THE BAMPTON BEAM

March 2009 Volume 24, No. 1

Loo of the Year Awards!

Five of West Oxfordshire's toilets have received recognition for their high standards in this year's national Loo of the Year competition.

The annual awards, carried out by the British Toilet Association are to find the best place 'to go' when away from home. Toilets visited are rated on a 'star' basis – one star is poor and 5 stars are excellent.

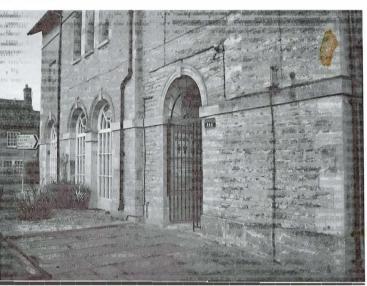
The toilets at the Spendlove Centre car park in Charlbury gained an impressive 5 star excellent rating.

The other four that were inspected received a four star rating and they are based at: Chipping Norton Town Hall, Bampton Town Hall, Black Bourton Road car park in Carterton, and Browns Lane in Woodstock.

They were judged using a checklist of over 100 different criteria for assessing male, female, accessible and baby change facilities.

West Oxfordshire District Council will now receive award grading certificates and a plaque for each site.

All the toilets visited are part of an £800,000 refurbishment programme which started in 2006. They all now have new modern facilities which clude selfcontained cubicles, gents' urinals, baby changing and for access with those



An exciting shot of Bampton's award winning loo!

disabilities to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

The refurbishment programme followed a review which recognised that toilet facilities in the District needed to be improved. Better cleaning and maintenance of the toilets was also highlighted, and more frequent cleaning now takes place.

The Bampton Emergency Response Plan

Bampton's Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was issued to all households and businesses early January.

The ERPs were hand-delivered by your Stalwart Parish Councillors - aided by the Clerk to the Council - so everyone *should* have a copy!

However, given the vagaries of house identification in the Village, it may be that some houses and/or businesses have been missed.

If that's you, then call Brenda Sapsford on 01993 851476, and she will arrange for you to collect a copy.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

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

- Environment Agency: Potential flood alleviation measures for Oxford – and potential impact upstream
- RAF Brize Norton: Update on Project Catara
- Chairman's Report
- Flooding Report
- The Local Police Report
- The Recreation Ground Charity Report
- New Mercury Close Playing Field Update
- The Bampton Exhibition Foundation Report
- The Bampton Welfare Trust Report
- The Bampton Community Shop Report
- Reports from County and District Councillors

Did you know that next year, 2010, is the last year of the first decade of the 21st Century/3rd Millennium?

Yes, 2001 was the first year of the 21st Century/3rd Millennium, not 2000 - notwithstanding that the media and others tried to convince us otherwise! Anyway, The Beam Team thought that it might be a good excuse to hold a Village celebration, and is willing to sponsor it. However, The Beam Team could not hope to organise it itself, so is looking for a few volunteers to form a committee to generate ideas, and organise things.

Like to volunteer? Call Fenella Gray on 01993 851653!

Bampton Village Hall



An excellent venue for meetings, classes, parties, performances & fund-raising events.

Main hall with stage, curtains, lights & piano.

Well equipped kitchen and servery with separate locked bar.

Badminton court marked and equipment available.

Disabled toilet facilities.

Lettings Officer: Sarah Radband Telephone: 01993 210160

BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL - HIRE CHARGES

General Hire	£8.00 per hour	
All day and evening	£65.00	
Bar use	£20.00	- 8

Town Hall Bookings

For Town Hall bookings contact Sarah Radband Tel: 01993 210160

Keys to be collected from the Bampton Coffee House

The Bampton 250 Club

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

October	£25	024	Miss D Mansfield	New Road
1	£15	235	Mr & Mrs Lomax	The Lanes
	£15	096	Josh Perry	c/o Queen Street
	£15	234	Mrs Sanguine	Church Street
November	£25	167	Mrs Edwards	Buckland Road
	£15	090	N. Tanner	Chetwynd Mead
	£15	034	Mr & Mrs Williams	Bushey Row
l	£15	186	Mrs Minto	St Mary's Court
December	£100	152	Mark Snow	c/o Bushey Row
	£25	197	Brian Radband	Chandler Close
	£15	163	Mrs D Landray	Church View
	£15	036	Mr & Mrs Reynish	Lavender Square
l	£15	176	Mrs P Curtis	Colvile Close
January	£25	107	Mr S Pearce	Pococks Close
	£15	063	Mrs Wheeler	Bowling Green Close
ı	£15	131	Mrs Jordan	Bowling Green Close
	£15	230	Mrs Hodge	Bowling Green Close

MOVIES ON THE MOVE

In Bampton Village Hall

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

Wednesday 6th May at 7.30 Slumdog Millionaire, Jamal Malik, an orphan from the slums of Munbai, is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's 'Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?' Intelligent and euphoric rags-to-riches from a top British director, with gritty poverty set against explosive Indian colour.

Wednesday 1st July at 7.30pm

The Young Victoria, A sumptuous period drama, filmed at Blenheim Palace, tells the story of Queen Victoria's early rise to power and her romance and marriage to Albert. Stars Emma Blunt, Jim Broadbent and Rupert Friend.

Tickets at £4.00 each for the Duchess and £4.50 each for Slumdog Millionaire and The Young Victoria are on sale at the Cotton Club from 2 weeks before each performance and at the door. Before each movie there will be a short film from the Bampton Archive. Ice creams are available in between the 2 performances and are 50p each.

We look forward to seeing you at the Movies.

EASTER SERVICES

St Mary's, Bampton

Good Friday 10am Service

Easter Eve Saturday 8pm Service of Readings

Easter Sunday

10.30am Family Eucharist

Methodist Chapel, Bampton Easter Sunday

9am Family Service

The Beam Team would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy Easter, and say a special thank you to all our Beam Walkers - many of whom have been with us since the 'Beam' went to its first print!

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By Brenda Sapsford, Clerk to the Parish Council

Emergency Response Plan

The ERP has been issued to all houses and businesses in the Village. A tabletop exercise is being organised with the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC), Emergency Services, and the Bampton Parish Council to test the ERP with a view to determining areas for improvement if any.

Town Hall

Cllr. Millar is looking at various changes and modifications for the Town Hall, with a view to modernising the rooms and facilities.

Mercury Close Playing Field

Cllr. Anna Pitt has implemented the requests for grants to build the new play park. It is hoped to complete the project sometime during the summer months as long as the funding is forthcoming.

Old School Building and Bush Centre

Advice from OCC is still awaited on its deliberations as to the future for the Bush Club, Weightlifting Club, and the Youth Club.

Station Road Chicane

Advice from OCC is still awaited as to the planned timing of the installation of the new chicane.

Grass Cutting

A contract has been signed with OCC for the Parish Council to take over the OCC grass cutting activities. The contract starts in April.

Buckland Road Traffic Calming

A speed check is to be made by the Police to determine the vehicle speeds on the Village side of Fishers Bridge. Once the data has been obtained and analysed, and review of the need for traffic calming, or not, will be undertaken.

Buckland Road HGVs

Following a meeting with the OCC, the Parish Council has been advised that a 7.5T environmental weight limit will be imposed on the Buckland Road from the Village to the A420. OCC is arranging access rights for

local businesses. Implementation information is still awaited.

Twinning

A letter was received from a village in France to determine if Bampton would be interested in twinning with them. The Parish Council decided that it was not appropriate to do so.

Flooding

The WODC Flood report has been issued – it is available on the WODC website. Follow up includes trying to obtain funding for various flood prevention/alleviation schemes.

Cllrs Gray and Smith attended a meeting with the Environment Agency over the proposed flood alleviation schemes for Botley including the possible extension of use of the flood plains in the future upstream of Oxford. The Botley scheme involves the cutting of a large channel from the north of Oxford, by-passing Botley, and meeting the Thames to the south of the city. Estimated cost is in the region of £100million. This would add volume capability to the Thames. and would alleviate flooding risk to Botley - and to the north of the city. A further flood alleviation measure would be to build some bunds upstream of Oxford to hold the water back, which would mean larger areas than at present would be allowed to flood during severe flooding conditions. EA has agreed to give a presentation on the plans at the Annual Parish Meeting.

New Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Sarah Radband has been appointed Clerk designate to the Parish Council. After an appropriate handover period, she will assume the duties from Mrs Brenda Sapsford.

Making Oxford a city we Should be Proud of.

By Cllr. Don Seale
Oxfordshire County Council
Many of us who live in the lovely
Oxfordshire countryside are reluctant
to visit Oxford for a variety of rea-

sons. This should not be so and Oxford should be a pleasant destination for itself and a place where Oxfordshire people (and those who live in Lechlade) should wish to go to for the pleasure of being in a beautiful, historic place, known throughout the world for learning, and its wonderful heritage. Instead it is a scruffy place, and parts of the public environment fail to live up to its global brand...

The County Council has launched a vision to transform Oxford to improve the city and make visitor's experience enjoyable and memorable (for all the right reasons!).

A radical package of measures to transform Queen Street, Magdalen Street and Broad Street are to be the focus of attention for work in 2009/10. Other parts of the city centre including the High street and St Aldates will be the focus of work after then.

The work planned will involve the following:

- Queen Street, in the summer of 2009. Relocation of all bus stops, reduction in bus flows with some routes diverted elsewhere, more pedestrian space with widening of pavements, and landscaping work to complement the Bonn Square improvements already underway.
- Eventually Queen Street will be fully pedestrianised.
- George Street and Magdalene Street pedestrianisation and landscaping in the summer of 2010. This should encourage on-street café and restaurant seating.
- Broad Street pedestrianisation and landscaping in 2010.
- High Street and St Aldates will

Condolences

The Bampton Beam Team would like to express its sincere condolences to David and Samantha Cameron on the death of their son, Ivan. We are sure that the thoughts of the Villagers are with them and their family at this time.

become pedestrian zones with a major reduction in bus flows.

Smarter bus ticketing will be introduced to make life easier for passengers and reduce the time buses spend at bus stops while tickets are issued.

Many will have suggestions, ideas and observations. I will be pleased to receive them and pass them on to the planners.

Coping with the Recession

By Cllr. Don Seale Oxfordshire County Council

This recession is going to affect a lot of people in our area. Much of the South East, including Oxfordshire, will experience rising unemployment and a slow recovery. Although we must not talk ourselves into a worse economic condition, it is important that we must be realistic about what may face many of us. It is possible that some will suffer unemployment, many of these may have no previous experience of claiming benefits or of the consequences of being out of work The County Council is working closely with Tony Baldry MP for Banbury to launch a Banbury Job Club to provide support and advice to all affected by the recession.

This was launched early in January and the first full Job Club was held on Friday 30th January.

The County Council is also looking at setting up similar advice agencies across the County. It is already clear that debt and benefit advice services will be under pressure and we hope we can make a modest increase in our funding of them.

The County Council is working closely with District Councils and local businesses to identify trends and to be able to respond promptly and effectively so as to help people through challenging times.

Garden Waste Scheme set to expand

West Oxfordshire District Council is re-launching its Garden Waste Scheme to give twice as many residents the chance to get their green waste collected.

The fortnightly collection scheme has proved extremely popular since it was introduced in 2006 and is currently running at full capacity with 4,000

households signed up, and several hundred more on a waiting list. The Council is now doubling the scheme to give a total of 8,000 households the opportunity to join.

This scheme will start in May and runs until the end of September 2010, when a new waste collection contract comes into force in West Oxfordshire. The charge is £51 per household equivalent to just £3 per month. As well as a fortnightly collection service, this fee includes provision of a wheeled bin.

As with the current scheme, which runs until the end of April, all garden waste will be composted to reduce the pressure on landfill sites and help the environment. Since April last year, 1,477 tonnes of garden waste has been collected and composted. This already exceeds the total amount collected (1,408 tonnes) the previous year.

Garden waste that can be collected varies from grass cuttings and tree prunings to hay and straw.

Residents can sign up for the scheme now and are encouraged to do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Anyone wishing to join, or find out more information, can do so online www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden, Tel: 01993 861020 - E-mailing garden.waste@westoxon.gov.uk.

Council stays 'on board' with 'Dial-a-Ride'

West Oxfordshire District Council has pledged its continuing support for the Octabus Dial-a-Ride service.

Dial-a-Ride is a door-to-door minibus service for people who find it difficult to use public transport, such as the elderly or disabled. The buses are designed for accessibility, which includes loading wheelchairs and drivers are trained to help people with mobility problems as well as being first aiders. The service helps people gain access to work, social and leisure opportunities and last year in West Oxfordshire over 3,000 Dial-a-Ride journeys were made.

Cllr Jill Dunsmore, Cabinet Member for Communities said, "With the closure of so many Post Offices we are at a time when rural services are being especially hit hard. I am therefore pleased that we are supporting the continuation of the Dial-a-Ride service, which is a much-needed service

in our rural District. It is a lifeline for those who find it difficult to travel on public transport and who might otherwise be isolated."

Dial-a-Ride operates between 9 am and 5pm, Monday to Friday and is run by Walters Limousines. There is a charge but the Council's concessionary bus pass or transport tokens can be used. More information is on www.westoxon.gov.uk and places can be booked by Tel: 01865 876176.

The Octabus Dial-a-Ride service is provided in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and operates in Oxford City Council and the Vale of White Horse areas in addition to West Oxfordshire.

The service does not provide journeys to social centres operated by Oxfordshire County Council or to hospital. For further information contact: - Carys Davies - Publicity Office

Tel: 01993 861615 Mobile:: 07771 965360

The Oxfordshire Befriending Network

Volunteers supporting people with life threatening and terminal illness

Would you like to make a difference in 2009?

Being diagnosed with a serious illness can be one of the most overwhelming experiences anyone can face, as it involves not only coping with the symptoms of the illness, but a huge adjustment in lifestyle and often social isolation.

Having a regular visitor, someone outside the immediate family, who will listen, can offer emotional support and be willing to accompany the ill person on their 'journey' can be invaluable. We are currently looking for new befriending volunteers and we offer free training, expenses and on-going support. Our next Befriending trainings start in Oxford in May/ June and October 2009. If you can offer 2-3 hours a week to befriend someone in your area please Tel: 01865 791781 or email: enquiries@oxonbefriending.net for a Befriending information pack and application form. We also run an Advocacy service and will be running training for Volunteer Advocates in April. For Advocacy enquiries, please ask for Jan Penrose or email:

jan.penrose@oxonbefriending.net.

Obituaries

Sadly in December, here in Bampton, we have lost several of the old characters of the Village. All were very busy throughout there lives within the village. We pass on our thoughts and our wishes to all the families

Francis Shergold

Everyone in Bampton must have known Francis, not only because of the Morris Dancing but because he was always around, always ready to talk to people; he was always just there. Francis moved to Bampton with his family from Black Bourton at the age of 12 when he became groom at Weald Manor; much later he became the gardener when the Colvile's gave up hunting. As a young boy he watched the men practising the Morris dances outside the old Malt Shovel Pub. It wasn't long before he got his first taste of dancing himself, this being Whitsun 1935. Francis kept the dancing up until 1996 - way past the time he should have put his feet up, he was still out there each Whitsun making sure all was fine. He finally passed his team over to Tony Daniels, who is still the Squire of 'The Bampton Traditional Morris Dancers'.

Sadly Francis passed away before Christmas just short of his 90th birthday. The church was full of all his friends from all walks of life, who like most of us feel we were honoured to know him. Francis is once again with his adored Anne, and no doubt they will both be watching this Whitsun to see if all is well. Ruth and Roy kindly gave the donations from the tributes made at his funeral to the Bush Club, and our heartfelt thanks go out to all the Shergold Family for this kind gesture. There will never be another Francis!

Joan (Beryl) and Reg Smith

Sadly we lost Mum in November. She had fought back after suffering several minor strokes after losing Dad in October 2003 - even starting to drive again at 72 years of age (some achievement)

Unfortunately, last year after having a mild stroke a year or so earlier, she

had a second stroke. However, she had learned to speak again and was gaining her mobility, and the Council had installed a chairlift to her flat at Lavender Place, and things were looking a lot brighter.

It was not to be though. Early in October she had a third stroke. She was left unable to speak, or feed properly, and with very little use in her limbs. She was also in considerable pain. She had fought back so bravely from the second stroke, we all believe that she had no fight left after the third one hit her. We were both with her when she passed away on November 11th in the JR hospital.

Mum always supported local charities, so it was not a difficult decision when sorting things out that most things went to such worthy causes. Sobell House, Cancer Research, and Bampton Charities all benefited. This is want she would have wanted.

Mum and Dad were true Bampton people, and even when away, could not wait to get back to their roots. They always lived within view of the Church, and it seems very appropriate that their final resting place is also in view of the Church. Dad's ashes have been placed with Mum.

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone at Lavender Place, and all Mum's friends, for the cards sent to her while she was in hospital, and for the donations to the Bampton Bush Club on her passing.

Mum and Dad were very proud of their four grandchildren and five great grandchildren, and we all miss them very much, but have very special memories. God bless them both. Linda and Michael.

Marjorie Cashmore

Sadly Marjorie passed away in December at the age of 91 in Middleton Grange Nursing Home in Hailey, after living in Bampton since 1978. Marjorie was born in Wolverton in 1917. She went to Wolverton school – her parents had moved to Wolverton from Coventry where her father, Thomas, had been instrumental in setting up Coventry City Football Club - and then on to Wolverton Technical Col-

lege for evening classes in economics, arithmetic, typing, shorthand, Norwegian and Russian!

At the outbreak of WWII she was in the Home Office, and volunteered to serve as a Home Guard Auxiliary. Ill health then led her to return to Wolverton in 1942, but she recovered and joined the Women's Land Army in 1944 ending up at Bovington Camp Training centre as a driving instructor - she was at that time a very keen driver - training Canadian and Polish troops. Ill health in 1946 led to her being discharged, but after again recovering, in 1949 she rejoined the ATS and posted to No 1 Special Communications Squadron. After being discharged in 1953, she remained in the Diplomatic Wireless Service being promoted to Executive Officer in 1959. On her retirement, she was sent off with a booklet signed by 184 of her colleagues, wishing her a long and happy retirement.

Later in life she took evening classes in writing stories for small children. In the late 1980s she sought, unsuccessfully, to find a publisher for her stories. She also wrote plays and pantomimes for amateur performers.

Unfortunately, the floods in 2007 drove her from her home, and she was never fit enough again to return to it. Prior to this, her house was burgled, and she never really recovered from the shock of this and the flooding, so her last years in Bampton were not as good as they might have been.

Marjorie was one of the great characters of Bampton. She never gave up doing things around the Village until just before she was forced to leave because of the flooding – even when her mobility was impaired, you would still see her pushing her walker around the Village, bringing her offerings to whatever coffee morning was on that day!

The Gardening Club especially miss her a lot. She always produced a raffle prize for the coffee morning raffle, and latterly supplied a box of 'bits' to be sold at the coffee mornings to help the funds. The sales table at the coffee mornings is still called 'Miss Cashmore's Table'!

One of her wartime admirers named her 'sunshine' - and she was; she is very sorely missed in the Village.



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Bampton Classical Opera

This year's production is Haydn's Le Pescatrici (The Fishergirls). The dates are as follows:

17th and 18th July, The Deanery Garden, Bampton.

29th and 30th August, Westonbirt School.

17th September, St John's Smith Square.

The Parish Council has received 10 tickets for the performance on 17th July, and will give them free to Villagers who would like to go along. To apply for a ticket or tickets, please contact Mrs Brenda Sapsford on 01993 851476. Should there be more than 10 applications, then the tickets will be allocated by draw.

PARALLEL LINES

Your Local

Barber

Believe it or not, we are now into our 5th year in Bampton! Time flies! I would just like to thank all of our customers for continuing to support us, and to let you all know that WE ARE NOW OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS!

And ladies are welcome Mondays and Wednesdays! Emma Hughes

Not Just Jam & Jerusalem!

The WI is the largest voluntary organisation for women in the UK with 205,000 members in England, Wales and the Islands. It plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

If you would like more information about how you could help start a W.I. in Bampton, or if you would be interested in joining one in your community, contact Catherine Blaxhall on 01367 241500.

The Computer Clinic

By Graham Newman

Welcome to what I hope, is going to be a regular feature of the Beam. Your response and feed back is the only thing that will guarantee it.

Whilst I will not be able to deal with individual problems and advice through this section, I will be able to focus on matters which are causing problems to a number of people. I will address issues of general interest and concern in using your computers and broadband networks; buying hardware, and how to get the best out of your system at the lowest cost.

I'll start with the issue of protection and security of your computer. At the time of writing, we are facing a new new global attack which' right now' is infecting 1 million computers a day and the rate of infection is increasing. I'm sure you are all aware of the need for Anti-virus and anti-spyware protection and I know the majority of you have it. The only circumstance in which you are now safe without this protection, is if your computer never connects to the internet and you never enter any data or files other than through our own keyboard, Of course, in today's world this is entirely unrealistic.

Like so many things we use nowadays, all antivirus programs are good, but some are much better than others and they do vary in price from free up to £50+If you are feeling the pinch when it comes to renewal, whatever you do don't let your anti-virus software lapse – for even a day! Some of the best anti-virus (AV) programs update themselves 4 times a day to deal with the teaming array of new virus variations.

A day or so before your AV lapses, you can download one of the excellent free AV programs from www.AVG.com/free or www.Avast.com. Save it to the Desktop. Do not 'run' it when the download dialogue box comes up.

Disconnect your computer from the Internet, by removing the Ethernet cable to your router, or switch off your wireless connection. Go to the

'Control Panel' and select 'add/remove programs' and then highlight your existing Antivirus Program and click on 'uninstall'. If you have Norton Internet Security 360 you should go to the Norton website and download their Norton Security Removal tool *before* you uninstall the Antivirus program and then run the Removal tool *after* you have uninstalled the program as described earlier.

OK. Now go to your desktop and click on downloaded Antivirus program and this time select 'run' and install the AV. When completed, re connect your computer to the internet so that the software can be updated with the latest Anti Virus definitions. However, the fully paid up Internet Protection Packages really are the best, and if your computer is vital to your work, then don't cut cost corners here!

If you haven't got it already, download Windows Service Pack 3 for XP and make sure you have Windows Defender. It's free from Microsoft's website and it is an excellent anti spyware and anti intrusion program. But don't have any other antispyware program on your computer at the same time. They will 'fight' each other and slow things down dramatically.

With these programs on your computer, you will be as protected as possible without spending any money.

After a couple of years, computers can become sluggish and start taking forever to do things. You don't have to buy a new computer to make a difference! You probably just need to upgrade the memory, which should only cost around £15 per 1GB as a

rough guide; defragment the disk drive; run the standard disk cleanup routine and remove all cookies and temporary internet files. If you don't know how to do it, just type it into Google, use Windows Help or use Microsoft's wonderful support database at www.microsoft.com.

Failing that, call a computer man who should do all of the above for a most sum, returning a blazingly fast computer for a fraction of the cost of a new one!

Finally I want to leave you with these thoughts. Those of us who have been around know that there are 'no free lunches'. Well there's no free software either (other than Open Office). Free games, free music, free gambling, free videos are paid for by you having made your computer open and available for many rogues and miscreants to get onto your computer. You won't be aware of it for some time, but ultimately your PC will start acting strangely, slowly, and your internet connection will start playing up and you might even lose it.

This is because the 'address' of your computer, the contents of your email address book and perhaps some slightly more serious information on your computer will have been 'collected' and sold to the hundreds of thousands of rogues out there.

Beyond the cosy portals of you home PC it is the 'Wild West' out there in cyberspace. On 29th January 2009, the one billionth PC went on the internet, and all the authorities can monitor are security issues and paedophiles. It is not possible to monitor the barrage of 'stealth' attacks. Start to think of the security of your PC in the same way that you do for your home and car.

Cotswold Bed & Breakfast

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E-mail: poshmargaret@btopenworld.com

News from the Neighbourhood Action Group

By Adrian Coomber

The Bampton, Carterton & Burford Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) was formed in 2005. It consists of community members from Bampton, Carterton, Alvescot, Shilton, Lew & Burford, as well as representatives from Cottsway Housing, the Community Safety Partnership, Thames Valley Police, OCC Youth Service, Carterton Youth Council and RAF Brize Norton.

Our mission is to make our community a safer place to live, work and visit.

The NAG is committed to tackling the issues raised by our communities in order to reduce crime, disorder and fear.

It is a problem-solving group with responsibilities to consider the audit of crime and disorder, assess the top issues highlighted by our community, provide relevant feedback to the members of our communities and maintain the low level of fear of crime of people walking alone during the day.

In 2008/2009, to help us achieve our aims, we are working in partnership with our communities to tackle:

- Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Traffic.
- Litter..

The Neighbourhood Police Team has been through many significant changes over the last few years. We have had officers who have served our community for the best part of 20 years replaced by PCSOs and we have experienced the recruitment and training of our new PCSOs which created particular challenges to continuity.

In the winter of 2008, following the arrival of a new TVP Chief Inspector, we were able to negotiate a review of the manning levels.

This review resulted in one extra PCSO, a neighbourhood Specialist Officer and one part-time Sergeant to bolster the neighbourhood team.

We have set a number of challenges for the group in 2009, the first being to expedite the installation of CCTV in Carterton Town centre.

The NAG has been calling for CCTV in Carterton for several years now; we

believe it will prove to be a useful intelligence gathering tool for the police team and will also deter crime and disorder in the town centre.

We have instigated several speed surveys throughout the neighbourhood in Bampton, Alvescot, Carterton and surrounding villages.

It has become clear that whilst these results indicated a mean average of under the mandatory speed limit in most locations, they also highlighted particular hot spots at particular times of day. The Police team will use this information to target irresponsible drivers.

The NAG involves The West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership which is made up of West Oxfordshire District Council, Thames Valley Police, Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Partnership, Thames Valley Magistrates Courts, Thames Valley Probation Service, Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service, South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, Ox-Race Equality Council, fordshire Cottsway Housing, Oxfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team.

May Garlands

By Ruth Wheeler

It will soon be the Spring Bank Holiday again, and it would be lovely to see some garlands to be judged at 11am that day (Monday 25th 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!

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.

ROTARY CLUB of OXFORD NORTH

32nd Annual Blenheim Palace Walk In support of Sightsavers International

SUNDAY 29th MARCH 2009

This is the 32nd Blenheim Palace Sponsored Walk in aid of Sightsavers International which our club has organised. Last year the walk raised a fantastic £6,417, and it would be great if we could raise even more this year. The money raised will ensure we can help even more adults and children in some of the world's poorest countries.

You can help to treat and prevent blindness and improve the quality of life for those who are irreversibly blind. A little goes a long way. 30p could protect a family from river blindness, £2 could provide a white cane to assist with mobility, £10 could provide a Braille book, £17 could provide sight-restoring cataract surgery.

The walk is through the very pleasant parkland of Blenheim Palace and is four miles long. The starting point is outside Pleasure Gardens and car parking is free for participants.

Sightsavers sponsorship forms and walk cards can be obtained from:

Russell Richards, Sightsavers International, Freepost SEA 4079, Haywards Heath, RH16 4BR, or Chris Evans, Chairman International Committee, Oxford North Rotary Club, 123 Cumnor Hill, Oxford, OX2 9JA

News from Bampton C of E Primary School

By Alison Bardsley

December was as always one of the busiest times at Bampton School.

Christmas Performances

The children put in lots of effort and



The Shiniest Star - KS1

weeks of practice for their Christmas plays, The Shiniest Star, and Hosanna Rock.

Collections were taken at both performances for the Salvation Army.



Hosanna Rock - KS2

Non Uniform Day

A non-uniform day was held, children had to bring in something for the Tombola Stall at the Christmas Bazaar an as usual everyone was very generous.

David Cameron Visit

We had a special visitor on the 12th December. MP David Cameron visited the school to present prizes to the winners of the school Christmas Card Competition.

A selection of the cards designed can be seen on the witney conservative's website.

Another special visitor

We also had another special visitor on the 12th. Dressed in a red suit and carrying a very heavy looking sack. He found his special place at the School Bazaar where the Elves were waiting to help him give out Christmas presents to the children.

The Bazaar was a huge success. There were a variety of stalls such as Tom-

bola, Raffle, Toys, Cakes and lots more.

The smell of the mulled wine was very welcoming!

Climbing Wall

Children from Mrs Newman's class took part in a climbing wall activity held at Carterton Community College; they all managed to reach the top of the wall by the end of the session.

Oxford **Panto - Sleeping** Beauty

The whole school visit the Oxford Playhouse on the 18th December to watch this year's Panto of Sleeping Beauty.

The children had a fabulous time and made lots of

noise especially when ex-pupil Sam Bardsley appeared on stage. I am told it was the noisiest crowds they had!!

Yenworthy 2009

Again Yenworthy features as one of the highlights of the school year. On Monday 12^h January at 7.30 am, Mrs Newman's class of year 5 and 6 children loaded their bags, coats, scarves and hats onto

the coach that was to take them on their action packed adventure in the wilds of North Devon and Exmoor. All the Mums and Dads were there to wave goodbye as the children departed.

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 2010!

Visiting Yenworthy Lodge is certainly an experience no-one who goes will ever forget.

The whole class would like to say a HUGE thank you to everybody who made this trip possible, especially Mrs. Newman, Mr. Newman and Mrs. Stacy.

Bampton Pre-School News

By Alexandra Miller

Christmas

We had a lovely festive atmosphere in Pre-School, all the children worked very hard on creating their Christmas crafts and all gave a fine performance



for families at our Christmas concert. All the hard work was rewarded with a presents from a very special visitor at the Christmas party!

Fundraising

Our Christmas fundraising was really successful this year. We continue to be impressed by the generosity and willingness to help from everyone in Bampton. We would particularly like to thank Patrick Strainge for advertising and selling our Christmas Puddings; this was our second year of selling them and, given their success, we intend to continue next year! Thanks also to Bampton Post Office for selling our homemade Christmas Cards.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Gemma Govier as our new Playhelper.

Gemma started working at the Pre-School in January and has stepped into the space left by Sally Govier when she was promoted to Assistant Supervisor in November.

Curriculum

The theme this term is shapes and transport, the children are particularly enjoying the aeroplane role play corner and have been making their own planes and boats. Our themes change from term to term and we are always keen to have a presentation from an 'expert'. If you feel you have any skill or knowledge that would be interesting to our Pre-Schoolers please give Debbie Wiles a ring on 01993 852828.

Website

We are very proud to announce that we now have our very own website. Special thanks go to Kay Beswick for creating a fantastic site and also to Cordula Simmons for compiling all the contents.

Upcoming Events

Whilst the children have enjoyed the winter weather – snowmen especially!, the Staff are already looking ahead to Spring and Summer. Easter Bonnet parade is always a wonderful event as the children always make such a fantastic effort with their bonnets and we are sure this year will be no different.

Bampton Youth Centre

Julie Bentall & Leanne Scopes, Bampton Youth Workers

Over the autumn term we have achieved a variety of successes. The senior group have participated in sessions that include topics such as drug awareness, sex education, cooking skills and sports man ship. We have also elected a youth council and have had visitors to the youth centre to discuss the proposed redevelopment of Bampton Youth Centre.

The junior group have also been very busy with a variety of activities such as, circus tricks, youth choir (which we hope to start again in the spring term), girls nights and boys nights, darts and pool competitions, but the Christmas ball was the highlight of the term for the most of us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank

everybody, who helped make the Junior Youth Club ball a success. If it wasn't for our fantastic group of volunteers we would not be able to do the activities that we have planned most weeks.

The participation and behaviour of the young people of the Youth Centre has been outstanding this term. I would like to thank every young person who attends the Youth Centre. It's not always easy to remain positive in such poor conditions with facilities lacking, and building maintenance issues; you are all a credit to yourselves and we have enjoyed working with you.

Unfortunately Bampton Youth Centre was closed from Christmas until Mid February due to the cold weather and the insufficient heating. W tried to persevere, but the staff team decided that the conditions were unacceptable.

Bampton Baby and Toddler Club

By Cerian Cooper

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

We also have a bouncy castle on the

first Thursday of each month, and organise seasonal craft activities such as Christmas card making. All our toys, including the bouncy castle, are available to hire through our toy library. For a small fee, members can borrow items for a short period. Small size tables and chairs are also available.

At least once a month, we arrange a special activity, such as a recent visit from Tattybumpkins and story time with our local librarian. The group is a great way to meet others mums and carers, and we also arrange evenings out. Upcoming events include:

March 6th - Evening out for parents/carers

March 19th - Story time

April 2nd Easter Theme (arts and crafts)

Bampton Baby and Toddler Group would like to say a big thank you to the outgoing committee, Cordula Simmons, Angela Irvin and Rachel Deegan, for all of their hard work and support during the last few years. We welcome the new committee who are: Cerian Cooper, Jo Bath, and Joanna Kinch.

We are a friendly group and welcome new members from Bampton and the surrounding area. If you have a child under school age, drop in and join us. Your first visit is free and subsequent visits are £2 for non-members, £1.50 for members. For more information, contact Cerian Cooper on 07843 655001 or Jo Bath on 01993 837379, or just come along!

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.

<u>Trustees:</u> 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

The next Trustees Meeting at which applications will be considered will take place on 19 January. If you would like to apply for a grant for the first time, please contact Susan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321 for an application form.

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Spring Tips From Bampton Physiotherapy

As Spring approaches, many of us like to shake off the Winter blues by getting to grips with the garden.

We may also be looking further ahead to preparing for summer holidays. Here are a few tips to avoid injury and get ready to enjoy the better weather.

Gardening

The Human Body is an efficient machine!

It puts in place all the resources we need for things that we do on a regular basis.

In other words, it is adaptive.

As we get older, with each passing decade, adaptation happens more slowly (even though our brains feel the same!) and relies heavily on being consistent with your activity. Approaching the garden with gusto after months without such activity, can lead to problems, particularly in the spine

and upper limbs!

Activities which involve leaning forwards, especially with twisting (forking, digging) can lead to mechanical back pain.

As with all things, our joints like to move in all directions in equal measures. After digging over hard, compacted earth for 20-30 minutes, the body needs upright or indeed overhead (hedge clipping, tree pruning) activity to balance the forces. Sitting down after bending activity merely compounds the problem. Some backward stretching or brisk walking would be better!

The logical way to approach the garden is to break it into bending tasks and stretching or upright tasks. Doing no more than 30 minutes of each continuously should ensure back safety. Long handled tools in the garden can reduce bending stresses. Make sure when returning to the garden that your

tools are serviced and maintained properly particularly at the start of the season.

Activities with tools such as forks, spades, trowels, clippers and shears, can cause problems in the arms such as tennis elbow and tendinitis in the shoulder, when we are unused to it. Once again, do measured amounts of the garden activity and then stop and do some simple stretching. For example, hold your arm out straight in front of you with the elbow straight and stretch the wrist up and down.

For the shoulder, reach fully up above your head, drop your forearm behind your back, reaching between the shoulder blades and use the other hand to gently stretch the upper arm further.

Above all PACE YOURSELF and seek advice from a Physiotherapist if your symptoms do not go away quickly. Early advice and rehabilitation will get you back into the garden quickly.

Prevention of injury in all age groups involves being fit in many ways. These generally divide into: 1. heart/lung fitness – we need to do some exercise to raise our heart rates, such

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Fax: 05600 754116

as brisk walking;

- 2. bone strength weight bearing exercise is vital to keep bones strong daily walking would help;
- 3. flexibility if we don't regularly stretch our joints and muscles then they stiffen and are more prone to injury, yoga, pilates and simple stretching at home can help;
- 4. strength all muscles need to be worked to maintain their function, general exercise, pilates, gymball and specially tailored routines can help;
- 5. core or trunk strength a strong trunk makes limb movement more efficient and less prone to injury. Working your core also streamlines your trunk, trims and tones and prepares you for your improved summer shape!

Remember that when taking exercise instruction ensure that the Professional is fully qualified and insured. Physiotherapists offer scientifically grounded exercise and injury advice. Contact us to discuss your needs.:

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

Bampton Badminton Club

Enquiries: Lesley Campbell Tel: 01993 852846.

Meets every Tuesday 10 - 12am Bampton Village Hall.

Bampton Archery Club

Chairman: Gerald Mills: Tel: 01993 850670 Secretary: Jeff Dando: Tel: 01993 850643

> The Horseshoes Football Club Sunday League Football

Chairman: Alan Clarke: Tel: 01993 850201. Secretary: Bill Godfrey: Tel: 01993 850014.

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Some General Hire Prices

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08:00 - 13:00 : £40 13:00 - 18:00 : £40 18:00 - 23:59 : £80 Whole Day : £160 Football Pitch:

£27 per game - Bampton Teams; and £30 per game - non-Bampton teams

Changing Facilities:

£8 - Bampton teams; and £10 - non-Bampton teams

Multisport:

Bampton Residents £10.00 Non-Residents £12.50

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.

Slimming Goes Extra Easy In Bampton

By Christina Moss

It may be nearly spring but every January millions of people in the UK make a New Year's Resolution to lose weight. Seventy five per cent of adults make weight loss their number one resolution, but most have given up by the end of that month. That means that slimmers have given up their dreams of living a healthier lifestyle by the end of January

But it needn't be that way. Researchers at Slimming World, the UK's leading weight loss organisation, have identified that if slimmers are successful in losing weight in their first six weeks, they're far more likely to carry on and lose weight in the long term.

The motivation of a great start in those crucial first six weeks is strongly linked to slimmers reaching their target weight. So Slimming World has created a brand new eating plan designed to give slimmers the best possible start to their weight loss campaign in those early weeks.

And slimmers in Bampton have the chance to try it for themselves, where the new Extra Easy plan has launched in Christina Moss' recently opened Slimming World group at Bampton Youth Centre.

Now in its 40th year, Slimming World has always been the most advanced slimming organisation offering a sophisticated blend of a flexible "Food Optimising" eating plan with warm and friendly group support that helps individuals to choose the best weight loss solution that fits with their lifestyle. Its researchers are constantly surveying what is most likely to help members achieve lasting success.

Christina Moss, Bampton's local Slimming World consultant is thrilled about the new plan and its flexibility "There's so much conflicting advice out there these days about how to lose weight, and our new plan cuts right through it all to give a really easy, flexible start to every slimmer's journey. It's easy to follow with loads more choices, no measuring and no

unting. Because its based on basic everyday filling foods it fits with the family, and in trials members had fabulous results on the scales – as well as saving money on their weekly shopping bills too".

"Our trials have shown that it's a really easy achievable way to get started on a weight loss campaign. So far in 2009 my members have collectively lost 370lbs or 26.4 stones down to their determination and the motivation they receive in group.

I'm looking forward to welcoming any new members to my Bampton group and the numbers speak for themselves."

During trials members who followed the plan were enthusiastic about its flexibility and adaptability. They report that because it is so easy to follow, with no weighing or measuring, plenty of choice and enough freedom to still enjoy a glass of wine or chocolate it is easier than ever to stick to. To learn more about Slimming Worlds Extra Easy plan, Contact Christina Tel: 01993 201230.

Christina will be having her own coloum in the Bampton Beam starting from July, so come along and join her.

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Christina Tel: 201230

New gym will increase opportunities to exercise

Windrush Leisure Centre

A gym designed for people who are new to exercise or want a more relaxed alternative to a traditional gym has opened at the Windrush Leisure Centre in Witney.

The 'Easyline' gym by Technogym is based in the centre's former snooker room and has a full range of simple-to -use cardiovascular and resistance equipment.

The Windrush Leisure Centre, which is owned by West Oxfordshire District Council and run by the not-for-profit distributing trust Nexus Community, already has a Health and Fitness Studio. However, the Council and Nexus are aware that some people do not feel comfortable in a traditional gym environment and the new gym aims to provide a welcoming, informal area, with equipment that can be tailored to suit all abilities.

Sessions will be held in the new gym for a range of people, including ladies -only, over-50s, exercise referral and, for the first time at the leisure centre, classes for 12 to 15-year-olds. The equipment is also available for individuals to use during open sessions.

The new gym has around 20 stations and the equipment is ideal for circuit training, hosted by fitness instructors, to give people full body workouts at a pace to suit their needs.

The equipment has cost around £40,000, funded by Nexus Community. Their Partnership Manager, Carey James, said: "The equipment is simple-to-use and is particularly suited to those who are just starting out, have not exercised for a while, or perhaps feel uncomfortable about joining our regular gym. The equipment is also suitable for use by 12 and 13 year olds, who are too young to use the equipment in the Health and Fitness Studio.

We hope it will encourage more people to exercise and we welcome anyone to come along and see for themselves what's on offer."



PARENT PARTNERSHIP OXFORDSHIRE Sweaty palms? Dry mouth?

Heart beating fast?

Then it must be

Parents' evening!

As a parent, it can be very stressful going into school to hear about your child's progress, even when your child is doing well. You wonder what the teacher is going to say and hope there aren't any problems. For parents whose children have additional needs, for example SEN/LDD (Special educational needs/learning difficulties and/or disabilities) those feelings of stress can be multiplied several times over. Even keeping up with the changing jargon in education can be a challenge!

It's so much easier if they have someone at the meeting with them so that they can be sure they heard what was being said or be clear what has been agreed. Having the chance to talk things through beforehand with someone who is good at listening can make all the difference. It helps a parent make sure they are clear about what they want to say at the meeting and helps everyone focus on what is important for their child.

Could you support a parent in this way? All you need is

- Some spare time
- An interest in education

To be good at listening and seeing things through

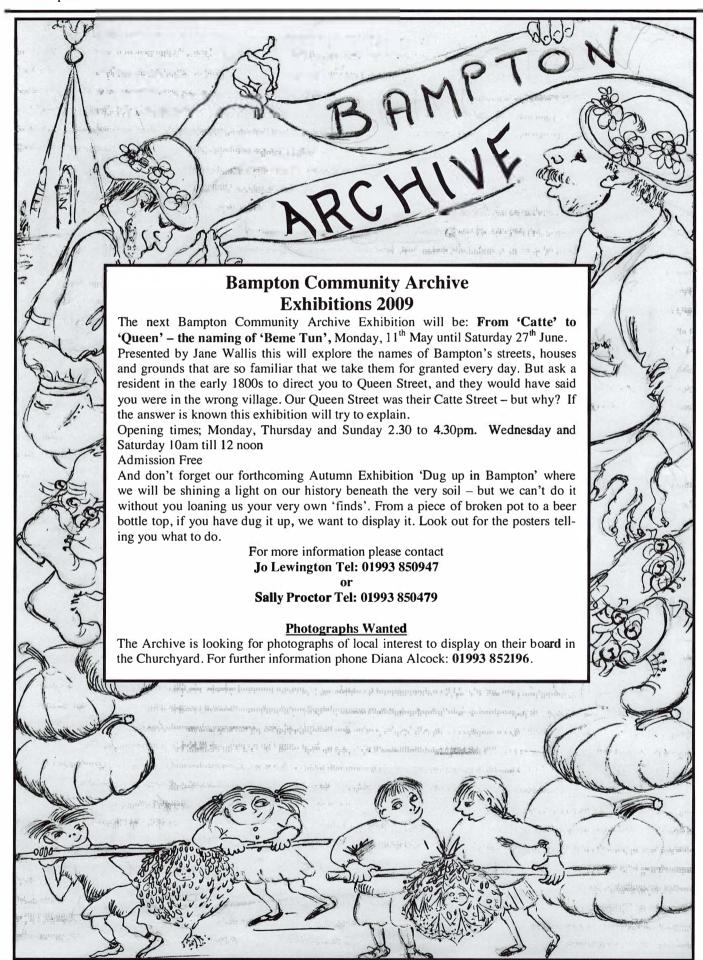
It doesn't require a regular time commitment; you get to decide how much time you can offer.

Training is provided and all expenses paid so you won't be thrown in at the deep end or out of pocket.

INTERESTED?

Ring Parent Partnership Oxfordshire: Tel: 01865 810516 for details.

 $\label{lem:parentpartnship} Email: parent partnship@oxfordshire . gov.uk.$



POLICE REPORT UPDATE

By Constable Richard Barnes and PCSO Angela Alford

Since the last issue of *The Bampton Beam* the Village seems to be relatively quiet. The calls to our control room about anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre have certainly reduced.

The team is not taking anything for granted nor being complacent and the patrols will continue and offenders spoken to.

PC Barnes will continue to liaise with the Parish Council on a regular basis and any burning issues will be addressed.

When you see us walking around the village please feel free to stop and have a chat.

We enjoy talking to people and this also allows us to find out what is happening around the villages and individual concerns.

TRAFFIC RELATED ISSUES Speeding

Speed checks are being carried out around the area. Special Constable Rod Attewell will be carrying out speed enforcement in the Bampton area shortly.

If you see the team carrying out such checks please feel free to talk to us and see what sort of speed motorists are travelling at.

Parking

The usual problems with parking persist!

Remember don't keep valuables in your car, put them away or take them with you when not using the car. Eyes have a way of finding items!

DISTRACTION BURGLARS

Just a reminder to all residents that distraction burglars do operate in and around West Oxfordshire, so please ensure that anybody you allow into your property has valid identity.

If you are unsure then check with the company that they represent or Tel: 0845 8 505 505

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Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox Arts is a registered charity, part funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council, and entirely staffed by volunteers, except for its part-time Administrators. It provides a valuable exhibition space for its members and the community, as well as a venue for workshops and social events

The Gallery is situated on the first floor of the Town Hall in the centre of Bampton. Membership is open to all. Volunteers to help with our events and also sitting in the Gallery during exhibitions are always welcome, as are Artists and Craftsmen who would teach, lecture or demonstrate.

W.O.A.'s varied programme includes regular members' exhibitions, sponsorship of drama productions, W.E.A./Rewley House literature courses, twice weekly life classes – see below - outings, workshops for both children and adults and regular exhibitions of work by artists and craftsmen.

Admission to all exhibitions is free.

W.O.A. members are also able to display work in the Robert Vesey Room at Bampton Library, free of charge, but subject to the usual 20% commission.

An Artists' Register is held in the Gallery as an information resource for the general public.

A free Events Guide lists all W.O.A. events over a four-month period, and is sent to all members.

Discounts on artists' materials are available to members from shops in Oxford and this area.

W.O.A. has an underpinner for making picture frames, and members are able to use this and other framing equipment on special workshop days.

For further information, please contact the Administrator. She is in the Gallery on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:30am and 4pm, or leave a message on the answer-phone, which is checked regularly.

THE COST OF JOINING Single membership £20.00 Family membership £35.00 Student £10.00

Exhibitions

Glassworks 7 - 29 March

Stained glass panels by Sarianne Durie, Nicola Kantorowicz and Daniella Wilson-Dunne will emblazon the nine tall windows in the gallery. There will also be glass by Anne Arlidge and Elaine Newson - vases, bowls, lampshades, mirrors, boxes and jewellery. An exhibition of glorious colour!

Spring Eclectic 4 – 26 April

A striking exhibition of fashion, photography, paintings and prints. Ceramics, textiles, wallpaper, bags and cushions by Bridget Saunders. Landscape and still life paintings and prints by Andrew Macdonald. Por-

trait and still life photography by Leonora Saunders.

Mixed media fabrics and garments by

Mimi Milburn Foster.

Artweeks – Still Life Painting 2 – 24 May

Four painters each showing a very different style and approach to still life. The artists are: Muriel Mallows who paints gem-like pictures of flowers and small objects, Chrissie Borland who creates tranquil paintings in subtle and muted colours, Jane Hope who will show vibrant canvases of fruit and vegetables and Neville Crowson who paints unusual objects in rich, exuberant colours. Kerry von Zschock will be exhibiting hand-painted ceramics.

West Ox Arts Events

Digital Photography for Beginners Workshop. 4 April. 10am – 4pm

This popular workshop will give a grounding in understanding the digital camera and in the fundamentals of digital photography. Place: Carterton Town Hall. Cost £22. For more information contact WOA.

Art Sale 3 May 10am – 3pm Buy art for £5 - £10. Pictures by members of WOA. Fundraising event for WOA development projects.

Life Drawing Classes

Life Drawing Classes re held twice a week in the Gallery, Monday mornings from 10.00 a.m. -12.30 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. -9.30 p.m. These are untutored sessions, aimed at those without the need for assistance. No booking is necessary – pay as you attend. £9.00 (W.O.A Members £8.00).

For further information, please contact the Administrator.

Robert Vesey Room at Bampton Library

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

Are you sitting comfortably?

WOA always needs volunteer sitters to look after the exhibitions. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to see each exhibition. If you could spare a couple of hours each month to support WOA in this way then please contact the Administrator Rosie Tomlinson for the gallery, Tel: 850137. Or for the Robert Vesey Room, Richard Wilkinson Tel: 850406 or Pauline Brownjohn Tel: 850786. If you would like to join West Ox Arts please ring the Gallery Tel: 850137 for a membership form or call in during opening hours. Leaflets with details of exhibitions are available at the gallery.

LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fenella

We now have the final accounting for the "Raise the Roof" event in the Church on September 13th.

It has meant a huge amount of work for Grace Wilkins, but it's now done. Including recovery of Gift Aid of £6,054.51, the final net profit was £33,920.76 – quite satisfactory I think you would agree.

As Chairman of the Roof Committee I now anxiously await:

Hearing what money, if any, English Heritage will give us for the Chancel roof;

What additional expense may be needed when the roof is opened up so that we can calculate;

How much more we need to raise!

Hopefully, with the various events planned between now and next February (including a Christmas Bazaar in the Pavilion and a pantomime in the Village Hall in February), we may have nearly enough.

Your 'Beam' readers might be interested in the above!

Yours sincerely

Lord Donoughmore

The Manor House, Bampton

Dear Editor

Merry Christmas and a good New Year to all of you at 'The Beam'. If anyone in the Village would remembers me, and would like to write to me I would be only too pleased to hear from them.

Yours

Hazel Stacey (was Hazel Brown) 4 Lumley Close

Grange Park,

Swindon SN5 6JD

Ed's note -

Slightly disappointing this issue as not many letters have come in. Everyone must be feeling happy and contented since Christmas!

Please do write to the Beam; lively discussions sometimes happen which makes it a bit more interesting reading!

Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman, Chairman



We have had no open meetings during the winter; the next meeting will be our AGM on 6 March 2009 when Dr Alan Cole will give an illustrated talk about Antarctica. 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 you can join at the door.

Future meetings in 2009 are:

24th April, Hannah Jones from the Oxford Local Studies Centre 31th July, Paul Bolam will give a talk on bees

30th October, Mark Davis will give a talk on the history of Oxford Castle.

Buckland Road Speed Limit

The 18 tonne restriction on Tadpole Bridge is to be replaced by an environmental restriction of 7.5 tonnes on Buckland Road. The final details, including how access for local businesses will be controlled, are under discussion at OCC.

Local Development Framework

WODC have now collected together views from the consultations, held during the latter half of 2008, on sites put forward by developers and landowners for consideration for the forthcoming Local Development Framework (LDF). A number of sites for Bampton were included in those put forward. WODC have still to select sites, from those put forward across the whole of West Oxfordshire, that they believe are worthy of initial consideration and consultation. Before this occurs WODC need to agree the basic principles of the LDF related to how and where sites should be selected for development. These principles will be contained in the LDF Core Strategy document. As part of the preparation of this, a document entitled "Core Strategy Interim Position Statement February 2009" has been published for consultation (this document/consultation is also referred to as the "Core Strategy So Far"). The consultation period runs from 20th February to 6th April and is open to all. Copies of this document and comment forms are available from council offices and libraries, or you may view them and participate on-line (see: www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/LDF.cfm).

The Bush Club Site

Discussions and proposals from OCC continue on the redevelopment of the Bush Club site. There is still no agreement on an acceptable solution, but no changes to the existing buildings are likely to happen for some time yet, as OCC do not expect to be in a position to sell the site for two years.

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

Station Lane Chicane

The proposal by OCC, to replace the Station Road chicane with a single sided pinch point further into Bampton, has been revised following discussions with local residents. The new pinch point will now be positioned further out of Bampton than the existing chicane that it will replace.

For more information on BEWG

Please contact the Membership Secretary Ann Norman Tel: 850823, to find out more and to have your say of what's happening in Bampton. or email bewg@sagaman.co.uk.

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

BEWG open meetings scheduled for 2009 are all held in the Village Hall, starting at 8:00 pm.

- 6th March 2009 AGM Dr. Cole: A talk on Antarctica.
- 24th April 2009 The Oxford Local Studies Centre: speaker Hannah Jones.
- 31st July 2009 Bees: speaker Paul Bolam.
- 30th October 2009 The history of Oxford Castle: speaker Mark Davis.

March 2009 The Bampton Beam

The Annual **GRAND PLANT** SALE

will take place on Monday 25th May 10am

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 25th May

9.30am - 5.00pm

Tea - Coffee **Biscuits**

Refreshments in aid of the

Royal British Legion

(Bampton Branch)



THE SPAJERS

Big Spring Cleanout Sunday 3rd May 2008

11am - 3pm

How often have you thought about going to a car boot sale with all your old furniture, books, toys, tools, etc but loading it into the car, out of the car, back into the car at the end seemed too much trouble, well this way you don't have too.

Set up a table in your garden or garage and wait for buyers to turn up! How about your club, charity, or organisation having one? If you don't want to use your garden/garage then why not have a tabletop at the village hall (limited number available)

The SPAJERS will advertise it extensively at all the big boot sales and local towns etc; we will also provide a map of the participating houses to potential buyers, and run a competition to attract them to attend each site.

All it will cost you is £6.00 payable to SPAJERS and your time for the day, all other profit is yours.

For more information call Neil on 01993 851699

The Bampton Beam

It's the 57th

Saturday 23rd 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!

Your Methodist Church needs....just a little bit of YOU!

By Philip Shaw, Senior Steward
Some time ago I gave an update on
the activities of a small village group
called 'the Methodists'. In part, I
mentioned that our Monday 'Drop-In'
lunch club, whose motto has always
been "eat what you like – give what
you feel", has now been established
over 10 years. Also that our kitchen,
(from which we serve 25 – 30 meals
and was put in by volunteers some
twenty years ago), is in need of complete renovation.

NOTICE BOARD

So we decided to build a new kitchen, meeting room, store and toilet, on to the rear of the Chapel, along with some essential renovations to the existing building including improved disabled facilities. (The last 'new build' project was in 1891!)

Having already spent over £ 6,000 in achieving planning consent and reaching this stage; we now find that the lowest tender received (including VAT and the Architect's fees) is for £136,600 which is well above the

original estimate. We have already raised just over £ 100,000 in terms of cash in hand, promises from private individuals, and sums offered from within the Methodist organisation itself.

If you would like to assist this project towards a successful conclusion then please send your donation, no matter how small, to: The Treasurer, Bampton Methodist Church, c/o Fair Acres, Buckland Road, Bampton. OX18 2AA.

Makers are you Interested?

Do you knit, sew, weave, embroider, quilt, felt?

Would you like to meet socially with other kindred spirits for a chat and coffee?

A new coffee and fibre group has started in Bampton. We meet at The Coffee House, Market Square, Bampton every Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 3.30pm.

For more information contact Lyn Tel: 01993 704276 or Jackie Tel 01993 850760 or just turn up!

Cancer Research UK Bampton Branch Events for 2009

4th April, Easter Sale, Village Hall 15th May, Quiz, Village hall

19th September, Autumn Sale, Village Hall

18th November, Pre-Christmas Bingo, Village Hall

4th December, Quiz Night, Village Hall

18th December, Country & Western Dance, Social Centre, Carterton For more information contact Doris or Michael Cleaver: Tel: 01993 850682

The Bampton Bush Club

Wednesdays 9.45am - 2.00pm 43 weeks of the year.

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

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

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and Drivers.

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

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

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

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

Cooks – approximately once a month 10am – 1pm

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

Lunchtime washing up – alternate weeks 12noon – 1pm

Drivers – alternate weeks either mornings or afternoons

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

Bampton Junior Church

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

Dial-a-Ride

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

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

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.

Old Birthday Cards

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

Clanfield Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesdays, 9.30am - 11.30am (termtime only) at the Carter Institute, Clanfield.

We are a group of mums and carers from Clanfield and other villages who meet every week for crafts, games, singing and trips.

Our children range from bumps to age

If you and your children are looking to make new friends, play or just get out of the house on a Wednesday morning, please come and join us! We would love to see you.

Contact Kayleigh Tel: 07765 462042 for more information.

A Concerned Resident

A poem sent in to The Bampton Beam by a concerned Bamptonian, whose name is known to the Beam Team but would like to stay anonymous.

Watch where you walk!

When you walk down the street, Watch out for your feet, There's no bother with yobs, But beware of dogs' "Jobs", That lie there in piles, Some sloppy, some neat, Waiting for you, To squash with your feet. You have to tiptoe around, With eyes on the ground, And wonder what horror, There's next to meet. The harder you look, I give you my word; The more you'll observe, Another great turd. Do some dog owners, Say to their pets? "Here comes a sap, Nip round the corner, And have a good crap" She is wearing those shoes, with crinkly soles, Lots of ridges and little holes, And if you distract her, By having a piddle, Nine times out of ten, She'll step right in the middle! Seems nothing more pleases, Some dog-owning gits, Than to hear the familiar cry Oh S***!

Dog Fouling

By David Hawking, Bampton Parish Council

Most of you will have seen the notices that the Parish Council put up at Christmas to highlight the large amount of dog excrement that was fouling our pavements and footpaths. Some people said that it was because of the Christmas gifts of puppies, whilst others pointed out that children were being asked to 'walk the dog' and there was no way they were going to pick up the horrible smelly mess. With the half term in February the problem worsened. Buckland Road pavement has 4 lots of diarrhoea and piles of droppings; Cheyne Lane the Pieces and Mill Green footpaths were all in a disgusting state. Whilst 95% of dog owners are diligent in picking up their dogs droppings the other 5% seem to walk routes where they are unlikely to be seen. We badly need to know who these 5% are, and I ask all Bampton residents to be vigilant. WODC has promised us that, providing we can get witnesses, they will prosecute and name these selfish, inconsiderate individuals. Please call on Tel: 01993 851066 if you witness dog fouling and are prepared to attend court!

Come on dog walkers - and you know who you are. Please think of all the other people who use the pavements and footpaths. Clean up the mess!

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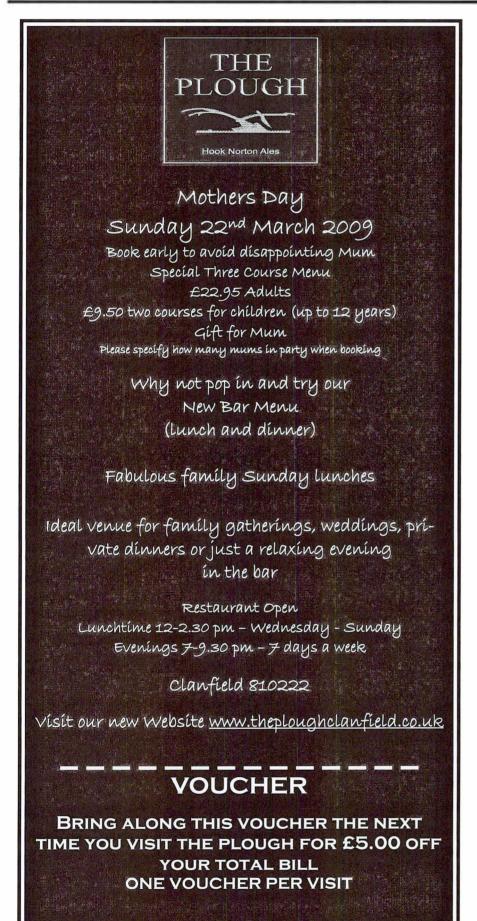
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BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB UPDATE

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings will be held on 21st March, 18^h April, 16th May, 27th June and 25th July. They are held on Saturday mornings in the Town Hall, Bampton at 10am. We normally have plants (flowers and vegetables) and produce (cakes, pies, chutneys and fresh vegetables) for sale, as well as various useful gadgets for the garden - and of course our odds and ends stall - something for all. We try to answer any gardening problems (if the committee cannot answer the questions, there's usually someone who can), and Ellen is normally at hand to answer queries and collect monies concerning the trips and holidays.

Trips

Sun 19th April - Cardiff Flower Show Sun 3rd May - Tewkesbury Sun 14th June - Exbury Gardens Sun July TBA - Coughton Court Sun 23rd August - Kew Gardens

Sun 11th October - Dean Forrest Railway, Lydney

Sun November TBA - Bridgewater Carnival

Sun December TBA - Cabot Circus Bristol Shopping

Holidays

Monday 14th - Friday 18th September - WALES

The Annual Garden Club Show

The date to put in the diary for this year's show is Saturday 29th August, in the Village Hall. Remember, entries are now taken on the morning of the show. Hopefully, the weather will be much kinder to our gardeners this year, and we will see a record number of entries. The schedule will be out in May. If you haven't received one by June, then please contact Fenella, Tel: 01993 851653. Marion will be collecting the trophies won at last year's show at the June/July coffee mornings, or you can take them to Bay Tree Cottage, Rosemary Lane, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850167. If you are unable to deliver them yourself, Marion will arrange to collect them. We would appreciate it if the trophies are returned cleaned! For more information on trips and holidays contact

Ellen Tel: 01993 843985.

Library DVD Review

By Toby Hopkins

1408 (Director's Cut)

A writer and (sceptical) investigator of haunted houses and such like (*John Cusack*) receives an anonymous postcard warning him not to stay in room 1408 of the Dolphin Hotel, New York. So, of course, he goes and books in, despite further admonition from the concerned hotel manager. Almost everyone who stays there, it seems, dies...

The action continues in a clichétinged fashion (radio turns itself on, etc, etc) and frankly without *Cusack*'s energy and usual believability I may have given up on this one. However, eerie activity and tension mounts – and then there's a terrific and unsettling twist about two thirds in, by which point I was hooked...

1408 has a questionable plot issue or two, but also presents some powerful cinematic atmosphere, the sort you are unlikely to forget in a hurry. (There's also a fantastic deleted scene to be found in 'extras' which through some foolish whim reason was left on the cutting room floor.)

Chick rating: 6 Lads' rating: 6

The Last King of Scotland

An ambitious young doctor from Scotland (James McAvoy) seeks adventure in 70's Uganda. There he meets Idi Amin and becomes his personal doctor! Then the young divvy sleeps with one of Amin's wives, an act always liable to compromise Idi's proclaimed respect for the Scottish... Tense, engaging and informative (e.g. don't sleep with a violent dictator's wife), with a charismatic, larger-thanlife, Oscar-winning performance from Forest Whitaker playing the cuckolded nut-job. Good stuff, with a final sequence unsuitable for the fainthearted.

Chick rating: 6 Lads' rating: 6

Zodiac

Quite typical and overly long thriller that features the identity tracing of (yet another) American serial killer – based on actual case accounts from the 60's and 70's. Along the way to get the full picture one must follow a

huge number of rattled off (mumbled) names and quick-fire circumstance details.

The frustration of this was compounded for me by the concluding notes, which were so small I was literally 6 inches from the screen trying desperately to get closure on this wordy and protracted drama, before they rapidly faded... (Those with a 50 inch plasma TV or inclination to press rewind may fair better) And apparently there's also a Director's Cut. Whoopee.

Chick rating: 4½ Lads' rating: 4

Nacho Libre

Mexican monk and orphanage cook (Jack Black) dreams of becoming a prize fighting wrestler in the Nacho Libre league! (and in addition provide better food for the orphans...)

This is sunny, off-beat comedy at its near best with *Black* in bounding good form.

The sort of wrestling depicted here (think Big Daddy and Giant Haystacks from ITV in the '70s for a comparison) really exists in Mexico and, including dwarves, is apparently as bizarre! A vibrant and fun flick.

Chick rating: 6½ Lads' rating: 7

The Island

With echoes of The Matrix and Logan's Run, this is a sci-fi thriller concerning the perturbed inmate of a hi-tech. post-contamination compound, played by Ewan McGregor (who's called something like Mervin ZX81). It's a rigidly controlled Big Brother-esque facility supposedly for breeding after some kind of holocaust. One of the only ways out is a weekly lottery whose winner gets to go to 'The Island'. Or do they ..? Mervin has his doubts, and is particularly annoyed at not being allowed bacon in the morning. So, grabbing his would-be girlfriend, Rita C50 (Scarlett Johansson), they make a bold dash for it and a frantic, fairly exciting chase en-

There's a disappointing lack of integrity when it comes to revealing the underlying truths involved here

(disengaging the sense of suspense etc) as US director Michael Bay is obviously keen to just get stuck into the big car crashes and helicopter explosions.

But this is a pretty decent ride nevertheless.

Chick rating: 5½
Lads' rating: 5½
Cloverfield

In satisfying contrast to **The Island**, the back cover of this DVD quite rightly tells the potential viewer very little.

The whole film is presented as a Handi-cam (home-movie) tape that has become documentation of a disaster which occurred in New York. It's a format similar to that utilized in the over-hyped and quite irritating Blair Witch Project some years ago. Mercifully this is much better, in part because the hapless 'Hud', who ends up being the principal cameraman, is at times inadvertently hilarious (which provides welcome relief and contrast to the mayhem he is filming...

More exciting than terrifying and with only a modest amount of gore, if you can stomach the 'You've Been Framed' type camera work for 80 minutes – this is a film experience well worth a visit.

Chick rating: 6 Lads' rating: 6

Kinky Boots

Charlie Price (Joel Edgerton) unexpectedly takes over the running of his family shoe-making firm in Northampton. After a chance encounter with a drag queen called Lola (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and with bankruptcy looming, Charlie turns to him/her for help in creating a new niche product...

The star of this film is undoubtedly Lola and its success thoroughly dependant on his/her portrayal. Thankfully *Ejiofor* is very good, finding the right mix of camp assuredness and sensitive outsider with a likeable precision.

His sparring with typical factory man *Nick Frost*, is also terribly funny (and worthy).

... A warm heart, some hearty laughs and a sound track with as much style as a classy (red) brogue.

Chick rating: 7 Lads' rating; 6

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Tourism spending growth despite flooding

Latest figures show tourism-related spending in West Oxfordshire rose to over £224 million in 2007, despite extreme summer flooding in the District.

A study by Tourism South East shows that tourism-related expenditure – for example, accommodation costs, food and drink, and entry fees to venues and attractions – rose from £221.4 million in 2006 to £224.6 million in 2007. There were almost 3.7 million visitors to the District in 2007, including day trippers and people who stayed overnight or longer.

Tourism plays an important role in West Oxfordshire's economy and the District Council supports the sector through investment in tourism services and development, and operating Visitor Information Centres in Burford, Witney and Woodstock. The Council also works to promote the and runs a website, District www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org, containing information about events and attractions and an online accommodation booking service, as well as producing a visitor guide, attractions guide and other specialised publications. The Council is participating in Tourism South East's 'Winning in Recession' campaign - running across the South East to promote and support the tourism industry - and hopes this will help to raise the profile of West Oxfordshire. Local tourism businesses wanting further information or advice can contact the Council's Tourism team on Tel: 01993 861563.

HAIRDRESSERS DRESSMAKERS Have Your Scissors SHARPENED P O A L I S Tony Hughes H 10 St Mary's Court E Weald, Bampton D Oxon. OX18 2HX Tel: 01993 851458

BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday 29th August

Village Hall

Staging 9.30am - 11am

Afternoon Opening 3pm Prize Giving 3.30pm Entrance 50p

All entries on the morning of the Show

Schedules available in April at The Post Office, Emmie's, and Patrick Strainge

Bampton Cricket Club Casino Night

at

The Pavilion Saturday 20th June

Tickets £12.50 from Ann Baldwin: Tel: 01993 851110

£5 free chips

Courtesy Canapes

Pay Bar Available

SPAJERS News

By Don Rouse

What a big success Josie's 'Silver Jubilee' Draw was. As a result of all the publicity that accompanied this event, over £900.00 was raised. We are very grateful to Josie, her friends and family for all their time and effort that they put into it to make it such a success.

Thanks also to Alan Clarke and all his staff in the Horseshoe who really put themselves out to make the evening go with a swing - and not forgetting the musicians, Swanny and Dave who actually did the swinging!!

An offshoot of the evening was that the Bampton Archive filmed this historic event and I understand that it was shown at the last Cinema Evening. Copies can be bought from the Bampton Archive or Josie for £5.00.

Twenty-five years of fund raising by one person and her family is in my book an important event for Bampton. The Community Bonfire Night that was run by the SPAJERS, and the Bampton Fire Brigade were unlucky

to have the wettest night of the year. In true Bampton spirit many of you still attended and made it all worthwhile for all those who worked so hard for it.

A lot of fun was had by all - I never saw a 'Damp Squib' at all! Our losses were not too great and we shall be running it again this year. Make a note in your diary, it will be Saturday 7th November.

The Mummers had their most successful Christmas Eve ever with over £1200.00 being raised. For me it was the most enjoyable ever. Throughout the evening we were made most welcome in a record number of houses and when it came to the last house we had an incredible welcome. Some 30+people had seen the pictures in the press of how the 'Doctor', wore his make up, so when our 'Doctor' made his entrance there were all these 'Doctors' in Top Hats and make up looking exactly identical to ours – only younger!

Absolutely brilliant. Thank you Trevor and all your guests for giving me a send off that I shall remember for ever! It was my last time as a Mummer after sixty years and it was indeed the best.

The Shopping Trip was once again a success, though people have said that they would like to try other centres.

We were able to keep the Christmas payout the same as last year in spite of not making the profits that we did the previous year.

Future events.

Friday 3rd April Quiz Night

Teams of 6 to compete for the title of 'Brains Team of Bampton'. Tickets £6.00 each which will include a Supper. Entries by 20th March to Roger Snow 01993 850113. There will be a Licensed Bar.

Sunday 3rd May. Garage Sale
See advert

Saturday 23rd May. The Great Annual Shirt Race

This year we find ourselves in a difficult situation with problems getting Police support and complaints of traffic disruption, so we are going to alter the route by using Rosemary Lane instead of Church Street / Church View.

Each year we have a new mountain to climb to keep this famous tradition going, what with the Oxfordshire County Council's reluctance to us putting up signs advertising the event, the Police being short of manpower to assist us in having a safe evening, and the intolerance of some road users who cannot wait for five minutes while we enjoy our fifty-six year old tradition!

Needless to say we, your Committee, will be doing everything in our power to continue but there comes a time when even we might have to cry "enough"!!

The SPAJERS are open to all residents of Bampton who have lived here for a minimum of six months and in the case of females attained the age of sixty and males sixty-five. Just get in touch with Jeff Dando who is the keeper of the list on 01993 850643. If you know of anyone who qualifies please tell them to get in touch.

Likewise if you know of anyone who is no longer here in Bampton please let us know, we rely on you all to keep us informed.



OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

Looking back at my contribution in the spring edition of the 'Beam' last year, I noted that the press had fore-bodings about the weather ahead. This year they are doing exactly the same but this time they have been proved right, so that I have snow outside my window instead of daffodils and crocus'. What amazes me is the number of schools that have had to close and people off work; what is going on here?

The winters of 1947, 63, and 82 were

a lot worse! This year's snowfall is very mild by comparison, and there were never any problems then; we all carried on to school/work what ever - probably got there a bit late but you had a great feeling of achievement by beating the elements.. I know that farmers are a different breed to everyone else, and come what may the cows have to be milked. If there is no electric you got a generator and, if as in '47 &'63, you had no generator then you milked the cows by hand. Then if the milk

lorry could not get

to the farm you got on your tractor (no cabs in those days) and drove all the way to Faringdon Dairy with the churns of milk on roads that hadn't heard of salt or grit! As for school, well in the bad winter of 1947 all those of us that attended Bampton School still went every day, though the buses to Burford Grammar School could not get through, which meant that they could 'skive'. However the 'child martyrs' of Bampton still sol-

diered on. If our feet were wet and cold when you got there, our teachers would help us to remove our shoes and socks, dry them on the fire and help us to get dressed when they were dry enough to put back on but the lessons continued.

That was in the 'good old days' when the teachers could either cuddle you or beat you, depending on their mood or your behaviour. What a load of softies we are breeding.

I am sure that many of our readers,

like me have experienced the thrill of doing something naughty. I know that being over seventy I should stop behaving in such a way, but believe me it is very exciting.

It reminded me of when I was an eight year old choirboy and after Church on a Sunday night we would go knocking on doors and running away; if anyone chased us that was even more exciting! Well this is the story of my misdemeanour in December last year.

You will recall that I wrote in the last issue of the 'Beam' about the dangerous flood water gathering on what we locals call 'Hoppy's Corner' - the bend by the wood yard along Station Road.

Soon after the article was published we had a lot more rain with its accompanying flooding. So I reported to my friend who is 'high up' in the Environment Agency about the dangers, and he informed me that, to do all the necessary investigations, check for underground wires and pipe work, prepare a report, and present all the paper work to the appropriate authorities, would take about six months, and nothing would be done in the mean-

time! My vehicle, although it is a 4x4 does not like flood water; it seems to splash straight up onto the window and obliterates my vision, very dangerous! As I have to go through this spot every day I thought that the only way that I could cure the situation was by becoming a Vigilante. So armed with a pick axe, spade and a shovel, I hid my vehicle behind conifers and crept out to the side of the road where the offending gully was, and without a reflective jacket, no hard hat, no road closed signs and no coffee making facilities, I very surreptitiously began to dig, hoping that no would see

me! Someone did come up from Bampton, took a good look at me, turned around and went back. That really started the adrenalin flowing. Was he going back for a spade to help me, or was he going to report me to the authorities?

The naughtiness and the excitement were incredible. So I just worked faster, finished the job and 'legged it'. I have now been told it is still on the Statute Book that damaging the

Queen's Highway is a Capital Offence, and that as P.C. Radburn pointed out to me when I tried to drive an unlicensed tractor along the grass verge, that the Queen's Highway goes from the road right out to the nearest hedge, wall or ditch. I am now a very worried man.

So if you do not see me for a while, it could be that I have lost my head over a bit of floodwater splashing on my windscreen! The good news is that it is now working brilliantly; there is no floodwater that side of the road during a storm - the problem now is the other side! I have looked at this, and it is a bigger job, definitely requiring some safety measures as well as a sledge hammer!

So come on Councillors, stand up, be counted, and get something done. I would think that at the most it would take 2 hours work, but the workers would need some protection from speeding traffic. Incidentally it took me just under the hour to do the other side, but the fear of being caught made me work faster and what is more I was too scared to stop for coffee

As many of you know, I have been involved with Twinning between Oxford and its many Twin Cities for over forty years and indeed enjoy the title of 'Honorary Statesman' for the Oxford International Links. Last November with help from the EEC we promoted a seminar to discuss flooding in and around Oxford. Representatives of DEFRA, NRA, The Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council as well as City Councillors were all in attendance for this two-day event. Both the representatives from Bonn, Germany and Perm in Russia presented wonderful papers on how they control the problem in their own areas, but the Dutch presentation was 'light years' ahead of them all, I just hope that the local powers that be took note and will act upon the information that they gained accordingly. An official report will be published by the City Town Hall and sent to all those authorities that were in attendance with a request for them to make their comments. Watch this space!!

Needless to say at this seminar, farmers came in for quite a bit of criticism, but an observation that I made was that when foreign delegates were told

by British representatives that DE-FRA did not allow farmers to clean both sides of a ditch in the same year, the look on their faces was a picture at first they were aghast, then several of them thought that it was a joke!! I go to bed every night thinking that DEFRA is a joke, then I wake up in the morning only to find that they are still there with their stupid ideas.

Isn't it a shame that so many of our services are becoming so fragmented, from the previous article just look at how many authorities are involved in flooding.

It is such a shame as you can never seem to get hold of the right person to sort things out. That is probably why they do it that way. Recently I attended a Neighbourhood Action Group meeting at Carterton where we were given a talk by a representative from Cotsway telling us all about the funds that were available to assist groups in our community. There are hundreds of pounds available to qualifying causes that I never knew about, and I am sure that not many other people know either! There is also an organisation called the National Youth Agency, and another called OCVA, both with funds available to help out in the Community. Yet the Bampton Youth Club cannot operate as the building that they meet in as it is too cold and damp. What it needs in Bampton is someone younger that has great enthusiasm and determination, to delve into all these possibilities, and see what can be done. It certainly will not be easy, because as you delve into it they start putting all sorts of obstacles in the way to stop access to this money that you and I have paid for, but we do need to get a respectable Youth Club going again. Thirty years ago when I was employed by the Education Authorities to teach Weight Lifting as part of the Youth Service I only had one authority to

They held all the purse strings and it was just a matter of applying for equipment and the answer was a straight forward Yes or No. If it was no, then you just got on and raised the money yourselves. I think it is immoral that so much money is available – paid for by Rate Payers yet worthy organisations cannot get their hands on it.

Talking of assistance to people and groups - being a proud member of Carterton Lions, I am now aware of the work that they do within the Community. If there are any worthy causes out there that need help please get in touch with President Maddy Radburn on 01993 772241 with your proposal and what you are trying to achieve. The Lions will then consider your situation and may be able to help. Remember what we were told when we were courting, "nothing ventured, nothing gained"!!

Living here at Lew and having qualified for a Bus Pass, I find it so frustrating to see so many buses pass through our village on their way to Witney with their destination board saying "Sorry not in Service". Surely they could be offering an express service direct from Bampton to Witney? Or is it just a vendetta against the inhabitants of Lew? Are they trying to tell us something? I am convinced that the destination board changes to "Sorry not in Service" as they approach us – or is it as they approach me!

I see more and more people are thinking the same way as I do, that the direction the Government is taking in relation to recycling waste is the wrong one. At the moment it is leaving a bigger carbon footprint collecting and separating all the waste than if we were to carry on as we used to. We used to get two pence on a bottle if we returned it to the shop, giving us a practical motive. Separating the different kinds of rubbish knowing that different lorries are going to be used to pick it up, then because the Council cannot get a good recycling price for it they mix it all back up again and put it in landfill sites is surely no motivation at all.

Surely it is all so simple. If the waste creates gas then harness it. If burning the waste creates heat, then harness that also and let us generate some electricity from it to the benefit of all. Has anyone seen that lovely herd of Roe Deer that used to mooch across the fields between Lew, Bampton and Aston?

I hope that they have not come to any harm. I have not seen them for six months now. They remind me of what I like about living in this area. Beautiful and Wild!

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The winner of the previous Beam Crossword is Mr G Taylor of Oathurst, who has kindly donated the £10 to the 'Friends of St. Mary's'.

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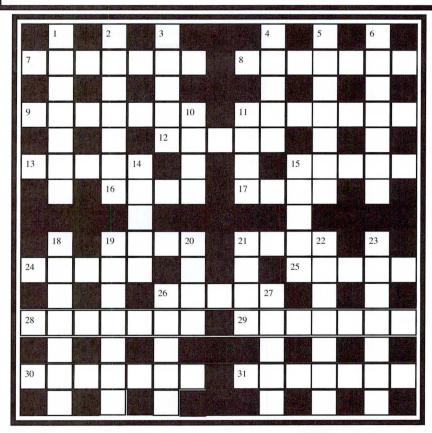
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THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Edible shellfish
- 8 Held in high regard
- 9 Fortress overlooking a city
- 11 Side by side facing the same
- 12 Large bird of prey
- 13 Mounds of drifted sand
- 15 A small canoe-like boat
- 16 Dagger, formerly carried by Scottish Highlanders
- 17 Person who can look into the future
- 19 Indecent or obscene talk
- 21 Reveal information that should be kept secret
- 24 Approximately
- 25 Mix components together thoroughly
- 26 Finely powdered tobacco
- 28 Necessary skill, competence or power
- 29 Building for the manufacture of 23 goods
- 30 Word meaning the opposite of another word
- 31 Perfumed

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Small amount or portion
- 2 Shamefaced, abashed
- 3 Affray, fracas
- 4 Sun-dried brick used for building
- 5 Liquid used for pickling
- 6 Coarse jute fabric similar to sacking
- 10 A harmless piece of mischief
- 11 Charitable donations to the poor
- 14 Eighteenth letter of the Greek alphabet
- 15 Meat, fish or vegetables grilled on a skewer
- 18 Stop operating as a group
- 19 Edible shellfish with fan-shaped shells
- 20 Very small
- 21 Burnish, polish
- 22 Glaringly conspicuous or obvious
 - 3 Swimmer's breathing tube
- 26 Remains in the same place
- 27 An absurd or ridiculous event

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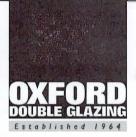
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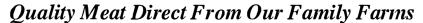


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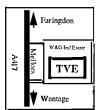
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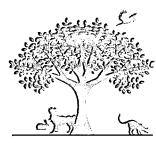
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Come and have a great afternoon out!

Calendar of Events March The Duchess, Movies on the Move, Village Hall, 7.30pm 6th A talk on Antarctica, BEWG, Village Hall, 8pm 6thEvening out for parents/carers, Bampton Baby & Toddler Club - 29th Exhibition, Glassworks, WOA Gallery The World of Bats, BBOWT, Village Hall, 7.30pm $1\,\tilde{1}^{th}$ Anglo Saxons in the Upper Thames, Clanfield Historical Society, Carter Institute, 7.30pm 19th Story time, Bampton Baby & Toddler Club 21st Coffee Morning, Bampton Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am - 12noon 21st Easter Fair, Bampton Zimbabwe Project, Village Hall, 10am - 12 noon 29th 32nd Annual Blenheim Palace Walk, Rotary Club April Easter Theme (arts and crafts), Bampton Baby & Toddler Club 3rd Annual Quiz, SPAJERS, Village Hall, 7.30pm 4th Easter Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall 4th Workshop, Digital Photography for Beginners, WOA, Carterton Town Hall, 10am - 4pm $4^{th} - 26^{th}$ Exhibition, Spring Eclectic, WOA Gallery 18^{th} Coffee Morning, Bampton Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon 19th Trip to Cardiff Flower Show, Bampton Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am 21st Britannia under the Eagles, Clanfield Historical Society, Carter Institute, 7.30pm 24^{th} Talk on The Oxford Local Studies Centre, BEWG, Village Hall, 8pm May $2^{nd} - 24^{th}$ Exhibition, Artweeks - Still Life Painting, WOA Gallery 3rd Village garage Sale, SPAJERS, Trip to Tewkesbury, Bampton Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am Art Sale, WOA Gallery, 10am - 3pm 6th Slumdog Millionaire, Movies on the Move, Village Hall, 7.30pm. 11th – 22nd June From 'Catte' to 'Queen' - the naming of 'Beme Tun', Bampton Community Archive, Vesey Room 15th Quiz, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall 16^{th} Coffee Morning, Bampton Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am - 12noon 19th Outing, Clanfield Historical Society, Details TBA 23^{rd} The Great Annual Shirt Race, SPAJERS, Market Square, 6.45pm 25thMorris Dancing Day, Village, Early 'til late 25^{th} Craft Fair and Refreshments, Village Hall, 9.30am - 5pm 25th Grand Plant Sale, Eagle House, Bampton Community Archive and Zimbabwe Project, 10am June 14th Trip to Exbury, Bampton Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am 16^{th} AGM & Annual Dinner, Clanfield Historical Society, Clanfield Tavern 20^{th} Casino Night, Bampton Cricket Club, Pavilion 27th Coffee Morning, Bampton Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am - 12noon July The Young Victoria, Movies on the Move, Village Hall, 7.30pm. Haydn's Le Pescatrici, Bampton Classical Opera, Deanery Garden 18th, 19th 25th Coffee Morning, Bampton Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am - 12noon 31st Talk on Bees, BEWG, Village Hall, 8pm August 23rd Trip to Kew Gardens, Bampton Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am 29th Annual Show, Bampton Gardening Club, Village Hall 31stDonkey Derby, SPAJERS, Sandfords Field, 2pm September 14^{th} Holiday to Wales, Bampton Gardening Club 19^{th} Autumn Sale, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall October 11th Trip to Dean Forest Railway - Lydney, Bampton Gardening Club, Market Square, 9am 30^{th} Talk on The history of Oxford Castle, BEWG, Village Hall, 8pm November Bonfire Night, SPAJERS, Recreation Ground 18th Pre-Christmas Bingo, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall December Quiz Night, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall 18th Country & Western Dance, Cancer Research UK, Social Centre, Carterton 24thMummers, SPAJERS, Village, 7pm onwards

Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection	
Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Wednesday April 15 th	Thursday April 16 th
Wednesday 6 th May	Thursday 7 th May
Wednesday 27 th May	Thursday 28th May
For further information: www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment	

THE BAMPTON BEAM

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