

THE BAMPTON BEAM

March 2007

Volume 22, No. 1

Out with the old.....

(we mean the bus not Pam and Phillis!)



As reported in the last edition of 'The Beam', under the new contract with the Oxfordshire County Council, Stagecoach was required to introduce new low-floor, easy access buses on services 18 and 19.

The decision to go for low-floor buses followed frequent lobbying of OCC by the Parish Council, and it is pleasing to note that the OCC at last agreed to our

request - which was supported by the other Parish Councils served by the routes. The new buses were introduced during February, and it is hoped that they will increase passenger usage, and help secure the services for the future. Next on the Parish Council list is to try and get OCC to introduce evening services - even on a trial basis - although budget constraints may make it difficult at least in the near term.

Use Them or Lose Them



.....in with the new!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday May 9th** at 7.30pm. This is a meeting where Parishioners can have their say, get over their point of view, and ask questions of those giving the reports. Not one 'member of the public' attended last year, which was very disappointing. So come on Bampton, let's have more of you attend this year's meeting and let the Parish Council, Police, and the others, understand your views and concerns. It is a chance for you to speak up and be heard! The agenda is:

- Welcome and Chairman's Report
- Reports from:
 - The Recreation Ground Charity
 - The Local Police Report
 - The Bampton Exhibition Foundation
 - The Bampton Welfare Trust
 - Bampton School
 - The Bampton Community Shop

It has also been confirmed that a representative from RAF Brize Norton will give a talk on the development of the Base, and the impact that it might have on Bampton. It is also hoped that someone from Thames Valley Police will attend to tell us why they are taking away our policemen in July!

Important Shirt Race Warning

Your SPAJERS Committee has had many hurdles to climb in the past to maintain the 'Great Annual Shirt Race'. Since the early 1990s we have had to get permission from the Road Closure Act. We have struggled trying to get insurance with increasing difficulty each year - the thought of people drinking alcohol and racing through the streets in prams, appears to cause panic in the insurance world. We have managed to overcome all that.

But the thing that is going to stop our Shirt Race forever is a repeat of the behaviour by a few thoughtless individuals who indiscriminately threw water bombs last year. If you want to throw water bombs do it where there are no young children in prams, or older people who cannot move fast enough to get out of the way, having their clothes ruined, and possibly sustaining injury.

In other words, do not throw water bombs, or anything else, at our Shirt Race.

This is a serious warning. There will be no Shirt Race next year if we have a repeat of this kind of behaviour. So please parents, have a word with your youngsters. Don't let's ruin a tradition that has been going on since 1953. Remember it is run by the SPAJERS to raise money for all the senior citizens of Bampton, all the Grannies and Grampies. Our Grannies and Grampies!

So please have fun, but don't ruin something that is uniquely Bampton.

SPAJERS Committee

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BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 8pm on Monday, 23rd April 2007. All residents of Bampton over the age of 18 are entitled to attend and to vote.

The Bampton Village Hall Management Committee is made up of representatives of the various organisations who use the Hall plus five elected members; three other members may be co-opted if needed. New members of the Committee would be very welcome.

Nominations can be sent to the Secretary, Haytor, Lavender Square, Bampton OX18 2LR.

The Bampton 250 Club

The Bampton 250 Club is the local monthly lottery which supports the Bampton Village Hall and the Bampton Youth Centre to both of which it contributes £750 annually.

The year runs from April to March and the final draw for 2006/2007.

The £250 prize – will take place at the Village Hall AGM on Monday, 23rd April.

If you would like a ticket please put your name on the list at the Post Office or contact **Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 8503**

The Latest Winners of the Bampton 250 Club

OCTOBER	£25	061	A Clarke	Bridge Street
	£15	227	G Hardy	Talbot Fields
	£15	210	Pamela Smith	Pembroke Place
	£15	179	A Dunbar	Bushey Row
NOVEMBER	£25	162	M Wooloff	Chandler Close
	£15	002	Mrs E Banham	Church Street
	£15	043	Mr D Foreshew	Church View
	£15	090	Mr N Tanner	Chetwynd Mead
DECEMBER	£100	089	Mr J Dando	The Pieces
	£25	170	Tanya Newland	Chandler Close
	£15	144	Mrs D Cleaver	Broad Street
	£15	135	Mrs V Duignan	The Lanes
	£15	175	V East	Bowling Green Close
JANUARY	£25	131	Mrs G Jordan	Bowling Green Close
	£15	148	Mrs J Pearce	New Road
	£15	234	Mrs L Sangwine	Church Street
	£15	177	Mr & Mrs Pullman	Millgreen

For more information on the Easter Services for St Mary's and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, please see notice board in the Church porch. For The Methodist Chapel, please contact Phil Shaw **Tel: 01993 850016**

Very Important Alcohol Laws which apply when you hire the Village Hall

A reminder to all hirers of the Hall who wish to sell alcohol at any function that they must contact the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS), Alan Clarke of The Horseshoes, Bridge Street, Bampton Tel: 01993 850201 in good time either to arrange for him to run the bar or to give his permission for a bar to be run by the hirers. The bar area in the Hall is kept locked and permission to use this must be arranged with Alan Clarke.

In order to fulfil their obligation under the new regulations the Trustees/ Management Committee of the Bampton Village Hall now require anyone hiring the Hall for a young person's party, which includes the provision or sale of alcohol, to comply with the following additions to the Hiring Agreement.

1. The family holding the party must be resident in Bampton
2. The booking must be made at least 6 weeks in advance
3. Permission must be given by the Management Committee and the DPS
4. Guests must be by personal invitation only – the Committee may ask to see the guest list.
5. Four mature & responsible adults (i.e. Parents) must ALL be present for the duration of the party and sign a form to say that they will ensure there will be no under age consumption of alcohol.

For more information contact **Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 830321.**

EASTER SERVICES

St Mary's

Good Friday 10am Service

Easter Eve Saturday

8pm Service of Readings

Easter Sunday

10.30am Family Eucharist

Methodist Chapel

Easter Sunday

11am Family Service

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Carterton

Easter Sunday

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

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By David Hawkins, Vice Chairman

Recent Flooding

The Parish Council noted the highest water levels for 20 years in Bampton following nearly 30 days of wet weather leading up to the floods on 10th January.

The Council asked the Environmental Agency whether these high levels were due to the run off from the 1600 new houses in Carterton, from the new tarmaced areas at RAF Brize Norton, or simply that we had had massive amounts of rain over the previous 2 months. They also asked the agency whether the Shillbrook could be de-silted south of Bampton as soon as possible so that the water could exit the village quicker.

The Environmental Agency hse been most helpful and has sent their experts out on several occasions since the flooding. They believe that the cause of the high water levels may well be a combination of all 3 factors mentioned earlier and have promised to de-silt the Shillbrook from Bridge Street to well south of the village later this year. Some residents believe that this will be the first de-silting for nearly 30 years.

Joy-Riding on the Recreation Ground

Yet more mindless joy riding has taken place by youngsters using cars, motorbikes and quads over the saturated Recreation Ground.

Needless to say, the football and cricket pitches, trim trail have been badly damaged.

The Parish Council is prepared to take the culprits to court if necessary, and are reporting all incidents to the police. We ask all residents to report names, registration numbers and any other information to the Parish Clerk **Tel: 01993 851476.**

We have considered placing bollards round the car park to prevent such incidents by these would be very expensive and would only prevent cars entering the grassed areas.

Over to you parents!

New Play Wall and Storage Building at the Recreation Ground -

Tenders have now been received for the storage building and playwall that will replace the old garage next to the car park.

The Playwall will allow individuals to practice tennis, cricket, penalty shots or basketball whilst waiting for friends to arrive. The storage area will be much better and will be more secure than at present. We do, however, need to raise another £5000 or so before we can start the construction. Any offers?

Broad Street Parking

After 30 or so years of very little attention, the wide pavement on the west side of Broad Street has been completely rebuilt and tarmaced with new drainage introduced.

We are most grateful to OCC Highways for this excellent work but would ask residents to avoid parking on the grass.

Affordable Housing

The Council continues to explore the possibility of building affordable dwellings on 4 sites within Bampton over the next decade.

The most promising site is the Mercury Court Playpark which is owned by the Parish.

We hope to construct a much improved play area with new play equipment for the under 11s and still find room for possibly 6 dwellings.

Use of the Pavilion

If you would like to use the Pavilion for wedding receptions, birthday celebrations, or parties for any occasion, please call Ray Willis **Tel: 01993 852482** or **Mob: 07766 264684** to confirm dates.

Why pay thousands of pounds to rent a marquee when you can hire the Pavilion for only £120 for the day or £60 for an evening occasion.

Protect yourself from smash and grab vehicle thefts

West Oxfordshire residents are being reminded to keep valuables, including tools, out of sight in vehicles to avoid giving thieves an easy ride.

The Community Safety Partnership has printed 2,000 stickers with the message 'No tools are kept in this van overnight' in a bid to crack down on the number of tool thefts in the District. Some of the stickers have been distributed to builders' merchants and DiY stores for handing out free to customers.

Satellite navigation equipment is also increasingly popular with many people receiving the kits this Christmas as presents. Owners can avoid making themselves a target for theft by remaining vigilant in removing items from cars when leaving them unattended. Opportunist thieves can strike in seconds. Police are also advising to:

> Always wipe off the distinctive 'sucker' mark from a sat nav from the windscreen - this lets thieves know there may be one hidden in the car.

> Never leave a mobile phone, hands-free kit, sat nav, clothes or indeed anything on display in an unattended vehicle, even for a few minutes.

> As an extra precaution, items such as sat nav kits, car entertainment systems and PDAs should be security marked or tagged. Owners should also note the make, model and serial number.

"Thefts from vehicles in our region continue as opportunist thieves are willing to risk the chance of gaining equipment that could be worth thousands of pounds," explains Bill Butcher, Crime Reduction Adviser for West Oxfordshire. "This, coupled with an increase in damage to vehicles, is something that we need to raise awareness of again. There is a black market for this type of stolen property so owners need to be extra vigilant to prevent becoming the latest victim."

For further information contact: Danielle Hanton Partnership Communications Officer
Victoria Bartlett Oxfordshire Communications Officer

District Council Report

By Mark Booty
West Oxfordshire District Council

There are several issues facing the District at the moment and most will affect all of us in Bampton, Black Bourton and Clanfield sooner or later. First there is the idea that District Councils and County Councils should be replaced by something called Unitary Authorities, which would report to Regional Assemblies and then to Central Government.

This is something we are absolutely against as a District. It is essential in my view that Parish and District Councillors are close to what is going on. Democracy happens when a Parish or District Councillor is in the local Post Office or the local shop or pub, and somebody wants to express their views. It is not about career politicians who sometimes seem more interested in furthering their rise or getting their name in the paper.

Oxford City are bidding for Unitary Status, this will affect all of us if their bid is seriously looked at. It will cost about £58 million of our money and reduce democracy.

The amount of waste which we recycle is increasing and District Council will eventually meet its targets, but this will be at a cost, and that will mean we will eventually need to move to fortnightly collections of the Wheely bins. Not ideal I know but manageable once we get the volumes of recyclable materials up. There is also going to be a pilot scheme to collect glass from commercial premises for recycling.

The number one priority of the District Council remains the provision of low cost housing to provide for both the social rented sector and shared ownership schemes.

We have been successful with developments both in Bampton and Clanfield already with a further 6 houses being built in Clanfield in the near future and several possible exception sites coming forward in Bampton.

In a 12 month pilot, more of the planning decisions are now being delegated to Council Officers, rather than being referred to the planning com-

mittees. This is being done to determine if it would be possible to have public participation at planning meetings – hitherto this has not been possible because of the number of planning applications being referred to the planning committees.

In another directive, all Councillors who are on a planning committees form May will have to have undertake formal training.

The same applies to those Councillors involved in licensing and with the new gambling act.

Carterton Councillors continue to press to have their own fire Station, and we must continue to be mindful that this proposal could affect the long term future of Bampton.

It is imperative therefore that we try and ensure that Bampton Fire Station has enough willing firemen to continue the excellent job they have done for us over the decades.

Flooding is still and will remain a key issue. The Parish Council continually lobby the Environment Agency to sort out the Shill Brook as do your District Councillors.

There appears to be, however, no short answer. I am no expert on what will cure the flooding but regrettably it seems the Environment Agency does not know the answer yet either. I suspect there are a number of causes, and there will need to be some work done by the Agency to solve the problem.

We will continue to press them given the seriousness of the situation.

Heavy traffic though Bampton seems to have decreased with the weight restrictions placed on Tadpole Bridge. I believe we might get even further reductions once the Police and Trading Standards enforce the restrictions more regularly.

If you have any District Council concerns I can be contacted **Tel: 01993 851003**.

Threat to Post Offices

A motion was carried by the District Council deploring the erosion of Post Office provision by the Government.

Letters are being sent to the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, the Rt. Hon David Cameron MP and Post-watch, the consumer watchdog. They are requesting that, as a matter of urgency, services are retained and reinstated to maintain the viability of post offices to provide vital services to urban and, most crucially, rural communities. Many residents rely on the services provided by the post offices and the Post Office network provides a vital service to them; closures can have a devastating impact for communities, especially in the rural areas. The District Council has always supported Post Offices through its rural rates relief scheme and by funding towards the Oxfordshire Village Shops Adviser. Sadly the government doesn't share our view.

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Thursday	2.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10.00am – 12.30pm

Tel: 01993 850076

USE IT. DON'T LOSE IT!

News from Bampton C of E Primary School

By Ellis Bardsley

Yenworthy 2007

Again Yenworthy features as one of the highlights of the school year!

7am on the first Monday at school, straight after the Christmas holidays, saw a handful of year 5 pupils and all of the year 6 pupils lug bags, coats, scarves and hats down to school. Mums and Dads waved goodbye and the children looked forward to an action packed adventure in the wilds of North Devon and Exmoor.

The feedback post trip has been excellent. The children, having spent 5 days away from home, apparently loved every minute. They especially enjoyed being challenged by new and different experiences whilst forming new friendships under very different circumstances.

As ever the staff enjoyed themselves as well, working with the children in the Yenworthy environment is a rewarding experience and everybody looks forward to a successful trip in 2008!

Environmentally Enhancing our School Grounds

With funding assistance from our excellent FOBS, this week the school embarks on a major, multi thousand pound refurbishment of the grounds.

Whilst discussing the year long development plans Mrs Dodge remarked, "In their entirety the grounds cover a large area, therefore, this is a big project and a substantial undertaking for the school that will result in an enhanced look, superior play areas and much needed shelter for the children". Of course the refurbishment will require a substantial amount of money, time and expertise and the school appeals for much needed support which could be provided via donations of plants, cuttings, trees and via much needed volunteers prepared to 'get their hands dirty'!

Already a Willow Tree garden has been planted, with a number of the pupils, volunteers and hired experts planting a large amount of trees. Mrs Dodge explained, "The aim of the Willow Garden is to create an exciting willow maze feature for the children, whilst using our available space care-

fully and at the same time providing important improvements to the ground drainage, as Willows help prevent water logging".

Health and Fitness Week!

After being voted top of the table in West Oxfordshire for the amount of pupils that walk to and from school the decision has been taken to embrace the need for an even greater focus on health and fitness.

The health and fitness week will start with a 'round the village' walk which will include the entire school, parents, teachers, staff and governors!

During the week the children will be given the opportunity to take part in a number of sports and activity work shops, all provided by staff or parent volunteers, such as:

- Skipping
- Ball Skills
- Hockey
- Netball
- Tag Rugby
- Cricket
- Aerobics
- Diet and Nutrition
- Dental Hygiene
- Relaxation and Music

Recycling Cartridges/Mobile Phones

Recycling is high on the agenda in all of our lives. As part of our fundraising efforts we are collecting used ink cartridges and mobile phones. The only ones we don't accept are EPSON and Cannon.

So if you have old mobiles or inkjets why not drop them off at the Bampton School Office – and help us raise more money!!!

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 10th March:

An evening of Variety, in conjunction with Bampton Primary School and Bampton Methodist Church raising funds for the community. Tickets on sale soon.

Sunday 29th April:

Car Boot Sale – 9.00 – 12.30 pm - £5.00 per car if pre-booked or £6.00 on the day.

Call Jenny on 01993 851884 to book.

Attention all Parents

Bookstart

Free Books for Children!!!!

Do you know that Bookstart provides 3 different gifts for 3 different age ranges containing books and other goodies and it's all free.

The Bookstart Baby pack is available for babies aged up to 12 months. Your baby will be given a pack by the health visitor at the 8 month health check

The Bookstart+ pack is available for toddlers between 18 – 30 months and can be collected from the library or the health visitor if your child has a 2 year check. So please go to the library and ask for your toddler's Bookstart+ pack.

My Bookstart Treasure Chest is available to 3 year olds and is delivered to your child's pre-school. If your child does not attend a pre-school collect your Treasure Chest from the library.

If you run a pre-school and have not given the Bookstart co-ordinator the number of 3 year olds in your setting, please contact her as soon as possible to ensure delivery by August 2007.

For more information contact the Bookstart Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire.

Tel: 01865 810243; or visit the web site at www.bookstart.org.uk.

EASTER BONNET PARADE & RAFFLE

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Tel: 850808

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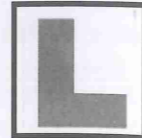
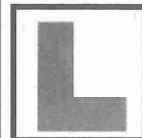
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HELP RECYCLING IN THE WEST OXFORDSHIRE AREA

Green light for green waste collections to continue.

West Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to sign up to an eco-friendly scheme to have their garden waste collected and recycled, instead of landfilled.

West Oxfordshire District Council is re-launching its Green Waste Scheme in April following its successful introduction last year.

Between April and December 2006, 2,750 District householders signed up to have their garden waste collected from their doorsteps. This resulted in 880 tonnes of green waste being recycled into compost and diverted from landfill.

This year's Green Waste Scheme will be available for up to 4,000 residents across the District, at a cost of £30 per household for the year. In return for their £30, householders will receive a green-lidded wheelie bin and their waste will be picked up fortnightly until April 2008. All of the waste will then be taken to Agrivert at Radford, near Chipping Norton, and turned into compost.

As an incentive, each resident who signs up to the scheme before 16 March will be entered into a free prize draw to win one of five £30 garden centre vouchers.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment, explained that is important for people to recycle their green waste because it eases the pressure on landfill sites and cuts the risk of pollution. As green waste decomposes, it forms leachate, a toxic liquid that can pollute water and soil, and releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

Mr Harvey said: "The launch of the scheme last year has already meant hundreds of tonnes of this waste being diverted from landfill and put to good use, instead of creating a risk of pollution. I hope those residents who took

part last year will re-subscribe, and that we can encourage others to do the same. As well as helping the environment, the scheme offers a convenient, easy way for people to get rid of their waste."

People can join the scheme and make their payment by logging onto www.westoxon.gov.uk or by direct debit. Alternatively, contact **Tel: 01993 861020** to pay by debit or credit card or to request an application form by post, or email

green.waste@westoxon.gov.uk.

New Commercial Glass Collections

Recycling in West Oxfordshire will soon be given a boost with the introduction of a new commercial waste collection service for glass.

The glass recycling scheme was approved at the District Council's Cabinet meeting following the report of a successful trial, which took place over the Christmas period involving 26 licensed premises.

Businesses were asked for comments about the Christmas-time glass recycling collection trial and all those who responded said that they were extremely happy with the service and hoped it would continue.

One of the trial participants was Reg Neale from the Palace Nightclub in Witney. Commenting on the scheme he said, "I'm just really pleased that the glass we normally throw away every week will now be put back to good use. The trial went really well. The Council does a good job and we'll certainly be signing up for the new service."

A survey was sent out to businesses in West Oxfordshire last year and 93% said that they would prefer to see their waste recycled than go to landfill.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment said, "We have wanted to offer a commercial waste recycling service for some time and I am delighted that West Oxfordshire is

in the forefront of doing this. It is a really good step forward and thanks are due to the hard work of council staff in helping to make this possible. From the survey and pilot exercise we know that we have the support of local companies and so I am sure this new scheme will be a success." The commercial glass recycling collection service starts in April 2007. Any businesses interested in joining should contact Street Scene contact **Tel: 01993 861020** or email

env.services@westoxon.gov.uk.

The commercial glass recycling service will be reviewed after one year, but with the hope that it will continue permanently.

For further information contact:

Carys Davies / Samantha Simpson
Publicity Office

Tel: 01993 861615 Mobile: 07771 965360

West Oxfordshire 'Nightsafe' Wins

National Recognition

The West Oxfordshire Nightsafe Scheme has received a national award for its achievements which includes the 'Wasted Nights' educational DVD package. The Responsible Drinks Retailing Awards recognises the hard work and commitment provided by not only the drinks industry, but also public sector organisations and communities as they work together to promote responsible drinking.

Cllr Barry Norton, Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council said, "It is a great achievement to be Highly Commended in a national Home Office award. We are all very pleased that Nightsafe is helping to reduce alcohol-related violent crime and disorder. Much of this success can be attributed to good partnership working between the Licensed Trade, Police, District Council and other organisations."

West Oxfordshire Nightsafe was introduced a year ago to coincide with

the new licensing laws.

More recently, 'Wasted Nights', an educational package for young people, was launched at Carterton Community College. Students watched a DVD on the consequences of binge drinking and then took part in group sessions, acting out scenarios. This lesson pack has been sent to all secondary schools in West Oxfordshire to form part of the students' citizenship education.

Dennis Evernden, Police Area Commander for West Oxfordshire said, "Sixty premises in West Oxfordshire have signed up to Nightsafe and agreed a charter which includes membership of the local pubwatch scheme, displaying high visibility posters about responsible drinking and ensuring that bar staff are trained on managing alcohol misuse. It's great to see businesses in the town come onboard and a number of initiatives have been run in conjunction with these local licensees. This has resulted in bringing crime figures down with a 43% reduction of serious assaults in the District."

The Community Safety Partnership was invited to attend a ceremony in London to collect the award on 21st November 2006.

The sweeter side of Witney's nightlife

Alcohol-related crime in Witney town centre fell by 10% over the festive period as licensed premises handed out free lollipops to drinkers. Assaults alone saw a decrease of 75%.

The West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership issued the lollipops to pubs and nightclubs in the town following research that showed the sugar content helps to stabilise the behaviour of those who have consumed alcohol. This, in turn, reduces the chance of disorder and crime that often occurs in public places following excessive drinking.

The lollipops, which feature the Nightsafe logo, were handed to pub-goers by door staff during the two weeks before Christmas.

"The lollipops appear to have been successful on this occasion in helping to reduce alcohol-fuelled disorder which is good news," explains Dennis

Evernden, West Oxfordshire Local Area Commander. "Compared to the same period in 2005, the figures for assaults, drunk and disorderly and public order incidents, show that this Christmas they fell by 10%. With this in mind, we are considering rolling out the initiative to other town centres across the district."

Nightsafe premises have agreed a charter which includes membership of the local pubwatch scheme, display-

ing high visibility posters about responsible drinking and ensuring that bar staff are trained on managing alcohol misuse.

For further information contact:

Danielle Hanton Tel: 01993 861640
or

danielle.hanton@westoxon.gov.uk

Carys Davies Tel: 01993 861615

or

carys.davies@westoxon.gov.uk



Girlguiding

**Girlguiding
in
Bampton**
by Kate Copson

The 1st Bampton Guide Unit is for girls aged 10-14 who love fun and adventure. We

have many enthusiastic guides and volunteer leaders/helpers and are officially registered at Girlguiding UK headquarters in London.

An exciting programme of activities in weekly meetings, days out and special events helps girls benefit by:

- Making friends and having fun
- Being encouraged to fulfil their potential
- Taking part in challenging activities
- Being encouraged to work for the benefit of the wider community in which we live.

The guides have a big input into choosing activities and our programme has so far included activities such as; camp fire cooking, pioneering, fitness and healthy eating badges, swimming, carol singing, making photo frames, map reading trails, and a sponsored silence to raise money for the registered charity "Children with Leukaemia".

Within the guide programme, camping is included and the 1st Bampton Guides have been to Girlguiding Berkshire's county campsite, and there are many more camping activities to be planned for the future.

Being part of the Girlguiding community, either as a guide, or as a helper has massive advantages.

Skills such as lighting a fire with simple resources, learning about places in the world, team work and leadership are learnt naturally during guide activities and are life-long skills.

New members aged 10-14 are welcome. We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in being a weekly volunteer.

You don't need any experience, just some spare time and bags of enthusiasm.

We are putting together some camp fire cooking equipment and are in need of the following items:

- baskets made out of thick metal wire – old milk crates; and
- old oven shelves.

We use these items to construct a fire off the ground in order to avoid damaging the grass etc.

Don't forget If you were a Guide or leader in the area in the past we would love to hear from you and find out how things have changed.

If anybody can help us with any of the above items which they would like to kindly donate to us please contact:

Liz on 07733 320113 or liz.thorpe@hotmail.co.uk



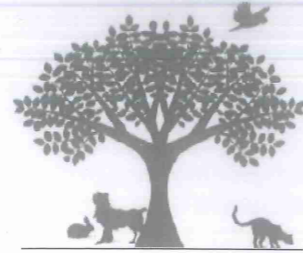
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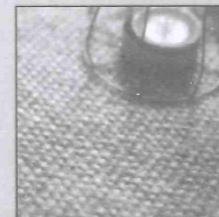
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Dear Editor

I shall be grateful if you could tell your readers about the Garden Party and Valuation Day we will be having at the Manor House on July 12th 2007. Guests will be able to stroll round our garden, which should be looking good at that time. There will be a band playing in the garden.

Each guest will be entitled, not only to free entry to the house and garden, but also a free valuation of any item (not too huge please) they bring by experts from Bonhams the well known auction house. There will be a bar and soft drinks will be free.

Tickets will cost £10 each – no children under 10 – and must be bought in advance by applying to Bampton Antiques Treasure Hunt (B.A.T.H.) at The Manor House, Bampton, OX18 2LQ; Tel: 01993 850231.

Gates will open at 4pm and close at 8pm, but items will be valued even after that time if necessary.

The Garden Party is being run in support of St Mary's Church roof appeal.

Yours sincerely

The Earl of Donoughmore

Dear Editor

As owners and twice day regular dog walkers in Bampton, we are disgusted at the amount of dog excrement left behind by other dog walkers. It is a very rare occasion in Bampton to see a dog without an owner in tow, so the problem is with the person walking the dog. We can only appeal to all Bampton Beam readers, who witness

LETTERS and E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

these irresponsible people walking dogs (as no law of this offence, seems to be enforced in Bampton), to ask the walkers to pick up and dispose of this waste, in the plentiful dog litter bins provided.

Please shame them

It will make Bampton a more pleasant and healthier place to live.

Jo and Harry Green

5 The Pieces.

The Beam is very sorry to see that this problem is once again in the village. We have had many campaigns to encourage people to use the dog litterbins and we had thought we had won the battle; perhaps we did at one stage, but it would seem that we have not won the war! So dog owners, please do use the special litterbins - we had to fight very hard to get them in the first place - otherwise, if you are spotted, it could be a case of 'name and shame'. Let's keep Bampton clear of this!

Dear Editor

Recently I received this email from friends who are in the same Rolls Royce and Bentley Club as myself. I thought it was very interesting and that the Bampton people would like to read it. The message goes:

We noticed you live in Bampton. We used to live near Wantage and bought this clock locally from an elderly gentleman who bought Bampton Town Hall Clock when the building was apparently knocked down for development.

We have since built this barn (see photograph below) and designed it around the clock and thought you might be intrigued to see its new home.

Regards

Lizzie Blake

Neither Mr or Mrs Blake can remember the name of the elderly gentleman from whom they bought the clock, but they do remember it being in several boxes in his garage; location is also forgotten. They have designed their new barn in order to best show the clock and have had it restored to working order.

I believe the clock was removed from the Town Hall in 1972 and ended up over John Taylor/Dave Hedges' Garage in Market Square, and remained there until the garage was knocked down to make way for the new apartments. Mr & Mrs Blake have asked me to ask you whether anyone has any pictures of the clock in its original position in the old Town Hall or even in the garage face.

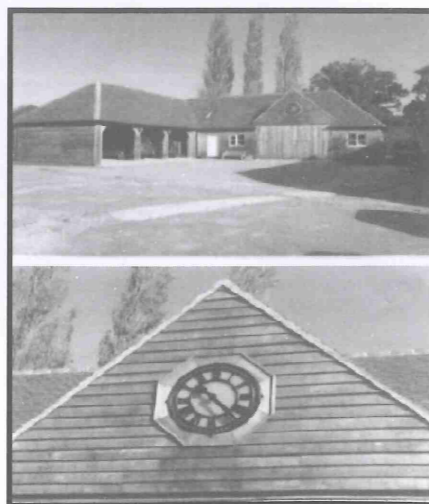
I would be very grateful if anyone has any archive photographs, which you could scan for me or alternatively I could scan them and return to you. I know Mrs Blake would appreciate this very much.

Yours truly

Tony Jenkin, Fairacres Nursery

Tel: 01993 850801

email: uptheclump@witneserve.net



Bampton Welfare Trust

Charity No. 202735

The Trustees may make gifts to the needy in Bampton, Aston, and Lew – as far as their funds allow – to relieve sudden distress or sickness, help with travelling expenses to hospitals, provide fuel and food for the sick.

The Trustees also assist the local primary schools, playgroups and clubs for the elderly in that area.

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

Clerk to the Trustees: Mr D Pullman,

Mill Green Cottage, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850589.

Welfare Officer: Mrs J Newman,

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

If you would like to apply for a grant for the first time, please contact Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321 for an application form.

St Mary's Bell Restoration Project

By Roger Barnes

As I write this article work is progressing well towards the return of the bells to the tower. The retuning is complete, the new fittings have been cast, and one of the two new wheels has been completed. All that remains is for Whites of Appleton to fit everything together and replace the bells in the tower – hopefully by mid February. Sounds simple, but it's actually quite a complex piece of heavy engineering to ensure that the bells, fittings and frame are in perfect alignment. Any errors will be very evident as soon as we give the bells a try out. It's 101 years since the last major works were carried out on the bells, following which two peals were rung; the first on 12th May and the second on 1st June 1906. A "peal" is a ring that lasts for about three hours and is a bell-ringer's equivalent of a marathon, but requiring more mental stamina than physical. The June 1st peal was conducted by the Vicar of Drayton and Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell-Ringers, the Rev. F.E. Robinson. Rev. Robinson was one of the most eminent ringers of his age, and a specialist in the conducting of the method "Stedman Triples". We are fortunate to have secured the services of another eminent Stedman conductor, John Pladdys, and a band of ringers from Oxfordshire, including the author, will attempt to repeat Robinson's performance 101 years to the day on 1st June 2007 at Bampton.

As well as having a near perfect set of bells, and Bampton is reckoned to be one of the finest rings in the county, we also need a good team of ringers to ring them. I wouldn't be so rude as to suggest that the present team is getting old, but we are not as young as we were, and one of our responsibilities is to ensure a continuation of the tradition of Bampton ringing. As with the Morris, this is achieved by training recruits over a period of time and then having them join in for service and wedding ringing once the required standard has been reached. Unlike the Morris of course you do miss out on the audience applause after each performance, but it is open

to both sexes.

We have a hard core of about 10 ringers, but no new recruits, and we need to address this as a matter of some urgency. If, after reading this article, you think you may be interested in learning this peculiarly English craft, and keeping up a Bampton tradition, then please contact Dave Rose (850214) and we will arrange an "introduction to the bells" session for you. If you can interest a friend into coming along as well then so much the better. Bampton's bells are not light, and even though they will be easy going after the refurbishment, we would prefer potential recruits to be older teenagers or adults.

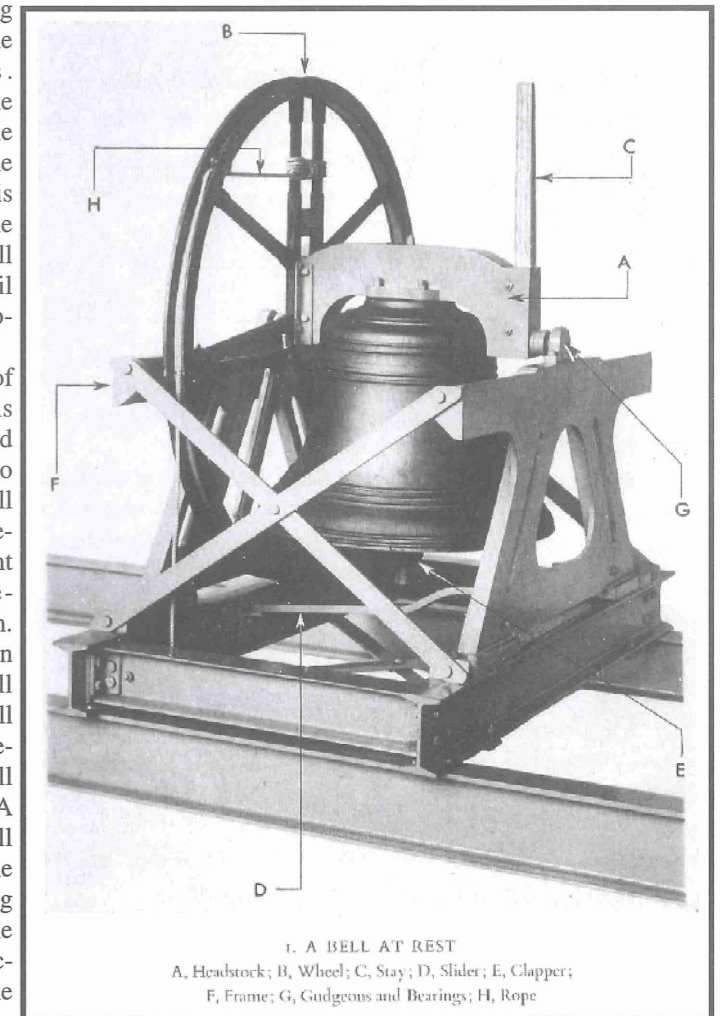
A Brief Introduction to English Bell-Ringing

The picture below shows a single bell with all its fittings. Note the rope coming off the wheel. This rope ends up in the ringing room with the bell-ringers. Pulling on the rope makes the bell swing, the more the rope is pulled then the higher the bell will swing until its mouth is upright.

The piece of wood "C" is called a stay and its purpose is to prevent the bell from going beyond an upright (i.e. upside-down) position. The next pull on the rope will rotate the bell through 360 degrees and it will sound once. A second pull will have the same effect, rotating the bell in the opposite direction, and the

clapper will again strike the bell once. The weight of the bell itself is sufficient to send it through the full circle, the only effort required by the ringer is to overcome the small amount of friction from the bearings and rope pulleys.

The time interval between each full rotation of the bell can be controlled by the ringer, which allows the bells to change sequence in a controlled manner. For example, if there are 4 bells ringing 1 2 3 4 with each bell following the one before it – like a 4 note scale on a piano except that 1 is the highest note – and the conductor calls 2 to follow 3 then the order becomes 1 3 2 4. To achieve this, the ringer of bell 2 will have to ring after bell 3 by waiting until bell 3 has moved to follow bell 1. The skill is in being able to sound your bell in the right place by controlling the speed at which it rings. It takes practice but is a source of great satisfaction when you get it right. So come along and have a go!



1. A BELL AT REST
A, Headstock; B, Wheel; C, Stay; D, Slider; E, Clapper;
F, Frame; G, Gudgeons and Bearings; H, Rope

THE BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

Buckland Road, Bampton.

Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club

By Martin Landray, Chairman

The Cricket Club aims to provide cricket for all ages and abilities in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. The club is affiliated to the Oxfordshire Cricket Board. After rather interrupted seasons during 2004 and 2005, it was a delight to see cricket being played on the Recreation Ground once more last summer. Although the adults played only a limited number of fixtures, it was enough to reignite enthusiasm and to confirm that there is a significant interest in playing cricket once more in Bampton. Meanwhile the junior section went from strength to strength - increasing numbers of children attended training and for the first time the club entered teams into junior league competitions.

Over the winter months, the club's members have been very busy. The cricket nets are being completely revamped - with the removal of 32 cubic metres of soil, laying of 22 tonnes of aggregate and repair to the matting and netting to give two nets with consistent and realistic bounce. All this work has been carried out by an industrious team of volunteers, and, having started in January, is on schedule to be completed in time for the start of the new season.

This season, evening training sessions will be provided for children aged 6 and over, and teams will be entered in to competitions at four age-groups: Under 10 (Kwik cricket), under 11, under 13 and under 15. The adult team will play a series of friendly fixtures on Sunday afternoons (see below), and have entered the midweek Ernie Clack Knockout Competition. Additional friendly matches are to be arranged on Sunday afternoons and midweek evenings. Details of all fixtures can be found at <http://bampton.play-cricket.com>.

Sunday 13 May 2007	London Erratics (h)
Sunday 20 May 2007	Lechlade (h)
Sunday 03 June 2007	LMS (h)
Sunday 10 June 2007	Letcombe Regis (h)
Sunday 17 June 2007	Kingston Bagpuize (a)
Saturday 07 July 2007	Barford (h)
Sunday 15 July 2007	Langford (h)
Saturday 21 July 2007	Presentation day (h)
Sunday 12 August 2007	Langford (a)
Sunday 26 August 2007	Charlbury (h)

If you or your child would like to play cricket with us this summer, please contact either **Pauline Smith Tel: 01993 210140** or **Martin Landray Tel: 01993 850939** or e-mail martinlandray@aol.com.

We would also be pleased to hear from anybody who feels that they could help in anyway, be it helping with the teas or the groundwork, coaching, training or umpiring, or by providing sponsorship for balls, equipment or other running costs.



Bampton Tennis Club

By Andrew Mann

The new season is nearly upon us and with the lighter evenings Bampton Tennis Club would love to see new members come and join us on court on our club nights, Tuesdays and Thursdays from

6.30pm. Club nights begin on Tuesday 17 April.

We play at the all-weather courts which are situated at the Recreation Ground at the edge of Bampton, on Buckland Road. We welcome all standards of players - please don't feel daunted as we are a friendly club!

THE PAVILION

The Pavilion, with its large social area, changing rooms, referees' facilities, kitchen and bar is for hire by members of the public for all varieties of functions such as wedding receptions, birthdays or anniversary parties. The Multisport court can also be hired for games or practice sessions for floodlit tennis, basketball, and netball.

Some General Hire Prices

Pavilion

08:00 - 13:00 : £40

13:00 - 18:00 : £40

18:00 - 23:59 : £80

Whole Day : £160

Football Pitch : £25 per game

Changing Facilities : £10

Multisport	Bampton Residents
	£10.00
	Non-Residents
	£12.50

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

Ray Willis Tel: 01993 852483 or
Mobile: 07766 264684

enefits to members include being able to pre-book and use the tennis courts free of charge throughout the year, as well as the chance to join in friendly matches and tournaments which take place during the summer months. We also have our own coach who is able to give private lessons to members of the club.

Membership rates are very reasonable. A year's membership carries over to the start of the next spring season. If you are interested in joining please contact our Membership Secretary Karen Easterbrook, **Tel: 01993 850772** or e-mail bamptontennis@hotmail.co.uk. Alternatively, just turn up on any Thursday or Tuesday night to find out more. We look forward to welcoming you on court!

Other Sporting Activities

Bampton Archery Club

Chairman: John Hill Tel: 01993 850513.

Bampton Weightlifting Club

Chairman: Don Rouse: Tel: 01993 850938.

Secretary: Ray Fielding: Tel: 01993 852185. Mobile: 07855 146949.

Bampton Badminton Club

Enquiries: Lesley Campbell Tel: 852846.

Meets every Tuesday 10 - 12am
Bampton Village Hall.

Bampton Town Football Club

Chairman: Mr J P Walker: Tel: 01993 852361

Secretary: Mr P Tanner: Tel: 01993 210009

Bampton Football Teams

From Under 8s upwards:

Secretary: Andrew Squires: Tel: 01993 852278.

Email andrew.squires@huntleigh-healthcare.com

The Horseshoes Football Club

Sunday League Football

Chairman: Alan Clarke: Tel: 01993 850201.

Secretary: Bill Godfrey: Tel: 01993 850014.

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU USE THE RECREATION GROUND

While using skate park

Minor accidents continue to occur on the Skatepark because of the lack of protective clothing.

The Parish Council ask all parents to insist that their children wear the appropriate clothing.

Insurance Liabilities

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

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

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



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



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We aim to please

The Great London Marathan 'Make a Wish'

By Louise Gibson

Being a child in a small village like Bampton, you are all kind of thrown together, irrelevant of age or gender; you all just became friends because of where you live. Because of this, and my interest in football, when I was younger, I became friends with a small bunch of lads. I remember many a time getting the Baker's Bus home from school (Henry Box) and rushing to get changed to join my friends in a game of football at the 'American Park'. During these happy times I made some really good friends; one was a boy called Chris Hardy.

In 1997 Chris was diagnosed with cancer, and was subsequently in and out of the John Radcliffe. In April 1998, I broke my arm and was admitted into the same ward as Chris. By this time Chris was extremely ill, but despite this I managed to spend some little but cherished time with him.

One of my last memories, was watching the London Marathon with Chris in the ward while eating ice lollies (long story!). We were laughing and joking, something that you were used to doing in Chris's company. When Chris died on 31st May 1998, I remember making a promise both to myself and Chris, that I would run the London Marathon in memory of him, and raising money for the charity 'Make-a-Wish Foundation' that granted him one of his final wishes.

It's 9 years on, and I am finally fulfilling my promise to Chris, and plan to run the London Marathon on the 22nd April. I am now doing the hard part, the training, and am looking forward to the big day, but hope that by getting this little story published in 'The Beam' I will get *your* help in the way of sponsorship. I want to raise as much money as possible for this great charity, that does some amazing work, so please if you can...donate. It's simple to donate, I have set up a secure website enabling you to donate on line. Just go to www.justgiving.com/gibborunning and follow the instructions. I am also placing collection tins in local pubs and shops. Any donation will be very much appreciated.

The 'Beam Team' would like to wish Louise the very best of luck for her day in The London Marathon.



Louise limbering up



Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman, Chairman



BEWG's open meeting in October was a talk by Martin Way, a local historian, on "The Golden Age of Coaching" - a more leisurely time but not if you were travelling by horse drawn coach. The next scheduled meeting was our AGM on 1 March 2007 when the speaker was John Wilmer who gave a talk on "Friar's Court through the Ages". This was preceded by a visit to Dr Ronald McKenzie's garden in Shilton. Dr McKenzie is a world expert on snowdrops and was recently featured in an article in The Times. The programme of talks for the remainder of 2007 is: 26 April, Red Kites, by David Lovegrove; 26 July, Wildlife recording in the Bampton area, by Gavin Bird of Thames Valley Environmental Watch Group; and 25 October, Hunting for British orchids, by Brian Laney. Open meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 8:00pm. All are welcome, with attendance free for members £2 for non-members (or join at the door).

At least two HGV companies have been fined £1000 recently for breaking the weight restrictions that now apply at Tadpole Bridge on the Buckland Road. Anyone seeing a lorry using the bridge, which they believe exceeds the limit should inform the County Highways department. (As a rule of thumb, any laden lorry with three or more axles is likely to exceed the limit).

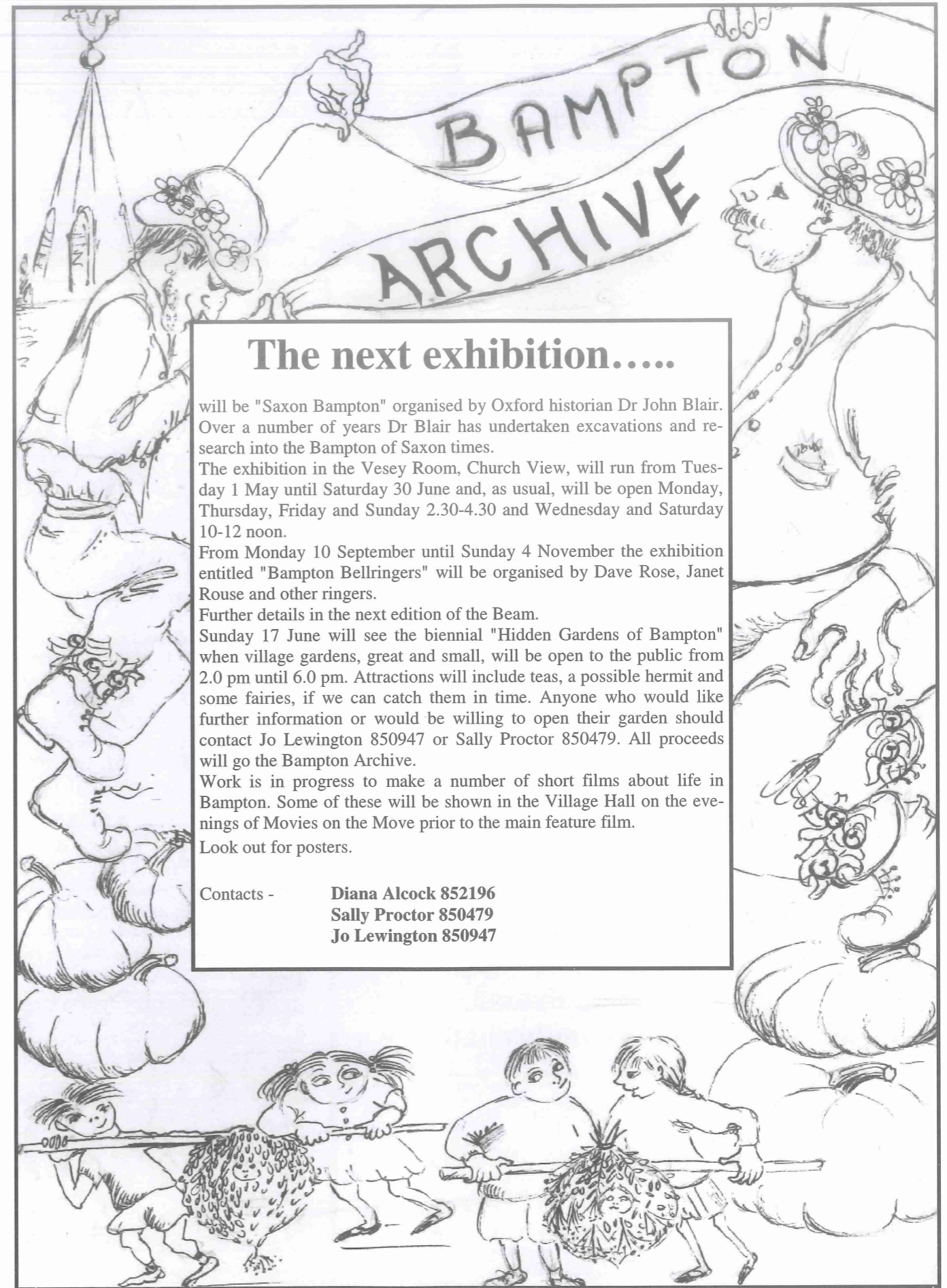
The proposal related to the Aylesbury Mushroom Farm site at Black Bourton, for a green waste collection and processing unit (which had been withdrawn, pending the provision of revised traffic movement figures, and then resubmitted in October 2006) was granted by Oxfordshire County Council in December. This is a greatly toned down proposal compared to the original. The new estimates given are for two HGV movements per week - one in and out to remove a 25 tonne load of wood chippings produced - and twelve small vehicle movements per day - six in and out by vehicles of 1 - 4 tonne capacity, bringing in wood waste for chipping from an eight mile radius.

There have been no new significant planning proposals since the BEWG report in the previous issue of the 'Beam' but there is currently talk of the return of a proposal for gravel extraction in the Clanfield area (it is rumoured that a large swathe of land on the Bampton side of Clanfield has been bought by a gravel extraction company). There appear to have been no proposals published at the time of writing, but if this proves to be more than a rumour and comes to fruition then it could result in significant HGV movements through Bampton and the surrounding areas.

May I remind you that Wendy Rayner has taken on the footpaths watch role on the BEWG Committee. Please report any footpath problems to her so that she may follow these up, as necessary, with the county footpaths officer responsible for our paths. Wendy may be contacted on 850414.

May I also remind current members that subscriptions for 2007 are now due.

If you would like to know more about BEWG or would like to join us please contact the Membership Secretary (Ann Norman), Tel: 01993 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.



The next exhibition.....

will be "Saxon Bampton" organised by Oxford historian Dr John Blair. Over a number of years Dr Blair has undertaken excavations and research into the Bampton of Saxon times.

The exhibition in the Vesey Room, Church View, will run from Tuesday 1 May until Saturday 30 June and, as usual, will be open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday 2.30-4.30 and Wednesday and Saturday 10-12 noon.

From Monday 10 September until Sunday 4 November the exhibition entitled "Bampton Bellringers" will be organised by Dave Rose, Janet Rouse and other ringers.

Further details in the next edition of the Beam.

Sunday 17 June will see the biennial "Hidden Gardens of Bampton" when village gardens, great and small, will be open to the public from 2.0 pm until 6.0 pm. Attractions will include teas, a possible hermit and some fairies, if we can catch them in time. Anyone who would like further information or would be willing to open their garden should contact Jo Lewington 850947 or Sally Proctor 850479. All proceeds will go the Bampton Archive.

Work is in progress to make a number of short films about life in Bampton. Some of these will be shown in the Village Hall on the evenings of Movies on the Move prior to the main feature film.

Look out for posters.

Contacts - **Diana Alcock 852196**
Sally Proctor 850479
Jo Lewington 850947

May Garlands

By Ruth Wheeler

It will soon be Spring Bank Holiday and it would be lovely to see a few garlands to be judged at 11am that Monday 28th May. A garland doesn't have to be elaborate; a simple one is just as welcome. So please, children, and Mums and Dads (all can help make one), help to keep this old tradition going!



Archive Photograph of May Garlands

I would just like to say, if any children take their garlands into the church after judging, will they please see that they are taken out the next day as when the flowers drop, they make quite a mess on the Church floor! The past five years I myself have had to do the cleaning up, but I do feel that it is the responsibility of the owners of the garlands.

To make a Garland
Pick as many wild flowers as you can find. Bunch them into small bunches and tie on to a frame - which is made of two circles of willow wood placed inside one another, tied top to bottom. A small doll is placed inside. The garland can then be carried on a stick. The top of the garland can be made up of any kind of flower, but wild ones must be up the sides.

After judging the garlands can be taken to the church. Please will you remember it is your responsibility to remove them the next day as they make quite a mess on the church floor when the petals drop. Thank you.

Alpha for all

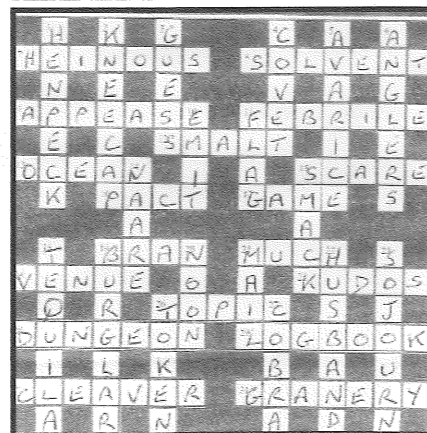
The Alpha Course which ended just before Christmas attracted 40 - 50 people each week for the ten week period. Those involved came primarily from Bampton, Clanfield and Aston and were enthusiastic as to the value of the Programme. In fact so great was their enthusiasm that they have planned to hold study groups up until Easter. They hope to launch another Alpha Programme in September to enable those who missed the first one to experience it.

What was the Course all about?
Basically it posed the difficult questions we all ask from time to time, and tried to answer them from the Christian perspective. No questions were ruled out of order and 'anything goes' was the agreed approach. Topics included the questions Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How does God guide us? Etc. The cynic amongst us may think it was the excellent supper that started each evening that was the magnet - and they may be right! Mill Farm Conference Centre served us well and was an excellent venue for each evening. It would be good to pay a return visit in the Autumn to enable more people to enjoy the Programme, for which incidentally there is no charge.

As they say 'watch this space' for more details. Who knows, you might just squeeze in yourself and really enjoy it!

The Beam Crossword

You may have noticed our mistake in the November edition, in that we published the Crossword solution for March, and not for July. For those enthusiasts, below is the solution for July 2006.



Are you a fun, outgoing family?

Do you think others can learn from the way you live your life?

Or have you ever wanted to experience a different way of living?

If you're up for a fun family challenge a Channel 4 documentary series would love to hear from you.

Call Melissa for more details:

Tel: 020 7013 4514

Or email: melissa.watson@rdfmedia.com

THE SPAJERS

are pleased to announce

The Annual Village-wide Garage Sale

Sunday 6th May 2007

11am to 3pm

Bampton will be opening its garage doors in a massed sale.

On the day the Village Hall will have a map of garages taking part, costing £1.00

These maps will include entry into a competition for a cash prize, details on map.

There will be tabletops and refreshments at the Village Hall.

For further information Tel 01993 850760

Kajie@greenfiddle.fsnet.co.uk

The Annual GRAND PLANT SALE

will take place on Monday 28th May 10 - 4pm at

Eagle House, Church View, Bampton

We sell big plants for small money - bedding and perennials, herbs and vegetables, shrubs and trees and, of course, a special line in pelargoniums and geraniums.

The frosts will be over (we hope) so come and stock your garden with colour for the summer.

Any contributions of plants, shrubs, tree, vegetables, etc. would be gratefully received by Jo Lewington, Sandford Cottage, Bridge Street or the Pages, Eagle House either before or on the day.

All proceeds to the The Bampton Archive and

Bampton Zimbabwe Project

Morris Dancing Day

Craft Fair and Refreshments

Village Hall

Monday 28th May

9.30am - 5.00pm

Tea - Coffee

Bacon Baps & Filled Rolls (Morning)

Cakes & Biscuits (Afternoon)

Refreshments in aid of the

Royal British Legion

(Bampton Branch)

Clanfield Historical Society*By David Slack*

We have had an interesting year so far with an entertaining talk from Don Rouse on Life in Bampton in October. In November a talk on the History of Hook Norton Brewery from Howard & Barbara Hicks took us through not just the history of the brewery but also some of the workings and processes involved in making beer. In January Martin Way entertained us with not just a talk on the Battle of Agincourt but also brought along replica clothing and weapons to bring alive that period of history in his presentation of God for Harry, England & St George. The remainder of the season's programme comprises:

March 20th

History of Television Andy Andrews

April 17th

Ladies of Blenheim John Forster

May 15th

River Cruise - Lechlade (time to be confirmed)

June 19th

AGM & Annual Dinner

All meetings (except the last two) are at 7:30pm in the Carter institute. Why not come along and sample one? New members are welcome - the society is convivial, interesting and social. Everyone is welcome, and if, at the end of the evening, you feel your time has been well spent, annual membership is £12.50, free for anyone under 21.

Witney Older People's Information Fair

Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, Councillor Keith Stone, will be opening the Age Concern Oxfordshire's Information Fair for older people in the Witney at 10am on Thursday 19th April at the Langdale Hall. The Information Fair will run until 2.30pm.

The Pension Service, the District Council, the NHS and the County Council's Trading Standards department have been pulling out all the stops, alongside Age Concern Oxfordshire and a whole range of other organisations, to put together a first rate programme for this event - not just informative, but also good fun!

Mary Daniel, Age Concern's Chief Executive says: "If you are over 50,

NOTICE BOARD

there will be something at the Fair for you. We hope that as many people as possible will drop in during the day and take advantage of the masses of information as well as the activities."

The events will cover a whole range of issues of importance to older people: health, independence, safety, leisure, transport, finance and much more.

Organiser Mary Ann Shaw says: "We are really fortunate that so many experts will be on hand to provide information, answer questions, offer free taster sessions in Tai Chi and exercise. In town for one day only, the Fair will be a really good opportunity for people to get to know about things - and we also hope that people will have a good time!"

Age Concern Oxfordshire is a local independent charity, working with and for all older people and their carers throughout the county. We are members of the Age Concern Federation. Registered Charity Number 1091529.

The Bush Club Needs You!

At the moment we are dreadfully short of general helpers. If you could give an hour or two once a month we would be more than grateful.

Drivers: Once a fortnight for ½ an hour in the morning at 9.45am, or ½ an hour in the afternoon at 1.45pm.

Cooks: Approximately once every 5 weeks from 9.45 to 1pm

General Helpers: From 9am - 1.45pm on alternate weeks. Times to suit individuals.

Anybody willing to help, or join the Club as a new member please contact **Fenella Gray Tel: 01993 851653** or **Veronica Baker Tel: 01993 851040**.

The Children's Society

The annual box collection this year raised £483.53p which was a splendid result.

Special thanks to the Junior Church; the children gave very generously both from their cake stalls and from Sunday collections. Also thanks to Budgens and the Surgery where boxes are kept for us. I am always grateful to the Post Office where our monies are kindly banked free of charge.

Last year, because our total had fallen, I appealed for new box holders to come forward and I am delighted that people responded in such a positive way. I know there are so many demands on your giving but, again, if anyone feels able to take a box and collect at home I would be very pleased to deliver a box to you. Many people I know put all their loose change in our boxes and I'm glad to say it really mounts up.

Thank you again to all those who made donations, the Society helps over 50,000 children and their families every year and it is only through your generosity that their work can continue.

Pauline Hawkins Tel: 851066

Hidden Gardens of Bampton

Hidden Gardens of Bampton happens again this year.

About 30 gardens will open on

Sunday, June 17th

2.00 and 6.00 pm.

There will be some old favourites and some new gardens which have never been opened before.

Some gardens will do teas, some sell plants

Sandford Cottage garden has invited a hermit to stay as well as a few fairies.

If anyone would like to open their garden - please get in touch with

Sally Proctor Tel: 850 479

Bampton Baby Toddler Group

We meet in the Village Hall every Thursday between 10am - 11.45am. We provide toys, slide, singing and drinks and biscuits for children 0 to Pre-school. For more information contact **Angela Irvin, Tel: 01993 210096**.

Dial-a-Ride

The Dial-a-Ride service is a door to door minibus service for those who are unable to use or find it difficult to use public transport, such as elderly or disabled people. Drivers are trained to administer first aid and to assist wheelchair users and people with mobility problems.

The Dial-a-Ride service is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. There is a charge for the Dial-a-Ride service and places need to be booked in advance. The Council's Bus Pass or Transport Tokens can be used on this service.

For more details about the service including information on cost, what areas are covered and what type of journey the service can be used for, see the Dial-a-Ride leaflet where you can find an application for registering to use the service.

To book a place on Dial-a-Ride, or for more information, **Tel: 01865 876176**.

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: 85040**.

New Online Directory for Children, Young People and Families

www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk is an online directory of services for children young people and families in Oxfordshire. The new, easy to use, directory provides up to date details of organisations and their services. Information can be found on

parenting and family support, counselling, schools, health centres, local advice and voluntary sector organisations, help lines and much more. For more information or help using the directory contact Oxfordshire Children's Information Service **Tel: 08452 262636; enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk**.

Cancer Research UK

Bampton Branch - Events for 2007

Saturday 31st March

Easter Sale

Friday 18th May

Quiz, Village

Saturday 22nd September

Autumn Sale,

Wednesday 21st November

Pre-Christmas Bingo

Friday 7th December

Quiz

All these events will be held in the Village Hall Bampton

Friday 21st December

Country & Western Dance

Carterton Social Club

For more information contact **Mrs**

Doris Cleaver - Tel: 850682.

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 contact **Joan Farthing Tel: 851206**.

Old Birthday Cards

Over £3000 was given to charities from the cards we sold in 2006 so many thanks for all your support. The cards are now made by Lizann Murray Clarke. Lizann still needs your old cards after you have enjoyed them, so that she can continue to recycle them into re-saleable items. Please continue to leave them at 3 Broad Street or The Vesey Room and also the Cotton Club where they are for sale.

Bampton Drop-In

Held at the Methodist Chapel every Monday from 12pm, where all are welcome. Don't suffer those Monday

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

So come along and enjoy this friendly informal gathering where you will very soon want to make it a regular date in your diary.

Book Banks

Spread the word ...

Book banks, provided by the Salvation Army, are the latest addition at six of the recycling centres across West Oxfordshire. This means residents can recycle their books alongside textiles, shoes, plastics, cans, paper, cardboard and glass.

Good quality books are resold, whilst other books may be sent abroad to help education programmes. Paperback books unsuitable for resale will be recycled into newsprint.

Books banks can be found at:

- Guildenford Road car park, Burford
- Co-op, Black Bourton Road, Carterton
- New Street car park, Chipping Norton
- Back Lane car park, Eynsham
- Sainsbury's, Witan Way, Witney
- Welch Way car park, Witney

Exhibition of Bampton Bell Ringers

In September there will be an exhibition of Bampton's bell ringers in the Vesey room. We have written records which give us the names of ringers through last century.

Do you have photographs of one or more ringers or a group of our ringers taken before 1950 that we may copy and use in the exhibition?

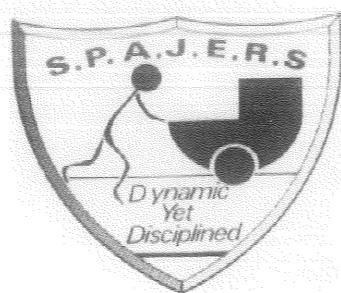
If you can help please contact

Janet Rouse. Tel: 850162

email-woodgreen69-

bamptonbeam@yahoo.co.uk

It's the 55th



Bampton



Saturday 26th May

- 6.45pm Judging of the Best Fancy Dress**
 - 7.15pm Junior & Intermediate Races**
 - 7.30pm Senior Race**
 - 8.00pm Prizes Presentation**
- All times very approximate!**

Bampton Gardening Club

Forthcoming Trips

- Sunday April 29th**
RHS Wisley Gardens
- Sunday May 20th**
Borde Hill Garden Park & Woodland
- Sunday June 17th**
Three Counties Show
Malvern
- Sunday July 22nd**
Spetchley Park & Gardens
Worcestershire
- Sunday 4th November**
Lunch & Xmas Variety Show
Kettering
- Sunday 18th November**
Shopping Trip to Portsmouth
- Sunday 2nd December**
Good Food Show
NEC Birmingham

Forthcoming Holidays

- 18th - 20th August**
Its seaside time again to Eastbourne
Staying on the sea front at the 3*
Wish Tower Hotel
Cost £169 per person
- 8th - 14th September**
Holiday time to the
Emerald Isle
- 27th - 30th December**
Twixmas Weekend to the
Isle of White
Staying at the ever popular
Burlington Hotel, Sandown

For more information or to book yourself a seat or a holiday, please contact Ellen Parker Tel: 01993 843985.

WOA Gallery
Market Square, Bampton OX18 2JH
Tel: 01993 850137
westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 266542



Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox Arts is 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

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
- reduced commission rate for exhibitors

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

Administrator Olivia Thornton is usually in the gallery Tues-Thurs 10am -4pm.

Robert Vesey Room at Bampton Library : Exhibitions

The Robert Vesey Room Opening Hours are: Monday & Thursday 2.30-4.30pm and Wednesday & Saturday 10am-12pm. If you would like to book this exhibition space for a month please contact Ailsa Matheson on 01993 851004. The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

Classes with Geri

Thursdays at the Bampton Recreation Ground Pavilion
Pilates-Fit 11.30 - 12.30 followed by Stretch, Relax, & Coffee 12.40 - 1.30
£6 per class or £10 for both

Thursdays at St. Johns School, Shiltern Park (Term Time Only)
Basic Aerobics & Sculpt 6.15 - 7pm followed by Pilates-Fit 7.10 - 7.55pm
£5 per class or £8 for both

Fridays at the Bampton Youth Centre
Basic Aerobics 10.00 - 10.45am followed by Pilates-Fit
£5 per class or £8 for both.

For further information call Geri on 07870 233209
Email: fitfigures@btinternet.com

Bampton Community Shop

By Fenella Gray, Secretary

The Bampton Community Shop continues to be very well supported by Villagers and others from the surrounding communities, both bringing in items, and buying them!

The Shop will hold its AGM shortly, and at this meeting decisions will be made as to which requests for funding will be supported.

These decisions will then be considered by the Disbursement Committee, and the level of funding determined.

So, if anyone is looking for financial support for a worthy cause *for the Village*, please write to me c/o The Cotton Club – see back page for the full address – and it will be considered by our AGM. When making a request you should specify the organisation or cause you are seeking support for, how much money you are looking for, and how the money will be spent.

Finally, all of the Volunteers of 'The Shop' would like to thank everyone who has supported them since the Shop (originally named The Bampton Charity Shop) opened in May 2004, and hope that they will continue to receive the same – or even higher! – level of support in the future.

SPAJERS News

By Don Rouse

What a brilliant and successful year we have had. We are still trying new innovations which, whether they work or not, shows that your committee are not 'brain dead,' YET!

The shopping trip was a success and we are looking at something similar for this April, though at a different venue. Our members liked the idea of a five to six hour jaunt and welcomed the idea of another one. The Swindon outlet centre was extremely helpful to our organisers, with large discounts to all our members which went a long way towards a good time being had by all. You will be used for this trip, was getting our members to phone their acceptance through to the organiser, we thought it worked well and allowed us to actually talk to our members, we would appreciate your comments on this or any other aspects of the SPAJERS.

Other plans for the coming year include the usual SPAJER created traditions.

The Quiz Night

Quiz night is going to return to the Springtime. Make a note in your diary, it will be held on **Friday 20th April**. Teams of six, get your team together and let Roger Snow our secretary know. **Tel: 01993 850113.**

Village Garage Sale.

The next village garage sale will be on **Sunday of 6th May**, May Bank Holiday weekend. This phenomenon was established two years ago and is now rapidly being copied by other villages. I am going to hand over this column for Jackie Green to update with the details for this year.

Well it's come to that time of the year again, you've seen 'Cash in the attic' and 'Flog it' on the television, so now comes Bampton's version.... No TV crews, but stalwart members of the SPAJER's team helping you to sell your hidden treasures etc. We are proud to announce this our third Big Spring Cleanout. Don't miss out on the fun and the chance to make a few pounds. Call the Garage Sale Hotline now; **Tel: 01993 850760** and speak to Mat or Jackie.

Thanks especially to Jackie.

The Annual Shirt Race

Don't forget the Annual Shirt Race on Saturday 26th May in the Market Place. It all takes off from 6.45pm with the judging of the Fancy Dress. This will be followed by the Junior and Intermediate races being run together. Then what everyone has been waiting for, of course the Senior Race, which has of course the very sort after first prize of the 'barrel of beer'.

Leiden Marching Band's visit

It's funny how fate plays games, often to our advantage. In 1963 the Bampton Weightlifting club represented Oxford in a competition with Leiden in Holland. With the contacts made there, a few years ago we had a Leiden Band play at our Shirt Race. Well this year those contacts want to bring over one of the leading Marching Bands of Holland to entertain us, not only with their musical skills, but their marching ones as well. It is a big band of over thirty musicians, so it should be quite a spectacle, and would you believe, they do not want paying for it! So I suppose it is a big thank you to those weightlifters of forty years ago who have now been pensioned off. Mind you several of our Morris Dancers and the Bampton Barn Dance Band have performed in the streets of Leiden. So there have been connections with Leiden for quite a few years!

We are planning to revive the Bonfire Night Special

Once again your committee with the Fire Brigade and help from the Parish Council will be presenting a night to remember.

To remind you of the rules for being a member of the SPAJERS. You must have reached the age for the National Pension and have lived in Bampton for a minimum of six months, if you know of anyone who has that criteria and is not a member please let us know, after first obtaining their permission. Our 'keeper of the lists' is **Jeff Dando Tel: 01993 850643.**

Membership list

On the subject of membership lists, a rather delicate issue that we have is,

that when a husband dies, we often do not have the initial of the widow to address our mail correctly. If offence is caused, we apologise, we can only act on information given. Years ago it was not an issue, but with our changing society and 'women's rights,' of which I do not have problems with, things are different. As you probably know, our Motto is 'Dynamic yet Disciplined'. Therefore if we are disciplined we do not offend! As it is all about Bampton people caring for Bampton people we need you to help us and keep us informed, it is an area where we need each other.

Josie's Quiz

Since our last Beam report we have had Josie's Draw. How Josie, her friends and family manage to get so many prizes together - over 60 this time - I do not know.

A total of £733.00 was raised. So well done Josie and your gang, for a fantastic event at the Romany that was enjoyed by many.

I have already written the date of your next 'Josie's Draw in my diary as **Friday 9th November.**

The Quiz night that was moved from April was a success, £515.00 being the profit and team May Day being the Brains of Bampton.

The Mummings

The Mummings enjoyed their best year ever, raising £1000.00 in one night. They were greatly assisted by a generous donation to make the figure raised a round one! All the Mummings worked extremely hard, they even had to refuse drinks to enable them to maintain a very busy itinerary! In all they did 14 performances. One of the busiest evenings for many years.

Rouse's Ramblings

Rouse's Ramblings finished the year off with a total of £1125.00. Thanks to all those organisations for actually wanting to hear the ramblings of an out of work Farmer.

The AGM

Our AGM will be in the first week of May, it is open to the public and we would welcome your views. More info from the Secretary, **Roger Snow Tel: 01193 850113.**

Let's Get Bampton Fit

By Calum Taylor

Question:

I started the year full of good thoughts on how to keep myself healthy by going to the gym but I have lost my motivation for it. I realise that it's good for me and I have felt a difference but I feel I will not be able to sustain it any longer. Is there anything I can do to help me with my situation?

Answer:

First of all I would like to congratulate you on keeping the gym going for this length of time. There are many ways for you to help with motivational issues. Many people set about their new years resolution of getting fit with the best of intentions but they realise they are unable to keep it going it can be one of many things like doing too much too soon and instead of being progressive they workout everyday but quickly lose motivation as this is not easily sustainable. Try cutting down your sessions to a more reasonable time scale. For instance try Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. By doing three workouts a week you give yourself a longer period of time for your body to recover and, because the fitness is gained during the days off rather than the time that you are exercising it, means your body will be able to adapt and improve quicker to the stresses you have put upon it.

Another reason tends to be the lack of variety in your programme. Many people go to the gym and do the same workout every time they are there, which obviously can get very boring as well as causing you to plateau in your improvements very quickly. Why not try yoga for your relaxation and flexibility, Pilates for your core, resistance training for toning, and cardiovascular exercise for losing body fat. This way the classes you go to if the instructor is worth his/her salt will vary the exercises to keep you challenged but also keep your motivation as you accomplish these challenges.

Another reason for giving up the gym early in the year is that training on your own with no one to talk to is very hard as you have no one to push you and it makes you feel like you are

on your own. Try and encourage a friend to join you in all your fitness so that the healthy living becomes a shared experience and not a lone crusade this way when you are feeling like you can't go to the classes or gym you will feel like you are letting your friend down if you don't go and vice versa.

More top tips for staying motivated


- Identify what is motivating you. It might be that a close family member has been affected by heart disease, diabetes, or another condition that you want to work towards preventing in yourself. Or you may simply want to feel fitter and have more energy for the things you like doing. Some people simply want to live as long as possible to enjoy their children and grandchildren.
- Find exercises that you will enjoy and can sustain as part of your lifestyle. Identify one exercise that you enjoy doing on most days.
- Develop an exercise habit. It takes weeks to form a habit. So keep at it, knowing the more consistent you are in the beginning, the more it will become a permanent part of your life.
- Be patient with yourself. Some

days you will be more motivated or have more time than other days. When possible, do more. When you can't, do less, or do something different. When you can't exercise for a while because of illness, injuries, or demands on your time, don't feel guilty about it. A brief period of not exercising is not a disaster.

- Plan ahead. Have your exercise clothes ready - that way you'll be less easily distracted if something else crops up.
- Set achievable goals. Goals that commit to a course of action (for example, exercising daily for 1 month) are as effective as targets such as jogging 3 miles in 30 minutes. When you achieve a goal, reward yourself. Decide on a reward ahead of time to spur you on.
- Vary or change your routine. If you're walking or cycling try new and different routes. Try doing another activity for a while to add variety

At the end of the workout make sure that you stretch all the muscles that you have used statically for at least 30 secs each. Make sure that you consult your doctor before undergoing an exercise programme on your own.

If you have any other questions about rider fitness or any other issues related to health and fitness, please send me a letter to Taylor Made Training, Casio Cottage, Shilton, OX18 4AW.



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Book In Now To Avoid Disappointment

All levels & Abilities welcome

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

It is hard to believe that it is now ten years since I first became your Agriculture Correspondent. Looking back over those ten years what massive changes we have seen. If you remember we were just into the first year of BSE, with the so called experts predicting that there would be 'deaths on a massive scale' during the next ten years from the human form of BSE. They were talking in 'thousands' of people dying. It totally ruined the British Beef industry sending it into a decline from which it has still not yet recovered, even though the death toll

figures, which are still suspect; is still within three figures! Statistics reveal that more people choke to death when eating beef than they do from anything that they may catch from it.

As I write this a new scare is on the cards, that of Bird Flu. As with the BSE, I am sure there will be many 'experts' advising us on things that they know very little about, spreading panic through out the industry. Remember Edwina Curry and the Salmonella in eggs? What a woman! Not only did she bring the chicken industry down on to its

knees but the Prime Minister as well. All this she achieved from a supine position!

I do think that the Media has a lot to answer for; they seem to take things totally out of proportion specifically to cause panic and create sensationalism. Take the recent weather forecasts. Twice this year the Media has been saying that we were going to have Blizzards of Antarctic proportions, yet all we have had is a few beautiful crisp mornings and brilliant sunshine! (I hope that I am not speaking too soon, or I might be classed as a typical expert).

Yet after all these years of experience with Media Hype, I still take notice of them and keep my JCB in tip top condition in case I am needed to rescue the residents of Lew. The last time the police asked me to do that was over twenty years ago, but you never know do you? She was a lot younger then, in fact she was just sixteen! Somebody once told me that the reason some vehicles are called 'she' is because it takes a man to handle them! But that can't be right as I have seen some women 'Digger Drivers'. I actually saw one in the Butchers this



week, looking fantastic in her JCB outfit!

By the way my definition of an expert is. Ex = a has-been. Spert = a drip under pressure. And no, before you ask, I am not an expert on agriculture, as my headings usually says, I am an 'Out of Work Farmer'.

In my early articles I tried to explain all about Quotas. How the EEC was punishing the British farming industry for its efficiency. If we produced more than our Quota we were punished quite severely. Well I can now report that Europe has won the battle, the British farmer is no longer one of

the most efficient in Europe; in those days we were still exporting milk, now we are importing it. The same applies to all our other agriculture trades. It is indeed a sad state of affairs. I dread to think what the next ten years will bring. I must admit though, that I am comforted by the demand for allotments in the area, it shows that there are still a lot of people out there who believe in independence, and like me, believes that 'the answer lies in the soil'.

One agriculture pursuit that is thriving is the trade in Vintage Tractors, there are some six or seven traders in this area alone. Yet modern tractor dealerships have all but disappeared, with Tincknells about to move from Clanfield, there will be nothing in the area. This says it all about British farmers; we are great 'HASBEENS'. Which is decidedly better I suppose than 'NEVER WAS'.

I have been told by my Editor that there is now a strict censorship on the scribes not to mention the 'Chicanes'! But I hope she will just let me say that we are all

working together for a safer Bampton. I am having a lot of fun going around the countryside talking about my life and times in Bampton, the trouble is now, I have to go much further afield to get anyone willing to listen to me! It is now stretching out to Marlow. Its fine by me as it all makes money for the SPAJERS but it still amazes me how many people ask me if I know 'so and so' from Bampton. Bampton's fame goes far and wide.

Have you ever been in such a position where you have asked yourself 'What am I doing here'? It happened to me just before Christmas. I had given a

talk about the Mummers to a group at their Christmas party, when the next item of entertainment was 'passing the parcel'. Half way through, the record player that was playing carols as the music to 'pass the parcel,' broke down, so they asked me if I would sing to allow them to carry on with the game! That was fine by me (I was a Bampton choirboy in 1948, though my voice has deteriorated some what since then), but I was then accused of cheating as I did not have my eyes closed when I stopped and saw who the winner was! Needless to say a lot of fun was had by all; I hope I get invited back!

I visited the Vesey Room to see the presentation of the Bampton Town Football Club. Congratulations to all those who put it together, a couple of comments that I would like to make, - well one question and one comment! Question: where was the copy of the Daily Mirror that had a picture of the young team as 'Centre Page Spread' back in the 1960s? Surely someone has a copy? I am sure that it contained as its 'backdrop' Arthur Gerring's shed. The team used to play in our field at the top of New Road at the time. This was very handy for me as I would have to do the milking in the next field, so I was able to watch the football through the hedge as I was milking. If my father caught me I would have been in serious trouble, as he was a firm believer in that saying that has been hi-jacked by women, that it is impossible for men to multi-task.

The comment is 'Haven't they done well'? They have had many highs and few lows, yet they are still there giving a good account of themselves; may they long be a team to be proud of. It was great to see photos of many of the stalwarts who did so much many years ago. There was no *Bampton Beam* in those days to record all those people who did so much for the club. People like George Dafter and Jack Lawrence, not forgetting Bampton's anchor man Albert Radband, who at the age of eleven was organising matches between Bampton schoolboys and the Bampton schoolboys who attended Burford Grammar school. As I was one of them, I know what a brilliant job he has always done for football in Bampton. I was

intrigued by the number of footballers who were also members of the Bampton Weight Lifting Club. I can remember during the summer months, many local team managers visiting the Weightlifting Club to persuade some of the footballers to sign for them. The method of persuasion was quite impressive, considering it was an amateur sport!

The facilities on offer for the youngsters today are far superior to the ones available forty years ago, then, the footballers had to dodge 'cow pats', which is probably why they were so 'swift of foot'!

I remember Jack Lawrence, George Dafter and my father getting dressed up as Pearly Kings, accompanied by a Barrel Organ, going out on the streets to raise money for Bampton's first playing field. As soon as the field was purchased, every Bamptonian worked to create a Cycle Speedway Track for the Bampton Bullets. The crowds that turned up on race night were unbelievable. Bampton has certainly enjoyed many sporting achievements.

What do you make of all this 'Global

Warming' talk? They say that last January was the warmest since the early 1900s. They also say that it is caused by all the carbon emissions from our cars and the aeroplanes that we use to go on holiday with. However could someone please tell me what volume of cars were about in the early 1900s? All the pictures that I have seen of Bampton around that time had nothing but horses in them and there certainly weren't any planes about. So what did the so called 'clever dicks' reckon was the cause of it all then? My guess is everyone was so busy trying to earn a crust of bread that they did not have time to indulge in such philosophy. It is a pity that these people can't find themselves a proper job.

Talking of air pollution, if the RAF were to get rid of those VC1's I'm sure that it would have as much affect as one Chinese Power Station closing down! Now that's where the 'clever dicks' should strut their stuff as the UK's percentage of global warming is so small compared to China. They could certainly achieve better results!

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THE HOMOEOPATHY CORNER

NEW CHILDREN'S HOMOEOPATHIC CLINIC

By Margaret Chanter

A regular Children's Homoeopathic Clinic is now open in Aston and Witney, offering treatment for children of all ages, run by local homoeopath, Margaret Chanter. Margaret has been involved with homoeopathy for over 14 years, and trained in classical homoeopathy at the well-respected School of Homoeopathy in North Devon. She is fully insured and registered with the Society of Homoeopaths and follows their Code of Ethics and Good Practice.

Homoeopathy recognises that every child is special and has their own physical and emotional way of dealing with disease. Homoeopathy provides treatment tailored to the individuality of your child's needs..

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Homoeopathy can be of assistance where there are erratic sleeping patterns, learning difficulties and behavioural problems such as attention deficit disorder. It can ease debilitating disorders and illnesses as individual as your child, whether or not the disease can be given a label. It is also excellent in relieving many of the ailments associated with pregnancy and can gently ease labour and birth. Why make life complicated? Use homeopathy! For further information or appointment contact your village homoeopath,

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Help with going Smoke Free

Businesses in West Oxfordshire are being urged to attend seminars to find out more about going smokefree as new legislation takes effect on 1st July 2007.

From this time, smoking in virtually all enclosed workplaces will be against the law, this includes businesses, pubs, restaurants and work vehicles.

West Oxfordshire District Council has teamed up with Business Link and Oxfordshire PCT to help raise awareness of the new legislation.

The local campaign starts next month (March) with two free lunchtime seminars. The first is on Tuesday 6th March at the Town Hall Chipping Norton and the second on Friday 9th March at Langdale Hall, Witney.

The smokefree regulations are part of the Health Act 2006 and are designed to protect employees from the serious health risks of second-hand smoke.

"We have all known for some time that passive smoking can kill and so we welcome this new legislation which has already received a huge amount of public support," said Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment. "At the council, we are helping businesses prepare for this new legislation as it will affect their staff and customers. Attending one of our free seminars is a good opportunity to find out more and I urge businesses to sign up today."

The seminars are free, each lasting one hour, starting with lunch at 12.30 pm. To book a place contact the Oxfordshire PCT Tel: 01865 226663 or email:

s m o k -
ing.advice@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk to book.

Information and resources about the new legislation can be found on the Smoke Free England website, smokefreeengland.co.uk or Tel: 0800 169 1697.

For further information contact:
Carys Davies / Samantha Simpson
Publicity Office
Tel: 01993 861615
Mobile: 07771 965360

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Tourism Businesses Invited to Join National Event

West Oxfordshire District Council's tourism section is encouraging local businesses to hold a special event to showcase what they have to offer as part of a national promotional event. The event is the first ever British Tourism Week, running from 12th to 18th March. The aim is to raise national awareness of the size, value and importance of Britain's £74 billion visitor economy.

Tourism businesses in West Oxfordshire are invited to submit details of special offers or events via the council's website, www.westoxon.gov.uk, where they will be promoted free of charge. Listings can include special entry rates, different opening hours, reduced meals or discounted accommodation.

Cllr Tony Walker, Cabinet Member for Leisure & Tourism said, "This is a not to be missed opportunity to raise the profile of tourism in West Oxfordshire. The area is promoted as the Oxfordshire Cotswolds and we believe that it is rural England at its finest. We hope that local tourism businesses will benefit by joining in and offering a special event or discount offer."

During British Tourism Week representatives from the Council's tourism section will be attending the British Travel Trade Fair at the NEC in Birmingham to promote the District as a tourist destination to the travel trade.

Tourism has significant economic value to the district of West Oxfordshire accounting for approximately £212.8 million spend into the local economy each year and accounting for nearly 5,000 jobs.

David Cameron MP said, "British Tourism Week is a great opportunity to highlight the vital importance of tourism in Britain - and in our case West Oxfordshire. It is great that the Council is using the opportunity of the Week to celebrate all the Oxfordshire Cotswolds have to offer. I would urge everyone with any kind of interest in tourism to become involved so we can make British Tourism Week a success for West Oxfordshire".

West Oxfordshire is promoted as the

Oxfordshire Cotswolds and has its own website:

www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org

For further information contact:
Carys Davies / Samantha Simpson
Publicity Office

Tel: 01993 861615 Mobile: 07771 965360.

Air & Country Show Abingdon Sunday 6th May

Planning is now well underway for the 8th in the series of successful Abingdon Air & Country Shows. Our latest event will take place at Abingdon airfield, Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, Oxfordshire on May 6th 2007. A major feature of the day will be a two and a half hour flying display, hopefully featuring historic aircraft as well participation from the British Armed Forces. Invitations have also been sent out to overseas air forces in the hope that we can build on previous year's international content.

Ground attractions for all the family are being planned including a wide range of vintage/classic vehicles, live music, static aircraft, a craft marquee and a wide variety of trade and club/society stalls.

Our 2007 event will be officially opened by globe-trotting local aviatrix, Polly Vacher who we hope will also be flying in with her well-travelled Piper Dakota aircraft.

Visitors to Abingdon Air & Country Show 2007 will be able to enter the site from 1000hrs.

On the day admission charges will be: Adults £8, OAP/Child £5, Under-5s FREE

Discount price tickets will be available in advance from Abingdon Town Council Offices in the Guild Hall, Abingdon, via our web-site:

www.abingdonfayre.com

and by post from 12 Austin Place, Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

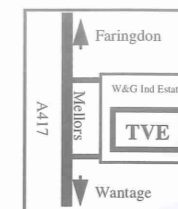
These tickets will be available from 31st January 2007 at the following rates: Adults £7, OAP/Child £3.50, Under-5s FREE

Proceeds from the day will go to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust...a vital but woefully underfunded asset to the local emergency services.



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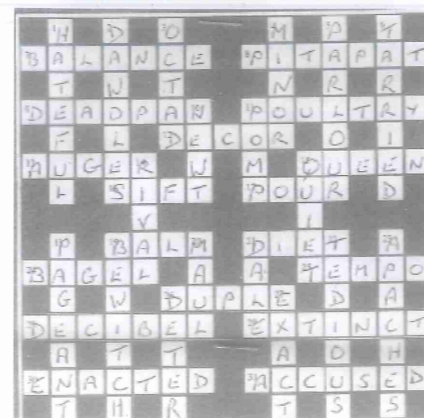
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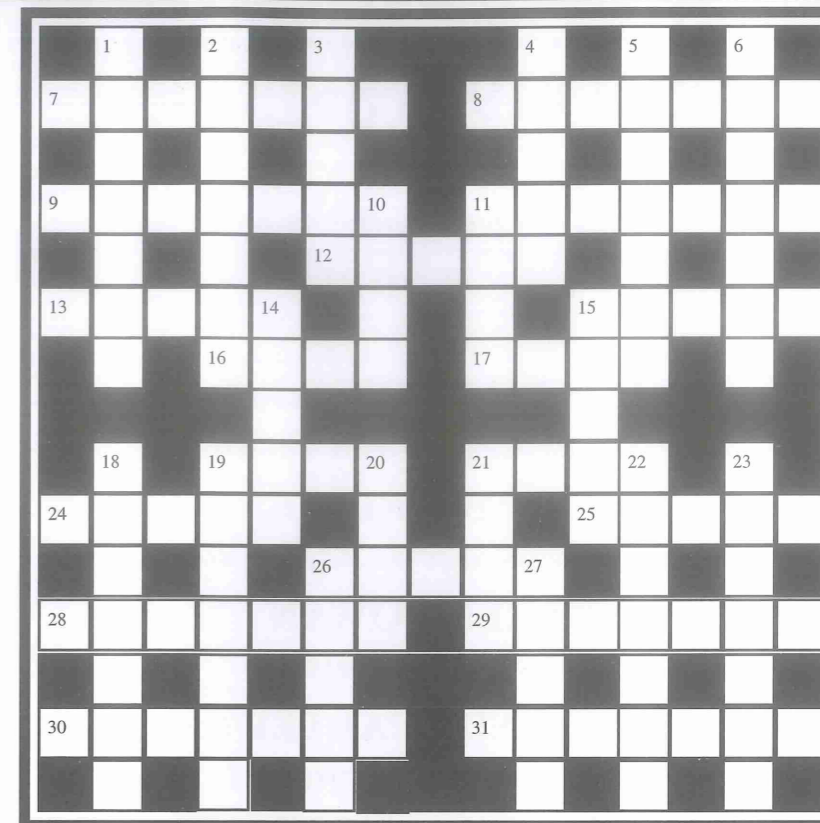
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Solution to the November BEAM CROSSWORD



The winner of the November Crossword is Mrs L Sangwine, of Church Street, Bampton. Congratulations, the £10 prize is yours! We would also like to donate £10 to Cancer Research, as a thank you to Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for 'The Beam'.

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Privateer
- 8 Warned of danger
- 9 Trinkets of little value
- 11 Small unit of artillery
- 12 Hairdressing establishment
- 13 Character, nerve, material
- 15 A shady leafy shelter
- 16 Fruit of the blackthorn
- 17 At that time
- 19 Highly impatient, eager
- 21 Utter in loud bombastic tones
- 24 Correspond one with the other
- 25 Third letter of the Greek alphabet
- 26 Car with fixed roof and sloping back
- 28 To deny knowledge of
- 29 Respected, distinguished
- 30 Something confiscated as a penalty
- 31 A state's annual income (esp tax)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 The brightest star in Ursa Minor
- 2 Lines of equal atmospheric pressure
- 3 Non technical name for urticaria
- 4 To gather remnants of a crop
- 5 A formal public speech
- 6 Question someone after a mission
- 10 A very wise man
- 11 An arrow for a crossbow
- 14 A mournful or plaintive poem
- 15 The state of existing
- 18 A North American deer
- 19 Leguminous plant, also called lucerne
- 20 To increase in size
- 21 Mature
- 22 Affected with an undesirable quality
- 23 Foreboding evil
- 26 An acute spasmodic abdominal pain
- 27 Ant

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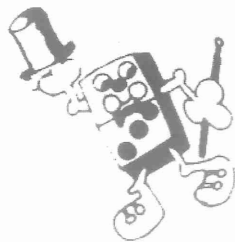
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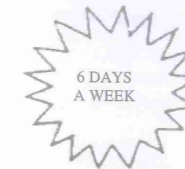
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 Garden Plants, Flower
 Vegetable Plants
 The last Friday in the
 month brings out a
 Craft Stall with Special
 Christmas Gifts for sale
 Everything home-made or
 Home-grown
 Come along and visit us.
 Refreshments on sale.

The Robert & Doris Watts Residential & Nursing Home

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



18 Single Rooms
 2 Double Rooms
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The Robert & Doris Watts Residential & Nursing Home is a family run home offering a high standard of nursing in a warm and homely atmosphere.
 The fees represent excellent value for money.

Life Lease Purchase Also Available

In a new initiative, the concept of purchasing a lease-for-life is now being offered. Such leases offer major benefits to clients of the home, and their estate.

Call us now for further information.
 Or why not call in and see us? We will make you very welcome.

Calendar of Events

March

- 1st BEWG AGM, Village Hall, 8pm
 7th Movies on the Move, 'The Queen', Village Hall, 7.30pm
 10th Cabaret Evening, Bampton Primary School
 20th *History of Television*, Clanfield Historical Society, Carter Institute, Clanfield,

April

- 7th Easter Bonnet Parade, In Aid of The Helen House Hospice, Talbot, 2pm
 17th *Ladies of Blenheim*, Clanfield Historical Society, Carter Institute, Clanfield,
 20th Quiz Night, SPAJERS, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 22nd Car Book Sale (TBC), Bampton Primary School
 26th BEWG Open Meeting, Talk on Red Kites, Village Hall, 8pm
 23rd Bampton Village Hall AGM, Village Hall, 8pm.
 28th Bampton Slow Living Society, Reisling Wine Evening, Village Hall, 6pm
 29th Car Boot Sale, Bampton Primary School, 09.00 – 12.00
 29th Outing to RHS Wisley Gardens, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am

May

- 1st (- 30th June) Exhibition *Saxon Bampton*, Bampton Archive, Vesey Room
 2nd Movies on the Move, 'Some Like It Hot', Village Hall, 7.30pm
 6th Village Garage Sale, SPAJERS, 11am to 3pm
 6th Abingdon Air Show, Dalton Barracks
 9th Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 13th Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v London Erratics (h)
 15th River cruise, Clanfield Historical Society, Lechlade
 20th Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v Lechlade (h)
 20th Outing to Borde Hill Garden Park & Woodland, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am
 26th The Great Annual Shirt Race, SPAJERS, Market Square, 6.45pm
 28th May Garlands, Market Square, 11am.
 28th Grand Plant Sale, Bampton Archive & Bampton Zimbabwe Project, Eagle House 10am
 28th Morris Dancers, Village, Early 'til Late

June

- 3rd Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v LMS (h)
 10th Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v Letcombe Regis (h)
 17th Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v Kingston Bagpuize (a)
 17th Hidden Gardens of Bampton, Bampton Archive, 2pm – 6pm
 17th Outing to Three Counties Show Malvern, gardening Club, Market Square, 9am
 19th AGM & Annual Dinner, Clanfield Historical Society, Venue TBC

July

- 7th Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v Barford (h)
 7th Bampton Slow Living Society, BBQ, Venue TBA
 12th Garden Party & Evaluation Day, The Manor House, 4pm - 8pm
 15th Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v Langford (h)
 21st Bampton-in-the-Bush Cricket Club v Presentation day (h)
 22nd Outing to Spetchley Park & Gardens, Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am
 26th BEWG Open Meeting, Talk on Wildlife, Village Hall, 8pm

THE BAMPTON BEAM

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West Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Services Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection

Normal Collection Day

Revised Collection Day

Wednesday 10 April

Thursday 11 April

For further information access the Website on
www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment