

THE BAMPTON BEAM

April 2000

Volume 15, No.1

CAN WE KEEP OUR POST OFFICE AND BANK?

How many people in Bampton realise that we have been, and remain, in danger of losing both the Post Office and Bank? Well, it's true, as the 'Beam' has found out from our own District Officer, Jonathan Phillips.

Losing them would be a disaster for the community, but how could it happen, and what can we do to help them survive in Bampton?

The simple answer is that we need to use both of these facilities as much as possible to try and ensure that they continue to be viable businesses.

The Government is trying to persuade all OAPs to have their pensions paid into their bank accounts rather than having a Pension Book to cash at the Post Office. If this were to happen, it

would produce an enormous drop in business for the Post Office, and would undoubtedly lead to the closure of almost every village Post Office in the country.

Resist this change and keep your Pension Book!

Did you know that, apart from using the Bampton Post Office for all forms of postage, you can also:

- pay all your utility bills
- buy National Savings
- renew Road Tax, TV Licence
- draw any benefits to which you are entitled
- open an Alliance & Leicester Giro Bank Account
- purchase foreign exchange

Using the Post Office for all of these

services, can only help the cause of keeping it open.

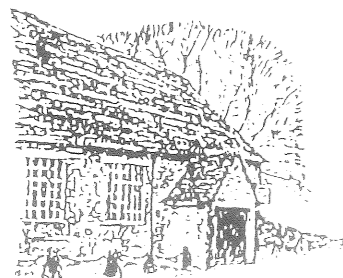
While the 'Beam' has had verbal assurances from HSBC Witney, that our local HSBC branch is not going to close, it is clear that the banking industry is under strong commercial pressure, and that small outlets are being axed – as recently evidenced by the Barclays' closures. Again, continuing to use our local bank is one way of trying to ensure that we keep it, and if you don't already bank there, or are thinking about opening a new account, why not give our local HSBC consideration? It's convenient, provides excellent service – and the staff are wonderful!

Use them or lose them!



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BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 8pm on Wednesday 3rd May 2000. All residents of Bampton over the age of 18 are entitled to attend and vote. The Committee is made up of representatives of the various organisations who use the Hall plus five elected members; three other members may be co-opted if necessary.

Following the complaints about an unpleasant smell in the Hall, the committee has spent a lot of time investigating the source of this trouble. Before undertaking the extremely expensive and disruptive work recommended by the firm originally consulted, it was decided to seek a second opinion. The committee has now agreed to follow the advice of Jackie Allinson and Henry Russell, the Chartered Surveyor and Historic Buildings Consultant recommended by Rob Parkinson of WODC. The remedial work that they have suggested involves improving the ventilation to the cellar area and the main hall. Neville Woodley has agreed to carry out this work. The kitchen and annexe are to be redecorated. It is hoped to maintain the use of the Hall with minimum disruption to hirers. The use of a dehumidifier in the kitchen has cut down the problem of condensation. The obsolete gas room heater has been replaced with an electric convector heater, but this will work only if there is money in the meter. The committee is delighted that there has been more activity in the hall during the daytime. Badminton has

started up again on a Tuesday morning from 10am to midday. More players are always welcome. Contact Judy House Tel: 851406 for more information. The Bampton Baby Club is a regular user on Thursday mornings and there have been Art Classes on Tuesday afternoons. A very popular Winter League Aunt Sally has been held regularly on Thursday evenings.

BAMPTON '250' CLUB

This is a monthly lottery, which raises £1500 annually – shared between the Village Hall and the Youth Centre. Participants (who must be over 18) agree to pay £12 annually (April to March) or £1 per month by cash/cheque/bank standing order. The draw takes place in public the last weekend of each month. There is a monthly prize of £25 plus 3 of £15; a quarterly prize of £100 and an annual 'Jackpot' prize of £250. This prize will be drawn at the Bampton Village Hall AGM on Wednesday 3rd May 2000.

The names of prizewinners are displayed each month at the Post Office and on the Village Hall notice board. A complete list of winners is also displayed at the end of each year. If you would like to join please put your name on the list at the Post Office. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who collect the dues for the '250' Club, in particular those who have collected so conscientiously each month since this lottery was first launched in 1986.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BAMPTON

The Millennium Quiz raised a total of £214 for the Friends of St Mary's. More importantly it gave a lot of fun to many people. Richard Morbey was the winner of the bottle of whisky. Many thanks to all who bought the quiz and sold copies to family and friends; and to the Wearne family for compiling another compelling challenge.

Work in progress

St Mary's PCC is spending in the region of £90,000 on various structural works in the church and a complete rewiring and installation of modern lighting. Because this was urgently required, as the old wiring was becoming dangerous, the Friends of St Mary's has offered £10,000 towards the cost of this work.

BAMPTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Forthcoming events

Toddlers Services

These services will be taken by Lindsay Adam, curate at St Mary's.

Banner Service

The date in June has still to be advised.

The Annual Coffee Morning

Saturday 27th May, 10am at the Methodist Chapel, Bridge Street.

Sing-along

Thursday 6th April at 7.30 in the Methodist Chapel.

For more information please contact Mr Robert Jones Tel: 851663

Someone's been to visit the Queen!

To acknowledge all the work she has done for The Woman's Royal Voluntary Service, Susan Phillips has been presented to the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Susan received her Diamond Award Badge in December last year from The Thames Area Manager, Penny Feathers, here in Bampton at a special ceremony. This is a very splendid award for Susan, and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her, and thank her for all the hard work she continues to do.

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By David Hawkins Chairman of Bampton Parish Council

Market Square Development

Contrary to the statement from Western Counties in October that they were about to start work on the 10 flats, we now understand that they have sold the site to Watermede Homes. We are told that they will start building in May and that the work will last 1 year.

Millennium News

The Parish Council wishes to congratulate the Millennium Committee on all their hard work over the New Year. The siren called us all out well in time for midnight. The fireworks were excellent and the children much enjoyed getting their mugs on New Year's Day. The floodlights of the church spire have been much acclaimed, and other projects are progressing.

Ampney Orchard Ditch

The Parish Council has been trying for years to find out who, if anyone, owns the side ditch that divides Ampney Orchard from Chetwyd Mead. Not only does the ditch attract much rubbish, but also a large number of elm trees have died and are in dangerous state. The Council has rather reluctantly agreed to take over responsibility for the ditch but only on the basis that OCC and WODC, between them, get the area into a tidy safe condition and construct a simple foot bridge half way along the ditch.

Woodland Project

The parish council wishes to congratulate Colin Allport and his small team on successfully raising over £30,000 for the Bampton Wood project. The wood will be planted next autumn in over 7 acres of land about a quarter of a mile south of the Recreation Ground.

Village Hall Ownership

The Parish Council has been asked whether it is prepared to act as custodian Trustees for the Village Hall instead of the 4 trustees who have held this responsibility so well in re-

cent years. At our February meeting, the council agreed that we would be delighted to take on this responsibility to secure the future of this very important village facility.

As far as Bampton residents are concerned they should notice no change whatsoever. The Village Hall management committee have done an excellent job for years and, hopefully, will continue to do so.

Broad Street Parking Problem

Many complaints have been received from residents about the thoughtless parking on the grass area. The Parish Council is considering applying for a byelaw which would make it an offence to park on the grass. If you would like to make any comments on this please address them to The Parish Council before Monday 1st May. Unfortunately, unless a byelaw is passed, there is little that either the police or the Parish Council can do to stop such parking, other than to ask Broad Street residents to 'KEEP OFF THE GRASS' and to gently hint to others to do likewise.

Completion of the 3-phase Project at the Recreation Ground.

After 4 years of planning, fund raising and implementation, the 3-phase pro-

ject is now complete. The Pavilion is now being well used, the Trim Track is attracting the fitness minded residents, and last, but not the least, the extensive landscaping was completed with nearly 10,000 trees and shrubs having been expertly planted. With a mild, wet start to the year, we are very optimistic that the plants have had the perfect growing conditions. The council is most grateful to Alan Dunbar who has masterminded the on-site work for all 3 projects. Future plans for the field include the conversion of the small football pitch into a full size pitch. The setting out of a small soccer pitch for the under 10s on the edge of the cricket pitch, the fund raising for floodlights for the tennis courts, and possibly a third tennis court. Bookings for the Pavilion and for pitches should be made to **Derek Moscrop Tel: 07974 035453**. Remember you are unlikely to find a better or cheaper facility in Oxfordshire, for a wedding or birthday reception, than our very own Pavilion.

Parish Council AGM – 17th May
Bampton residents who are really interested in our village should not miss the AGM, which is planned for Wednesday 17th May at 8pm in the Town Hall. As well as getting an update on future plans for the village, you will hear a report from the Chairman of the Bampton School Governors and the Welfare Trust. The meeting lasts for only 45 minutes or so.

Do please try and come along.



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NEWS FROM THE BAMPTON MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

What a night!

We hope everyone enjoyed New Year's Eve. We were so lucky in the end with the rain just stopping long enough for the festivities to begin.

If you were up in the Market Square what a lovely sight to see fireworks going up into the sky all around the village. The Committee would like to say thank you to Gary Gummer, Ian McIntock, Fred Gray, Brian Kew (from the Fire Service in case of Emergencies), and Ton Van der Berg for all their hard work in organising this excellent show of fireworks.

The Committee would also like to thank *The Bampton Beam* and the West Oxfordshire District Council, for their donation and grant which made it possible for the evening to be such a success.

One little flaw - we lost the Vicar; we do apologise to those who came along with their Millennium candles and their special Millennium prayer all learnt. This little mix up was due to a simple communication error!

The local hostellers had a splendid evening running into the small hours - and some you could not even get into because of the crowds. And the good news is that, apart from one minor incident, the night was trouble free.

New Year's Day

The Committee would like to say a special 'Thank you' to Miss Wylie and Miss Thompson for handing out the Millennium Mugs to all the children who came along.

A special thank you to Miss Wylie as she was celebrating her birthday. All her family had arrived to spend this special day with her, so it was extremely kind of her to take time out of her day for us.

Todd Bebb designer of the Millennium Mug was presented with a gift



Todd Bebb looking at the Millennium Mugs he designed.



Mr & Mrs Harris and Mr & Mrs Beckett receiving their plaque for the Best Decorated House Competition.

for winning the Millennium Mug competition. The design on the mug had everything Bampton represents and is known for.

Again thanks go to Todd for his hard work.

Mr & Mrs Harris and Mr & Mrs Beckett of Chandlers Close won the 'Best Christmas Decorated House in Bampton'



Bishop Burrough picking out the winning ticket for the Mountain Bike.

Competition. It was a joint prize, and luckily they happen to be daughter and Mother living next door to one another. They put Christmas decorations on their houses every year and receive donations from the public which they then give to a charity of their choice.

It certainly was a lovely sight to see. So this Christmas make a trip round to Chandlers Close to see them.

If you have not received your child's mug, please contact

Janet Newman Tel: 850755. Remember any child 0 - 16 years and living in Bampton can receive a Millennium Mug.

The Bike Path Committee:

with the help of Bishop Burrough, drew their special raffle for the Mountain Bike. The winner, Carol Day, came straight over from Wantage when she was telephoned the news!

THE BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

Buckland Road, Bampton.

BAMPTON IN-THE-BUSH CRICKET CLUB NEWS

This year we all look forward to an excellent year ahead of cricket. We have entered two competitions and have a fixture list of friendlies throughout the summer (one of the competitions is for over 40 year olds so any 40+ who fancy a game get in touch with **Alan Clarke Tel: 850201**). We are still adding to our list of games so anybody who knows of



a cricket team looking for a game please contact **Bill Godfrey Tel: 850014**.

Frank Godwin has offered his help in coaching a youth side and we look forward to starting this up on a weekday evening. The time and day will be announced as soon as possible with the hope of putting some games together for them.

We still need new players of any standard of cricket or no standard at all (we can teach you!), of any age, young or old, to keep the club going. Anybody interested, male or female, should contact Bill Godfrey. Several people who contacted the cricket club last year, unfortunately, did not receive a reply from us. We apologise for this error and ask them to contact us again.

The Buckland Road Recreation Ground has been re-seeded during the winter and so we are hoping for a better outfield this year, and we have made good use of the pavilion and all its facilities. So if you would like to come and watch some village cricket on a Sunday afternoon, you'll be made most welcome.

BAMPTON TENNIS CLUB

This popular and friendly club offers great facilities and a wide range of opportunities for tennis players of all standards from beginners upwards.

Regular events include:

- Club night - every Thursday from 6th April - just turn up and join in.
- Tuesday evening coaching (for seniors and juniors) from May 2nd
- Saturday morning junior coaching from May 6th

Four club tournaments are planned for this season, and there are senior and junior teams entered in local leagues, as well as several friendly matches arranged with other clubs for weekday evenings.

The junior side of the club comes in for special attention this year. To kick off, a 4-day course is being held in conjunction with West Oxfordshire District Council during the Easter holidays for juniors of all levels. The course costs just £8 and runs from Tuesday 25th to Friday 28th April. To book contact, **John Pilkington Tel: 850829**.

Why not find out more at the Tennis Club **Open Day** at the Recreation Ground on **April 15th from 2pm**, or check out the club website at: <http://www.soft.net.uk/johnpilks/btc/welcome.html>

Membership is very reasonable at £22.50 for adults, £5 for juniors and £50 for families. If you are interested in joining contact **John Williams Tel: 850680** for an application form.

BAMPTON ARCHERY CLUB

If you are interested in trying out this sport please contact **John Hill Tel: 850513**. The summer season starts in April and runs through until October. We shoot every Wednesday evening at the Recreation Ground, 6pm - 8pm.

ENGLISH SHORT MAT BOWLING

This facility is now available at the Sports Pavilion, Buckland Road. Are you interested taking up this sport?

We are hoping to get together a group of people, who wish to play one afternoon a week, to form a Bowling Club. The only equipment required is a pair of shoes. Why go to Carterton, when you can play here in Bampton?

For more information contact, **Gerald Taylor Tel: 850566**.

THE PAVILION

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

Some General Hire Prices

General Hire	£ 5 per hour
Commercial Hire	£15 per hour
Morning Session	
8am - 1pm	£20 per session
Afternoon Session	
1pm - 6pm	£20 per session
Evening Session	
6pm - 1am	£60 per session
Wedding Receptions	
Whole Day	
8am - 1am	£150 per day/eve

For more information on charges and facilities for hire please contact - **Derek Moscrop Mobile Tel: 07974 0354453 or Home Tel: 851354**.

It's looks a grand sight now with all the newly planted trees in place. Well done and thanks to everyone who made this possible for us all to enjoy.

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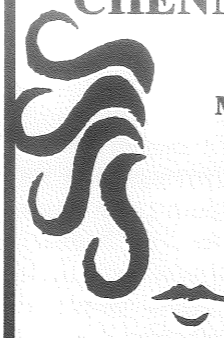
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THE CARERS CENTRE

Need some Information?

We may not know all the answers – but we will find out for you. We have our own information files, books and leaflets; we also receive regular updates for our computer database from the NHS Healthpoint, and about all the organisations who deal with health problems.

Remember . . .

A bit of information now can save a lot of hassle later ring us on Tel: 0345 125546.

Don't forget – Bampton Carers meet the last Wednesday in the month at The Methodist Church Centre, High St., Witney, from 1pm – 3pm.

SOBELL WITNEY DAY HOSPICE

A day hospice has opened at the Witney Community Hospital, Welsh Way, and is held every Tuesday. It provides nursing care, physiotherapy and occupational therapy for people with illnesses such as cancer, end stage heart and kidney disease, and motor neurone disease.

Referrals to this service are to Sue Prowse, Macmillan Nurse via your own GP.

For further information please telephone: 01865 225887.

THE BEFRIENDING NETWORK

Volunteers supporting people with a life-threatening illness at home

What is the Befriending Network?

The Befriending Network was established in 1994 with the aim of improving the quality of life for those with terminal or life-threatening illnesses. We do this by providing trained volunteers to offer practical and emotional support in the home. The person befriended will decide with the volunteer how the relationship will develop.

What do Befrienders do?

- meet weekly to listen, talk and just be with the befriendeed.
- accompany the befriendeed on hospital visits or other trips.

- provide a link with local health and social services.

The befriender's visit can often provide a much-needed break for Carers and relatives.

What Befrienders do not do?

They do not replace nurses, home helps or social workers. They are not professionals, and have no medical training.

They do not promote any spiritual beliefs of their own.

They do not benefit financially from the befriending relationship.

Volunteering?

Volunteers can come from all backgrounds, and must be over the age of 18. Befriending doesn't suit everyone, and so prospective volunteers go through a careful selection process.

The Befriending Network training programme (typically 5-3 hour sessions and 2 full days) prepares volunteers for the role of befriender, by deepening awareness and insight through exploring broadly the issues involved in living with a life-threatening illness. The training itself is a valuable and rewarding experience, which we offer free to volunteers. In return, we ask them to make a commitment of 2 to 3 hours a week (more if they wish) for a least 12 months.

On completion of the training, and final acceptance as a Befriender the volunteers are supervised by the Befriending Network staff. Befriending can be demanding, but it is ultimately very rewarding, and can lead to a relationship of mutual respect and enrichment.

Being Befriended?

Any adult with a life-threatening illness can apply for a Befriender. The service is free, and aims to complement existing services, not to replace them. The staff and volunteers of the Befriending Network are trained to respect confidentiality at all times.

Please contact Catherine Gundry and Sue Taylor, Tel: 01865 316200, or write to Oxford & Oxfordshire Befriending Network, St Barnabas Community Centre, 33a Canal St, Oxford, OZ2 6BQ.

E-mail: oxford@befriending.net

WEST OXFORDSHIRE CITIZEN ADVOCACY

A challenge for the New Millennium

A citizen advocate is someone who acts and speaks up on behalf of another person who, for one reason or another, is unable to do it for themselves. Those who cannot express their own needs and wishes may find themselves disregarded and not given the respect and consideration, which the rest of us enjoy.

CITAD is now approaching the end of its first three-year's service in West Oxfordshire and, with the expectation of a continuation grant from the National Lottery, we are set fair to expand our work in the new Millennium. We plan to introduce short-term advocacy as well as long-term advocacy to our activities.

If you could give New Hope to a person at the start of this new Millennium who hasn't been heard much in the old one, then we'd like to hear from you – we promise to listen! Please contact Tel: 704826.

Hundreds in the District are hoping that the new Millennium will bring a real change!

VOLUNTEER LINK-UP

Could you help?

There is a wide range of activities open to volunteers, individually or in groups, with children, families, young people, elderly and disabled people, in day centres, clubs, other voluntary organisations, offices and charity committees.

Whatever volunteers want to do we try to find the right place for them? We offer free advice and support to people exploring voluntary work. Contact Volunteer Link-Up, Methodist Church, 10 Wesley Walk, Witney, Oxon OX8 6ZJ. Tel: 01993 776277.

Minor Injuries Unit

Witney Community Hospital,
Welch Way, Witney.

Open 11am - 12 midnight
7 days a week

Tel: 01993 602966 or 602968

Fax: 01993 602965

A WOODLAND FOR BAMPTON

By Collin Allport

We are very happy to be able to report that the target of £29,500, which was Bampton's contribution to the Millennium Woodland project, was reached at the end of November. Shortly afterwards, the Woodlands Trust informed us that the purchase of the 7.5 acres had been concluded. Then early in December we received a further £5000 as the result of an application to the Oxfordshire Environmental Trust – with the grand total now standing at £34,554. This opens the possibility of seeking additional land to expand the area of the woodland. The Woodland Trust will, by now, have sent out letters to redeem the pledges that many of the people of Bampton have so kindly completed over the last few months.

By the time of publication of the 'Beam', the Guided Visit of the site and the Village meeting both on Thursday 30th March 2000 will have taken place. We would, however, be very happy to arrange a few additional visits for those who were not able to be there on that date. Anyone who is interested should contact **Colin Allport Tel: 850411**. I would like to stress that this is not confined to those who have contributed to the project, but is open to all. The Woodland will be for the enjoyment of the whole village and we would like everyone to be involved.

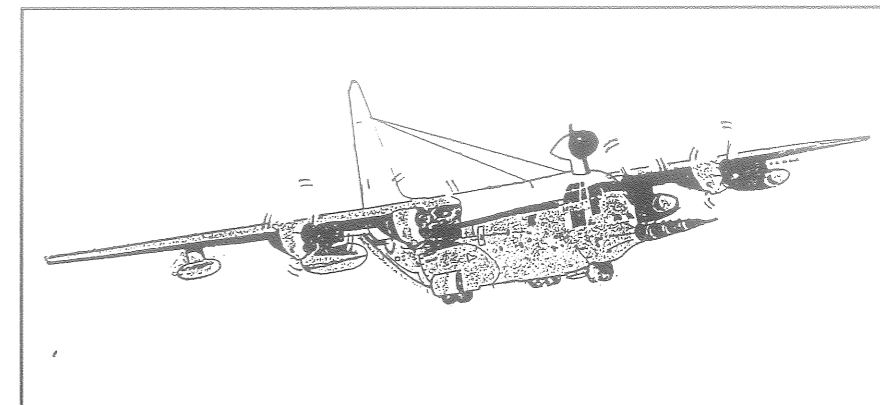
The purpose of the Village Meeting was to have the input from as many people as possible with regard to the layout of the Woodland and the range of trees to be planted. Other details such as special features and access, together with deciding on a suitable name for the wood, will also have been covered. Information concerning the conclusions will be displayed at a suitably central point in the village as soon as possible.

On Saturday 18th November the Grand Planting will take place, which will be open to the whole of Bampton. More details will be given closer to that date.

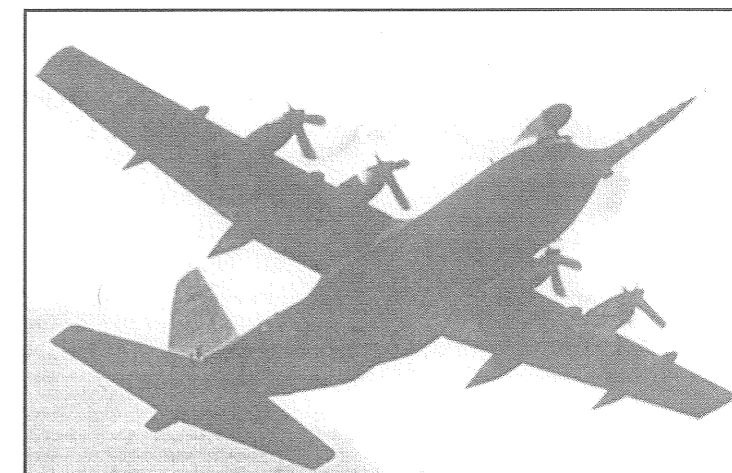
A RATHER DIFFERENT VISITOR IN OUR SKIES!

For over sixty years, life in Bampton has been influenced to some extent by the close proximity of the RAF base at Brize Norton. The VC10s and Tristars permanently based there are a common sight (and sound) in the

the world, and in all types of conditions from ice clouds in Northern Sweden to dust storms from the Sahara Desert. The scientific equipment carried is also capable of measuring levels of atmospheric radiation (the



skies over the Village. One aircraft not so often spotted is the unique weather research Hercules, affectionately known as 'Snoopy'. Usually based at Boscombe Down near Salisbury, Snoopy occasionally visits Brize Norton for crew training, but is more often to be seen flying over the town en-route to the North Sea where much of the weather research is carried out. The flight crew is all RAF or ex-RAF, some of whom



live in the local area, and at least one is a born and bred old Bamptonian! *Not sure he would like the 'old' tag – Ed.*

Easily identified by its long, red and white striped nose, Snoopy has been flying since 1973, and during that time has carried out research all over

ozone layer), and is very often used to assist in calibrating the weather satellites that are so important for accurate weather forecasting.

Being the only aircraft of its kind in the world, Snoopy has attracted much attention on its travels and many

press-cuttings from various foreign language newspapers have been collected over the years and photographs abound.

I hope this short article has given the reader at least some little insight into the life of one of the many aircraft that share the skies over Bampton!

Dear Editor

I wonder if your readers got the end of the fine print which accompanied the recent water rate demand. If not, they may have missed a little point.

From 1 April 2000, those properties from which the surface water is discharged to soakaways, or direct to watercourses, rather than to the main drainage system, can claim a £15 rebate. There must be many such properties in Bampton.

If you have already consigned Thames Water bumf to the bin, just phone 0845 3002234 for details.

Yours etc. David Pullman

Ed: Thanks for the tip David. Small print, always the small print!

Dear Editor,

My husband and I sincerely thank you for the printing of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary (23rd December 1939), in the last edition of *The Bampton Beam*.

Many of our friends in Bampton have been in touch with happy anniversary wishes and beautiful cards, and they reminded us of the 25 wonderful years of memories we will always cherish of our life in Bampton. One card came from America, from Olive Macabe (nee Peacock), who was one of my Girl Guides in Bampton over 30 years ago.

So sorry to hear that houses may be built in our dear Market Square. We cannot imagine clothes drying on washing lines next to our War Memorial. Use the Market Square to park cars for visitors and customers to the various shops and activities which are held in the Village Hall and Town Hall. Please don't spoil the heritage we have in Bampton. Leave the Market Square as the landmark we all are accustomed to. We love it.

Thanking you again,

Yours sincerely, Mrs Joan Keytes.

Ed's note: We must apologise as we printed your address, in the last issue, as Aldershot instead of Alderholt – Sub-Eds' fault! The correct address is 'Green Gables', 112 Station Road, Alderholt, Nr Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 3AZ. Watch out you may just get some additional mail!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a member of the Millennium Bike Path Group I was tickled pink to read the letter in December's edition from a 73 year old cyclist who came on the Bike Rally to Tadpole Bridge. It makes the efforts of all those who have lent their support seem worthwhile, especially at those times when we seem to be banging our heads against the proverbial brick wall.

The route for the Buckland Road bike path is the most difficult route out of Bampton and therefore the most expensive. However, it will be a fantastic achievement, bringing many advantages to the village, both now and in the future, and give a splendid example for other villages to follow. If the Buckland Road can be tamed, anything is possible! The bike path project is aimed at improving the lot of those brave cyclists already using the road, and to provide an alternative to the car for the rest of us. Every day I see vehicles screeching to a halt behind a bike, which I know from personal experience, is alarming for the cyclists and the drivers involved.

Because the Buckland Road is such a busy narrow road, some people have expressed concern about the safety of the proposed bike path. I must emphasize that, although we are amateurs, all survey, safety and construction work will be carried out by County Council engineers in conjunction with Sustrans, who have gained a wealth of experience from building the National Cycle Network and other local projects around the country. The design will probably involve some traffic control measures, as well as having the bike path as far as is possible from the carriageway. And, while the new bike path will hopefully mean a reduction in the number of cars using the road, the traffic control measures should also help to reduce the speed of vehicles entering and leaving the village.

The thing is, we can give in to the dangers of traffic or we can try to provide an alternative, and this is one small way of doing that. Certainly, a bike path will enhance the safety of everyone currently using the route.

Recent statistics from the Department of Health show a marked decline in the health and fitness of children in rural areas. Bikepaths/walkways provide an opportunity for this trend to be reversed and ensure that when we all reach our 70s/80s we are not restricted to our homes or cars for fear that the occasional wobble on a bike, or even on foot, might be our downfall!

If anyone would like to come along to meetings to find out more, or is able to offer help in any way, please contact Jo Lewington, our Chairwoman on the 'Office' number **01993 850947**. Yours sincerely, Jackie Garrett.

Dear Auntie Beam

I sometimes walk near the Town Hall on a Wednesday evening, and on several occasions lately I've heard raised voices coming from the Parish Council meeting.

Mildly curious as to what could have caused this uproar, I made inquiries, and it appears to be over planning applications – and not just one either. Now more than mildly curious, I delved a bit further and found that the hullabaloo was over the question of what constitutes 'an interest' in a planning application. Are the members of the Parish Council as confused as I am? Perhaps you could straighten us out, Auntie Beam?

With all this hot air flying about, it's astonishing that Bampton Parish Council did not write to W.O.D.C. Planning Department, either to support or reject a particular planning application that, had it been granted, would have considerably altered a conservation area opposite the church. It seems this surprising silence was commented on at a recent Planning Meeting by one of the Committee members from another district; apparently several letters against the application had been received from other

interested parties, including two of our own parish Councillors writing on their own behalf. I wonder why no letter went from Bampton Parish Council. Are they representing the views of the majority of Bamptonians? Or are they being bamboozled by those with the loudest voices?

Yours Stroller.

Ed's note: As you see this letter was written to Auntie Beam. Auntie Beam thought it a little difficult for her to handle so passed it over to us. We in turn passed it on to the Chairman of the Parish Council and below is his reply. Normally with a letter on such a serious issue as this, if no name and address is included, we would not print it in the 'Beam'. Light hearted letters are a different matter! In this case however, in discussion with David Hawkins, it has been decided to print it, and allow an appropriate reply to be made. However, this is a one-off.

Declaration of Interest

David Hawkins, Chairman Parish Council, & Ralph Norman, Councillor responsible for Planning Advice

Although we are all used to hearing politicians challenging each other about whether they should or should not declare an interest on a particular issue, one might not expect such debates to occur at parish council level. Don't you believe it! The National Association of Local Councils publishes a seven-page booklet laying out the legal and other aspects of "Declarations of Interest". All councillors are expected to declare an interest, particularly when we are considering planning applications. Where an interest is declared, the councillor normally may neither take part in the discussion nor vote on the matter. However, it is never as simple as it sounds, and the following can only give a taste of the rules that apply.

There are grey areas associated with the definition of "an interest" and it is up to the individual councillor to decide whether they should declare an interest or not, and whether to leave the room completely to allow col-

leagues to speak freely. No one else can make the declaration for them, not even when others are convinced that an interest exists. Where the interest is pecuniary the matter is relatively straightforward. If the councillor, or their spouse, has a pecuniary interest in the matter under discussion, then the decision is simple – declare an interest and take no part in the debate or the vote.

But these things become more complicated. The following is quoted directly from the National Association of Local Councils' booklet: "Interests which are not pecuniary can be just as important. You [the councillor] should not allow the impression to be created that you are, or may be, using your position to promote a private or personal interest, rather than forwarding the general public interest. Private and personal interests include those of family and friends..."

If the matter under discussion involves a friend, then the decision is much more difficult. Have you just been for drinks at the friend's house? Have you been on holiday with them? Have you advised them on how best to apply for planning permission ...? This is now a much more difficult area and it is really only for the councillor and his/her conscience to decide. But the criteria that the councillor should always apply is in the NALC booklet, which says that, where such interests are clear and substantial "you should never take any further part in the proceedings, and should always withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is being considered. In deciding whether such an interest is clear and substantial, you should ask yourself whether members of the public, knowing the facts of the situation, would reasonably think that you *might* be influenced by it. If you think so, you should regard the interest as clear and substantial."

Rest assured your parish council takes declaration of interest very seriously and all instances, where a declaration is made, are carefully recorded in the minutes, which are on display at the library and post office.

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate the Millennium Committee for all their efforts particularly on New Year's Eve. There was a fantastic turnout in the Market Square summoned by our old air raid siren. The fireworks were great, supplemented by Lord Donoughmore's excellent display. The pub ticket-only scheme worked extremely well and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The Millennium mugs were much appreciated on New Year's Day, and Todd Bebb's design was excellent.

Finally the floodlighting of our church spire was a great idea, and the bellringers peal as usual was much appreciated. Well done to all concerned! All these things take a lot of work and preparation.

Yours truly, Jonathan Phillips

Dear Editor

I would like to make it clear that I was not the author of the unattributed article headed 'The Jubilee Inn' that appeared in a prominent position on my cookery page in the December 1999 issue of the 'Beam'; and to express my concern that upset might have been caused to Mr and Mrs Cooper by such a misunderstanding.

Yours truly, Gilly French.

Ed's note: We regret if any misunderstanding was caused, but the letter was received very late, and of course was of major interest to our readers. With the rest of the editing already done, the 'Cookery Page' was the only convenient place to put the article.

Dear Editor,

Can I ask those who use the tree trunks and telephone poles for advertising future events, to please remove their posters afterwards?

When out on my walks around the village, I do take down old posters – at least those that are pinned to the posts, the stapled ones are more difficult!

Anyone have a spare staple remover to give me?

Thanks everyone,
Margaret Chaundy.

WHAT'S IN THE DIARY FOR BAMPTON?

EASTER BONNETS

There will be an Easter Bonnet Parade outside (or inside if it is raining) The Romany, Bridge Street, on **Saturday 22nd April at 2.30pm**. Just turn up in your Easter Bonnets and you can enter the Easter Bonnet Competition.

Class 1: Infants - 6 years

Class 2: 7 - 12 years

Class 3: 13 - 16 years

Class 4: Best Adult

Please do come along and join us. For more information please contact **Mrs. Ruth Wheeler Tel: 850808**.

THE PUMPKIN CLUB STREET FAIR

Monday 1st May, and it's that time again for the Annual Pumpkin Club Street Fair. As usual, lots of stalls to keep you busy browsing, children dancing, roundabouts, refreshments, raffle, and of course the Dog Show. This year though, there will be something a bit extra - and completely different - called 'Stars in Your Eyes', to boot, singing along with the Karaoke machine! You can imagine that there will be plenty of music in the Market Square throughout the day. The Fair is officially opened at 10am, when you will also see this year's May Queen and her attendants. Do come along and join in the fun packed day?

SPAJERS NEWS

Hello Junketeers,

We are all looking forward to our Summer Program, which is in the true SPAJERS tradition of having fun whilst raising funds for our senior citizens.

Our first event this year is our **Quiz Night at the Village Hall on Friday 14th April**. It doesn't matter whether you have a team or not, just come along and perhaps we can make up a scratch team with other people looking to have a bit of fun. Scratch teams have been known to win! And what's

more there is always a good supper to be had.

Next on our list is of course the **Great Shirt Race - the 48th - on Saturday 27th May at 6pm in the Market Square**. Already I have seen people in training for the great event. They have been spotted getting the drinking aspect right before taking on the running side of things. There are three races, one for Primary school children, one for Juniors (up to the *legal* alcohol drinking age), and of course the Seniors.

A lot of possible contestants are put off because they cannot acquire a pram. But it is not a pram race; it is a *shirt race!* The rules require that you have a means of transport that can be propelled by a pedestrian with sober tendencies to a maximum of speed of 20 mph and be able to stop the aforementioned conveyance within 75 yards. So it can be a wheelbarrow, sacktruck, or wheelybin (*get written permission from the council in triplicate first!*). We have in the past had a four-poster bed competing. So lack of a conveyance should not be a reason for not entering, only a lack of initiative!

Finally, our summer garden party plans are moving at quite a pace, we are getting a lot of feedback from our senior citizens that they are going to enter the spirit of things and dress up in Victorian gear! Brilliant!

We know that some people are not on our list by choice and others because we have not been informed. The criteria for membership is that a person must have achieved the national retirement age and have lived in Bampton for at least 6 months. If you have any doubts please get in touch with me. What we really want is that every senior citizen gets an invitation to our **Millennium Tea Party on Sunday 9th July, at Bampton Manor**, by kind permission of our President Lord Donoughmore. For more information contact, **Don Rouse Tel: 851480**.

MAY GARLANDS

This traditional custom is always held on Bank Holiday Monday - which used to be called Whitsun. Children meet in the Market Square with their garlands at 11am ready for the judging.

To make a garland is very easy, but time consuming. All you need is two hoops which you cover with wild flowers. These wild flowers can be dandelions, buttercups, cow parsley - in fact anything which is easy to find. Tie into small bunches and attach them to the hoops with string. Fix the two hoops together so they form a 'ball' shape. On top, fix a bunch of flowers - years ago the top posy had to be made up of red or pink peonies. Sit your favourite doll or teddy in the centre, find a long stick or broom handle to hook it through, two people to carry it, and you've got yourself a Traditional May Garland. Sadly this old custom is declining, but I do hope there will be a good turnout this year. Please come along to the **Market Square, on Monday 29th May at 11am**. For more information please contact **Mrs. Ruth Wheeler, Tel: 850808**.

MORRIS DANCERS

Dancing starts on the streets of Bampton at 7am on **Monday 29th May**. There are three Bampton Teams and each will be performing for you during the day. You will be able to pick up a programme from the Town Hall which will tell you where the different teams will be dancing. In the evening, visiting teams come to join in the dancing and make merry! Do try a piece of the 'fertility cake', which is carried round the streets with the dancers. This is the day when Bampton comes into it's own.

THE CRAFT FAIR

The Annual Craft Fair will be held in the **Village Hall on Monday 29th May from 9.30am**. Lots of old crafts will be on show. The Village Millennium Mugs will also be on sale, so if you haven't got one yet, here's your very last chance to purchase that piece of history. Refreshments will also be available.

WEEKEND BUS TO OXFORD

What a response! More than 100 people have asked for an evening bus to Oxford. Friday and Saturday evenings seem to be the most popular. Thirty-two people very helpfully filled in the times at which they would like to leave and return to Bampton, and how often per month they would be likely to use the service.

Basically the requirements seem to fall into two groups.

Leaving Bampton at 6pm - returning to Bampton at 12 midnight

Leaving Bampton at 7.30pm - returning to Bampton at 2pm

With this response, our District Councillor Jonathan Phillips is hopeful something can be inaugurated. Then it will be up to the people of the Village to use it as much as possible, otherwise it will not be kept going. Efforts are being made to find out if there would be demand from Aston as well.

Ed's note - With more than 100 people having signed the petition, let's hope that our District Councillor can persuade a bus company to run a pilot. Hopefully it can become a permanent feature of village life.

BAMPTON MILLENNIUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB

During the winter a few of us were contemplating the coming summer months, and where to head off to for weekend runs, when the seed of an idea formed. Why not start a motorcycle club. The Bampton Millennium Motorcycle Club was born!

The aim is to enjoy structured group riding to suit all ages and abilities. If you would like to join us then turn up at the Market Square at the dates and times shown or alternatively contact, **Richard Turpin, Tel: 01993 851398, or write to 41 Ampney Orchard, Bampton, Oxon, OX18 2AE or E-mail: dick.turpin@omt.co.uk**

Sunday 9 th April Start 11am	Red Lion, Avebury. Lunch at this stone circle pub. Via Wantage, Newbury and Hungerford.	Approx. 80 miles
Sunday 30 th April Start 9.30am	Devizes. Visit the flight of locks on this stretch of the Kennet and Avon Canal.	Approx. 80 miles
Sunday 14 th May Start 3pm	Mystery. I haven't decided yet! Someone else might like to come up with an idea.	
Sunday 4 th June Start 8am	Jack Hills, greasy spoon for breakfast, Towcester.	Approx. 80 miles
Friday 9 th June Start 8pm	Horseshoe Bampton. Beer and chat. Come with some ideas!	Approx. ½ mile
Wed 14 th June Start 6.30pm	Quick run there and back to the Red Lion, Avebury.	Approx. 52 miles
Sunday 25 th June Start 9am	Sammy Miller's Motorcycle Museum. New Milton South Coast. £3.50 entrance fee. All day trip with plenty of stops.	Approx. 190 miles

Maps and instructions will be handed out on the day. More detailed information can be obtained from myself for the price of a local telephone call - **Tel: 01993 851398. Here's to a good summer and smiley miles.**

Secret Gardens of Bampton.

Following the success of the Open Gardens in 1998, it has been decided to repeat the event this summer on Sunday 11th June from 2pm to 6pm. We hope to have a representative mix of all the different types of garden in the village, ranging from the large to the diminutive, from the immaculately tended to the low maintenance, from mature walled gardens, to patios of modern houses, perhaps with only a few thoughtfully planted pots. The only qualification required is that you are willing to open your garden to help raise money on behalf of the Friends of St Mary's. If you would like to take part, in what should be great fun, **contact either Ian McLintock, 1 Weald Manor Cottages, Tel: 850736, or Jonathan Phillips, Haytor, Lavender Square, Tel: 850321**. The event will centre on the Town Hall, where you will be able to buy your ticket, collect your map, and afterwards have a cup of tea and perhaps purchase a plant or two from the plant stalls. Forget watching garden makeover on the telly, come and see the real thing.

SECRET GARDENS OPEN DAY Sunday 11th June 2000

I/Wewould like to have our garden added to the list of gardens to be opened on Sunday 11th June.

My/Our address is:

Telephone Number is:

Return slip by the 1st May 2000 to Abbey Properties and place in The Beam Box.

BAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bowling Green Close, Bampton.

The Bampton Bears have now arrived!

We have eight small teddies, suitably clothed in school uniforms, which were expertly made for us by three kind ladies who are friends of the school.

Already some of the bears have traveled to such far-flung places as Wales, Kazakhstan, Turkey, New York, France and Gibraltar. They have been shopping, sight seeing, and one has been to a rock concert.

Whilst in Gibraltar, with a pupil from the school, enjoying a visit to see the monkeys, one bear was obviously just too cute to resist. One of the monkeys snatched the bear and kidnapped her! We hope she is happy in her new home. Evidently she did enjoy sunshine and ice cream, so Gibraltar may suit her well.

If you are going on a trip, and would like to take a bear with you, please contact the school Tel: 850371. The postcards you send to the school from the bear will be used by the children in their English and geography studies.

Over the past few months the children have been busy taking part in various services and concerts. The children in Keystage 1 performed a traditional Nativity, while Keystage 2 presented a modern version of the Christmas Story in Hosanna Rock.

Various after-school clubs are available and currently include football, French, recorder, dance, computer and choir. A homework club is planned for after Easter. The recorder club has already played at numerous Church services in the village, including the Harvest Festival, Family Nativity at St Mary's, Pet Service and Candle Lit Carols at the Methodist Chapel.

In January, a group of year 6 pupils, spent a week in Devon at Yenworthy, an Outward Bound and Educational establishment. Taking part in various challenges, activities and walks; the wonderful trip was enjoyed by all. In

February, Rosalind Wates, a local artist attended and helped run an Art Workshop for Keystage 2 pupils, on creating mosaics. Since September, the friends of Bampton School have raised almost £1500 through Quiz Nights, Children's Discos a Craft Fair, Christmas Bazaar, Barn Dance and Fashion Show. The main fund raising at present is towards the provision of a new Early Years Play Area. Thank you to everyone who supported us in all these events.

Forthcoming Events

Monday 3rd - Wednesday 5th April - Book Fair, after school in the hall.

Friday 7th April - Easter Bazaar, 3.15pm.

THE YENWORTHY EXPERIENCE

By Toni Count and Ieuan List
January 2000

When we first arrived at Yenworthy Lodge, everyone was somewhat nervous. When they found out that they had to make their own beds, and keep the room tidy, the responsibility took them by surprise. However, as the week went on, it became obvious that they thrived on responsibility. This just goes to show that most of the children do not need to rely on their mums and dads to do absolutely everything for them! They clearly showed they were growing up.

By the end of the long, hard, but exciting week, we had matured from little acorns into 'thriving little shoots', just like Steve Cox the head of the Centre had told us we would. If we now nurtured ourselves we could continue to grow to be young saplings and then ginormous trees, standing tall.

We have to think about those who made The Yenworthy Experience possible for us. We thank Steve Cox and his staff, and we simply must thank Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Newman and PC Patrick for looking after us all week.

A big thank you from all Class 1.

Images in the Mist

By Lee Jackson

*The dim, faint mist covered the moor
Like a smoke machine pumping
smoke onto a dance floor.*

*Trees and fence posts
Looking like distant figures, drifting
towards us.*

*Scary torch light
Like light bursting from an unidenti-
fiable source.*

*Eerie sounds
Floating from an inhuman-like ob-
ject.*

*Then suddenly
Running, jumping, heart pounding,
blood rushing*

Jump!

Has it gone?

Run!

In My Bedroom at Yenworthy

By Kirsty Curtis

*In my bedroom at Yenworthy
There was chaos night and day!
Sometimes we just tidied up,
Sometimes we tried to play.*

*The first day was terrible,
We had to make our beds,
Things were getting lost,
We had to use our heads.*

*Philippa lost her slippers,
They were in her bed.
"Toni hid them, I saw her!"
That's what Katie said.*

*In my bedroom at Yenworthy,
There was chaos night and day,
Sometimes we just tidied up, some-
times we tried to play!*

The Doone Valley

By Samantha Trinda

*The Doone Valley
Steep, dark, gloomy hills,
Rich greens of the velvet moss,
Creeping like monstrous fingers
Over the restful, decaying tree stumps
Trickling sounds of gently flowing wa-
ter*

*From the glistening stream.
Reflection of the fiery setting sun.
Ever-changing, flowing tranquil
colours.*

Dream - like feelings.

A TRIBUTE TO HILDA PICKARD

By Fenella Gray & David Pickard

Sadly we have lost one of our most stalwart villagers, Mrs Hilda Pickard. As editor of the 'Beam', I for one will miss her, as she helped me out many times when I had difficulties with some of the articles I wanted print, but I also know that there will be lots of other people, both in Bampton and outside the Village, who will feel her loss.

With the help of Hilda's family and friends, I have tried to put together a short tribute to her, albeit that even if I used the whole of the 'Beam' for the tribute, it could never do justice to this remarkable woman.

When she first moved to the Village with her husband, Sidney, they both very quickly immersed themselves in village life, and involved themselves in a wide array of village activities. They both worked tirelessly for the residents of the Bradwell Grove Home, promoting widely its work and raising financial support. They also trained some of the more able residents into a band! This 'Boys Band', as it was known, soon gained a reputation around the area, and they were very popular at the numerous Summer Fetes for instance. More important than their performances, was the dignity and self-respect that this gave to the boys.

Hilda and Sidney also gave their time to 'Saving the Town Hall'. The Town Hall was in a bad state of repair, the Fire Engine had moved to its new premises, only leaving the Parish Council in the unfit building. What was to happen to the Town Hall? A special committee was formed, chaired by Sidney, which took it upon themselves to do something about it. Many fund raising activities were organised, including fetes, jumble sales, a 6-mile sponsored walk, to name but a few, until eventually the money was raised. Unfortunately, the Town Hall clock was never returned to its rightful place, ending up installed in the

Market Square garage, but with its demise, the clock's whereabouts is not known - can anyone help? The Town Hall was saved and renovated, and is still being used today by the West Oxfordshire Arts, the Parish Council, and other groups in the Village. With her love and knowledge of drama, Hilda also had Bampton humming, with would be actors and actresses, reaching levels of performance they initially didn't believe possible. Hilda directed the plays but was not content with just that, she even wrote plays herself, which were then performed.

She was a keen member of the Bampton Women's Institute, serving as President for a time, but perhaps better known for her produce table at the meetings! She also served on the Parish Church Council, being a Church Warden from 1986 until she retired after her 81st birthday in 1990. Many people will have seen her beautiful flower arrangements, which adorned the church and the church porch. With her love of gardening many of the flowers came from her own garden.

Most Bampton people knew Hilda through her local news reporting. She was a reporter for the *Witney Gazette*, *The Oxford Times* and the *West Oxford Standard*, and she loved nothing better than seeing Bampton in the headlines - many of which she produced herself! Latterly she wrote up the local news for *The West Oxfordshire Observer*.

It is impossible to cover adequately all of what Hilda gave to the Village. She was a remarkably gifted woman, a 'one-off', but one who gave her life to trying to improve the lives of others, and of the community in general.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank her family for sharing her with us, and I am sure those who knew Hilda have their own special memories to remember her by.

BAMPTON JUNIOR CHURCH

Did you know that St Mary's has a very active Sunday Junior Church for children between 3 and 13 years? We meet in the Bush Centre, Church View, at 10.15am and, after doing craft work, listen to a story from the Bible, and sing or play games; we arrive at the Church in time for the last part of the service and to receive our blessing. Our aim is to increase knowledge of the Christian faith through the Bible based activities, and nurture a sense of belonging to our Christian community here in Bampton.

Other events are special Church Services, sometimes with the children taking part. Last Christmas we produced a Nativity Play - 'Come to a Party' - with all the children involved.



We also have parties, a family picnic and outings. We have visited Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford followed with tea at Macdonald's, and visited the Bell Tower at St Mary's to watch the Bell Ringers.

Young people over the age of 10 are invited to join the Lazer Group, which also meets at the Bush Centre, and provision is made for activities suited to the interests and abilities of older children.

For parents with very young children there is a crèche held every Sunday in the Robert Vesey Room in the Library, so that they can attend Church.

For more information please contact, **Margaret Battersby Tel: 850182** or **Sarah Middleton Tel: 01367**

Craft Fairs

A season of craft fairs will be held at the Bampton Village Hall, commencing 22 April. Tables are available for hire.

Enquiries to: **Tel: 01993 830847.**

Tadpole Anglers Club

We are looking for juniors, aged 10-16 years, who would like to join a friendly club. £5 per season. If you are interested, please contact **Wilf or Horrie Loader, 13 Cote Road, Aston. Tel: 01993 850902.**

The Children's Society

The annual box collection in 1999, including boxes held by Londis and the Surgery, raised £278.56. This is in addition to £32.14 raised earlier by Londis, and £62.50 from the cake stall run by the Junior Church – both for which we are very grateful. This is a record effort for recent years! Many thanks to all those people who gave so generously.

If anyone new would like to keep a box, please contact me – **Pauline Hawkins, 01993 851066** – and I would be very happy to bring a box to you. The Society works with around 22,000 children and young people each year, supporting them and their families when they face difficulties, and this valuable work would not continue without our support.

British Red Cross Week, 7th – 13th May 2000.

During this week, there will be a house to house street collection. Please give generously, and help turn life's negatives into positives.

Are there any readers of *The Bampton Beam*, who have a garden that they are proud of, and would like to open it to the public in order to raise funds? If you would, please contact **Toby Benn Tel: 01235 538811.**

The Burford Singers

"The Burford Singers" and the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra's first concert of 2000 is a dramatised version of *Bach's St John Passion*, and will be held at the *Sheldonian* on

NOTICEBOARD

Monday 10th April, at 7.30pm. The soloists are James Gilchrist (Evangelist), Henry Gilchrist (Christus), Patrizia Kwella (Soprano), James Bowman (Alto), Darren Abrahams (tenor), Roderick Williams (baritone). The conductor will be Brian Etheridge. Reserved tickets at £15, £12, £10 (students £10, £8, £6), and unreserved tickets at £5, and any further information can be obtained from **Brian Etheridge, at the Burford Gallery, Tel: 01865 798600.**

"The Burford Singers" and the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra's second concert of 2000 will be the *Verdi Requiem*, and will be held in the Burford Parish Church, on Friday 21st April (Good Friday) at 7:30pm. The soloists are Julie Kennard (soprano), Vanessa Williamson (mezzo-soprano), Adrian Thompson (tenor), and Roderick Williams (baritone). The conductor will be Brian Etheridge. Reserved tickets at £12 and £10 (students £6 and £5), and any further information can be obtained from **Brian Etheridge, at the Burford Gallery, Tel: 01865 798600.**

Cancer Research Campaign

The Annual General Meeting was held on 31st January 2000. The amount made for the year 1999 was £9,126.94.

The new committee is as follows:
Chairman - Mrs Doris Cleaver, Tel 850682.

Treasurer - Mrs Hilary Bevin, Tel: 210176.

Fund raising events for 2000 are:
April 15th at the Village Hall - Easter Sale

June 22nd at the Village Hall - Cream Teas

September 23rd at the Village Hall - Coffee Morning

November 15th at the Bush Centre - Xmas Bingo

December 15th, Civic Centre, Carterton - Country & Western Dance

For more information **Tel: 850682**

Bampton Youth Centre

We are pleased to be able to report that there is a chink of light at the end of the tunnel, in the general gloom of the Youth Centre financing. The County Council has, at last, agreed to make a payment in respect of property costs. However, the payment is at a level which is approximately half that given previously as an operating grant, and there is, at present, no guarantee that it will continue in future years.

This has improved the Centre's finances in the short term, but we are still not in a position to undertake important improvements which are badly needed such as new curtains and furniture.

On evenings, when the youth groups are not using the Centre, and at weekends, the premises are available for rental to outside organisations or individuals. For larger meetings, wedding receptions and parties of all sorts, the facilities are probably the best in Bampton, with a large central hall, a pleasant atmosphere, and an abundance of parking. **Enquiries to Jill Ruck, Tel: 01993 852010.**

The Youth Club meets in the evenings – on Tuesdays for juniors, and Thursday for older members – and also runs discos. Anyone interested in helping or any young people wishing to join, should contact the youth leader **Gary Gummer Tel: 851913, or Carol Jones Tel: 852720**

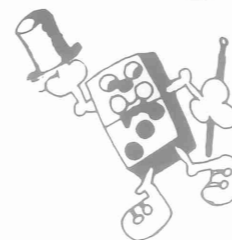
Cubs - meeting on Wednesday evenings - continue to flourish, with excellent support from parents, but the Beavers and Scouts still await leaders. Anyone willing to help should contact the Group Chairman (**851267**). Training is available for those not already experienced. For general matters, please contact **Colin Allport Tel: 850411.**

The Pumpkin Club Bingo

Eyes down every Monday evening in the Bush Centre at 8pm. Everyone welcome.

For more information contact **Mrs E. Forshew or Sharron Tel: 850922.**

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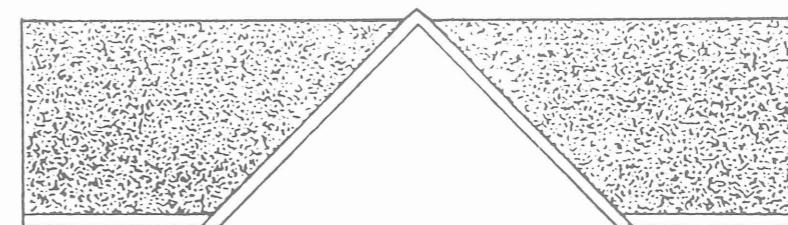
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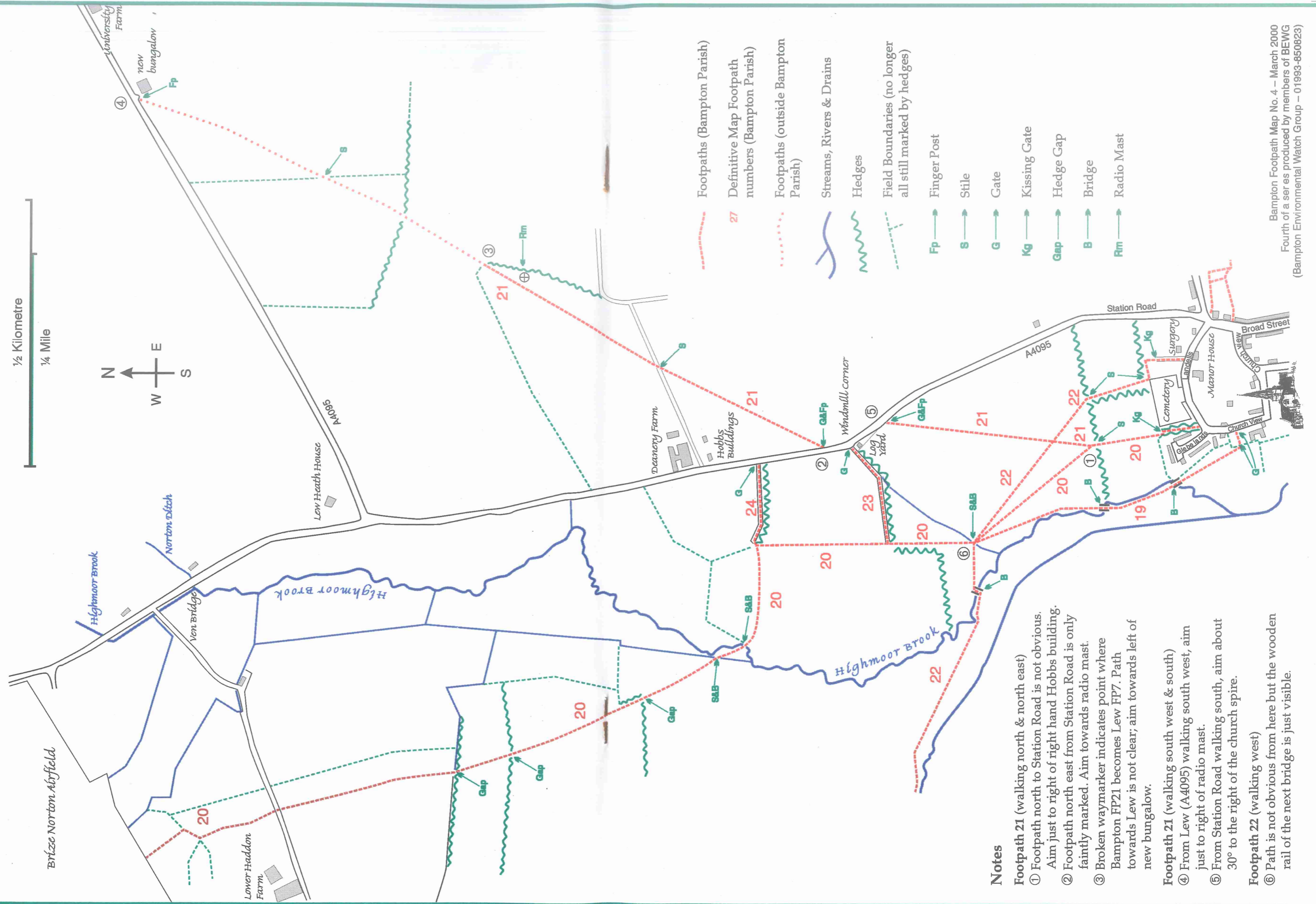
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Footpaths in Northern Bampton



Notes

- Footpath 21** (walking north & north east)
 ① Footpath north to Station Road is not obvious. Aim just to right of right hand Hobbs building.
 ② Footpath north east from Station Road is only faintly marked. Aim towards radio mast.
 ③ Broken waymarker indicates point where Bampton FP21 becomes Lew FP7. Path towards Lew is not clear; aim towards left of new bungalow.
Footpath 21 (walking south west & south)
 ④ From Lew (A4095) walking south west, aim just to right of radio mast.
 ⑤ From Station Road walking south, aim about 30° to the right of the church spire.
Footpath 22 (walking west)
 ⑥ Path is not obvious from here but the wooden rail of the next bridge is just visible.

Bampton Footpath Map No. 4 - March 2000
 Fourth of a series produced by members of BEWG
 (Bampton Environmental Watch Group - 01993-850823)

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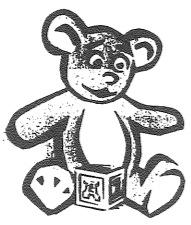
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NOTICEBOARD

Fitness Classes

For the first time in this area, classes specifically for the older person, have become available. Local freelance instructor, Janey Slader, has recently added a specialist qualification in 'Exercise to music for the older person' to her repertoire. Starting in May, will be a class in Carterton for the 50+ age group, called 'The Golden Hour'. The sessions will be suitable for all fitness levels and will also cater for the less mobile, as many exercises will be carried out while seated. Janey's aim is to develop better cardiovascular fitness, improve flexibility and mobility, and to conduct the essential strength training that will help enable this age group to enjoy life to the fullest. All the exercises will aim to promote a healthier and happier lifestyle, and most importantly, be lots of fun. For further information, please contact **Janey Slader, Tel: 845812.**

the Ancient Parish of Bampton, Aston Lew and Weald. The financial help for young people who would like to participate in any academic or sporting course or activity of educational value which would otherwise be beyond their means. We try to offer a bursary of 50% of the amount required. Anyone who feels they qualify (or knows of someone who may do so) should contact the Correspondence Secretary, **Roger Snow, 40 Bushy Row, Bampton, OX18 2JU or Tel: 850113.**

Bampton Badminton Club

Bampton Badminton Club has started up again in the Village Hall. We are playing every Tuesday morning, 10am - 12am. We will be very pleased to see any players, beginners to experts. Please come along or contact **Judy House Tel: 851406.**

Bampton Welfare Trust

The object of the Trust "shall be to relieve generally or individually, persons resident in the area of the ancient Parish of Bampton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress" (Charity Commission). If you need help from the Bampton Welfare Trust, please contact **Janet Newman Tel: 850755.**

Recycling

Your old Birthday cards could help lots of people not so happy as ourselves. Thank you for your support dropping cards through my letterbox or at the Library.
D. Gaydon, 3 Broad Street.

Bampton Bridge Club

The club meets in the Village Hall every Tuesday 7.30pm - 10.30pm. Duplicate bridge is played on the 1st, 3rd, and any 5th Tuesday of the month; rubber bridge on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. The annual subscription is £5, with a charge of £1 per session. New members are always welcome. For more information contact **Mrs Joan Granville, Tel: 850407.**

West Oxfordshire Conservative Association

At the recent AGM the following were elected to the committee:
President - Mrs. M Smith
Chairman - Mrs. R Colvile
Vice Chairman - Mrs. M. Smith
Secretary - Mrs. F Gray
Treasurer - Canon R Meredith
General Member Mr. R Chambers
General Member Mrs. M Dowding
General Member Mr. F Gray
If anyone would like to join the Association, or would like to obtain information on the various events planned for 2000 - such as the June Garden Party please contact **Mrs. R. Colvile Tel: 850224.**
The next Focus Discussion Group Meeting will be on Thursday 18th May, please contact Mr. Dainty,

'Sandown', Rosemary Lane, Bampton or **Tel: 850201.**

Bampton Classical Opera

Sunday 16th April: Choral Music for the Season of Lent. 7:30pm
St Mary's Church.

Future Events

Bampton Classical Opera continues in its tradition of presenting rarities from the classical period with an exciting project. On Friday 21st July and Saturday 22nd July in the beautiful Deanery garden, there is the chance to hear what we believe to be only the second ever production in this country of Stephen Storace's 'Comedy of Errors'. Based on the Shakespeare play of the same title, it features a witty libretto, lively music, sparkling ensembles, and the enormous casting headache of 'twin' tenors and 'twin' baritones. The Englishman Storace was a contemporary and friend of Mozart, and their music is very much of the same lyricism and energy. Bring a picnic and a deckchair and enjoy a splendid evening's entertainment in idyllic surroundings! Tickets will be available from May. In addition the company will be performing a more mainstream opera, Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* in a new venue, the glorious setting of Westonbirt School in Gloucestershire on Sunday 16th July. Featuring Bampton favorites Michelle Harris and Howard Kirk as one of the pairs of lovers, it is another comedy of confused identity and tested fidelity. A shared librettist, Lorenzo da Ponte and the same conductor, Simon Over, making his Bampton debut, link the two productions.

**All information contact
Tel: 020 7222 1173.**

Thank You

The 'Beam Team' would like to thank our stalwart 'Beam Walkers' for the wonderful job they do every year. Without them it would be impossible for everyone to receive their copy of The Bampton Beam delivered straight to their homes.

Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Mrs Margaret Bruce-Mitford

Illness and death at the heart of BEWG necessitated postponing the AGM until March 8th, when we had an unusual amount of members attending which enabled us to fulfil the statutory needs of the constitution. Molly Jones and Michael Evans resigned. Both will be missed for the individual contributions which they brought to the group. In their place we welcomed Reg Chambers, and he, together with serving officers and members, were elected by a block vote.

Officers remain the same, namely:

Chairman – Ralph Norman

Vice Chairman – Margaret Bruce-Mitford

Hon Secretary – Ann Norman

Hon Treasurer – Ray Proctor.

This dull, but necessary part of the evening, was followed by the exact opposite. There was a lively talk by Gillie Marsh on his long personal and professional commitment in scavenging rubbish skips for discarded architectural and building material, which he then uses for restoration or modification purposes, and even to the extent of incorporating into new buildings. The variety of the materials found is enormous, but the key would appear to be possessing a sharp and well-trained eye, aided by a creative mind, which combined can see the possibilities as to how dirty and damaged objects can be effectively restored and re-utilised.

Gillie also made it clear that this was no lighthearted hobby, but involved physical strength as well, since it was not for the first time that he had had to dive down to the bottom of a skip to get at a piece of wood or metal that appeared promising. This was a most fitting start to the new Millennium illustrating the objectives of BEWG to conserve the good wherever possible and in whatever unlikely circumstances.

Future Meetings

Wednesday 26th April - Ken Bettridge will give a talk on Landscape

Interpretation in the Windrush Valley.

Wednesday 26th July – Christopher Bishop of Cirencester will give a talk on mediaeval church architecture. Both meetings will take place in the Village Hall at 8pm. Non-members are welcome for a donation of £1.

Planning

Between December and March, BEWG has not been involved in large controversial developments. The Pad-dock in Church View is progressing at an even pace, under the vigilant eye of concerned residents. In May, the Market Square project will start, after Western Counties resold the development to a company called Watermead - the site has now been declared free from contamination. It will be a cheerful summer sight to see that gloomy unused land in the heart of the village coming to life again.

Notwithstanding the satisfactory progress of the two developments, planning has raised serious issues on the much smaller but no less significant domestic front with applications for building new houses, or effecting considerable modifications to existing ones in this Conservation Area. In particular, the proposed change of use of the Jubilee Inn to a private residence evoked a great deal of opposition from residents throughout the village, while formal objection was expressed by an eight to one vote by the Parish Council, and representation from BEWG and the Society for the Protection of Bampton. In the event West Oxfordshire District Council Planning Committee refused permission for this change. Likewise there is considerable concern about proposed alterations to Windsor Cottages in Broad Street. The alterations would destroy the architectural and historical integrity of this still intact terrace of five Victorian Railway Cottages. Once again local residents have initiated opposition and BEWG has opposed the initial and second

modified applications.

Footpaths

The monitoring system is working well with minor faults being reported for prompt action by the appropriate authority. Improved marking is being considered on footpath 3 where it makes a half-turn towards the Aston Road. The footpath officer of the Oxfordshire County Council has agreed to provide way-markers and posts, which BEWG will undertake to erect. Local landowners are being approached by the O.C.C. Field Officer to give permission for this.

In Memoriam

Between late December 1999 and January 2000 BEWG lost four of its longstanding members.

Richard Blunt was a founder member and being the Hon. Secretary's father, carried out many useful and helpful activities in the background, as well as being a loyal attendant at meetings. Our sympathy goes out to Elspeth, his widow, Ann and Ralph and the rest of the family.

Ron Heath died suddenly in Dorset where he and his wife had moved to in November. He had been a stalwart member of the Executive Committee for several years, with the special responsibility for planning.

Elinor Hollebone died very suddenly in late January. She also had been a loyal member and will be sadly missed.

Hilda Pickard, who had a fatal stroke in January, was another founder member. Her particular contribution was the 'media', and as village correspondent to the various local newspapers, saw that BEWG's activities made 'news'.

The funeral of Richard Blunt and the Memorial Services for Elinor Hollebone and Hilda Pickard were held at St Mary's Church, each being attended by large congregations of friends, including many BEWG members.

MACMILLANS THANKS BAMPTONIANS The Mexican Coast to Coast Ride

by Jo Lewington

It was called 'El Grandissimo', and rumour had it, as we toiled up the mountains in the tropical sun, that it is the fourth toughest ride in the world. I don't know how they can measure that, but I for one, by day eight, had never felt more weary and more sweaty and sticky and insect bitten. In fact, looking back, it was not the mountains that were the biggest challenge but the biting insects, the

cloud and rain forest, to the top of the World, where the vegetation was almost reminiscent of Scotland, with pine trees dominating; and the tents had frost on the outside in the morning. From the fourth day, we went through an area which had suffered earthquake damage, with large parts of the road missing, and piles of earth and rocks and fallen trees strewn across it. The earthquake occurred

day's cycling the equivalent to Oxford and back – all up hill. Eventually, I managed the hills by cycling until my cycling muscles ached, walking until another set of muscles ached, and alternating like that, chanting a kind of mantra silently to myself, to keep going.

The best part was probably at the end, when we dumped our bikes and fell into the surf of the Pacific Ocean.

And my proudest memory is that I didn't need my elastic knee supports, but lent them to a lad half my age. Whoopee for the Old Age Pensioner! The trip earned a total of about £155,000 for Macmillans. I would like to thank all those generous Bamptonians who contributed.

BIKE PATH UPDATE

Events

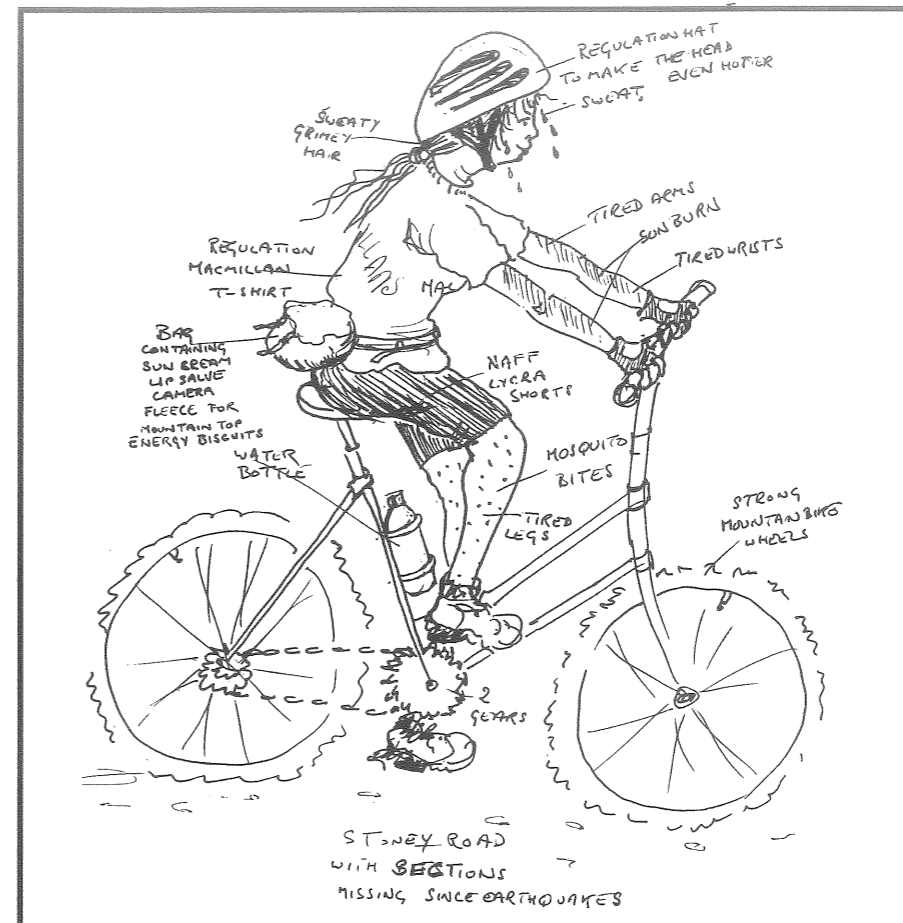
The promised 50/50 sale proposed for Saturday 1st April has had to be postponed. Look out for a new date in a later edition of the 'Beam'.

Our Christmas 60s dance was such a success that we are holding another dance in the Sports pavilion. This will be a mid-summer dance, held on Mid-summer's Eve, Saturday 24th June. Tickets will be sold nearer the time in the Cotton Club.

We are hoping to have a **Bike Rally/Picnic** on the last Saturday of the Summer Holidays. There will be 3 routes to the picnic site. A short one for the very old (bicycles of course), and the very young (people), a medium route, and a longer route for the more determined. Details will appear in the August edition of *The Bampton Beam*, but start training now!

Fundraising

The committee is working very hard to raise a substantial grant. Letters are going to local, national and European governments, to the Sports Lottery Fund, and any others we can think of. Keep any eye open for posters around the village, or the 'Beam', for future announcements.



heat, and the lack of toilet facilities. You do get tired of using a hole in the ground and washing in a bucket! There were about 40 cyclists riding the 600km (375 miles) from the Atlantic Coast of Mexico, near Vera Cruz, to the Pacific Coast near the surfing resort of Puerto Escondito. We went through the flat plains, hot and humid fields of sugarcane and bananas, hot jungles with huge ferns, orchids and arum lilies, layers of

about a month earlier, but looked as if it had only just happened and might repeat itself any minute. The first day we rode about 57 miles. The most I had ever cycled was to Oxford and back (38 miles), and I hadn't cycled in 90-degrees heat before. By day 3, when we hit the hills, I began to regret coming from Oxfordshire, where the nearest thing to a mountain is Mount Owen Road, which doesn't really prepare you for a

LETTERS TO: AUNTIE BEAM

Dear Auntie Beam,
To the worried road user. Please remember we do live in the countryside, and like it or not, horses are part of this life. We are not committing any offence by riding double on the road as long as we do not cross the white line in the middle of the road. It is a fact that the British Horse Society recommends horse riders to ride double as this slows the traffic, and that is the point of the exercise.

Not all car users seem to realise that the horse is a living creature with half a mind of its own. Therefore, it is not always safe to take your hands off the reins and say thank you, and I am sure many car drivers miss the slight nod of the head, but believe me when cars do slow down, it is very much appreciated.

Horses take great comfort from each other's company and are more secure when riding side by side. Does it really hurt so much to slow down for a fraction of a minute? It might even save a life; yes even yours.

Before I finish I would like to comment that I have never seen a bike rider thank anybody for slowing down for them. Maybe the poor horses might be allowed to use the proposed new bike path!

From a worried Horse Rider
Name and address supplied.

Dear Auntie Beam,
With reference to the worried road user and horses. We at Calais Oak Farm probably have as many horses than anywhere else in Bampton, so as a matter of courtesy I feel I should reply to your worried road user. The British Horse Society publishes a book 'Riding and Road Safety Manual', and as we are a BHS approved yard, all of our owners have access to it. It reads: "Never ride more than two abreast, ride in single file where circumstances dictate."

Also: "Young and inexperienced horses and riders should be on the inside of older, experienced horses and riders"

As you can see there is quite a lot of

room for interpretation, but the assumption should be that if horses are riding two abreast there is a reason. Even if both the horses and riders look relaxed and experienced, that may not be the case. I accept that there will always be abuse of this rule, as riders accept that there is continual abuse of many of the other parts of the highway code by the car users (speeding, parking etc) which often puts the horse and rider in real danger.

In summary we all have to live together and accept it's not a perfect world, and in the countryside you should expect to come across horses, tractors, mud on the road, the smell of animal dung, and those other countryside things we hold so dear.

When driving in the country we should drive in a manner which accepts there could be an animal on the road around the next corner whether a horse and rider, or a badger or deer. It could equally be a cyclist. So let's all treat each other with courtesy, drive or ride carefully, and hope we don't become a statistic in an accident record.

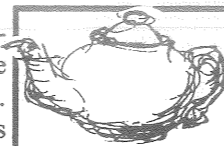
Yours sincerely, Mark Booty.

Dear Auntie Beam,
With reference to horse riding on public roads.

Unfortunately, twice I have had to stop horse riders from riding down Cheyne Lane. What would have happened if it had been a mother pushing her pram or with a toddler, or even my wife who is 90 years old? I don't like to think about the consequences. The footpath is a public footpath not a bridleway, so please do not use it as such,

Yours truly
Francis Shergold.

Well, we certainly received a good response to our letter on 'horse road sense'. The British Horse Society has issued its guidelines, and it's up to the horse riders to comply with them. But let's not forget what Mr. Booty has said about abuse of the Highway Code; it's not only the horse riders that stray occasionally. PC Patrick, our local policeman, agrees with the guidelines issued by the British Horse



If you would like to write to Auntie Beam the address is; Auntie Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge St, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2HA. She will do her utmost to answer as many of your queries as space allows. Auntie Beam wishes to say that she cannot give out personal replies

Society, but makes a plea for everyone who uses the roads to use the rules of the road properly, and with common sense, particularly where interpretation is needed. If we all did this, the roads would be much safer. I must say though, that it's lovely seeing the horses about, and I know Edie Bindweed likes them - especially what they leave behind, which she says makes her roses grow better.

Dear Auntie Beam,
I am thinking of moving to Bampton and have my eye on a very nice property. Unfortunately this property has a nice piece of grass in front, where to my astonishment, dog owners have been letting their dogs do their business.

I wondered if I purchased this property, whether I have any legal obligation to alert them that they risk a police fine? Recently in the paper there was a person who received a fine of over £400 for letting his dog foul on the pavement. I wondered if this could happen here in Bampton. Many thanks, A. Newcomer.

I asked PC Patrick when I bumped into him on one of his visits what to do about this situation. He suggested three things

1. Ask the dog owners not to use the piece of grass for their dogs to foul
2. Put a notice on your grass 'No Dog Fouling Please'
3. Start to collect evidence, take photographs of it actually happening. Take these photographs to the Police Station.

Unfortunately, you might not have the best start to your stay here in Bampton, but it's the only way to go.

THE GARDENING PAGE

By Edie Bindweed

FIRE SAFETY IN THE GARDEN

I picked up a very useful leaflet, on garden safety, from a Garden Club coffee morning recently, and thought it would make interesting reading for my next article in the 'Beam'.

The warmer weather's coming, and time once again to let the family into the garden. A garden should be a fun and safe place for everyone. But it can, unfortunately, be full of unexpected dangers. Did you know that around half a million people get injured in their gardens each year, and one person a week gets killed? Frightening isn't it? Well, the following are a few safety rules you can use to look after everyone in your household and your garden.

Barbecues

- Keep barbecues away from wooden fences, sheds and hedges.
- Always use fire lighters or barbecue fuel to start them - *never ever use petrol or paraffin.*
- Don't leave them unattended
- *Never* try to move a portable barbecue while it's still burning, wait until it has cooled off.
- When you've finished with the barbecue, make sure all the remaining charcoal is extinguished.
- Have a garden hose or bucket of water nearby to deal with any unexpected spread of fire.

Bonfires

- *Never* site a bonfire near a house, garage or shed, and keep them well away from trees, hedges and fences.
- *Never use petrol or paraffin to start a bonfire.*
- Keep bonfires small so they do not get out of control.
- *Never* leave bonfires unattended.
- Have a garden hose or bucket of water nearby to deal with any unexpected spread of fire.

- Do not light bonfires on windy days - and have consideration for your neighbours.

Greenhouses

- Don't fill up paraffin heaters inside the greenhouse, do it outside in the open air.
- Be careful when lighting greenhouse heaters.
- Don't move greenhouse heaters whilst they are alight.
- *Never* smoke when lighting or refilling heaters (of any kind).
- Don't place anything in front or on top of heaters.

Refuelling garden equipment

- *Never* refuel indoors, always do it in the open air, and away from combustible materials and sources of ignition.
- After refuelling, replace the cap on the fuel tank, and the fuel container - and store safely.
- *Never* smoke when refuelling. If you spill any fuel, keep well away from it, and allow it to evaporate or soak into the ground. You can also cover it with an approved absorbent material, and then take it away for disposal.

Sheds

If you must store highly inflammable materials in your shed, the materials must be stored in the recommended types of containers. *Never* refuel any item in the shed, always do it outside in the open air.

Three main steps in case of fire

- ◆ **Get Out**
- ◆ **Stay Out**
- ◆ **Get the Fire Brigade Out - Telephone 999.**

Hopefully, if we will all take notice of these rules we can have a fire free summer, except of course for the odd one or two garden bonfires.

THE GARDENING CLUB NEWS

It's time for the Coffee Mornings to start once again. Do come along and see us, have a nice chat, cup of coffee (or tea), and you can pay your subscription at the same time! And, if you have just moved to Bampton, why not come along and meet us, hear what the Gardening Club is all about, and perhaps you might even be tempted to join. Annual subscriptions are: Members £3.00. Senior Citizens £2.00.

Coffee Mornings, Town Hall 10-12noon

Saturday 8th April, (You will be able to pick up a copy of the new show schedule), 6th May, 7th October, 11th November, 2nd December.

Secret Gardens

Afternoon Tea and Plant Stall
Town Hall 2pm - 5pm
Sunday 11th June

Gardening Club Show Saturday 16th September

Youth Centre, Church View

Trips for 2000

Sunday 9th April
Knoll Gardens, Nr. Wimborne.
Sunday 14th May
Spring Show, Stoneleigh
(Charlie Dimmock's rumoured to be visiting)
Sunday 18th June
Gardeners World, N.E.C.
Thursday 6th July
The Royal Show, Stoneleigh.
Sunday 30th July
Coughton Court, Warwickshire.
Sunday 20th August
Wilton Village, and Salisbury.
Sunday 24th September
Malvern Autumn Show.
Sunday 22nd October
Stephill Craft and Gardens, Ferdown.
Sunday 26th November
Merry Hill shopping.
Sunday 17th December
Turners, Northampton.
For all our outings non-members are also welcome. We leave the Market Square, Bampton at 9am and try and return by 5pm. For more information contact: Ellen Parker Tel: 01993 843985.

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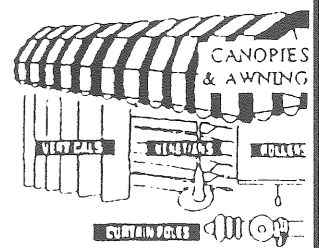
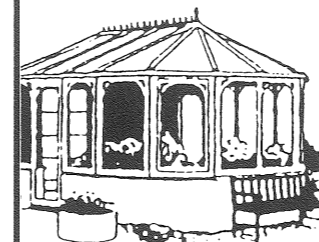
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YES, WE HAVE NO BANANAS! OR THE PRUNES AND CARROTS OF FARMERS' MARKETS

A lot has been said and written just lately about farmers' markets. How do they differ from a regular market, such as those in Witney and Carterton, and what effect do they have on local communities?

To quote from the Shell Better Britain Campaign Information Sheet No. 105, "A farmers' market is a place where food producers and consumers meet face to face. There is no single model of what one should be like. What they all have in common, though, is that all the goods on sale must have been produced by the person selling them, and the goods must have originated within a defined locality." The "defined locality" is usually a radius of 20 to 30 miles - hence the title of this article.

Fruit and vegetables are sold in season - so you wouldn't be able to buy fresh strawberries or courgettes, for example, in March, at a farmers' market. Or ever buy bananas or oranges. So what's the point?

The point is that, what you would be able to buy would be: locally produced, fresh, of good quality and hopefully organic/free range; directly from the producer, and therefore stimulating to the local economy; cutting down on "food miles" (the distance

food travels to and from factories and shops); and so cutting down on pollution too.

Local foods both reflect and strengthen local identity. All sorts of goods could be sold as well as vegetables - cheese, honey, wax, pickles, jams, cakes and bread, preserves,

into the local shops, and improves their trade.

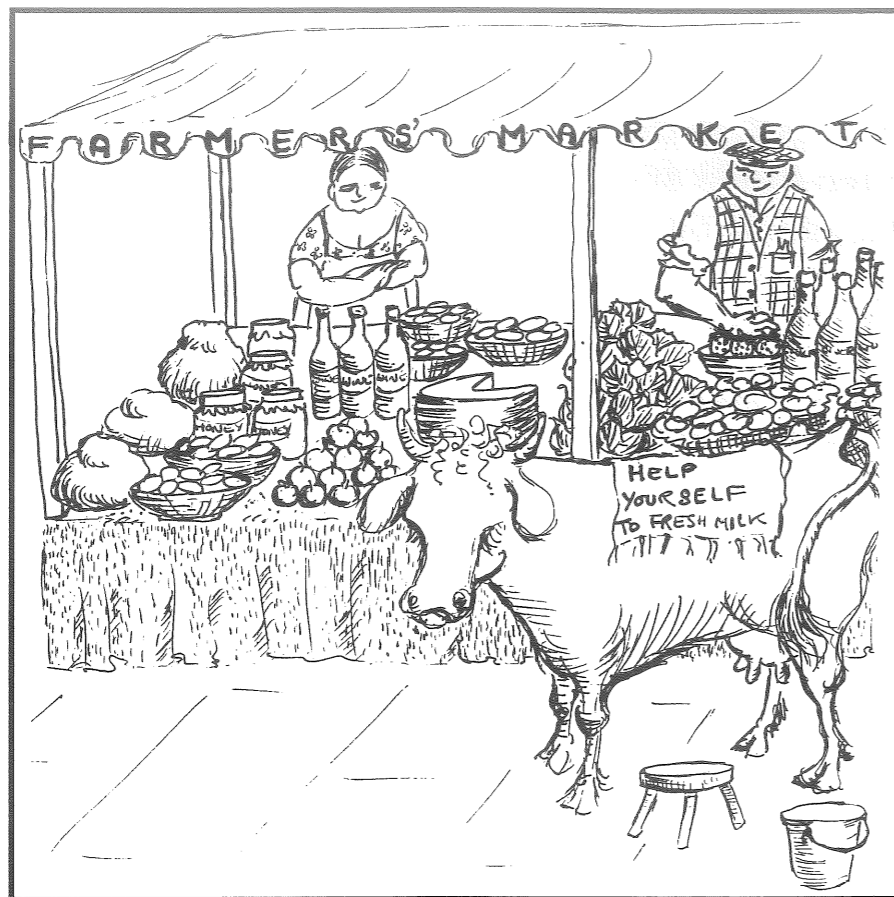
Let's not dismiss farmers' markets out of hand, therefore, on the basis that they might take some trade from local shops, when indications suggest otherwise; and there are such positive benefits to the rest of the community.

West Oxfordshire District Council is aiming to set up some farmers' markets, on a trial basis, over the summer. If we were able to get one in Bampton, it would probably be once a month, hopefully on a Saturday, from 10.00 a.m. till 2.00 p.m., and would be held in the Market Square - where else! The actual stalls would be provided by the District Council, and would cost around £15 to anyone wishing to sell goods or produce. The rent goes to the Parish Council.

West Oxfordshire College is running one-day courses on livestock and horticultural production for local markets. Contact Chris Viner,

Head of Land Base Studies, Warren Farm Centre, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxon., OX33 1BY. Tel. 01865 351794 or Fax 01865 358931.

The Environmental Project Officer at W.O.D.C. dealing with setting up the markets is **Louise Taylor, at Environmental Services Department, The Gables, New Yatt Road, Witney, Oxon., OX8 6PB, and she can be reached on 01993 770282. Local contact - Sally Proctor, Castle View, Bridge Street, tel. 850479.**



wine, pottery and crafts - as long as it is produced within the local area specified and sold by the producer.

Obviously, the most important aspect to be taken into consideration when thinking about farmers' markets is the position of local shopkeepers. We are very fortunate in Bampton to have such a wide range of local shops, and no one would wish to harm their trade. Experience of farmers' markets already shows, however, that the hustle and bustle of a market spills over

THE COOKERY CORNER

By Gilly French

PATES

Pates make excellent meals in themselves, complete with good bread and maybe some fruit afterwards; they also provide a good start to a more formal meal. Much as I enjoy the Waitrose variety, I have been one for making the genuine French article, complete with obscure bits of pig. But I include this time some suggestions for lighter and quicker types of pate!

Mushroom Pate

½ lb. or slightly more dark-gilled mushrooms

1 onion, chopped

1 large clove garlic

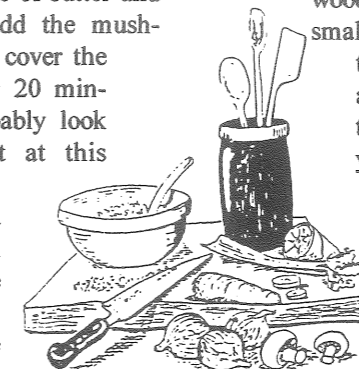
1 small packet cottage cheese

1 tbspn sour cream

Salt, ground nutmeg, mace and black pepper

Slice mushrooms. Cook the onion in oil, or a mixture of butter and oil, until soft. Add the mushrooms and garlic, cover the pan and cook for 20 minutes. It will probably look rather unpleasant at this stage but ignore it!

Pass through a blender along with the cottage cheese and cream. Season to taste with the spices and salt. It will look much less unpleasant and should taste dark and seductive!



Sprinkle salmon with salt and leave at room temperature for 20 minutes. Cook shallot in butter until brown. Add salmon and wine in 1 layer, cover with waxed paper and a tight fitting lid. Cook turning once, for 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Reduce the pan juices and pour over the fish. Flake the fish and mix with the cooked shallot.

Pound remaining butter with a wooden mallet until soft. Cut into small pieces and blend in an electric blender with the cooked and smoked salmon. With the machine on, add oil, egg yolk and lemon juice. Add spices to taste. Pack into a crock-pot and cover with clarified butter. Refrigerate for 3 days. Serve at room temperature.

Potted ham with chicken

The term 'potting' denotes a method of preserving meat or fish in a pot sealed by a layer of fat to exclude air. Historically this meant that food could be kept for lengthy periods of time without going off. Today we enjoy such dishes for their simple flavours and ease of preparation.

To pot ham and chicken (or any other meat or fish) chop the meats and layer them in an earthenware dish. Season with mace and pepper, and salt if necessary. Cover with clarified butter - butter that has been melted and filtered to remove solids - so as to seal it all. Store in the fridge. Slice when ready to serve. Ideally eaten with toast or crusty bread.

Salmon Rillettes

This is from one of my favourite books, Paula Wolfert's *The Cooking of South West France*. It needs to be started three days before first eating, but is well worth the advance preparation!

8oz Salmon fillet, skinned, in 4 pieces
Salt

1 shallot, minced

1 tbspn dry white wine

4 oz smoked salmon, diced

2 tbsps olive oil

1 egg yolk

1 tbspn fresh lemon juice

Ground pepper

Ground nutmeg

2 oz clarified butter

BAMPTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Bampton Pre-School Playgroup aims to provide a safe, friendly and stimulating environment in which pre-school can play and learn. In response to demand, the playgroup now runs afternoon sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as well as daily morning lessons. Afternoon sessions run from 12.45pm - 3.15pm and cost £2.50, whilst morning sessions run from 9am - 12am and cost £3. Children can attend the Playgroup from the age of 2years 9months. The Playgroup is located behind the Primary School. In August last year parents and children joined forces to paint the exterior of the building with bright Disney characters, to spectacular effect - so you can't miss it.

Thanks to the continued support of Bampton Welfare Trust, we are able to renew and upgrade some of the equipment used in playgroup sessions such as giant storybooks, equipment to put in our interactive maths area, and some comfortable seating. We regularly arrange trips for the children and these have included visits to the Fire Station, the local Library, as well as The Cotswold Wildlife Park and Roves Farm.

Forthcoming events include the **Summer Fete on Saturday 17th June 12 - 5pm** in the Primary School grounds. Stalls will include cakes, tombola, face painting and much more. There will also be a grand raffle with prizes to include family passes to Blenheim Palace, Birdland, and The Cotswold Wildlife Park. We will have a bar and barbecue to provide refreshments. There will be more information available about the event nearer the time, so keep an eye open for advertising around the village.

On Wednesday 19th July, from 12 - 3pm, we will be holding the Playgroup Open Day, when prospective parents and children can come along and see what the Playgroup children get up too! If you would like to know more about the Playgroup please contact the enrolment secretary **Debbie Landray Tel: 850939.**

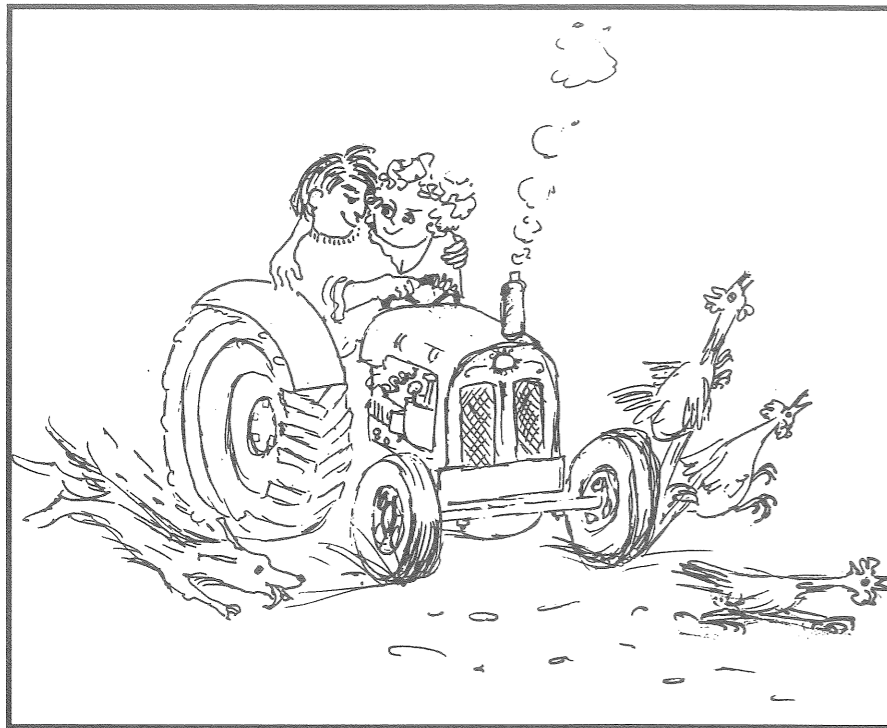
OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

It is now three years since I ceased farming. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself? But I do feel a bit of a fraud continuing to wear the mantle of your agriculture correspondent, having been out of it for so long. To keep in touch with the current farming scene, I find it necessary to talk with our local farmers and glean from them any information that might be of interest to our readers. Two that I met this week were full of doom and gloom. One was in the bank taking money out to pay wages, not putting

Tony Blair?), that the bureaucrats would leave the farmers alone! But no; here are some of the crazy things that have been brought to my attention.

Hedges - you know those lovely things that not only give protection from the elements, but provide cover and food for all forms of wildlife - must no longer be more than six feet six inches wide - that's two metres in continental parlance - or the farmers will be penalised! That has got to be a cushy number, going around measuring all



any in; the other was in Emmie's getting cough sweets as he could not afford the time to go to the doctors. He was also scared that if he went to the surgery, he would come out with more that he went in with! It made me feel quite a sadist telling them I was so happy to be out of farming, but I must admit I enjoyed saying it!

You would think that in these hard times of farming, of which, we now know, the Government is aware (has somebody been sending the 'Beam' to

the hedges, for some Government Officer, or should I say Officers. I am sure it will need one to hold the tape while another writes it down; to say nothing about the driver! It's funny that they are all 'Officers' now, what happened to Civil Servants? By making them Officers do they no longer have to be civil? The ones that I have met certainly appear that way.

I think that I have the solution to save farming. Tree growing for the paper industry. No matter who you talk to

these days, be it teacher, police officer, council worker or whoever, the amount of paper work is colossal, and farming is no exception. It now has a law that farmers involved in animal husbandry have to remember every animal's birthday! A record must be made when every animal has achieved the age of six months, then two years, and then every year thereafter. This bookkeeping will be inspected six times a year. I'm sure this all help keeps the Government figures down for the number of unemployed.

When a group of animals are sold, every detail of each animal has to be recorded. Its date and place of birth, and its own eleven-digit identification number. The lorry driver who is transporting them then has to copy all these details into his book before he can leave the premises. I'm told that all the bookwork for ten animals can take up to an hour to complete; that's six times longer than it takes to feed them! An awful lot of paperwork for what a few years ago was done on a handshake.

Talking of wasted paper, have you ever had computer statements saying that you owe a company nought? I have several times. I'm told on good authority that it costs over £1 to process and send a letter, and it seems like a terrible waste of money to me. I still get statements from the milk authorities advising me that I have no milk quota, that I am not over quota, and that there is no levy to pay. Yes, paper has got to be the crop of the future as long we have the bureaucrats.

One farmer that I have been talking to recently is a very worried man, he just might have to go to court, and as a Methodist that is going to hurt. The law states that an animal at market must have two ear tags with its eleven-digit identification number on each. He had complied with this, but as the ear tags were on the same ears he could be in big trouble.

Well it's keeping somebody in a job, so it can't be all bad, can it?

Those of you who are Ramblers are no doubt aware of the different types of soil that surround our town. You know that if you are feeling tired, yet still need a walk, then the sandy firm soil of Sharni, or the black soil of Buckland Road is ideal for you. But, if it's a challenge you are after, a physical endurance test as it were, then it's Gog Lane, or the fields of Mount Owen that you need - where on a wet day your wellies soon become the size of tennis rackets and weigh a ton with all the clay stuck to them. To farm these different soil types successfully required a special skill that was handed down through the generations from ploughman to ploughman. Some fields need to be ploughed in a certain direction to assist drainage, and some need ploughing at a certain depth where it is only the soil that is being turned over and not heavy clay. Each field has to be treated individually. But what a mess I see around here, because of big tractors, big contractors, and big farmers, with enormous workloads and very few staff. They seem to lack the knowledge of the locals, or the time to enquire, as they move in with their enormous four-wheel drive tractors of over one hundred and twenty horse power (equal to six of the little grey Fergies of yesteryear), doing more in one day than we would have done in a week. They go into a field with their six furrow ploughs, ploughing at a depth of nine to twelve inches, smoke coming out worse than from the late John Quick's steam engine, without a single thought of the mess they are creating. I see what used to be well drained fields, with water now standing on them, that are going to take ages to disperse, because they have buried the top soil and put the clay on top. Mind you I think perhaps the old Carters (to the uninitiated they are the men who tended the carthorses), probably said the same about our generation, when we first came along with our twenty horsepower tractors.

Talking of tractors, isn't it a shame that they have gone the same way as

Motorbikes and Cars. The choice we had years ago was huge, there were so many different makes to choose from. Fergies, Fords, Nuffield's, Masseys, Oliver's, David Browns; each had their own individuality leading to lots of rivalry and pub talk challenges. It used to be said of the little grey Fergies that they were only good for popping down the street to get the fags! A comment that would set the late Billy Hudson into a tirade, and have him reeling off the many qualities of the Ferguson System. After all, his company, the Central Garage Bampton, were the main dealers. We were David Brown fanatics. In my opinion, our little Cropmaster was the best in the world, and it was the only two-seater tractor produced. Dad wouldn't let us boys have much time off, so we would do our courting at night on the tractor; sort of mixing business with pleasure. Mary, myself, and the tractor could tell you many a tale, but that will have to wait till the publication of a book called the 'Confessions of Saint Don, a tractor driver'. I still wonder whether Dad chose David Brown so as to get the maximum hours out of us boys! Incidentally it is against the law now for tractors to carry passengers. I am so glad that I was born when I was, and I think Mary is as well!

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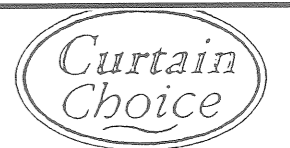
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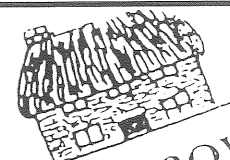
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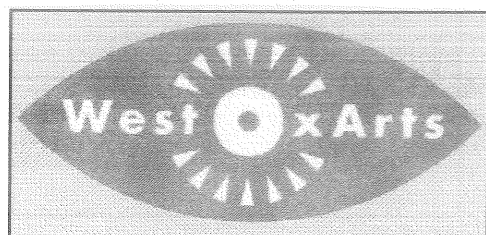
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2000 SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES

MILLENNIUM MOSAIC

Rosalind Wates has been commissioned to design the Millennium Mosaic which will be situated outside the Gallery. This is a year long **Bampton Community Project** sponsored by WOA.

Rosalind has already spent several days with the children of Bampton School conducting learning workshops in mosaics. The launch of the project is scheduled for Saturday 1st April 2000 in the Village Square, with many fun events in store. Other Millennium Mosaic dates to remember .

Thursday	13th April:	Evening at Youth Club
Saturday	15th April	Tester Sessions - AM: Children PM: Adults
Wednesday	19th April	Evening Adults
Thursday	20th April	Evening at Youth Club
Wednesday	3rd May	Bush Club in AM
Friday	5th May	Bampton School
Saturday	6th May	Adult Session
Wednesday	10th May	Bush Club in AM
Thursday	11th May	Bampton School - AM, Youth Club - PM
Friday	12th May	Bampton School
Saturday	13th May	Adult Session

This is a great opportunity for hands on try at mosaics. Sign up for workshops at the Gallery.

EXHIBITIONS AT THE GALLERY

9th - 30th April	Felt, Paper, Stitch Contemporary Textiles Handmade felt & paper with stitch	Bailey Curtis,, Lynn Griffiths Pricilla Pursell Young, Sarah Foulkes, Jennifer Alexander
13th May - 4th June	ARTWEEK - WOA MEMBERS Oil & Watercolours, Contemporary stitch, botanic watercolours, ceramics Portraits and Sculptures	Annette Firth, Gaby Lloyd Hazel Martindale, Brien O'Rouke, Inge Pevsner Sieja Wentworth
18th June - 2nd July	New English Glass Blown & Kiln Worked, functional, Decorative & sculptural pieces	June Kingsbury, Gill Cox Anne Arlidge

WORKSHOPS

15th April	Fine Felt & Silk Paper (Contact Sally at The Gallery Tel: 01993 850137)	Bailey Curtis
17th June	Book Structures (Contact Liz Bryant Tel: 01993 704345)	Heather Power - Oxford Printmakers Co-operative

W.O.A. Highlights

November, December 1999, January, February 2000

November saw an illuminating exhibition by Peter and David Farley, each displaying his particular artistic bent. Peter, who is a founder member of W.O.A., served up his usual delicate watercolours portraying different glimpses of the countryside. He also directed a workshop on watercolours with a limited mix palette. David his son showed the interesting new ideas in ceramics and the theatre that he has been developing.

Gifts '99 dominated December, with contributions in a variety of media by 28 craftsmen. Sales were brisk and the event made £2,700 of which £531 went into the Gallery's coffers.

The new Millennium opened with an unusual exhibition of 500 handcrafted, non-functional ceramic objects by Lubna Chowdary. For three weeks the Gallery tended to resemble Hamley's toyshop, and the large number, great variety, dinky model size of the objects produced a diverting display which thoroughly merited the organisation by sates.org, and sponsorship by West Oxfordshire District Council.

By contrast, February hosted an exhibition by Andrew Forkner and Gary Woodley entitled 'A Walk on the Wild Side'. With the exception of a few portrayals of humans and large animals, the exhibits focussed almost entirely on birds, with the blue and orange plumage of kingfishers provided a brilliant blackcloth to owls, herons and other familiar birds. The preview attracted a large gathering and many 'red spots' testified to the brisk sales then and throughout the two weeks the exhibition was open.

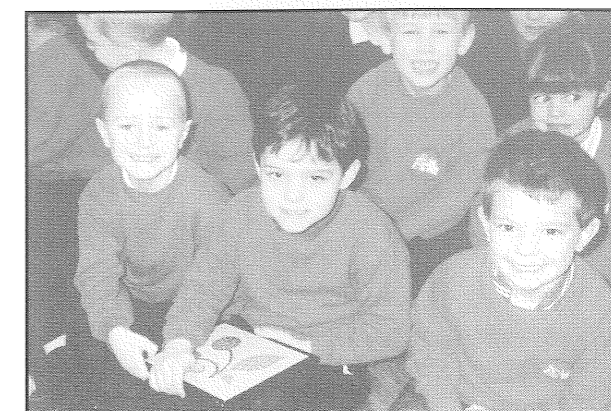
The Robert Vesey Room in Bampton Library has had three successful shows featuring the Wantage Art Group, Annette Firth and Ilsa Ashworth. The next exhibition will be work by Bampton residents.

Further from home, Philip Hicks had an exhibition in early February at Messum Gallery, Cork Street, London. The sixty or so paintings on show portrayed fascinating cloud formations and country scenes, but the majority featured his favourite model of sheep. These included a solo presentation of a young lamb to mature sheep in a variety of their natural habitats, and a new note was struck by painting in familiar primitive cave drawings as a ghostly backdrop to some of the solid familiar modern sheep. The Millennium Mosaic mentioned in December's 'Beam' is being launched on Saturday 1st April, in and around the Gallery. Tony Walker, Chief Executive of West Oxfordshire District Council, will officially launch the project at 11.30am. Outside entertainment will be 'unconfined' with stilt walking at 11am, fire-eating at 12noon, fiddles and feet at 12.30pm and juggling at 1pm. The Sculptor Rosalind Wates will be in the Gallery with some of her work Later in the month she will be holding workshops for Bampton residents who are keen to learn about this art form or even try their hand at some work on the mosaic in the making.

On a different front there is a five day mini break from May 8th - 12th visiting Bayeux, Caen, Honfleur and Le Havre. This trip enables us to visit the Bayeux Tapestry, Musee des Beaux Arts and the Memorial pour la Paix plus a sculpture by Jill Tweed, the Boudin Musee, and a new gallery at Le Harve which has a large collection of works by Braque. For more details contact **Richard Morbey Tel: 01993 851004.**

MILLENNIUM MOSAIC WORKSHOP DAY

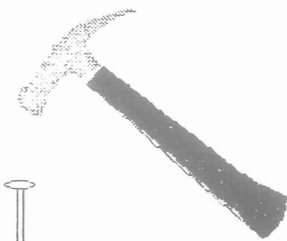
Rosalind Waites with the children of
Bampton Primary School 18th Februaury 2000



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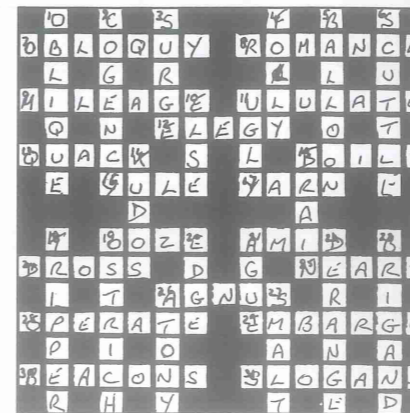
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THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



Solution to December's BEAM CROSSWORD

The winner of the Christmas Crossword competition is Mr. Graham Taylor, 1 Oathurst Estate, High Street. He has asked, if he was lucky enough to win, that the £5 be sent to the Friends of St Mary's. We would also like to donate £5 to Cancer Research, as a thank you to Mr. Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for us all to get frustrated with, yet still enjoy.

LOCAL BOBBIES

CLIMB FOR CHARITY

Village policeman PC Steve Patrick and the Area Youth and School Liaison Officer PC Bill Oddy will be joined by six fellow officers from Carterton and Witney stations to take part in the 'The Peak Challenge'. They will be attempting to climb Ben Nevis, Scarfell Pike and Snowdon, the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in 24 hours.

They will be raising money to support the renovation of the children's playground at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. Children with special needs who are undergoing assessment at the Hugh Paediatric Assessment Centre (HEPAC) use the playground. The Centre receives no funding from the NHS for any of its play equipment and therefore relies entirely on fund raising. The Officers ask for your support in this gruelling and strenuous event. Donations can be left at the Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton.

CLUES ACROSS

- 7. The paper-reed
- 8. A covered wagon
- 9. Furtiveness, secrecy
- 11. Prussic acid
- 12. The willow genus
- 13. Commonplace, trival
- 15. Test for the value of metals
- 16. Sodium Chloride
- 17. Engrave using corrosives
- 19. Sixth letter of the Greek alphabet
- 21. Second letter of the Greek alphabet
- 24. To delay, postpone
- 25. The lesser white heron
- 26. The involucre of burdocks
- 28. To demand back
- 29. A metallic element
- 30. Brings into harmony
- 31. Consider jointly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Resembling, relating to milk
- 2. Sleeping suit
- 3. Barrels
- 4. Outer ring of flower parts (sepals)
- 5. To embellish
- 6. A narrow band for the head
- 10. A six year old male red deer
- 11. To quote from an authority
- 14. After the usual time
- 15. Less than ninety degrees
- 18. Iterates
- 19. Ardent in support of
- 20. The cuckoo-pint or wakerobin genus
- 21. Inter
- 22. Start the quarrel
- 23. To increase tenfold
- 26. An animal with two feet
- 27. A stack of corn sheaves

Diary of Forthcoming Events

April

- 8th Bampton Gardening Club **Coffee Morning** Village Hall 10 -12pm.
- 14th SPAJERS **Quiz Night** Village Hall
- 15th Cancer Research **Easter Sale** Village Hall
- 15th Tennis Club **Open Day** Recreation Ground 2pm.
- 16th Bampton Classical Opera **Choral Music** St Mary's 7.30pm.
- 17th Parish Council **AGM** Town Hall 8pm.
- 21st **Burford Singers** Burford Parish Church 7.30pm
- 22nd **Easter Bonnet Parade** The Romany, Bridge Street 2.30pm
- 22nd **Craft Fair** Village Hall 9:30am.
- 26th BEWG ' **Landscapes**' Village Hall 8pm

May

- 1st **Pumpkin Club Street Fair** 10am
- 3rd **Village Hall AGM** 8pm
- 6th Bampton Garden Club **Coffee Morning** Town Hall 10 -12pm
- 9th Bampton Gardening Club trip **Stoneleigh Show** Market Place 9am
- 27th Methodist Chapel **Coffee Morning** Bridge Street 10am
- 27th SPAJERS **The Great Shirt Race** Market Square 6pm
- 29th **May Garlands** Market Square 11am.
- 29th **Morris Dancers** Village 7am till late!

June

- 11th Bampton Gardening Club **Afternoon Tea** Village Hall 2 - 5pm
- 11th **Secret Gardens Around Bampton** Town Hall 2 - 5pm
- 17th Pre-School Playgroup **Summer Fete** Primary School 12 - 5pm
- 18th Bampton Gardening Club **Gardeners World NEC** Market Sq. 9am
- 22nd Cancer Research **Cream Teas** Village Hall
- 24th Bike Path Committee **Midsummer Ball** The Pavilion, Buckland Rd

July

- 6th Bampton Garden Club **Royal Show Stoneleigh** Market Square 9am
- 9th SPAJERS **Tea Party** Bampton Manor
- 10th **The Burford Singers** The Sheldonian 7.30pm

BAMPTON DIRECTORY 1999

Extra copies are available from The Post Office and Abbey Properties. The Directory will be updated and reprinted later this year. If you would like to advertise in the forthcoming edition, please fill in the form (extra copies at The Post Office) and return to : The Editor, The Bampton Directory, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge St., Bampton, Oxon OX18 2HA.

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