

The LOWDOWN

Sponsored by

*The Society
for the
Protection
of Bampton*

Issue 14
October 2020



~ MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSOR ~

The Society for the Protection of Bampton

The Society for the Protection of Bampton (SPB) was founded in 1993 "to improve the quality of life of the people in Bampton". It bought Sandfords Field for the village and its residents.

The Conservatives intend to overhaul radically the Planning system, much reducing the importance of local democracy. You should be aware how this will affect West Oxfordshire.

An algorithm, no doubt a world-beating one, has been invented to allocate to each district in the country a target of houses to be built. As one Tory MP has put it; with far more houses destined for the South than the North, this is not an attempt to level out as much as concrete down.

As the only Society in the village dedicated to informing its members on planning proposals and working to improve decision-making, please do join The Society for the Protection of Bampton (it's free) by contacting **trevormilneday@gmail.com**

(See the SPB Open Letter on pages 10-11. Editor.)

*Here's our new
Editorial Team
member, Esme!!*



Welcome to another bumper edition of the Lowdown, and a huge thank you to James Watt for our wonderful cover art! More about James inside...

Despite everything, we're starting to get Christmassy so do please get in touch with your ideas, suggestions and stories for our upcoming November and December newsletters....

On a personal note I (Adam) have moved to Carterton and so I'm relinquishing my editing and designing roles - I've enjoyed it so much and of course we have the most fantastic team who will take the Lowdown onwards and upwards! Thank you for your support!

Enjoy Issue 14 and with all our best wishes,

Adam and the Team

HEALTH AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Bampton Surgery

Call first on 01993 850257

Monday – Friday: 8.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Pharmacy (Bampton Healthcare Ltd)

Tel: 01993 851961

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

Sat 9am to 12noon

Bampton Post Office

Mon-Fri 09.00-17.30

Wed CLOSED

Sat 09.00-12.30

Bampton Parish Council

Tel: 01993 851870

www.bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Chez Beccy is a luxury modern country cottage style homeware brand specialising in kitchen textiles, in support of good mental health. 10% of profits will be donated to a mental health and wellbeing charities. Use code **LOWDOWNSPECIAL** to get 15% off all orders in November. Free local delivery. E: beccy@chezbeccy.com
Web: www.chezbeccy.com

Cotswold Veg Box Company are delivering to this area. Place your order via their website and they'll deliver on Fridays or Saturdays.
www.cotswoldvegbox.com

Cosshall's Chimney Sweeping.

Clean, friendly and reliable. Professional and fully insured service. CCTV chimney inspection and flue sweeping. Member of the Institute of Chimney Sweeps.

FB: @CosshallsChimneySweeping

Mobile: 07450 940317

Email: mark.cosshall@gmail.com



Sound advice from the Butty Box in Carterton!



Flawless Finish Hair & Wellness Rooms

announce the opening of Hair & Wellness Rooms (formerly Polished Hair) at The Stores on Market Square, with Katie the previous salon manager for Polished Hair taking control of the new salon Flawless Finish Hair, still holding strong ties with Polished Beauty.

Katie, Kerry and Viki welcome you back to the salon where all necessary measures are in place to protect clients and staff. Services offered include: Acupuncturist, Aesthetics Practitioner, Counsellor, Sports Massage Therapist, and Life Coach.

Website: www.flawlessfinishhair.co.uk

Phone: 01993 850886

Bampton Parish Council Cemetery Hedging

Bampton Parish Council has recently purchased some land adjoining the Cemetery for the purpose of extending it, as space in the existing part of the Cemetery was becoming limited.

The Council have decided to surround this land with hedging and trees.

We would like to give Bampton residents and friends the chance to dedicate part of the hedge which will be made up of trees and shrubs kindly donated by the Woodlands Trust, to a departed loved one. This will become a memorial hedge.

The names of those dedications will be displayed on a plaque at the entrance to the Cemetery. Family and friends are welcome to come and plant a tree or shrub personally and the event will be held in November (date to be confirmed on posters and social media).

If you would like to be part of the event you can either email helen.rainey@bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk or write the details required in a letter which can be put in an envelope marked "Cemetery" and posted through the Town Hall letter box.

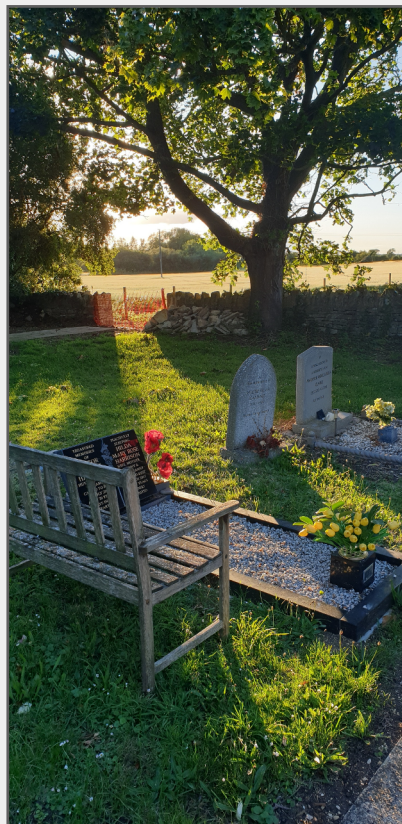
Details required for either letter or email are:

- Contact details of person wishing to dedicate a tree
- Full name of the deceased
- Date of birth and date of death

All dedication requests must please be made by 14th November 2020

Due to the government restrictions for Covid-19 we will give each family a time for the planting and numbers that can attend nearer the time depending on government advice. A risk assessment and protective measures will be in place for this event to protect attendees.

Bampton Oxfordshire
Parish Council





News from Bampton CE Primary School and Nursery

It has been good to be able to welcome all our children back to school this Autumn Term and we are all enjoying getting to know families and children new to our school.

Things are by no means normal, and managing staggered times for the start and end of the day, as well as for playtimes and lunchtimes, has created some timetabling challenges!

The staff team have been AMAZING and are working hard to support these additional requirements. We are applying all the recommended protective measures to keep everyone as safe as possible in these difficult times and it is wonderful to see the children so happy to be back with their friends.

We have also welcomed some new staff members to our team this term. Mrs Jo Wilson has taken over leading our Nursery with Mrs Hatwell. Miss Louisa Bowerman has joined us and is teaching Year 1 and Mrs Racheal Coombes, a Newly Qualified Teacher, is teaching our Year 2 class. We have also employed two additional teaching assistants who join our Key Stage Two team; Miss Megan Cole and Miss Ann Corley.

This term our focus value for our collective worship (which has to take place in smaller bubble groups rather than whole school) is Generosity. We are learning what it means to be generous and how we can show generosity in many different ways; in what we say and do and think. Many of our usual termly events will be missing this Autumn, but we will endeavour to enrich the children's learning in alternative and "Covid-secure" ways.

The season of coughs and colds will undoubtedly bring further challenges for us all as this term progresses, but I hope to be able to keep you updated with positive news on the life at Bampton CE Primary School in the coming weeks and months.

Carol Phillips
Headteacher



'I hate these primary school face masks. I've brought home the wrong child again'

NATURE WATCH

September Sightings

Seen in September on the Shill Brook along Buckland Road.

Muntjac Deer are now commonly found across South Eastern England since their introduction to Woburn Park 20 years ago.



Grey Squirrels spend most of their time during autumn finding and burying seeds and nuts in the ground, saving them for winter.

Little Egrets have been found in the UK for about 30 years and are more commonly seen during the winter months due to birds migrating from Europe.



THE LOWDOWN IS RECRUITING!

We're looking for volunteers to help with the writing and designing of the Bampton Lowdown! We need:

MICRO REPORTERS to be our eyes and ears in your area and to send in stories, information, photos and any other suitable contributions.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS to help with the design and layout.

Check our Facebook page or Email thelockdownpress@gmail.com

Sunrise over the Reindeer paddock at Cotswold Wildlife Park: Deputy Head of Birds **Richard Wardle** took this stunning dawn photo. He was out early walking his dogs and captured this perfect autumnal moment. Thank you Richard!

Bampton Community Archive: Amazing selection of books and maps now available to read and purchase online. Local history, environment, people and events. From Romans to Railways, Cars to Castles, Saxons to Schools, Morris-dancing to Mystery – there will be something to tempt you!

www.bamptonarchive.org





CHRISTMAS IS NOT CANCELLED!

Q: What do Oliver Cromwell and Boris Johnson have in common?

A: They both cancelled Christmas.....

Actually, the truth is that neither of them did!

Cromwell got his Grinch-like reputation because he was in charge as Lord Protector when The Long Parliament passed an Ordinance in 1647 confirming the abolition of religious feast days, including Christmas, making its celebration illegal.

During that time it was illegal to sing carols, decorate your house with traditional holly, ivy and mistletoe and even to eat mince pies. Shops and businesses were obliged to stay open on December 25th. It was a very unpopular law and celebrations often went on in secret.

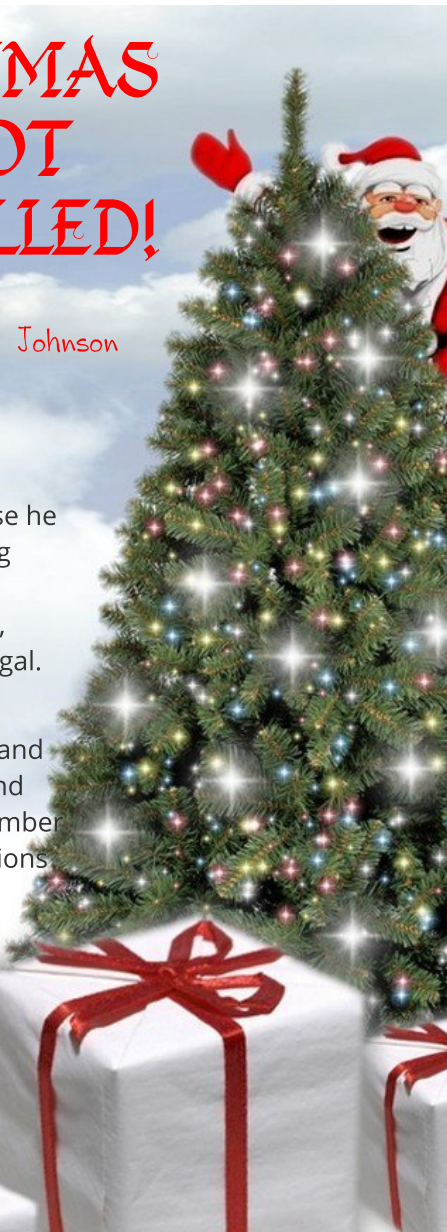
And so it was that Parliament had their way..until in 1660, when Jolly King Charles II returned from exile, and promptly reinstated all the religious feasts, and saved Christmas! Hurrah!

TELL US!

The Lowdown wants to hear about any special events that you, your club, pub or organisation are planning for the Christmas season. **We'll be running a special feature on Christmas events in the November Issue. (Deadline Nov 15th).**

We also want to hear from anyone interested in supporting a Covid-safe **Christmas Market** in Bampton.

Email us at thelockdownpress@gmail.com



Catching Up With ... James Watt

Radio Presenter and Artist (of our cover artwork!)

James Watt is the presenter and creative force behind The James Watt Radio Show on BBC Radio Oxford – every Saturday 10am–2pm, maybe the liveliest show on the dial. But who is this radio maverick?



James started his career on a pirate radio ship called The Voice of Peace, think Radio Caroline, but sunnier! It was based 3 miles off the coast of Tel Aviv. The idea was to bring peace to the middle east by playing pop music! James' love of the sea continued as a DJ on cruise ships travelling the world, part of his job was to dance with ladies ... yes this was part of the job spec.

Other fun adventures include a year starting up a radio station in Malta, broadcasting live from Bermuda, and many years as the Breakfast Radio DJ on Forces Radio in Germany and in The Balkans! Plus a Europe wide phone-in show for them too. He won a New York Radio Award for Best Breakfast Show during this time. Back in the UK James spent many years continuing as a late night phone-in host on commercial radio, 4 hours nightly talking about everything and anything could happen, and often did!

In-between radio shows James sails his yacht in the Northern Netherlands, a place little visited by most Brits – but the Dutch are good at water and wind, so ideal for sailor types. James used to teach sailing in Greece. He has also owned a narrowboat and travelled across Britain in it.

Chances are you will have heard James on stations the length and breadth of the country, but Oxfordshire has become a real radio home for Watty: 'I love that we get so many calls and texts every week – It's fantastic to do a show to such a brilliant county, and the listeners seem to get my crazy sense of fun'. The show features The Watt 4 – a music chart made with the help of listeners on a subject of the day, plus What's Watt's Work, and the 'world famous' Hits and Headlines. Plus find out about all the great things going on round here at the moment. The idea is to celebrate the joy of the weekend, and of being part of an amazing county. The James Watt Radio Show – Saturday 10 –2pm BBC Radio Oxford!!

Eve John is a devotee of the art classes held by another of Bamptons artists, Pip Shuckburgh. Eve loves experimenting and has produced this wonderful picture of Fastnet Rock using an iPad and an electronic pen! Fantastic!

Send us your artwork, we love to publish all types!



Special Christmas Issue in November!!

The Lowdown will be kicking off the Festive season with our November issue.

Do you have a special recipe for egg nog? Or mince pies? How do you fool the kids into eating sprouts? Anyone remember how to make Snowballs?

Or do you have memories of Christmas Past in Bampton?

Share your favourite Christmas food and drink recipes, stories and photographs with us and we'll include as many as we can.

Email us at: thelockdownpress@gmail.com

Message us: Facebook @[@thebamptonlowdown](https://www.facebook.com/thebamptonlowdown)

Deadline: 15th November



Important message from West Oxfordshire District Council



As the shielding programme is paused and people start to return to work, we know that many of you will be feeling anxious about the changes taking place.

We want to reassure you that West Oxfordshire District Council, along with a wide range of charities and community services, are here to help.

If you or someone you know is worried and needs help, please call the Council on 01993 861077 or send an email to: community.support@westoxon.gov.uk

To keep up to date, see our website: www.westoxon.gov.uk and follow us on social media.

CHECK OUT THE NEW AUTUMN & WINTER SEASON AT BAMPTON CHARITY SHOP Opens

Tues - Thurs 10am - 4pm

Fri 10am - 1pm

Donations taken

Fridays 1pm - 4pm only

*As we are limited on storage space
please bring just x 2 bags.*

Thank you

OPEN LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

Dear All,

The Town and Country Planning Act 1947 was the bedrock of this country's planning system for 60+ years, until just 8 years ago when the presumption in favour of sustainable development was brought in and the so-called NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework). Now the Government is at it again with a new White Paper where no longer is there a presumption in favour of development but an actual grant of it in outline automatically with NO local consultation.

An indication of why the Tories are forever changing the planning rules might possibly be found in the backstory of the present Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, who is responsible for the White Paper. Jenrick, you may recall, was the man shown a video at a dinner party by the developer Richard "Dirty" Desmond - Dirty because he publishes soft-core porn - of a development on the Isle of Dogs for 1500 houses. Against the wishes of the local authority and the Planning Inspectorate, Jenrick not only granted permission but did so a day or two before the development would have attracted a compulsory £30million infrastructure levy. Two things happened afterwards, the Conservatives received a cheque for £12,000 from Desmond and because of the political storm it all created Jenrick had to U-turn on his decision.

What is wrong with this White Paper?

It's timing is wrong. Covid may well have a long term effect on the centre of our towns and cities. Until we know what that might be it could be sensible to pause. Office blocks and stores may not be in such demand. One Debenhams store might become accommodation for 50 nurses.

It's built on false premises. The Government always blames the planning system for the failure to build more homes. The link is not obvious with one million consents granted since 2010 out of two and a half million not taken up. Also dubious is the suggestion that houses should be built where they are less affordable. I doubt there is any evidence that building in an area brings house prices down. Will Taylor Wimpey in Bampton find that they will have to offer the last tranche of 160 houses they are building at a lower price? I don't think so!

open letter cont./....

Centralising planning is the wrong direction of travel. More and more nowadays people want to take control of their own lives and have decisions made locally by representatives they know and who live among them. Social care and planning are two of the most grown-up things a local authority does. IF you take away these responsibilities, who will be attracted to local government if you are reduced to making decisions on the siting of dog poo bins?

Why change now when much money, time and effort has just been expended by West Oxfordshire and all the other local authorities on a Local Plan.

Are our authorities so flush with cash they can afford another upheaval - and the Paper proposes the new plans are in place in 30 months, with new bureaucracy including in every authority a chief officer for design. No doubt he's responsible for implementing the "Fast-track for Beauty". Yes, that is an actual chapter heading from the White Paper!

Ironically it may be that these changes by centralising decision-making might have the effect of visiting on the Government, local planning disasters. This is a change from the past. Many of us who wrote to David Cameron on planning proposals when he was our MP will remember that his replies reeked of relief when he wrote as an MP he was not allowed to get involved with planning decisions.

Below I have put the link to the White Paper and to the consultation process as well. Also links to our MP Robert Courts. I think he needs to be made aware there is disquiet about these proposals.

Best wishes,

Trevor Milne-Day

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk

or

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

*The Society for
the Protection
of Bampton*

The Lowdown is delighted to announce that we have recently been awarded a grant of £500 from the **West Oxfordshire District Council** for funding future issues of our Bampton newsletter.

Our sincere thanks go to WODC for their support!



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Some of Bampton's Fantastic ACHIEVERS!!!

Dee Attwood

"My dad spent years trying to teach me to crotchet and I couldn't grasp it. On the 1st of September, a year after losing my amazing dad, I finally grasped it."

Lucy Makepeace

"I have decided to take the leap and retrain as a hypnobirthing instructor and launch my own business in 2021. I had such a positive birth experience with my second baby just before lockdown, and can't wait to support lots of women to be confident and prepared ahead of giving birth."

Sandra Phinbow

"I've done tonnes of e-learning courses, including forensic sciences. My husband also celebrated 25 Years in his job and my son has graduated from his MA with an upper class 2:1 degree. Achievements all round!"

**Tell us what you've achieved!
Write to us at
thelockdownpress@gmail.com**



~ Odds & Ends from in and around Bampton ~



Harvard at RAF Brize Norton

This is a WWII Harvard trainer, (G-BDAM/FE992) visiting Brize Norton on 3rd November 1984. Harvards were based at the station during the war so this was a commemorative visit. Two of the hangars are visible behind, with a resident RAF VC10 and a visiting ex-RAF Short Belfast on a cargo charter.



West Ox Arts ~ Celebrating Creative Work Autumn and Christmas West Ox Arts Members' Show Saturday 17th October to Saturday 19th December 2020

Ceramics to jewellery, watercolour to oils, textile wall art to photography, knitted beauties to mixed media magic, beautiful oils on canvases to gentle charcoals and pastels.

We want visitors to come, enjoy and buy!
Open every day except Mondays.



www.westoxarts.com

Bampton Fire Brigade.....

This old photo hanging in the Fire Station shows the gallant band of Bampton Firemen with their equipment and a trophy .. can someone tell us the date and story behind this photo please? We'll publish the details in the next issue of The Lowdown!

thelockdownpress@gmail.com



Lowdown Litter Picking Event Saturday 26th September

Fourteen volunteers joined forces on a lovely sunny Saturday to pick up rubbish from around the village.

Thank you so much to all those who came along to do your vital part to help keep Bampton clean - hoping for an even better turn out next time: watch this space.....

Well Done!!



Listen out for
Adam's show

Chit Chat

every Tuesday
6-7pm!

Send in your
stories, news,
song requests
and dedications!

Text or WhatsApp
07931 366999

99.9FM in Bampton

www.witney.radio

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businesses in YOUR
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Players Needed – Under 9 (Year 4)



Bampton Town Youth FC are now looking for
players in the **under 9** age group.

If you are in school **year 4** get in touch.

Training will be on Wednesdays - 6 till 7.

**Please contact Graham on 07969 968011 for more
details.**

www.bamptontownyouthfc.co.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/www.bamptontownyouthfc.co.uk>



Activities for Older People

Activity number 10: SQUATS



This is another great exercise for strengthening those muscles on the front of your thighs.



- ▶ Stand tall with feet hip width apart, hands resting gently on the back of a chair or stable surface.
- ▶ Bend your knees a short distance – your weight should be going through both feet, with your back straight and heels on the floor.
- ▶ Hold for 3 seconds then return to your upright position.
- ▶ Repeat 10 times
- ▶ If this feels too hard to start with, reduce the number of repetitions, gradually increasing them as your strength improves.

Safety: Dizziness, sickness or excessive tiredness are signs to stop exercising and wait for symptoms to settle. Warning signs to stop exercising and seek urgent medical attention include sudden onset of rapid palpitations, reduction in exercise capacity, dizziness, severe breathlessness or chest pain.

Thank you to Tracy Barnett for providing essential health and movement home-based exercises. Tracy is a Chartered Physiotherapist and a qualified Strength and Balance instructor. In non-COVID times Tracy runs a class in Bampton Village Hall on behalf of AGE UK

Having something booked to look forward to is a great motivator.
Live in the present, and plan for the future.

Stay and safe positive everyone.

KIDS CORNER

Where's that naughty Belle??!! She's hiding on one of our pages.... can you find her?!



Abigail Groves is a local children's author and creator of 'Abigail's World'. After graduating in Sociology with Media, she wrote and published her first children's book in 2018. She has suffered with anxiety since she can remember and at the age of six, she created Abigail's World, a happy and safe place in her mind to go to when she was feeling worried. Now eighteen years later, she shares all her coping mechanisms that she still uses to help her get through the day and to bring some peace of mind. By writing 'Abigail's World', her aim is to bring fun and adventure to children and parents during storytime while learning how to cope with our daily struggles. www.myabigailsworld.com

All of us at The Lowdown want to thank Abi so much for her generosity in giving away signed copies of her fantastic book over the last seven months! Good luck with all your new projects Abi!!



Here's Zoë Crothers with her special signed copy of Abigail's World!



Here are the final winners, Eden, Sam, Lara and William!



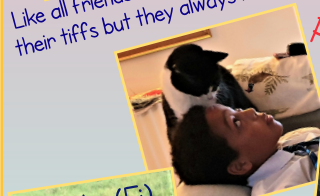
Like all friends Mango and Pushi have their tiffs but they always make up...



Send us your favourite PET PHOTOS!!



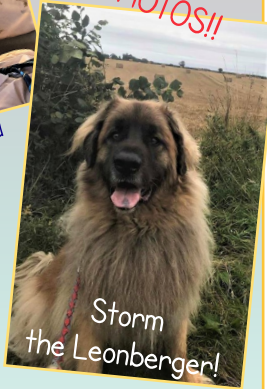
Two new arrivals at the Cotswold Wildlife Park ... a Chapman's Zebra and a White Rhino! Do you know what baby zebras and rhinos are called and what are the names of these two cuties?! Write and tell us!!



Ophelia (Fi)



Trigger and Friend....



Storm the Leonberger!

