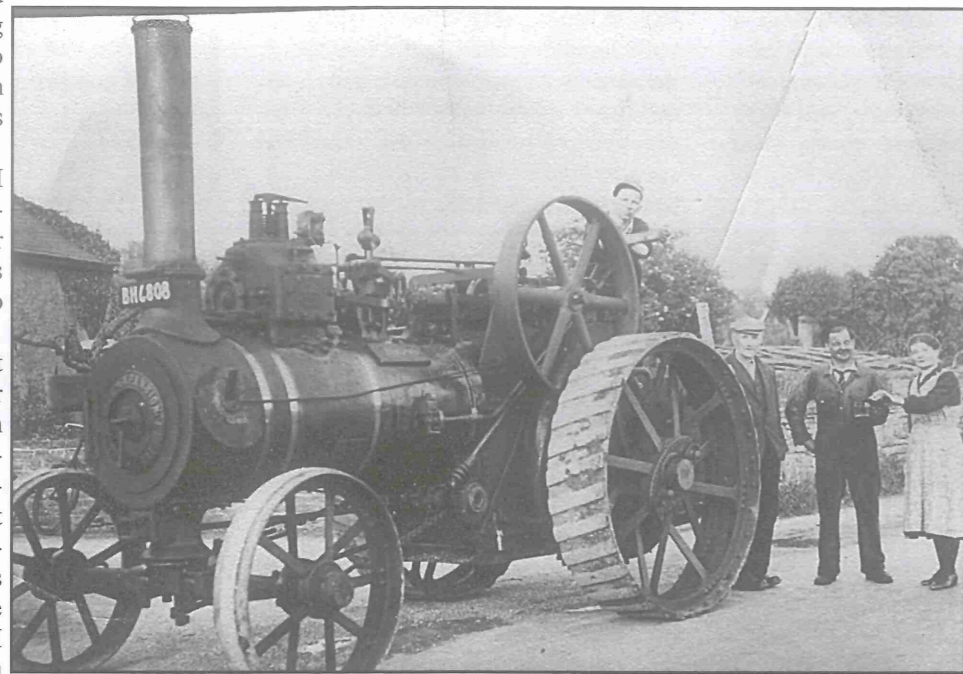
My wife and I have been attending the event for the past nine years now and hope to be back next year. When we met Judy Eames after hearing the Zenith Hot Stompers perform at the Riverfront Refuge at Cal-Expo in Sacramento, it was like old home week, when I learned that you two are from Aston, just a stone's throw from Bampton,

where I was born and lived until coming over to the United States. That was way back in 1957. I have been living in Denison, Texas since shortly after that time and was in the masonry contracting business, a trade I learned while living in Bampton. I'm now semi-retired, as is my wife, Donna, who still writes articles for the local newspaper. I loved hearing from Judy about the businesses that still are operating in Bampton and unfortunately, about the ones that now have closed. I've not been back to England since 1957, but hopefully one can we can make the trip. Your band was great and certainly a highlight for this year's trip to Jazz Jubilee. Hope to see you back there next year.

David R. Hunt
31 Via Esplanade
Denison
TX, USA 75021.
Note from the Ed.

I'm sure that there are still a few people around today who will remember David Hunt. This photograph cer-

LETTERS and E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR



Photograph taken Circa 1950 outside of The Swan, Bampton.
David Hunt, on Traction Engine 'Pandora', John Bond, John Quick, Emmie Sollis

tainly brought memories back for me. It shows my father, John Quick, with one of the great loves of his life - at least in those days - Pandora, the traction engine.

Dear Mrs Gray

Full marks to Oxfordshire County Council for their work on drains and ditches in the Weald Street and Primrose Lane area during August Acting on a suggestion from an Environment Agency official following the flooding of my house at the end of last year I asked Oxon CC if they would jet the local drains. High pressure jetting removes accumulated muck from piped drains, thereby increasing their effectiveness, and also reveals any blockages or other problems which can then be dealt with. Oxon CC read-y agreed and indeed already had a specialist jetting vehicle on hire, an indication they are now taking drainage problems more seriously.

In addition to jetting the drains they rebuilt a faulty drain chamber, uncov-

ered another from the undergrowth, and checked and cleared ditches, particular attention being given to the important ditch beside the footpath between Primrose Lane and Mill Green. Their engineer and contractors were most helpful and conscientious.

The importance of well-maintained drains and ditches as a first line of defence against flooding cannot be overstated so it is good news that in future drains in problem areas will be jetted annually. However, since Oxon CC cannot monitor every ditch and drain permanently they welcome feedback and complaints at their Kidlington office (tel. 01865 844300). Prop-

erty owners can help by ensuring ditches on their land are kept clear. Although ditches may appear insignificant and be completely dry at times, piped drains discharge into them. so they can be a vital part of the drainage system In recent years properties in Oxfordshire not previously flooded within living memory have flooded as climate change and wetter winters increase the flood risk.

Oxon CC are also looking at the possibility of improving the ditch between Primrose Lane and Mill Green, mainly to remedy the undercutting of the footpath now evident in places.

Yours sincerely
Geoff Soames
Gate Cottage, Weald Street

Dear Friends

Linda Micheal, myself and family, want to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone, for all the many cards, messages and flowers sent us in our sad and very sudden loss of Reg.

We all thought of him as a pretty fit

76 year old, but it just shows how fragile life can be. He loved Bampton and was never happier than when walking the fields with Ron. Once we nearly lost them both in a mud-pool up Plantation - the tale has been told so many times. He also used to wander with Jack on Sunday mornings; no doubt putting the world to rights between them.

Having both lived in Bampton all our lives, we have seen many changes - but one thing that never changes and that is 'true friendship'.

Special thanks to Dr. Perry and the Reverend David Lloyd for the kindness shown to us at this very sad time.

Yours sincerely

Joan and Family

Lavender Flats

Dear Editor

I have in my possession two very old pictures that were drawn many years ago by a pupil at the school in Bampton (at one time I believe there were several different schools in Bampton). I have had them for as long as I can remember and have no recollection of how I came by them.

One is a very detailed map of Syria, and is signed 'S. Smith. Bampton School'. The other is an illustrated Christmas Prayer signed by 'Sydney Smith, Commercial Art'. The prayer includes the words 'God Save the Queen', so may well have been drawn during the reign of Queen Victoria.

They are part of someone's family history, so if anyone could possibly track them down through the 'Beam', I would be happy to hand them back where they belong.

Yours sincerely

Bill Govier

8 Manor View

Well Bamptonians, can you help? They are very impressive drawings, and it would be nice to return them to the family of 'S. Smith'.

If we can't trace the family, Bill has decided that they will be donated to The Bampton Museum.

Dear Editor,

A big Thank You to everyone who gave such generous support at the Coffee Morning held on Saturday 30th August, from which £710 was

raised. The money is to be used towards buying more chairs and tables for the nurses Rest Room within the Coronary Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Your continued support means the nurses now can relax in their own rest room in comfort.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my daughters and their families for their help on the day and also their continuing support. Thank you once again.

Daphne Pullin, New Road.

Dear Editor

My name is Tim Saint, and I believe my grandmother, Vera Welch taught there, probably in the late 1920s early 1930s. If anyone remembers her, or was taught by her, I would be interested in hearing from them.

Please send correspondence to myself at 20 AshmoreClose, Nythe, Swindon, SN3 3PX or by e-mail to: timandrhan@yahoo.co.uk

Bojangles

Our Village Hairdressing Salon Expands

During a recent visit by 'The Beam Team' to Bojangles to have their hair done - the 'Team' always tries to use local businesses! - it was evident that a change to the premises had taken place; in short, expansion!

Never wishing to miss an opportunity, the 'Team' asked Stephanie (Proprietor of Bojangles), if she would be agreeable to be interviewed in order to keep our readers up to date with events in the Village hairdressing scene.

Stephanie told us that, since opening the business, the support from the Villagers had just been incredible; so much so, that it very quickly became obvious that she would need to expand the salon and take on more staff, if they were to keep pace with demand.

And so the salon expansion was placed in the capable hands of Rhys Silman Flooring and Mark Smith Furniture Bampton; and very impressive the outcome is. The salon now employs 3 full-time staff, and 4 part-time, which enables it to carry out all aspects of hairdressing including, fashion cuts, colour, perms, woven; men and children are also very welcome!

It really is great to see another of our local businesses doing well. Through the auspices of the 'Beam', Stephanie would like to say a big thank you to Rhys and Mark for a job extremely well done in expanding the salon - high quality, on time, and within budget! *Think these guys should be employed by the MOD - Ed!* She would also like to say an even bigger Thank You to all of the Villagers who have supported the business since it opened. She has been astounded by the support, but hopes that she will be able to continue to provide the service which the Villagers want for many years to come.

Oh, and by the way, for those of you who did not know that we have a Hairdressing Salon in the Village, just pop along to Rosemary Lane, or Tel: 850850, and make an appointment!

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.

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Bampton Environmental Watch Group (BEWG)

By Ralph Norman

Many of you may have experienced a feeling of déjà vu when you read the BEWG entry in the August Beam. No, it wasn't a time warp but an editorial hiccup at the Beam resulting in an earlier BEWG report being reprinted instead of the one actually submitted for August. The following therefore includes references and updates to some of the missing items.

The BEWG AGM

This was held on Friday 7th March in the Village Hall when the following were elected to the Executive Committee:

Ralph Norman (Chairman)

Helene Grygar (Vice-chairman)

Ray Proctor (Treasurer)

Sally Proctor (Honorary Secretary)

Plus nine other members.

The formal proceedings were followed by an illustrated talk entitled "St Frideswide: Oxford and Bampton", given by our President Dr John Blair.

Open Meetings

Open meetings since the AGM have included talks on the Badgers of Wytham Woods, by Dr Chris Newman in April, and the National Trust, by Jim Osborne in July. At our latest meeting Dr John Wilson, an historian with Cogges Farm Museum, gave a talk about Gertrude Jekyll and her interest in English rural life. Despite it being a particularly cold and wet evening we managed a good turn out, when Dr Wilson treated us to a view of Gertrude Jekyll by reference to his own collection of rural artefacts. He also drew a parallel with Bampton's growing collection at the Bampton Museum. Our next meeting will be our AGM on 5th March 2004.

Planning Applications

Individual planning applications notwithstanding, the major planning event affecting Bampton is the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011. This document is important to everyone in West Oxfordshire as it sets the basis for housing and other development within the district up to 2011. The full WODC committee formally agreed

the Revised Deposit Draft of the plan on 10 February 2003, when Jonathan Phillips (one of Bampton's two District Councillors) persuaded them to include a large development site of 100 dwellings (50% affordable) in New Road. This was against the recommendations of the WODC Cabinet and Planning Officers, who thought this development would be too large for Bampton to support. They believed that Bampton would be better served if the site was excluded from the plan and affordable housing was instead obtained through rural exception sites. Development of rural exception sites within Bampton allow conditions to be placed on the affordable houses to ensure the possibility of 100% allocation to those with a Bampton connection (Pembroke Place was a rural exception site). This would be without the addition of large-scale commercial development of free market properties, which Bampton certainly does not need. (The Parish Council has a sub-committee who are examining possible exception sites within Bampton with WODC. They are also surveying Bamptonians' requirement for affordable housing and the general attitude to the possible size and constitution of such sites within Bampton.)

After approval by the WODC full committee the Revised Draft was published in May and was then subjected to a period of public consultation, which ran for 6 weeks from 16 May to 27 June. During this period WODC received a total of 680 representations on the plan in relation to the whole of West Oxfordshire. Of these more than half (351) related to the New Road site in Bampton (310 objections and 41 in support). Thames Water also objected to the New Road development proposal, citing problems that are likely to occur with the capacity of the existing sewerage system being exceeded, and possible problems with surface water drainage and the supply of fresh water to Bampton. There has also been a submission from the

owner of the land containing the proposed site. He says he would like Bampton people to be given some priority in the allocation of the affordable housing and he believes the proposed site boundary needs to be reviewed.

The current situation is that WODC are now considering all the comments that they have received in relation to the 2011 Local Plan. They state that: "All outstanding objections, including objections to the First Deposit Draft Local Plan [and the revised draft] which have not been resolved, will be considered by an independent Inspector at a Public Local Inquiry". The Public Inquiry is scheduled to begin on 6 July 2004.

The Local Plan is not the only planning issue for Bampton. Other recent smaller planning applications (but still important to Bampton) include: extensions to Londis (taking in what was the adjoining flower shop, and to the rear of Londis)—this has been granted; an application by the Church Commissioners to build two houses on the open field in Church View by Deanery Cottage—this has been refused: alterations to what was the Elephant and Castle public house and an application to erect two dwellings on the former car park to the rear of the Elephant—both granted; an application to redevelop the Fairacres nursery as an industrial site—withdrawn by the applicant. We have also just heard that a longstanding application made in 2002, to redevelop as offices the site behind Londis and adjacent to CBL Electrics, has finally been withdrawn by the applicants.

Footpath Maps

Finally, if you have not yet got your copy of the Bampton Footpaths map, they are available free from the Post Office and Abbey Properties, in Bampton, and the Visitor Information Centre in Witney.

For more information

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.htm.

Apologies for the hiccup last time! Ed.

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Bampton Welfare Trust

If anyone has an electric mobility scooter that is no longer needed, please contact The Bampton Welfare Trust who may know of a good home for it.

Bampton the Way it Was

The perfect Christmas gift for anyone new to the village, or even a Bamptonian!

Mrs Freda Bradley still has a few books available. They do go quickly, so if you would like one, they are for sale in Emmie's the Newsagents, Bridge Street or Temples in the Market Square.

Written by Mrs Freda Bradley

Priced at £10.95.

For more information call Freda Tel: 01993 850645.

Unusual Handmade Christmas Gifts and Crafts Sale

Held by The Transrural Trust

Special Christmas sales days on Thursday-Saturday 4th, 5th and 6th December, and again Thursday-Saturday 11th, 12th and 13th December.

Gifts to suit all ages and pockets, including jewellery, Thai silks and decorated eggs. All the products are sourced from our overseas rural development projects and the profits fund further work in the communities of origin.

Come to 16a Crawley Mill, Crawley or Tel: 01993 771230 for information. The Transrural Trust is based in Crawley village, near Witney and is a

NOTICE BOARD

registered charity working overseas on rural poverty alleviation projects It holds Open Days (usually before Christmas and Easter) and sells interesting craft products brought back from the countries where the Trust works. The proceeds are put back into those projects.

Christmas Concert

in aid of Bridewell Organic Gardens
Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm
Witney Methodist Church, High Street, Witney.

Local singers and Musicians

'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Gondolier',

'The Bridewell Advent Calendar'
and

Carols to join in with!

Tickets £5 (children free) including refreshments from:

The Music Stand, High Street Witney
Tel: 01993 774980 or Annabel Molyneux
Tel: 01367 860056 Mary Elford
Tel: 01993 882717 or at the door

Bampton Youth Centre

At a general meeting held on 10th June, it was agreed to adopt a modified constitution on a format required by the Charity Commission and, subsequently, the Commission notified us that the Youth Centre has been granted charitable status. It is hoped that this will assist the Centre when making appeals for financial assistance towards major projects to improve the premises and the facilities that we are able to provide for the young people of the Village. Our immediate interest in this respect is to replace the present electrical heating by a gas fired convector system that we believe would be both more effective and cheaper to operate. This project is, currently, in the investigation stage and we will report further when there has been detailed costing and an assessment as to whether it will be possible to raise the necessary funding.

The main expenses of the Youth Centre are the rent paid to the County Council, the cost of electricity for light, and heating and payment to our excellent part time caretaker plus,

lesser amounts on insurance and repair of broken windows and fittings. We cover these outgoings partly from a generous annual donation from the 250 Club but, otherwise, from income rental by letting the premises to organisations and individuals. These include the County Youth service, which pays part of the cost of the use of the Centre by the Youth Club. The Youth Club, itself, is supported to a substantial extent by the Parish Council who pay a good part of the cost of the youth worker. In addition, the Youth Centre is regularly helped by the Bampton Welfare Trust in funding of major expenditure - most recently for replacement of the Centre's sign-board. The main hall of the Centre is a particularly attractive venue for parties, wedding receptions and meetings and we would recommend it for anyone seeking to hold such an event in the village. There is a small but convenient kitchen, and an additional major factor in its favour is the ample parking in the old playgrounds in front of and to the rear of the building. The cost of hire is modest and details can be obtained from Mrs Jill Ruck Tel: 852010. The Secretary, Colin Allport Tel: 850411 is always happy to provide general information.

The Youth Club is continuing to flourish with a Tuesday evening meeting for younger members and Thursday evening senior session. Anyone wishing to join or any parent or adult willing to help should contact the area youth worker Shelley Vaisey Tel: 842416.

Rachael Newman's Piggot School of Dance has dance lessons for children on a number of occasions during the week and Rachael can be contacted Tel: 852355.

Bampton Weightlifting Club commenced use of the premises in the second half of July and their Secretary, John Davies Tel: 702266 would welcome enquiries from prospective members.

Old Birthday Cards

Please continue to let me your Birthday Cards, after you have enjoyed them, so that I can continue to recycle them into resaleable items which then make money for worthy causes.

Daphne Gaydon, 3 Broad Street

OUT AND ABOUT

The Gardening Club Autumn Show



Well Supported as Usual

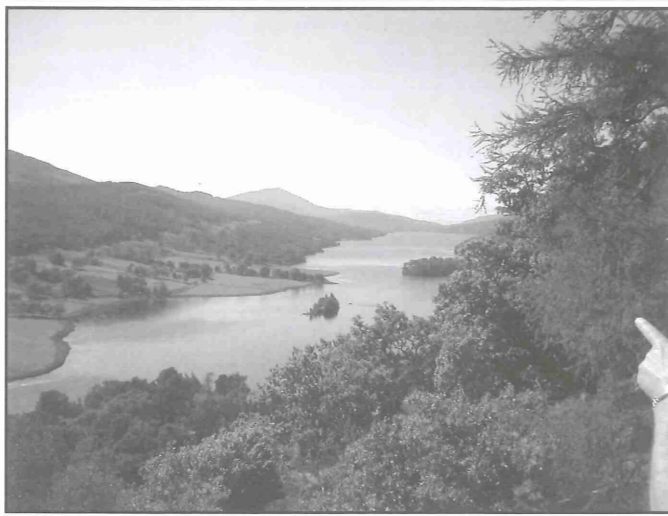


A proud Alice Landray with her winning entry

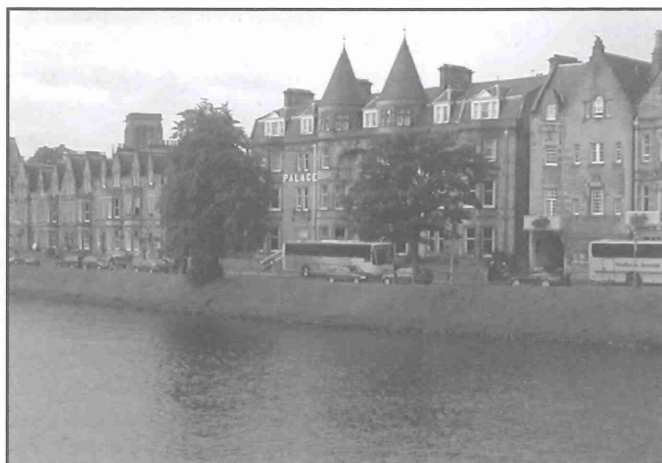
The Gardening Club Goes to Scotland - A Week in Inverness



On the way to the North : The Border and Queen's View



Loch Gairloch



The Hotel on the banks of the River Ness - Free Bar!

OUT AND ABOUT



Urquhart Castle Ruins from Loch Ness



Ullapool

Remembrance Day



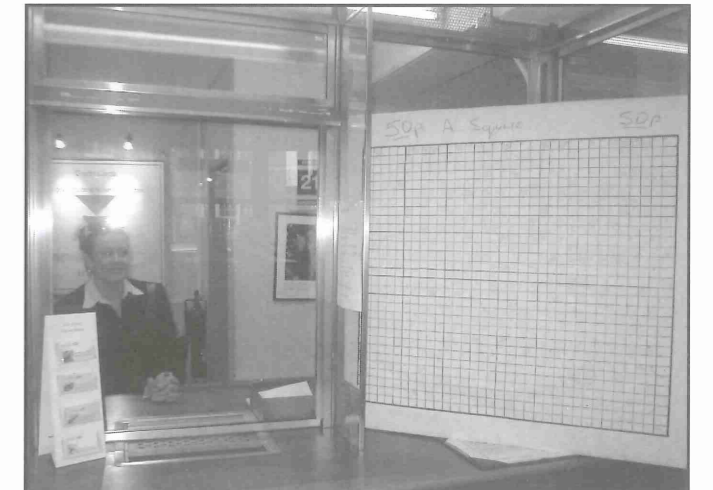
A Large Turnout for the Special Day



Children in Need Day



No Escape from Our Firemen!



The HSBC Bank Ladies do their Bit!

The Children's Society

The annual box collection this year raised £470.16, a wonderful amount, and so welcome at Christmas when we are thinking of children who are less fortunate than our own. Special thanks to Junior Church. We received money both from their cake stall and from Sunday collections; and to Londis and the Surgery where boxes are kept for us. Mrs Welch of Aston sadly died earlier this year but her family very kindly made sure that I got her donation. Our condolences and thanks go to them. If anyone would like to keep a box at home, please contact me, Pauline Hawkins, Tel: 851066, and I will be very happy to bring a box to you. Thank you again for all those who made such generous donations - perhaps next year we can top the £500 mark!

Bampton Bridge Club

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

Bampton Ladies Group

We are a group of Ladies who meet in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm. Our aim is to have a variety of light-hearted talks, demonstrations and outings. If you would like to come along, the first visit is free. Further information from Joan Farthing Tel: 851206.

Bampton Exhibition Foundation

The Foundation exists to maintain the Old Grammar School building (now the Library), and to provide financial support to young people residing in the Ancient Parish of Bampton, Aston, Lew and Weald. The financial help is for young people who would like to participate in any academic or sporting course or activity of educational value which would otherwise be beyond their means. We try to offer a bursary of 50% of the amount

NOTICE BOARD

required. Anyone who feels they qualify (or knows of someone who may do so) should contact the Correspondence Secretary, Roger Snow, 40 Bushy Row, Bampton, OX18 2JU or Tel: 850113.

Cancer Research Bampton Branch

Here is a list of our forthcoming events between now and Christmas.
Friday December 5th
 Quiz Night, Village Hall
Friday December 19th
 Country & Western Dance, Carterton Social Club.

Feel Good Factor

People who volunteer say that it's a 'shot in the arm'. You meet new people, make new friends, use skills you forgot you had, find new challenges and have fun. "I've got a lot on already" some may say, and giving time is the most precious commodity, but the good news is that you can volunteer for as little or as much as you feel you can give. There is always a need for help with driving, visiting, shopping, wheelchair outings, garden tidying, and basic DIY. Over 100 local organisations need volunteers to assist in their work and many could not continue without them. So how about giving it a whirl? To find out more contact Anne, Alison & Ruth Tel: 01993 776277 at Volunteer Link-Up serving West Oxfordshire since 1983. Our office is in the Methodist Church, 10 Wesley Walk, Witney OX28 6ZJ
 E-mail: westoxonvb@freeuk.com

**The Carers Centre
 Need some information?**

How do I get an orange badge for the car?
 Will my Mum get something off her council tax for her disability?
 My daughter's been diagnosed with epilepsy - how can I find out more about it?
 Find out by coming to the Bampton Carers.
 They meet the last Wednesday in the month at The Methodist Church Centre, High St, Witney. 1pm - 3pm -

Friday at the Methodist Church Centre, Wesley Walk, Witney.

Bampton French Book Club

We have set up French Book club aimed at those amongst us who have attained a good standard of French - roughly A level - and who wish to maintain this level without committing themselves to formal weekly language classes. The meetings are roughly every two months, where a book which has been chosen in the previous session is discussed. The only cost involved is the purchase of the book - less than £5 per session. Interested? Please contact: Grace Wilkins, 3 Beam Paddock.

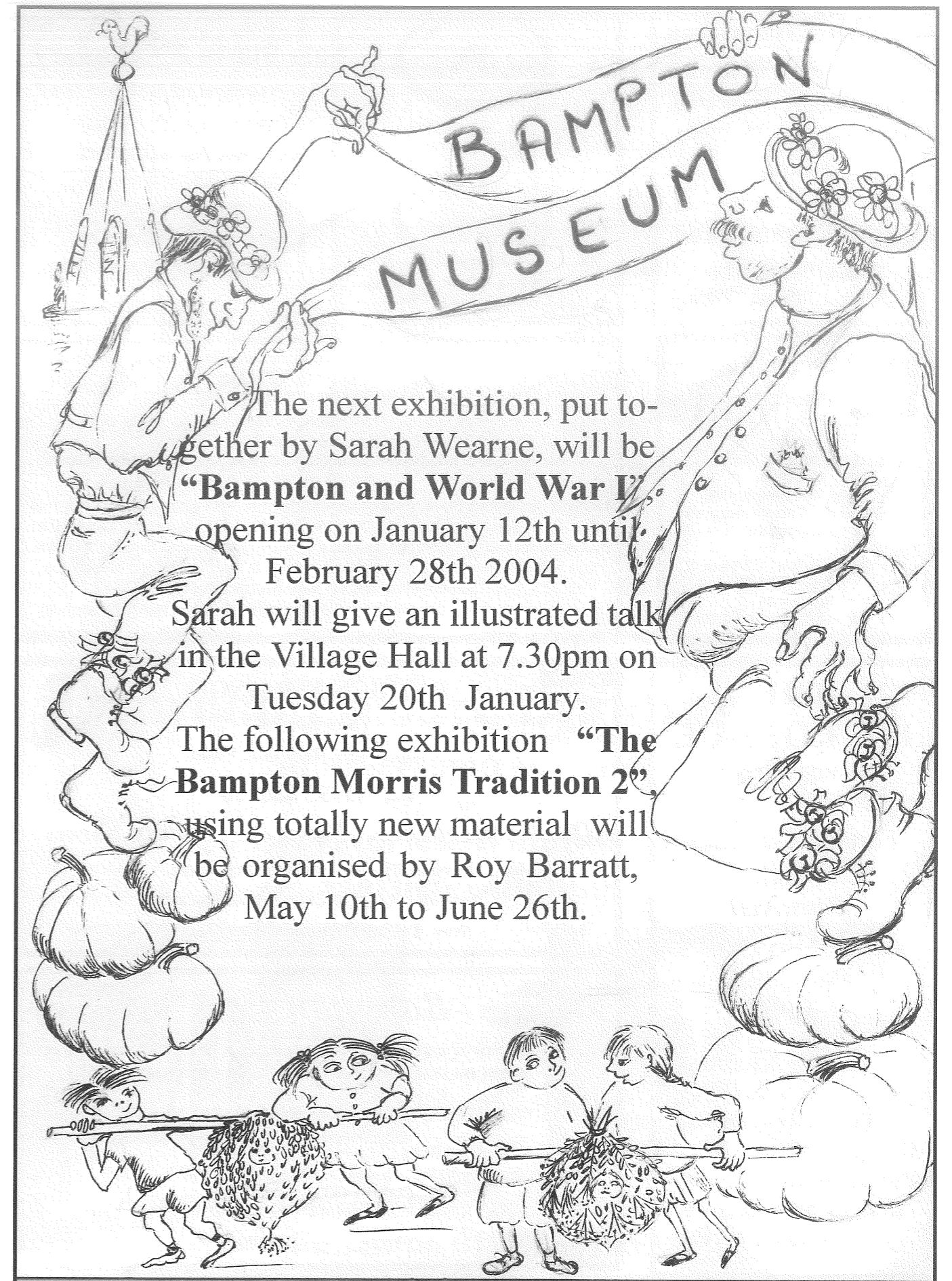
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	Carterton	01993 893951
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Witney Hospital		01993 602900
Minor Injuries Unit		01993 602966
Power Cuts		0345 708090
Gas Emergency		0800 111999
Water & Sewerage		0645 200800
BT General Enquiries		0800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



The next exhibition, put together by Sarah Wearne, will be **"Bampton and World War I"** opening on January 12th until February 28th 2004.

Sarah will give an illustrated talk in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th January.

The following exhibition **"The Bampton Morris Tradition 2"**, using totally new material will be organised by Roy Barratt, May 10th to June 26th.

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THE HORSESHOE INN

Bridge Street, Bampton
01993 850201

Your Hosts are Alan and Kath Clarke

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

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

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

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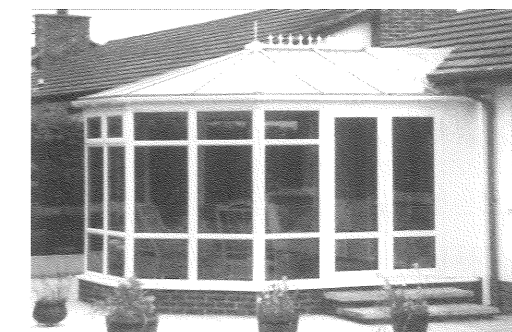
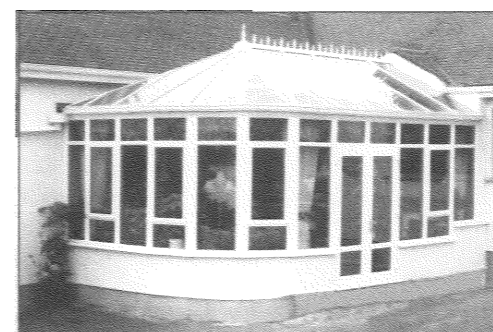


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The Bampton Gardening Club

The Gardening Club AGM

The AGM was held on Saturday 15th November in the Village Hall, and was well attended - with a good mixture of our gardener members and our social members. After the official business, Mr Gordon Parker showed slides of the various places which had been visited in the past year. Some of our members were lucky enough to be featured in some of the slides! We then enjoyed a very tasty cheese and wine supper. Some of the wine was of the home-made variety, produced by our very own club member. Thanks Gordon.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith and Dolcie of Tourist Coaches for all the hard work they put in to make the various outings so enjoyable. We must also not forget to thank Ellen Parker, our organiser, as without her, none of the trips would materialise. Many thanks Ellen.

The Committee for 2004 is as follows:

President: Ray Taylor **Chairman:** Tony Jenkin
Treasurer: Tony Jenkin **Secretary/Show Sec:** Fenella Gray
Membership Sec: Gill Gummer **Social Sec:** Ellen Parker

Trophy Sec: Marion Dowding

General Members: Gary Gummer, Richard Wilkins, Mollie Jones and Phil McFarlane

The Proposed Outings for 2004

February - The Ice Show, at Cardiff this time. This was a big hit last year, so it's included once again to start the year off in style.

March - It's a MYSTERY, even the driver has no idea. Three envelopes to choose from on the coach with a different destination in each!

April - This month it's off to the Midlands, with a visit to the Botanical Gardens at BRUM, and a stop off at Hatton Country World.

May - To the West Country for the Spring Garden Show at Shepton Mallet.

June - The residents of Killarney will have the pleasure of our company again as we return to the Lake Hotel. Confirmed prices for this holiday are £485pps, £168ss, £17 insurance. We also have a day trip to Stourhead House and Gardens planned for this month.

July - We are off up north this time to a stately home, Tatton Park. Included in this short break will be entrance to the RHS Flower Show and stops of interest on outward and return journeys. Confirmed prices for this short weekend are £129pps, £26ss, £10 insurance.

August - Get the horse manure ready, we are off to the David Austin Rose Gardens at Wolverhampton.

September - Popular demand takes us to the Newbury Show.

October - Further up the M4 a visit to Kew Gardens.

November - This one is for the shoppers, as we return to BRUM and the Bullring Shopping Centre. This year's diversified outing is a Carnival Procession. It takes place at Bridgewater on Friday 5th at 7pm. This means a totally alien day/time pick up of Friday pm. Return to local area will be before breakfast on Saturday.

December - A popular revisit to Westonburt illuminations. Also this month another shopping trip to get those last minute presents at Bath Xmas Market.

The Trophy Winners of the Autumn show

Saturday 20th September 2003

The Ken Adams Cup - Decorative Dahlias Diana Alcock

The Dolly Stroud Cup - Cactus Dahlias Annette Minto

Albert Tanner Cup - 3 Chrysanthemums: Roy Shergold

Rev'd Pearce Cup - 5 Chrysanthemums: Roy Shergold

Nellie Temple Cup - Decorative Chrysanthemums: Roy Shergold

Willie Lane Cup - Tallest Sunflower: Roy Shergold

The Beam Cup -- Collection of Vegetables on a Tray: Jo Lewington

Liz Chambers Cup - Ellen Parker BHS Challenge Cup - Overall Points for Vegetables: Jo Lewington

Reg Pratley Cup - Overall Points at the Show: Jo Lewington

Children's Classes

5 Years and Under - Alice Landray

6—8 yrs: Tom Jenkins

9—13 yrs: Anton Zijlstra

Open to All

Make a Monster using recycled materials — Jack Holford

BBC Radio

'Gardeners Question Time'

The Witney Horticulture Society is pleased to host the BBC Radio 'Question Time' programme which is due to be recorded on Wednesday 4th February 2004 between 6pm and 9pm in the Witney Corn Exchange. Free admission is by **ticket only**.

These are available from Thursday 1st January 2004, by sending a request and a stamped addressed envelop to:

Miss M. Witt (GQT), 83 Thorney Leys, Witney, Oxon OX28 5BY.

We hope some of you will come along and join us.

The Bampton Classical Opera

By Gilly French

It had to happen eventually. After ten consecutive years in which Bampton Classical Opera has charmed the weather for its open-air performances in the beautiful Deanery Garden, this summer saw us choose the only wet weekend in three months of continuous sunshine. The Friday rain stopped on the stroke of 3 o'clock, as forecast, and the evening was dry, if not quite warm. But on Saturday, in the hopes that the forecast would again prove right, we held out until the last minute, with some intrepid audience even setting out their picnics in the drizzle; but in the end, we beat a last minute retreat to the church where a huge audience filled every available pew and more.

Our wonderful team of singers adapted brilliantly to the new venue despite having only rehearsed on our external stage, and once again our audiences were delighted by the informal ethos and the superb quality of the performance. On this occasion, we were presenting a very English opera, albeit written by an Italian living in Vienna! Now internationally known for its adventurous but always appealing repertory, Bampton Classical Opera was giving the first-ever performance in this country of a wonderful Shakespearian comedy, *Falstaff*, by Mozart's infamous rival Sa-

lieri. This was a real eye-opener, as poor Salieri, especially following his appearance in Peter Schaffer's play (and the film based on it) *Amadeus*, is usually dismissed as a musical nonentity; in fact he was one of the most lauded composers of his day, and *Falstaff* is a glittering work of high musical and dramatic quality.

Bampton productions are often known for their unusual directorial twists - we've had shows with a vintage Rolls-Royce, paintings by Picasso, and a dancing dalek; this year we had a shuffling platoon of Dad's Army, as *Falstaff* was updated to the Windsor Home Guard, complete with appearances from a Yankee Biggles and Marlene Dietrich! The audience and critics loved it:

"There isn't a company in England with as sharp a sense of fun as Bampton...one of the high pleasures of an English summer" "This was a gem of an evening" "Last weekend's laurel go to Bampton...a joy.... pure magic".

With these sorts of comments in the national and international press, it is not surprising that Bampton Classical Opera is recognised as a unique and valuable musical institution, despite being run part-time by two school-teachers on a shoe-string (our box-office sales for our short summer sea-

son are about £20,000, and the costs are about £50,000!). As always, our success depends on the goodwill of so many in Bampton who help in numerous ways with the preparation and performances and who accommodate our singers and orchestra, and we are enormously grateful to them. We were therefore especially pleased that, amongst our substantial previews in the national press (including an extended interview on BBC Radio 3), *the Guardian weekend Guide* should sing the praises and fame of "the historic town of Bampton" with its "castle, bronze-age ring ditch and three teams of Morris dancers" - it's always good when a journalist does his homework properly!

This summer, following our usual practice, we also performed in the magnificent settings of Westonbirt School in Gloucestershire and in St John's, Smith Square, one of London's finest concert-halls. If you missed *Falstaff*, there is one further performance you can catch, at the Theatre Royal, Bath, as part of the prestigious Bath Shakespeare Festival, on Sunday 7 March.

Next year's opera in Bampton will be Haydn's affecting romance *La Vera Costanza* at the Deanery on July 16-17: put the dates in your diary and book early - after our sell-out performances this summer, tickets will be hard to come by. You may also like to visit our website (www.bamptonopera.org) for photographs and reviews of *Falstaff*.

Shillbrook Wood

By Colin Allport

We are now at the end of the third growing year of Bampton's Millennium Woodland which was planted at the end of the year 2000 and all who visit the site on a regular basis will agree that the development is impressive. Many of the faster growing willows and alders are now up to a level of about 15ft and even the slower oak and ash are approaching head height. During the coming winter months there will again be a check on trees that may have died during the year and these will be replaced.

The pathways through the woodland

are being cut two or three times a year so that there is good access not only on the main right of way but also on those that permit one to meander through the area. The situation will soon improve further as the farmer who cultivates the surrounding fields is constructing a culvert with a permissive [path to join the main right of way which runs down from the centre of Bampton. The same farmer has already laid out a path, which connects through, to the Buckland Road.



The Bampton Gardening Club

I/We would be very interested in the following visits.Tel:.....

The Ice Show.....	Mystery Tour	Botanical Gardens	The Spring Show
Ireland Holiday	Stourhead	Tatton Park	Rose Gardens
Newbury Show	Kew Gardens	Bullring Shopping	Carnival
		Westonburt	

Please return to Mrs E. Parker, 90 Sycamore Drive, Carterton Oxon18 3AU.

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

When I was first approached to write a regular article for the Beam way back in 1997, it was suggested that the articles should be agriculturally informative. But back then farming was fun, it was competitive and it was a challenge. Now it appears that the spirit along with the farmers is disappearing fast; they are all being stifled to death by bureaucracy and are being encouraged to do anything else other

than farm. One of my informants has sold up his milking herd and has obtained planning permission to convert the buildings for non-agriculture use. There are no weekly cattle markets now, yet it wasn't so long ago that it was Swindon on Monday, Faringdon on Tuesday, Oxford on Wednesday, Witney on Thursday, and Banbury on Friday. At these gatherings farmers would do their buying and selling whilst regaling on their ability to have cows that would yield more milk than anybody else, and

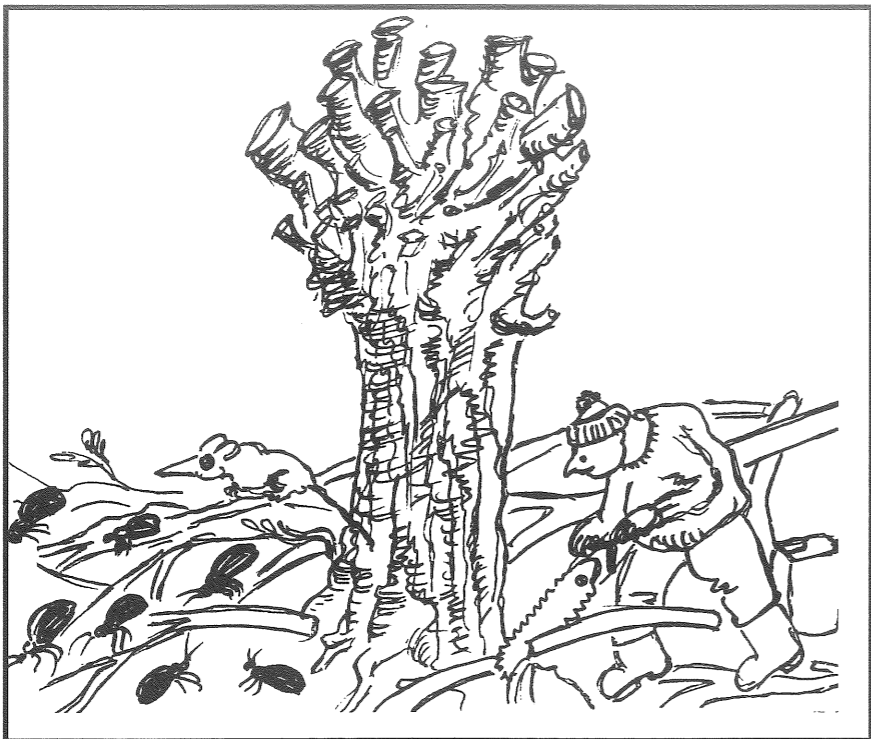
have more corn per acre than their neighbours. Nowadays all they can talk about is being able to scratch a living within the parameters of the countryside stewardship.

With less agriculture activity and even less farmers than when I started these articles, I find myself with less and less to write about, so I have sought and been granted permission from the Editors to make my articles more of 'Rouse's Ramblings' than 'Agriculture Correspondent' - a sort of 'Farmer to Rambler'.

They are going to sit back and wait for the 'flack' before commenting

any further.

It is good to see that the Bampton weightlifting club has settled in well to their new premises at the old school in Church View. Every time that I visit them they are all working very hard; they give the impression of being quiet and shy, but I can assure you that they all have the same ambition that I had when I started many years ago. An ambition that was inspired by



the inscription on a Tate & Lyle tin of golden syrup, below the picture of a sleeping lion was the inscription 'Out of the strong comes forth sweetness!'

I had a lot of fun at what was billed as 'Don's Last Bash'. It was a fantastic end to my twenty-nine years as a Barn Dance Caller. Once again Bampton's community spirit was to the fore, so much generosity and help, to say nothing of the support that was given to enable us to raise £2846.00 for equipment for our local surgery. Three of our doctors and many of the staff supported the event and witnessed the presentation of a defibrilla-

tor by the British Heart Foundation, who subscribed fifty per cent of the cost. It has been suggested that we do another one next year for the Witney Hospital as many Bamptonians spend time there. We are giving this some thought, so watch this space for the first anniversary of 'Don's Last Bash'!

Not wishing to be political, but isn't it a shame that if we want something a bit special for our community be it hospitals, schools or welfare, we have to raise the money from the private sector, though I must say that it is something that Bampton has always been good at. I remember back in the nineteen fifties when a Bampton Playing Field committee was formed - people like John Quick, George Dafter, Jack Lawrence and many others including my father raised enough money to purchase our first playing field. John Quick built the first slide and swings himself

as part of his 'Devices Dreamed up' campaign.

The Bampton Bullets cycle speedway club was formed and with the youngsters, their friends, and parents all working together the track was prepared. On race night there was more people at the track up New Road than you now see watching Oxford United! Yes Bampton has always had a generous community spirit.

A constant worry of mine is where the different organisations that we have in abundance, are going to find the next generation of officials to enable them to continue to operate after the older ones have moved on?

We in the S.P.A.J.E.Rs have just got lucky, we have acquired what I call 'The Three Musketeers', all young and vibrant people to join up with our next generation of money raisers.

I can't wait to see what the final outcome of the surroundings of the Town Hall are going to be like. I know that the plans were published in the 'Beam', but there is always a big difference between plans on paper and reality. I hope that we shall still be able to have the 'Finish' of the Shirt Race there. Already people are having a problem to find parking facilities around the Town and like myself, if you live in one of the many 'suburbs' there is no other way to get into town other than by car. I hope that the lack of parking does not put people off coming to Bampton. My entrepreneurial tendency is tempting me to set up a Park and Ride system at Lew for the benefit of those wanting to shop in Bampton!

It was nice to see the speed checking device operating in Bampton the other day. I am sure that this method of speed awareness, achieves a better response from the motorist than any of the alternative devices such as speed cameras and radar guns. These alienate the good will that should exist between the Police and Public.

I love going along to the Vesey Room at the library and browse through what one might call Bampton's heritage. The most recent one was our schools through the last century; what a wonderful job the presenters had done. But I could not help thinking that there were several years missing from the display, so chatting to people who I know went to Bampton school, I managed to unearth some more photos from 1947 - needless to say they included me! - but it got me thinking that there must be many more out there that you our readers have got stashed away which could be stored on computer as an important part of our history. If you have, please get in touch with Roy Barratt who will only need them for a couple of hours. Roy is at 12 Glebelands.

Back to farming. I thought that if I started with farming and finished with farming you would forgive Rouse's Ramblings in between.

I noticed the other day that one of our farmers was doing some pollarding of

trees in his field, so I enquired of him as to whether it was possible to purchase some of the wood. "Oh no" he replied, "as part of the Countryside Stewardship, I have to place the sawn off timber at the base of the tree to

encourage the termites. Trouble is though, two legged Termites with Chain saws come and devour it through the night!" Farming will be on my mind next time I am in Church!

SPAJERS NEWS

By Don Rouse

Since my last report we have had our Donkey Derby which was the most successful yet, both socially and in terms of profit.

I noticed that the Donkey welfare officer was there in attendance again this year, seeing that all was well for the Donkeys. He seemed not to be bothered about the welfare of the riders, so we know where his priorities lie!

We made an overall profit of £3549.00, the best ever. Many thanks to all those of you who helped in so many different ways. It is at times like this that I feel so proud to be part of Bampton.

Soon after the Donkey Derby we had our annual outing; this time the choice was Weston-Super-Mare. Once again we had room on the buses enabling us to take friends and supporters which helped subsidise the cost of the trip. It is a shame that our outing has started to clash with the Gardening Club's outings. Perhaps we should get together and talk it through so that our senior citizens can have both, instead of having to make a choice.

Josie's draw, held in the Romany on 7 November, was again a wonderful success. Everyone was so kind and generous in helping Josie raise the incredible sum of £900.00. In the past I have always said thank you to all of the helpers and I do again this time. In doing so I would like to mention Trevor and his Staff at the Romany, as well as Swanny Lane serenading us so beautifully with his special brand of 'easy listening' music. But this time I want to say a special thank you to Josie. This past year has been a very traumatic one for her, with many changes in her life being forced upon her, yet she has still been able to devote so much time and energy raising money for the benefit of our senior citizens. She is indeed one hell of a girl and an inspiration to us all!

A date for your diary should include our Quiz night which is Friday 23 April 2004. Teams of 6 to ascertain the title of Brains of Bampton.

THE MUMMERS

The Bampton Mummies will be out on parade again this Christmas eve maintaining Bampton's second oldest tradition. If you would like them to entertain at your party, please give me a ring on 850938. Once again our chosen charity is the S.P.A.J.E.Rs, so for a donation we would only too pleased to perform for you. It is always very difficult to fit everybody in at a time to suit, especially those with small children, but we will do our best.



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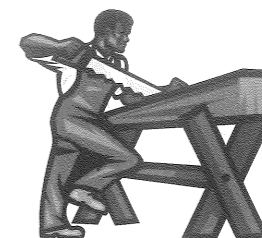
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Bampton,
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Tel: 01993 850137 E-mail: westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

Sunday 7 December

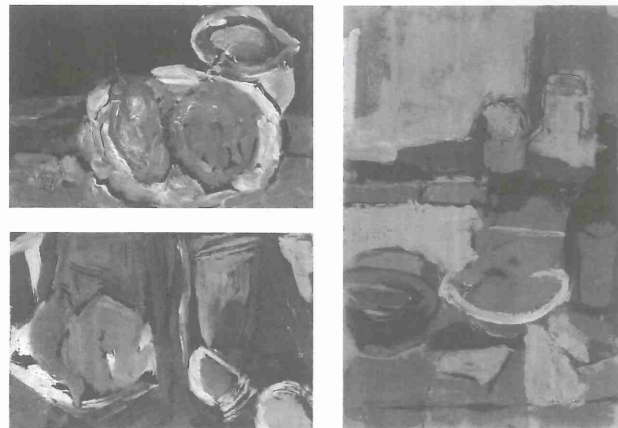
Sunday 21 December

Sunday 22 February

Sunday 7 March

STEPHEN COHN LAURA COHN PAINTINGS PRINTS DRAWINGS

The exhibition includes still-life groups, flower paintings and works from the figure. It is interesting to compare the mood and language of these two artists' paintings, a number of which originate from the same subject. Stephen Cohn, originally a sculptor, has for some time been painting and printmaking. Laura Cohn, formerly a literary editor, has been painting since the 1990s.



Tuesday 6 January

Sunday 25 January

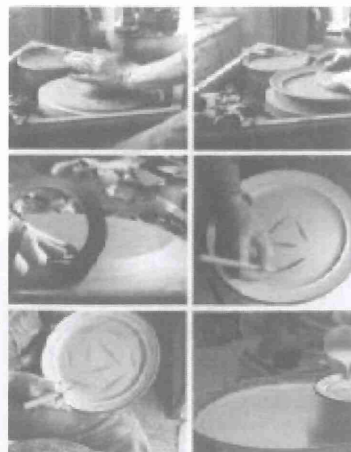
HAND TO EYE

A Southern Arts Touring Exhibition.

How do craft makers produce their work? What materials and techniques do they choose to use? This exhibition offers an insight into the creative processes employed by a selection of contemporary British makers.

Includes video presentations and interviews with the makers, finished and unfinished objects.

WOA in collaboration with West Oxfordshire District Council.



SILK & SUPPLEMENTS PRINTING & PAINT

Jill Cooper, Katherine Foster, Maxine Heenan, Alan & Martin Richardson, Caroline Somerset
Six artists using collage and mixed media of people & places, seascapes & landscapes, fauna & flowers, actual & abstract.



Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox Arts is a registered charity (no. 266542), part-funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council, and staffed by volunteers, except for its part-time administrator.

West Ox Arts is dedicated to

- Promoting participation in and appreciation of the arts and crafts in West Oxfordshire
- Supporting the area's artists and craftspeople

West Ox Arts hosts a vibrant and varied programme of over 14 exhibitions per year and provides valuable exhibition space for its members and the community. A charge is made of £150 per week or 25% on sales for members and 35% for non-members, whichever is the greater. West Ox Arts also supports exhibition space, the Robert Vesey Room at Bampton's Library, a literature group, life drawing classes, live performances in the village hall and outings with WODFAS.

WOA 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
- discounts at local art suppliers

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

Administrator Olivia Thornton will be in the gallery Tues-Thurs 10am -4pm. Please contact her if you would like to exhibit in the gallery or if you have any ideas or comments about WOA.

Friday 12 December

The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

A unique theatrical adaptation of the famous ballet.

The Nutcracker is a fantastic fairytale beginning on Christmas Eve in the happy Stahlbaum household. The tree is glowing with decorations, the gifts are piled high and plates are filled with spiced cakes, gingerbread and (of course) sugar plums. Expectation is in the air and the arrival of Godpapa Drosselmeier with his weird and wonderful presents starts a night that Marie will never forget...

A family night out, suitable for children from 6 years and above.

Friday 12 December, Bampton Village Hall, 7pm.

Licensed Bar. Tickets £5.50, £4.00 concessions (WOA members, children, students and unwaged with ID) available from The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton from 21 November. Book early to ensure a seat!

Are you sitting comfortably?

WOA always needs volunteer sitters 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 a month to support WOA in this way then please contact the Administrator Olivia Thornton for the gallery, on 01993 850137, or for the Robert Vesey Room, Barbara Daw on 01993 851491.

Robert Vesey Room Opening Hours

Monday & Thursday 2.30 - 4.30pm. Wednesday & Saturday 10am - 12noon. If you would like to book this exhibition space for a month please contact the Administrator on 01993 850137 or Ailsa Matheson on 01993 851004. The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

Friday 20 February

All Jigged Out

An evening of vibrant foot tapping music performed by this acclaimed 5 piece Celtic-jazz-funk band. All Jigged Out combine influences from Irish, Scottish and World music to create their own unique sound - described by Folk News as "an unforgettable experience". For this event we will be recreating the 'candlelit cafe-concert'



format which proved so popular at our 'Gypsies' concert last year - come along and enjoy the music over a glass of wine in an informal and friendly setting.

Friday 20 February, Bampton Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Licensed Bar Tickets £5.50, £4.00 concessions (WOA members, children, students and unwaged with ID) available from The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton from 2 February. Book early to ensure a seat!

This concert is organised and supported through South East Music Schemes and is part of FULL HOUSE, WODC's Rural Touring Arts Scheme.

The WOA Stair Lift Appeal Fund.

West Ox Arts was very excited to have received an anonymous donation of £1,000 from a local supporter, towards the £17,000 cost of our long-awaited stair-lift. We would like to thank our benefactor very much, and as a result we have decided to aim our fundraising efforts closer to home with the WOA Stair Lift Appeal Fund. Such an effort would strengthen our fundraising attempts from grant aiding charities which, so far, have not had a great deal of success.

2004 marks the full introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act, where all those who provide a service to the public, must make a reasonable attempt to provide the an equal service to those with a disability. At present WOA has no disabled access which is a constant struggle for our many elderly and disabled members and patrons.

All donations to the gallery are very gratefully received.

Gallery Life Drawing Classes

Untutored sessions take place in the gallery Monday 10am-12.30pm and Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm They are aimed at those who wish to draw without the need for guidance. These are drop-in sessions, pay as you attend. Cost: WOA members £6, non-members £7.50



Bampton Primary School

By Richard Pit, Parent Governor

Bampton Primary School continues to be a hive of activity both within the classroom and through extra curricular events organised by the ever-hard working staff and volunteers.

Last term, for example, you may have visited the school on the Open Morning held as part of the Living History Day. The theme of the day was Bampton Memories 1939 – 1945. Children and staff were dressed in period costume – the children being evacuees – and wartime schooling was very much the nature of the day. Times tables were chanted, very stern teachers had children reciting the alphabet, the ‘nit nurse’ was in attendance and air raid sirens could be heard throughout the day, with children retiring to their air raid shelters in the school hall.

Thank you to all of you who came along on the day to support the school. The children learned a lot about how things used to be, and how different going to school is today.

The historical theme has continued, as you may have noticed if you have recently visited the Bampton Museum in the Robert Vesey Room at the Library. You would have found it bustling with the school children completing a project on ‘childhood’. Thanks to the staff at the museum for their assistance to the children. Other events that have taken place are the science and nature visits to Cotswold Wildlife Park, for the younger children, and outward bounds visits to Foxcombe Woods, where the children learned to build shelters and furniture, go on nature walks and cook their own lunch on the camp fires.

This term we have just had ‘Grounds Week’ organised by Miss Soper. This was an action packed time for all of the children to work in the school grounds on varied activities such as bulb planting, how to make compost, and what kind of insects live in the grounds. Improvements to the internal school environment are also continuing apace. The computer suite has been completed, and The Club Room has been very successfully refurbished thanks to a generous contribution from FOBS and a Seed Challenge Grant, which the school won.

Academically our children continue to prosper, producing excellent results in the SATS at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2. Congratulations to the children for these results and to the staff for the very hard work that they put in. Their efforts were recognised last term when the school won a School Achievement Award from the County.

Also many, many congratulations to Mrs Pearson and Mrs Box for the achievement of the Quality Assurance Award for our Foundation Stage. It was an enormous task to collate and present the evidence of the school’s practice in this area and a fantastic testament to see that it has been independently assessed to be of a very high standard.

Finally we would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Paul Atkins who joined the teaching staff at the start of this year.

SLOW LIVING - A New Society for Bampton

A new society was conceived when two Bampton couples met by accident at the National Cheese Fair in Chipping Campden in the Autumn of 2002. One couple was thinking of starting a Wine Club and the other one suggested it would be good to also incorporate food. A meeting of 15 interested people was held just before Christmas at which 5 committee members were elected and the society was born. Only one thing remained – what to call it?

The international Slow Food movement had been started by an Italian gourmet not long before and had recently received much publicity. So the idea of Slow Living seemed appropriate for a society encompassing both food and drink. The title “Slow Living Appreciation Group” was the front-runner until someone pointed out the unfortunate acronym resulting from it. “Bampton Slow Living Society” was thought to be equally good and had the advantage of not casting any doubt on the morality of its members!

So far the society has staged 3 events, a Tapas evening with Spanish wines, an evening on the Food and Wine of Alsace and a Barbeque with a South African theme. The aim is to provide a relaxed social evening where the more unusual aspects of wine and food can be experienced. For example, the tasting of 7 Alsace wines was followed by 5 typical dishes from that part of the world. Members found it easy to try things they would otherwise find difficult to access.

BLSL meets about 5 times a year to taste various wines, spirits, beers and food on a truly international basis. Some events will be led by guest speakers but others will be fronted by our own members making maximum use of their expert knowledge.

Our programme for 2004 includes the following:

February: Home-made Bread; a demonstration by an expert baker recently seen on TV.

April: An appreciation of Australian Wine.

June: A visit to an English Vineyard.

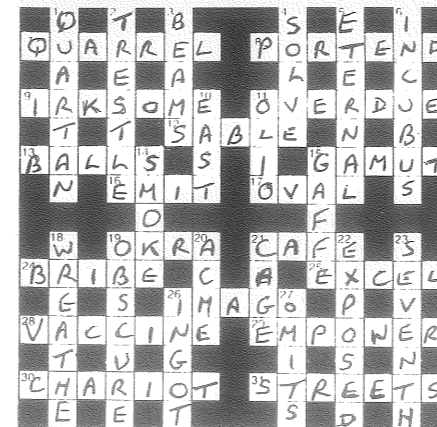
September: Authentic Spanish Sherry, a tasting sponsored by the Spanish Sherry Council.

November: Tea, Coffee and Cocoa – their intimate secrets revealed.

An appropriate fee is charged to cover the cost of each event. In addition, an annual membership fee of £10 per person is payable. Non-members are welcome at most of our events but have to pay significantly more than members.

If you would like to know more or to join us, please contact one of the following members: Ray Proctor Tel: 850479, David Pullman Tel: 850589, Cerian Walker Tel: 852361, Lesley Wareham Tel: 851963 or Geoff Woodward Tel: 850787.

Solution to the August BEAM CROSSWORD



The £10 winner for the August Crossword is Judy Dent of Aston Road, Bampton. Congratulations! We would also like to donate £10 to Cancer Research, as a thank you to Mr. Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for us to enjoy.

The Bampton Beam Adverts

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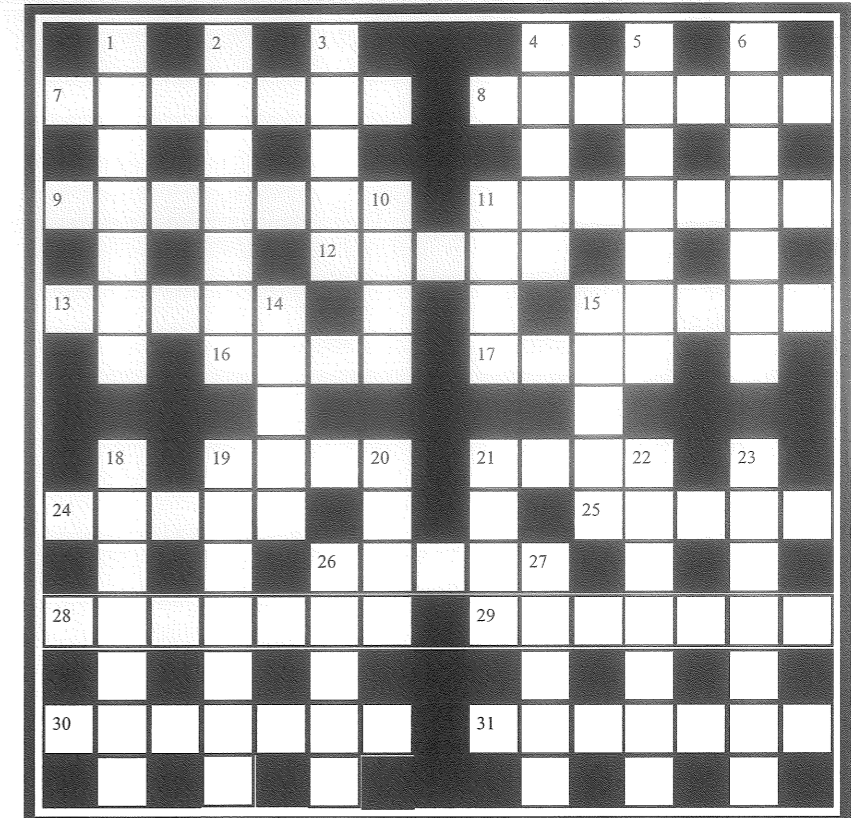
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Town Hall Bookings

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THE BAMPTON BEAM’S CROSSWORD



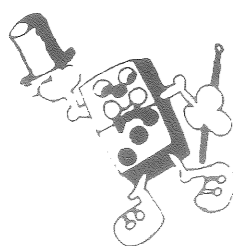
CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Authentic
- 8 To swell out
- 9 Small rounded stones
- 11 German Measles
- 12 Deputy
- 13 Sacred book
- 15 Trousers
- 16 Therefore
- 17 A sportsmans halloo
- 19 Isolated crag
- 21 Loud shout or cry
- 24 Custom
- 25 A native American tribe
- 26 Tree of Lebanon
- 28 A variety of sponge-cake
- 29 Written acknowledgement of payment
- 30 Maize or rye whisky
- 31 Obvious, palpable

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Beginning, creation
- 2 Trivial objection
- 3 Guardian spirit
- 4 Old rope
- 5 Brisk, lively
- 6 Understands clearly
- 10 Card game based on whist
- 11 Regrets
- 14 Upright
- 15 Becomes less reserved in manner
- 18 A West African stork
- 19 Sword or bayonet
- 20 South American ostrich
- 21 May be brown, kodiak, or Rupert
- 22 Freedom
- 23 Of, or like the fox
- 26 A swindler (slang)
- 27 To answer

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Calendar of Events

December

- 4th – 6th Christmas Gifts and Craft Sale, Transrural Trust, 16a Crawley Mill, Crawley
- 5th Quiz Night, Village Hall
- 7th Carols and Quiz, Methodist Chapel, The Romany, 8pm
- 12th 'The Nutcracker and the Mouse King', OTTC, Village Hall
- 11th – 13th Christmas Gifts and Craft Sale, Transrural Trust, 16a Crawley Mill, Crawley
- 13th Christmas Concert, Bridewell Organic Gardens, Witney Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 13th Outing, Gardening Club, London – Sight Seeing & Carols, Market Square,
- 19th Country & Western Dance, Cancer Research, Carterton Social Centre
- 21st Concert: 'A European Christmas', Bampton Classical Opera, St. Mary's, 7.30pm

January

- 12th – 28th Feb Exhibition 'Bampton and World War I', Bampton Museum, Robert Vesey Room

February

- 20th Concert, All Jigged Out, Village Hall, 7.30pm

April

- 23rd Quiz, SPAJERS, Village Hall

THE BAMPTON BEAM

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

Next deadline - 29th February 2004

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in *The Bampton Beam*, the editor and publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any error that may occur.

The views expressed in *The Bampton Beam* are not necessarily those of the Editor. Personal views are the responsibility of the author in each case.

The Beam Team wishes to thank The Cotton Club - quality fabric suppliers - as well as the 'Beam' letter box!

Also thanks to the **Parish Council** and all of our **advertisers** for their financial support each year.

If you wish to have *The Bampton Beam* posted to yourself or a relative or friend on a regular basis, please send your name, address and cheque (made payable to The Bampton Beam) to: The Bampton Beam, Subscriptions, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2HA.

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**West Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Services
Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Timetable**

Normal Day	Substitute Day
Thursday 25 December	Saturday 27 December
Friday 26 December	Monday 29 December
Monday 29 December	Tuesday 30 December
Tuesday 30 December	Wednesday 31 December
Wednesday 31 December	Friday 2 January
Thursday 1 January	Saturday 3 January
Friday 2 January	Monday 5 January
Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January
Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January
Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January
Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
Friday 9 January	Saturday 10 January
Monday 12 January	Back to Normal

For any queries about Environmental Services, please phone 01993 861020

Appeal

Anyone using Temples recently may have seen the sponsorship form headed 'Samantha Dickson Research Trust', which is a trust set up to help find a cure for childhood brain tumours. Laura Knight, a 15 year old who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumour, has had the tumour removed starts radiotherapy soon. At a time when she is unwell herself, she is nevertheless raising money for the Samantha Dickson Trust by having her hair shaved off. I would like to ask anyone who could help me raise money for Laura by donating prizes, gifts, time, and most of all, money, to help make her dream come true.

I hope to have a sponsored walk in January. If you would like to help Laura, please contact Richard Cooper at Temples: Tel 850877

Bampton Parish Council — Affordable Housing Survey

What is Affordable Housing?

Affordable Housing is subsidised housing. The objective is to provide housing for people whose income is not sufficient to allow them to buy or rent privately in today's inflated housing market. These subsidised houses are usually offered either to rent wholly, or part rent/part buy (called shared equity).

As you may know, the latest draft of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan contains a proposal to build 100 houses on a site in New Road. 50 of these would be 'open market' houses, sold at commercial prices, and 50 would be Affordable Houses that would go to those in housing need with the highest priority on the West Oxfordshire District Council waiting list.

About the Survey

This survey is sponsored by the Bampton Parish Council and is being sent to every household in Bampton. It consists of a simple and anonymous survey form (overleaf) which seeks to establish:

1. Whether the people of Bampton think more Affordable Housing is needed in Bampton and, if so, whether they feel some limit should be set on the number that is built.
2. What level of need there is for Affordable Housing in Bampton.

It is very important for every household in Bampton to complete this survey form so that the Parish Council can obtain a true picture of the views and needs of Bampton people in respect of Affordable Housing in Bampton. (At a later date, it is likely that West Oxfordshire District Council will follow this up with their own more detailed survey to identify the specific households in need of Affordable Housing in Bampton and how they would qualify for it.)

The Parish Council would like to stress the importance for anyone who needs Affordable Housing to put their name on the West Oxfordshire District Council Housing Waiting List.

The Parish Council would like to thank you for your co-operation in taking part in this survey. We would ask you to return your Bampton Parish Council survey form in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope not later than 31 January 2004.

David Hawkins
Chairman, Bampton Parish Council
December 2003

Affordable Housing Survey Form

(This survey form should be completed by every Bampton household.
See overleaf for information about the survey.)

1. How many people live in your household?

Adults (18+)

Children: aged 17 aged 16 aged 11-15
aged 5-10 under 5

2. Are you in favour of more Affordable Housing in Bampton? Please select one of the following options.

No,
not in
favour

Yes, but only if people
with a local connection
are given priority

Yes, for anyone
with a housing
need

3. What sort of total number of Affordable Houses would you consider reasonable in the next 10 years? Please select one of the following options.

0 up to 10 up to 25 up to 50 50+

4. Would you consider it acceptable to have a proportion of 'open market' houses included with the Affordable Houses, if this is necessary to obtain a suitable site? Yes No

5. What is the largest single development site for Affordable Houses you would find acceptable (ie based on your answer to question 4, all Affordable Houses or including some open market houses)? Please select one of the following options.

0 up to 5 up to 10 up to 20
up to 30 up to 40 up to 50 50+

6. Do you or any member of your household need Affordable Housing in Bampton? Yes No

If yes, please give the following additional information on the numbers involved:

Bedrooms required Adults (18-65). Adults (65+)

Children: aged 17 aged 16 aged 11-15

aged 5-10 under 5

7. Does any member of your close family living outside Bampton need Affordable Housing in Bampton? Yes No

If yes, please give the following additional information on the numbers involved:

Bedrooms required Adults (18-65). Adults (65+)

Children: aged 17 aged 16 aged 11-15

aged 5-10 under 5

The Parish Council thanks you for your co-operation. Please return your completed survey form in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope by 31 January 2004.