

# The Bampton Beam

DECEMBER 1991

VOL.6,NO.3

## THE RETURN OF ST. JOHN

The statue of St. John the Evangelist toppled from the church spire by the storm on 25th January 1990 was successfully replaced on 11th June 1991. An historic moment when you think that the colour of freshly carved stone was last seen there six centuries ago!

The statue has been carved in Guiting stone from the Cotswolds by the sculptor, Mr John A. Green of Washbrook in Suffolk.. Mr Green studied at the Ipswich School of Art, after having served a 5 year apprenticeship as a stonemason, and he then spent 3 years at the Royal College of Art where he was awarded a 1st Class Diploma & Silver Medal. Among his first commissions were statues for a number of new Roman Catholic churches which were being built at that time. His ecclesiastical work can be seen not only in Bushey, Herts. and Welwyn Garden City but also Sarawak, Borneo and he has carried out restoration work on monuments in various churches throughout the country.

He was an obvious choice to carve the new figure of St. John which will gaze down on Bampton over the centuries to come.

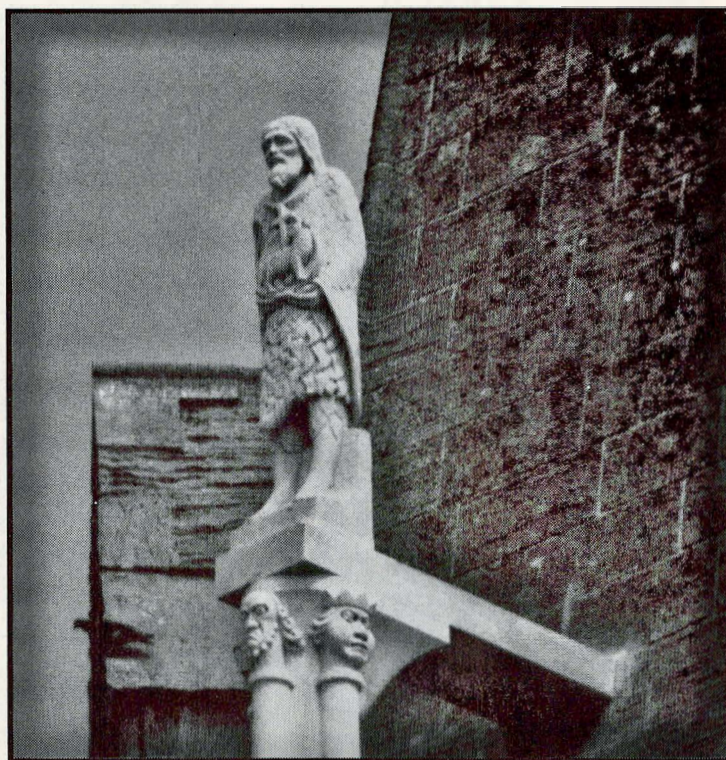


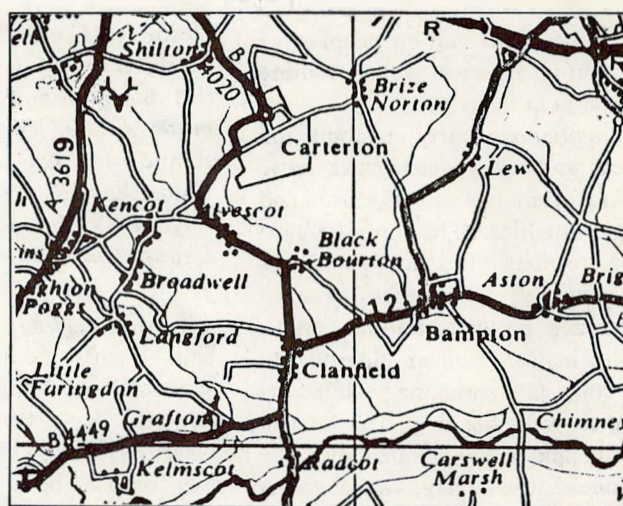
photo: Hilda Kent

## BAMPTON FIRE STATION UNDER THREAT

Our local fire station is under threat of closure because of budget cuts by Oxfordshire County Council. This is to keep our poll tax bills down (the new buzz words are 'increased efficiency') and to prevent the Council exceeding Government spending limits.

Maurice Johnson, Oxfordshire's Chief Fire Officer, argues against any charge of inefficiency. "Oxfordshire's Fire Service has and nearly always has had one of the lowest costs per head of population. It is currently 6p a day per head... The Government determines how much money Oxfordshire Fire Service should cost and we are presently spending £750,000 less than central Government considers necessary." If cuts are needed to avoid charge capping, it seems wrong to penalise those who are already well within their budget.

Bampton Fire Brigade answer approximately 180 calls a year. The station is manned, via remote paging, by sub-Officer Papworth, Leading Firemen Kew and Shuker, Firemen Smith, Pearce, Sapsford, Cooper, Beckley, Hewer and Atwood.



The area covered extends from Bampton to include Carterton, Alvescot, Langford, Little Faringdon, Kelmscot, following the river Thames through Radcot, Shifford, Aston, Cote, Lew, and Brize Norton including the RAF camp.

Turn to Page 2



## BAMPTON FIRE STATION . .

*continued from Front Page*

If the Fire Station were to close down we would be dependant on engines coming from either Faringdon or Witney. No problem, providing there were no conflicting calls, but the reduced capability could be overwhelmed by a major emergency.

The fire engine at Bampton goes out providing there are a minimum of four firemen, and even if there are only three men they can go out as an auxilliary service which may still mean that they are first on the scene. If there is a large fire, such as when the Witney Blanket Factory (now Poundstretchers) was burnt down by an arsonist, appliances are called in from as far afield as necessary; in this case from as far as Buckingham.

As well as the obvious fire-fighting roles, our firemen also assist at road accidents, they pump water away from flooded cellars. They will rescue children and old people from any potentially dangerous situation, also cows from rivers and barn fires.

Members of Bampton Fire Brigade still receive Christmas cards from the grateful coach driver whom they rescued in February 1971. An empty coach crashed into a coach full of school children at Woodman's Corner. Sadly, there were three fatalities.

In September, they were first on the scene in a simulated major emergency where three planes were supposed to have crashed at Brize Norton air base involving 180 casualties. The Bampton firemen had to start cutting people free and assessing injuries whilst waiting for medical help to arrive.

All appliances carry resuscitation equipment and all firemen have basic First Aid training in C.P.R. and handling casualties. The Fire Brigade takes on responsibility for people as well as property; often necessary since their presence portends trauma. At a recent fire in Carterton an elderly lady had left some jam simmering while she went out to walk her dog. The kitchen caught fire and a neighbour called the fire brigade. Little damage was done but the woman returned and was extremely upset and nearly fainted before the firemen managed to calm her down.

The Home Office lays down a legal limit of 20 minutes but in practice it takes the Fire Service about 10 minutes to respond to a call in a village location.

# Sub-Officer Tom Papworth

## Receiving his long service medal - 1983 from the Chairman of Public Protection Committee of Oxford



photo: Tom Papworth

Ambulances in this area have to come from Witney or Oxford and can often take longer to respond so firemen are often first on the scene of an accident.

The seriousness of the proposed budget cuts by the County Council is that, in an already cost-effective service, the solution may only lie in cutting the number of staff and engines and the closure of Fire Stations. Bampton is one of six currently threatened. If you feel that Bampton and the surrounding area needs to keep its fire service, then you should write to:-

**Councillor R. Morgan - Chairman  
Oxfordshire County Council,  
County Hall, OXFORD**

If, after reading this article, you think being a part-time fireman or fire-woman sounds rather fun, then be warned, it's not all 'Boy's Own' heroics. In 1987 Charlbury sub-Officer, John Wixey, who used to be a fireman in Bampton, was killed by an exploding gas cylinder at the scene of a fire. If, however, you feel you could be one of the special few who risk their lives to help others, then there are vacancies and, assuming we still have a Fire Station, call in to Emmie's and talk to Tom Papworth.

## A LOCAL PROFILE

### INTERVIEW BY BILLY COUNT

**TOM PAPWORTH** lives with his wife Sylvia and daughter Natasha (currently studying at Crewe College) and dog Fox. In case anyone doesn't know, he is not only the proprietor of Emmie's Newsagents in Bridge Street, but also sub-Officer in charge of Bampton Fire Station.

Tom was born in Bampton. The shop, retaining his mother's name, has been a family business back to his grand-parent's time. Tom can remember his mother with a horse and cart delivering goods to outlying villages and farms when the shop was more of a General Stores. He was educated in Bampton in the primary/secondary school complex, until passing the '13+' to attend Witney Technical School.

He is up daily at 5.30am to be ready for the arrival of the papers from Oxford. While most of us are still asleep Tom is busy sorting out papers for delivery by his team of girls and boys. Breakfast is eaten 'on the hop' as he copes with the day's influx of early customers. The morning passes sorting out magazines, seeing 'reps', checking



advice notes; "We have a minimum of 2 deliveries a day with the newspapers and then there are all the other items we carry - chocolates, toys, cards etc."

The shop closes for lunch and a well-earned rest. Afternoons are usually taken up with shelf-filling or re-arranging stock. Sylvia told me that Tom had spent all the previous afternoon changing the cards around to make room for Christmas cards and still hadn't finished. Perhaps that was because the afternoon I called to see him he'd been called out to a fire, disrupting his entire afternoon on what turned out to be a malicious hoax call in Carterton.

Tom joined the fire service in 1963 as a probationary fireman, part-time. At this stage he was working at the Market Square Garage which was handily just opposite The Fire Station located in the Town Hall. The firemen were alerted by means of a siren which always summons an admiring audience of children as well as the firemen on call.

Tom was made up to sub-Officer in charge of Bampton Fire Station in 1978 and has been awarded the 20 year 'Long Service & Good Conduct Medal' also a glass rose bowl and certificate to mark 25 years service.

Following national guidelines Tom is responsible for the training carried out

at drill night every Wednesday although senior officers come to cover specialist matters. The commitment isn't only one night a week; he can be summoned by an alerter at any time unless specifically 'off-duty'. This means that if Sylvia is out around the village she has to take the alerter so that she can get back to take over the shop. One Whitsun the alert sounded while she was watching the Morris Dancers at Oathurst. "When a call comes you have to drop everything and get to the fire station within a maximum of 5 minutes. Poor Sylvia had to run like a professional ..."

Tom used to play football and cricket and is pleased to see them still going and reforming, but he would like to see more facilities for the youngsters of the village, perhaps to extend the Youth Club service. In his spare time, when not working on shop accounts, Tom is keen on DIY and a perfectionist. He is also a ardent follower of motor racing and has made the pilgrimage up to Silverstone to watch Nigel Mansell win the British Grand Prix.

There have been many changes in Bampton during his lifetime and the population has grown especially in the past few years. Tom commented, "When I was young I knew everyone in Bampton, now I know less than half."

## STOP PRESS

More than £1700 was raised by Bampton Firemen from a one day street collection on Saturday, 16th November in aid of The Children in Need Appeal.



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## GIRL GUIDES IN BAMPTON



Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Scout movement initiated the Guides when he noticed a number of girls wanting to do the same things as the boys. In 1910, the first Girl Guides came into being and in 1914, the first Brownies were formed. They were called Rosebuds to start with, but no-one liked the name!

The movement has grown over the years and now there are Rangers, Guides and Brownies in most countries of the world. A new idea for 5 to 7 year olds is Rainbow Guides and there is also a Trefoil Guild for retired guide leaders to keep up with old friends and new developments.

The Guides these days still do the same things their great-grandmothers did, and more. They still go camping and hiking, have fun at meetings and learn new skills to pass badges. They are also aware of the problems which face people today, and are concerned about the environment. The uniform was modernised last year and the girls all seem to approve of the changes.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all the past Guiders, who gave so generously of their time and expertise in the early days. New recruits are urgently needed so that present day girls can continue to learn new skills and enjoy the comradeship of the Guide movement.

Oxfordshire has a very active Guide and Scout presence therefore it is a shame that the Guide and Brownie packs have closed in Bampton. This is not from lack of interest by the children but because no adults can be found with the time and enthusiasm to be the Leaders. It is hard work but fun and very rewarding.

As far as most people can remember the Bampton Guide and Brownie packs were formed in 1949 by Mrs Margery Bullen who ran them for 10 years with the help of Mrs Ewings and Eileen Graham. Mrs Jeanne Gascoigne took over the Guides in 1964 and was their leader until 1978.

Mrs Meg Daley has been running the Brownies for the past few years assisted



photo: Mrs M. Bullen

by Miss Elizabeth Tanner who was Lieutenant of the Guides before that. Mrs Mavis Clack and the late Mrs Margaret Wythes were Brown Owl and Tawny Owl in the 1970's and before that Mrs Ham, Mrs Dora Ewings and Mrs Lyn Barber ran the 1st Bampton Brownies.

I would like to thank all the past Guiders in Bampton, who have given their time and energy to the girls, and who will not be forgotten and hope to hear from anyone interested in taking on the task.

**Mrs Jenny Izzard,**  
Bampton District Commissioner.  
38 Witney Road, Ducklington  
Witney, Oxon Tel: 703473

*(If anyone has memories of the Guides and Brownies in Bampton prior to 1950, the Editor would be very glad to hear from them. Old photographs and pack records would also be of interest.)*

**Remembrance Sunday 1950**  
Ann Spurrett, Dinah Dafter  
(colour bearer) & Barbara Green.

**Blenheim Palace 1955.**  
Mrs Bullen and Mrs Ewings  
meet Lady Baden Powell at  
a Guide Rally



photo: Mrs M. Bullen

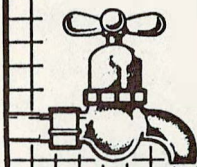


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# MEGASTORE MENACE

by DAVID HIDE - Regional Corporate Affairs Manager  
Girobank (South West Region)

The threat to small shops in rural areas from the out-of town megastores and "malls" is now reaching such a level, according to a recent report, that their very future is at stake. The report, by the market research organisation Verdict, has revealed that, from 147,000 village shops thirty years ago, there are now only 39,000 left. Clearly, the effect is likely to be felt most sharply in rural counties like Oxfordshire.

And, as the closure of village shops, the local school and the village pub seem to follow one after the other, the decline of public transport means that many rural residents, particularly the elderly, are becoming increasingly isolated.

The major banks, under pressure to cut costs, are closing many of their small, unprofitable branches and transferring those accounts to branches in nearby towns.

The primary responsibility for this gloomy trend lies with villagers themselves, including those in the South West. Rural customers, according to Verdict, are twice as likely as city dwellers to say that local shops are part of the community. Yet the very people who complain about the lack of facilities in their villages are invariably the ones who make a weekly journey by car to the nearest town to do their main shopping at the supermarket and cash their cheques at one of the major bank branches.

The local post office and shop, if it is to survive, must attract more trade than the occasional loaf of bread and a book of stamps at the counter. All the major banks have closed branches in Oxfordshire this year, often to howls of protest by enraged villagers who complain that there will no longer be a bank in their village. Yet in all the communities so affected, there is a post office which doubles as a perfectly good bank. Girobank customers will testify to a level of service at their local post office every bit as good as that provided by one of the Big Four.

In Bampton, where the Barclays Bank has closed recently, sub-postmaster Mr David Stevens has been actively



photo: Christopher Love

"Cheers! The drinks are on Mr David Stevens and his wife, Jill, thanks to Mr Kevin Carter, post office services manager for Girobank, who presented the couple with a case of wine. The sub-postmaster at Bampton, Mr Stevens, won the prize after his name came out of the hat in a monthly draw for all sub-postmasters eligible under a scheme which pays a bonus for every account opened. Mr Stevens said: "The wine was a lovely surprise. We are always keen to make our customers aware of the benefits of a Girobank account.""

*Reprinted from The Witney Gazette 12.9.91.*

encouraging both personal and business customers to consider opening a Girobank account at his post office, which is open long hours during the week and on Saturday mornings.

Mr Stevens said: "The Barclay Bank closure has certainly highlighted the convenience of Girobank. Many shopkeepers did not realise they could pay their takings into a post office and then use the funds to make payments or transfer them to another account, at a very competitive price."

The message to those who live in rural communities is clear: those who wish local services to remain local should use them as a first, and not a last, resort.



**Girobank**

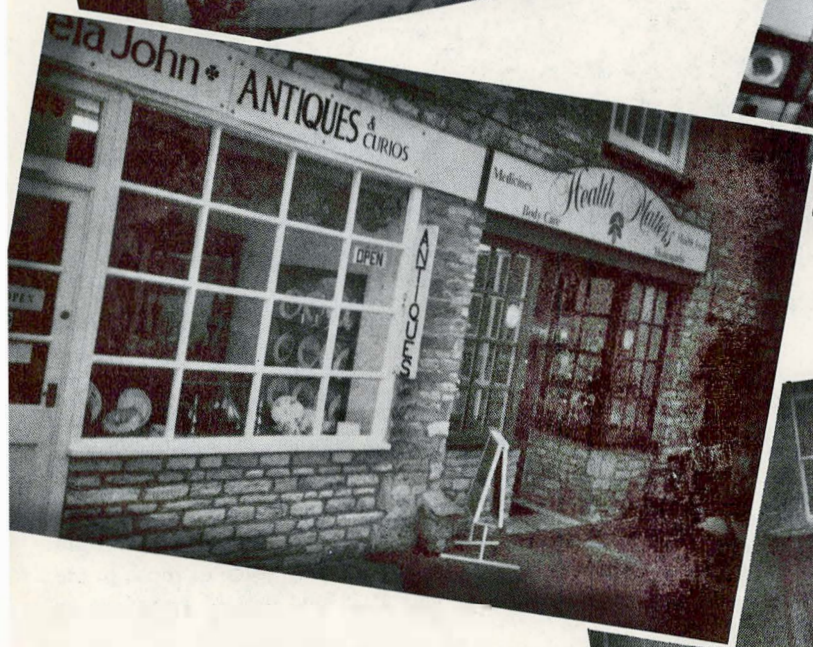
**Are local bank closures causing you a problem?**

The answer could be at your local post offices – why not ask for further details on how Girobank could be the answer?



## VILLAGE SHOPS

### USE THEM OR LOSE THEM



Photographs: J. Phillips



## SWIMMING POOL REPAIRS

Dear Sir,

Some years ago, Bampton parents got to-gether to raise money for a swimming pool at the Primary School. They then spent many evenings and weekends labouring to build it. Thanks to these enthusiastic people, many children have, over the years, enjoyed the pool and learned to swim.

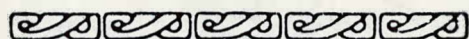
The pool is now in urgent need of refurbishment. An Appeal was launched in April 1991 and £1500 has already been raised, but this is far short of our £7000 target and **WE NEED WILLING HANDS AND DONATIONS!**

An Open Meeting has been arranged for 15th January 1992 at 8.00pm in The Gallery, The Town Hall.

If you are interested in the survival of the pool, please come along. If you would like further information, or wish to send a donation, please contact:- Linden Burley Tel: 850793 or Di O'Brien Tel: 850188.

Bampton people have always been generous and I am sure they will not let future children lose this valuable and much needed facility.

Yours faithfully, Linden Burley  
Secretary, Swimming Pool Appeal



## THE EDITOR'S THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped with the Bampton Beam this year; the Parish Council and Pye Charities who gave us grants, the people who advertised their businesses, and ORCC who continue to give free advice, training and encouragement to editors!

The staff at Evenlode Press, Witney and Parchment (Oxford) Ltd. are always helpful and patient in ironing out the technical problems. Thanks too to the contributors of articles, photographs, illustrations and cartoons and those who take the time and trouble to deliver the Beam to every household in Bampton.

A special thank-you again to The Cotton Club which kindly allows us to use its address as a mail box. And finally, I would like to thank Billy Count, Jinnie Brown and my husband, Jonathan, without whose support and help there would be no Beam!

Susan Phillips, Editor

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

## W.I./VILLAGE HALL

Dear Editor,

Further to Hilda Pickard's fascinating article in the August issue of The Beam, I have a copy of the Conveyance of the Village Hall building to the W.I. Trustees dated 12th March 1923 for the sum of £150.

Hilda Pickard's article also refers to the conversion of the building by Mr. Green the builder. There is still a cast iron manhole cover at the rear of the hall bearing the inscription: "E.J. Green Builder, Gothurst, Bampton".

Yours etc., Peter Dainty, Chairman,  
Village Hall Committee

## ROAD HUMPS IN BAMPTON

Dear Editor,

According to reports in the local papers other villages in Oxfordshire are now to have road humps to check speeding traffic.

Would the Chairman of Bampton Parish Council please let us know what steps are being taken to put pressure on the Highway Authority to include Bampton in this programme at an early date.

As the years go by the traffic increases in volume and also in speed. Anyone living on the main roads will confirm that much of it coming into the village slows only as it reaches the roundabout in the centre, while it picks up speed again on the way out, drivers putting the foot down at 'Emmie's' for the straight mile dash to Clanfield.

Yours, Raynald Franks

Stable Cottage, Weald Manor

See **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS** p14



photo: J.W. Morton

## FACES FROM THE PAST

Editor Sir or Madam,

I very much look forward to reading the Bampton Beam, being an old Bamptonian! My eldest sister, Mrs Waite, sends me a copy, I also have another sister, Mrs Dafter, and many old friends still living in Bampton, not forgetting an old Aunt, known by many as Aunt Nellie.

Could you possibly enter a print of the enclosed photograph in a future edition? I am hoping there may be some people who may be able to help identify some of those in the group, and possibly where it was taken. The year was 1931 and those I know are as follows:-

Bert & Perce Saunders, Harold Waite, Mr & Mrs Roberts & Peggy, Mr Teddy Green, Mr T.A. Constable, Mr Alic Townsend.

Can any of your readers put names to the others? I do hope so.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully, J.W. Morton,  
Chippenham, Wilts. SN15 4BH





## LEST WE FORGET

I wonder how many people are still reading this after reading the title. (Oh no here comes the annual war story). Well, of course it is true that the Royal British Legion was formed after the First World War, and later embraced the Second. But there are some members that didn't fight in either of the World Wars. In fact my own memories of the Second War were nearly all happy ones, playing on bomb sites, and counting the aircraft taking off from Colerne, and working out from the formation gaps the next morning how many had been lost in battle, was great fun to a six year old.

But of course there have been other campaigns - Korea, Burma, Cyprus, Aden and of course the Falklands and now Iraq. So there are still many reasons and many comrades to remember.

We at Bampton have had a British Legion Branch since the First War, including a Women's Section. These years are recognised by the yellow tassles on the banner that I have the

privilege to carry on parade each Armistice Sunday, and on other occasions during the year. The membership has never been dramatic, but has always maintained a good average over the years. Unfortunately, like the Legion some of the war veterans are now getting a little older and a little slower. You'll note our march to church on November 10th was at about half pace! I hope you are still with me as now comes the sting in the tail!

Basically we would like to invite more members into our fold. The fee is £3.50 a year plus £1.50 towards local club funds (if you wish to contribute to this). You will get a quarterly magazine from the Legion, with useful information and offers about the Legion. The Legion is affiliated to all Legion clubs throughout the world - I find it very useful in Canada, where the Legion makes you very welcome. We also have a few local get-togethers, for a beer and chat, or visits to interesting places - recently to Brize - in essence to do what all old Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen usually do. So why not give us a ring and join up? See you on parade.

Best regards, Fred Loxton,  
Ex Rigger R.A.F.



## MEALS ON WHEELS

Do you have an hour or two to spare each month?

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## BAMPTON YOUTH CENTRE

The Youth Centre is now entering its seventh year of operation - providing a meeting place for the various organisations in Bampton which cater for the young people of the village. The Centre receives financial support from the local authorities but still relies very much on the generosity of the people of Bampton and, in particular, on regular grants from the Bampton 250 Club.

Its spacious main hall, ample car parking area and modest charges make it an ideal venue for group functions or private parties.

*Booking should be made with Liz Banham Tel: 850019 - but hurry for Christmas!*

*For general enquiries contact the Secretary, Colin Allport Tel: 850411.*

It is sad to announce that 'Music Originals' and the Children's Drama Group will not be continuing next year. If anyone feels that they could undertake similar activities in music, dance or drama we would be most grateful if they would contact the Secretary.

## BAMPTON WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Meetings are held in the Bampton Village Hall at 7.15 for 7.30pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

We have a full and varied programme of interesting speakers. The business part of the meeting is interesting too, with opportunity to discuss Local, National and International issues. We enjoy 2 or 3 outings a year. Recently we have been to Cadbury's Chocolate World and to Highclere Castle, and some members visited the Houses of Parliament and the Commonwealth Fair in Kensington.

If you are interested, why not come along to one of our meetings? You will be most welcome.

## THE BAMPTON BEAM OPEN EDITORIAL MEETING

THE GALLERY, THE TOWN HALL  
8.00pm, WEDNESDAY 19th FEB

Another opportunity for you to come with ideas and comments. As no-one turned up last time we took it as a compliment that there was no criticism - however practical offers of help would have been appreciated!

## BAMPTON CRICKET CLUB

By and large the club had a passable season, bearing in mind they were devoid of a pitch and therefore led a nomadic existence. However, the new pitch off Mount Owen Road is looking good, thanks to Christopher Lewis and Chris Collet and with ideal weather for the grass sowing. Adrian Richardson, Headmaster of Cothill School has kindly agreed to let us have some old school rooms, which will convert into an ideal pavilion.

A wine tasting was held in the Town Hall in October by courtesy of Michael Druce of Saltmarsh and Druce raising £100 for club funds.

The AGM is scheduled for Friday, 13th December in the Town Hall at 7.00pm and a Cricket Dinner is being planned for January 1992. Next season we hope to field 2 under 13 teams as well as Senior and Junior teams.



## BAMPTON WIVES CLUB

The Club was formed 18 years for wives to enjoy an informal evening out together once a month. Nowadays members can be married or single and the annual fee is £5.00.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm. A talk or demonstration is usually arranged and occasionally an outing (sometimes a small extra charge for transport).

Our future programme includes:-  
11th Dec "At Home" Pot Luck Supper  
15th Jan Members New Year Party  
19th Feb The Entertainers  
(NOT The Chippendales!)

If you think you would enjoy our friendly relaxed company, please come and join us. Why not try for one evening?

Guest membership £1.00.



# Notice

Please submit items for the Not  
together with a p



## THE JILL SCHOOL

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## THE BAMPTON SCOUTS

The local movement is growing in strength and range of interests and there were successful Summer Camps for the Scouts at Chalfont Heights and for the Cubs at Youlbury. The Beavers enjoyed a visit to the Blue Cross Animal Rescue Centre at Burford.

A joint indoor camp is planned in November or December and a Christmas Party/Disco will be held on Friday, 6th December.

Plans are being made to restart the Venture Scouts and a leader is urgently needed - no experience needed just a good measure of enthusiasm. We are also appealing for a new leader for the Cubs or help to relieve the pressure on the present Scout leaders.

Anyone interested in any of these activities should contact the Group Scout Leader:

**Leslie Harrison Tel: 773916**

or Scout Leader:

**Paul Tomlin Tel: 843942**

or Beaver Leader,

**Mrs B Heaton Tel: 706020.**



**Christmas Card Delivery**  
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# Board



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## STEW DANCE

Stew

1 - from 3 years  
AGE HALL  
oons 2.30 pm

All Enquiries: Jill Stew  
37 Ducklington Lane, Witney  
Tel: 703286



## BAMPTON DRAMA GROUP

Have you heard the rumours?

No panto next year!

If this news has cast a cloud over 1992  
for you -

stop worrying now because  
**BAMPTON DRAMA GROUP**  
is pleased to announce its  
**NEW YEAR REVUE**

A gala occasion to celebrate our entry  
into Europe, 8 years to the 21st century  
and anything else we can think of.  
"This promises to be the biggest 'Rave'  
of next year."

Performances in Bampton Village  
Hall on 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th January  
at 8.00pm for an 8.30 start.

Cabaret atmosphere! Come prepared for  
anything! See you there!

A Bientot! Auf Wiedersehen!

Hasta la Vista! etc. ecu. erm.

If you missed the audition for those who  
could dance, sing, act, recite, conjure,  
juggle, contort their bodies or throw  
their voices, you are still welcome to  
contact Trevor Milne-Day Tel: 850293.

## THE BAMPTON YOUTH CLUB

The Club continues to flourish with  
twice weekly activities for the young  
folk and occasional outings during the  
summer months. With larger numbers  
and very welcome additional offers of  
adult help it will now be possible to  
separate the age groups.

Starting on 6th January 1992 there  
will be a Junior Session from 6.00 to  
8.00pm and a Senior Session from  
8.00 to 10.00pm.

For further details please contact :-  
Chris Connaughton Tel: 850010

## S.P.A.J.E.R.S.

As 1991 draws to a close the Committee  
can look back on another very successful  
year raising money to be spent on the  
pensioners, thanks to the generosity and  
support of the people of Bampton.

The usual mixture of Pensioners' Party;  
Shirt Race; Pensioners' Outing, Donkey  
Derby & Fete and the Autumn Ball, has  
been supplemented this year by the  
Sponsored Parachute Jump in May,  
which, thanks to the Weller brothers and  
John Smith, provided a most welcome  
injection of funds. This will greatly  
assist us to keep the Christmas Pay Out  
at £10 per head for each of the 360+  
pensioners in the village.

Another 'first' this year, was the  
inclusion of a third category of compet-  
itors in the Shirt Race held annually on  
Spring Bank Holiday Saturday. The  
'Intermediate' section, for Secondary  
School Children proved popular, and we  
hope will continue to do so next year.

The Committee is always keen to be told  
of anybody who has become eligible to  
be included on our list - now  
computerized!

*Please give details to the Secretary,  
Alan Gaydon, 3 Broad Street.*

Anyone who would like to help at our  
various events during the year, or has  
suggestions for improving them, should  
also contact the Secretary. In particular,  
we are hoping to include one new &  
original fund raising event in our 1992  
programme. Have YOU any ideas?

Once again a great big **THANK YOU**  
to all our supporters.

What would we do without you?!

## PATCHWORK & QUILTING

A small group of enthusiasts meets  
regularly in Bampton.

Beginners are always very welcome.

For details please contact:

Kari Rossie Tel: 850764



## DAY & PARTNERS SURGERY

The veterinary practice visits  
the Youth Centre forecourt,  
Bampton on Tuesday mornings.

Please telephone  
Faringdon surgery  
for an appointment  
Tel: (0367) 242777



## BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP

In its third year the BEWG has 108  
members (19 have joined this year). It  
continues its vigilance over new  
developments and planning in the  
Bampton area and has made strong  
representation to the local planning  
authority. Three open meetings have  
been well attended and more have been  
arranged for April 29th, July 29th and  
October 28th 1992. Details will be  
publicised in the next issue of The  
Beam.

In May BEWG involved the Primary  
School in National Environment Week  
and the Open Meeting in April will take  
place at the school when children and  
teachers will present their environment  
programme.

Surveillance of footpaths has been a  
very successful enterprise. Regular  
walkers report on their condition and  
accessibility. Oxfordshire County  
Council has deemed Bampton a priority  
area and has provided substantial help in  
the clearing of the long path between the  
Buckland Road and Thames. A bridge  
on the Plantation path and two styles on  
the Landells path have been repaired.

We are particularly grateful to Don  
Rouse for the splendid talk he gave in  
October, a tour de force evoking vivid  
pictures of life in Bampton before,  
during and after the war and inevitably  
projecting the contrast between the  
landscape and life then with what we  
know today.

## BADMINTON

The Club meets on Tuesday mornings at  
Bampton Village Hall from 10.00am to  
midday.

Beginners welcome!

For further information, please  
contact: Marian Goldring Tel: 850324.



# VIEWS

# REVIEWS

# REVIEWS

## "PATHFINDER BENNETT, AIRMAN EXTRAORDINARY"

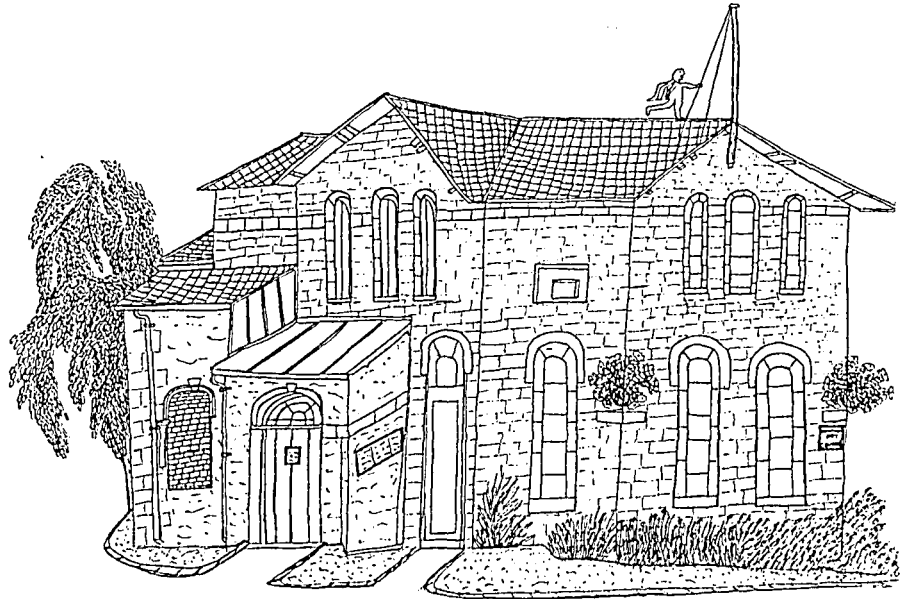
by A.S. JACKSON

Published by Terence Dalton price £17.95

Fifty years ago the author, then stationed at Brize Norton, was seconded to British Overseas Airways to operate flying boats to West Africa and the East. At about that time a distinguished airline pilot Donald Bennett, re-entered the RAF after organising the delivery of Lockheed Hudsons and B.24 Liberators across the North Atlantic. A first class navigator he urged Bomber Command to place the responsibility for illuminating German targets upon a group of the most skilled crews. Thus the Pathfinder Force under Bennett's own leadership was born. By then he had commanded a Halifax squadron and had escaped from Norway after being shot down during attack on the "Tirpitz".

After the war and a short period as a Liberal M.P. Bennett organised British South American Airways, recruiting many Pathfinder pilots and also the author, who had returned to Chile to fly for their national airline. The company was dogged by accidents and the unexplained disappearance of a Tudor en route to Bermuda resulted in Bennetts dismissal. His own complete faith in the airliner was expressed by his new company's successful operations on the Berlin airlift and afterwards on charter operations.

The author, who lives in Bampton, retired from British Airways in 1976 after 36 years as a pilot. Subsequently he obtained an honours degree in Modern History at Oxford University. Thereafter he worked as a tutor and latterly as college librarian. Previous books include "Both Feet in the Air". In 1992 a history of Imperial Airways and the first British airlines will be published.



## The Gallery, The Town Hall, Bampton by Joan (Moley) Stevens -- An Exhibition of her work

*Sunday, 12th January to -  
- Sunday, 2nd February*

This is a unique opportunity to see the full range of work of a most unusual and gifted lady. Her drawings are of village life in Bampton, all are collectable and affordable, and show her strong and irreverent sense of humour.

Joan, until her death in 1989, was a stalwart supporter of Bampton Drama Group, Bampton Cricket Club and of West Oxfordshire Arts Association. She is greatly missed.

\* \* \*

## THE RICH and RARE

*Sunday, 9th February -  
Sunday, 8th March*

An exhibition of work by thirty-five master craftsmen in the U.K.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS PAGE  
WOULD BE MOST WELCOME AT  
ANY TIME - Information, Reviews,  
Photographs, Artwork of any kind**

**REALTIME**  
• d • e • s • i • g • n •

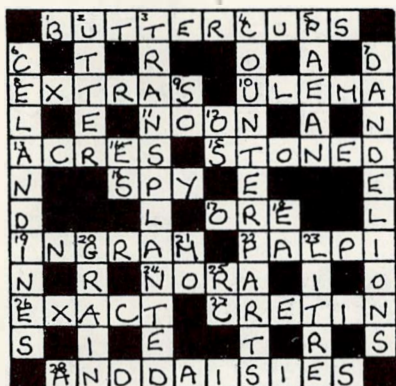
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*Solution to*  
**BEAM PRIZE CROSSWORD**  
*August 1991*



Correct solutions received from:-

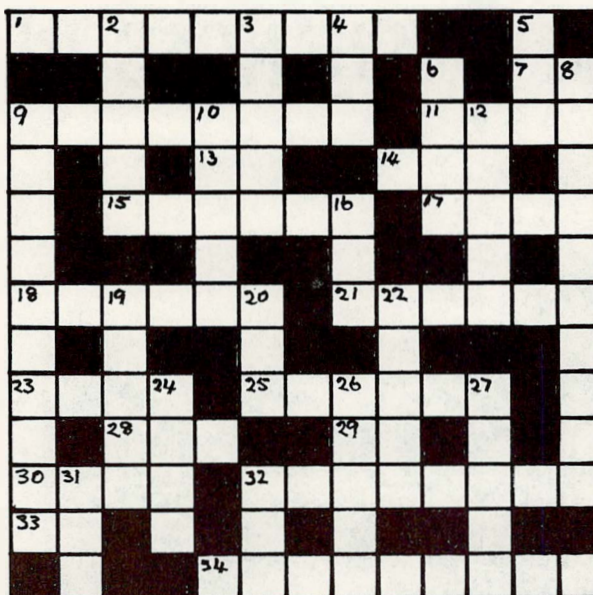
Mrs A. Marsh, Bampton  
 Mrs K. Young, Clanfield  
 Hazel Goldman, Brize Norton  
 Mr R.J. Terry, Bampton  
 B.T. George, Bampton  
 Alan Gaydon, Bampton  
 Mrs E. MacDonald, Bampton  
 The £5 prize has been won  
 by B.T. George

The puzzle in this edition is one of 18 compiled by Les Caddy before he died. They have been meticulously drawn out on graph paper in order to be 'camera ready' as he knew only too well what a time consuming job this was.

In his memory, The Beam will send a donation of £5 to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund each time it prints one of his crossword puzzles.

# The Bampton Beam's Own Prize Crossword

£5 cash prize for the first correct puzzle opened on 15th January 1992.



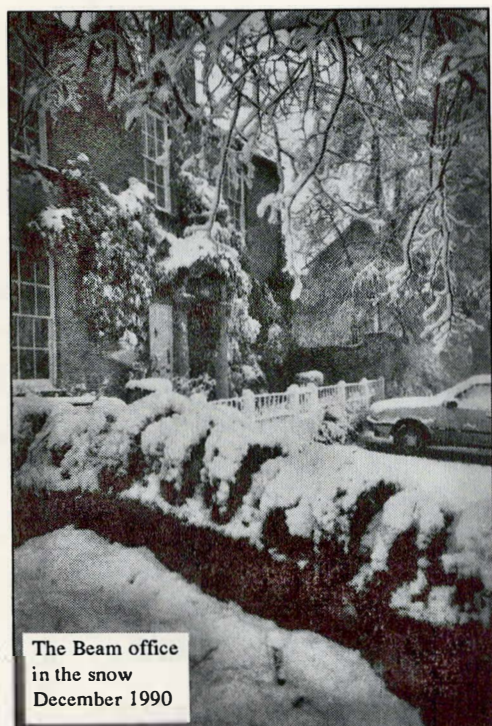
The solution will be published in the next issue; if you can't wait until then, send a sae with your entry to The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bampton.

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1 Part
- 7 Current
- 9 Official on a ship or in a regiment
- 11 Emblem
- 13 Direction
- 14 Animal
- 15 Trainees
- 17 Sustain
- 18 Pointer
- 21 Inventor
- 23 Part of the face
- 25 Lobe
- 28 Observe
- 29 Exclamation of surprise
- 30 Duration
- 32 Suspension
- 33 Los Angeles
- 34 Pompous

**CLUES DOWN**

- 2 Copy
- 3 Girl's name
- 4 Union
- 5 Dip
- 6 Spill
- 8 Counterbalance
- 9 Synthetic
- 10 Improper
- 12 Monsters
- 16 Girls's name
- 19 Clamour
- 20 Boy's name
- 22 To retard
- 24 Secluded retreat
- 26 Few
- 27 Annual entertain-ment
- 31 Talk idly
- 32 Come up for it



The Beam office  
 in the snow  
 December 1990

photo: Jinnie Brown

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# TROUBLESOME TREES - 1981

an excerpt from the childrens' newspaper THE  
BAMPTON ASTON CARTERTON & CLANFIELD  
SUMMER INQUIRER 1981

## BEWARE ! CHANGES IN BAMPTON

M.PHILLIPS & A.JORGENSEN

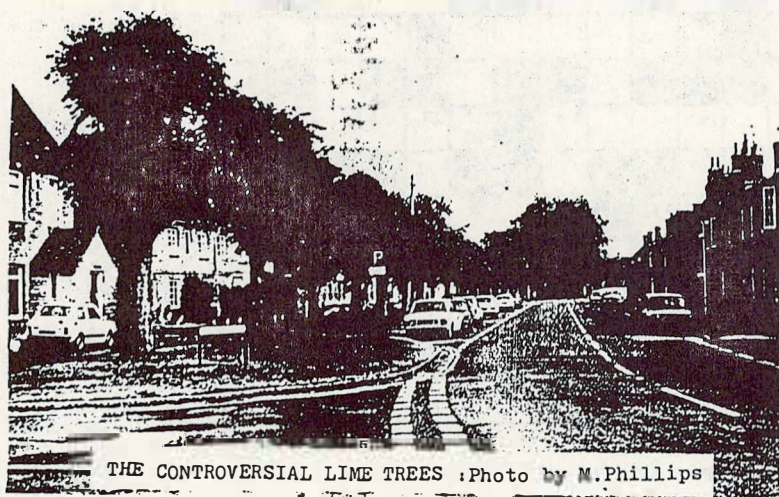
In this era of swelling population and an ever increasing demand for new accomodation the 'beauty spots' and places of historical interest can easily be 'distorted' and sometimes 'ruined'.

Luckily, in most of these places people have forseen the imminent problem and taken action immediately. BAMPTON fell into this catagory and in 1976 became a 'CONSERVATION AREA!'

Conservation areas are legally protected from major 'distortion', this isn't to say that nothing can be built; as it is only natural that a growing community should have to expand, but this expansion must be controlled. The 'conservation areas' have legal rules, saying that nothing should be removed or altered in any way whatsoever without legal permission. Thus it is much harder to obtain planning permission etc.... in BAMPTON than it was before 1976.

In March this year the Bampton Parish council asked a local odd-job man to pollard the the row of lime trees along Broad street, as they had received some complaints by some Broad street householders that the trees were blocking the light from their houses. The odd-job man had done the trees seven years ago and so got on with it. However the chief planning officer said that the parish council had committed an offence, he said that they had not asked for permission from the planning council and as the job was done in the Bampton conservation area they had broken the rules.

This event just shows what the conservation area does, permission has to be gained from the planning office for even the smallest change in the conservation area.



## AND 10 YEARS ON - 1991

The Broad Street lime trees are in the news yet again as WODC attempts to put a tree preservation order on them.

As a result of pollarding this year, the District Council took the Parish Council to court and at the hearing in the Witney Magistrate's Court in August, the Council was found guilty on a minor technical offence under the law, and for which the Magistrate imposed no fine!

The residents of Broad Street complain that the trees cut out light from their houses and cause problems with the sticky mess deposited on parked cars. The Parish Council is in favour of keeping control of the trees and at some future date perhaps replacing them with something more suitable. The following letter explaining the situation has been sent to all Broad Street residents.

'The Parish Council is writing to inform you that the West Oxfordshire District Council has given its officers permission to apply for a preservation order for the lime trees in Broad Street.

Although this only enforces their current

powers, effectively it will mean that unless the tree is unsafe, no replacement can ever be made. In the Parish Council's opinion WODC will never allow full pollarding again which will mean that selective pruning will be the only option.

The cost of this pruning may become too great for the Parish, and therefore the responsibility for the maintenance of the trees will revert to the County Council Highways Department. The County are not obliged to do any work to these trees unless they become a hazard to traffic.

A recent independent report obtained by the Parish Council, recommends replacement of these trees as they are unsuitable for the situation they are planted in. The Parish Council has therefore asked the County Council to provide advice on the visual and cost implications of a possible replacement programme. Also assessments are being made on future maintenance costs for the lime trees. . . '

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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



## APPROVAL AT LAST

Another hurdle was overcome on 19th November when West Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission (subject to a satisfactory 106 Agreement) for the low-cost housing scheme off New Road.

The seemingly endless delays have been caused because this is the first scheme of its kind in Oxfordshire and the largest in the whole country. Everyone involved is anxious to get it right from the start and not to make costly mistakes which could have serious consequences on plans for low-cost housing in the future.

## RECYCLING MATTERS

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 now makes it obligatory for local councils to make plans to recycle household waste. Lets hope WODC does not spend all the extra cash on planning committees and project studies! As can be seen by the 'over-flowing' success of the Bottle Banks, the public is more than willing to do its part in a recycling scheme!

(If, as reported in the press, Alcan in Birmingham is prepared to pay 1p per can, why doesn't every school in Oxfordshire have a can bank in its playground and reap the obvious rewards of recycling? Ed.)

## ROAD HUMPS ETC. - Exerpts from The Parish Council Minutes 25.9.91

"Mr David Hook, the Oxfordshire County Engineer & Surveyor was present by invitation of the Council to discuss the various problems in the village ... Excessive speeds of traffic on the main road presents a potential hazard to vehicles leaving Weald Street, where visibility is also restricted. Calming methods such as road humps would not be allowed as this is an A Class road, for the same reason rumble strips would not be allowed ... In order to slow the traffic speeds consideration will be given moving the 30 mph signs further out of the village.

The need for traffic calming methods to reduce speeds is required in New Road, especially in view of the new housing estate now under consideration. No accidents have been reported along this road and therefore any request for road humps would not be justified, although it might be possible for the Parish Council to press this matter on its own accord and fund such a scheme."

*(How about taking action BEFORE someone is maimed or killed! Ed.)*

"Visibility for vehicles leaving New Road and entering Broad Street is greatly restricted due to parked cars. A scheme which might include a small roundabout, a new footpath to the new surgery, and improvement to Windmill Corner will be considered."

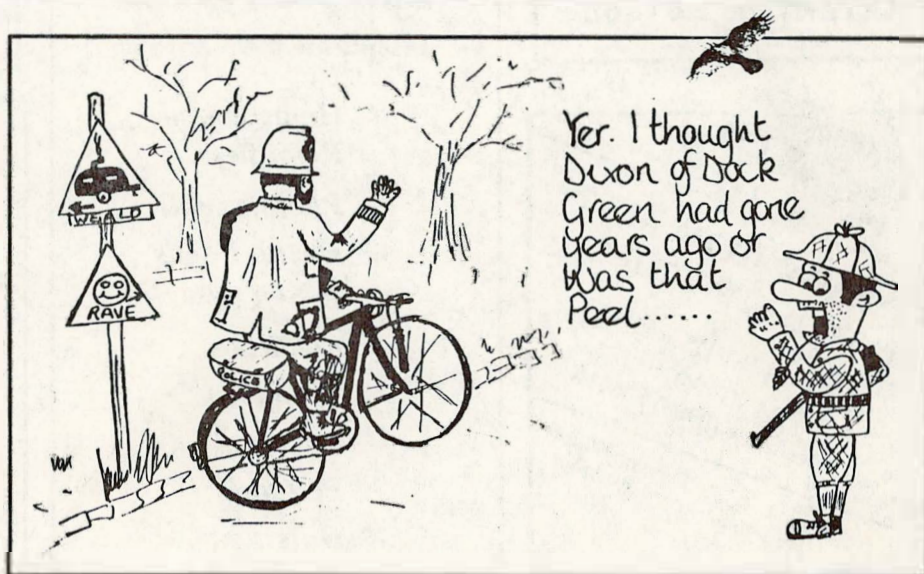
## SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



"Will Bampton have a Mayor before the turn of the century?" asked Watson. "What!" exclaimed his friend, "and become like the French?" "Why not," said Watson, "if it means that Bampton has more say in running its own affairs! More people would vote in Parish Council elections, that's for sure." "A good point," replied Sherlock Holmes "and the cost would be less than £7 a vote as it was in the last election."

"If we are to lose one tier of local government, as has been suggested, which do you think should go?" "Certainly not the Parish Council," said Watson, "that should have greatly enhanced powers. I would have to give considerable thought to which of the other two I would prefer to go - probably the County Council as the more remote." "I rather think the present Parish Council would like the District to be abolished," chortled Sherlock, "they took them to court in August about those pollarded trees in Broad Street."

"Oh well, it will need a lot of discussion but let's hope it will result in local people having some real say in planning decisions and other matters. The year 2000 could see us with a Mayor .." ".. or a Mayoress of Bampton," Sherlock Holmes interrupted the doctor, "not a bad idea at all."





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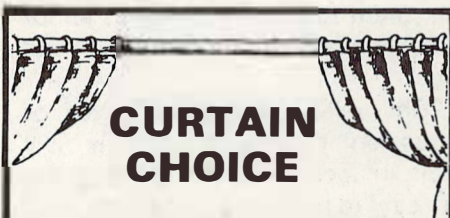
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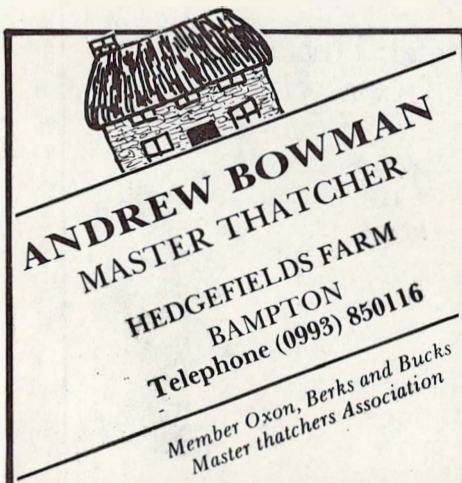
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# OSTEOPATHY EXPLAINED

by PHILIPPA RAYNE, DO MRO

## WHAT IS OSTEOPATHY?

Osteopathy is a method of diagnosis and treatment of the musculoskeletal system, i.e. the body's framework, consisting of muscles, bones, joints, ligaments, tendons and connective tissue.

This treatment is as old as modern conventional medicine and started in the 1870's in the U.S.A.; it arrived in Great Britain about seventy years ago.

The musculoskeletal system being the largest system in the body is maintained, nourished and organised by the internal organs and the other systems. Therefore, keeping the body framework balanced and moving freely means less energy to keep upright and more energy to live.

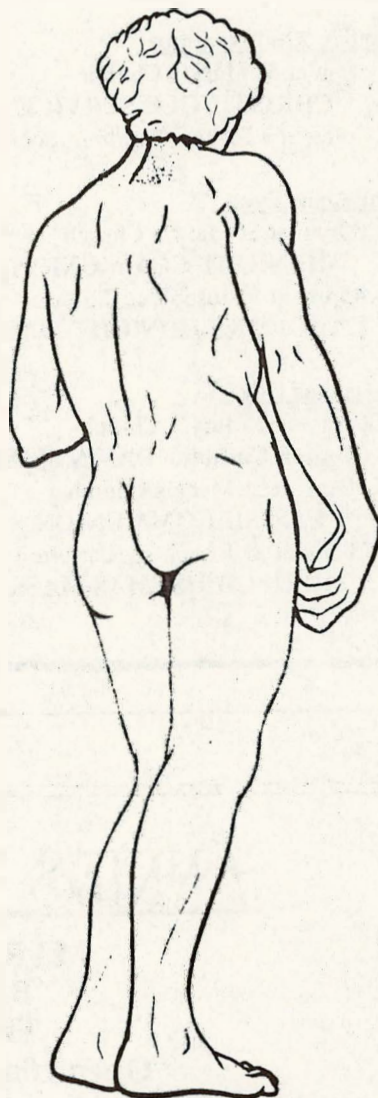
Dr. John Reynolds, MB BS MRCP  
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An Osteopath's job is to diagnose and treat any faults in the mechanical structure which may be due to injury, stress or any other cause. Many people are confused about the difference in treatment offered by an osteopath or by a chiropractor. The difference between them is mainly a philosophical one. For osteopathy the role of the Artery is supreme, meaning the aim of the treatments is to improve circulation. In chiropractic the role of the Nerve is supreme, meaning the aim of the treatment is to improve spinal mobility and nerve function.

## METHOD OF TREATMENT

All treatments are performed by the Osteopath's hands and there is no standard treatment for any one condition. They may involve soft tissue massage, stretching, articulating the joints and the high velocity thrust - "the click", which are all gentle and sound much worse than they are.

Treatments are modified to suit the individual, from the very gentle treatment of babies and the elderly, to the more physical treatment for fitter sporting people.

Osteopaths treat the mechanical component of disease. Back ache is the most common, but headaches and neck and shoulder tension can be helped as well as any strains of joints such as hips, knees, ankles, wrists, elbows, shoulders and ribs. Aches and pains during pregnancy can also be eased safely.

During Osteopathic training to become a Member of the Register of Osteopaths, M.R.O., every student is practiced on by fellow students, and most osteopaths have had every joint in their bodies "clicked" at least twice so they know how it feels!

• • •

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WOOTTON**

MSSCH MBChA

**CHIROPODIST**

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# CHURCH SERVICES

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Come & join

The Friends of Lew Church  
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**CAROLS** at Holy Trinity Church,  
on Friday, 20th December at 7.30pm  
Tickets: £2.00 adults ;£1.00 children,  
to include mulled wine, soft drinks  
and mince pies.

## Sunday 15th December

6.00pm at the Methodist Church  
**UNITED CANDLELIT  
CAROL SERVICE**

Do come - Everyone is welcome

## Sunday 22nd December

3.00pm at St. Mary's Church  
**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**  
(Collection for the Children's Society)

## Christmas Eve

11.30pm at St Mary's Church  
**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**  
11.45pm at St. Joseph's, Carterton  
**CAROLS & MIDNIGHT MASS**

## Christmas Day

9.00am at St. Mary's Church  
(Roman Catholic) **DAWN MASS**  
10.30am at St. Mary's Church  
**PARISH COMMUNION**  
11.00am at St. Joseph's, Carterton  
**THIRD CHRISTMAS MASS**

## A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30. He then became an itinerant preacher. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only 33 when the public turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. He was laid in a borrowed grave.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that **One Solitary Life**.  
Author Unknown

## HOT WINE PUNCH

### Microwave Method

- 1 pt Burgundy
- 1/2pt Water
- 2 sticks Cinnamon
- 1 Lemon sliced
- 12 Cloves
- 3 oz Sugar

Combine sugar, cinnamon, lemon & cloves with water in heatproof jug. Heat on HIGH for 2 minutes. Add wine and heat on HIGH for 5 minutes. Serve.

### GLUWEIN (for 50)

from Mrs Aisla Walwin

- 7 ltrs any Red Wine
  - 1 bottle Brandy
  - 1.5 pts Water
  - 1.5 pts unsweetened Orange Juice
  - juice of 6 Lemons
  - thinly pared rind of 3 Lemons & 3 Oranges
  - 1 lb Sugar
  - 18 sticks Cinnamon bark
  - 1 Orange stuck with 75 Cloves
- Put in pan, bring almost to the boil and let spices infuse.  
Drink hot (as any skier will know!)  
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# THE ROMANY INN

## 17th Century Freehouse

BRIDGE STREET,  
BAMPTON, OXON

Telephone: 0993 850 237

### SEPARATE DINING ROOM

**3 Course Sunday Lunch**  
**£5.25**

*Soup of the Day*      *Pate Maison*  
*Melon*                      *Florida Cocktail*

*Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding*  
*Roast Lamb or Roast Chicken*  
*Trout Meuniere*

*Served with Boiled & Roast Potatoes*  
*and Vegetables of the Season*

*Apple Pie & Cream*      *Pears & Cream*  
*Sherry Trifle*              *Peach Melba*  
*Gateau*                      *Ice Cream*

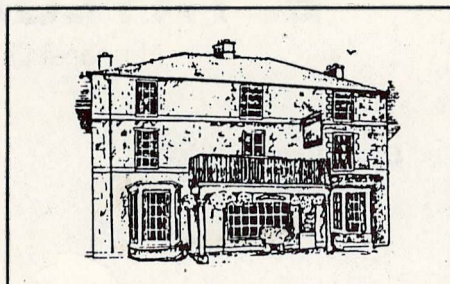
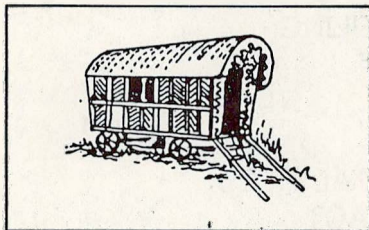
**3 Course Menu -**  
**Monday to Thursday**  
**£5.25**

*Florida Cocktail or Pate Maison*  
*or Whitebait or Mushrooms & Cheese*

*Sirloin Steak 6oz or Plaice 6/7oz*  
*or Braised Pork Chop 8oz*  
*or Roast Chicken*

*Served with Potatoes & Vegetables of the Day*

*Homemade Apple Pie or Gateau*  
*or Pears & Cream or Cheese & Biscuits*



**FAMILY BEER GARDEN**  
*play area for children including*  
**Enchanted Tree, Mushroom, See Saw**

**Good Homemade Food at Sensible Prices**

*Bar Menu served 7 days a week*  
*lunchtime and evenings*

*Homemade Dishes - Chilli Con Carne,*  
*Beef Curry, Chicken Curry, Lasagne,*  
*Shepherds Pie, Chicken & Mushroom Pie,*  
*Steak & Mushroom Pie, Steak & Kidney Pie*  
*plus Lambs Liver, Braised Pork Chops, Steaks,*  
*Roast Chicken, Plaice, Haddock, Scampi,*  
*Trout, Omelettes, Gammon Steak and more.*

*All served with a choice of potatoes*  
*and a choice of fresh vegetables*

**PRIVATE FUNCTIONS**  
*up to 30 people catered for*

**Recommended by the**  
**GOOD BEER GUIDE and the GOOD**  
**FOOD GUIDE**

*Accommodation - Recommended by the*  
*Sunday Times - quality letting rooms*  
*Double Rooms with vanity sink (2 persons)*  
*£25.00 per night incl. VAT*  
*Brand New Double Rooms En Suite*  
*£36.00 per night with full English Breakfast*

## THE BAMPTON BEAM

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Extra copies available from the Post Office & The Cotton Club.

### EDITOR:

Susan Phillips Tel: 850321

### SUB-EDITORS:

Jinnie Brown and Billy Count

### ADVERTISING:

Billy Count Tel: 850085

### DISTRIBUTION:

Kari Rossie Tel: 850764

Contributions are welcome at **any time** and should be sent to:-

The Editor, c/o The Cotton Club,  
Rosemary Lane, Bampton OX18 2JJ

**DEADLINE DATES FOR COPY**  
**5th March, July & November 1992**

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## PERSONAL COLUMN

**PETER ELLIOTT and FAMILY** thank the generous friends of Jean who contributed to the magnificent sum of £800 in aid of Churchill Hospital Research Institute; also friends and neighbours for kind messages of sympathy in our sad loss.

A special word of thanks to Dr Benson and Staff at Osler Chest Clinic, Churchill Hospital and also to Dr McKenzie and his nurses at the Bampton Surgery for the wonderful care & attention to my wife.

**JENNY CONSTABLE** wishes to thank everyone who sent her get well cards, messages of sympathy and offers of help during her recent illness.

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Kate Wylie would like to know who lent her the book "WITH A BUS LOAD TO NEPAL" by **EVE WILLIAMS** as she is anxious to return it.  
**Please Telephone 850206**



Going to a Fancy Dress Party?  
Need to liven up your New Year Celebrations?

**BAMPTON DRAMA GROUP**  
is now able to offer a selection of costumes for hire.

We have adult's & children's costumes available at very reasonable rates for day or week-end hire.

**Contact:- Pauline Ruff**  
**Tel: 851503 after 6pm.**