

THE BAMPTON BEAM

December 1998

Volume 13. NO. 3

BAMPTON'S GOT ONE AT LONG LAST - A BUS SERVICE INTO OXFORD

Bus Route 18

By Jonathan Phillips - District Councillor

Most of you will have noticed that from Monday to Saturday there is now a two hourly bus service from Clanfield via Bampton, Aston and Standlake to Oxford operated by Steve's Travel, Eynsham. The first bus (Monday to Friday) gets to Oxford at 8.10am and the last bus from Oxford leaves at 6.00pm. I hope this will encourage people who work

in Oxford to make use of public transport and leave cars at home. It will also enable those who want to go to London, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stanstead, and elsewhere, to connect up easily with the coaches from Oxford. I am delighted that my letter, phone calls and other lobbying has at last produced a useful result.

The money to operate this service has come from central government to Oxfordshire County Council to provide New Rural Bus Services. Please make use of these buses or we could lose them! For more information contact **Steve's Travel, Eynsham, Tel: 01865 883074**. Don't forget they take bus tokens.

I am told that an improved service to Carterton and Witney is being considered, also one from Bampton to Faringdon but details are not yet known. Hopefully the improved Witney service will enable people to get to work and home again.

NEW BUS SERVICE TO OXFORD

Route 18 Timetable

Fares: £1.80 single journey, £2.60 return

BAMPTON

The Horseshoe

7.15am Mon - Fri
9.05am Mon - Sat
11.05am Mon - Sat
13.05pm Mon - Sat
15.05pm Mon - Sat

OXFORD

Westgate

8.10am Mon - Fri
9.55am Mon - Sat
11.55am Mon - Sat
13.55pm Mon - Sat
15.55pm Mon - Sat

OXFORD

Westgate

10.00am Mon - Sat
12.00am Mon - Sat
14.00pm Mon - Sat
16.00pm Mon - Sat
18.00pm Mon - Fri

BAMPTON

The Horseshoe

10.50am Mon - Sat
12.50pm Mon - Sat
14.50pm Mon - Sat
16.50pm Mon - Sat
18.55pm Mon - Fri

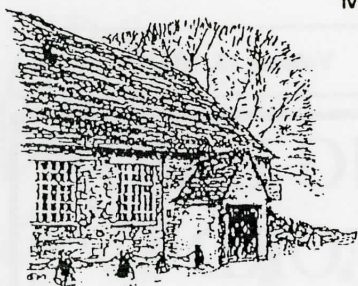
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Now, what about a late night bus on Saturday?



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BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

Don Quixito de la Mancha
on

Friday, 8th January 1999,
6.30pm

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company (OTTC) is presenting Don Quixote de la Mancha (suitable for 6-12-year-olds). 'A comical and magical adaption by Mary Elliot Nelson of the classic Spanish tale by Miguel de Cervantes.

Meet Don Quixote, whose delusions of knighthood lead him into all sorts of impossible and comical scraps as he clowns his way around Spain . . . failed attempts to woo a damsel in distress, fights with sheep, gigantic windmills and more. A gorgeous show that transports family audiences from the depths of the British winter into the warmth of Spain, and all that is Spanish . . .

Tickets £4.50 (£3.00 concessions) available from The Cotton Club. For further information, Tel: 850321.

Previous OTTC performances have proved to be very popular and all tickets have previously been sold well in advance so make sure to buy your tickets in good time.

TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday, 20th February 1999, 10am to 12.30pm. Refreshments and Raffle.

To book a Table (£6 in advance) please contact: Susan Phillips, Tel: 850321.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, BAMPTON

On August 12th, nearly 2 years after making an application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we learned that it had been refused. The decision was made not because our church is not of 'significant architectural and historic interest' but because the Heritage Lottery Fund has been inundated with 1500 applications. The committee felt that we were more likely than many others to be able to raise the money ourselves!

After the generous local response to the first appeal by the Friends of St Mary's, this failure to obtain a grant is obviously a great disappointment to us all. Before inaugurating another drive for donations and covenants, we hope to see restoration work start next year on the Norman doorway. New estimates for the work are being obtained and The Friends of St. Mary's are happy for the work to go ahead. However, we have been asked by the PCC to await the outcome of the latest 5-yearly inspection report on the church. As WODC has promised a grant of £3000 toward the work on the doorways it would be a pity to forfeit this valuable help. Further fund-raising presents a massive task and will require careful planning.

Christmas Quiz 1998.

These are available at all the Pubs, Library, Cotton Club and Abbey properties and from Sarah Wearne, Tel: 850295, or Jonathan Phillips Tel: 850321.

Please do buy one and encourage your friends to do likewise.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards of the Bampton Mummers are available at Londis at only 50p per packet of five cards with envelopes - what a bargain!

ST MARY'S PRINT

Copies of the Ann Manly print of St Mary's Church spire seen from the ford are still available from Jonathan Phillips at £30 a framed copy can be seen at 'New 2 You', Bridge Street, Bampton.

BAMPTON FIRE STATION

Still Under Threat!

Bampton Fire Station has had a reprieve - at least for the time being. After reading the 'Beam' about the emergency situation they were having, five people volunteered, one being a young lady (well done). One of the five has already been accepted; the other four are in the middle of being processed (seeing how fit they are and having to do some tests); this takes some time to sort out, but we're keeping our fingers crossed that they will all succeed. Unfortunately, more crew are still needed to make it completely safe for all of us to sleep soundly in our beds. Weekends and night shifts have enough cover, but they do desperately need crew for the weekdays.

If you are interested, contact Station Officer Andy Marrant, Tel: 01865 855261; or you can attend Bampton Fire Station on any Wednesday evening, where Sub Officer Brian Kew, Tel: 850815 will give you more information.

We need Bampton Fire Station, so please do think about it seriously, it's you the villagers who are needed to keep it open. Remember, **crew it or lose it!** We don't want anything horrific to happen do we? Over £1000 was collected for 'Children in Need', on Saturday 14th November, many Thanks to everyone.

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Traffic Calming

Tenders for the proposed scheme were received in August, and work commenced in October, with a brief interruption due to the bad weather. The overall cost of the scheme is in the region of £16,000. The Parish Council sincerely hope it will make some difference to the speed of traffic through the village, but at the end of the day you yourselves can make the biggest difference. If each resident driver keeps to the 30mph limit, the following traffic will have to do the same! Please keep your speed down.

Police

Changes made to police areas in April 1999 will mean an increase in local police officers. The Witney police area, which includes Bampton, will be merging with the Banbury area. A new Superintendent, Arthur Saville, is currently covering our area. At a recent meeting with the Parish Council, he outlined the proposed changes, which indicate that our Area Beat Officer, PC Oddy, should have more back up as from April. This is most welcome news. More details will be issued nearer April next year.

Allotments

The Parish Council has one double allotment plot available, which could be split into two single plots, on the Station Road. Anyone wishing to take up an allotment should **contact: The Clerk, Mrs Brenda Sapsford, Tel: 850776. The fee is £5.00 per year.**

Pavilion

The new Pavilion at the Recreation Ground is rapidly taking shape and completion is still possible for February 1999. Fortunately, the roof was put on just, before the torrential rain in late October, so work could continue inside. Alan Dunbar has been the Council's Project Officer during the construction stage, and it is because of his daily visits and close contact with all concerned, that the project has progressed so well. Anyone who has recently seen the many boys' football teams changing in the muddy car park will realise how urgently we need this super facility.

The Council is still looking for someone to act as a co-ordinator for setting up an Indoor Bowls Club for the new pavilion. Anyone interested, please **contact: David Hawkins, Tel: 851066.**

Land between Aston Road and Buckland Road

The Parish Council met with Barratts (West Midlands) in July this year to discuss long-term plans to build on this site. The proposal put forward by Barratts was for 24 units on the Aston Road (to include some flats) and 35 units on the Buckland Road.

The Aston Road development would include low-cost properties (possibly involving a housing association). A cross-subsidy arrangement with the development on the Buckland Road (which would be a private housing development) was also suggested. A small-scale industrial unit as part of the development could also be possible. The representative from Barratts mentioned that he was aware that the WODC Local Plan had been adopted, and that the company was not therefore looking to proceed with the development until after 2011. He felt it was important that the developers and the Parish Council work together at the early stages of the local planning to ensure that the village got the type of houses that it needed. This proposed development is on 'hold' at the moment, but if any progress is made the Parish Council will release more details.

Millennium

An Open Meeting was held on 10th September, chaired by David Hawkins of the various clubs and organisations in Bampton.

Many interesting ideas were put forward as to how to celebrate and commemorate the Millennium. A co-ordinating Group has been established to decide which of the ideas should be taken forward, and by whom, and they will report back to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

STOP PRESS!

Traffic Calming Update

The horrendous wet weather in late October, followed by icy conditions in November, has meant that the main part of the Traffic Calming Scheme which is in the painting of a variety of warnings on the road's surface, has had to be postponed. Unless we get a warm dry spell in December or January, we will have to wait a bit longer. **Your patience please!**

Help required to set up an Indoor Bowls Club

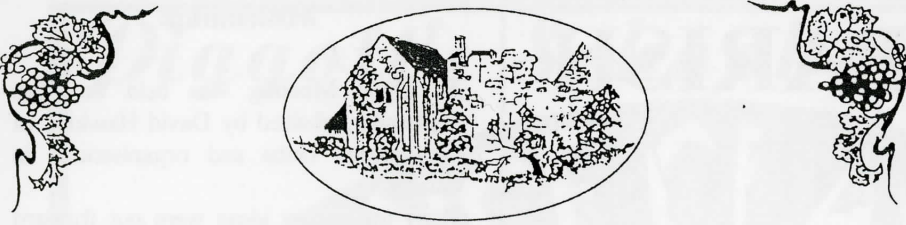
Volunteers are required to set up an indoor bowls club in the new Pavilion in the new pavilion on the recreation field. Hopefully, the area designated for indoor bowls will be much used by all ages. However, we do need bowlers to come forward **now** to advise us on the purchase of equipment and to set up the club. Please **contact David Hawkins Tel: 851066**, if you are willing to help.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

POPPY APPEAL

Bampton and Lew

I would like to thank everyone in the Bampton and Lew area for their generous support this year for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. We made a total of £1826, so again a big thank you. If anyone is interested in helping out next year either going from door to door or standing outside Londis, please **contact Mrs Brown, Tel: 01993 841434.**



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NEWS FROM THE BAMPTON MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

In September, the Parish Council held a Open Meeting to discuss what to do about the Millennium celebrations with the Bampton people.

Ideas were put forward at the meeting from the different clubs and groups which operate here in the village, and a committee was formed.

The Committee is as follows:

Fenella Gray - The Bampton Beam, Tel: 851653

Gary Gummer - Youth Club, Tel: 851913

Janet Newman - Primary School and Parish Council, Tel: 850755

Marion Evans - FOBS, Tel: 850796

Jo Lewington - Bike Paths, Tel: 850947

The committee is working on some of the ideas already put forward, such as a

History Exhibition, Mugs for the Children, Bike Paths, Seats by Memorial, Village Notice Boards, various events throughout the year, and of course the New Year's Eve celebrations.

We are running a 'Decorated Mug Competition' through The Beam. Children in different age classes will be asked to draw a design to go around the mug. The winner's design will then be used on the mugs, which will be presented to all children in the village on New Years Day. We are holding an Open Meeting in the Town Hall on Monday January 18th 1999, at 7.30pm. Please make a note of this in your new diary, as we would like as many people there as possible. Hopefully, we will be able to establish how we are going

to celebrate the passing of the last 1000 years, and start the new - actually, on 1/1/2000, we will of course be celebrating the start of the last year of this millenium, since the first year of the new millenium starts on 1/1/2001, but who cares!

In addition to this article, letters are being sent out to all the different Village societies and clubs, with a view to having as big a turnout as possible at the meeting.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to take on organising a Bampton History Exhibition. If any one is interested in setting up this exhibition, please contact one of the committee.

One idea is to see if we could use the upstairs room of the Old Grammer School, the downstairs is now the Library. The Society of the Protection of Bampton may help with the funding of this project, as they are very interested in Bampton's history.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could have a permanent Bampton Museum.

BAMPTON MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

We would very much appreciate it if you would fill in this tear off form and place it in The Beam Box in Abbey Properties after filling in the necessary information. It is to help us with finding out how many children live in the village between the ages of 0-16 who will be entitled to a free Bampton Millennium Mug. These hopefully will be presented on January 1st 2000.

Name of child/Children 1. Age

2. Age

3. Age

Address of Family

Name of person/s who would like to purchase a Millennium Mug

Address of Applicant/s

If there is not enough space on this form, please attach another piece of paper to it with the necessary details. Many thanks for your time. Don't forget to place it in the box at Abbey Properties.

THE WITNEY AND BURFORD HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN

The fight still goes on to save the beds at the Witney and Burford Community Hospitals. The final decision now rests with the Government Health Secretary Mr Frank Dobson.

Campaign organisers are still urging people to write letters of protest; we don't want these cuts, so we still have to make our voices heard. Witney MP, Shaun Woodward, and Lord Hurd, have sent letters of objection about these closures to Mr Dobson.

On the 1st July, Kathy Clarke went with Shaun Woodward to 10 Downing Street to hand in a petition, which was signed by 16,238 people from around this area.



*Kathy Clarke and Shaun Woodward
outside No. 10 Downing Street.*

Linda Mills and Alan Dunbar are still very active in fighting this cause here in Bampton, so please carry on writing those letters expressing your concerns. It could be you that there is no bed for if the closures go through!

The address to write is Oxfordshire Community Health Trust, Bourton House, Thorney Leys Business Park, Witney.

AGE CONCERN

**Linking isolated older people
with the outside world.**

Can you imagine yourself isolated at home with little or no contact with other people? The reality is - that there are older people who live in such a situation. Age Concern Oxfordshire, with the support of the Health Authority and Social Services, is looking to address this problem by implementing a new project - a Phone Link service throughout the county. The plan is to establish phone centres in all four district council areas. Centres in Banbury (Cherwell) and Witney (West Oxfordshire) have been identified and services will start in January 1999. We are inviting residents who live in and around these towns to join us in this special project. What can you do? Give 2 hours of your time per week on a rota basis. You can be that missing link for these people.

You can make a difference. If you are interested and need more information and details on how to become a Phone Link volunteer, please **contact: Phone Link Co-ordinator, Lester R Lee, Tel: 01865 240619.**

LIGHTS OF LOVE

Saturday 12th December

This year a tall Christmas tree will stand outside Sir Michael Sobell House Hospice, in the grounds of the Churchill Hospital. The tree will be dressed with hundreds of sparkling lights, each one carrying a loving message for someone who has died.

Donations are invited to cover the cost of these lights. The money raised will go to Sobell House, which needs over £700,000 a year from charitable contributions to maintain its excellent care of those with terminal illnesses. Everyone is invited to dedicate a light to a departed loved one - whether that loved one died at Sobell House or elsewhere. They are also invited to complete a personal 'In Memory' page, which will be bound into one of the special Lights of Love Books of Remembrance.

The lights will be turned on for the first time on 12th December by the Lord Mayor of Oxford at 4.30pm. A band will then lead a short service, and refreshments will be served in a marquee. If you or any-

one you know would like to dedicate a light this Christmas, please **contact: Sobell House Hospice Charity, Tel: 01865 883339, for more information.**

West Oxfordshire Citizen Advocacy

What's Advocacy?

A Citizen's Advocate is an ordinary member of the community who helps support another person, enabling that person to speak up for what he or she wants. The person who wants an Advocate is referred to as the partner. Advocates are independent agents, whose loyalty is always towards their partner. Advocates should be committed to empowering their partners and to working toward protecting and promoting their partners' interests, wishes, wants and rights.

Citizen Advocacy is run, supported and co-ordinated by an independent advocacy scheme, such as West Oxfordshire Citizen Advocacy (CITAD), registered charity 1053209.

CITAD recruits, trains, matches and supports volunteer advocates. For more information **contact: Anthony Richards, Tel: 01865 704826.**

VOLUNTEER LINK-UP

What are you doing with your spare time? Do you enjoy any of these past-times: conversation, shopping, cooking, driving, gardening, DIY, music, or going to the pub, cinema, etc?

Sharing these with someone locally who is either young, older or disabled in some way can:

- be fun
- help you meet new people
- open your eyes to new opportunities
- give you a feeling of self satisfaction
- build up your confidence
- keep you active while unemployed
- provide you with a good reference
- provide a new interest in retirement
- fit in with your time.

Volunteer Link-Up, the charity that matches people with spare time to people who need help, is on the look-out for new volunteers. **Contact Tel: 01993 776277.** Methodist Church, (Rear Entrance), Open Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm.

BAMPTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Taking care of their early years

c/o Bampton Primary School, Bowling Green Close, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2NJ.

Playgroup history began in this country in 1961, following a parent's letter to the Guardian newspaper arguing the need to provide play and social opportunities for children in the absence of nursery schools and suggesting that parents themselves should take the initiative. The writer was inundated with letters and in response the playgroup movement took off. Bampton followed the national trend when in October 1965 mothers met, formed a committee and set up what is now known as Bampton Pre-school Playgroup.

Thirty-three years later the Pre-school has continued to thrive and provide a safe, stimulating and happy environment and the opportunity for children to mix and make friends with others from Bampton and local areas. We take children from 3-5 years and offer care and vital learning opportunities to meet the needs of the individual child. Parents benefit also - by having time for themselves, or through meeting other parents or being enabled to work. We offer an extensive variety of equipment and provide activities such as glueing, sand/water play, outdoor play, PE, pre-school maths, sharing books and cooking. The majority of staff have trained in Pre-school Practice and have a Playgroup Diploma, keeping up to date by participating in regular training. Each half-term we adopt a topic around which activities revolve; the topic 'musical instruments' has been chosen for the Christmas period, which will include the children performing a Christmas concert at the Bush Club.

As a day-care provider, we are registered with social services and are inspected annually by them to ensure we adhere to the regulations laid down in the Children Act 1989, which sets out a framework of the quality of care to be provided by playgroups. We are also inspected by OFSTED, who make judgements about the quality and standards of the education

provision and whether the provision is acceptable. This allows us to accept Nursery Education Grants for 4 year olds (formerly the Voucher Scheme and Certificate of Eligibility). Staff and parents were exhilarated with the outcome of the latest inspection; it noted only two minor weaknesses, which we have started working towards improving. Copies of the report can be obtained from the Pre-school.

Fees are £3 a session or Nursery Education Grant for 4 years olds (entitlement begins from the start of term after the child's fourth birthday). We are open five mornings and one afternoon a week, for many young children we are their only early years' provider; others divide their

day-care between Pre-school and, for example, nursery school. Although we have links with Bampton school it is not a prerequisite that you intend to send your child to the school. Session times are Monday - Friday 9am - 11.30am and Monday afternoons 12.45pm - 3.15pm. We are now enrolling children from the age of

2years 9months. Further details, including a brochure, can be obtained from: **Claire Box, Enrolment Secretary, Tel: 851573.**

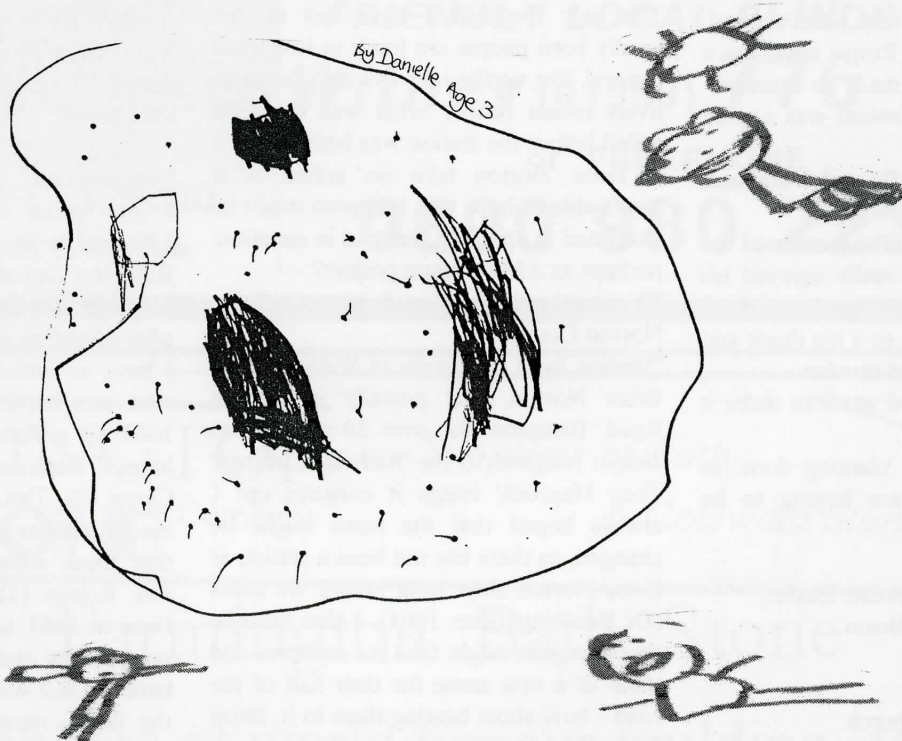
Christmas Bazaar

The Bampton Pre-School Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday 5th December, from 10am to 12am in the Village Hall.

This is the Playgroup's main fund-raising event of the year and we do need support from as many children, parents, grandparents, friends and family in order to help the

event go with a swing. There will be lots of activities for the children - Santa's grotto, face painting tombola, lucky dip. There will be refreshments available, the usual array of stalls - crafts, bric-a-brac, second hand toys, cakes - and, of course, we will draw the raffle. This year we are hoping to raise sufficient funds to [purchase two easels and some new painting aprons. We also hope to be able to purchase some giant books which will be great for reading in a group and we are sure that the children will love them.

We look forward to lots of support!



Dear Editor,

Early in September my sister rang me with an invitation to a supper in Bampton. My youngest daughter came with me. What a lovely surprise we had: tables laden with all kinds of salads, ham, rice, to name but a few; helpers carrying in dishes of baked potatoes all crispy and hot, with butter and cheese to put on top. It was just a perfect evening.

For afters (mind you it was a supper and a half already), home-made apple pie or orange jelly cream, followed by coffee, tea and chocolates! I'm sure everyone was, like me, feeling 'stuffed'. Where did we go? To the Methodist Harvest Supper! All under £2, but worth double the amount. The Harvest Gifts were auctioned after the meal. What a happy lively time we had. Oh, by the way, Colin Rouse might be a farmer by trade, but he made an excellent Auctioneer, and Tony Jenkins was a good 'prompter'.

Everyone was so friendly and I am sure went home with lovely bargains.

I do hope the customer who purchased the expensive 'Adams Ale' really enjoyed his drink - what a good sport!

It was a lovely evening, so a big thank you to the members of the Methodist Chapel for all their hard work to make it so enjoyable.

Hurry up and get the 'planting done' as Christine and myself are hoping to be invited again next year!

Yours sincerely,

Louise Weston and Christine Eagles,
Witney readers of The Beam.

Dear Editor,

His Heart was in the Church.

Since you published my note in the last issue of The Beam, I find that almost exactly the same legend is told, involving the same man too, about Buckland Church.

In addition, they have a small cupboard in the north wall of the Chancel to prove it! Can it be that the Reverend G. Hunt got some of his facts a little mixed? Perhaps we shall never know!

Yours sincerely,

Terance Crowley, Thatched Cottage,
Church Street.

Dear Editor,

I wrote the enclosed letter to Brize Norton Council for inclusion in the August news-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letter. The following only was inserted:

"We have a letter to the Council from Marion Rushforth, Colebrook House, Station Road, (officially) Brize Norton. She suggests that as we haven't had a station for over 30 years we should consider renaming the road, possibly Bampton Road. In a way there is logic to her argument. All the other exits from Brize Norton are named after their destination. We would be interested to hear the views of other parishioners on this subject".

The only feedback I have had is that locally born people are loath to lose their history! But as the railways are comparatively recent history what was the road called before the station was built?

If Brize Norton take no action is it reasonable to hope that Bampton might be interested in updating the road in question, perhaps as a Millennium project?

This is the letter that I sent to Brize Norton Council:

"Having lived electorally in Station Road, Brize Norton, and postally in Station Road, Bampton, for over 20 years I am almost resigned to the 'Railway Cuttings/Tony Hancock' image it conjures up! I always hoped that the name might be changed, as there has not been a station at Brize Norton since long before we came (Dr Beeching's time: 1963). I also thought that Bampton might take the initiative and think of a new name for their half of the road - how about beating them to it, Brize Norton!"

Perhaps the ruling has to come from County level, and you have no power to make a fresh start. I have made my address Brize Norton Road, Bampton for my sojourn here and the PO has no difficulties - I know of others of like mind. There can't be anyone who actually likes living in a Station Road!

Yours in hope,

Mrs Marion J. Rushforth, Colebrook House, Brize Norton Rd, Bampton.

What do Bampton parishioners feel? Do you agree? Lets hear from you on what your feelings are about changing the name of Station Road.

Dear Editor,

Well done Thames Water!

Although the water authorities are often the butt of much criticism, its a pleasure to congratulate Thames Water on the various measures that they have introduced in recent years to control the flow of water through Bampton and, in particular, on the exit from our village towards the Thames. To survive the October torrential rain without a serious flood was most impressive and residents in Bridge Street, Mill Green and Buckland Road areas were most grateful. Anyone who has seen photographs of the floods in Bampton in the 1960s will appreciate just how much progress has been made.

I have written to the Chief Executive of Thames Water to express our gratitude.

Yours faithfully,

David Hawkins, Chairman Bampton Parish Council, Mill Green

Dear Ms Gray,

I was given your name by a helpful Librarian in the Witney Library. I visited Bampton recently during a stay with my son, who has lived in England since 1965, after attending school and university there. I have an ancestor, a Robert Carter (1), who was baptised in Bampton parish in 1664 by a Robert Carter (2), who was himself baptised in 1628 by a Robert Carter (3). This information, provided for me by another researcher, suggests to me that these were grandfather, father and son. Robert (1) contracted with William Penn in 1681 to buy 500 acres in Penn's new colony and emigrated there in September 1862 with his five children. I think the family must have been Quakers but why they were baptised in the parish church I don't understand, unless Carter (3) became a convert.

Carter is a pretty common surname and so it is a very long shot to think that any present-day Carters in the parish are kin to the emigrating Robert. I figure Robert sold his farm and used the cash therefrom to pay for the passage of his family and to buy a lot of taxable goods to take with him for sale in Pennsylvania. But could he have left behind him a brother or other family member? In know that he had a cousin named William, who was a 'turner' and/or 'blockmaker', in Wapping. William set up shop in Philadelphia and became (or maybe remained) rich enough to later style

himself 'gentleman'. There was also a cousin named Edward born in Aston. The helpful Librarian told me that 'dissenters' (Quakers?) were known to have lived at Aston and Cote. In America, Edward gave the name Aston to the community where he lived. Robert (I shall not much longer bore you with further details, knowing how boring amateur genealogists are to those uninterested in local history) came to an early end in America.

His wife must have died during the 2-month passage out because in 1686 his eldest son, Edward, appeared in the Orphans Court to ask for help with caring for three younger sisters and his brother.

History fascinates me and I wonder if you or anyone known to you would be willing to correspond with me about Bampton Parish life in those ancient days.

Very truly yours, George Johnston,
178 Adobe Casa Court, Tavernier, FL
33070, USA.

Ed's note, can anyone help Mr Johnston, I do hope so!

Dear Mrs Gray

Would you please ensure the following acknowledgement is included in the next issue of The Beam.

Babs and family would like to express their sincere thanks to friends and neighbours who sent messages of condolence, floral tributes and donations on the recent death of her husband Gwyn (Taff) Sugg.

Many thanks, B.R. Sugg.
Ampney Orchard, Bampton.

W.R.S.V.

*by Jean Howell, Bampton/Aston
Organiser*

This year the W.R.V.S. has celebrated its 60th Anniversary, having been founded in 1938. The service of these volunteers was invaluable during the war and their help was vital in bombed city areas. Since those days, members have been involved in all walks of life as well as being on the spot to provide emergency help in disasters.

Our local involvement is in the Meals-on-Wheels and Books-on-Wheels Services. These involve some 20 volunteers, and we celebrated our 21st Anniversary this year.

As part of the regional celebrations there was a Tea Party for 1000 members at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, attended by Princess Anne. Somerfield Supermarkets sponsored the Tea Party and provided refreshments and an iced cake. They also presented a refrigerated van for W.R.V.S. use. Six of our members attended and enjoyed a fine afternoon with entertainment provided by the Army.

In July there was a national party for 3000 members at the W.R.V.S. Headquarters, Milton Hill, near Harwell, when the occasion was honoured by a visit from the Queen. The wet weather could not dampen the very warm welcome given to Her Majesty.

We were honoured that two of us, Mrs Clare Edwards (my deputy) and myself, were invited to attend this special occasion. All the members invited (from the four corners of Britain) were given tea, a souvenir programme and a china mug. We felt proud to be able to represent our local W.R.V.S. Service.

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THE PUMPKIN CLUB CHRISTMAS BINGO

The Pumpkin Club has it's special
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Everyone welcome. For more
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Tel: 850922.
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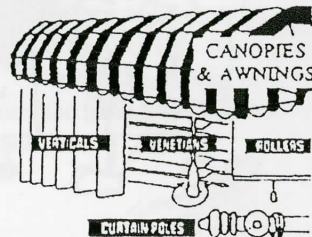
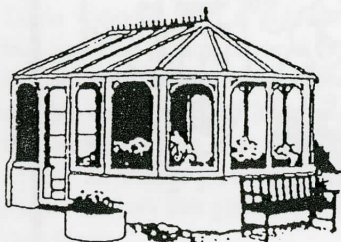
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LAVENDER FLATS

Written by Mrs Joan Smith

May I, on behalf of everyone here, welcome our new warden, Yvonne Brian (and Ned the dog), who I am sure will take very good care of us all. This is a happy place, where we all live and work together for one another.

Since getting our 'Community Room' in May 1997 it has been all systems go - we have a craft afternoon every Tuesday; coffee morning every Thursday and a silly Saturday afternoon with bingo, tea and games. As well as all this we are known to have the odd 'do' or party - Barbara's cakes, trifles and shortbread are second to none. A big thank you from us all, Barbara. We also have Pub Lunches once in a while and Away Days: The Daffodil Tour, Gloucester Docks, Thame and Waterperry Gardens, Cogges Farm, Cirencester and Swindon Craft Centre, Millets and several out of town shopping trips. A big thank you also to Lyn and Jim Edgar who organised a trip to Burford Wildlife Park. Many of us would never get this far from home under our own steam.

Also thank you to Eric, Val, George and Terry, who have named us the 'Lavender Hill Mob', for the use of the Aston Parish Bus. It has been great fun and we hope to enjoy many more trips out together.

We would also like to say a big thank you to all our friends from the Village, who help with donations and support for everything that goes on here at the flats. So, from all of us, a very Happy Christmas and Good Health for 1999.

THE MUMMERS ARE BACK!!

By Don Rouse

Robin Hood and his Merry Men, otherwise known as the Bampton Mummers, will be maintaining one of Bampton's famous traditions again this Christmas.

Many Bamptonians have not seen the Mummers because they only perform for private parties and for some of the pubs here in the village.



Back in the 1940s the Mummers would pocket the money, in the 1960s it went to local charities, but from the 1970s the decision was made to put it all into the S.P.A.J.E.R.S. fund, and this still applies today. Last year they raised over £400.00, which they hope they will be able to do again this year with everyone's friendly Christmas Spirit shining through!

If you want the Mummers to perform at your party, Don will try and fit you into their very busy programme. All it will cost is a generous donation to this wonderful Bampton charity. To save disappointment, get in there quick. **Contact: Don Rouse, Tel: 850297.**

This is a story about the life of a Labrador pup called Mandy-Jane.

This is a story about the life of a Labrador pup called In the next few issues of The Bampton Beam we will be including further chapters of the book. We start with Mandy-Jane telling us how she enjoyed her Christmas...

Christmas, as you know, is a time of great expectations - I generally expected more than I got. We kept as near to the good old-fashioned Christmas as possible. Rooms decorated with lots of shiny things and all the pictures and mirrors topped up with holly and springy ivy - the latter always sprang from behind when you least expected it. And, of course, the tree. It was always called 'the tree' because we had had it for years and it stood in the window with lights all aglitter and little parcels that 'beamed' me straight in the eye. Lots of lovely goodies spread all over the place just out of my reach and lots of big parcels they said I must not touch until Christmas Day. That meant after breakfast when time had been allowed for Father Christmas to add his share. I always wondered why I never saw him but the family said the reindeer were so thirsty after all their hard work that he had taken them off to the pub for a 'fill up' before the return journey - after such a long trip down our chimney their spirits were a little low.

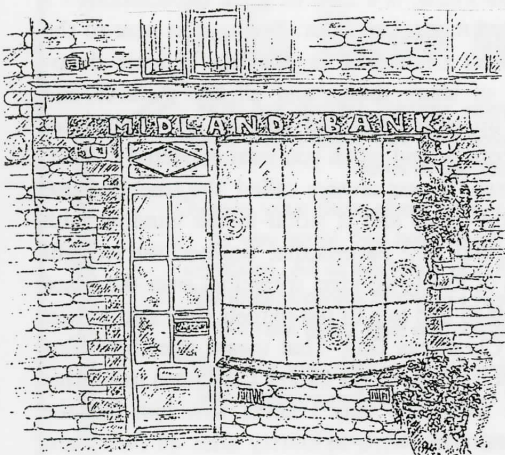
Then, youngest first (that was me), we all opened our parcels in turn. I swept through mine like a whirlwind, paper flying through the air in all directions and chocs and biccies flying down my throat like one o'clock. I remember I had a gorgeous fluffy teddy given me one year, he got dragged around for ages afterwards and introduced to all my friends and any callers who came to the door until he disintegrated.

After we had finished opening all our parcels and I'd had half of mine confiscated because they said my tummy couldn't stand the strain, we went visiting and this was really something. One friend we visited had the most wonderful tree imaginable in one room. I couldn't take my eyes off it - fascinating parcels lying on the floor all round it, which, naturally, I thought were for me. So, whilst the other were busy tossing back the old 'one, two, three' in the other room and wishing each other Happy Christmas, and joking and laughing and singing, I - being the youngest - set to work. Through the hazy mist which presently descended upon me I vaguely heard someone say "Where's Mandy, she's quiet", and a host of people surged in through the door. Well, I think they were people and I could have sworn there was a door but by that time I wasn't sure of anything. Howls of mirth went up, cries of anguish too when they saw chewed up remains of chocolate liqueurs and part of a gorgeous chocolate Daddy Christmas which had just the sort of liqueur I liked in its tummy, all littered around a beatific me. It took the concerted effort of my seemingly eight legs, two heads, various bodies and three other people to get me home.

THE GARDENING PAGE

BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB NEWS

The winning hanging-basket outside the Midland Bank. Drawn by Anne, who designed and planted it.



This year has been a very successful one for the club. The Autumn Show was well supported, with the entries up to the usual high standard. During the spring and early summer, the monthly Gardening Club Coffee Mornings were well attended. They proved to be pleasant social events and there were a variety of goods and plants available for sale. The coach

outings were also very much enjoyed. The only real disappointment was the trip to Ryton, Coventry, where, due to circumstances beyond our control, not everything went as it should; but we all had a wonderful day trip to the Malvern Show, and that certainly made up for the Ryton disappointment.

Many more interesting trips (and talks by Guest Speakers) are planned for 1999. Here is a flavour of the trips we are hoping to offer; Wisley, Hatfield House, Croughton Court - Stratford on Avon, Street; and of course the Malvern Show. **Ellen Parker, Tel: 843985**, our Social Member, would love to hear from you if you have any information on interesting places which you think the Gardening Club would enjoy visiting.

Many thanks to our loyal members for all the help and support during the year. We are always keen to welcome new members. For more information **contact Carol Jones Tel: 850456**.

The Annual AGM was held on Friday 20th November. The new committee are:

President: Lady Donoughmore

Chairman: Ray Taylor

Treasurer: Tony Jenkin

Secretary: Christine McLintock

Membership Secretary: Carol Jones

Show Secretary: Fenella Gray

Social Member: Ellen Parker

General Members: Christopher Hickman, Christine Hughes, Gary Gummer, and Mollie Jones.

After the meeting the members enjoyed a get-together with cheese and wine. The next event for the Gardening Club is hosting Father Christmas in his Grotto at the Bampton Craft Fair on Friday 18th December. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.**

WEED'S AND WHAT TO DO WITH THEM

By Edie Bindweed

I must say well done to everyone who entered the show, what a marvellous turnout for Bampton. Also thank you to those kind people who wrote and thanked me for writing about garden-friendly ideas in the last issue. This time I shall give you some more general uses for the dreaded weeds in your garden.

One of the first things we think of when we have finished weeding the garden is how to dispose of them, especially at this time of year. Well, please don't burn the weeds. Either add them to your compost heap or hoe them into the topsoil to rot. If a bonfire is essential in your gardening day then try returning the ash back to the soil. This will return to the soil the organic and mineral matter that is so essential for the growth of the new plants that you are going to put in the garden in the Spring.

Obviously, weeds should not be encouraged where there are seedlings and young plants, but should be pulled up and left to rot on the compost heap. Once plants have become established, weeds offer no competition and can be beneficial providing their growth is controlled. There is room in the garden for both, so the weed expert says!

Nature never leaves the soil uncovered during the winter months. Weeds left growing will give some protection from the weather, the roots helping with aeration and drainage and providing food for bacteria. The organic bacterial activity in the soil will provide the soil with warmth for spring planting and with fertiliser to feed these plants. A good compost heap should include such weeds as groundsel, meadow grass chickweed, nettles and the odd bit of horsetail. Don't forget the good old worms that aerate and drain the compost.

Different areas of Bampton have different soil, so to help you identify your soil type here is a list of weeds known to grow on specific types of soil. Coltsfoot, buttercup dandelion, daisy and dock are to be found on heavy soils. (I must have this type of soil - plenty of docks in my garden). The presence of bracken, sorrel, plantain, marigold, thistle, mayweed and daisy can all indicate that the soil is acidic or has no lime; whereas marigold, sorrel, cornflower, bindweed, shepherds purse and most of the shallow-rooted weeds prefer a light sandy soil. Weeds found on damp, badly drained soil include horsetail, silverweed, buttercup and some mosses. Many weeds appear to grow in more than one type of soil, which could mean your soil needs more drainage. By watching the weeds that are growing in different parts of the garden, keen gardeners should be able to learn more about their garden soil.

One more thing weeds can be useful for - liquid fertiliser. One bucket full of weeds (any weeds will do) soaked in one bucket full of rain water and left for 2 weeks makes excellent plant fertiliser, which can be used all over the garden quite safely.

Don't forget - its also time to tidy out the shed and get it ready to start propagating your seedlings and cuttings for the Gardening Club Annual Show next year.

Don't forget the Council has one allotment left for rent if your keen to join us at next year's show!



ARCHITECTURE ROUND BAMPTON

Written and drawn by Gilbert Marsh

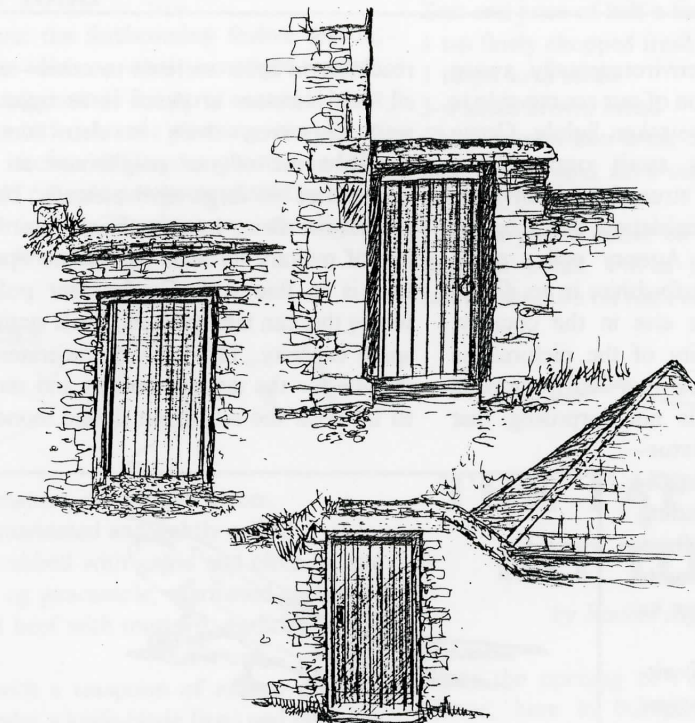
Garden Gates in Bampton.

Our village is dotted with small side gates which are similar in general design and purpose but enjoyably individual in character.

The designer's first concern has been to protect the head of the timber door frame from rot by building a canopy in stone slates capped by a hump of mortar. These tops have lasted remarkably well.

The designer's second concern has been to site the frame in the centre of the thickness of the wall so that the door is protected from the elements as far as possible.

Reading clockwise, these three examples which come from the path leading to The Lanes from Broad Street, the side of Sandford House, and from the wall at the back of Prospect Place.



What's happening in the Market Square

As you will have noticed, the Market Square garage has now closed.

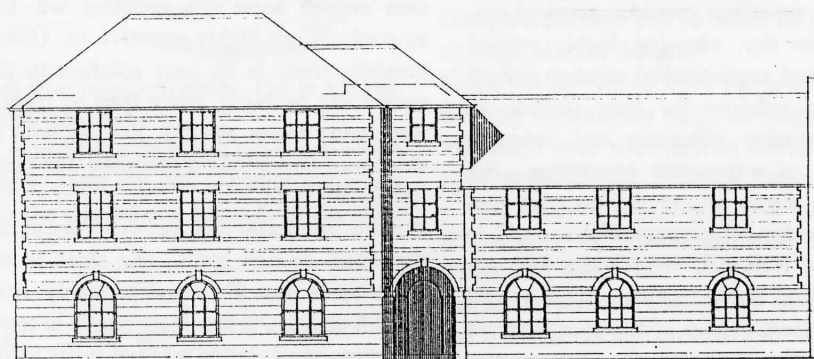
The Garage is to be replaced by a 3 storey building containing 10 bedroom flats, with only provision for 10 parking spaces. The Parish Council has objected most strongly to this development on two counts.

Firstly, the design and appearance of the building is unsightly and at 3 storeys will completely dwarf the Town Hall.

Secondly, we feel the problem of parking has not been fully addressed. The provision of 10 parking spaces is not adequate for the number of flats and resident parking will take up valuable spaces in the Market Square which is already a problem for people using the village Hall, Town Hall and shoppers.

Despite all the Parish Councils objections to this proposed plan, which has now been before the Parish Council 4 times with amendments, the West Oxfordshire District Council Planning Department are in favour of the the development and it is likely to go ahead.

Architects drawing of the proposed building.



south elevation to market square

ROYAL AIR FORCE, BRIZE NORTON

Do we Care!

By Flight Lieutenant Adrian Dant M Inst. Pet. RAF Station Environmental Protection Officer.

In an ever more environmentally aware society the protection of our countryside is a business not to be taken lightly. Grave legal consequences await organisations that digress from strengthened environmental protection legislation, and a beefed-up Environment Agency police these tough new laws. Oxfordshire is no different from anywhere else in the country; indeed the proximity of the picturesque Cotswolds heightens our environmental awareness. So it is not surprising that environmental disturbance caused by a medium-sized airport nestling in those surroundings gives rise to complaints and ill-feeling among its neighbours.

This medium-sized airport is also the largest military airfield in the UK and has been in continual operation since 1937. Brize Norton generates almost 40,000 aircraft movements a year to provide air transport and air-to-air refuelling support to Royal Air Force, UN and NATO military aircraft around the world on training exercises, peacekeeping missions and other operations that earn the British Forces their respected reputation. Air-to-air refuelling provides a petrol station in the sky, allowing highly trained aircrews and sophisticated combat aircraft to remain airborne for long periods of time, increasing efficiency and reducing the cost of expensive operations. Air transport allows us to deploy men and material to far-off corners of the world in support of National, NATO and UN operations; civil airlines either cannot or will not operate to some of the locations we are currently deployed to. Put in this context, it becomes easier to understand why RAF Brize Norton attracts such significant amounts of traffic. The aircraft at Brize Norton are kept at optimum

readiness in order to react to crisis - after all, our business in peace is to train for war. However, there is also concern among some of our neighbours at the appearance of large civil aircraft. These airlines use Brize to train their crews. The use of military airfields by civilian operators is in line with Government policy, where this can take place within a station's spare capacity. This activity generates an income for the defence budget and serves to increase the return on public money -

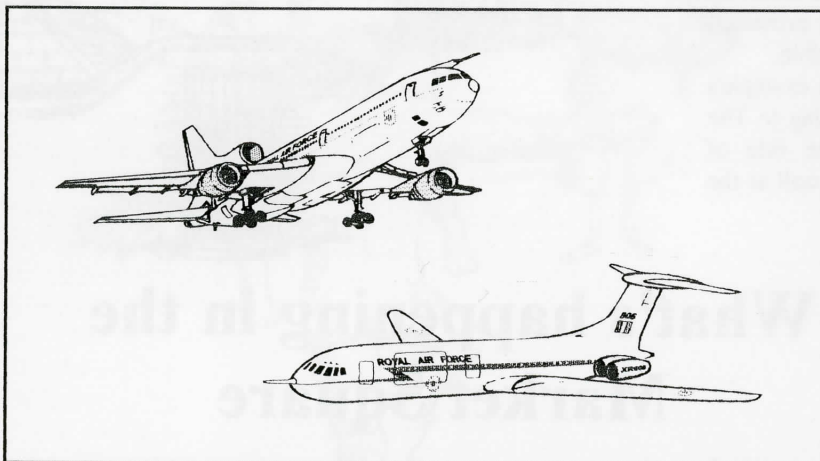
norm in terms of exhaust emissions.

The RAF is subject to the tough environmental legislation introduced over the last few years. So concerned are we that we have our own specialist staff trained to monitor current practices to ensure compliance with the law and improvements beyond the minimum standards. At Brize we have an Environmental Action Group, chaired by a senior officer on behalf of the Station Commander, which strives to maintain and improve the station's environmental performance.

To illustrate the seriousness with which the RAF take their commitment to the local environment, RAF Brize Norton recently underwent a rigorous external audit by environmental protection staff from Headquarters Logistics Command. We are delighted to announce that Brize Norton passed with flying colours. There is, of course room for improvement, but all current

legislation is being met and we were given a clean bill of health.

We are also actively seeking to improve our surroundings with the initiation of a conservation project focusing on open water and marshes to the south west of the airfield. The assistance of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Nature Trust has been enlisted for advice about the potential of our chosen site and about our next moves. RAF Brize Norton is aware of its environmental responsibilities and the impact of the station on the local area. We continually seek to improve our environmental protection performance through training, education and environmental protection measures. We thank all of our neighbours for their patience and understanding.



your and my taxes. From an environmental point of view, some of the aircraft based at Brize are not modern or efficient in design, although they are still highly effective in their role. They do therefore create significant engine noise - a problem we, like yourselves, are highly sensitive to. Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to this continuing problem, other than to replace them with newer aircraft. But, as with all strands of Government spending, the purse strings are tight.

We are often asked if fuel-type smells are the result of fuel spills. The smell is not from spills but is more probably from aircraft engines that perform more in terms of tonnes per hour rather than miles to the gallon. Large quantities of exhaust gases are produced - as with old cars, these old aeroplanes do not have the most efficient engines and they produce more than the

New Boss for Signals Units

Released by Flight Lieutenant Dave Rowe, Community Relations Officer



From left to right Squadron Leader Aleandri with Squadron Leader Vince Elliott.

Squadron Leader Vince Elliott has assumed command of No. 81 and No. 2 Signals Units at RAF Bampton from Squadron Leader Mark Aleandri who is posted to HQ Strike Command RAF High Wycombe on promotion to the rank of Wing Commander.

REMEMBERANCE DAY

by Mrs E. Quick, an Ex-service Great Grandmother.

Standing at the war memorial on Sunday Morning 8th November, then again on Wednesday 11th, gave me time to 'ponder' about the history of the War Memorial.

We in Bampton just take for granted that 'it's there'. I'm sure many people would be interested to know more of its history.

For instance, where did the plans originate? How was the style and setting chosen? Was it the decision of the councillors or parishioners? And what did it cost?

As a young child I well remember being taken to plant my poppy into a small square of grass, then being allowed to 'look' at the wreaths! No running, no shouting - oh how proud we felt to be walking on such hallowed ground. This I carried on with my own family, and hopefully our future generations will do the same.

As always the Royal British Legion - both men and women - were out in full force for this very special day. It was also nice to see all of the other Village societies who come along to lay their wreaths on the War Memorial. Everyone looked so smart and proud in their different uniforms - all I expect having an extra shine for the parade. The one thing which especially took my eye this year was that we had a wreath laid by the Youth Club. It just goes to show that here in Bampton some of the young are beginning to 'Remember' as well. Unfortunately, the only thing that really spoilt the morning was the traffic. Having seen two policemen on the streets, I couldn't believe the amount of traffic that was allowed to pass down the High Street. Couldn't people wait for just five minutes or so, or couldn't the policeman stop the traffic for that long? In previous years we had road signs saying Road Closed' placed at the appropriate places to stop the traffic from entering the area; that was much better. These signs directed the traffic to go up Bushy Row and down Broad Street cutting out that piece of High Street all together.

Other than that little problem I think the British Legion did an excellent job - as they do every year.

I for one find it a very emotional day, as I am sure do so many.

It would be nice to have some of these questions answered. For instance why is there a dragon on the top? Please, if anyone has any information send it to the usual address - The Cotton Club. Thanks Ed.

OLD PILOTS, BOLD PILOTS

by Archie Jackson

*Published by Cirrus Associates,
Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5EW.*

Price £9.95.

This is the sixth book by the former RAF and British Airways pilot, who lives in Bampton. The title will remind aviation enthusiasts of the old adage that there are old pilots and bold pilots but few of the latter survived the dangers to live into old age.

The early chapters tell the story of some famous pioneers such as Alan Cobham, Harry Hawker, Kingsford Smith and the long forgotten Ray Hinchcliffe who wore a patch over one eye and lost his life attempting to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. These pioneers, veterans of World War I, were followed by adventurers seeking the financial rewards offered to pilots who could break time records over great distances: the Molson's, Scott and Campbell Black among others.

The concluding chapters recall the 'hostages to fate' - those who perished because aircraft were not then designed to cope with the dangers of metal fatigue, airframe and propeller icing, slush and, in the case of the airship R.101, fabric deterioration.

The author flew from 1941 to 1977 and experienced the great improvements in safety that were introduced throughout these and subsequent years. After retirement he obtained an Honours' degree in history at Oxford University and is currently a librarian at this college.

BUSH CENTRE

The club meets every Wednesday in the Scout Hut in Church View, and caters for 40 pensioners. We provide tea, coffee, and a hot meal, for many this is the only day they have away from their homes during the week. All helpers, cooks and drivers are volunteers.

We encourage our members to play games, and take part in activities.

We raise our own funds for outings to places of interest, theatre trips, and to pay for speakers. For more information please contact **Joan Granville, Tel: 850407 or Vera Allport, Tel: 850411.**

BAMPTON EXHIBITION FOUNDATION

The foundation exists to maintain the Old Grammer School building (now the Library) and to provide financial support to young people residing in the Ancient Parish of Bampton, Aston, Lew and Weald.

The financial help is 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, **Roger Snow, Tel: 850113**

THE PUMPKIN CLUB CHRISTMAS BINGO

The Pumpkin Club has it's special Christmas Bingo Evening on Monday 7th December in the Bush Centre at 8pm. Everyone welcome. For more information **contact Mrs E. Foreshow or Sharron, Tel: 850922.**

Don't forget eyes down every Monday evening at the Bush Centre at 8pm.

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 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

The annual subscription is £5. with a charge of 75p per session. New members are always welcome. For more information **contact, Mrs Joan Granville, Tel: 850407.**

NOTICE BOARD

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** - or any of the other Trustees: The Rev. D. Lloyd, Mrs S. Phillips, Mrs R. Colville, Mrs I. Humphries, Mrs J. Haslam, Mrs T. Piercy, Mr G. Wiltshire (Aston), Mr G. Milner (Aston) - Mr A. Ginsell (Lew).



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The annual box collection this year raised £255. 64. This is in addition to £175.08 raised by the Junior Church and collections in Londis and the Surgery - 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, Tel: 01993 851066**, and I would be very happy to bring a box to you. The Society's valuable work with young people and their families could not continue without our support.

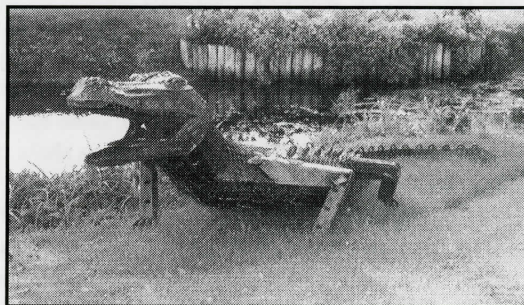
SOMEWHERE IN BAMPTON SOMETHING LURK'S

This magnificent life like structure of a metal crocodile, is sitting in a garden somewhere in Bampton, and in need of a name.

It has been designed by a local artist Sophie Thompson from Over Norton.

If you would like to enter this competition, place your entry on a slip of paper with your name, age, (if under 16), and of course the name you think would suit the crocodile. Place the slip of

paper into 'The Beam Box', in Abbey Properties, High Street. The winner will be announced in April's edition of The Beam. There may even be a prize!!!!



BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA

Holcot House, Market Square, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2JJ

Tel: 01993; Fax: & Tel: 0171 2221173.

Christmas Concert

The highly-acclaimed singers of Bampton Classical Opera will be continuing their tradition of presenting a Christmas concert on Monday 21st December, the festival day of Bampton's little known patron Saint Beornwald. The festive concert, *Christmas Vespers by Candlelight*, will be given in St Mary's Church, Bampton at 8pm and will include three joyful choral masterpieces appropriate to the season: Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir*, and Vivaldi's *Magnificat*. The singers will be accompanied by the Oxford Symphony Orchestra, with guest conductor Janet Lince'. The church will have extra heating to ward off the December chill, and its noble architecture, enhanced by candlelight, will perfectly complement the quality of music and performance.

Tickets are £7, available in person from Bampton's Abbey Properties and The Music Stand, Witney or by post from: The Old Bakehouse, Skinners Lane, Faringdon, Oxon (please make cheques payable to Bampton Classical Opera and enclose a s.a.e.).

All enquiries - Tel: 01993 851876.

FOXBURY FARM

Books Wanted

We are looking for second hand books for a bumper book sale which will take place on April 11th 1999 at The Foxbury Farm Lambing Open Day. All money raised will be donated to Carterton and Burford Library to enable them to replace and renew books. If you belong to an organisation that is having a Jumble Sale or similar event, and you have books left over at the end of the day, please deliver them any time to Foxbury Farm, Burford Road, Brize Norton. **Contact Rebecca Tel: 01993 844141.**

Lambing Day

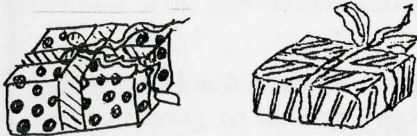
From our previous four events we have raised £8790 from gate admissions, with nearly all that money being donated to local community organisations, so we hope our 1999 event will be equally successful.

In line with our policy to donate to 'child related' causes we will be dividing the money between The Thames Valley Police Junior Country Watch, The Meningitis Trust and Springfield School, Witney.

Spring is Coming . . .

We will be holding another Charity Lambing Open Day at Foxbury Farm on Sunday 11th April 1999 from 11am until 4pm. If any organisation would like to have a Charity fund-raising stall, or anyone would like to have a trade or craft stand, please give me a ring. Space permitting, everyone is very welcome.

Contact Colin Dawes, Foxbury Farm, Burford Road, Brize Norton. Tel: 01993 844141.



BAMPTON YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Centre occupies the old Victorian Primary School in Church View which was rescued from dereliction in 1985 by the efforts of local people.

The Centre provides accommodation for youth activities in the village and receives (very limited) funding from the County Council. It is therefore increasingly dependent on the (very valuable) financial assistance given by the '250 Club', and on rental income from letting the premises

NOTICE BOARD

This includes meetings, wedding receptions, and parties of all sorts, including the recent addition, on Thursday mornings, of the Baby Club.

The facilities are probably the best in Bampton with an attractive large central hall, a pleasant atmosphere and abundance of parking space. Contact Jill Ruck Tel: 852010 who will be happy to receive enquiries for bookings.

The Youth Club meets in the evenings on Tuesday - for juniors - and Thursday for older members, and also runs regular 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: 850456.**

Cubs meet on Wednesday evenings. They continue to flourish with excellent support from parents, but Beavers and Scouts still await leaders. Anyone willing to help should **contact the Group Chairman, Phil Roberts Tel: 851267.** Training is available for those not already experienced.

For any general matters, please **contact Colin Allport Tel: 850411.**

HAWTHORN FARM RIDING FOR THE DISABLED GROUP.

Chairman:

Anne Broome Tel/Fax: 01865 300285

Secretary:

Liz Ince Tel: 01865 300658

Press Officer:

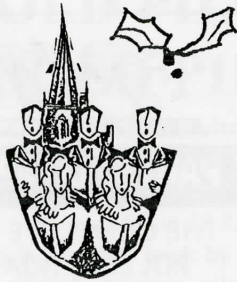
Anna Pitt Tel/Fax 01993 851403

Autumn 1998

Congratulations to Charlotte Pringle, Stuart Reynolds and Ruth Marrison on passing their Grade One test at the end of the summer.

We would also like to congratulate our chairman, Anne Broome on being awarded her Group Instructors Badge.

We are pleased to welcome Thomas Latham to our group. Thomas has already taken and passed his Grade One so all the children now look forward to working together towards the next badge. For more information **contact Hawthorn Farm, Yelford, Nr, Witney, Oxon OX8 7QU.**



THE BURFORD SINGERS

"The Burford Singers' first concert of the new season will be a celebration of the work and

life of C.V. Stanford, with music by him and his pupils. It is to be held on Sunday 6th December at 7.30pm, in Burford parish Church.

Programme

Songs of the sea - Stanford

Full fathom five - Howells

The Shakespeare Songs - Vaughan Williams

Greater love hath no man - Ireland

The Bluebird - Stanford

Bring us O Lord God - William Harris

Beati quorum via - Stanford

O clap your hands - Vaughan Williams

Songs and duets by Gurney, Holst, Butterworth and Moeran. The soloists are Penelope Martin-Smith (soprano) and Stephen Varcoe, (baritone), with Christopher Tadmans-Robins (piano and organ), and the conductor is Brian Etheridge.

For 50 years Stanford was the greatest influence on British music as a major composer, teacher, writer and conductor. He taught almost every major composer from Parry to Vaughan Williams, and was simultaneously conductor of the Bach Choir and the Cambridge University Musical Society. Professor of Music at Cambridge and of Composition at the RCN, he found time to compose both choral and orchestral music. Stephen Varcoe (who is about to record Songs of the Sea for Hyperion), will also talk about Stanford's eventful life, his caustic Irish wit, and the famous doctorate celebrations at the CUMS Jubilee.

Reserved tickets, and any further information, can be obtained from **Brian Etheridge at the Burford Gallery Tel: 01993 822305.** Tickets are priced at £10, and £8, with concessions for students at £5 and £4".





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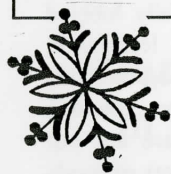


MEMBER

(1418)

THE COOKERY PAGE

By Gilly French



Party food

Many of us will be entertaining over the forthcoming festive season, and, with a view to giving you some ideas on what you might want to serve your guests, below are some suggestions for party canapés. Most of them can be prepared ahead of time, which, with a little advance planning, can put an end to the all-too-frequent solitary martyrdom in the kitchen whilst your guests - and the rest of the family - eat drink and be merry! Eight or so canapés per guest should be more than sufficient for a two hour long drinks party, particularly if one or two are slightly more substantial. Here are some 'general ideas' and a few recipes.

General Ideas

Smoked quail's eggs - available from Londis

Small pieces of gravlax*

Halloumi and grilled prawns*

Marinated and grilled prawns*

Miniature vegetable kebabs - sun-dried or cherry tomatoes, mozzarella pieces, courgettes, pieces of red pepper and spring onions, marinated and lightly grilled.

Crostini - slices of french bread, toasted or baked, rubbed with garlic and olive oil and finished with any of a number of suitable toppings, eg guacamole, marinated anchovies (try Waitrose delicatessen), a thin slice of rare roast beef with mustard, garlicky potato puree, or Puy lentils with tomatoes and coriander.

Devils on horseback - fresh dates, stoned, filled with a teaspoon of mango chutney, wrapped in half a slice of bacon (stretch the bacon under a knife-blade first) and placed in a hot oven for ten minutes or under a grill until done.

* Recipes for these dishes have appeared in past issues of 'The Beam'.

Recipes

Spiced Cucumber

This is from the long defunct BBC Gourmet magazine. I find it is usually very well received - the texture is unusual and there is an unexpected 'kick' to the flavour.

2 large cucumbers

4 tsp salt

6 tbspn sugar

3 tbspn white wine vinegar

2 tbspn sesame oil

1 tbspn peanut oil

1-2 fresh chillies, deseeded and chopped

Halve cucumbers length-ways, de-seed and cut each strip into 2cm slices. Put in a bowl, sprinkle with the salt and leave for 2-3 hours at room temperature.

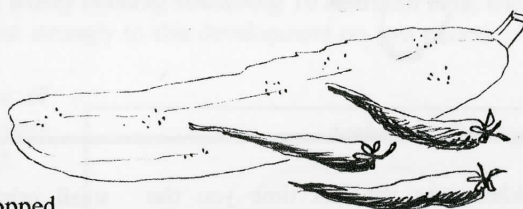
Drain cucumbers, do not rinse. Squeeze out excess moisture (a clean tea-towel is the best way). Put in a clean bowl and mix sugar and vinegar. Heat the oils together until they smoke. Remove from heat and add chillies. Add to the cucumbers, leave to stand for 6 hours in a cool place, drain and serve.

Baby baked potatoes (makes 20)

10 small potatoes

Oil for brushing choice of filling

Brush potatoes with oil and bake for 40 minutes or until cooked. Halve, scoop out the flesh and mash. To the mash add desired filling, eg sun-dried tomato and basil, flaked smoked haddock, cream cheese and chives. Return to skins. Bake in a medium oven for 5-10 minutes until hot.



Marinated Salmon

This is wonderful. It's from Richard Steins English Seafood Cookery.

4oz skinned fillet of good salmon, free from bones, 2 spring onions, chopped
Zest and juice of half a lime

1 tsp finely chopped fresh ginger

1 tbspn soya sauce

3-4 slices brown bread

Chop salmon into small dice, add onions, lime, ginger and soya sauce. Chill for 30 minutes.

Using a pastry cutter or similar make 1" rings of bread. Put a teaspoon of the salmon mixture on each and serve.



THE TAPPERS HIT TOWN

by Rachel Piggott

Since the opening of Piggotts School of Dance, here in Bampton last Autumn, things have really been swinging!!

We have a Disc/Cheerleading group from Aston, who worked very hard to perform at the Bampton School fete. The girls have also performed for their local football team!

The children's classes are in Tap - they do a 'mean' Chattanooga choochoo, Modern which is similar to Disco - and Jive, Charleston etc.

Mum's waiting to collect their budding starlets from class have decided they want to have a 'go' so now we do 'Adult Tap' in Bampton perhaps you've heard us echoing through Market Square?!

Since having retired from my professional dancing career, (ten years on stage, dancing world wide with various television and royal appearances), I can say there is never a dull moment teaching - and hopefully this is what my friends and students take home with them.

Come and join us! Classes run throughout the week for all age groups, and those that wish to will be performing in dislays.

Watch out 42nd Street - Here we come!

For more information **contact Rachel Piggott Tel: 01993 852355.**

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

In general I try to be a happy person and, if I can, I like to make someone laugh every day - though often, come the end of

the day, I am struggling and have to resort to standing in front of a mirror with no clothes on, except of course for my green wellies, which never fails to set my wife off. (If our resident cartoonist picks on this particular item of my article then I hope that he will be extremely generous to me).

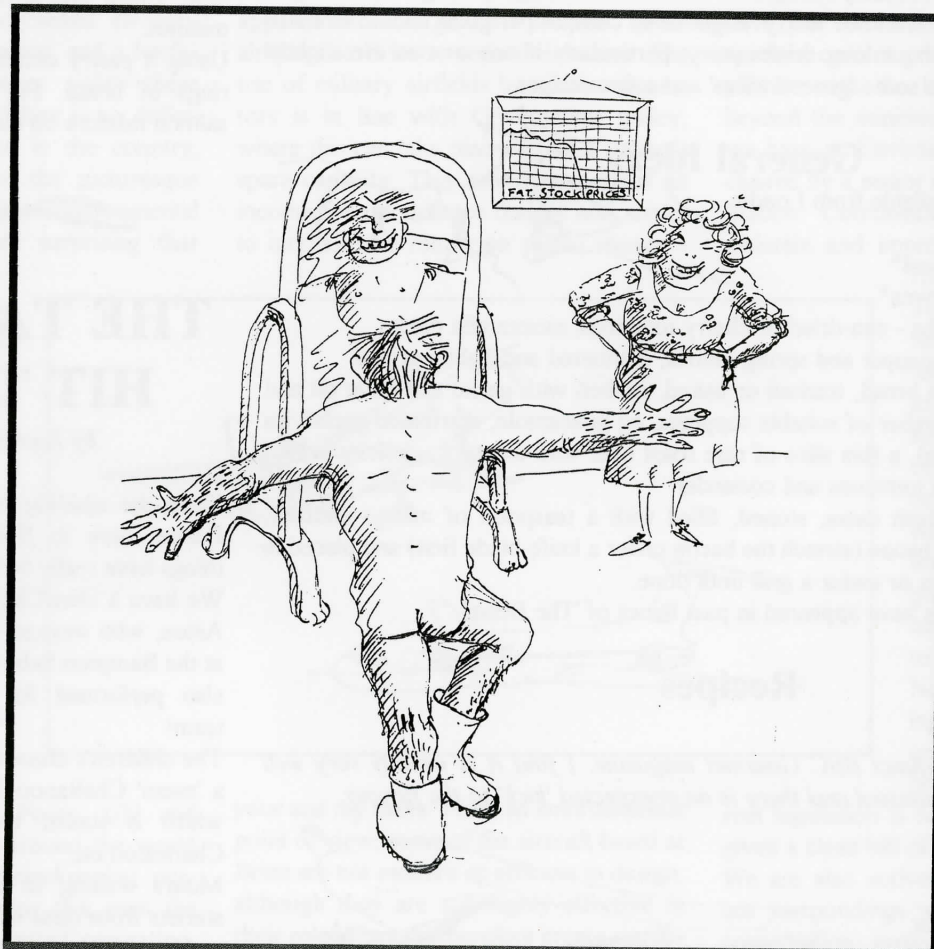
But since becoming the Agricultural Correspondent of The Bampton Beam, I've often had doom and gloom to report, and so it continues. I make no apologies as I do feel that things are becoming serious and it would be wrong for me to ignore it. Sheep and pig farmers are suffering terribly at this time. As I have reported in The Beam before, the price paid by the consumer

bears no resemblance to the price received by the producer. I was told the other day of a Welsh farmer phoning up Sainsbury's and enquiring after the price of a whole Welsh lamb. He was quoted £145.00! He then asked them "Could you now tell me why I got £25.00 for my lamb that you've just bought in the market?" Soon after I was told this, there was an article on TV about this very subject. It appears that the last people along the line, i.e. the retailer (not you Patrick! . . . had to say that, or there would be no more pork pies for me) were making more profit than the farmer was getting for the original item!

I see the average price paid to farmers for milk over the last 12 months was 19.2p per litre, which works out at 10.9p per

without his knowledge! The thing that gets up my nose is why all those Animal Welfare people who have successfully lobbied the government for legislation against traditional farming methods (thus making food very expensive to produce in this country) are not out there lobbying against the import of foods

from countries where animal welfare is definitely not on the agenda. All food from these countries should be banned until they can offer all the same safeguards and traceability that are available here. A lot of meat products on sale in this country carry the Union Jack emblem and yet on closer inspection you will note that it says "Packaged in the UK". What has happened is that meat from a dubious source has been shipped to this country in carcass form, and has then been sliced and packaged here! So consumers beware! Read the



pint! When was the last time you the consumer paid so little as that for a pint of milk? I bet it was before decimalisation.

In the pig world I have heard of a farmer who had to destroy his whole herd of pigs because to have kept them would have cost so much money that he would have been bankrupt within 9 months. It reminds me of the recession in the 1970s when you could not sell calves. One farmer did a deal with a butcher, swapping a hen for a calf. Another took four calves to market, couldn't sell them, put them back in his van, went and had a cup of tea, got back to his van and somebody, also unable to sell, had put another four calves in the van

small print. If you want the best, buy British! British meat has been subjected to the most stringent health, welfare and hygiene regulations in the world, which our farmers are quite happy with and which we the electorate have demanded from our Government. However, other EEC countries have not fallen into line yet - so you won't be buying from them will you!

It seems that no sector of farming is escaping the recession. Grain prices at harvest time were the lowest since the 1950s: £67.00 per ton for wheat and £50.00 per ton for barley. To get this into perspective, when Dad bought his first car

it cost him the equivalent of 13 tons of wheat. Today the standard of the car would cost 238 tons of wheat! Oh to be a car manufacturer - because farm incomes have obviously not kept up with inflation. Nat West Bank tells us that 25,000 farmers will go out of business during the next 12 months, most of them being small family units. I hope something can be done to stop the rot.

I attended a conference on Safer Cities at Oxford Town Hall the other night. OK, so what is a Bampton farmer living in Lew doing at a place like that? Well, that is another story. No I am not expecting a big population explosion in the area. The interesting bit for me was the discussions I had afterwards with a German delegate from Bonn and a Russian diplomat from Perm. The German told me how their pig farming industry had been hit by swine-fever and that people were therefore reluctant to eat pork. With an abundance of pig meat on their hands the Germans have been exporting it cheaply to get rid of it. I wonder where it has been going to? The Russian was telling me of the terrible recession that they were experiencing, the like of which has never been seen before. He was convinced that Russia's only way out was to have a strong agriculture policy: as he said you must feed the people first then the rest will follow. A bit like back in the war I suppose, when it was "Grow for Britain" and farmers enjoyed a degree of popularity. So I reckon that makes two early signs of recession. The first, people being nice to farmers! The second being what a lovely lady shop keeper in Oxford once told me. She could always tell when a recession was about to hit as, she claimed, ladies would stop buying underwear! They would still buy dresses, etc., but not knickers. So I shall be watching for both signs with interest. But even with all this doom and gloom farmers are ever the optimists: tilling the land and planting new seed for next years' harvest, even though the seed that they plant is costing them nearly four times the price they got for last years' grain. I think farmers more than anyone teach us that no matter what happens to us as individuals life goes on. A bit like the Bampton Mummers' play where the soldier is raised from the dead. "Be in the case as 'twas before. Rise up thy 'ead and fight once more".

Having read back through this article, I am reminded of the character in the wartime radio programme 'Item', who used to say after a tale of doom and gloom, "Its being so cheerful that keeps me going".

A Happy Christmas to you all and, dare I say, a prosperous New Year for all of us.

Yet another Point of View on - Well just read on . . .

As an occasional visitor to Bampton, and one who enjoys reading The Beam, I would like to respond to the writer of your article on page 27 of the August 1998 edition - "Green versus Brown: a neutral's view".

With regard to the hunting debate: it is simplistic to suggest that hunting foxes on horseback with hounds is the only way to deal with the carnage caused by a fox in a hen-coop or the damage caused by deer to young trees. We town-dwellers do know that foxes, deer and rabbits can cause damage to crops and livestock. We know that it is sometimes necessary to limit their numbers. What is unacceptable about fox-hunting or deer-hunting is that people pay money to buy - horses, red jackets, hunt membership - to go and watch a fox being torn to pieces by a pack of dogs. Can anyone explain how this differs from watching a cock-fight or from badger-baiting. It is disgusting and uncivilised! If riders want to gallop across open country after hounds, why not hold a drag hunt, and keep fox and deer numbers down by shooting

them? When I visit Bampton I enjoy walking. I use an Ordnance Survey map, and try to follow footpaths. Contrary to your correspondent, I still find footpaths that are blocked, ploughed-up or overgrown-by-crops and missing signposts, etc. Not as many as there used to be, but there is no room for complacency. However, please do not confuse the existing public legal right to walk along designated footpaths with the right to roam that is now being sought. We seek (and were promised by the Labour Party before it gained power - alas, a U-turn is fast approaching) the right to walk over uncultivated land. No-one is talking about 'wandering willy-nilly across farmland', but about being able to enjoy woodland, downland, moorland and mountain areas. Walkers are quite used to slippery mud and country smells; we like it - it makes a pleasant change after crowded pavements and exhaust fumes.

Joan Holkar, 13 Addison Road, Wanstead, London E11 2RG.

Anyone else want to express their point of view on the countryside issue?

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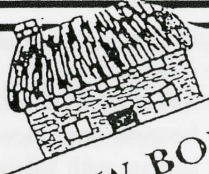
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LETTERS TO: AUNTIE BEAM

I received a letter from a Bampton Parishioner concerning the field which Mrs Francis Denne purchased before her very sad death, and asking what has become of it. Unfortunately, after my enthusiastic spring cleaning (which I do not do very often, I may add), I misplaced this letter, although I did remember that the writer said that they knew that Mrs Denne had wanted to turn it into a Water Meadow for the village.

The family of Mrs Denne have written to BEWG with a reply to this letter, which is printed below:

"As you know, before my mother's death, she asked my sister, my brother and me to ensure that the field was not sold and remained in use as a small reserve for flowers and wild animals. My brother is the family member who lives closest to Bampton and he visits the field from time to time to ensure it is well maintained.

I have previously assured Mr Norman that Bampton Primary School is free to use the field whenever they want for environmental studies.

It is, however, private land and I do not want to publish an open invitation in The Bampton Beam that it is available as a picnic ground. Although I'm sure the majority of people would leave no litter, nor cause nuisance, there may be some who would be less socially responsible. My family would not like to be indirectly responsible for causing problems with the owners of adjacent properties.

1. The field is still owned by Francis' family.
2. The school is free to use it.
3. It is not open to the public.
4. It was not bought for the use of Bampton's people.

I hope this letter answers your queries".

Yours, Giles FitzPatrick.

*Well, that does answer everyone's queries about the 'Water Meadow'. I do hope the school make good use of the field.
Many Thanks Mr FitzPatrick.*

Dear Auntie Beam,

I don't know whether I like them or not. What about you?

The new traffic calming 'Rustic Statues', which have been placed on the entrances to all the roads leading into Bampton.

I have been told by my grandson they are suppose to let people know they are about to come into a built up area, so they should by right, 'kill their speed'.

Do you really think this will work?

Thank you very much.

Yours Mrs G.O. Slowly.

Dear Mrs Slowly,

*I have my doubts. The 30mph sign itself should remind drivers that they are entering a built up area but it doesn't. I do believe that the 'Rustic Gates' would only calm the traffic if they were placed in such a way that cars could only just squeeze through. That way, those drivers who drive through our village at 50mph or more would be forced to slowdown. Unfortunately, the Highways department will not allow this, believing, it seems that it's new idea will force drivers to obey the speed limit! Time will tell.
Yours Auntie Beam.*

Dear Auntie Beam,

I'm sorry to bring this subject up once again, 'Dog Poo Bins', as I know you at The Beam have done so much in getting them organised here in the village.

Just one thing I would like to say, the one in Sandfords Field, I think it's in the wrong position. It's been placed by the road, not in the field. When the dogs are out in the field, owners don't think it's quite so necessary to pick up the 'poo'. Please, please for us with toddlers and young children, who bring it home on their shoes. Please, please can we get the bin moved or another one placed in the field.

Many thanks,

A Poo Dodger

Dear Poo Dodger,

I have contacted the Parish Council regarding this missplacing of the 'Dog Poo Bin', and I have good news!

Apparently here in Bampton we are getting 3 new ones, Sandford's Field, Broad Street, Pieces Path (Bushy Road). Unfortunately, we have to wait a while in the



If you would like to write to Auntie Beam the address is Auntie Beam, c/o The Cotton Club Bridge Street, 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.

'Dog Poo Bin' queue, but at least it's good news.

By the way, did you know the District Council employ someone now called the Dog Warden. His job, I suppose, is to look into all the queries which are sent into the council concerning dogs!

Stop worrying, Auntie Beam.

I received another letter in my mail concerning Londis Shop, but, unfortunately, at the time of going to print we haven't had a reply, come on Mr Scott.

I also received this letter rather late in the day, but it seems there's still distress caused by inconsiderate dog owner's. Lets hope the new bins really help!

"Church View residents are becoming increasingly enraged by the amount of dog poo deposited at regular intervals outside their houses.

Do the owners understand that allowing their dogs to foul the footpath is not only anti-social and a potential health risk but against the law?

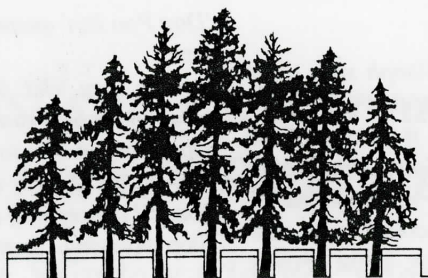
If there is anything spare from the Millennium funding may I suggest Bampton 2000 Special Poo Bags with built in pooper scooper, or perhaps with a little help from Mr Armitage-Shanks we could pioneer the Bampton Millennium Dogs' Lavatory (fully flushing) to be erected in the Market Place. The only problem then would be for the lovely owners to train their little dears to wait until they got there!"

I would like to wish all my readers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I'll be at the Trade Fair on Friday 18th December, so may be I'll see you there!

BAMPTON ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH GROUP

by Margaret Bruce-Mitford

Two unusually interesting Open Meetings have taken place since our last report. In July, the Regional Manager of Sustrans gave an illuminating talk about the objectives and achievements of this organisation, which is to develop a nation-wide cycling network. It has received a substantial grant from the National Lottery and is likely to be the largest nation-wide construction project of the Millennium. The



wealth of slides illustrated the variety of ways in which cycling could be fostered, from cycle tracks already established and in use, to methods of traffic control which gives cyclists priority over motorists in appropriate situations. The development of cycle tracks around Bampton has been considered by the Parish Council, which has in fact set up a Special Group to explore the possibilities of this invaluable amenity; and the Project may be included in Bampton's Millennium plans.

A fascinating postscript to this enterprise is a sponsored cycle ride in Turkey to raise funds for the MacMillan Cancer Relief effort. Bampton was represented by Jo Lewington (who is a member of BEWG's Executive Committee, so takes some credit for organising the venture). Jo joined the 31 other stalwarts, whose ages ranged from 22 to 68 - and included men and women from an interesting mix of backgrounds such as Nurses, a Q.C., a Trade Unionist, and a publican - on the five-day tour which covered 300 kilometres in the Taurus Mountains. Bampton can be very proud of its contribution to this worthy cause, as Jo's effort raised £1800. Jo wishes to express her warmest thanks for very this generous support from the village.

A very different programme was presented

in October when members of the Oxford Witney branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England described their organisation's work at both national and local levels.

The Chairman opened the talk with a succinct account of the Council's history and six of her colleagues described different aspects of local work. These topics comprised; bridleways and footpaths; transport problems; hedgerow and brook maintenance; planning and developing more buildings (primarily houses) in rural sites to meet quotas laid down by the government.

An interesting point, and one very germane to Bampton and BEWG, was that these quotas did not represent actual needs, so much as virtual development, focussed on large executive houses which

rarely, if ever, are what a rural community wants. A rather disquieting statistic is that the Structure Plan for Oxfordshire estimates that 35000 units of 'affordable housing' are required, while the waiting list at present shows 8000 families are waiting for this accommodation. At the present rate of building it would take 15 years to clear this backlog and even longer to provide for other families who will join the waiting list during this period. The next talk will be given after the A.G.M. on January 27th 1999 at 8pm in the Village Hall. Freda Bradley who has lived in Bampton all her life, and comes from a family of long-standing in the Village, will talk about the book she is working on about the village life she has seen over the years. Freda will be assisted in this venture by Don Rouse, who, though born in Moonraking in Wiltshire, moved to Bampton as a young boy and has lived in the neighbourhood ever since. Don also has plenty of lively memories of past times.

BEWG is considering ideas for celebrating the Millennium one of which is a Cycle Path Project. Information is being collected from various grants. permission from farmers etc, so movement is rather slow. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please contact, **Jo Lewington Tel: 850947**

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The Oxford Club has 'friendship links' with Soroptimist Clubs in Leiden, Lucerne, Marmara and Bonn, and wherever you are in the world there is likely to be a Soroptimist nearby, ready to offer friendship and help. Membership of Soroptimist International also entitles you to use all the amenities of the Soroptimist International Club overlooking Hyde Park in London.

The Club President chooses a charity for the Club to support each year, but we join in efforts at Regional and Federation levels as well. The views of Soroptimist International are communicated to the United Nations, and we are a non-Government organisation with Category 1 status with UNESCO and the World Health Organisation.

The Oxford Club has members living throughout the county. If you are currently working and would like to find out more about the Club, please write to Oxford & District Soroptimists, PO Box 43, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 2EX, giving us your name, address and telephone number, so we can contact you.



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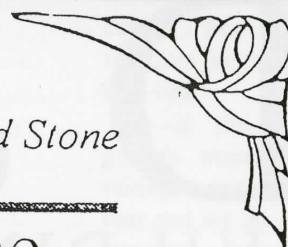
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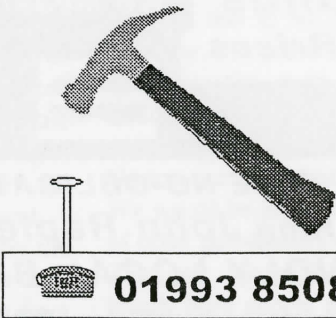


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**SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
BAMPTON**

The society aims to stop excessive developments in the village, such as large housing estates, and encourage suitable developments. So far we have been very successful.

To achieve these aims we need the largest possible membership.
If you aren't already a member

DO JOIN NOW

Send your membership fee of £2 each (£1 for OAP's) for the period up to December 31st 2000, to
Society for the Protection of
Bampton,
Manor House,
Bampton Oxon. OX18 2LQ.

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Macmillans Cycling Challenge.

by Jo Lewington

Thirty-two individuals, each having gathered £1.800 in sponsorship, battled with stiff and aching muscles, cycling across the

Turkish mountain landscape to earn money for Macmillan's Cancer Relief. Jo Lewington went from Bampton and would like to thank, on Macmillan's behalf, all of those who contributed. Of the contributions she received, 90% came from Bampton people or

Bampton businesses, which shows the wonderful awareness of the work that Macmillan does for cancer patients and their families - and the generosity of Bampton folk. Jo describes the experience.

"I had decided, before I set off, that if I needed to get into the back-up vehicle and ride for a bit, then I would: pride would not get in the way. In the event I managed to do most of the trip on the bike, except where the lateness of the day meant that the organisers ordered all of those trailing behind to get into the bus so that we would reach the camp site before dark. The group was extraordinarily diverse, and included a Q.C, solicitors, nurses, teachers, 2 trade unionists, a maker of suits of armour, designer and maker of shoes, a designer of Madame Tousseuds in New York, a barman, (age 22, built like a bean pole and one of those always at the front), a bank security officer, and a policeman. The policeman organised military style warm-up sessions every morning, which I couldn't manage to do, due to heaviness of the porridge which I shovelled in to fuel the day's cycling! I am not a big breakfast eater, but I knew that to get through the day you have to eat a lot of carbohydrate.

Against my normal rules, I forced myself to eat the Mars bars which were also on offer.

The back up organisation was terrific. Three Turkish cooks, with their pots and pans and tents in a big lilac coloured truck, laid out huge carbohydrate breakfasts, with some combinations that I am not used to, like porridge and olives. There were then cold lunches with lots of

bread and more olives; and the evening meals, after a day's cycling seemed better than Le Petit Blanc!

There was a doctor in attendance - a rugby player who aimed at losing weight by doing the trip, but who also seemed to us that he was in an unlikely soap opera with the medical situations he was called on to deal with - a dog bite on someone's buttock (needed anti-rabies injections when we got back to the city), a thorn imbedded in someone else's buttock, concussion in someone who came off his bike going fast down a gravel road, six stitches in someone else's arm (for the same reason).

and the everyday gut problems and aching muscles. We also had a bke 'docor' who happened to be the British mountain bike champion and who, after a days hard cycling and at times even pushing those at the back, checked out all 40 bikes and oiled them, fixed punctures and anything else that needed doing.

Almost nobody knew anyone else before the event, and yet everyone was friendly and supportive and encouraging. Those who were super-fit, encouraged those, who, like me, sometimes wondered what on earth they were doing hundreds of miles from home on a bicycle. I think it was a tough ride for everyone, even the fitness freaks. One day we had to battle against a strong head wind (even when we did a right angle turn, it always seemed to be against us). At the break, every body lay down, even the tough policeman and the beanpole barman - a row of 32 cyclists in Macmillan T-shirts and daft lycra shorts, watched by a group of amazed neatly dressed courteous Turkish school children just off the school bus. Female equality was not an issue. It was the blokes who had the most stamina; it was they who went to the back and pushed those who were struggling; it was they who dug the latrines at the end of the day; it was they who fixed punctures and chains on route. Viva la difference!! But everyone, I know, was pushing against their own limitations, and everyone felt a sense of achievement at finishing the route.

We travelled some 370 km (231 miles).

Where there were steep sections, the day's cycling was 25 miles; where it was flatter we did 50 miles.

However, the main thing is that we earned a lot of money for Macmillan's Fund to help in their work in cancer care, and that felt good. Thank you everyone in Bampton who made it possible. The next trip is across Mexico, coast to coast, next year.

Are you interested?"

BEFORE



AFTER





WEST OXFORDSHIRE ARTS ASSOCIATION NEWS AND EVENTS

The Gallery, Town Hall, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2JH., Tel: 01993 850137

Opening hours during exhibitions:

Tuesday - Saturday 10.30am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm, Sunday 2pm - 4pm.

The Administrator is usually in the Gallery every Tuesday and Friday morning.

Membership fees - Single £12, Family £20, Student £5

DECEMBER

Sunday 6th-Sunday - 20th December

GIFTS IN THE GALLERY 1998

Once again local craftsmen and women have the opportunity to display their wares - with an accent on affordable and unusual Christmas presents. Some new exhibitors contribute to the familiar and well-loved displays of woodcraft, pottery, jewellery and textiles. Note the change in dates - a little nearer to the 25th of December for those last minute presents!

Late opening on Friday 18th December - the night the Mummers are in town!

JANUARY

The Gallery will be closed in January 1999 to allow Bampton Parish Council to rewire the building and improve the heating.

At the same time, W.O.A.A. will improve the lighting and bring water up to the landing store-room.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 7th - Sunday 21st

RedearthBluesky

Watercolour and acrylic painting by

SALMA CALLER

An exhibition of contrasts - earth and sky, day and night, moon and sun. Influenced by east and west.

Immerse yourself in a blaze of colour and imagination.

AND AFTER FEBRUARY - WHAT NEXT IN THE GALLERY?

In March we have **Tom Kemp** from Oxford Scribes,

in April - **Marterial Matters** - a collaboration of stitchers from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire,
and in May it's **Artweeks** again.

June will bring **Richard Dack** from Devon, and **Ann Norman** from Bampton.

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER

FIDDLES AND FEET BARN DANCE

with Keith Holloway Band. Joan Holloway - caller.

Featuring the Fiddles and Feet workshop group.

Bampton Village Hall 7pm - 10pm.

Adults £5. W.O.A.A. members, £7. non-members. Children £3. W.O.A.A. A family member, £4. non-member.

To include light refreshments. Bar. Tickets from Felicity Cormack Tel: 01367 242293

W.O.A.A. PRESENTS ROBIN HOOD - a traditional romp in Lincoln Green.

BAMPTON VILLAGE HALL, WEDNESDAY 20TH - SATURDAY 23rd JANUARY, AT 8pm.

Tickets on sale from December at the Cotton Club, Bampton.

If you want to see your favourite Disney characters brought to life, don't come to this panto!

**THE FIRST W.O.A.A. 'IN-SCHOOL' WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT
BURFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL DURING FEBRUARY.**

THE ROBERT VESY ROOM, BAMPTON LIBRARY.

Remember to call in at the Library to see the current exhibition each month! The next programme includes **patchwork by Libby Calvert and marquetry and woodwork by Richard Blunt**. In January the Robert Vesey Room reaches the first anniversary of its opening; many thanks to Jan Fretton, the librarian, Ailsa Matheson who organises the exhibitions, and Kay Neeves and Barbara Daw who arrange the sitters' list, along with all the volunteers who have helped this new venture off the ground. We would still be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join our band of sitters for either the Robert Vesey Room or the Gallery.

If you could give up the occasional morning or afternoon, please contact Ailsa Matheson for the Gallery, Tel: 01993 851004 and Kay Neeves, Tel: 01993 850494 or Barbara Daw for the Robert Vesey Room, Tel: 01993 851491.

W.O.A.A. Highlights

July, August September and October
by Margaret Bruce-Mitford

The past four months have seen three important exhibitions, each demonstrating different aspects of art. In August the Oxford Scribes mounted their 'Summer Exhibition of Calligraphy', giving us a splendid view of the varied facets of this artistic medium. This was followed in September by one of the best Annual Exhibitions of Members' work that has been mounted for some time. The variety of topics, different media and a very high level of execution brought home the considerable talent in this area and a strong justification for W.O.A.A. and its enterprises.

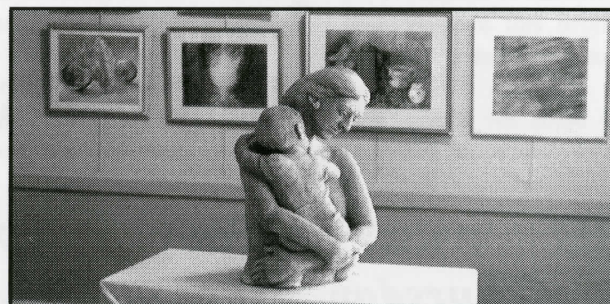
This point was reinforced in October by 'Past and Present' - an exhibition of paintings and other works by Anita Graham-Dixon and of drawings and small sculptures by Micheal Graham-Dixon. Anita's 48 paintings covered a variety of subjects and styles which offered an interesting view of the different phases and styles she has worked with and through. In total contrast was a small exhibition in July of the work of the four top graduates of the Fine Arts Painting Degree Course at the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. An informal discussion with the artists about the meaning and significance of their work was a bonus and what they envisaged for their futures showed them as hard-working, dedicated, practical and with a strong sense of responsibility towards their art, even if it's practical manifestations were not immediately comprehensible.

W.E.A./REWLEY HOUSE/W.O.A.A. LITERATURE GROUP.

Karen Hewill will again be tutoring 'A QUESTION OF INFLUENCE' contrasts and comparisons between the works of W.B. Yeates, W.H. Auden, Elizabeth Gaskell, Thomas Hardy and contemporary novelists David Lodge and Adam Thorpe.

In the Gallery, on Monday afternoon's from 2.15pm - 4.15pm. Price £44. For further details please contact, Margaret Bishop Tel: 01993 85041.

Photograph's of the Member's Exhibition - September 1998



The successful bracelets, brooches and creative card workshop held in Standlake in July with Pauline Payne and Adriana Windle.

This photo shows Adriana and some of the participants.





Gary needs You

so
come on down
to

Bampton Youth Club

Opening times of The Youth Club

Tuesdays - 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Juniors 10 - 14 year old

Thursday 7.30pm - 10pm. Seniors 15 - 20 year old

Activities Provided include the following:-

*Pool, table tennis, darts, indoor/outdoor football
and other outdoor pursuits.*

*Plenty of disco music to dance to, television to watch with
your friends.*



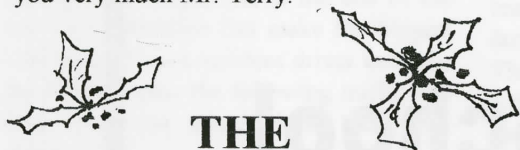
For more information contact Gary Tel: 851913

Competition Corner

August winner 1998

I thought I had better print another crossword in December's edition of The Beam as I really missed the amount of mail I usually receive.

I would like to say thank you to Mr Terry, of Chetwynd Mead who has won the £5 for sending in the list of spelling mistakes - which was the August's competition. I would like to share with you Mr Terry's comment which he sent with his entry, as I thought it was rather nice. This competition is a brilliant way of ensuring that all competitors read every article carefully - rather than skimming cursorily through all 32 pages. As a result, I have gained more enjoyment from the latest issue". Thank you very much Mr. Terry.



THE BAMPTON BEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

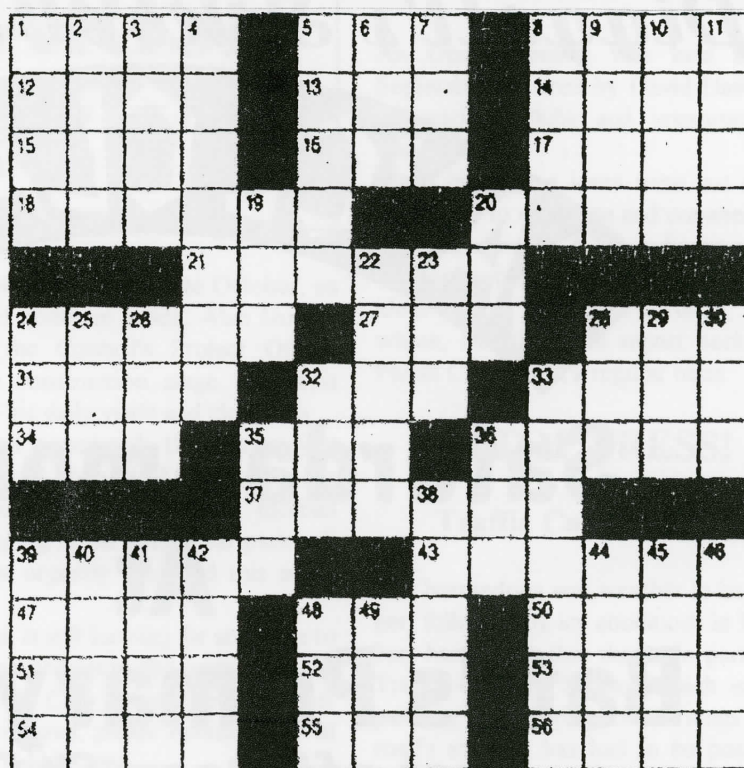
As the year has gone by our committee has seemed to get smaller. If anyone is interested in joining us we would be very pleased. We are losing Linda Mills who sorted out the distribution of the Beam. This sounds like it's a busy job, but Linda has got it all organised. It's just sorting them out into the streets of Bampton, so our very loyal delivery persons can collect them and do their work, which we all look forward too.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda for all her hard work, not only organising the distribution, but she has also provided written articles for us to publish. Thanks once again Linda, you will be missed in more ways than one!!

I do want to apologise to a lady called Anna who offered her services to The Beam. I lost her telephone number so hence I have not been in touch, but if you still feel you would like to join us, or anyone else is interested, **please contact Fenella Gray, Tel; 851653.**

Many thanks again Linda from The Beam Team.

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



Across

1. Prod
5. Car fuel
8. Seafood treat
12. Grant and Marvin
13. Ref's kin
14. Uncommon
15. Tidy
16. Utter
17. Curved arch
18. Dexterous
20. Ancient weapon
21. Chicken ----- soup
24. Cereal plant
27. Same old routine
28. Very moist
31. Leaning Tower of ----
32. Swamp
33. Coop
34. Old Age Pensioner Abbrev.
35. Skillet
36. Suit fabric
37. Slight quake
39. Health spa tub
43. Landed manor

47. Field measure

48. Guy's date
50. 'Rock of ----'
51. Headliner
52. Self
53. Formerly Persia
54. Saints aura
55. Heavyweight
56. Appellation

Down

1. Arm bone
2. Critic Rex
3. Equipment
4. Baltic nation
5. Energy
6. Assistant Master's As- sociation Abbrev.
7. KGB agent
8. Farmer's goal
9. Wrath
10. Neighbourhood
11. Pub's brew
19. Free electron
20. Matching pieces
22. Certain bee
23. Pull with force
24. General Post Of- fice Abbrev.
25. River mouth
26. Venomous snake
28. Armed conflict
29. Hen's product
30. Golf mound
32. Metal rod
33. Sure
35. School group
36. Distress signal
38. Cantaloupe
39. Waste band
40. Official proceed- ings
41. Russian moun- tains
42. Roman leader
44. Taj Mahal site
45. Sports group
46. Domestic slave
48. Obtain
49. Time past

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Diary of Forthcoming Events

December

5th Pre-School Christmas Bazaar Village Hall 10am - 12am
 5th W.O.A.A. Barn Dance Village Hall 7pm - 10pm
 6th Burford Singers Burford Parish Church 7.30pm
 6th - 20th WOAA GIFTS IN THE GALLERY 1998
 11th Friends of Bampton School Carol Concert School Hall
 18th Cancer Research Country & Western Dance Carterton Social Centre
 21st Bampton Classical Choir Christmas Concert St Mary's Bampton 8pm

January

8th W.O.A.A. Don Quixote de la Mancha Village Hall 6.30pm
 18th Bampton Craft Fair Market Square 5.30pm
 27th BEWG A.G.M. Village Hall 8pm

February

20th Table Top Sale Village Hall 10am - 12.30pm

April

11th Foxbury Farm Open Day 11am - 4pm

Please let us have your Notice Board and Diary entries before the next deadline - 28th February 1999.

THE BAMPTON BEAM -

is published three times a year and distributed free to all residents in Bampton. Extra copies available from the Post Office, Abbey Properties, The Cotton Club and Emmies.

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Vacant

If you could help or would like to join the team in any capacity please contact

Fenella Gray Tel: 851653

Contributions are always welcome at any time and should be sent to: **The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge St, Bampton.**

Deadline - 28th February, 1999.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in The Bampton Beam, the editor & publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any error that may occur. The views expressed in The Bampton Beam are not necessarily those of the Editor. Personal views are the responsibility of the author in each case.

The team wishes to thank The Cotton Club - quality fabric suppliers - as well as the Beam letter box! Also many thanks to Abbey Properties and Bradford & Bingley. Also our thanks go to the Parish Council for their financial support each year..

If you wish to have The Bampton Beam posted to yourself or to a relative or friend on a regular basis, please send your name, address and cheque (made payable to The Bampton Beam) to: The Bampton Beam, Subscriptions: c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon. Annual Subscription - £2.50

BAMPTON DIRECTORY 1999

The Directory has been updated and reprinted.

A copy has been delivered to every address in Bampton.

Extra copies are available from The Post Office and Abbey Properties.

If you wish to make any amendments

please send information to The Editor, The Bampton Directory, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton. OX18 2HA.

AMENDMENTS as at 1.11.98

The Editor apologises for the omission (page 4) from the list of Parish Councillors of Mr R.W. Norman Sagaman, Aston Road Tel: 850823 planning and for the following errors (underlined):-

page 16

BAMPTON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Mrs Fenella Gray, Colt House, Aston Road Tel: 851653

page 25

Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund

Lin Edgar, Willow Tree, Oathurst Estate, High Street Tel: 851770

THE NEW BUS SERVICE TO OXFORD

page 6

BUS & COACH SERVICES

Delete: BAKER COACHES operate a service on Wednesdays etc.

Insert: STEVE'S TRAVEL EYNHAM (Service 18) runs every Monday to Saturday between Clanfield and Oxford via Bampton, Aston, Standlake

Enquiries: Steve's Travel Eynsham Tel: 01865 883074

BAMPTON SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Late Night Shop Opening and Craft Show

Friday 18th December 1998

*Father Christmas, Carols around the
Christmas Tree, The Bampton Mummers,
Bampton Fire Engine, Tea and Coffee,
Hot Snacks, Charity Stalls.
The Shops and Bank will also be open.*

**Come and enjoy a traditional festive atmosphere and
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For more information Contact Tony Hughes, Tel: 01993 851458
or write, 10 St Mary's Court, Weald, Bampton, Oxon. OX18 2HX.