



Welcome to Issue 19!

Our poll showed that readers prefer this A4 format as being larger and more reader-friendly, so we'll stay with it for the time being.

We need more people to help us produce this newsletter.



Adam, who has been honorary editor and designer for much of the last year, has moved out of Bampton and the June newsletter will be his last on the team.

(You will be missed Adam!)

We urgently need more people to help us with the design and layout role, contributing as Sub-editors. Without additional help we will not be able to continue to produce The Lowdown.

We would love to hear from you.

thelockdownpress@gmail.com

Alison, Sue, Maurizio and Adam

ELECTION RESULTS

COUNTY COUNCIL

Ted Fenton (Cons) 58%

Stuart McCarroll (Lab) 21%
Sandra M Simpson (Green) 11%
Peter Whitten (Lib Dem) 10%

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Rupert Dent (Cons) 64%

Alma Tumilowicz (Green) 20%
Sarah Hamilton (Lab) 16%

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Results for the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley.

Matthew Barber (Cons) 313,148

Laetisia Carter (Labour) 233,446



Bampton Morris 1951 outside the Elephant and Castle. This picture is from 'Country Life'. Francis Shergold is on the extreme left, linev Wells playing. Our sincere thanks to Andrew Bartlett for the superb enhancement and colourisation of this photo.

The Bampton Morris teams will be looking to continue the tradition of dancing on May Bank Holiday. However, with the uncertainty caused by Covid19, it is impossible to be definitive about plans. As the situation changes so regularly any decision will be made closer to the bank holiday and further information will be published.

**Craig Godwin, Squire,
Bampton Traditional Morris**

BAMPTON VILLAGE GARAGE SALE

IN AID OF BAMPTON LIBRARY

SUNDAY JUNE 13th

10am-2pm

£10 PER GARAGE

GARAGE SALE MAPS £1.00

ON SALE IN THE MARKET SQUARE FROM 9am ON THE DAY

To book your pitch pick up an entry form from Bampton Charity Shop

Booking Deadline : Sat 15th May

SAME DAY AS THE HIDDEN GARDENS OF BAMPTON
OVER 25 GARDENS YOU DON'T NORMALLY GET TO SEE
2pm - 5pm Tickets £3.00 per person available on the day from the Market Square.



SAME DAY AS THE GARAGE SALE SO WHY NOT MAKE A DAY OF IT!

HIDDEN GARDENS OF BAMPTON

SUNDAY JUNE 13th 2pm- 5pm

Over 25 Gardens you don't normally get to see!

HIDDEN GARDEN TICKETS £3 per person
ON SALE IN THE MARKET SQUARE ON THE DAY
If you would like to enter your garden or for more information call
ANGIE BELL on 07904 066339 Entry Deadline : Sat 15th May

SAME DAY AS BAMPTON VILLAGE GARAGE SALE
10am - 1pm Garage Sale Maps £1.00
available from 9.00am on the day from the Market Square

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Nature Watch

10th May is the Final (thrice postponed because of the pandemic) of the prestigious International Opera Awards - Bampton's 2019 summer production of 'Bride & Gloom' was selected as a finalist for an award, although we now face stiff competition from several major European companies.



A nomination is an extraordinary accolade for a small company like ours, and really proves just what a remarkable reputation we have! We'll be glued to our Zoom screens for the online Final, which is receiving significant coverage from BBC Radio 3 and 'Opera' magazine. Soon after, on 22nd May, we're able at last to return to live performance with Gluck's delightful short opera 'The Crown' ('La corona' in Italian), whose story we offer as a symbol of hope as we escape from the pandemic. The performance is in the University Church Oxford - please order tickets from our website bamptonopera.org or Anthony Hall 01993 851142.

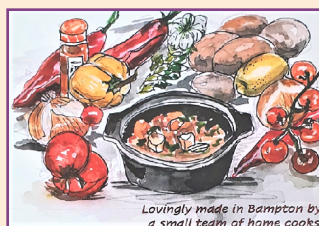
We're also recording our London performance a few days earlier and this will be available online from our website.

After that we'll be rehearsing hard for our main summer opera, Gluck's great romance from 1770, 'Paris and Helen' - we're very grateful to the new owners of the Deanery, Mr and Mrs Armitage, for welcoming us back to the opera's much-loved garden venue which has been providing delight to audiences since 1993. Bampton Opera is renowned for its outstanding young professional singers and its engaging and un-stuffy atmosphere which audiences enjoy so much. We're also hugely grateful for generous support from the Bampton Village Community Shop and the Parish Council, and to all our donating Friends, who make our work possible - thank you!

The Bampton performances are Friday and Saturday 23rd and 24th July. Tickets will be released in batches but should be available by the time you are reading this - see the booking details mentioned above.

We're always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help Front of House, and hosts to provide local accommodation for musicians (usually 5 days) - please contact Anthony Hall as above, or anthony@bamptonopera.org. Hosts have always discovered how exciting and rewarding it is to house a fine (and friendly!) musician for a few days - do consider it if you have a spare room!

Jeremy Gray www.bamptonopera.org.



Annie's Meals - Bampton Families Matter

When the pandemic hit, Annie and Robin Jenkin sprang into action and began cooking meals to help their fellow villagers in need - the elderly, the vulnerable, NHS staff working long hours etc. Friends initially volunteered to help cook but Annie found it tricky to fit in all of the organising of the menu, the shopping, cooking and delivering, as demand rapidly grew for their meals.

So Jess Egerton, a coordinator for Bampton Aid Network, helped to organise and recruit additional helpers to support them.

The cooking team consisted of Julie and Richard Smith, Diana Alcock, Gilly French and Jeremy Gray, Massy Jamieson, Penelope Kettle, Nicky Pease, Jane and Robert Chapman, Raine Kirk-Manerba and Lorna.



Annie and Robin Jenkin

Rachel Harris and Catherine Foster phoned the villagers each week to take their orders for meal choices, then organised the delivery team.

The delivery team leaders were Shirley Townley and Rosemary Stables, with Deborah Pike, Manja Uglov and Narasha Sirley supporting.

The meal scheme ran throughout the pandemic **delivering over 2,000 meals** and ensuring people in the village were supported and cared for.

Rachel Harris



Rachel, Rosemary & Shirley

THE DOUBLE RED DUKE



Opening 17th May 2021

We can't wait to be able to open our doors. Everything is ready. The fires are lit, the kitchen is primed and the bar is stocked. We are really looking forward to meeting you all and are offering a 25% off food launch offer, just for you, our local community. Bring this copy of the 'Bampton Lowdown' with you to claim. The offer is for food only, for bookings from Sunday evening to Thursday and for a table of 4 maximum.

First visit only. Subject to availability. Offer valid until 19th July.



countrycreatures.com

The Double Red Duke, Clanfield, Bampton, Oxfordshire OX18 2RB - T: 01367 810222 - E: reservations@doubleredduke.com

Bampton Zimbabwe Project

Bampton Zimbabwe Project will be having 3 tables outside Eagle House, with cakes, books and plates, etc on Sunday 13th June at the Bampton Village Garage Sale, from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. which is in aid of the Library, and ours, of course, is in aid of the Bampton Zimbabwe Project.

Heavens Floors

'Bringing Heaven To Your Home'
Professional Flooring Specialists
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Price beating quotes guaranteed.
Free quote and high quality samples
brought directly to your door.

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Tel: 07423306830

Chez Beccy Summer Clearance Sale

Chez Beccy Summer Clearance Sale on Sunday 13th June, from 10am to 2pm. (as part of the Bampton Village Garage Sale event). Up to 50% OFF selected lines. Located in front of my house, by the Coffee Shop, on the corner of Moonraker Lane. Email: beccy@chezbeccy.com
Tel: 07748 113616 www.chezbeccy.com

MESSYCHURCH

Whilst we are still unable to meet as the Messy Church family inside the church, we were able to deliver an Easter gift and craft package to 13 households, totalling 23 children, for the Easter holiday.

As usual, we have had some lovely feedback and will be planning to do a parcel for Half Term holiday. Please sign up with Roger Preston: rogsuepreston@btinternet.com if you would like to receive one.

We really hope that we shall be able to have an outdoor party for Messy Church, sometime in the summer. Watch this space!

Yoga with Hollie

Hatha yoga classes 09.30-10.45 Mondays at Langford Village Hall and Thursdays at Watchfield Village Hall. From the Lotus Retreat - Faringdon, Yin and Restorative yoga Fridays 09.30-10.45 and Feminine Yoga flow Tuesdays 10.00-11.15.

Call 07717215741 or message yogawithhollie1@gmail.com to book!

the Bulletin Board

TV Recycling

If you have any faulty LCD/LED TV's you don't want, we can recycle most of them and come to you and collect them free of charge. Saves you having to take them to the tip. Absolutely NO CHARGE *****
Contact Andy Email: ace11@sky.com Tel: 01235 525571

West Oxfordshire Academy of Performing Arts

WOAPA. Witney Is your child aged 7-9yrs? Always singing, dancing, and putting on shows for you at home? We have re-opened our weekend classes in performing arts and would love to arrange a taster session for you. Contact us today. www.WOAPA.co.uk #PerformingArtsWitney

Rosemary Lane Pop-Up Shop

We sell a mix of vintage and antique interiors, clothes, pottery, jewellery and flowers. We love stocking locally made products as well as offering a unique mix of interiors and have really appreciated the positive response from the local community so far. stonetablevintage@gmail.com

Open Wednesday - Saturday.
Hours sometimes vary but usually 9:30am - 3.00pm

Bampton Methodist Church

Services are planned for every Sunday in May (starting at 11.00am.) and we are hoping that more of our members will attend, as we complete our vaccinations and move on from some of the lockdown restrictions.

Our rear garden is ready for occupation (subject to the weather) and some services may be held there later in the year.
Robert Jones.

SML Motorsport - Vehicle Repair Shop

MOT Testing - Ford Specialist - MOT's
Mobile Mechanic - Roadside Assistance
General Vehicle Repairs - Diagnostics
07901598215 smlmotorsport21@gmail.com

JL Cleaning Services

Weekly, fortnightly cleans available.
Oven cleans available. Ironing service.
Fully insured.
lewis.jacki@yahoo.com 07727 227713

Safe Paws Sitters

Bampton based, experienced house and pet sitting from rabbits to horses! Competitive rates.

We will visit you before any booking to make sure you and your pet is happy with us and to answer all your questions. You do not have a have pet for us to help we do house sitting too. We have done house sitting and pet sitting from Bampton to Devon and Central London and places in between!

For information and bookings message us on WhatsApp 07500 566783

Facebook: @thesafepawssitters

Job Vacancies

Rivermead Gardening is hiring!

We're looking for a gardeners to join our/ small, friendly and professional team in the Bampton and Buckland area.

Do you have good gardening skills? Are you hard working, reliable and passionate about gardening?

RHS or other qualification desirable.

Salima McKnight 07554 606569
rivermeadgardening@outlook.com

NURSES OR CARERS

Male or female. Full or part-time. Mornings, Days, Nights.

To help support our 17 year old son who has Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy with complex health care needs. This will be to provide personal care, tube feeds, medications. Support to be provided at home and at college. You will also help him engage in all activities, youth club, days out.

Based in West Oxfordshire OX18. For more information contact Janey Smith or jjj.smith@ntlworld.com

The Bella Pizzeria - Drivers

Drivers needed at The Bella (Bampton Coffee House), good pay.
Contact Yasar on 07534 338 916



St Mary's Flower Guild, Bampton St Mary's Flower Guild provides the flower arrangements for St Mary's Church throughout the year. The Guild is a group of around 15 people keen on flower arranging and meeting like-minded people.

There is an optional opportunity to arrange flowers for weddings. We aim to have an annual summer social event, a workshop, a demonstration, or an outing. A good opportunity to network with all Guild members. We would be delighted to welcome new members to the Flower Guild.

Each year the Guild puts on a Flower Festival in St Mary's Church over the last Bank Holiday in May. This is the Guild's main fund-raising event that enables the purchase of flowers throughout the year. Unfortunately, we are not able to do this in 2021. Therefore, this year we will be providing:

A Tea and Cake stall in the church grounds on Monday 31st May, 2-5pm (COVID restrictions allowing). Please come along and support the Flower Guild and hopefully watch the Bampton Morris teams dance.

For information about membership please contact: Jean Gray 01993 210061 or 07972 298 605 - Angie Bell 01993 851095 or 07904 066 339 - Barbara Farrell 1993 851523 or 07944 876 799

~ Arrangement by the late Lis Banham for the Flower Guild Show at the late May Bank Holiday 2014 ~

Opening May 17th
after extensive renovation



WE'RE HIRING

Chefs of all levels - Front of House (all roles)
Competitive rates

The Double Red Duke, Clanfield, Bampton,
Oxfordshire OX18 2RB

T: 01367 810222 - E: manager@doubleredduke.com



countrycreatures.com

LOWDOWN QUESTION TIME

The Lowdown asks questions about matters that affect us all.

This month: we ask Ted Fenton, Conservative Councillor for Bampton from Oxfordshire County Council.

TL: Roads in our area are peppered with potholes and this is something that has been getting worse over the years. What has the Council been doing to alleviate the situation?

TF: There are over 3000 miles of roads in Oxfordshire and many of them follow the route of ancient tracks. The situation has in fact improved considerably over the last four years with more emphasis on proper "cut and patch" repairs rather than the more temporary "sweep and fill" emergency stopgaps that were rightly criticised in the past. The County Council has also invested in "Dragon" patching machines which are useful for multiple patches in more rural areas. There is still a great deal of work to be done but with over 30,000 defects repaired last year progress is being made.

TL: Would there be an opportunity to use some of the infrastructure funds to carry out major repair works beyond just filling up holes?

TF: Major infrastructure funding to the tune of some £155 million has been secured for important projects, in particular significant improvements to the A40. This includes an increase in the amount of dual carriageway along the route but more importantly includes a Park and Ride to encourage people out of their cars and onto the bus and improved cycle paths for the whole route. By providing better active travel links and better public transport we aim to reduce the traffic on the road.

There is a schedule of resurfacing and repair work and a budget for the coming year of £31m. Recently several stretches of the A4095 between Bampton and Witney have been repaired and a section between Bampton and Clanfield is scheduled imminently. Mount Owen Road and New Road have both had surface dressing in recent days. Work is to an extent seasonal so may appear to have been paused but that is because there are other priorities in the winter months.

TL: More housing in Bampton and its surroundings has resulted in more cars on the road, more traffic, pavement parking and some examples of high speed driving through the village and so on. What would you like to see done in order to address these problems?

TF: am very concerned about the speeding problem and have spent a significant proportion of my Priority Fund on Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS) including those in Bampton, Black Bourton, Curbridge, Lew, Ducklington and Clanfield. I supported wholeheartedly the County Council's decision to invest, where Parish Councils request, in the imposition of new 20mph speed limits in built up areas and am already in discussion with the Police Authorities about the relaunch of an improved Community Speedwatch campaign.

Inconsiderate and illegal parking is something I have liaised with West Oxfordshire District Council about. Unfortunately a significant amount of the nuisance parking is inconsiderate and not illegal so there is no enforcement possible. Where the parking is illegal the enforcement has to be through proper legal channels and at the moment enforcement officers have limited time to spend in villages, which is not to say that they do not visit at all.> Ultimately, if we succeed in reducing the dependence and use of private vehicles that will in itself reduce the number of those vehicles parked in the street.

BAMPTON COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

After more than twenty years of dedicated work by a small team of keen fund-raisers, backed every inch of the way by a huge and wonderfully enthusiastic band of volunteers, the fund-raising and legal negotiation part of the Old Grammar School project is complete.

This month, work will start to reinstate the staircase and top floor of the Old School. It will take a few months, after which the village will have an amazing new facility. Few of you will remember the beautiful space on the top floor of this building as access was removed in the 1960s, but it really will be worth waiting for. To find out all about the plans for the building, visit www.bamptonarchive.org/old-grammar-school-renovation.

Robin Shuckburgh



Beware of night frosts and protect young plants from slugs. Clear out spring bedding and plant dahlias as days get warmer. Deadhead any spring-flowering bulbs, snapping off tulip heads. In early June start fertilising your lawn as it will require more frequent cutting.

Keep watering as the weather gets warmer. Found any gaps in your bedding? Time to fill them in early June with some summer plants, even the odd pot or two to create a stunning border. Check out for suckers from your roses, which should be cut from the root.



LONG-RANGE WEATHER FORECAST

The area of high pressure persists but with possible colder weather in early May and some unsettled days; temperatures increasing substantially at the end of the month. Thunderstorms in June, some very heavy, but lots of sunshine in between.

ALMANAC 19th May to 10th June

- 19 May - First Quarter
- 20 May - World Bee Day and Columbus Day
- 22 May - International Biodiversity Day
- 23 May - Whit Sunday Pentecost
- 24 May - Victoria Day
- 25 May - Africa Day
- 26 May - Full Moon
- 31 May - Spring Bank holiday
- 2 June - Last Quarter
- 3 June - Corpus Christi
- 5 June - World Environment Day
- 10 June - New Moon





THE BAMPTON SPAJERS ~ By Don Rouse

During the months of Lockdown a lot of newcomers have moved into Bampton. The SPAJERS committee would like to welcome you and tell you a little about us.

As the longest serving committee member, I have been asked to explain what it is all about and what SPAJERS does for the community. Let's start with the name, 'The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing'. Now you really are puzzled. Well, it has been the backbone of Bampton life since 1953. It is quirky and does quirky things that are unique to Bampton. Sometimes, quirky things happen to us too, like having our starting pistol confiscated by the police as, in their opinion, it could have been converted to fire real bullets - or the time that I inadvertently left two people behind in Weymouth on our outing....

At the time of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, just eight years after the end of the war, some foods were still rationed and every town and village in the country got involved in money-raising ventures to finance celebrations for their community. A committee was formed in Bampton to provide funds for a whole week of Coronation celebrations.



Coronation Day was on Saturday 2nd June 1953 and one of the main events

was a Shirt Race where competitors pushing a pram raced in pairs through the town from one end to the other, alternating the drinking and the pushing of the pram with their partner, from one pub to another. There were eleven active pubs in those days, although it was not possible to visit everyone. The prize was a Barrel of Beer! Many places, hearing of our success, copied our format, so that is why ours is now called "The Original Great Shirt Race".

At the end of the week's celebrations, there was considerable amount of money left in the kitty, so the committee donated it to the local hospital. The next year it was decided to run the event again and the committee, under the direction of the Secretary John Quick, came up with the idea of forming an organisation that would promote and provide entertainment for the community, whilst at the same time caring for our own senior citizens. After all, the money was raised by Bampton people having fun, so why shouldn't it be used to enable our old folks to have fun? So the SPAJERS was born.

John Quick was a fantastic 'ideas man' and dedicated his life to the cause. 'Preservation of Ancient Junketing' - the name tells you so



DONKEY DERBY 30th August

After such a long and difficult time, SPAJERS is so excited to be planning the Donkey Derby again and we really hope you will help us to make it a great one!

There are lots of ways to get involved:

- ✚ Sponsor a race and promote your local business.
- ✚ Sponsor your own donkey and give it a name!
- ✚ Volunteer to help on the day and be part of it - there is lots to be done.
- ✚ Simply come along and enjoy the fun!

If you would like to be part of this great Bampton event and help celebrate the fact that we can be together again, enjoying being part of the fantastic Bampton Community, please contact Suzy on 07811 676078.

SPAJERS would love to hear from you.

much about him; everything he organised had a hint of traditional merrymaking. The annual Shirt Race was followed by an annual Chariot Race and these two events, prior to Covid, are still carried on to this day. In the autumn they organised a 'village hop', an ordinary dance for the locals, whilst later in the year the President, Major Robert Colville of Weald Manor, allowed the committee to hold a Black-Tie Ball in his ballroom. This was extremely popular and well supported, and raised a lot of money. Money wasn't the only thing that was raised; the most important thing was the awareness of what the SPAJERS were trying to do and creating a community that we can all be proud of.

Throughout the year the committee organises a number of events. The Great Shirt and Chariot Races are held on the Saturday of the late May Bank Holiday, in the village centre. The Fancy Dress competition is something to behold, with lots of entries and marvellous costumes, plus a range of prizes for all age groups.

The Donkey Derby, with donkeys from the sands of Weston Super Mare, takes place in the grass field known as Sanford's on August Bank Holiday Monday with parents 'having a flutter' on the runners and riders! Two days later we treat all our pensioners to an outing, usually to the seaside since in Bampton we are so far away from the sea.

Traditionally, in November we have organised a Bonfire & Fireworks Night for the whole Community to enjoy. Later that month one of our committee members, Josie, holds a raffle with entertainment in a local pub and this has raised several thousand pounds over the 35 plus years she has been running it.

The tradition has been that every pensioner registered with us receives a monetary Christmas gift. To register as a member you must be of national pensionable age and to have lived in Bampton or Lew for a minimum of six months.

The Spajers are run by a very active group of volunteers who always welcome extra pairs of hands. If you think that you would be able to comply with the motto that John Quick gave the SPAJERS, then the committee would welcome you to their ranks.

The motto is **"DYNAMIC YET DISCIPLINED"**.

Editor: In our last issue we incorrectly attributed the piece about Spajers. That piece and this one, have been written by Don Rouse. Our apologies to Don and we are very happy to print this correction.



They're ready for the off!

**BAMPTON SPAJERS
DONKEY DERBY**

**MONDAY, 30TH AUGUST
2.00 - 5.00 PM**

SANDFORDS FIELD

**We can't wait to see you all
again!**

**There will be donkeys, stalls, games
and ice creams. Why not come and
relax in the tea tent with a cup of tea
and a slice of homemade cake or a
refreshing pint at the bar!**

**Join us for lots of fun and even a
flutter on the donkey races.**

SPAJERS is the Bampton Charity supporting pensioners in the village and has been running our traditional events to fundraise for over 60 years - hence our name:

**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
ANCIENT JUNKETING**

All the money raised each year by SPAJERS goes entirely to our pensioners, each receiving a cash gift at Christmas, as well as annual outings, usually to the seaside, and often a shorter trip, too.



THE FLOWER SOCIETY ~ A short story by Jeanette Voyzey

"You will be allocated a window, Millie. Don't be so impatient!"

Everyone in the group is seated around a table in the local church vestry discussing the next project which, if Millie had got it right, was "Autumnal Splendour" even though it was only August. Margot, the designated leader of the group is very pedantic about what, and what not, to do. Millie made it clear when she agreed to join, although she is happy to work alongside Margot's suggestions, she wanted to express her own thoughts through her flower display. And now having asked where she might put her arrangement was told about the window.

Suddenly the air was filled by a long and lingering howl coming from Mollie two seats along from Millie. "He told me yesterday he is leaving me. I don't think I can cope anymore". The room went silent. Mollie continued her tale of woe. "Someone much younger and prettier than me he said". "Well, that's not difficult", Millie thought unkindly. "My Freddie said he doesn't love me anymore and wanted to move on to pastures new". Mollie apologized most profusely through tears and a dripping nose for causing so much mayhem whilst crying into a soggy tissue. "What am I going to do?". "Well" piped up Pauline, "I have just lost my cat and no one cares about that". The very large ginger tom nicknamed Hagar the Horrible by all who knew him. He had finally met his end much to the relief of the villagers who lived nearby. Hagar dug up gardens, bit and scratched anyone who got in his way, and was generally unpleasant to other cats in the area.

"Right", Margot shouted across the ensuing mayhem, "you will see a sheet of paper and a pencil in front of you so please draw your interpretation of my instruction." "What!" said Wendy "I don't understand. I thought we had flowers we just stuck in a container. Why do we have to draw it first? This is really complicated. I don't feel I want to do this anymore". "Up to you", Margot shouted, "It isn't compulsory to join this group". Wendy then stood up in front of everyone, picked up her bag and went to leave. "You don't know what it's like being me I can't handle all this, I just wanted friendship and companionship and thought I had found it here but obviously not". "All I asked for was a drawing", Margot said. "If I wanted to draw I would have joined an Art class", Wendy countered, on her way out.

"I have a box full if anyone wants any", Margot was off again. "A box full of what?", Millie asked. "Oh, for heaven's sake!", Margot answered (in that "are you really that stupid?" voice). "Oasis of course". "Oh right" Millie whispered "sorry didn't realise". Jonty the only male member of the flower arranging group sat quietly contemplating his design. Less is more he thought to himself. What can I contribute to an Autumnal Splendour in August?!. Looks like it's just twigs. This comment (he thought he had said to himself) but was picked up by Margot. "Twigs of what may I ask?", "I don't know, just twigs!" Jonty replied in exasperation. "A twig is a twig is it not?!"

Those that were able to, drew something resembling flora in a vase. "This is daft", Jonty said, "some of us can arrange flowers well and some of us can draw but not many of us can do both".

"Well I am struggling" Millie whined, Mollie was still blowing a dripping nose. "What am I going to do without Freddie, he is my life. What could he possibly want with another woman?". "Where would you like me to start?" Millie said under her breath. "He promised to love me to the end of our lives together and now he's gone"

"Right can I please have your attention" Margot shouted across the room. We need to make a start on whatever arrangement you each have in mind". "For heaven's sake Mollie give it a rest".

Jonty produced something quite plain and simple but with an artistic flair which had Margot's praise although she did comment it didn't look anything like his drawing!.

Pauline had somehow got lost in the general furore of things and her oriental display wasn't quite straight. Anxious not to incur Margot's wrath she stood in front of it hoping she wouldn't notice. "Not too bad" commented Margot, "could be better". Pauline resisted the urge to smash the lot over her head.

Millie produced a wild flower piece which had Margot frothing at the mouth, "do you not realise, Buttercups, Daisies and Meadowsweet

do not live long once picked and these arrangements are on display here until next week at least. Yours will be sadly drooping by then." "Oh a bit like your boobs and bum then". "How dare you!" "Sorry but you are incredibly rude, dictatorial and not at all helpful. If you continue like this the few remaining members you have will leave." "Hear, hear" said Jonty and a still snivelling Mollie almost in unison.

"Okay fine, you do what you want, I give up".

The vicar arrived almost straightaway and caught the tail end of the argument, pleading with Margot to stay on, "as a pillar of our community you are sorely needed" he said without much conviction.

"Good Lord (sorry vicar)" Margot said to Mollie, "why have you made a wreath, how on earth can this be called an artistic venture"? Mollie was about to explain when two detectives arrived in the room to ask if Mrs Mollie Hargreaves is here. "Yes that's me" Mollie came forward with her shoulders drooping. "What is this all about?" Margot demanded.

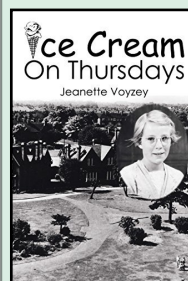
"We cannot say too much but suffice it to say, "Mrs Mollie Hargreaves we are arresting you for the attempted murder of Mr Freddie Hargreaves". "He tells us you hit him over the head with a vase?"

"Well what was I supposed to do, he was going to leave me. He's not dead then?" No Mrs Hargreaves, he isn't"

"I made him a wreath too. Here Margot, you have it, you might need it it"

About the author... Jeanette Voyzey (nee Jackson-Smith) was born in Eastleigh in Hampshire towards the end of the Second World War during an air raid and has been dodging fallout ever since.

She met Douglas in 1963, and they married in Oxford in 1965. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. Jeanette was widowed in 2002 and moved from Witney to Bampton in Oxfordshire, where she currently lives.



Her career to date has been mostly in sales; however, having worked from the age of fourteen, Jeanette is currently taking a break from the workforce. She has a keen interest in the arts and theatre, and is also an avid reader of all genres. Her autobiography 'Ice Cream on a Thursday' and her novel 'The Shack' are available on Amazon and elsewhere.

"My life fell into strangers hands the day my mother died. I was just six years old. My father, if I can call him that, denied paternity and left me in the street until a neighbour took me in.



From that moment on, I lived from day to day without really knowing what the outcome would be. From a kind neighbour through to an aunt and then on to Barnardos and a few foster homes, my life took the shape of an unsettled traveller.

Becoming pregnant at sixteen years old, I found myself in another institution. The outcome of this is related in my book. I married in 1965 and my husband and I had thirty-eight years together until he passed away in 2002. I have three daughters and three grandchildren of whom I am extremely proud."

Library

Our libraries are now open

Come and see us in:

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL LEGENDS

Hasan Popor

Best known for his delicious kebabs and much else besides, Hasan has been a familiar and popular character in Bampton for many years. We asked him to tell us a little about himself!



Hasan was born in Maras in Northern Turkey and spent his early years working on his father's farm.

He came to the UK 31 years ago and after spending two years in London he moved to Swindon, where he has lived ever since. He has two brothers and three sisters in London, and another brother running the family farm back in Turkey.

He has been serving up great food from his van in Market Square for 21 years and loves being part of the Bampton community.

He says "I love being in Bampton and I really enjoy all my customers here. I would not want to be anywhere else.

Thank you to everyone in Bampton for your support!"

- Thank you Hasan for feeding Bampton! -



Bampton Bush Club: For those who don't know about the Bampton Bush Club here is a little information about who and what we are.

For many years, the Bush Club has met weekly on Wednesdays during 'term-time' and members have enjoyed an excellent cooked lunch and good company. In recent years we have met in the Old School Community Centre. As well as lunch and time for a chat, activities are arranged each week. Apart from talks on various subjects, including travel, we have a range of practical activities including art projects, crafting, competitions and quizzes. Our special relationship with Bampton School means we enjoy regular visits from the children and for entertainment we welcome singers, dancers and other performers, encouraging participation if members are happy to join in. We also go on occasional trips to local pubs or places of interest for lunch or afternoon tea. Coffee or tea is provided

on arrival and a freshly cooked two course lunch is served for a small charge. Free transport can be arranged within Bampton, if required. If you would like some company and to enjoy a home cooked lunch, we would be happy to see you.

Although, sadly, we have not been able to meet, here is news of what has been happening during the past 14 months. This past year has been a long and lonely one for many. We have regularly kept in touch with our members and offered support where needed or simply the opportunity for a chat. Many have also benefited from the wonderful assistance offered by **Bampton Aid Network and the BAN volunteers**, in particular the collection of prescriptions and shopping, and we know that they are immensely grateful. **A huge thank you is also due to Annie and her team who have prepared and delivered 'Annie Meals' to many of our members who we know are extremely grateful, both to BAN and to Annie.**

The way forward. We very much look forward to seeing all our members together again and hope that Bush Club will be able to reopen fully on 8th September. This is, of course, subject to the circumstances and regulations in force at the time but our fingers are firmly crossed. In the meantime (weather and COVID permitting) **we are planning to hold four 'al fresco' coffee mornings outside the Old School Community Centre on the following dates: 23rd and 30th June and 7th and 14th July from 11.00 to 12.00 noon.**



We hope to have all our members with us, as well as many of our wonderful volunteers, without whom there would be no Bush Club! If you feel you would like to find out more about us, either as a prospective member or as a volunteer, do please come along and join us on one of those mornings for coffee and home-made biscuits. We would love to meet you. **In the meantime, if you would like more information, please phone Suzy Macpherson on 07811 676078.**

~ A Life Remembered ~

Lis Banham 1931 to 2021

Lis Banham, who died on 17th April after a brave fight against cancer, made a truly invaluable contribution to life in Bampton, and has left a wonderful legacy from the forty five years that she lived in the village.

To name a few - Lis started the Bampton Theatre Club where she will be remembered for her boundless energy and organisation - especially when making sure no-one got left behind on the buses; she was a stalwart of the Bridge Club for many years; she was a very accomplished gardener and her garden in Church Street regularly featured in Bampton's Hidden Gardens; and she was a long-time and much valued member of the Bampton Flower Guild making arrangements for church and community events.



Lis was actively involved in the Community Shop, the Bampton Community Archive where she 'sat' in the Vesey Room, and BZP, the fund-raising society for different projects in Zimbabwe. She was a leading force behind the building of the Bampton Youth Club on Church View. In addition, Lis was at various times a Parish Councillor, a volunteer hospital driver and a Witney Citizens Advice Bureau member - truly a lady for all seasons and of many talents.



Lis was born on 21st February 1931; her father was an Air Vice Marshall and was the only man to shoot down enemy aircraft in both World Wars.

She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) in 1949 as a Pilot Officer and served with RAF Intelligence during the Malayan Conflict all over South East Asia - Singapore, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, Ceylon, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. She returned to RAF Coltishall in East Anglia where she met her husband, Dickie Banham, an RAF fighter pilot. As a Flying Officer, she left the WAAF upon marrying in 1957 (a necessity in those days).

Lis and Dickie moved around with the Air Force and lived in Washington DC for two years while Kennedy was President, and they also had spells in Ghana, and Cyprus during the Turkish invasion of 1974-76.



Lis and Dickie Banham

They were posted back to the UK and to RAF Brize Norton in December 1976, where Lis fell in love with the local area and decided she wanted to settle there, having spent a life of moving houses around the world. They moved into Tudor Cottage, Bampton in the Spring of 1978 and she remained there for the rest of her life.

Lis will be much missed by so many in Bampton and beyond.

Our thanks to Jo Lewington, Frank Hudson, and Angie Newman and to Lis's son Richard Banham for these details of her long and fascinating life. Editor.



EMERGENCY AND HEALTH SERVICES

Bampton Surgery

Call first on 01993 850257

Monday – Friday: 8.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Pharmacy

(Bampton Healthcare Ltd)

Tel: 01993 851961

Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm, 2pm to 6pm

Sat 9am to 12noon

Bampton Post Office

Mon-Fri 09.00 - 17.30

Wed CLOSED

Sat 09.00 - 12.30

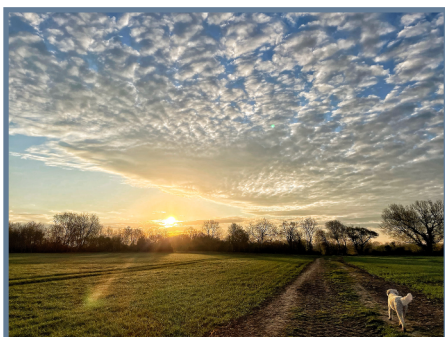
Bampton Parish Council

Tel: 01993 851870

www.bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

PLEASE, PLEASE DISPOSE OF MASKS RESPONSIBLY!

53 million masks are thrown away each day in the UK, almost one per person. This is probably 2000 daily in Bampton alone. Inevitably by accident or negligence some masks end up being discarded on pavements, streams, parks and other places where there shouldn't be any. According to a recent study by Swansea University also widely reported by the science press, several potentially dangerous chemical pollutants are released from disposable face masks when submerged in water. The research reveals high levels of pollutants, including lead, antimony, and copper, embedded in the silicon-based and plastic fibres of common disposable face masks. These micro particles can be released in water courses and their long term effects could have some very damaging environmental consequences at global level, considering that in China alone 200 million disposable masks are produced daily. **So please be mindful of the environment and make sure masks are disposed safely and responsibly.**



Morning Walk: photo by Mark McArthur-Christie



'Bella' by Sue Greenwood



The Slow Worm

www.reptilecymru.co.uk

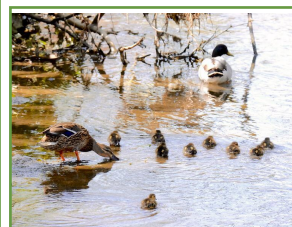


I am a harmless British lizard. I am protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, so please don't hurt me. If you find me in your garden - lucky you! I am helping keep your population of slugs and snails down!

I am completely harmless and don't bite. If I'm threatened, I can drop my tail and run away - it regrows!

It is very rare for me to go into a house, but I hibernate between October and March, and when I'm young I might think a house is warm and get confused. Please put me outside or if you think I'm injured or unwell, call a local wildlife rescue to come and help me.

I can live up to 20 years, but only if humans know what I am and aren't afraid of me. Please don't hurt me out of ignorance.



A pair of mallards with their ducklings, taken on Shill Brook.

Photo: David Greenwood



'Could you please feature a Hedgehog Corner to post sightings, numbers, activities etc of these endangered little animals? We have fed them here at Mercury Court for some years. We lost them early last year in October and feared the building at The Meadows had killed them all, but we got our first one back in March and have got a regular group coming nightly of four large and three small ones. The lighter nights now mean we don't see them as much since they come out later but they are still visiting and eating!

We would love to know who else is on the Bampton hedgehog circuit and what they see!

Barbara email: Barbarad5@hotmail.co.uk



The Bampton Lowdown Newsletter

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