

THE BAMPTON BEAM

November 2006

Volume 21, No. 3

New Bus Services

The new contracts for the subsidised Bus Services 18 and 19 commence on Sunday 10th December – or for us Monday 11th December. As you are aware the Parish Council has been in regular contact with the Oxfordshire County Council over the course of the last year trying to get enhancements over the existing services included in the new contracts. We have managed to get one (major) enhancement, but as yet the others lie on file in the OCC. We have managed to get OCC to have the new services operated by *low-floor buses*, which is a major step forward over the existing fleet used. These new buses should enable young mothers with prams and toddlers, and the rest of us oldies, get on and off rather more easily than now. We also feel that introducing a low-floor fleet will increase the usage by Bamptonians, and people from other parishes, and help secure the future of the services. Where we failed to get movement from OCC was on the provision of an evening service for the Service 19, where we were

advised that this was due to budgetary constraints, because the OCC did not know what the costs would be introducing the low-floor fleets – other routes are also being upgraded to low-floor buses. This remains on file, and the Parish Council will be raising the issue again shortly with OCC. If OCC the Government and OCC want people to reduce car usage then we need reliable evening services as well. The Parish Council also asked OCC to look at re-routing the Oxford Service 18 along the Botley Road as it used to, and not along the A40, since this is the main reason that some of the 18 (18A) and 19 services need to meet in Aston and not Bampton Market Square, because of the traffic congestion at peak times on the A40. We were advised, however, that other parishes had requested the status quo and OCC decided not to change the route. We had also asked if the Service 19 could be routed via Sainsbury's supermarket in Witney, but again this request was turned down, apparently because none of the bus

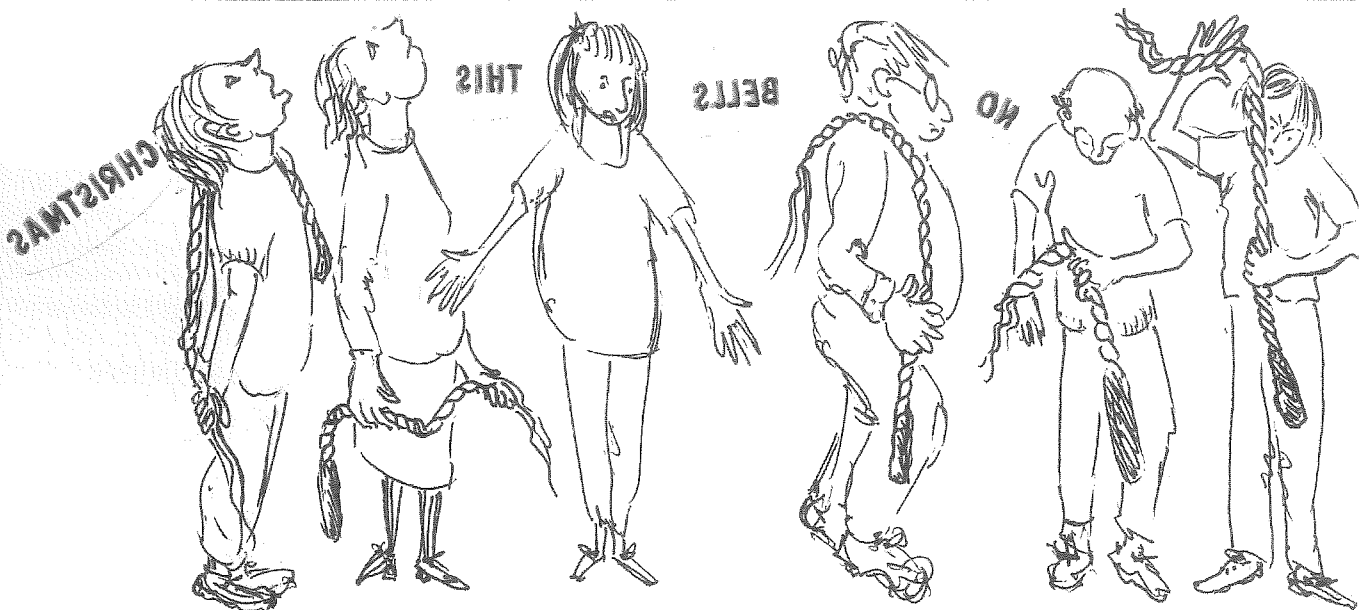
services which have been routed via Sainsbury's is well used, and these services are going to be re-routed themselves away from Sainsbury's.

As to the new timetables, we have been advised that the services will be maintained on the current hourly frequency, and that there are likely to be only minor changes to the schedules if any. One change that we know of on the Service 19 is that the Cotswold Wildlife Park journey will be withdrawn, since it was not well used. The new schedules should be available on the buses, and on the Stagecoach (which remains the operator) website before they commence.

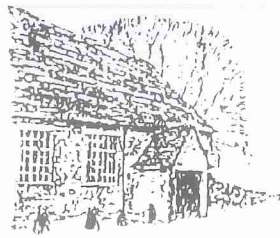
While Stagecoach is supposed to introduce the new buses from the start of the contract, OCC has advised that it may take them a month or two to complete the changeover, since they have to buy significant numbers of the new buses, and it may not be possible to have them all delivered by 11th December. However, the OCC expects that the new fleets will be in service by end January 2007 - is it that time of year already? - at the latest.

Use It or Lose It

Merry Christmas to all



Bampton Village Hall



An excellent venue for meetings, classes, parties, performances & fund-raising events. Main hall with stage, curtains, lights & piano. Well equipped kitchen and servery with separate locked bar. Badminton court marked and equipment available. Disabled toilet facilities.
Lettings Officer: Martin Barrett,
The Post Office, Bridge Street, Bampton
Telephone: 01993 850304

Sale of Alcohol in the Village Hall

The Village Hall has a Premises Licence which includes the retail sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. This is regulated by the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) who is Alan Clarke of The Horseshoes, Bridge Street, Bampton Tel: 01993 850201.

A reminder to all hirers of the Hall who wish to sell alcohol at any function that they must contact Alan Clarke in good time either to arrange for him to run the bar or to give his permission for a bar to be run by the hirers. The bar in the Hall is kept locked and permission to use this area must be arranged with Alan Clarke.

Abingdon Touring Theatre Company

The Abingdon Touring Theatre Company is delighted to be returning to Bampton Village Hall on January 5th and 6th with our third production – *Aesop's Fables* by Stephen Balchin. This production is suitable for all ages and combines stories from Aesop's life with the fables that made him famous.

Tickets can be purchased from Bampton Post Office and cost £7.50 (full-price), £6.50 (concessions) and £20 (family ticket – two adults and two children). We look forward to welcoming you to a performance!

BAMPTON '250' CLUB

A monthly lottery which raises money for The Bampton Village Hall and The Bampton Youth Centre.

MAY	£25	133	Mrs Pat Smith	The Lanes
	£15	024	Miss D Mansfield	New Road
	£15	152	Mr Mark Snow	c/o Bushey Row
	£15	084	Mrs Willis	Landells
JUNE	£100	048	Mrs Barney	Calais Dene
	£25	079	Mr A Knight	Chandler Close
	£15	087	Mrs N Jenkins	New Road
	£15	117	Mr Bob Weller	New Road
JULY	£15	224	Miss Buckingham	Bowling Green Close
	£25	143	Mrs Ruth Wheeler	Bowling Green Close
	£15	059	B. Radband	Chandler Close
	£15	217	Mrs J Granville	Church Street
AUGUST	£15	247	Mrs C Hawcutt	Broad Street
	£25	194	Mr Selwood	The Lanes
	£15	025	Mrs Poole	Chetwynd Mead
	£15	044	Mr C Foresheaw	c/o Church View
SEPTEMBER	£15	077	Mrs D Knight	Chandler Close
	£100	153	Barry Picton	Church Street
	£25	117	Bob Weller	New Road
	£15	021	Mr K Mullis	Lavender Place
	£15	106	Mr A Allinson	New Road
	£15	013	Martin Adams	St Mary's Court

Movies on the Move in Bampton Village Hall

Thanks to continued funding from the West Oxfordshire Network Leader + Programme The Theatre, Chipping Norton is able to bring up to date films to Village Halls. Bampton Village Hall is taking part in this project and films are currently being shown on the 1st Wednesday of every other month. The cost of putting these films on will increase as the start-up subsidy is withdrawn and an audience of about 40 is needed if the films are to continue. Please put the date in your diary NOW and bring your friends – the quality of the films is excellent and it is on your doorstep!

Wednesday, 3rd January 7.30pm

'Stand by Me'

Tickets £3.00 are on sale at The Cotton Club for 2 weeks in advance and at the door.

'Special Christmas Presents from Bampton'

Ann Manly Print - St Mary's Church from the Shillbrook ford

Well known local artist, Ann Manly, kindly allowed the Friend's of St Mary's to have 150 prints made from her evocative water colour of this well known view – surely every child has paddled and fished in the brook, played Pooh Sticks at the bridge and fed the chickens nearby! A few of these individually numbered and signed prints - £30.00 - are still available from **Jonathan Phillips Tel: 01993 850321.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Methodist Chapel

Sunday December 3rd: Christmas Carols, The Romany, 8pm

Sunday December 10th: Carols by Candlelight 6pm

Sunday December 24th: Family Service at 11am

St Mary's

December 24th: Midnight Mass 11.30pm

December 25th: Family Eucharist 10.30am

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Carterton

December 25th: Mass 9.00am - St. Mary's Church,, Bampton

For other services and more information, please see notice board in Church porch or Tel: 01993 842463

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By David Hawkins, Vice Chairman

Concerns about Station Road Chicane: Parish Councillors continue to receive concerns about the safety of the Station Road chicane. We have relayed these concerns to Oxfordshire Highways and you will note from their reply in mid July (printed in full later in this Beam) that they also have noted the aggressive nature of a few motorists heading at speed out of the village. Highways continue to monitor all 4 chicanes and we have been promised two places at the meeting that OCC will hold to decide the way ahead. Please call me on 851066 if you have any suggestions that I can relay to Highways.

HGV's on Buckland Road: The 18 ton weight limit on Tadpole Bridge, introduced in mid August, is working well but not without a few transgressions. If you see large HGV's which are obviously loaded and heading along Buckland Road; please record their registration numbers and any markings on the vehicle and pass these details to the clerk on 851476.

Extensive Use of Recreation Ground: No less than 5 football pitches are being used as we start the new football season. Five senior teams plus 5 youth teams are now using our great facilities and much credit must go to Ray Willis, our Pavilion Manager, for rearranging the siting of the 5 pitches. We understand that about 150 youngsters are registered with the various youth teams. Unfortunately the rabbit population has decided to invade the Recreation Ground and all sports managers have to fill the many holes before each game. Various measures have been used to reduce their numbers but, in the end, we may have to surround the pitches with a well designed **but expensive** fence.

Renovation of Tennis Courts: After 10 years of use the 2 tennis courts badly needed a face lift. This has now been completed and the Tennis Club are hopeful that membership of their club will now increase significantly. Membership is extremely cheap (children pay only £5 per year) and, if you are interested, please call

Karen Easterbrook, Tel: 850772 or Andrew Mann,

Bollard Outside the Butchers: At last!! after several reminders to the County Council, the bollard that was broken when thieves ram-raided the bank many months ago, has been replaced.

Tennis Court Improvements: The tennis courts have been resealed and repainted recently and are now in excellent condition. Our thanks go to WODC for their grant of £1260 towards this project from their Sport & Active Recreation fund. We now need lots more people to use this great facility. Subs are probably the lowest in Oxon, For more information contact Karen Easterbrook Tel: 850772.

Use if the Pavilion: Please contact Ray Willis Tel: 01993 852483 or Mob: 07766 264684 if you would like to book this excellent facility.

REPORT FROM YOUR LOCAL POLICE

See the light

By PC Steve Patrick

As with most articles written at this time of year, I shall make no apology by opening with a comment about the evenings having well and truly drawn in, and that Christmas will soon be upon us. Returning briefly to the darker evenings, I would just like to take this opportunity to remind residents how timer switches are a cheap and very effective deterrent against burglary. Just one timer switch on your living room lamp could make the difference between a potential burglar stopping at your house one evening when you're out, or moving onto the next property that's in total darkness. Being the victim of burglary can be an alarming and distressing experience but it's down to each and every one of us to try and safeguard our own property and reduce the chance of becoming a victim.

On a positive note, at the time of writing this article, an 18 year old man has recently been arrested who has admitted to committing in excess of 50 distraction burglaries across the country, 2 of them being in Bampton.

There is no doubt that he is looking at a lengthy custodial sentence.

Anti-Social Drivers BEWARE

Over the summer I had cause to speak to several drivers down at the recreation ground car park by the skate ramps, following complaints about loud music and would-be rally drivers performing handbrake turns on the gravel. Not only is this annoying to those living close by, but also to the volunteers who maintain the recreation ground facilities, which includes the skate park, who seem to be continually having to rake and re-rake the car park gravel.

To those I have already spoken to, and any other up and coming *DJ Paddy Hopkirks* out there, let me draw your attention to Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. This refers to vehicles being used in a manner which causes alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. This Act gives powers to the Police to seize vehicles from those drivers, or owners, who fail to heed a warning against the continuance of such behaviour. The warning, which is an official one, lasts for a period of 12 months and applies to both the driver, or owner, and the vehicle. That is to say, if the same driver uses another vehicle in a similar manner within 12 months of being warned, or the same vehicle under the same circumstances is being used by different driver, then those vehicles can still be seized. "Can I get my car back"? I hear you ask. Well, yes you can, but currently at a cost of £105 in respect of the vehicle's removal and £12 for each 24 hour period, or part thereof, during which the vehicle is impounded. While I'm quoting Acts and Sections, can I also point out Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. This makes it an offence to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle, without lawful authority, on common land, moorland or land not forming part of the road, or on any road which is a footpath, bridleway or restricted by-way. A conviction for this offence could result in a fine.

I'm not a killjoy, but let's not tear up our sports facilities and footpaths, but use and enjoy them as they were intended - that is for the use of the community, not the abuse of the minority.

District Council Report

By Mark Booty West Oxfordshire District Council

In my view, Bampton, Clanfield and Black Bourton are in, undoubtedly, one of the best areas in the entire country to live, and one of my jobs as District Councillor is to work with all of the people who live here. The Parish Councils, The County Council and even National Government try and keep our area both desirable and viable.

When I first became your Councillor I certainly took some time to know my way around the system. Now some three and a half years later my committee workload involves:

- Vice Chairman of Licensing
- Vice Chairman of Lowland Planning
- Human Resources Committee
- Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny
- Best Value Services review for young people

In addition I represent WODC as a Director of Cotsway Housing.

Those are the ones where I get to speak and vote. I will also attend other committees where I can speak but not vote unless I am a substitute for someone who cannot attend.

Much of the work which goes in can be decided at District level but equally many decisions are at County or National level so lobbying and applying pressure to the members of those bodies is also essential. To give some examples, the recent imposition of the weight restriction at Tadpole Bridge was a county decision made after years of lobbying by Parish, District and other organisations. The Chicanes in Bampton came from similar lobbying for Traffic calming.

Both the above changes to the traffic system go to prove that people seldom get anything absolutely right first time. Tadpole Bridge with a weight restriction has obvious positive implications to heavy goods vehicle movements, but unfortunately has had an adverse effect on some very local businesses who have a more occasional need to use the bridge. Something has to be done to tidy this up.

The Chicanes, which seem to have

pretty much universal hatred, have actually lowered the average speed of vehicles through the village by 10 miles per hour while at the same time making entering or leaving the village particularly on Station Road more exciting than it ought to be. This again is unfinished business.

We have more housing in both Bampton and Clanfield. Cotsway Housing and other Registered Social Landlords continue to try and develop other sites and most of the houses which now become available are being offered to local people which is something I fought for at District Council and is now policy. We still need more housing but it is essential it is built in the right places as we will be leaving whatever we build today as a future legacy to future generations.

Waste collection and recycling is a huge issue and it strikes me as odd that the recycling boxes are the hardest things to move around, yet the wheely bin which contains the residual stuff is easier and this does not encourage recycling. The reality is that the whole waste industry is and will develop new technologies which will change the way we handle and collect waste over the coming years, and anything we do at the moment (fortnightly collection of wheely bins if it happens) is a temporary fix.

Much of what we do in our many meetings involves protecting what we already have and perhaps take for granted for example stopping any creeping deterioration in Health Provision, Policing, Education, and the environment in general. These things which we accept as normal only become topical with most people when the media make them an issue. But at Council level they are discussed and fought for all the time, and when we succeed in maintaining a service nobody will notice because nothing has changed.

There is and will I believe remain a battle to keep local shops, Post Offices and Public Houses (I think it would be a good idea to give some of the District Councils one stop shop and visitor information centre tasks to

Post offices).

It cannot have escaped your notice that we have just lost Tinknells from Clanfield and the hardware shop in Bampton within a few weeks of each other. We must encourage new businesses to promote our local economy. So at District level the job I try and do on your behalf is to get improvements to the District where possible and stop those policies which make things worse.

Weekly recycling collections to continue

West Oxfordshire District Council is reassuring residents that weekly household recycling collections will continue as part of its commitment to boost recycling rates in the District. Plans are also to add additional recycling with a separate weekly kitchen waste collection. This will cause a reduction in residual waste allowing the non-recyclable bins to be collected fortnightly. It is forecasted that these changes will not be implemented until 2008 at the earliest.

"The amount of waste going to landfill has to be reduced substantially, so doing nothing is not an option," says Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment. "Because our current household waste collection system is very popular, we have looked at all the options available to us and believe that the one we are proposing is the best for our residents."

Cllr Harvey continues, "Councils throughout the country are moving to fortnightly collections, which cause concerns that after two weeks food waste will smell and attract flies, particularly during the summer. This is why we are proposing a separate weekly collection of kitchen food waste, which will be taken for composting and have the additional advantage of increasing our recycling." The Council is proposing to continue with its chargeable garden waste collection service, but will be encouraging residents to compost more at home as part of a general drive to minimise waste.

Failure to meet Government targets in

2010 will lead to penalties for authorities who are not diverting enough of their waste from landfill. The fines will be high at £150 a tonne and fall on local tax payers, so all local authorities not currently meeting these targets are likely to be introducing new systems. In Oxfordshire there is a county-wide agreement to reduce waste and each Council is reviewing their current waste collections.

Householders go green for waste collection scheme

More than 600 tonnes of green waste from West Oxfordshire households has been composted instead of land-filled since the launch of a new District Council scheme six months ago. More than 2,500 households have signed up to the Green Waste Scheme to benefit from fortnightly green waste collections and help divert their waste from landfill sites.

The scheme, which includes hire of a 240 litre wheeled bin, was launched in April following a successful trial in the District last year. Householders who joined at the beginning paid £30, which covered the cost of hiring the bin and fortnightly collections. It is still possible for people to sign up for the six remaining months of the scheme. The cost for anyone joining in October is £21.

Collected waste is taken to Agrivert at Showell Farm, Radcot, where it is turned into compost. This reduces the need for peat-based compost and helps conserve UK peat bogs and their endangered species, as well as cutting the amount of waste going to landfill. This is particularly important because, as it decomposes, green waste breaks down to form leachate, a toxic liquid that can pollute water and soil, and methane gas, which contributes to global warming.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment, said the scheme had so far been a great success and encouraged other householders to give it a try.

He said: "We are all responsible for cutting waste and reducing the pressure on landfill sites, so it is wonderful that so many tonnes of green waste have been recycled into a useful product like compost."

"With the autumn leaves falling, it is a good time for people to sign up and make the most of this service, while helping the environment." Anyone wishing to sign up can do so online at www.westoxon.gov.uk, by Emailing green.waste@westoxon.gov.uk,

West Oxfordshire Nightsafe Radio Link set up in Witney

Nightsafe pubs and clubs in Witney have all been issued with walkie talkie radios to enable them to communicate with each other and with the town centre CCTV Control Room.

A £7,000 Home Office grant was used to purchase the equipment and 15 licensed premises have been issued with radios to help tackle alcohol related crime and disorder and deal more effectively with known trouble makers.

Cllr Barry Norton, Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "Nightsafe is now operating in 60 premises across the District and each has agreed a charter, which includes joining the local Pubwatch scheme, displaying high visibility posters about responsible drinking and ensuring that bar staff are trained on managing alcohol misuse. The radio scheme in Witney will complement the CCTV scheme and provide additional 'eyes and ears'."

Inspector Andy Higgs, who has responsibility for Licensing in West Oxfordshire, said: "The police in Witney have a good relationship with licensees and we believe these radios will assist us in being informed about incidents earlier and preventing them escalating. Each premise has been issued with a handset and a user protocol and we have been testing the radios during the World Cup. There have already been incidents involving public order and anti social behaviour in the town centre where the radio has been used."

Mark Wates, the owner of Nortons Café Bar in Witney who is supporting the initiative, said: "The Community Safety Partnership and Licensees in Witney have achieved a significant amount in the past year. We launched Nightsafe in November, have issued out over 10,000 spikies, we recently held a World Cup Nightsafe Cam-

paign, and now each licensed premises has a radio. It's a real team effort and I think during the last year there have been significantly less problems in the Town."

Electric blankets fail the test

At a recent electric blanket safety testing session in Witney, 43% were deemed unsafe to use.

Residents had their blankets tested free as part of a joint home safety scheme run by West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. Out of the 86 blankets brought in for testing in Witney 38 failed, although one of these was repaired.

"Although I am pleased that so many people have brought their blankets in for testing, the fact that such a high number were unsafe is extremely worrying," said Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for the Environment. "Faulty blankets are a common cause of fires and the best advice for anyone with a blanket that is more than 10 years old, or showing signs of wear, is to get a new one."

Electric Blanket Dangers

Old or damaged electric blankets cause more than 5,000 fires a year in the UK. Each year around 20 people are killed and 100 injured as a result of such fires. Research has shown that blankets that are 10 years old, or older, are responsible for 99% of these fires.

The danger signs are:

- Worn or frayed fabric
- Scorch marks
- Tie tapes (if originally fitted) damaged or missing
- Flex worn or damaged
- Loose electrical connections
- Damaged or displaced heating wires (hold the blanket up to the light to check).

It is advised to always buy new and look out for a European Certification Mark such as the new BEAB safety mark.

For more information on any of the above please contact:

Samantha Simpson or Carys Davies
Publicity Office Tel: 861616/861615
Mob: 07771 965360. Email - carys.davies@westoxon.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS CRIME 2006

Thames Valley Police

Bill Butcher, Crime Prevention Advisor, gives the following seasonal update: "As I walked along the aisles in Sainsbury's during the month of September and noticed the advent calendars on sale I realised that the Christmas season gets earlier each year, not only for the supermarkets but perhaps for the criminals too.

"Discretion is the watch word and I advise you not to keep all your cash in one place. Be discreet when getting the money out to pay for the goods, don't show how much you have, use a purse or wallet and extract the amount you need to tender. I appreciate it's not everybody's cup of tea but consider using your debit card rather than carrying too much cash. Remember if you draw cash from the hole in the wall be aware of people standing too close and for slight abnormalities to the equipment. If in doubt don't use them. Perhaps you could consider the cash back facility offered by many retailers. Instances of such crimes are rare but you need to be vigilant.

"Having purchased your goods, what do you do with them? Again be discreet. I know it's difficult when you've got bag upon bag but do try and keep your shopping close to you to avoid having them snatched. Be aware also, in crowded shopping malls, that there are some people ready to pick-a-pocket or steal a purse from a bag. One way to avoid being laden down with bags is to make frequent trips back to your car, but this too may cause a problem. If you do have to do this then again, be discreet and as they say in all the best pantomimes "Look behind you!" Are there people loitering, watching what you are doing? When you return to the next phase of your shopping ordeal they could break into your car. When you place items in your car place them in the boot out of sight.

"Having finished traipsing around the shops you arrive home; what then? Don't pile all your gifts under a well lit Christmas tree in a window for all to see. Most burglaries are opportunist and if a motivated criminal walks along a street and sees what he be-

lieves to be his Santa's grotto he will try and enter it in order to steal. "When Christmas is over and all the presents have been unwrapped don't leave the cartons out for the dustman. What an advert for the criminal. The box outside tells them that a Play Station 3 or X Box is in the adjacent house. If possible break up the box so it fits in the bin or take it to the recycling bins away from your home.

"I appear to have given the impression that the modern day Fagin and his gang is lurking at every corner, well actually that's humbug; West Oxfordshire is a safe place to live, work and to shop. All I want you to do is to be aware and take care. Most criminals are opportunists and I don't want you to provide the opportunity.

"Finally talking about crime I will mention one particular crime that doesn't normally come into my remit as a crime reduction advisor but as this has a Christmas theme I feel I must mention it. Drink-Driving is a very serious crime as a result of which people get seriously injured or killed. My advice is don't drink and drive and certainly don't think that you'll be below the limit simply because you've had some sleep since your last drink. It takes the same amount of time for alcohol to be absorbed whether you're asleep or awake. Having said all that I wish you a safe, secure and a very happy Christmas."

Victoria Bartlett
Oxfordshire Communications Officer



WhosMyBobby.co.uk

A new website called www.whosmybobby.co.uk, officially launched in September, has already attracted over 45,000 hits.

So what does

WhosMyBobby.co.uk
have to offer?

- Each parish in West Oxfordshire has a dedicated Police Neighbourhood Team and www.whosmybobby.co.uk enables internet users in the region to find their local police officer's name and contact details. There's even a photo of each officer so they can be easily recognised and a team poster which can be downloaded;

- Monthly updates from the Neighbourhood Sergeants and press releases provide regular information on what's happening in each local area;

- Additional features such as competitions will run occasionally and there's also a **free** email sign-up service which delivers notification direct to your inbox when new information is added to the site so why not sign up today?

WhosMyBobby.co.uk -

is an additional information point for internet users but it won't replace uniformed patrols that provide visible reassurance to communities. Our network of familiar neighbourhood officers and five Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) will remain and **WhosMyBobby.co.uk** will provide communities with information on what is being done to tackle local priorities. Visit the website today to find out more about your local area.

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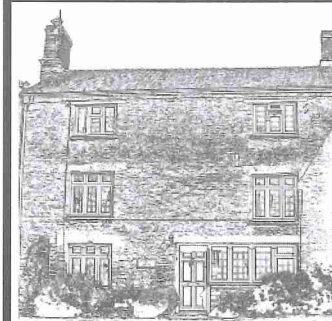
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Weald, Bampton
Oxon. OX18 2HX
Tel: 01993 851458

Oxfordshire Highways Report

Bampton: Station Road Chicane Investigation

(Excerpt)

A. Summary

The chicane is:-

- fulfilling the objective by reducing traffic speeds in both directions at that location.
- reducing the traffic speed from approximately 40mph (pre chicane) to approximately 30mph (post chicane) at the site.
- deemed as safe as there has been no reports of accidents directly associated with the chicane since its construction and has been assessed by the County's Road Safety Team.
- to remain unaltered with the recently installed additional advanced warning traffic signs.

It is the conclusion of Oxfordshire County Council from these results that the observed aggression at the chicane is due to driver behaviour and inappropriate traffic speeds of traffic leaving Bampton approaching the chicane and having priority over traffic entering.

Therefore drivers need to be educated to adhere to the imposed traffic speed restriction and to drive appropriately to the road conditions within Bampton.

B. Survey Objectives

To measure the traffic speeds in both directions at certain points along Station Road to determine if the observations made by the Safety Audit team were valid that the northbound traffic are approaching the chicane above the 30 mph speed regulation imposed on the road.

C. Survey Methodology

Traffic speeds were measured in both directions for a period of 14 days 24 hours at point along Station Road for a total distance of 307m from Landells Junction to the bend north of the chicane.

The data was collected automatically and a summary of the speeds at hourly intervals was collated.

D. Results

The chicane speed was measured in July 2005 which measured the 85%ile ranging from 30.7 to 31 mph northbound traffic and 28.8 to 29.2 mph for southbound traffic.

The traffic speed before the chicane was installed was measured in June 2003 and measured the 85%ile ranging from 41.4 to 42.5 mph northbound traffic and 39.8 to 40.9 mph for southbound traffic.

The results show the following:-

Northbound traffic are travelling above the 30mph speed regulation within Bampton and seem to ignore the advanced warning traffic signs warning them of on coming traffic in the middle of the road ahead and the reduced visibility due to the boundary wall and the bend. The traffic speed dips marginally just before the chicane but still above 30mph then once through the chicane northbound traffic speed increases significantly by 10mph to its cruising speed within 18m from the chicane suggesting aggressive driver behaviour as they have priority over the southbound traffic.

Southbound traffic decelerates as they approach the chicane and a significant volume of traffic travel through the chicane at 30mph before accelerating above 30 mph in the 30mph speed restriction within Bampton a similar pattern seen with the northbound traffic

E. Conclusion

Both south/northbound traffic are travelling above the 30mph speed restriction imposed within Bampton which proves that the chicane influence on traffic speeds is limited to the chicane only and other traffic calming features are necessary within Bampton in support of the chicane to encourage lower traffic speeds with Bampton.

Northbound traffic are ignoring advanced warning traffic signs and restricted visibility which indicates familiarity of the site and the drivers know they have priority ahead which increase their confidence they will not held up.

Northbound traffic accelerate significantly immediately after leaving the chicane still within the speed restriction indicating aggressive driver behaviour and demonstrating their dominance over southbound traffic due to the priority system.

The observed aggression is due to the inappropriate speed and aggressive behaviour by northbound drivers who are refusing to drive appropriately to the conditions of the area and to the speed regulations which confirms the observations reported by the Safety Auditors.

Therefore chicane and associated traffic signs are to remain as both directions of traffic speeds have been successfully reduced by approximately 10mph at the chicane which achieves the objective of the chicane.

A LETTER TO THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING THE SAFETY AUDIT CHECKS ON THE CHICANES

Dear David

Bampton Traffic Calming

Oxfordshire County Council routinely conducts Safety Audit checks by independent engineers on any highway scheme to ensure that any modification to the highway will not introduce any safety hazard to the travelling public.

Such audits are routinely carried out during the design stage and what is called a Stage 4 Safety Audit is carried out at a suitable period after construction. This particular audit is to assess the safety of the scheme after the public have been granted sufficient time to familiarise and adjust to the new arrangement.

A Stage 4 Safety Audit has recently been carried out on this scheme which has identified a few concerns.

As you have kindly brought to my attention in the past the bollards adjacent to the live carriageway on some chicanes are vulnerable to being struck by passing vehicles and the auditors are concerned that the chicanes are not conspicuous. This is to be addressed by replacing all the bollards at risk of being struck with rebound, highly reflective non-illuminated bollards manufactured by TMP Ltd.

Also highlighted is the likelihood of on-carriageway ponding in the vicinity of the chicanes due to the undulating nature of the carriageway. This cannot be completely eliminated, however to reduce the hazard at the chicanes verge grips will be installed to allow surface carriageway water to gain access to the adjacent ditch where possible or be allowed to pond off carriageway and soak away safely in the verge.

Auditors expressed concern regarding the chicane located on Station Road and what appears to be high approach speeds of the northbound traffic towards the chicane and the driver's reluctance of the north traffic to allow southbound traffic sufficient space to complete their manoeuvre should the southbound traffic be caught within the chicane or 'tail gating' behind a larger vehicle, resulting in some cases of aggressive exchanges and the potential of resulting in an accident.

There has been neither evidence nor written reports of accidents occurring at the chicane and those reported verbally are circumstantial. Therefore at this stage it is thought the current situation is due to the driver's inappropriate response to the situation with the apparent disregard to proceed with due care and attention necessary and is not due to any fault of either the design or construction as this situation is peculiar to this particular chicane.

Also our County Council Traffic Safety Officer stated after observing this chicane recently '*this general type of treatment (i.e. single lane capacity created by build out(s) have been quite widely used at the entries to villages in the county over the past 5 years and more. In general they appear to work satisfactorily in safety terms (as measured by injury accidents reported to the police in the immediate vicinity of the build out) although it is by no means uncommon to see evidence of vehicle strikes etc which are presumably in the main damage only incidents*'.

It is recognised the wall on the corner behind the west footway in Bampton on the north approach to the chicane is restricting the advanced visibility of the chicane. However the wall falls outside the recommended safe sighting distance for a 30mph speed limit to the narrowing. Also there is sufficient advance warning traffic signs which are there to notify drivers they are approaching a narrowing and to proceed with caution with the likelihood of on coming traffic within the narrowing which the driver should be prepared to stop if necessary.

As it is thought to be inappropriate traffic speed approaching the chicane it is the County's intention to monitor and review the situation in 6 months. As part of the monitoring regime speed checks will be taken in both directions either side of the chicane in the attempt to demonstrate if traffic speed is a significant contributory factor.

I will notify you when the work outlined in this letter will be carried out and keep you informed of the 6 monthly review.

In general I am sure you will agree the scheme has succeeded in the main objective of reducing the traffic speed at the chicane locations in both directions.

Yours sincerely

Ralph Green

Assistant Engineer- Transport Projects Implementation

Bampton Footpaths

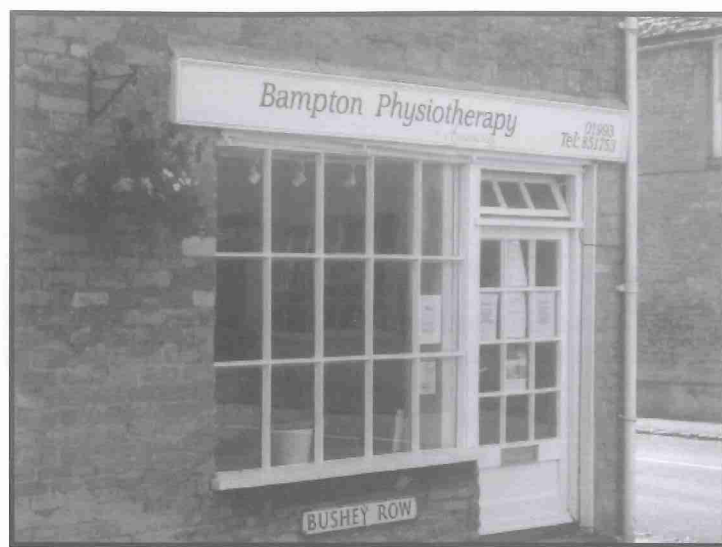
Do you run or walk the footpaths around Bampton? If so you will want to see them in a fit state to use all year round. BEWG tries to ensure this by reporting any problems to get the path restored to its proper condition. The BEWG committee is small and there are a lot of paths around Bampton. Quite a challenge to monitor them all ourselves. We would therefore welcome as much help as possible from those who use the paths in letting us know where work is needed. If you would be willing to adopt a path or paths, take a walk up to 4 times a year spread across the seasons, and report any difficulties to me, please contact me, details below. With your help I can then set up a scheme to try to cover all the footpaths and hopefully keep them all well maintained.

Even if you do not want to be part of the scheme you can report any problems to me. You can reach me Tel: 01993 850414 Email: grayner@btinternet.com or at Brook House, Bridge Street.

Bampton Physiotherapy & Associates

By Fiona Farmer MCSP DipMDT

The 5th June 2006 saw a new venture for Bampton at Bushey Court. Fiona Farmer, Physiotherapist has worked in the Bampton area since 1994 and moved into the old Garden Trading



Bampton Physiotherapy

shop on Bushey Row, as a permanent home for her expanding business.

Fiona Farmer MCSP DipMDT. Fiona has been a Physiotherapist for 20 years, specialising in musculoskeletal Physiotherapy and Sports injuries. She qualified in Nottingham in 1986 and worked within the National Health Service in various posts until 1992. Shortly after qualifying, Fiona became involved in sports Physiotherapy and was Physiotherapist to the British Paralympic Association, attending Paralympic Games in Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta as well as many other trips with teams abroad.

After a period working at the National Sports Centre, Bisham Abbey, she travelled to New Zealand for 3 months to study at the world-famous McKenzie Institute and now holds a Diploma in Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy (one of around 20 people in the UK to do so). McKenzie Therapy is a much researched and validated method of treating back, neck and joint pain by putting the patient at the centre of the treatment and where

possible using exercise and posture to produce long-term, lasting, independent relief from pain and disability. Fiona lectured for the McKenzie Institute both in the UK and worldwide for 10 years and she remains Associate Faculty with the Institute.

Fiona has also practised Acupuncture for 17 years and continues to update her knowledge and skills on a regular basis. She is a member of the Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists, a body who regulate and train practitioners. Acupuncture can be useful for pain relief in a wide range of conditions from headache and migraine to arthritic knees and other joints and can be useful when used in connection with other therapies.

Fiona is currently undertaking a part-time MSc in Professional Studies through the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen and also in the final stages of completing studies in Bowen Therapy. Bowen Therapy is a gentle remedial therapy of muscle rolling which has been shown to produce benefit in a wide range of conditions from aches and pains in joints and

spine to asthma, hay-fever, jaw problems, chronic fatigue, bed-wetting and sinus problems. She is looking for volunteers to receive FREE therapy to complete her case studies for the qualification and so if you have some kind of problem and would like to know more please ring the clinic **Tel: 01993 851753** and ask to speak to her. Fiona is skilled in all aspects of Rehabilitation from post-operative care to back pain, manipulation, Clinical Pilates and core stability training as well as sports injuries and chronic conditions. She lives in Bampton with her husband and 2 children who attend local schools.

Sarah Showan MCSP MSc BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

Sarah joined the practice in October 2005 and brought a host of skills with her. She qualified in 1993 from King's College, London and holds an MSc in manipulative Physiotherapy. She has also studied Clinical Pilates and runs 3 Pilates classes a week for the practice. Pilates is especially valuable in the long-term management of back problems and provides a means of strengthening the core to prevent future back problems. The practice boasts a range of Pilates equipment including a reformer table and trapeze equipment for individual use by patients as well as running group



Reception

classes.

Sarah is also skilled in the treatment of sports injuries and also taping for injury as well as other forms of hands-on therapy, muscle retraining and manipulation. She lives in Witney with her husband and 2 small children.

Pilates classes:

Mondays 10.30 – 11.30 at Bampton Youth Centre

Wednesdays 10.30 -11.30 at Bampton Youth Centre

Thursdays 8pm -9pm at Bampton Bush Club.

Classes are run in sets of 6 classes and booking is essential.

Liz Jeffrey Personal Trainer and Sports Massage Therapist

Liz works at the Witney lakes resort as a trainer and attends the practice as required for sessions of sports massage. Whether you require post-exercise massage or thorough neck and back, Liz can provide it at your convenience.

Steve Christie Yoga Teacher

Steve is an experienced yoga teacher who runs a class for us every Wednesday evening in the dining room of the Bush Club. Steve believes in slow relaxing poses for maximum relaxation and flexibility. The class runs from 7.15 -8.45 pm. No booking required just turn up! A great stress buster for all ages and abilities (men welcome too!)

Mary Hopper MSc PgDipEd DipCPC RGN RSCN RM RCNT - Counsellor

Mary joins the practice in October 2006 to provide counselling services. She is a Nationally accredited Counsellor who is a member of BACP and accredited by ACC. She is trained in 1st and 2nd level critical incident and trauma work to include debriefing. Mary is also a registered adult and child nurse and a practising Midwife. She is also a senior Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University. She sees adults, couples and children and is keen to begin therapy groups for people with self-harm/ bulimia and post-natal depression. She runs training days and workshops. She is able to work with depression, anger management, self-harm, anorexia and bulimia, relationship issues, attachment grief and loss issues around child-bearing, anxiety and panic attacks, phobias and bullying.

Caroline Dew and Clare Holford Receptionists

Caroline and Clare work together to provide office skills for the practice. A great time to call is in the morning (weekdays) between 9-12 when the office is usually manned and your queries can be answered and appointments made. At other times, if you leave a message your call will always be returned as soon as possible.

The Practice

At the practice all our people are fully qualified and insured. The treatment we provide aims to be prompt, streamlined, effective and efficient. We offer mainstream evidence-based medical treatment as well as alternative therapy. We strive to equip our patients with the skills needed to continue their own recovery and prevention without the need for treatment for life. You may be referred for treatment by your Specialist or Doctor and you may also refer yourself! We can make contact with Doctors and Specialists where necessary.

We deal with all the major Medical Insurance companies and accept payment by card, cheque and cash. We are also able to refer for very competitively priced MRI scanning at the Cobalt Unit at Cheltenham – please ask us for details.

For all enquiries and appointments please contact - Tel: 01993 851753, E m a i l - bamptonphysio@btconnect.com

Or pop in and see us. We offer appointments weekdays mornings afternoons and evenings and occasionally on Saturdays.

Finally, are you a Therapist with full qualification and insurance? Are you looking for somewhere to practice? **Give Fiona a call Tel: 01993 851753.**



For girls aged 10 – 14 who love fun and adventure!

1st Bampton Guide Unit was launched in February and has gone from strength to strength. We now have 15 Guides, 4 enthusiastic volunteer leaders/helpers and are officially registered at Girlguiding UK Headquarters in London.

We offer an exciting programme of activities in weekly meetings, days out and special events. Girls benefit by:

- making friends and having fun;
- being encouraged to fulfil their potential;
- taking part in challenging activities; and
- being encouraged to work for the benefit of the wider community in which we live.

The Guides have a big input into choosing activities and so far things we have got up to include:

- camp fire cooking;
- helping the SPAJERS with raffle tickets at the Shirt Race;
- swimming at Carterton Leisure Centre;
- junk modelling;
- watching the Movies on the Move showing of The Narnia Chronicles; and
- fitness and healthy eating badges.

Over the summer we enjoyed a camp

BAMPTON PHYSIOTHERAPY & ASSOCIATES

Fiona Farmer MCSP Dip MDT

Chartered Physiotherapist
Registered with the Health Professions Council
Bushey Court, Bushey Row
Bampton, Oxon OX18 2JU

Tel/Fax 01993 851753

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at Girlguiding Berkshire's county campsite. We had a variety of weather – starting off with a torrential down pour whilst we were pitching our tents followed by some lovely summer sun. Amongst other things we cooked all our meals on wood fires, enjoyed grass sledging and archery and learnt new songs at a camp fire with Guides from other parts of Oxfordshire. New members aged 10 – 14 are always welcome - contact Liz and arrange to come along to a Guide night to find out more. You might also like to check out www.girlguiding.org.uk/new/guides. Girlguiding UK generally is so successful and relevant to modern girls and young women that we are always on the look out for more volunteer adults to help reduce our 50,000

strong national joining list. There are a variety of flexible roles working with girls and young women from age 5 upwards as well as support roles including admin and accounts. In particular in Bampton we are looking for a weekly volunteer to cover one of our leader's maternity leave for 1½ terms. You don't need any experience just some spare time and bags of enthusiasm. If you were a Guide or leader in the area in the past we would love to hear from you and find out how things have changed. Contact Liz to find out more. Tel: 07733 320113 (evenings) www.girlguiding.org.uk

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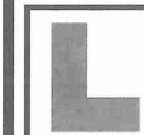
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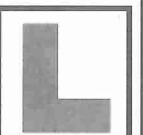
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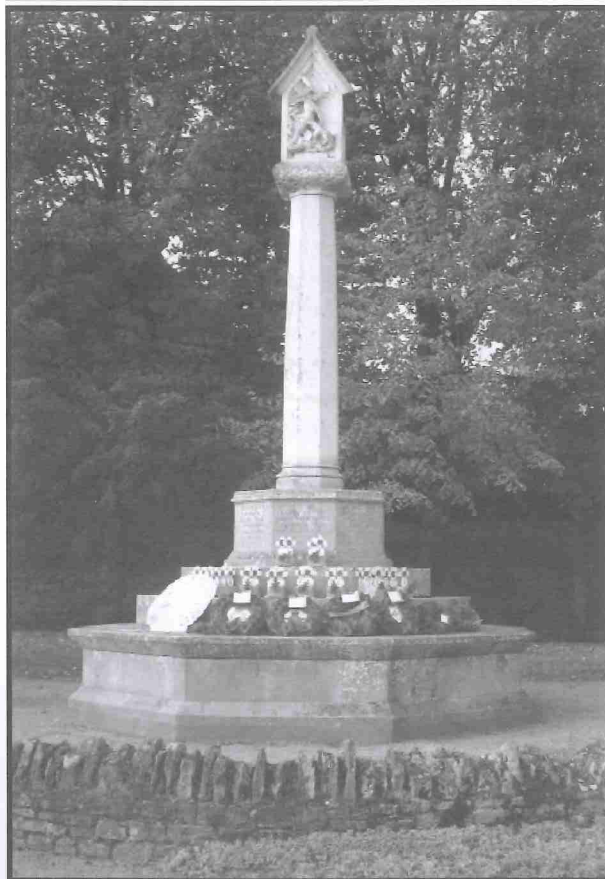
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Remembrance Day



Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial. A wonderful turnout again from the Village. The Rev. David Lloyd led the service, with Jonathan Phillips leading The Royal British Legion delegation. Gary Gummer was the RBL Standard Bearer this year. Wreaths were laid by the RAF, RBL, Parish Council, Fire Service, Army Cadets, Youth Club, Primary School, Brownies, and the Junior Church. On the War Memorial itself were 58 crosses donated by Lynne Shuker; one for each of the Bampton men lost in the two World Wars.

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(1418)

LETTERS and E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Over the last few months I have been more aware of the younger folk of Bampton using the War Memorial as a meeting place, were they eat Chinese and drink alcohol and leave their rubbish lying about.

I wonder if they are aware of the price that was paid by men and women, maybe even some of their relatives, for this memorial to be constructed in the first place. How these men and women felt when they left Bampton to go to war, not knowing that this in fact was the last time they were to see their loved ones.

I feel it is disrespectful and a disgrace that these young folk feel that it is fine for them to jump all over and misuse this place where on Remembrance Sundays people gather to remember those who didn't come back.

So, could parents please spend a little time just explaining to their children what the memorial stands for and if you are aware that it is your young person/s who I am talking about please request that they stop misusing this place that stands for so much to so many of us who live in Bampton.

Kind regards

Stephen Radband
Fox Close, Bampton

Dear Editor

Old Apple and pear Trees of Bampton I have an old apple tree in my garden and I have often wondered about its age, and by chance when looking through a magazine I saw an article about a plant nursery researching old apple trees in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

I wrote to the nursery and before long received a phone call from Derek Tal-

bot very interested to visit my tree.

When he saw my tree he was intrigued as it appears to be two trees in one. In fact he informed me that years ago people used to cut down old trees and root new ones by splitting open the trunk of the old tree and rooting the new on the old root stock. However, with my tree it would appear they may never have cut down the old tree but just split the trunk and planted a new tree in the opening. It was difficult to age the tree but he said not less than 100 years but probably nearer 150 years old. He also looked at some of my neighbours' apple and pear trees and believes they are a similar age.

He took away with him some sample apples from all our trees and is going to try and match them up with known varieties. However, there are some 12,000 varieties of apple tree and only 1500 are documented so it is a bit like searching for a needle in a haystack. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Bampton turns out to have some long and lost variety.

Derek wants to come back to Bampton and search out other old trees around the Village so if you think you have an old apple or pear tree please let me know so I can organise a day for him visiting trees. He wants to take cuttings to root some of the old varieties so they can be saved from extinction.

Mary Lynne Winship
Corner Cottage, Church View
Bampton
Tel: 01993 851043

Dear Editor,

Readers may well be aware that the walk enjoyed over many years along the river Thames at Tadpole Bridge from the Trout pub up to Rushey Lock has been closed. After more than 23 years of open access the son of the owner has decided to block the footpath with a gate and barbed wire and allow only paying fishermen. This walk has been enjoyed by many Bampton residents and I am currently trying to get the County Council to modify the definitive map and have the footpath made a public right of way.

To achieve this it has to be proved by documentary evidence that the path has been used over a period of 20 years or more. Therefore I am gathering evidence from users of the path to prove that it has been used 'as a right'. I freaders would like to help then proformas can be obtained from The Cotton Club and returned there for my attention when completed. Even if you have only walked the path on a few occasions it is still of use to prove that it has been used over a number of years 'without interruption'.

The path has been used by many people over the years for legitimate use, it would be a shame to lose it now, please help this campaign by completing a Performa.

Yours truly
Matthew Box
2 Chetwynd Mead, Bampton

Sponsored Sea Dog Saunter
To all those people who very kindly sponsored us on our dog walk in aid of the RNLI, which took place on a very windy Saturday in early September, we would like to say a very big thank you.
Thanks to your generosity we raised just under £200.00 for a very good cause.

Well done.
Jill and Bob Gibson

Dear Editor,
Readers may well be aware that the walk enjoyed over many years along

BOTLEY FOOTCARE Rebecca Warner BSc (Hons) (pod)

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the river Thames at Tadpole Bridge from the Trout pub up to Rushey Lock has been closed. After more than 23 years of open access the son of the owner has decided to block the footpath with a gate and barbed wire and allow only paying fishermen. This walk has been enjoyed by many Bampton residents and I am currently trying to get the County Council to modify the definitive map and have the footpath made a public right of way.

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The path has been used by many people over the years for legitimate use, it would be a shame to lose it now, please help this campaign by completing a Performa.

Matthew Box, 2 Chetwynd Mead.

Sir

I was interested to read Fred Gray's defence of the village buildouts in the last Beam. I've been on-record from the start as being opposed to them - but keen on measures that will reduce vehicle speeds in the village and return the streets to us, Bampton's residents. Mr Gray says the only people who don't like the buildouts are drivers. Not so. I don't own a car. I cycle to work in Witney or use my motorcycle. For two-wheeled road users (groups which national and local government are trying to encourage) the buildouts are dangerous in the extreme.

I understand the County Council is now reviewing them (indicating in itself that there may be a problem or two...) There are, however, more serious, intrinsic, problems that will not be resolved simply by mending the scheme.

I believe there are three fundamental problems

1. The buildouts are intrinsi-

cally dangerous;

2. They are ugly and at odds with their village setting and
3. They don't slow traffic in the village centre.

The Station Road scheme in particular does not allow safe sightlines for traffic leaving and entering the village. A vehicle entering can easily be committed to passing through the bulldouts when it meets another car leaving the village and comes into conflict. This has, as I understand, already resulted in one - thankfully - non-injury accident. The County Council denies that there have been any crashes at all - but can't quite explain why the posts marking the scheme have nearly all been knocked down and replaced several times.

I have had several near misses on both a pedal cycle and a motorbike. I don't want to think about what would have happened had I not got out of an Earthline lorry's way last Friday morning when it was determined to come through the narrowing at the same time as me...

Government guidelines (and the Cycle Touring Club's local representative) recommend a separate cycle cut-through. There is no cut-through. I understand Government guidelines on cycling at traffic calming were consulted, but they don't seem to have been followed.

There are 18 signs on the Brize Norton approach to the calming alone. This seems, to an uninformed amateur like me, as approaching overkill. There are hard-edged, reflective plastic posts on the buildouts. Sodium street lighting illuminates them. The buildouts themselves are made from concrete blocks and black tar - materials

completely alien to the village. Yet these buildouts are either close to - or in - conservation areas. I understand the government guidelines on traffic calming in conservation areas were consulted but they don't seem - again - to have been followed.

Bampton is a beautiful village, but is now disfigured by these schemes, signs and lighting. These are not schemes that will be softened with a few flower tubs. And are they really finished - with left-over scraps of white paint still on the road? The Brize entrance to the village was a joy

with its swathe of wonderful flowers. This is now spoiled by the steel and concrete of the calming. But I truly weep for the suburban disfigurement of the tree-lined approach from Clanfield. It is almost as if the dead hands of the risk manager and the bureaucrat have set out to make the approaches to the village as ugly, sign-infested and urban as possible. The schemes do not slow traffic where it counts - in the village centre. At least, we don't KNOW that they do. A little disingenuously, the council has only surveyed speeds at the edges of the village. Pulling out of Church View or Church Street on my bike I notice no difference at all in traffic speeds. In fact, if anything, vehicles are driving faster - perhaps to make up a second or two, or perhaps simply from sheer frustration. Please - reconsider before going any further. This is dangerous, Neanderthal calming - traffic management from the Dark Ages. There are modern, attractive and effective ways of reducing traffic speeds without detracting so fundamentally from the village's ambience.

Yours faithfully, Mark McArthur-Christie1, Bourton Cottages.

Dear Editor

Response to Fred Gray's 'facts'

I have just been reading the July Bampton Beam with Fred Gray's comments on the chicanes around Bampton. Two things struck me about the article, the first was the derisory tone with which it was written, the second was the clear lack of insight.

I live in Bampton and as a part of my work I drive a large commercial vehicle. I have no problem with any of the chicanes except for the one in Station road. The only suitable description for this one is that it is downright dangerous.

In my particular vehicle, performance and acceleration are not options, when approaching Bampton from the Brize Norton direction, if I have to stop completely, it is a serious hazard to then get through the chicane before oncoming traffic appears from behind the wall of Manor Cottage, and that is when the oncoming traffic is observing the 30 MPH limit.

If, as on several occasions to date, the oncoming traffic is exceeding the 30

MPH limit, there is a very real risk of a head on collision while I am negotiating the chicane. There is absolutely nothing I can do more than hope and pray that when this happens they can brake faster than I can. On one occasion, a motorcyclist simply 'appeared' from behind the said garden wall and actually went through the chicanes outbound from Bampton as I came through them from Brize Norton. On this occasion, I was accelerating from Omph at the white lines, exactly as I should have done, if this had been a head on crash, I am sure any insurer would put the blame on me as supposedly I was to give way to what I could not see.

From my point of view, the problem is not with the traffic approaching from the Brize Norton direction as Mr Gray observes. Any driver coming from that direction is aware that he has to be able to stop if necessary. The problem as I see it, is traffic coming from the Bampton centre that has no intention of slowing down as they have the right of way. The fact is, that in cases involving vehicles such as mine, they have no choice, they have to slow down as I can't speed up, and

driving out of Bampton actually speed up going into the chicane, and it's they who are causing problems.

Sub-Ed

Dear Editor

Following discussion in the Beam, and media coverage, can it be that critics of the chicanes may be getting confused? Fred Gray's excellent summary (page 35, July Beam) should enlighten them and be required reading. It is sad that their debate is about drivers when it should be about all road users, especially pedestrians. And it is sad that critics make no mention of how dangerous Station Road was *before* the chicane. The Parish Survey said this was the No.1 'black spot'. I collated the data, so I should know. I defy anyone to prove that crossing the road there (for example) is not easier now.

I would add this to Fred's summary:

- We have no pedestrian crossings in Bampton because they were repeatedly refused by Oxfordshire Highways, due location rules. We do need crossings, but chicanes are the current step. We must thank the authorities for their efforts and funding.

Stuart Howlett

25th July one of the hottest days of the Summer when we sadly said goodbye to Stuart, he would have been absolutely astounded to say the least at the amount of friends and family who came to St Mary's Bampton, and later to our home, friends and family who had travelled from far a field and the friends whom Stuart had made over the years we had been in Ducklington and Bampton.

Stuart loved the Summer as soon as the long evenings arrived it would usually be get the BBQ out Kate and lets have a Gin and Tonic, or Stuart would go for a pint or two and have the usual banter with his many friends in the village pub, or maybe have a glass of wine or two over the fence with the neighbours.

Stuart always had a unique gift of being able to get on with so many people from all walks of life and treated them all with the same attention, we received messages and flowers from across the world, Michigan and Asia, from colleagues he had worked with before he retired from TI and set up his own Plumbing business.

My family would like to thank Bill, Stuarts friend of 30 years for reading a superb eulogy, and I would like to thank our children Konrad, Justine and Kelly for the strength they showed during this time and for passing it on to me.

Also special thanks to Rev David Battersby who added his own words about Stuart to the reading we had given to him, thanks to Lucy Willis and the District Nurses at Bampton from all of us for their care and support over the last year.

Lastly we would all like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who joined us on that day, and for all the kind offers of help and support we have received.

Kate Howlett, Konrad, Justine, Kelly, Andrew and Vivienne.

Dear Editor

Wittstock Rock Charity Music Festival 2006

I am writing to thank the landlord of the Romany Inn and all the people of

Bampton for welcoming our festival to the village at short notice. We have held a series of music events in South Oxfordshire for several years, helping to raise funds for a number of charities and to promote the musical talents of many Oxfordshire-based performers in a wide range of musical styles, but had encountered serious problems with our intended venue in South Hinksey this year when the field we had been promised was discovered to be seriously contaminated land. Richard at the Romany agreed to be a new host for us just two weeks before the event was due to take place and all the musicians and organisers were made to feel extremely welcome, not only by Richard and his excellent staff, but by all the local people we met. Not only did many villagers visit and share the music, but quite a few highly talented local youngsters also performed for us, and helped us to raise £957.45 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, the Guideposts Trust and Long Wittenham Youth Club. I am happy to say that, of the six festivals I have been principal organiser of, this one was the one I enjoyed the most.

Although my academic studies are taking me away to the coast next year, my colleagues on the festival team are very keen to come to Bampton for a musical weekend next year, and I very much hope that this will be the first of many such festivals in the environs of your beautiful village.

Many thanks to everyone
 Phil Garvey
 Principal Organiser, Wittstock Rock Charity Music Festival
 26 Murray Road, Wokingham
 Berkshire RG41 2TB

BAMPTON GARDENING CLUB
CHRISTMAS COFFEE
 Morning
 Town Hall 10am - 12noon
 Saturday 2nd December
 Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and mince pie.
 also
THE AGM
 Cheese and Wine
 Village Hall
 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS SALE

Lesley Williams - Pottery
 Anna Lever - Ceramic Sculpture
OPEN WEEKEND
 November 24th - 25th - 26th
 10am - 5pm
 Garden Studio-Drinks-Mince Pies
ALL WELCOME
 Stenton Cottage, 3 Bridge St. Bampton.
 Tel: 01993 851963

Children's Theatre : Sunday February 4th 2007 Knight Time

Ever wondered what it would be like to be a Knight? Join Jack as he enters the Knight Trials and finds that being a Knight is not all it's cracked up to be. The catchphrase of this full-tilt jousting show is "and the crowd goes wild!" and you will! Join the professional story-teller from ScratchBuilt Productions theatre company, who plays all the characters in this great new children's show, leaping about, shooting arrows and singing songs before he sets off to meet the dragon. Great action and puppetry, suitable for age 4+.

Performances at 1.30 and 3.30 at Southmoor Village Hall.
 Tickets £5 per person: available from Julia on 01865 821077

OUT AND ABOUT

Bampton Gardening Club Annual Show



The Contestants Arrive



The Judging



Open to the Public



The Prize Presentations

Donkey Derby Day : Well Attended As Usual



News from Bampton C of E Primary School

By Alison Bardsley

Bampton CE Primary School has seen a few changes this term.

Mrs Julia Evans took early retirement after 17 years service with the school, 7 of those as the Head teacher. The end of year barbeque included presentations from the parents and governors, performances of dancing and singing from the pupils, and a large cake, made up of individual cakes, one of which was given to each child in the school. The farewell was completed with Julia planting a tree in the school grounds.

Mrs Mary Dodge took up her role as the new Head teacher in September. She was previously deputy head at Wheatley Primary School. Mrs Dodge brings with her 30 years of teaching experience across all age groups at primary level. She was born and brought up in Belfast and her first post was in a school during the height of the troubles in Northern Ireland. She left there after eight years, then moved to London and taught in the boroughs of Richmond and Kingston. Twelve years ago she moved to Oxfordshire. During her time in Oxfordshire she spent most of it working at Wheatley Primary School.

Building extension work commenced in July and the school now has a new entrance hall, new administrative offices and an improved library area. The work, which includes a new car park with disabled parking, allows disabled access throughout the school. The school looks great and we have had many positive comments from parents and children.

As well as the arrival of the many new faces into Reception class, the school has also welcomed seven older children into the school, all of whom are new residents to Bampton.

Can You Help?

Following the extension, the next project is to enhance the school grounds. Some of the planting and a few trees were disturbed during the building work and the school hope to replace these and to add some more shrubs. Unfortunately, our gardening club is currently without a leader. Do you know anyone who would be willing to

give some help or advice to our young gardeners so we can continue to care for our environment? Please contact the school office **Tel: 01993 850371**.

Harvest Festival

Rev David Lloyd led the Harvest celebrations in the school and, as always, the children were very generous in their donations. A large number of food boxes were delivered to Simon House which supports homeless people.

Extra Curricular Activities

This year the children at Bampton have the opportunity to try out many different after school clubs such as hockey, football, art, guitar, netball, choir and recorder. The Hockey and Football teams are looking forward to their fixtures against the local schools this term. The choir are getting ready for their annual visit to The Bush Club where they will perform for the Senior Citizens.

Some children from Year 6 attended a Modern Languages day at Burford Secondary School. Since Bampton has introduced French into the curriculum, the pupils were able to practice what they had learnt and particularly enjoyed the European lunch.

200 Club

The 200 club was such a great success last year that we are continuing it again this year. We raised £2660 in total, we shared £1300 with the winners and the rest went to the school for their computer suite. Renewal letters were sent out to all the people in last years draw.

The tickets cost £20.00 per year. We hold a monthly draw for prizes of £50, £20, £10.00. Twice a year we have a grand draw with larger prizes.

If you wish to purchase a number this year and didn't get the chance last year then please contact Sam Smart on 01993 851694.

Recycling Cartridges/Mobile Phones

Recycling is high on the agenda in all of our lives. As part of our fundraising efforts we are collecting used ink cartridges and mobile phones. The only ones we don't accept are EPSON and Cannon.

So if you have old mobiles or inkjets why not drop them off at the Bampton School Office – and help us raise more money!!!

FOBS

All of the fundraising events at the school are run by FOBS (Friends of Bampton School), who put a lot of effort and hard work into raising as much money for the school as possible. They had an amazing 2006 when they raised over £10,000. This was through the Cookery Book written by the children, end of term BBQ, calendars, school discos (a big favourite with the children), quiz nights, a Cabaret night and the biggest fundraising event being the 200 Club.

We have lots more planned for 2007 so please help and support your village school

Can you help – we are in need of a Treasurer. If you have any accounts experience – great but not essential, and have maybe an hour or two every month (less sometimes) then please give me a ring – **Alison Bardsley Tel: 01993 850666**.

School Calender

The children have again this year produced their self portraits which have been collated to produce the Bampton School Calender. They will be on sale from the beginning of December from either the school office or the Post Office at a price of £4.00 each

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 6th December - Visit to the Bush Club

Thursday 7th December - 9.30am, Key Stage One Concert

Friday 8th December - School Christmas Bazaar

Everyone welcome! Please come along and see our Santa's Grotto, Cake Stall, Tombola, Raffle and many other stalls.

Thursday 14th December 7pm at St Mary's Church- Key Stage Two Concert

Saturday 16th December - Lantern Pageant – (see WOA for details)

In the New Year

Friday 19th January – Wooden Spoon Quiz Challenge (TBC)

Saturday 10th March, 2007 – Cabaret Evening (tickets available after Christmas)

Sunday 22nd April – Car Book Sale (TBC).

St Mary's Bell Restoration Project

By Janet Rouse

"Lift it gently to the steeple, Let our bell be set on high: There fulfil its daily mission, Midway 'twixt the earth and sky." This is the opening verse of a hymn by J. M. Neale, DD, written especially for the dedication of a new bell at Bampton on 2nd December 1865. The new bell was a recasting of the 2nd

san Bell Fund (£2,600), Friends of St Mary's (£2,000), WREN (£5,000), Barron Bell Trust (£3,500) and the Veneziana Fund (£1,500). We are very grateful for their support, and to all those who have supported the fund raising events and organised events themselves on behalf of the fund.

Following the lowering of the bells from the tower, they were placed on pallets awaiting transportation to Appleton. The adjacent picture shows Whites cutting the "Doncaster Heads" off the 1906 bells.

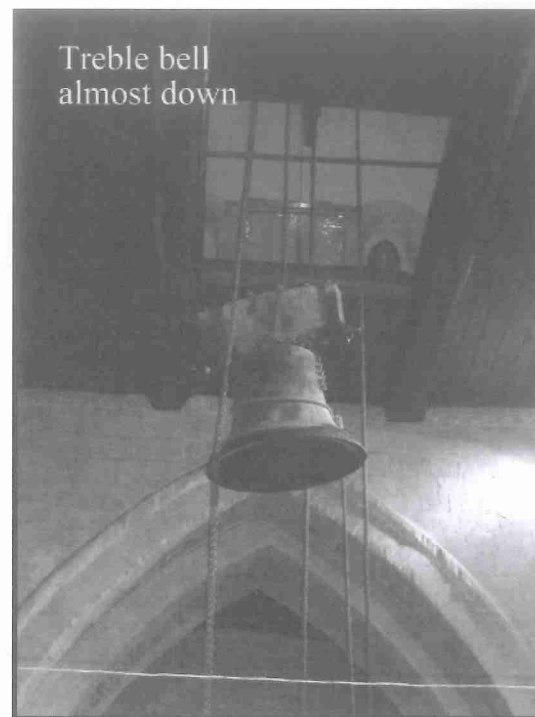
"Doncaster Heads" were a Victorian method of hanging bells from wooden headstocks. The new headstocks will be metal – so off come the heads. Whites will also be supplying new bearings, clappers, and where necessary, wheels.

The specialist work of retuning the front three bells is being done at the Whitechapel Bell-foundry in London. On examination these bells were found to be up to 30% sharp. Tower Captain Dave Rose and Janet Rouse went along to Whitechapel to see part of the tuning process.

The picture below right shows one of our bells mounted mouth up on a vertical lathe and rotated while a fixed cutter pares off the required metal. Originally tuning was done by using huge tuning forks – now it's done by computer. Following tuning the bells will be returned to Whites to await the arrival of the new headstocks. Due to the time delay between ordering and receiving the headstocks it is unlikely that the bells will be back in the tower before the New Year.

Bampton has a long history of that peculiarly English

art-science known as change-ringing. It is probable that earlier bells in the tower were broken up and recast into a ring of six bells by Nathaniel Bolter in 1629. This is a very early date for a tuned ring of bells anywhere in England. These bells hung in a wooden frame dated 1608 until 1903 when a new frame was installed and two additional bells added in 1906. The old 5th



bell of the old 1629 ring of 6. Early in 2007 we will be singing the same hymn – with bells in the plural – when the Bells of St. Mary's are returned to the tower, resplendent with their new fittings and with bells 1, 2 and 3 having been returned.

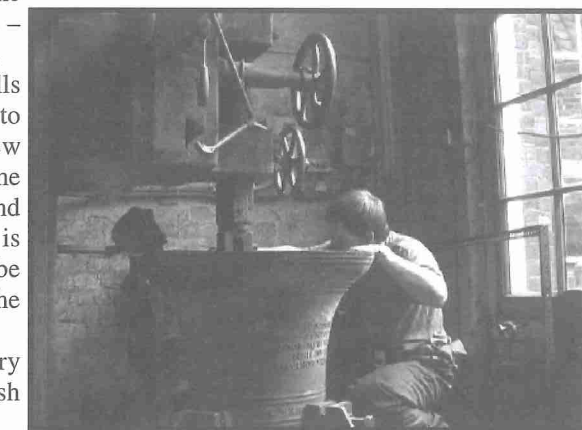
On Monday 14th August Graham Clifton and his assistants, from Whites Bell-hangers at Appleton, arrived at Bampton and proceeded with practised precision to dismantle and lower bells 1 to 6 of the ring of 8 to the floor of the church (see photo). This act was the culmination of months, nay years, of planning, fund raising, writing to charities and all the other activities needed to raise £40,000 from a standing start.

As well as many very generous personal donations, the main charities giving funds were the Oxford Dioc-



bell (7th of the present ring) was recast in 1903; the old 2nd now the 4th as previously stated was recast in 1865, and the old treble (bell 1) was recast in 1906 and was the last time that the bells received any serious attention.

By 2000 it was evident that the bells were becoming more and more difficult to ring. The old wooden headstocks had warped and were causing undue friction on the bearings, which in turn had become very worn. Fortunately the 1903 frame is in excellent condition – a testament to past and present Steeple Keepers (the ringer who is elected to maintain the bells). We look forward to the return of the bells and our sincere thanks to everyone who has made this restoration possible.





Bampton Environmental Watch Group

By Ralph Norman, Chairman



BEWG's open meeting in July was a talk and demonstration by Bob Field, a pole lathe turner. We were not only provided with enlightenment on the history of the Bodger together with a practical demonstration of bodging, but were also entertained hilariously by Bob's interspersed anecdotes. Our next scheduled open meeting is on 26th October when we have the welcome return of Martin Way, a local historian, to give a talk on "The Golden Age of Coaching". There will be no further meetings until our AGM on 1st March 2007. The speaker for this meeting is still to be confirmed, but the programme of talks for the remainder of 2007 is: 26th April, Red Kites; 26th July, Wildlife recording in the Bampton area; and 25th October, Hunting for British orchids. Open meetings are held in the village hall starting at 8:00pm. All are welcome, with attendance free for members £2 for non-members (or join at the door).

We should all have noticed a great reduction in HGV traffic through Bampton since the introduction of the weight restrictions on Tadpole Bridge (on Buckland Road) and Newbridge (on the A415 near Standlake). Although this has almost certainly met with the approval of the majority of Bamptonians the need for rerouting of heavy traffic has caused some concerns among local businesses that use, or have deliveries by, HGVs.

The redevelopment on Littlemead site at the junction of the Buckland and Aston roads is now nearing completion with several units sold. The development is quite intrusive compared with the single bungalow and landscaped garden that it has replaced, and feels very overbearing along the Buckland Road footpath. We can only hope that the predicted parking problems along the Aston Road do not occur.

The proposal related to the Aylesbury Mushroom Farm site at Black Bourton, for a green waste collection and processing unit, which had been withdrawn pending the provision of revised traffic movement figures, has now been resubmitted (October). The new proposal is greatly toned down from the original. The estimates now given are for two HGV movements per week (one in and out to remove a 25 tonne load of wood chippings produced), and twelve small vehicle movements per day (six in and out by vehicles of 1-4 tonne capacity, bringing in wood waste for chipping from an eight mile radius).

The WODC Local Plan 2011 was finally adopted and published on 16th June. It may be viewed at libraries and WODC Woodgreen, where copies can also be purchased. It can also be downloaded for no charge from www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/localplan2011.cfm. This is the last "Local Plan" that WODC will produce. Changes to the planning process have been put in place by central government. These will see the replacement of the Oxfordshire County Structure Plan with a regional plan produced by the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA, see www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/index.html for details) and the replacement of the WODC Local Plan with a portfolio of documents collectively known as the Local Development Framework (LDF). WODC say: "The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new development plan system which will result in major changes to the way in which planning policy operates in future years. The Local Development Framework (LDF) is the term used to describe the folder of various local development documents which collectively will set out the spatial planning strategy, policies and proposals for the local planning authority's area. Ultimately the LDF will replace the West Oxfordshire Local Plan. The LDF, together with the Regional Plan, will form the statutory Development Plan." Full information about progress on the LDF may be found on the WODC website at www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning/LDF.cfm

Please note that Wendy Rayner has taken over John Battersby's footpaths role on the BEWG Committee. Please report any footpath problems to her so that she may follow these up, as necessary, with the county footpaths officer responsible for our paths. Wendy may be contacted Tel: 850414.

If you would like to know more about BEWG or would like to join us please contact Ann Norman, Membership Secretary Tel: 850823, or email bewg@sagaman.co.uk.

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

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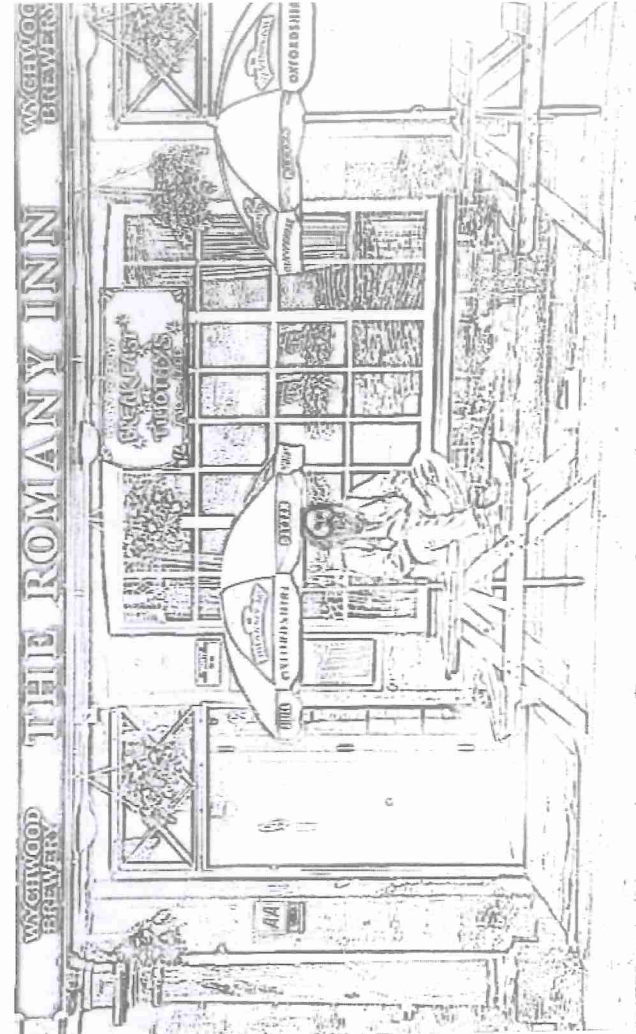
The Romany Inn

Season's greetings from Richard and Co. at The Romany Inn

The Team are here to welcome and serve you in a friendly relaxed atmosphere which we have created for you. Kate has control of the pots and pans in the kitchen to create tasty food for your enjoyment in our redecorated dining room.

Open from 11am - 2am Monday - Saturday
12am - 12pm Sunday
Kate's Kitchen Opening Times 12 - 2.30pm and 6 - 9pm Monday - Saturday
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Richard

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Forgotten Lew

Please note that all households previously omitted from the delivery round of the Bampton Beam, i.e. those living in Lew on the Bampton and Yelford roads (including Bampton Heath Farm and other houses between there and the Bampton/Lew boundary) will now have a copy of the Beam delivered. We have found a volunteer 'Beam Walker' - Janet van den Berge. Thank you Janet!

The Bush Club Needs You!

At the moment we are dreadfully short of general helpers. If you could give an hour or two once a month we would be more than very grateful.

Drivers: Once a fortnight for ½ an hour in the morning at 9.45am, or ½ an hour in the afternoon at 1.45pm.

Cooks: Approximately once every 5 weeks from 9.45 to 1pm

General Helpers: From 9am - 1.45pm on alternate weeks. Times to suit individuals.

Anybody willing to help, or join the Club as a new member please contact **Fenella Gray Tel: 01993 851653** or **Veronica Baker Tel: 01993 851040**.

Bampton Baby Toddler Group

We meet in the Village Hall every Thursday between 10am - 11.45am. We provide toys, slide, singing and drinks and biscuits for children 0 to Pre-school. For more information contact **Angela Irvin, Tel: 01993 210096** or

Dial-a-Ride

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

The Dial-a-Ride service is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. There is a charge for the Dial-a-Ride service and places need to be booked in advance. The Council's Bus Pass or Transport Tokens can be used on this service.

For more details about the service including information on cost, what areas are covered and what type of

NOTICE BOARD

journey the service can be used for, see the Dial-a-Ride leaflet where you can find an application for registering to use the service.

To book a place on Dial-a-Ride, or for more information, **Tel: 01865 876176**.

Cancer Research UK

Pre- Christmas Bingo - Wednesday 22nd November, Village Hall

Christmas Quiz - Friday 1st December, Village Hall, Bampton

Country and Western Dance - Friday 15th December, Carterton Social Centre.

For more information contact **Mrs Doris Cleaver - Tel: 850682**.

Youth "Chill Out" Fund

Do you have a youth project or youth club in your village that could use some one-off match funding for either revenue or capital costs?

The New County Council "Chill Out" fund has been set up to help with your own match funding of youth provision in your village.

For more information contact **Monica Hanaway, Tel: 01865 810511** or download an application form from www.spired.com

Old Birthday Cards

Please continue to let me have your Birthday Cards, after you have enjoyed them, so that I can continue to recycle them into re-saleable items which then make money for worthy causes. **Daphne Gaydon, 3 Broad Street.**

Bampton Drop-In

Held at the Methodist Chapel every Monday from 12pm, where all are welcome. Don't suffer those Monday blues. When you've done your washing up don't just put your feet up with a cup of tea. Instead, why not come and join us at this local facility for a very reasonably priced lunch, where you will be served by a dedicated band of country cooks. You can enjoy a warming bowl of home-made soup,

something on toast or a cheesy baked potato, followed by home-made cake, cheese and biscuits, tea and coffee.

So come along and enjoy this friendly informal gathering where you will very soon want to make it a regular date in your diary.

Abingdon Touring Theatre Company

The Abingdon Touring Theatre Company is delighted to be returning to Bampton Village Hall on January 5th and 6th with our third production - *Aesop's Fables* by Stephen Balchin. This production is suitable for all ages and combines stories from Aesop's life with the fables that made him famous.

Tickets can be purchased from Bampton Post Office and cost £7.50 (full-price), £6.50 (concessions) and £20 (family ticket - two adults and two children).

We look forward to welcoming you to a performance!

New Online Directory for Children, Young People and Families

www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk is an online directory of services for children young people and families in Oxfordshire. The new, easy to use, directory provides up to date details of organisations and their services. Information can be found on parenting and family support, counselling, schools, health centres, local advice and voluntary sector organisations, help lines and much more.

For more information or help using the directory contact Oxfordshire Children's Information Service **Tel: 08452 262636; enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk**.

Extra day heralds Shopmobility success

Witney Shopmobility's opening hours are being extended from two to three days a week. West Oxfordshire District Council agreed to trial an extra day following a report outlining the scheme's success since it first started two year ago. The new opening times start in April 2006 and will run for a one year trial period initially.

The additional Shopmobility opening

day is Wednesday and opening times the same as for Mondays and Thursdays, which is 9.30 am - 4 pm. It is based in the Langdale Gate building, which is close to the car park in Witney Town Centre. Dedicated parking bays, for those with disabilities, are adjacent to the building and there is bus stop for the Dial-a-Ride service.

Manual and powered wheelchairs and powered scooters can be hired free of charge. It can be used by anyone with a mobility difficulty as a result of age, accident or illness and is open to all ages.

Book Banks Spread the word ...

Book banks, provided by the Salvation Army, are the latest addition at six of the recycling centres across West Oxfordshire. This means residents can recycle their books alongside textiles, shoes, plastics, cans, paper, cardboard and glass.

Good quality books are resold, whilst other books may be sent abroad to help education programmes. Paperback books unsuitable for resale will be recycled into newsprint.

"These book banks extend the range of materials that can be taken to our recycling centres," said Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment. "Recycling books makes sense. It reduces the demand for new copies to be printed, books can be re-used and a charity is supported at the same time."

Books banks can be found at: **Guilford Road car park, Burford**

Co-op, Black Bourton Road, Carterton

New Street car park, Chipping Norton

Back Lane car park, Eynsham Sainsbury's, Witan Way, Witney

Welch Way car park, Witney

Both paper and hard-backed books are accepted. For further information on shopmobility and book banks contact: **Carys Davies / Olga Joven Tel: 01993 861615 Mob: 07771 965360**.

Bampton Exhibition Foundation

Bampton Exhibition Foundation has responsibility for the Old Grammar School in Bampton and for managing funds which provide bursaries for

Goodbye Temples... Welcome???



A very sad day indeed -

The photo shows Richard Cooper outside of Temple's on the day the shop closed. A sad day for Bampton, because it was such a useful little shop. Indeed, when the late John Temple ran the shop, his slogan was 'If you can't find it at Temple's you probably don't need it anyway!'; and when Richard took over the running of the shop, while enhancements were made, the same slogan held true.

So what next?

We asked Richard, and he told the 'Beam' that he had no idea what the new owner was going to do with the shop. From the Village perspective, we obviously want it to continue to be a shop of some description - another Temple's would be good! And it is certain that The Parish Council will object if there is any move to turn it into anything other than a shop.

So we have to wait and see what will happen. But let's hope that it's not too long until the shop re-opens its doors for business.

educational purposes to children and young adults.

Our current Treasurer, Michael Wooloff, will be stepping down from March 2007 due to other committee duties in Bampton. A volunteer is needed to take over the task of Treasurer as well as being a trustee of this charity.

The position is not onerous as we only meet on a quarterly basis. Anyone interested in taking over this position should contact **Michael Wooloff Tel: 210043** for further information."

Bampton Bridge Club

The Club meets in the Village Hall every Tuesday, 7:30 pm to 10pm.

Duplicate Bridge is played on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday of the month.. Rubber bridge on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. The annual subscription is £5 with a charge of £1.00 per session. New members are always welcome. For more information contact, **Joan Granville, Tel: 850407**.

Bampton Ladies Group

We are a group of Ladies who meet in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm. Our aim is to have a variety of light-hearted talks, demonstrations and outings. If you would like to come along, the first visit is free. Further information contact **Joan Farthing Tel: 851206**.

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The next exhibition will feature -

will be about **Bampton Football Club**. The club has a long colourful history and is a story of determination and perseverance. Albert Radband and friend's are going to organise the exhibition which will start on

January 8th 2007 and continue until February 24th.

A good way to start the New Year

This year we have received a grant to buy some video equipment. The grant came in part, from the earnings of the Bampton charity shop and we are grateful to the committee for allotting us this money. We hope this will be topped up by another small grant from elsewhere. Maybe other Bamptonians who have an idea of what is important for Bampton's cultural and social life, will come forward and learn how to use the equipment.

Janet Rouse has done a wonderful job recording the taking down and renewal of the bells of St. Mary's an event well worth recording as it won't happen again in our life times. A short version is to be shown at Movies on the Move, the film show that comes to Bampton Village Hall on the first Wednesday of every other month. The next one is November 1st. (look out for posters). The archive, with Janet's help is also going to video-record oral history from certain older Bampton residents.

Don't forget - this is *your* archive. If you have any ideas about who or what exhibitions should be about let us know. And if there is anyone you think we should interview, also let us know.

Another date to remember, looking well ahead; the Hidden Gardens of Bampton will be open again early next Summer. Have your gardens ready and beautiful for June 17th 2007

Contacts - **Diana Alcock 852196**
Sally Proctor 850 479
Jo Lewington 850 947

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Bampton Tennis Club Season 2006 report

This summer saw a new lease of life for the tennis courts at the Recreation Ground. They were cleaned and repainted and they now give a clean green impression to visitors to the court.

2006 was the first full season we have been operating a members-only entry by code, which was introduced due to vandalism and misuse of the courts. By and large this has been well adopted, and much of the misuse has been stopped, though it is suspected that some people have attempted to dodge the system by using Juniors to gain entry. This has been a cause of dismay as we have such low prices for members in the first place!

Whilst the World Cup seemed to take its toll on some club nights and friendly matches against other villages BTC still enjoyed some matches and we had victories against Southmoor and Appleton.

The Junior coaching takes place every Saturday afternoon throughout the year with tennis coach Eddie Large. Children from the age of 4 to 15 are split into three groups. Over the weeks there has been definite progress shown by the children - watch out Andy Murray! Eddie has been a real bonus for the club and his enthusiasm for the game has certainly rubbed off on the children.

During the summer holidays intensive junior tennis coaching courses were run by a local coach, Peter Barnes. The children were able to develop their tennis skills whilst having fun and keeping fit. (The photo shows children from one of the courses).

The much-loved Roaming Tournament, where members get to play on various private courts in the village, was held on a typically warm Sunday afternoon in July. The final was staged at the Rec and the winners of the trophy this year were Callum Rossie and Joan Hudson, who received their prize at the picnic tea held by the courts. Callum had a good year - he was also the winner of a £100 racquet (donated by Witney Conservative office) in our summer prize draw!

We'd love to see more people from the area coming to join us. Our subscriptions are amazingly competitive and the club gives a real opportunity for a friendly social get-together. We are especially keen to develop our adult membership as numbers have been stagnating over the last year. The club exists on a shoestring budget as it charges very small fees to encourage people to come and use the facilities - 80 per cent of these fees is fed directly back into the running of the recreation ground - as tenants we retain only one fifth of our fee income. Why not check us out? Enquiries should be to our **Membership Secretary Karen Easterbrook Tel: 850772**. For more information regarding coaching, contact **Debbie Landray Tel: 850939** or debbielandray@aol.com.

Fitness Class

A small Bampton Fitness Class, with professional instructor, seeks 2 or 3 new members wanting to work hard and have fun.

Every Saturday from 9-10am.

If you are interested call Peter Tel: 01993 850296 or Mob: 7770 552585.

Yoga Classes

New yoga classes are being held in the village hall on Monday mornings 10-11.30 am. Your first session will be free of charge so do come along and give it a try. Everyone is most welcome whether you have previous experience or are a complete beginner.

The sessions are excellent for de-stressing, improving flexibility, muscle toning and strengthening. The tutor is fully qualified and very experienced. **Do call Gillian Tel: 01993 862743 if you have any questions."**

THE PAVILION

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

Some General Hire Prices

Pavilion

08:00 - 13:00 : £40

13:00 - 18:00 : £40

18:00 - 23:59 : £80

Whole Day : £160

Football Pitch : £25 per game

Changing Facilities : £10

Multisport Bampton Residents
£10.00
Non- Residents
£12.50

For more information on charges and facilities for hire please contact:
Ray Willis Tel: 01993 852483 or
Mobile: 07766 264684

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU USE THE RECREATION GROUND

While using skate park

Minor accidents continue to occur on the Skatepark because of the lack of protective clothing.

The Parish Council ask all parents to insist that their children wear the appropriate clothing.

Insurance Liabilities

Residents using the Recreation Ground to practice golf, fly kites or model aircraft or even hitting cricket balls should note that they are responsible for third party liability should an accident occur.

Whilst the Parish Council has ample insurance should it be at fault - for example if a slate falls off the roof of the pavilion - we expect all users of the excellent facilities to have their own insurance.

Consider including this cover in your home contents policy. Dog walkers should also have insurance.

Other Sporting Activities

Bampton Archery Club

Chairman: John Hill Tel: 01993 850513.

Bampton Weightlifting Club

Chairman: Don Rouse: Tel: 01993 850938.

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

Bampton Badminton Club

Enquiries: Lesley Campbell Tel: 852846.

Meets every Tuesday 10 - 12am
Bampton Village Hall.

Bampton Town Football Club

Chairman: Mr J P Walker: Tel: 01993 852361

Secretary: Mr P Tanner: Tel: 01993 210009

Bampton Football Teams

From Under 8s upwards:

Secretary: Andrew Squires: Tel: 01993 852278.

Email andrew.squires@huntleigh-healthcare.com

The Horseshoes Football Club

Sunday League Football

Chairman: Alan Clarke: Tel: 01993 850201.

Secretary: Bill Godfrey: Tel: 01993 850014.

Bampton Archery Club

Contact: John Hill: Tel: 01993 850513.

Bampton Tennis Club

Contact: Karen Easterbrook: Tel: 01993 850772.

Email: membership@bamptontennis.org.uk

Carterton Health Walks

We walk from the Town Hall, Alvescot Road Carterton at 10 am on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

There are two trained volunteer walk leaders at every walk. The walks follow risk assessed pavement routes, which last about 30-40 minutes. On Mondays refreshments are available at the town hall and Thursdays we go to the W.I. Hall for coffee.

Further details available from:



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Lets get Bampton Fit!

By Calum Taylor

Question: I am a 45 year old lady and I am looking at getting back into Horse Riding I rode a lot when I was younger but feel I am too unfit. I went for a ride with one of my friends only a little hack around the village and was stiff for the next week! I enjoyed jumping when I was little and would love to start again. Can you tell me what I can do to stop myself from getting so stiff and also is there anything I can do to improve my riding fitness.

Great question, horse riding is a very demanding sport it requires multiple muscle movements, strength, balance, good posture, core stability and lots of flexibility. People often say why you need good fitness to ride its not like they're carrying the horse! If you watch people when they are trotting they can be going up and down on the horse anything between 30 and 50 times a minute. If you think that's basically 30 to 50 times a minute of squats!! Don't forget that riding doesn't go on for a minute it can go on for a couple of hours on a good hack. As with any training programme it has to be specific. I would not give you the same programme I give to one of my Event riders or a polo rider. Different sports have different movements and they have to be identified before you can give an appropriate programme. If

you are getting back into horse riding you will need to be working on fundamental riding movements and develop from there. Always have at least 5-10 minutes warm up e.g. progressive walking starting slow and getting faster every minute. By the end of the warm up you should feel a lot warmer and slightly out of breath these are good signs of a productive warm up. After that you will need to be doing some dynamic stretching. These can include movements that you will be doing in your session as those are the muscles that will be targeted. If you can, invest in a Fitball. They are great for rider fitness because the instant you sit on them your core muscles become activated and your balance is tested.

Remember that you also have to train correctly as there is no point doing squats for 1 repetition at a really heavy weight. On a horse you will be doing possibly hundreds of squats:

Cardio:

you do need a basic level of cardiovascular fitness for horse riding. Start by taking a walk 2 x week for at least 30mins when you feel that you can improve that do so, try to include some hills.

Cardio rowing:

Rowing is a great way of getting in shape for riding because it combines

squats with pulling exactly what riding does. Look to build up to at least 10mins of rowing

Squats:

Squats are the best exercise for riding because you need to be able to control the horse with your legs the whole time. look to do build up to 3 x 1min squats and try to do between 40 and 50 a min

Squeezing:

Sitting on your Fitball look to squeeze with your lower leg try to do 6 x 10secs

Cable row:

If you have rounded shoulders pulling exercises are great to strengthen your rhomboids and trapezius muscles that are stretched and weak to help combat your posture issues. Sitting on your ball, bring your shoulders up, back and down and squeeze your shoulder blades together this sets your shoulder blades and promotes good posture. Then straighten and bend your elbows for 2x 20 reps

Balance:

Stage 1 on the Fitball start by sitting on it feet together

Stage 2 lift one leg up but do not lean to any side

Stages 3 try to get both legs off the ground and balance

Stage 4 knee balances on the ball but make sure you have a partner who is able to catch you if anything goes wrong

For these entire exercises see how long you can hold them for if you can hold them for more than 2minutes then go up a stage and so on.

Flexibility:

you will need great flexibility in your groins, hamstrings, calves, back, and chest if you have rounded shoulders and Glutes. Hold all of these stretches for at 30 secs each.

Dorsal Raises:

When you fold into a jump you need to sit back up into the saddle to make sure you regain your balance and posture. The Erector Spinae muscles (back) and your core are what helps you back into position. To strengthen your Erector Spinae muscles dorsal raises are great.

Lie face down on the floor with your fingers on your forehead. Lift your upper body off the floor leaving your lower body fixed. Do 2 x 20 repetitions and will feel your lower back

contracting.

Plank:

your core is made up of your six pack muscles (rectus Abdominus) internal and external Obliques (side muscles) your back (Erector Spinae) and your deeper muscles called your Transverse Abdominus (T.V.A.) the stronger your core muscles are the better your body becomes at protecting your back from aggressive movements. They act as a solid foundation for sport specific explosive movements.

For the plank lie face down on the floor and bend your elbows so they are at 90 degrees with your shoulder. Lift your whole body up onto your toes, hold your tummy muscles in to contract your core. Try to stay in this static position for 1min try to work up to 3mins.

Sit ups:

when jumping you are expected to fold which means from an upright position you move yourself forward which contracts your abdominals (rectus Abdominus)

lie on your back with your knees slightly bent up towards you. Try to sit up without using your legs as a counter balance or your arms. Try to do 2 x 20 reps

At the end of the workout make sure that you stretch all the muscles that you have used statically for at least 30 secs each. Make sure that you consult your doctor before undergoing an exercise programme

on your own.

If you have any other questions about rider fitness or any other issues related to health and fitness, please send me a letter to Taylor Made Training, Casio Cottage, Shilton, OX18 4AW.

SPAJERS News

By Don Rouse

Firstly I would like to report on the Donkey Derby. What a wonderful day that was, the weather was a bit doubtful to start with but it all came good in the end. It was so well supported in spite of us not getting the direction arrows up to tell our visitors where the field was.

I think they must have done what supporters of my Barn Dance Band do.

Drive to the village where we are performing, wind the car window down and listen for the MC with the big 'gob', then follow the sound!

Thanks are due to all those of you who helped us set everything up, many of you without being asked, it always makes me feel so proud to be part of Bampton at a time like that. Thanks are also due to those who gave us Raffle prizes, sponsored donkeys, donated goods, sold (and bought) raffle tickets, ran the stalls and helped us clear up afterwards. Truly a case of Bampton people achieving much by uniting and working together.

In all we made a profit of £ 3207.00 for the day.

Our trip to Bournemouth followed two days after the Donkey Derby, now would you believe it I left somebody there again! Don't worry she wanted to stay there with some friends! It was once again a lovely day, absolutely perfect weather, not too hot, just what our members deserved. Altogether ninety four people went, convincing your Committee that after all these years they are still doing the right thing. I must look through our Minute Books to see how long we have been running the Annual Summer Outing.

I know that it is well over thirty years. During those early years we were able to afford lunch as well! If any of you can remember those early trips and have a story to tell, the Beam would love to hear from you.

Josie's Draw is our next fund raising event. As usual it was on the Friday before Armistice Day, which is the 10th November. This is when Josie, her family and friends work so hard to collate a load of good quality prizes, sell loads of raffle tickets and organise an evening of fun with Bampton's own Swanny Lane, one of the county's best singers to entertain us all.

We are contemplating a Christmas shopping trip this year for our members, the organising is in the very early stages at the moment so I can't tell you any more.

If we do go ahead, we will invite you in the normal way.

With Christmas coming up we need to make sure that everyone who qualifies to be on our list is there. The criteria

is that you must have lived in Bampton for at least six months and attained the national pension age. If you know of anyone who qualifies and would like to be on our list please let Jeff Dando know on 01993 850643. But please, you get their consent first. We would like to wish all of you who have helped us through the year and all our members a very happy Christmas and most of all a healthy New Year.

MUMMERS 2006

The Bampton Mummies will be maintaining their Christmas tradition performing on Christmas Eve around the Town. Should you wish them to perform at your party please contact Don Rouse: **Tel: 01993 850938** who will do his best to accommodate you at this very busy time.

The important thing is to phone early to book your 'spot'. Most people with young children obviously prefer the earlier slots, whilst older groups can accommodate them later, which makes it fine for organising. It is very difficult to fit every one in, but with a bit of 'give and take' on all sides it usually works out very well.

With all the wonderful hospitality that the Mummies receive they sometimes run late, so it is very difficult to get it perfect, but they will try.

The Mummies objective is to maintain this wonderful Bampton tradition, to entertain people at this joyous time and to make as much money as possible for the SPAJERS. What you might call Junketing.

They can start their programme as early 5pm and finish at about 11.30pm in the Pubs.

The cost of a performance is a donation to the SPAJERS put in the Mummies collecting box which will be passed around.

All the Mummies need from you is a 'room to rhyme this merry Christmas Time' and of course enough room for St George in shining armour to slay the horrible Turkish Knight in your house - don't worry there is an incredible 'Quack Doctor' on hand to see that it all ends well.

Last year their efforts raised just under £1000.00. This year with your help they would like to make it just over!


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FOREIGN PARTS

By Jo Lewington

What Ugandans most wanted us to tell people back home in England, is how wonderful their country is, full of natural beauty and wonderful friendly people.

They know that the images that we see back here on television are not a pretty sight, dominated as they are by the Lord's Resistance Army doing unspeakable things to people (yet again in the name of God). And I did have fears before I went of being stopped by adolescent, drug-crazed soldiers toting Kalashnikovs but those fears were soon wiped away by the endless helpfulness, friendly curiosity and enthusiasm of everyone we met.

I went with a group who are building and nurturing 2 schools, both out in the impoverished countryside, both found by driving down red mud roads. One is a school for the deaf, the only such one in a wide area and the other a primary school in an area, which, in spite of the government's ruling that primary schooling is compulsory, has no school. Both have been started and run by very dedicated Africans.

The English connection is through the scout movement through which a small charity was formed which has helped build and fund both schools. The charity is called 'Building Better Futures' and it fund-raises, takes small groups to Uganda to carry out certain jobs, give moral support and sees that the money raised is spent wisely.

Those in the visiting group pay their own fares and costs while in Uganda so that any funds collected go to the 2 schools.

The primary school has developed from a fragile structure of poles and straw matting, to a brick building with 2 classrooms and a corrugated iron roof. There are 150 pupils and 4 teachers. We painted the building and did murals and gave funds for classroom furniture and a fence (to stop straying animals eating the schools garden). The surrounding area of subsistence farming, is so poor that even the fees, as low as £1.00 a term are too much for some pupils.

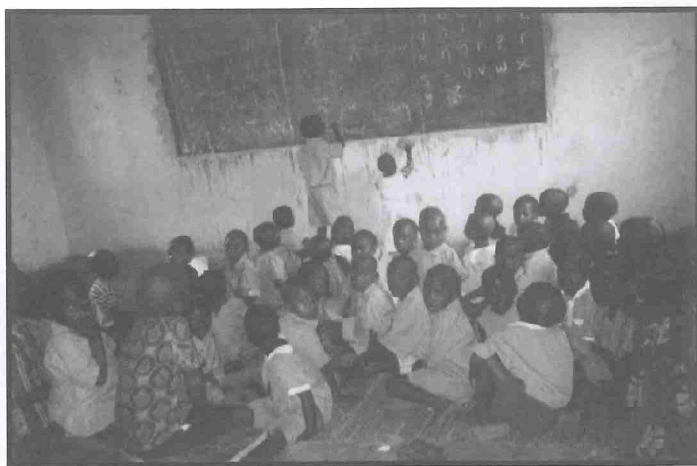
The Kavule School for the Deaf, also caters for a wide area. Mostly in Uganda, nobody caters for the deaf and they are frequently viewed as uneducatable.

There are 40 pupils and because they come from far a field, most of them are borders. The same charity, 'Building Better Futures', has paid for the building of the classroom and the dormitories and helped pay the teachers salaries. Now the school is starting a poultry rearing business both to train pupils in animal husbandry and to give the school an income so that it can carry on its work. Again, most of the pupils are too poor to pay fees.

My most overwhelming memory is of the dedication of the teachers in both these schools, working with no equipment, in a classroom with 3 age

groups all working at different things; and of the children who got such enjoyment from the small gifts that we took for them.

I hope I can go back and share in the work they are doing.



Children at he Deaf School

Exhibitions and Events at West Ox Arts Gallery Bampton

Exhibitions
26 November-17 December
By Lantern Light

Join us for a beautiful show of West Ox Arts members' work on the theme of light. Artists will interpret this theme in the widest sense to suit their medium. This exhibition will also include lanterns made by children at West Ox Arts workshops in Bampton Primary School on Saturdays throughout the autumn term, to be taken out of the show and carried in The Lantern Arts Magical Pageant on 16 December. The LAMP project has been funded by Awards for All.

Event
Saturday 16 December 2006

The Lantern Arts Magical Pageant
Join us for a magnificent celebratory arts free event, including a children's procession of lanterns, a mummer's play, singing, music and a fire sculpture. Directed by Paul Batten and organised by West Ox Arts this community event has been funded by Awards for All allowing us to hold lantern making workshops in Bampton Primary School throughout the autumn term, and will involve many community arts groups. Many of the performances have been specially written for the Pageant. The event will open with actors from the AWC Players presenting a pantomime of 'Cinderella and the Pirates' in the school hall at 5pm.

The procession will lead from Bampton Primary School to New Road, Manor View, Broad Street, and the Market Square. At the gallery join us for the turning on of Bampton's Christmas lights - tree donated by *The Bampton Beam* - accompanied by the choir, Lower Windrush Choral Society and then for a special children's percussion piece by Saltbox Music Company. Then we process with the children will hold their gently glowing colourful lanterns back to the primary school. A second group from AWC Players will perform a mummers' play, followed by a beautiful

fire sculpture in the school grounds to close at approx 8.15pm. The very wet weather plan is to hold the whole event in the school hall, and depending on numbers, to ask the audience to process so that everyone has a chance to see the show. Huge thanks to Awards for All funding in making this project possible.

Bampton Primary School for a ticketed event of 'Cinderella and the Pirates'

Tickets for the panto: Adults £3 and Children £2 available on the door or in advance from West Ox Arts Gallery or the Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton. Tel: 01993 850137 E: westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk. The rest of the event is free.

7-28 January 2007

Children's Book Illustration Exhibition

— artists from the Story Museum
A delightful exhibition for all of the family featuring illustrations from some much loved children's books, by artists and writers who are all linked through The Story Museum a charity set up to inspire children about books and stories and help them to create stories of their own. Artists exhibiting will be Korky Paul, Mini Grey, Sarah Garson and Sue Heap. Some work will be for sale.

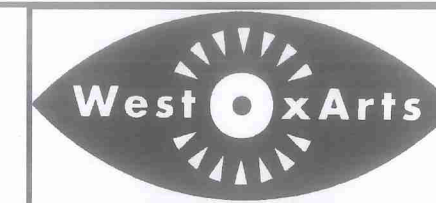
Children's Show

Saturday 27 January 2007

The Happy Prince with Cornelius and Jones Original Productions
Time: 2-4pm

Venue: Bampton Village Hall
Oscar Wilde's fairy tale tells of the friendship between the statue of the Happy Prince and a little swallow on his way to Egypt for the winter. Standing on a tall column, the Happy Prince can see all the ugliness and misery of the city, and though his heart is made of lead he cannot help but weep. The swallow agrees to stay with the Happy Prince and help the poor people who are suffering from cold and hunger. This classic story is retold using puppets and large animated sculptures, and contrasts the harsh realities of a city in winter with breathtaking scenes of the warm Egyptian paradise that awaits the swallow. With spellbinding music composed by Andrew Dodge, this is a magical experience for children and adults alike.

Registered Charity No. 266542



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westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk

Robert Vesey Room in Bampton Library
Monday 30th October - Saturday 16th December

Caroline Hudson

'Through the lens'

An exhibition of photographic work
Opening hours for the Robert Vesey Room in Bampton Library are:
Monday and Thursday 2.30-4.30pm,
Wednesday and Saturday 10-12am
Bampton Library 01993 850076

Caroline Hudson is a local photographer who turned professional in 2002 in response to the wishes of friends and family who loved her work. They frequently chose her photographs in preference to those they had taken professionally. She is skilled in portraiture and aims to capture the essence and beauty of a person. She is happy to work with both children and animals.

As a wedding photographer she captures the atmosphere and emotions of the entire day for her clients to treasure for years to come.

This exhibition is a collection of her recent work and includes some reproductions of old pictures of Bampton from the beginning of the last century comparing them with the same view in the present day.

Pay a visit to the Robert Vesey Room during November and the beginning of December and find an original gift for a friend or relative or indulge yourself.

Ages 5 plus Cost: £5 per ticket.

Puppet making workshop run by performer Neil Canham

Time: 3pm

Cost: £4 per child

Opening hours Tues-Sat 10.30am-12.30pm, 2-4pm and Sun 2-4pm
Please call part-time administrator/curator Olivia Thornton for more information or images, she is in the Tel: 01993 850137.

E: westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk

www.wospweb.com

West Ox Arts seeks new volunteer Treasurer

West Ox Arts is the gallery and arts centre based in Bampton Town Hall. We are a charity and community run organisation, always trying new ideas and bringing beautiful art and crafts to West Oxfordshire. After eight happy years David Pullman would now like

to retire from the role and we are seeking a new Treasurer.

The role is one of the most crucial for the organisation, and we would be extremely grateful to anyone with some business experience and book keeping skills to help us to continue. We are looking for someone who likes art, but basic accounting knowledge is far more important as well as a bit of spare time. West Ox Arts is a charity run by volunteers and a part-time administrator, part funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council. We are open to anyone to join and get involved.

For further details please contact the administrator Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm. Tel: 01993 850137, E-mail: westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk, or just pop in for a chat.

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

They say that the pen is mightier than the sword, but I never ever imagined how powerful it would be when used in conjunction with the Bampton Beam. I am referring of course to my article in the last publication re the Chicanes. What a result! There was I saying how tolerant Bampton people were being when suddenly KAPOW! Everyone is calling me on the phone, by email, stopping me on the street and even calling at my house. Next I had Radio Oxford wanting to know my views as well as other people in

the area, this was followed by BBC television wishing to come and see what all the fuss is about. Next I spent an afternoon with Bill Heine in the BBC studios, what did he have on his desk in the studio? The Bampton Beam of course.

With all these people coming to me with their concerns about the chicanes, especially the Station Road one, I felt it was my duty to look into the situation. According to my Sub Editor, the majority of the Parish Council is in favour of what the County council has provided them with.

My feeling is that the 'proof of the pudding is in the eating' and as at the time of the publication of the last Beam, not many people, councillors included, had had a real good taste of the pudding that had been cooked.

So with this in mind, a few responsible people have got together with the view of finding out what people really think about them, so for the last few weeks they have been carrying out a Survey to assess people's reactions.

At the time of writing the survey is still on going, so I do not have actual figures, you will have to wait till the Spring Issue for them. What I can tell you is that so far we have had over five hundred people sign to say that they are dangerous and two people say that they are not. Many people have expressed a view that whilst they are dangerous they do not want them done away with and nothing put in their place, they do feel that we still need 'calming measures'. A lot of very good ideas have been put for-

all the Councillors that I know, which is most of them, are not on the Council for egotistical indulging, but are there as volunteers to make Bampton a better place. One of them recently told me how much time and effort councillors had put into the scheme and we really do appreciate that, but going back to the 'pudding' metaphor, many a good cook has spent hours in the kitchen only to find that the finished product is a disappointment. That's life!

I must admit the aforementioned councillor still declined to sign the survey to say that he was in favour of the chicanes.

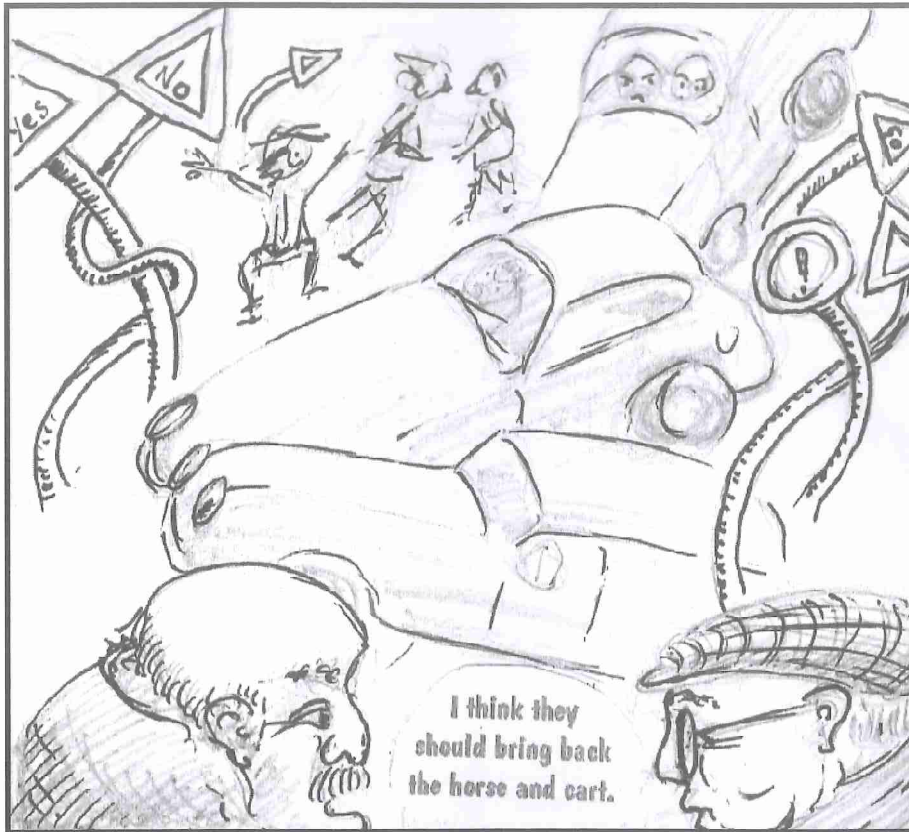
To me the ultimate would be for a public debate with our councillors and representative from the County Council. I know through talking to so many people whilst doing the survey that there is a lot of good ideas out there and they should be included in the debate.

I am sure that my Sub Editor will do his usual stuff and make running comments, which I must admit I enjoy and appreciate. But I do find it necessary to take him to

ward and we shall include them in our report when it is published.

Our motivation has been based purely on the people of Bampton's concerns for safety on our roads. Our report will be sent to both the Parish Council and the County Council, what we would like is for our Parish Council to take notice of what the people want and join us in making Bampton safe. It might mean that a few will have to change their minds on the issue, but

task on a comment he made in the last Beam. He said, and I quote 'Perhaps one of Don's problems is that he learnt to drive *in* a tractor'!! Come on Fred, what part of the world are you from? In the early 1950s when I passed my test, the farming community around here were a tough and hardy lot! There were no such things as cabs and heaters, we were sat ON the tractor exposed to all the elements, we didn't stop if it was raining or



The Chicanes - Again

By Fred Gray

What interests me about Don's article how liberal he is with the interpretation of the facts. Did he actually read what I said in the last 'Beam'? For instance I did not say 'the majority of the Parish Council is in favour of what the County Council has provided them with'. I said that the Parish Council accepted the recommendation of OCC to install chicanes'; this at the time the recommendation was made on traffic calming for the Village.. I did not say that the Parish Council was satisfied with the outcome!

He also seems to insinuate that the Parish Council is not reacting to the concerns of drivers; yes it is - read the PC minutes Don - and yes David Hawkins' Parish Council notes in 'The Beam', where he gives updates on progress with the discussions with the OCC! Indeed, David has been in constant dialogue with OCC to discuss options for improving the Station Road chicane and recently - 16th October - there was a meeting with David Hawkins and myself with OCC to receive a copy of the report produced by OCC on their speed surveys and deliberations as to how to improve the situation - see elsewhere in the 'Beam' for the report - and to discuss the way forward. Note that we did not accept the report's recommendations of a 'do nothing' approach, and at its latest meeting, the Parish Council agreed to send a formal letter to OCC advising that it could not accept its recommendation - of 'do nothing'. We have also sourced an audit report which also supports a 'do something' approach.

Don also appears to insinuate that the Parish Council members are not 'responsible people' since he states that he and 'a few responsible people have got together with the view of finding out what people really think about them' (the chicanes). I do hope that this was an unintended slip of the finger on keyboard keys Don, because the Councillors are very responsible people!

The Witney Gazette then waded in by including a report that stated 'An overwhelming majority...said that were against the chicanes'; the

snowing, and in fact we didn't even stop to have a wee! But of course all that was well before the Health and Safety people were let loose upon us! Incidentally Fred, I did pass a driving test as recently as 1997 which enabled me to drive double Decker Busses!

There is nothing to beat farming for reminding us that no matter what happens, life always goes on. I attended our Harvest Festival last Sunday, giving thanks for a successful year and when I got home there was my neighbour busy planting next years crop of wheat. No matter whether this year went well or not, the optimistic cropping goes on. We all know that the 'Harvest Festival' is for all walks of life, not just farmers and gardeners; it is for every one to give thanks for the blessings of the year, well so our Vicar says. But I wonder, do our Police celebrate a successful year with their Speed Cameras? They seem to achieve a better harvest every year!

Talking of Police, I do wonder and worry about them; they are getting so neurotic about being politically correct that they are losing all track of good policing. They recently stopped the use of a White Horse leading a demonstration that was against the closing of some of Banbury's Horton Hospital's services. They claimed it was on health and safety issues! Yet what do they use when there is a big demonstration?

Yes you are right, Horses!

I understand that the Police are not too happy with Armistice Day parades. Somehow I think the right place for all these P.C.PC's who are so concerned about health and safety issues, is Afghanistan where they can check out the safety issues of our soldiers before they go on any mission! They will do more good out there than they are doing here and what is more, with them out of the way, normal thinking people can get on with their lives like they have done so successfully for hundreds of years. I just hope they leave our Shirt Race alone.

I must admit that in times of trouble, when we really need our own PC Steve Patrick with his traditional style of policing and he is unavailable, that we suddenly appreciate him.

Recently we had a big straw fire here at Lew, the Bampton Fire Brigade were soon on the scene and had eve-

rything in control, roads blocked off with very effective signs and lighting, protecting all the Thatched Roofs in the area that were vulnerable, prevented the fire spreading to other straw-filled barns. In general they were in total control. Then along came the Police, immediately three people who had seen an undesirable walking away from the village at the time that the fire was started, rushed to tell them of their observations, pointing out that they must have passed the villain on their way to the scene. Did they turn to chase after him? Which, I am sure is what our own Bobby would have done. No, these were very young P.C.PC's, whose first job was to 'secure the site', their words not mine. A job that the firemen had already done so professionally thirty minutes before. I have got to say to their credit that within an hour and a half they did get a Dog handler on the scene, but by this time of course all traces left by the villain had been washed away with the fire hoses! Needless to say he is still on the loose.

I would like to thank all of you who bought my tapes and videos from Emmie's (there are still some left) because it gave my SPAJER contributions such a boost to start the year, that it inspired me to set myself a target to raise one thousand pounds during 2006 from my talks around the county. At the time of writing the amount raised stands at £950.00 with a few more talks already booked at £35.00 a time I shall more than make it. So a big thank you to all those people who have paid good money to hear my 'ramblings'. I hope it was worth it.

I must admit that it never ceases to amaze me how famous some of our past and present Bamptonians are, people always come up to me to talk about people that they know or knew from Bampton and I always feel so proud if it is somebody that I have been acquainted with.

Well this is the last of my 'ramblings' for this year as we look forward to what awaits us in 2007.

I am sure that somewhere along the way there will be some 'goodies' for all of us. I might not be a Farmer any more but I still have the optimism.

A Happy Christmas to you all.

'overwhelming majority' was 514 signatures of support from Bampton people; there are 2500 on the electoral role in Bampton, so how does The Witney Gazette make 521 into a majority? The other 2000 really should be asked their views.

In the same report - November 8 - The Witney Gazette stated that Jonathan Phillips - a member of the 'action group' - said 'we want them got rid of'. Fine, if that's the decision eventually taken, but I'm sure Jonathan and the 'action group' all agree that if the Station Road chicane goes, it will have to be replaced by some sort of traffic calming feature, since I don't think that anyone contests the need for traffic calming measures on our main roads.

And was this survey really carried out in a fair and balanced manner? Perhaps through the 'Beam' it might have yielded a more balanced response from the residents of Bampton - yes Don we also get phone calls and pleas from people who do not want the chicanes removed, or at the very least some form of traffic calming measures retained!

The fact of the matter is that the Parish Council is in dialogue with OCC to implement improvements to the Station Road chicane; those measures could be modification, or removal and replacement with some other traffic calming measure.

To insinuate otherwise is totally out of order. The Parish Council will fight until something is done to improve the Station Road situation - notwithstanding that the root cause of the problem is nonetheless down to the behaviour of some drivers - the ASDs (Anti-Social Drivers)!

The Parish Council appreciates any support it can get from the Villagers, but we the rather negative intonations being banded about by some members of the 'action group' against the Parish Council are grossly unfair and uncalled for.

If we are to improve the situation, then we all have to work together.

By the way Don, the Editor has banned further chicane articles; enough is enough she says, although she will publish updates from the Parish Council so that the Villagers know what progress is being made with the OCC.



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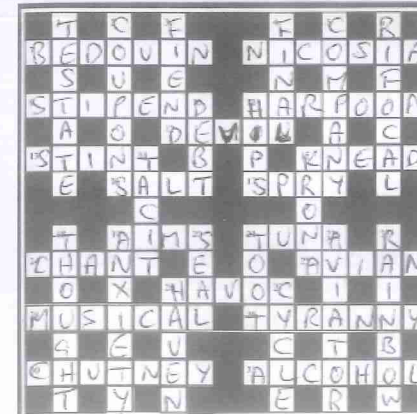
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Solution to the July BEAM CROSSWORD



The winner of the July Crossword is C J Clarke, of The Lanes, Bampton. Congratulations, the £10 prize is yours!

We would also like to donate £10 to Cancer Research, as a thank you to Bill Govier for producing yet another crossword for 'The Beam'.

The Bampton Beam

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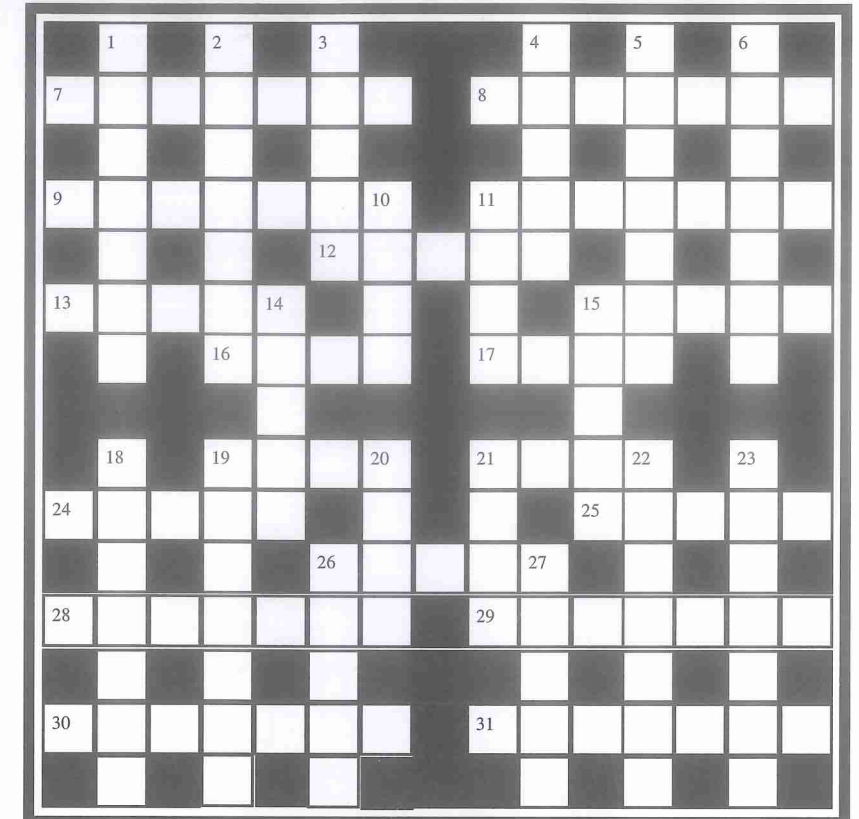
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THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Poise, equilibrium
- 8 With quick light taps
- 9 Emotionless face
- 11 Domestic fowls collectively
- 12 Style of interior decoration
- 13 Hand tool for boring holes
- 15 An adult female cat
- 16 To sieve
- 17 Rain heavily
- 19 Fragrant healing ointment
- 21 A specific allowance of food
- 24 Ring-shaped bread roll
- 25 Time or speed of movement
- 26 Having two beats in a bar
- 28 Unit for measuring intensity of sound
- 29 Having died out
- 30 Established by law, performed
- 31 Defendant on a criminal charge

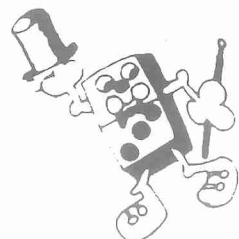
CLUES DOWN

- 1 Loathsome, detestable
- 2 Lingers, loiters
- 3 Group or series of eight
- 4 Of lesser or secondary importance
- 5 Family sitting room
- 6 Delayed leaving
- 10 Eft
- 11 Ceremonial splendour
- 14 Competitor
- 15 Absence of noise
- 18 A colourful parade or display
- 19 Enchant, fascinate
- 20 To handle roughly
- 21 Valley
- 22 Monotonous
- 23 Parisian gangsters or ruffians
- 26 Discourage or prevent from occurring
- 27 Strictly accurate

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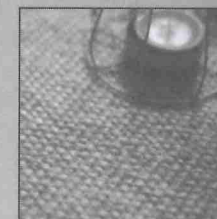
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Calendar of Events

December

- 1st Christmas Quiz, Cancer Research UK, Village Hall
- 2nd Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
- 2nd AGM, Gardening Club, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- 3rd Christmas Carols, The Romany, 8pm
- 7th Key Stage One Concert, Bampton Primary School, 9.30am
- 8th Christmas Bazaar, Bampton Primary School
- 8th Magpie Lane Concert, Bell Restoration Appeal, St. Mary's, 8pm
- 10th Carols by Candlelight, Methodist Chapel, 6pm
- 14th Key Stage Two Concert, Bampton Primary School, St Mary's Church, 7pm
- 15th Country and Western Dance, Cancer Research UK, Carterton Social Centre
- 16th The Lantern Arts Magical Pageant and Christmas Tree Light Up, WOA
- 21st Annual St. Beornwald's Day Concert, Bampton Classical Opera, St. Mary's Church
- 27th – 30th Short Holiday Break to Isle of Wight, Gardening Club

January

- 3rd Movies on the move, *Stand by Me*, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- 5th – 6th *Aesop's Fables*, Abingdon Touring Theatre Company, Village Hall
- 8th – 24th Exhibition on Bampton Football Club, Bampton Archive, Vesey Room
- Feb 19th Wooden Spoon Quiz Challenge (TBC), Bampton Primary School
- 27th Children's Show, *The Happy Prince with Cornelius and Jones*, WOA, Village hall, 2pm

March

- 1st BEWG AGM, Village Hall
- 10th Cabaret Evening, Bampton Primary School

April

- 22nd Car Book Sale (TBC), Bampton Primary School
- 26th BEWG Open Meeting, Talk on Red Kites, Village Hall, 8pm

May

- 6th Village Garage Sale, SPAJERS

July

- 26th BEWG Open Meeting, Talk on Wildlife, Village Hall, 8pm

October

- 25th BEWG Open Meeting, Talk on hunting for British orchids, Village Hall, 8pm

THE BAMPTON BEAM

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Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Wednesday 27 December	Thursday 4 January
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For further information access the Website on www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment	

The Bampton Directory

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