

THE BAMPTON BEAM

April 2004

Volume 19, No1

BAMPTON FIRE AND RESCUE STATION Needs YOU!

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has 24 Fire Stations, with 35 operational Fire Appliances, 29 of which are crewed by retained fire fighters. One of these stations is A12 Bampton, located on New Road. This is the first responding fire engine to Bampton and the surrounding area, including Carterton, Aston, Alvescot, and villages as far away as Little Farringdon. During 2003 we received just under 200 calls, and for the majority of these we returned to the station within an hour.

Bampton is crewed by just 7 fire fighters, 2 crew commanders and 1 Watch Manager who all provide different hours of availability, which suits them and the fire service - they are not required to be available 24 hours a day! They may respond from home or work upon activation of a pager they carry, being alerted by our control room

in Kidlington. They may be builders, shop keepers, office workers, technicians, mums or dads, but when a call comes they all become part of a dedicated team, ready to face any emergency. They may be 'part time', but they are highly trained and capable people, working in the front line, saving lives and occasionally making headline news!

Upon receipt of a call they are required to get to the fire station within 5 minutes. They could be responding to anything, including road traffic accidents; fires, chemical spills; trapped animals; river rescues; aircraft incidents; and are even trained to deal with terrorist attacks. They get paid for every call they respond to. Competent fire fighters now get paid the

following rates.

An annual retainer fee of **£1738** on limited cover a week - anything under 120 hours - and **£2318** if they offer 120 hours or more a week.

£13.73 per call they attend and then **£10.58** an hour after the first hour.



*Fire-fighters Mark Lloyd, Steve License, Mark Carrington, and Gary Pitts, with Sub Officer Toby Perry (middle)
Could you join them?*

£21.16 per drill - this is weekly and lasts two hours.

£10.58 per hour for any other additional activities and duties carried out, such as equipment checks and testing. They also receive holiday pay, loss of earnings or hourly pay for any training courses they attend. On average they can take home anything from £250 to £700 per month, depending on the number of calls.

You also receive the following, some of which may also be a benefit to your employer!

Fire Safety Training
Health and Safety Training
Possible LGV License
Manual Handling Training
Team Work/ Team Building Skills
Valuable Life Saving Skills

Highly rewarding job satisfaction.

At Bampton during the day we are extremely short of retained fire fighters, which means the fire engine is not always available, causing delays whilst an engine responds from another station. This situation is putting **LIVES AT RISK.**

Bampton's fire engine was unavailable for over 500 hours last year in the day-time, due to the fire fighter shortage. The problem is set to get worse as house prices are forcing one of our fire fighters to leave the village, and another experienced fire fighter is moving out the area, leaving us with a crew of only 8 - a minimum of four people are required for the fire engine to be able to respond in an incident. The fire station has been in the village for over a hundred years, and once lost we will never get it back. Men and

Women from all backgrounds are required.

The Team

Are you:

Aged between 18 and 55?
Reasonably fit and healthy?

Have you got:

At least 20 hours of cover time available during the week?

Common Sense, Commitment and Enthusiasm?

You CAN apply if you wear glasses or contact lenses.

Are you Ready for the Challenge?

For further information, or for an application pack contact the recruitment hotline number **Tel: 0800 5 870 870.**

Or **Toby Perry Bampton Fire Station Officer In Charge Tel: 850332 or Tel: 07776 222640.**

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
Tel: 850304

**The Final Push to Ensure the Future of St. Mary's Church**

£100,000 raised in 10 years but repairs have already cost £50,000!!

The Friends of St. Mary's thank all those who generously supported the original appeal ten years ago and made it possible for essential repairs to be carried out. To all those who were unable to contribute then we now appeal to help us build up an endowment for the future.

Please read the enclosed leaflet and do whatever you can to make the target of £100,000 a reality.

The Bampton Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday, 29th April 2004.

All residents of Bampton over the age of 18 are entitled to attend and to vote.

The Bampton Village Hall Management Committee is made up of representatives of the various organisations who use the Hall plus five elected members; three other members may be co-opted if needed. Several members of the Management Committee have served for many years and new faces would be warmly welcomed! Nominations can be sent to the Secretary, Haytor, Lavender Square, Bampton OX18 2LR.

Although the annual accounts show a drop in lettings revenue in 2003 the Hall has a number of regular weekly bookings and is well used for sales, meetings, parties and classes. West Ox Arts has used the Hall for the annual OTTC production which took place in December. In February there was an excellent Jazz Evening

The main hall, annexe and toilets were redecorated in January 2003 and this year the kitchen and bar area have been repainted and a new floor has been laid in the bar and lobby. Over the past few years there have been an increasing number of government directives concerning such matters as Health & Safety and Disability Discrimination etc. The Committee does its best to ensure that the Hall complies with all these regulations; for example, there is now an Accident Book in the Hall (kept in bottom drawer in the kitchen). If an accident should occur the Hirer is asked to fill out one of the forms and return it either to Susan Phillips or Martin Barrett, the Lettings Officer, at the Post Office.

BAMPTON '250' CLUB

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

List of recent winners**List of Winners**

NOVEMBER	£25	160	Mr C Hjul	Bridge Street
	£15	001	Mr & Mrs Battersby	Buckland Rd
	£15	243	Mr F Godwin	St Mary's Court
	£15	215	Mrs P Daniels	4 Fox Close
DECEMBER	£100	013	M.B. Adams	St. Mary's Court
	£25	019	Mrs J Baines	High Street
	£15	045	Mrs E Foreshev	Church View
	£15	171	Mrs M Paintin	New Road
JANUARY	£15	250	Mrs J Hardy	Talbot Fields
	£25	198	Mrs R Wheeler	Bowling Gr Close
	£15	078	Mrs N Jenkins	New Road
	£15	022	Mrs M Bishop	Buckland Road
FEBRUARY	£15	250	Mrs R Lewis	Chandler Close
	£25	131	Mrs G Jordan	Bowling Gr Close
	£15	152	Mark Snow	c/o Bushey Row
	£15	161	Mr T Mace	High Street
	£15	238	Mrs J Leeming	Manor View

The final draw for 2003/2004 – the £250 prize – will take place at the Village Hall AGM on Thursday, 29th April. The 2004/2005 year starts in April and if you would like a ticket in the popular local lottery, please put your name on the list at the Post Office.

Bampton Market Square Phase 2 Improvements

Well, the 'up grade' of the Market Square is now almost complete, save for the installation of the new Bus Shelter adjacent to the Village Hall and the siting of 3 seats in the pavement and Town Hall garden area. The Parish Council hope that parishioners will be pleased with the finished result and we are extremely grateful to W.O.D.C's Planning and Leisure Facilities department and O.C.C Highways for their financial support. Although the commencement of this phase was delayed due to the late delivery of some essential materials, the work was carried out almost on schedule, by mid December.

The Parish Council would like to thank the contractors Steve Hill Ltd., for the courteous and helpful manner in which they undertook the contract and also the shop owners and residents for their patience during the 8 week programme. We can only hope that the Market Square will cease to be used as a 'Rat Run' and that road users will reduce their speed when travelling through the square.

Finally, we would ask the young skateboarders to refrain from using the Market Square as a skate park! *We have an excellent facility only a few hundred yards away – it really wasn't the reason the refurbishment was carried out!*

BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By David Hawkins, Chairman, Bampton Parish Council

100 New Houses now Unlikely

WODC have decided to ask the Inspector to delete the proposal for 100 new houses from the local plan. They will suggest that only 25-30 affordable homes are built on the site. WODC have now informed us that this important change will be advertised for public comment before the inquiry begins in mid Summer 2004. The public consultation will take place in May/June 2004 and anyone interested in the fine details can find more information on www.westoxon.gov.uk

Survey for Affordable Housing

All Bampton households received a survey form last December not only so that your Council has a clear idea of your views on affordable housing but also whether you have anyone in your family who is in urgent need of such accommodation. Nearly 500 forms were returned, which is a great response and the results are summarised elsewhere in this edition.

Traffic Calming

Please refer to the article from Fred Gray. An initiative from the Parish Council solved the technical problem associated with the installation of a Buildout on the Buckland Road, and it would now appear that the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has also approved the installation of this Buildout, as well as the three others on the Aston, Clanfield, and Station Roads. Good news for the Village.

State of Roads

OCC Highways have been informed of the many potholes that have appeared in Bampton roads during recent months. We await the repairs.

Poor Drainage Outside Surgery

We still await action from OCC Highways to construct a drain for the road that runs by the surgery. When the pavement was constructed some years ago, no drainage was planned and so large puddles collect on the road. Vehicles then soak patients on their way

to and from the surgery. While it has taken some time, we understand now that Highways have it on their agenda to fix, although they have not yet decided quite how to do it. We will watch it closely.

Bid for Parking Bays

A bid by residents around Mill Green for parking bays to be built on the north side of the main road has been supported by the Parish Council but only provided OCC Highways foots the bill. At present residents park on the muddy area that has become an eyesore.

Market Square Improvements

The project to improve many aspects of the Market Square is virtually complete. We await 3 new seats and a bus shelter next to the Village Hall. Floodlighting options are also being examined.

The Parish Council is most grateful to WODC for all their massive support during this project and also to Graham Haslam who has been our Project Officer.

New Councillor

The Council welcomed Anna Pitt as a replacement for Barry Gray who resigned recently through pressure of work. Anna, who was brought up as a child in Bampton, was instrumental in the setting up of the Village College concept in Bampton a few years ago. She now lives with her family in their house on Mount Owen.

Revamp of Play Parks

Two roundabouts in the playparks will have to be removed as a result of vandalism to the standing surfaces. Holes about 5 inches in diameter have been made and the danger of children damaging their ankles is very real. Attempts to repair the holes have been unsuccessful and so they will be replaced by new play equipment. We have been asked to provide more units for the under 5s and this gives us the opportunity. **Anna Pitt Tel: 850226** would welcome any suggestions for improving either playpark.

Parish Rates 2004/05

Your Council is delighted to announce that for the second year running there will be no increase in the Parish Rates, not even for inflation. By using local labour wherever possible for various projects and not incurring huge bills that outside firms may have charged, we have managed to keep expenditure to sensible levels. The bad news, however, is that two of the other parts to your Council Tax i.e. WODC and OCC rates, are both likely to increase for 2004/05.

Future of RAF Bampton Castle

After over 40 years of huge aerals to the south of Bampton, we have been told by a spokesman from Brize Norton that the whole area will become a 'greenfield site' by end March 2004. Most of the tall aerals have been removed and only a few small ones remain for training purposes. We understand that any land owned by the RAF will be offered first to the farmers who released it in the first place. End of an era but few regrets I suspect from those who have protested about the large aerals.

Broadband in Bampton

The Council has heard that BT has received the requisite number of interested residents for the exchange to be upgraded for Broadband. Simon Hayler who has masterminded this venture has been told that the upgrade will take place on 16th February. Bampton residents, who want Broadband, should then approach their preferred Broadband Internet Service Provider and place an order. The best place for independent advice, I understand, is www.adslguide.org.uk.

Firework Display Profit

Congratulations to all concerned with the organising of the firework display for making over £3000 towards charity. This was a high risk venture which turned out to be most successful. Very well done to the organising committee. We understand that our local Fire Service followed up the above success by raising £4000 for the Children in Need collection

shortly afterwards.

Pieces 'No Mans Land' Finds Owner

Readers may recall that the square piece of land in the Pieces which has been ownerless for years has now found an owner in OCC Highways. After persistent work from Mrs Drake, Highways has now researched the paperwork and has agreed ownership. They will start work on pruning trees, etc., shortly.

Use of Pavilion

If you are looking for a suitable venue for a wedding reception or family celebration in 2004, look no further than the Recreation Ground Pavilion. **Tel: Ray Willis Tel: 01993 852483 or Mobile: 07766264684 for details.**

Parish Press Briefing January 2004

Oxfordshire Playbus

We have a Double Decker Playbus that has 6 laptops and a satellite internet connection on the lower deck and we can run a crèche on the upper deck.

We are offering **free** training for parents/carers in groups of 6 for 6 to 12 weeks, with a particular emphasis on those who: are isolated in rural areas and can't easily access training 'failed' at school and have few/no qualifications need care for children under 5 to enable them to access training (hence the crèche).

Sessions are for 1 1/2 to 2 hours each and we can run in 4 different sites per week (Monday & Tuesday am and 2 sessions on Wednesdays). Training is informal & led by what the client wants to learn. We have a friendly IT support worker who is a mature student at Brookes who's aiming to make his living teaching computing to the terrified. If you are or know of any groups of people that would like to use these facilities, please contact:

Niz Smith,
Manager Oxfordshire Playbus
01865 256809 c/o Thames Business
Advice Centre, Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0DR
email: OXONPLAYBUS@aol.com

Parish Maps

Over 30 Oxfordshire villages exhibited community maps that had been produced by local residents at the 'Our

Place' exhibition. A CD-Rom has been produced, with a copy of all the images and a step-by-step guide to producing a parish map. (A parish map is an opportunity for local people to participate in celebrating the uniqueness of their community). The CD-Roms are no longer available but if you contact Anton Nath, Community Development Worker at ORCC on 01865 883488, you can arrange to send your own CD-Rom to have it 'burned', and sent back to you for the cost of the SAE.

Grants for children in Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire Children's Fund has recently set up a 'Community Chest' for children's out of school activities, hobbies, or trips. The money is for children who cannot access activities or opportunities for whatever reason – cost, lack of local activities, disability, rural isolation, etc. The grants are aimed at individual children not organisations. The (simple) application form must be signed by children themselves, and decisions are made by a panel of children. For an application form contact Jacqui Malone at the Children's Fund **Tel: 01865 256646**.

The Local Network Fund runs a parallel grant scheme for community and voluntary groups working with children and young people. For an application pack contact **Tel: 0845 113 0161**; for advice on getting funding for children and young people's projects contact **David Fisher, Community Development Worker Tel: 01865 883488**.

'Oxford Friend' is the lesbian and gay helpline for Oxfordshire. You can contact **Oxford Friend Tel: 01865 726893**

For information and support on lesbian and gay issues (7-9pm every Tuesday Wednesday and Friday). You can also access information from the website - www.oxfordfriend.co.uk, or get in touch by email (via the website).

Floods booklet reminder for Oxfordshire

Emergency planners in Oxfordshire are reminding people that a booklet giving advice on how to stay safe and seek help in floods is available throughout the county.

The leaflet was produced following a county-wide analysis of how public services responded to last year's floods and is available at public libraries, through District and City Councils and in some police stations.

The booklet gives advice on what to do when you hear a flood warning, how to stay safe, how to make a family flood plan, who to contact and how to clean up after a flood. It also gives advice to businesses affected by flooding.

For more information contact Oxfordshire County Council's Emergency Planning Officer John Kelly **Tel: 01865 815341**.

Free starter pack on how to start up a Waste Action Group

A new information pack provides help and advice to anyone considering setting up a waste action group. Waste action groups are formed by volunteers who want to reduce waste within their locality. Also known as community action groups (CAGs), these voluntary organisations are supported by Oxfordshire County Council because they reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill.

The pack contains leaflets and information sheets dedicated to the 3Rs - reducing, reusing and recycling rubbish. eg information sheets on:

- how to organise a junk swap
- how to organise a toy swap
- how to monitor your waste action group
- leaflets about reusable nappies and home composting
- a newsletter outlining the work of the existing eight Oxfordshire CAGs.

Contact Caroline Lowery, Development Officer, Community Action Group Project, **Tel: 07793 647190 or Tel: 01865 815871**

or email Caroline on caroline.lowery@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Maggie's Cancer Information Centre

Maggie's Oxford, based at the Churchill Hospital, provides information and emotional support to anyone affected by cancer, be they patients, carers, family or friends. Maggie's runs as a drop in centre open Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4pm.

The centre has an extensive library of books, booklets, leaflets, audio tapes and videos, as well as an internet resource, to provide accurate up to date information for anyone affected by cancer. There is an information specialist in the centre to be available to listen and give reliable guidance. In addition, Maggie's offers relaxation classes, support groups and eating for health workshops as well as a telephone helpline. The centre needs ongoing funding to continue to provide is valuable services, which over 4000 people a year access. For more information about Maggie's please contact **Liz (Centre Manager) or Jessica (Fundraising Coordinator) Tel: 01865 225084**, or Email: jessica.maggies.centre@ed.ac.uk.

District Council Report

By Cllr. Jonathan Phillips

Recycling

From Tuesday, 6th April followed by Thursday, 15th April and thereafter every Wednesday there will be a **weekly** collection for recycling together with the normal wheelie bin. Plastics, cardboard, aerosols and batteries will be collected in addition to the existing collection of paper, glass, cans, aluminium foil and textiles.

By now you should have received an additional recycling box and a recycling booklet from WODC.

Please make good use of this facility and help West Oxfordshire to reach its target of recycling 18 % by 2005/6 – at present it is 12% - and by 2010 it should be 30%.

District Council Housing Needs Survey

This will now take place in May this year and will give WODC an up to date need for affordable housing particularly for those who live here and who have a Bampton connection. Each household in Bampton will be written to with the questionnaire. Please complete it and return it to WODC in the pre-paid envelope.

The Parish Council survey carried out in December/January has revealed the need for affordable housing with demand from 43 close family members and 53 members of existing households. These figures include those overcrowded and needing a larger house.

Parish Council, Affordable Housing Needs Survey

By Ralph Norman, Bampton Parish Council

Included with the last edition of the 'Beam' you received a copy of an Affordable Housing survey form from the Parish Council. The aim of the survey was to obtain a true picture of the needs and views of Bampton people in respect of Affordable Housing. Approximately 1,100 forms were sent out and I am pleased to report that we had a 43% response with 468 forms returned to the Parish Council by Bampton families. 455 of these forms have been included in the survey results, the other 13 deemed "spoiled" in some way that made them unusable (although surprisingly a rather mauled form, accompanied by an apology that it had been "eaten by the dog", proved to be still OK).

The Parish Council would like to thank all of you who took the time and trouble to complete and return your form. These are providing us with much useful information, giving us a clearer understanding of the true requirements for Affordable Housing in Bampton. A copy of the survey results is to be sent to WODC, who will be following up our survey with a more detailed questionnaire for completion by those families with a specific housing need.

The Parish Council Affordable Housing Sub-committee is now analysing the results and their implications in detail, but I am able to give you below a summary of the main figures that we have been able to extract from the information that you provided.

Housing need:

53 families already living in Bampton said they needed Affordable Housing here. This was split between: 22 families where one or more family members needed to move out into their own separate accommodation, and: 31 families where the complete family group required a new affordable dwelling (presumably their requirement is for a transfer to alternative accommodation e.g. a larger, cheaper or in some other way improved dwelling, releasing their current accommodation).

A further 43 families living outside Bampton (but with a Bampton connection) were identified as wanting Affordable Housing in Bampton.

These requirements should be clarified by the more detailed and specific questionnaire from WODC but on the face of it there appears to be a requirement for **at least 65 new affordable dwellings** (53 plus 43 less 31 possibly existing dwellings released by transfers).

The numbers of bedrooms requested (excluding the 31 families presumed to want a transfer, but including those currently living outside Bampton) were:

13 – 1 bedroom; 39 – 2 bedrooms; 13 – 3 bedrooms.

The numbers of bedrooms requested by the 31 presumed to be transfers were:

4 – 1 bedroom; 14 – 2 bedrooms; 12 – 3 bedrooms; 1 – 4 bedrooms.

Views on building new Affordable Housing:

342 (75.2%) in favour only for those with a Bampton connection; 42 (9.2%) in favour for anyone; 71 (15.6%) not in favour of any at all.

Views on maximum single site:

327 (71.9%) are in favour of sites of 30 dwellings or less; of which 287 (63.1%) want 20 or less; of which 220 (48.4%) want only 10 or less.

While at either end of the range we have:

71 (15.6%) not in favour of any building at all; 37 (8.1%) in favour of more than 50.

Concluding thoughts:

If, like the majority of people, you are turned off by these statistics, the main points that the survey indicates are: It appears that at least 65 new Affordable dwellings may be required to meet the needs expressed in the survey by people with a Bampton connection.

The majority of people want only small sites, with half in favour of only 10 or less dwellings per site. There is little support for sites exceeding 50 dwellings, implying very little support for a site like the 100 dwellings that have been proposed for New Road.

The vast majority want any new Affordable Housing site built to give priority to people in housing need with a Bampton connection.

Things Never Change do they!

A article out of
'The News Chronicle' 1935
'Cottages at 3/- a Week'

Plans for a new attempt to overcome the shortage of cheap and sanitary cottages for agriculture workers are contained in a Housing Bill to be introduced by Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, this season.

The Bill, the News Chronicle understands will include provision of a subsidy to local authorities to provide cottages at a rent of 3s. a week exclusive of rates.

It is believed that the subsidy will be provided for a period of five years and that it will be assimilated with that available for the relief of overcrowding among the agricultural population. A further provision will be made for a similar subsidy, payable annually over a period of years, for farmers and others who are prepared to build cottages for farm workers according to approved rent scales.

Policy that failed

All previous Housing Acts concerning rural housing have merely provided financial assistance for restoration of crumbling cottages in proven cases of overcrowding.

No direct Exchequer contribution has so far been available for local authorities to provide new houses to meet general needs.

The result of this policy which Sir Kingsley Wood admits has failed.

That out of some 3,000,000 new houses of all types built since the war only about 20,000 extra houses have been built to meet new needs as distinct from replacements for agricultural workers.

Unable to Marry

Yet as far back as 1913 the Land Inquiry Report declared that at least 120,000 new cottages were needed for rural workers.

Consequently agricultural workers the country over are crying out for decent houses at rents they can afford to pay. In many districts young couples have been prevented from getting married through lack of cottages

POLICE REPORT FOR 2003

At the beginning of this year, Thames Valley Police introduced a new single telephone number for all non-emergency calls. Members of the public are now able to contact the Police with their day to day enquiries by dialling **0845 8 505 505**. This new number gives you 24 hour access to the Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centres, with teams of trained operators able to help or forward your call to the right department. They will also provide a round the clock crime recording service which will help free up officers to be out and about in the community. The number will be charged at the local call rate and it was chosen in the hope that it will be memorable with the last six digits spelling SOS - SOS. For a long time members of the public haven't been sure about what is the best way to contact the Police when it's not an emergency. Now I can make it absolutely clear - call '999' if there is a threat to life or limb, or a crime 'in progress' and **0845 8 505 505** for everything else which is a genuine police matter.

Between 1st January and the 31st December 2003 a total of 162 crimes were recorded in Bampton. Now I know that might sound a lot, but in reality, that equates to only 3 incidents a week and the vast majority of them being of a very minor nature, with a fair few being of a 'domestic' nature. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

BURGLARY DWELLING	15
BURGLARY OTHER	22
ASSAULTS	21
VEHICLE CRIME	38
THEFTS	39
DAMAGE	11
OTHER REPORTABLE INCIDENTS	16

Despite these figures we still live in a very low crime rate area, as I am sure any insurance company will inform you. However, I will impart one piece of very relevant crime prevention advice, and that is, take a look at where you currently keep your house and car keys. Are they anywhere near your front door? If so, a current trend amongst burglars and car thieves is to fish out your keys through your letterbox then obviously giving them access to both your house and vehicles. A simple remedy, keep them away from the door.

By far the majority of complaints I receive from Bampton residents concern the behaviour of the local youth. Anti social behaviour amongst the young seems to be our biggest bug-bare, a problem I can't deal with alone. I have two requests; firstly, parents, you can help by educating your children on what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour in public? And secondly, you the residents, if you see anyone misbehaving, causing damage or even suspicions of drug abuse, then please report them, so that I can bring them to book.

Whilst we are on the subject of drugs, there seems to be an increase in cannabis use by local teenagers in the village, some of whom were caught last year and subsequently paid a visit to Witney Police Station. Despite many attempts to point out the dangers of using cannabis, the old adage 'old head and young shoulders' always springs to mind. Many I speak to are under the misapprehension that the recent down grading of cannabis as a drug makes it virtually legal. Take it from me, that is most definitely not the case, and those found in possession of it are just as liable to arrest as before. Now I'm not so naive as to believe youngsters aren't going to try these things, the same as I tried cigarettes (which I didn't take to), and alcohol, as a young teenager myself. Apart from the obvious health implications, problems arise when this drug abuse results in anti social behaviour and the accessibility of these substances to the younger generation. Again I ask for your help in combating this problem. Any information will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

DON'T FORGET THE NEW NUMBER - 08458 505 505

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council Membership Scheme

ORCC is your local organisation which gives practical help and encouragement to people wanting to tackle problems facing their villages, or who are involved in organising a community facility or service. ORCC's friendly team of officers are keen to help directly (or put you in touch with the appropriate contact) by:

- advising on how to preserve, maintain and improve existing rural services, e.g. community transport schemes, village shops and post offices, community shops, health and community care;
- helping parish and town councils with advice, information and training in cooperation with the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils;
- helping to promote and facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet identified local needs in rural communities in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts in southern Oxfordshire;
- encouraging local communities to conduct village appraisals, to give them a say about their current and future needs;
- promoting projects to celebrate local environmental distinctiveness, such as Parish Plans and Parish Maps and Village Design Statements;
- assisting with the promotion of the countryside Agency's Vital Villages Programme (grant scheme);
- informing village hall management committees on current legislation; maintenance, licensing; and grant aid;
- promoting and administering the Oxfordshire Best Kept Village Competition/Village of the Year Competition;
- supporting village newsletter editors; and
- advising on sources of grant aid for local projects, acting as administrator for two grant pro-

grammes, i.e. Village Shop Development Scheme and the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment.

- organises training events/workshops in respect of the above.

ORCC has two key strategic objectives:

- to increase public awareness and understanding of rural issues and problems in Oxfordshire, with the aim of influencing the policy makers to the advantage of rural communities; and
- to help village communities in Oxfordshire to identify and tackle local needs and problems, by encouraging and supporting local initiatives and voluntary activities.

As a registered charity ORCC relies heavily on grants and donations to carry out its work and, therefore, seeks additional financial support from those who value its services.

As Chairman of ORCC, I am asking you to consider becoming an individual subscribing member of ORCC. Individual subscribers, paying a minimum of £10.00 a year, receive copies of "ORCC News", a quarterly news-

letter, and a copy of its Annual Report, together with invitations to events it organises, including its AGM.

I hope the above will have given you some idea of the very varied work of the Rural Community Council. Now you have this small insight into ORCC's work, perhaps you feel able to subscribe to our membership scheme - all financial support is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to receive further information on any aspect of ORCC's work, please contact the Membership Scheme at this address: ORCC, Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney, Oxon. OX28 4SZ - or email: orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk or visit www.oxonrcc.org.uk.

Roger F. J. Kerswill Photography

Weddings, Christenings,
Portraits in your home,
Pets, Social Events,
Copying, Digital,
Colour, Black & White



Phone: 01235 868246

Fax: 01235 867088

Email: rogerkphoto@aol.com

Gigantic Garage Sale Farmhouse Restaurant Clearance

Glassware – Brassware - Chinaware
Furniture – Tools – Antiques

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th April
Lew
Witney – Bampton Road
10am – 4pm

Tel : Don Rouse on 01993 850297

PELLMANS

Solicitors

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxon OX29 4TB

- Business and Employment Law
- Divorce - Finances, Children & Cohabitation disputes
- Property - Residential and Commercial
- Wills, Probate and Trusts

Tel: 01865 884400

Fax: 01865 884411

Evening surgery at North Leigh by appointment

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BAMPTON

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

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

DO JOIN NOW

Send your membership fee of £2 each (£1 for OAPs) for the period up to December 2006, to
Society for the Protection of
Bampton
Manor House
Bampton, Oxon OX18 2LQ

N. J. WOODLEY BUILDING MAINTENANCE

COMPETITIVE RATES

15 CALAIS DENE, BAMPTON, OXON.

Tel: 01993 850753

Mobile: 07799 655385

A. SIMMONDS *The Old Fashioned Village Store*

Market Square, Bampton
Tel: 01993 850204Traditionally Baked
Bread and Cakes---
Groceries
Confectionery---
Discounted Toiletries
and
Household Cleaners---
Logs Coal---
Large Range of
Pet Foods & Requisites---
Free Local Delivery

meet • escape • relax • enjoy

enjoy

Oxfordshire's unique leisure facility is the perfect place to relax and unwind from life's usual stresses.

Whatever the purpose of your visit you can enjoy the atmosphere, however the mood takes you.



- Witney Lakes Golf Club
- greens Restaurant
- Business Centre
- Weddings
- Special Occasions
- Waters Edge Health Club

WITNEY LAKES
— RESORT —

Tel: 01993 893000 www.witney-lakes.co.uk

Downs Road, Witney, Oxfordshire. OX29 0SY

TEMPLES

MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON
TEL: 01993 850877

DIY Ironmongery Paint Wood Cement Sand Gravel

Toys Gifts Candles

Gardening Sundries

Draper Stockist

A Range of Car Accessories

Watch Batteries Fitted

Batteries

AGENTS FOR SWAN DRY CLEANING

Regular Special Offers

Logs & Coal

COME IN AND LOOK AROUND : WE ALSO DELIVER LOCALLY

Don't go anywhere else until you've been to Temples!

ANDREW BOWMAN
MASTER THATCHER
HEDGEFIELDS FARM
BAMPTON
Tel: 01993 850116
Member Oxon, Berks, Bucks
Master Thatchers Association

HAIRDRESSERS
DRESSMAKERS
Have Your Scissors
SHARPENED

P
O
L
I
S
H
E
D

Tony Hughes
10 St Mary's Court
Weald, Bampton
Oxon. OX18 2HX
Tel: 01993 851458

B
A
L
A
N
C
E
D

Dear Editor

I would like to express my gratitude for all the letters and cards sent to myself and my family when my husband, Alistair died.

I have had tremendous support and kindness from our many friends and feel very privileged to live in such caring community.

Yours sincerely

Mavis Newing, Bridge Street.

Alistair was a well known character in the village, and will be missed by many. I'm sure he's having a pint with my father (John Quick), like old times. Our fondest wishes go to Mavis and family from the Beam Team.

Dear Editor

Let me start by saying I am not against the motor car in spite of my work towards a safe cycle path and the fact that I may frequently be seen around the village on my bike.

However I am against the car being allowed to dominate the verges of Bampton. I believe the Parish Council is planning to take up some of the verges in Broad Street and Bridge Street for hard surfacing for car parking. I wish to say that I am very much against this solution. Creating new parking spaces, benefits solely the owner of the car which parks there.

The look of well kept verges benefits the whole of the village. You have only to look at Alvescot at this time of the year to see what a pleasurable impression the verges of a village can be.

We have two problems in Bampton as far as traffic is concerned, one is parking on the verges even on the daffodils that are planted there. The other is speeding traffic through the village.

If cars were encouraged to park on the road instead of on the verges, this would be very effective at calming traffic. If you look outside Emmies Newsagents, you will notice that cars parked there are very effective at slowing traffic. If you are familiar with Eynsham's main street, it is impossible to speed through there because of the cars being parked there. Goring and Stratley on the other side of Oxfordshire, have a similar solution.

There used to be posts on the verges in Bridge Street to stop cars parking

LETTERS and E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

there. These were knocked down by parking cars, years ago and were never replaced. I think they now should be.

There was talk some time ago of putting posts to prevent cars parking on the grass in Broad Street. Why did this not happen? Posts were put in at the entrance to Cheyne Lane, and these have been effective.

I do think there should be proper public debate about the use of our verges for car parking. There are a number of Bamptonians who do not own a car. Where is the benefit for them of seeing our pretty village under concrete.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Lewington, Bridge Street.

Dear Editor

Here is some information about my first novel *The Lock* which was published in paperback last year and got some good reviews and trade press coverage.

The Lock by Frank Egerton

What the critics said about *The Lock*

'Original, illuminating and absorbing.' John Bayley, author of *Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch*

'*The Lock* blends a love story with philosophical drama to produce an intriguing debut. Egerton writes well about infidelity, ignorance and rivalries that can threaten family life...He is equally good when it comes to describing place... a vivid impression of contemporary Oxford. Some fine and sensuous writing, meanwhile, makes it all nicely diverting.' Sophie Ratcliffe, *The Times*

'*The Lock* is a classic Oxford novel getting its feet wet in the mainstream of campus fiction, tiptoeing through dirty realism wearing some very traditional wellies. This is campus drama reinvented as soap opera, with a soap's eye for detail and a realist's relish in the naming of everyday things...Egerton builds betrayal carefully, the characters, like real people, contemplate fallback positions even as they present each other with emotional absolutes.' Michael Carlson, *The Spectator*

'Impressive in its sensitive analysis... [Egerton] brings to life that fundamental trade-off between selfish forbidden pleasure and its painful repercussions to others.' Kimberley Tan, *Cherwell*

The Lock was also featured in the Bookseller and on Oxfordshire's 6TV. Articles on *The Lock* appeared in Publishing News, Writers News and the Oxford Times.

Smaller Sky Books

Bryn Maen, Maentwrog, Gwynedd. LL41 4HN

Web: www.smallersky.com

Email: editor@smallersky.com

The novel is set in Oxford and Gloucestershire and features Osney Island where my wife and I lived for some fourteen years. My next novel, by the way, has the working title *A Kind of understanding: Paraliel Lives* and is set in many different parts of the country, including a fictional West Oxfordshire village.

The Lock is available at Bampton library and will be for sale at the Horse Shoe. It may also be sold at other outlets, subject to demand.

A good link for people wanting to find out more about *The Lock* is my web address. The site includes a photo of me, biographical details, a synopsis of *The Lock's* plot, its first chapter, the opening pages of my new book and some information about ebook technology (as you will see from the enclosed press release, *The Lock* was first published in digital form and reached the finals of the US Independent eBook Awards at Santa Barbara in November 2002).

I hope the enclosed will prove to be of interest.

Best wishes,

Frank Egerton

Broad Street.

website: www.frankegerton.com

e-mail: frank~frankegerton.com

Bampton School News

By Richard Pitt Parent Governor

Once again there is so much to tell you about what's been going on at Bampton Primary School since the last issue of *The Bampton Beam*.

Firstly, although it seems like it was a long time ago, we must talk about Christmas. The Key Stage 1 concert was an adaptation of the nativity theme in a play called Whoops-a-daisy Angel. It's always marvellous to see the very youngest children perform so bravely on a stage in front of so many parents and friends. Well done to you all and to the staff who work so hard to pull the event together.

The older children from Key Stage 2 performed *The Stable Story* in St. Mary's church. We had acting, singing and dancing to entertain us. Again it's great to see such an array of talent and thanks to the children and the staff involved in this production.

Still on the theme of Christmas many thanks to all the people at FOBS for their superb fundraising efforts, particularly the bazaar and the carol singing.

Moving on to 2004, Mrs. Newman's class of year 5 and year 6 children made the annual visit to Yenworthy, Oxfordshire County Council's residential outward bound centre based on Exmoor. Leaving school early Monday morning and returning Friday evening, everybody spent their time in between going on moor walks, orienteering, completing assault courses, abseiling and zip wiring, amongst other things. Everybody worked very well together and the children were thrilled with all their achievements.

Meanwhile we had International Week. Teachers from Spain, Germany and the Netherlands visited for a few days in January. During their stay they had tours around Bampton and the School, spent a day planning a joint project and visited Oxford. The project will be submitted to the British Council in September and if approved it will run for a three year period under the title of 'Life in our School and Town'.

Then there was Health and Fitness

Week, which ran from February 5th to the 13th. Miss Copping organised an action packed week of energetic activities. These included a skipping day, netball matches, introductions to hockey and cricket, boys' and girls' football and fun runs around the playing fields, along with other related events such as guidance on healthy eating and first aid. Thanks to all who helped out with the events and turned out to support them.

The historical theme has also continued this term, as you may have noticed if you have recently visited the Bampton Museum in the Robert Vesey Room at the Library. This time the project centred on the First World War and the contributions Bamptonians made during it. The children completed worksheets which encouraged them to take an interest in events of that time. Many thanks to the staff at the museum for the assistance they gave to the children.

A couple of other items to finish with. Firstly, many congratulations to the School Council who have won an award of £2,000 from BT. To win this, they submitted a project called 'Better Talk for Better Times' which was to do with PSHE and Citizenship to improve their playtimes. The money will go towards training adults and children in mediating skills and

building a trim trail.

Secondly, Oxfordshire County Council has changed its admissions policy with effect from September 2004. Until now the County Council policy has been to take reception children into school **part time** the term in which they are 5 years old. From September 2004 this will change so that children will be offered a **part time** place in the September of the year in which they turn five. The School's policy was to offer to take reception children into school **full time** the term in which they are 5 (i.e. rising 5's). This policy will now be enhanced as follows:

To continue our present policy for rising 5's and offer full time places in September 2004 for autumn starters and offer part time places (a.m.) in September for those that would have been spring and summer starters. As children become rising 5's we would continue to offer them full time places.

The Bampton Directory

Copies are still available from the Post Office and Abbey Properties.

Bampton Footpath Map

Free copies are still available from BEWG, Abbey Properties, and the Post Office.

Bampton Welfare Trust

Charity No. 202735

The Trustees may make gifts to the needy in Bampton, Aston, and Lew – as far as their funds allow – to relieve sudden distress or sickness, help with travelling expenses to hospitals, provide fuel and food for the sick. The Trustees also assist the local primary schools, playgroups and clubs for the elderly in that area.

Trustees: The Reverend D Lloyd, Dr M Perry, Mrs R Colville, Mrs J Haslam, Mrs J Newman, Mr C Rouse, Mrs S Phillips, Mr G Wiltshire & Mr G Mills (Aston), Mrs A Grinsell (Lew).

Clerk to the Trustees: Mr D Pullman,

Mill Green Cottage, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850589.

Welfare Officer: Mrs J Newman,

Leofric House, 81 New Road, Bampton, Tel: 01993 850755

BAMPTON YOUTH CENTRE

By Colin Allport

A fund raising exercise is now in process to raise the sum of £12,000 needed for a new gas-fired convector heating system for the main hall of the Centre. The aim of the project is to provide a comfortable environment for those using the premises – either for youth activities or by rental for social purposes. We have already received substantial assistance from the Parish Council and from the Welfare Trust and, together with what can be allocated from the Centre's own reserves; the amount already available stands at approximately 30% of the total required. Approaches have also been made to a number of local charitable concerns but it will not be until towards the middle of the year that the outcome of these contacts will be known. The aim is for the installation to be carried out in the third quarter of this year so that the new system will be in operation for next winter.

A serious problem has developed during the last few months with regard to the very successful Tuesday Junior Youth Club, which caters for young people of 11 – 13 years of age. One of the youth workers for the club is already funded by the Parish Council but two workers are required and the-

County Council have indicated that they will not support clubs for those below 13. The local county youth service organiser is attempting to obtain funding from commercial sponsors and the Parish Council has, kindly, offered further help but it is now certain that the junior club will have to be suspended until financial matters can be sorted out and the best that can be hoped for is that it may be possible to restart in September.

Matters have been made worse by the difficulty of obtaining volunteer youth workers to assist in supervision and anyone willing to help should make contact with Shelley Vaisey (842416). Shelley will also be happy to deal with enquiries regarding the Senior Club, which operates on Thursday evenings.

It will be well known that the Centre is available for rental at times when the youth clubs are not operating and the main hall of this attractive old building offers a pleasant atmospheric venue for dances and social gatherings of all types. Jill Ruck (852010) will always be happy to provide information and to take bookings.

The Centre's annual general meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th April and all residents of the village are welcome. For any further information or for general enquires, please contact **Colin Allport Tel: 850411.**

LOST CAT - CAN YOU HELP?

Since the middle of December a black cat has been missing in the Bampton area.

It had just been moved to a new home in the village, but before it had had time to settle in, in fact on the same day, it managed to get out.

Since then it has been seen several times near the stables, between the Aston road and Buckland road.

Traps have been set in gardens where he was last seen, to try and catch him, but with no luck.

He may have wondered further to find food and shelter and so could be anywhere in the Bampton area.

He was previously being fed by a house hold in the Witney area, who were not able to take him in as a house cat, and so is not used to finding his own food, he will

It was hoped that he would end up as a much loved cat in a warm home, but instead has found him self out in the cold fending for him self this winter.

So if you have or if you do notice a black cat looking rather sorry for him self, out in the cold and wet in the Bampton area.

Please give me a call and I will try to pick him, up so that he can find a good home.

Many Thanks

A small reward is offered for information leading to successful return of cat
Liz Grayston Tel: 01993 778958 Mobile: 07970 979399.

WRVS

Home Choice Meals

Anyone can order Home Choice Meals – older people who perhaps live alone and don't want to, or unable to cook or shop for themselves, new mothers who need good nutrition but who have little time to cook, or simply anyone who would like the convenience of a complete meal to hand in the freezer.

Home Choice Meals are suitable for cooking in either microwave or traditional ovens. The range includes special requirements such as diabetic and gluten free meals or 'soft' foods for those who need them as well as vegetarian options. There is an extensive range - breakfasts, lunches, suppers and dinners. Soups you can have as a tasty snack or an additional course. Also a delicious choice of hot or cold puddings and desserts.

Home Choice Meals already operates in pockets around the country, and we know that our private customers value the service experience and trust that the WRVS has developed over the past 60 years, delivering nutritious meals to people.

Importantly, because Home Choice Meals operates under the WRVS name, customers can be assured that they will receive top quality products delivered with courtesy from a trustworthy organisation. We will be using regular drivers in Home Choice Meals uniform so customers will be able to recognise and get to know the person who delivers their meals and of course we will be using distinctive liveried vans.

Home Choice Meals is very important to the WRVS. The grants we receive are decreasing and we are having to find more and more money ourselves to ensure the service is to continue. Home Choice Meals has potential to raise the income for the WRVS which we will then be able to re-invest, as we do with the hospital shops, to help support your community based projects.

This will also be used to support our volunteers and the people who benefit from our services.

If you have any questions, please contact **Tel: 0771 4898589 or your local WRVS representative Tel: 850684.**

The Post Office

What's Happening down at the Post Office?

By Martin and Carole Barrett

Most people will be aware of the troubled times being experienced by Post Offices in general and rural Post Offices in particular. It would appear that the government changes effecting the way in which pensions and allowances are to be paid are cumbersome, poorly administered and over-complicated. The powers that be are doing their best to simplify their own procedures at the expense and inconvenience of the elderly - not much new there, I'm afraid. Now we learn that the good 'old fashioned' National Savings Ordinary accounts (the Post Office book) are to be closed. Well, we can't change governmental attitude but we can do our best to protect our way of life. And that is exactly what many of you are doing by staying with the Post Office for your pension payments, allowances and so on. Thus this letter.

Carole and I would like to say a genuine 'thank you' to all those readers who have gone to a great deal of trouble in the way of form filling, telephoning and reading in order that their pensions or allowances are kept with the Post Office rather than transferred to their bank. A special thanks also to those who have shown a magnificent spirit of rebellion by moving their pension payments away from their bank to the Post Office. I believe these sorts of supportive actions mean that Bampton Post Office will survive when many others around us will be closing!

With your continued support I am sure we can, together, overcome all the problems associated with change and even look forward to expanding our services to you.

Many thanks to you all.

REASONS TO USE THE POST OFFICE

Taken from the front page of the December 2003, Bampton Beam

Do you use the Post Office to collect your Pension?

Do you collect your Family Allowance from the Post Office?

If the answer to any of the above is NO, then please consider doing so.

While it may be easier to have your Family Allowance or Pension paid into or out of your Personal Bank Account, please help to keep our Post Office viable by opening a Post Office account into which they can be paid. You can then draw them directly from the Post Office - and enjoy a walk at the same time!

You can cancel your current arrangement with your own Bank, and forms are available at the Post Office for you to open a Post Office account and arrange for the allowances to be paid into it.

Remember you can also pay your Utility Bills, renew your TV Licence, and pay your Road Tax at the Post Office!

Surely none of us would be happy having to take letters, parcels and other post to Witney or Carterton, what with the queues so often experienced in those locations.

Please take the steps above today and help to save the **Bampton Post Office**. If everyone uses the Post Office as suggested it will remain viable.

**The reasons are clear why we here in Bampton have to
USE IT OR we will be at a real risk of LOSING IT
Don't let them shut our Post Office.**

What's on in May

The Great Annual Shirt Race

Saturday 29th May starting from 6pm with the judging of the Fancy Dress Competition. The races start with the Juniors at 6.30pm. For more details please look in the SPAJERS column, or contact **Don Rouse Tel: 850938.**

The May Garlands

By Ruth Wheeler

It will soon be Spring Bank Holiday and it would be



lovely to see a few garlands there to be judged on Monday May 31st at 11am in the Market Square. A garland doesn't have to be elaborate; a simple one is just as welcome. So please, children, and Mums and Dads (all can help make one), help to keep this old tradition going!

I would just like to say, if any children take their garlands into the church after judging, will they please see that they are

taken out the next day as when the flowers drop, they make quite a mess on the Church floor! The past five years I myself have had to do the cleaning up, but I do feel that it is the responsibility of the owners of the garlands.

To Make a Garland

Pick as many wild flowers as you can find. Bunch them into small bunches and tie on to a frame - which is made of two circles of willow wood placed inside one another, tied top to bottom. A small doll is placed inside. The garland can then be carried on a stick. The top of the garland can be made up of any kind of flower, but wild ones must be up the sides.

The Craft Fair

Monday 31st in the Village Hall, from 9.30am, there will be a Craft Fair. Lots of old crafts such as corn dollies, woodcarvings, pottery, jewellery will be on show. Also refreshments - yes that good old refreshing cup of tea will be on sale. For more information contact **Mrs Jean Howell Tel: 850684**

The Morris Dancers

Finally, the three teams of Morris Men will be about in Bampton starting at 7am. Programmes are on sale in the Market Square to show you where each one is dancing and what time.

Do try a piece of the fertility cake which is carried around the streets. In the evening visiting teams come to join in the fun and dancing which is held in the Market Square from around 5pm until whenever.

The local public houses will all be open late into the evening.

ABBEY PROPERTIES ESTATE AGENTS

*Specialising in the sale of property in
Bampton and surrounding villages*

OUR UNRIVALLED KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL
AREA COMBINED WITH OUR PROFESSIONALISM
AND WILL TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE
PRICE AT ALL TIMES MAKES
ABBEY PROPERTIES
THE OBVIOUS CHOICE TO
SELL YOUR HOME

*For marketing advice and a free valuation entirely without obligation,
contact YOUR local agent.*

MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON, OXON.
Tel: 01993 851881 or Fax: 01993 850953

See also our Website www.abbey-properties.tv

The Romany Inn

Bridge Street, Bampton
01993 850237

Your Host: Trevor Johnson

A Fine Old Hostelry

Bar

Relax over a drink in our convivial surroundings in our L-shaped bar, with its oak beams, and its basket log fire set into a pillared alcove.

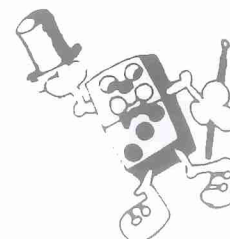
Accommodation

The Romany Inn boasts an excellent range of accommodation. There are 11 single and double rooms - all ensuite. All have tea and coffee making facilities, and come equipped with a remote control colour TV.

Restaurant

Enjoy a meal in our softly-lit dining room, with its open brickwork and gleaming brasses and copper canopied fireplace. Wide choice of menus, including vegetarian. Or you can eat in our comfy bar-restaurant with its open log fire.

DOMINO



Quality Menswear

44 Corn St. Witney
Tel: 01993 771413

**FORMAL HIREWEAR
SPECIALIST**

**EVERYTHING FOR THAT
SPECIAL OCCASION**

IMMEDIATE HIRE OF

Dinner Suits
Morning Suits

AGENTS FOR

Highland Wear
Page Boy Suits
Lounge Suits

THE STANDLAKE GARAGE

Proprietor: Peter Saxel
153 Abingdon Rd, Standlake, Oxon OX8 7RR
Tel: 01865 300203

**REPAIR AND
SERVICING TO ALL
MAKES OF CAR**
(Collection and Delivery Service)

M.O.T. TESTING STATION - PETROL
DIESEL - ACCESSORY AND
CONFECTIONERY SHOP - TYRES,
BATTERIES & EXHAUST SYSTEMS
ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
(Fitting free of charge when supplied)
WHEEL BALANCING
CRYPTON TUNING
COAL, PARAFFIN, BARBECUE FUEL

**DON'T HESITATE TO
CALL US
ALWAYS HAPPY TO
ASSIST**



Electric Vehicles Ltd

Moonraker Lane, Market Square, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2JH

THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SPECIALISTS

- * Regular routine maintenance
- * 24-hour emergency breakdown service
- * Spare parts for most makes of vehicle from stock
- * Service exchange units (diffs, motors, steering boxes)
- * Replacement batteries and chargers
- * Body repairs and rebuilding facility
- * New and used vehicle sales department
- * Charger and battery service facility
- * Electronic control specialists

ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

For Details Telephone WITNEY (01993) 850714/850025



(1418)

R. Cooper

BUILDERS - PAINTERS - DECORATORS

CARPENTRY - JOINERY - GENERAL HELPERS

SPECIALISTS IN DRY STONE WALLING

The Old Gasworks, Aston Road, Bampton
Oxon OX18 2AL
Phone/Fax 01993 851851

BOJANGLES

Rosemary Lane, Bampton
01993 850850

**All aspects of hairdressing
Woven Highlights + Perms
Gents & Children
Senior Citizen's Days**

Tues, Wed, Thur 8.45am - 5pm
Fri 8.45am - 5.30pm
Sat 9am - 2pm

**Appointments not
always necessary**

Dawn Puckey PAHCP

**Remedial & Sports
Massage Therapist**

Baby Massage
&

Ante-natal Massage

'Body-Talk'

Bampton

01235 524309

The Laura Knight Appeal Update

As you may have seen in the previous issue of the Bampton Beam, Laura is recovering from treatment after being diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of 15. Wanting something positive to come out of her situation, she has gone onto raise over £5000 for a children's brain tumour charity.

To show our admiration for her courage, by the time you read this, over 50 people will be nursing sore feet, having completed a sponsored walk to raise money to send Laura on her dream holiday.

If you would like to help us, it isn't too late. Future events include a raffle, with a £50.00 first prize (tickets are on sale at temples) and a tombola. Both raffle draw and tombola will take place on the 29th of May at Temples. If you prefer to make a donation, there are collection boxes in most of the businesses in Bampton, or alternatively just pop into the HSBC in Bampton and ask to make a payment direct into the Laura Knight appeal.

May we take this opportunity to thank all of you who have already given your support to Laura's appeal and hope that you feel able to continue to do so.

Raffle and Tombola prizes would be gratefully received at Temples, Market Square. For more information contact, **Richard Cooper Tel: 850877.**

The Bampton We Have Lost

'The Bampton We Have Lost' was written by Mr Hughes-Owen, headmaster of Bampton Primary School from 1944 to the early '60s. Sadly it has been out of print for 30 years. The Friends of St. Mary's, with the kind permission of Mrs Hughes Owen and the family, are planning to republish this popular history of Bampton and hope to have it on sale in time for Christmas 2004. If you wish to order a copy at a discounted price in advance of publication, you will be able to put your name on a list at Temples in the summer. Further details will appear in the August 'Bampton Beam'.

Small Producers Market

We are interested in setting up and running a small producers market in Bampton and are looking for enthusiastic people to join us. If you are a good

NOTICE BOARD

home cook, grow a surplus of fruit and vegetables or make original craft items and would like an outlet at which to sell your high quality produce we would like to hear from you. Anyone who would like to join us to share their experience would also be welcome. For further information please contact, **Jo Ader Tel: 850328 or Paula Augar Tel: 852852.**

St Mary's Ladies Lunch

On the last Friday of each month a group of ladies from St Mary's provide a delicious and nourishing lunch for a contribution of £3 each. This event is seen as part of the Church in the Community, providing an opportunity for ladies of the Parish to meet together to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. Young mothers with preschool children are welcomed, as are older friends for whom lifts to the venue can be arranged. We meet from 12.30 pm to 2 pm. Most months the lunch is held in The Pavilion, Buckland Road with its modern and convenient facilities, but occasionally, e.g. our Lenten Lunch, use will be made of the church. It will be a joy to see that beautiful building providing the setting for such an occasion. Attendance fluctuates from 30 to 40, but there is always sufficient food for all. If you would like to know more, please contact **Judith Pont Tel: 852588 or Margaret Battersby Tel: 850182.** You are warmly welcome to come and join us.

Christian Aid Week

We believe in life before death.

This year Christian Aid week runs from 9 - 15 May and during that week collections, sales and events will be held nation-wide. Here in Bampton our fundraising efforts are being put into two events. A Coffee Morning is to be held at Cobb House, Church Close, from 10 am to 12 noon, with admission £1 including coffee/tea and biscuits. There will be food, fancy goods, plant and 'fair trade' stalls, together with a raffle and play facilities for toddlers. Cobb House is opposite the back gate to the church. Do come for a morning amongst friends

at the same time supporting those far less fortunate than us in Bampton. There will also be a house-to-house collection for which volunteers are required. Further information contact **Jill Ruck, Oban House or Tel: 852010.**

By supporting Christian Aid now you will be among millions of people who think world-wide poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions, commitment and contributions will help bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world. Just two examples - £5 will buy rice for a family in Sierra Leone to plant, providing food, income and seed for the next season. £10 will pay for taps and troughs to provide two villages in Bolivia with a safe and reliable water supply.

Bampton Exhibition Foundation

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

The Bush Club

The Bush Club Needs YOU

Helpers

Needed on Wednesdays

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 and Kitchen Helpers

Approximately once every 5 weeks from 9.45 - 1pm

General Helpers

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

For more information please contact **Barbara Daw Tel: 01993 851491**

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 2nd 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.**

Old Birthday Cards

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

The Red Cross

Join the Red Cross as a Medical Loan Volunteer

We particularly need volunteers for Witney and the Monday morning slot at our depot at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

Can you give a few hours of your time to help care for someone in a crisis? The Red Cross's Medical Loan Service provides short-term loans of wheelchairs and other aids.

"Looking after my mother when she couldn't even stand up was very hard, we just weren't equipped for it. The wheelchair we borrowed from the Red Cross was a godsend."

Your role would be to demonstrate equipment, deal with customers and enquiries, check and clean equipment when it is returned. Some admin is required to record and register details.

If you enjoy meeting people, are interested in learning about mobility aids and support for people with disabilities, this could be the role for you. Training and travel expenses are provided.

Contact Marian Faulkner Tel: 01235 552660.

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 from **Joan Farthing Tel: 851206.**

NOTICE BOARD

Cancer Research Bampton Branch

During 2003 we made a total of £15,048 57p a record for us. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible.

The AGM was held on 26th January, the new committee is as follows:

Chairman - Mrs Doris Cleaver
Treasurer - Mr Micheal Cleaver
Secretary - Mrs Eileen Dring

Events for 2004

Saturday 3rd April

Easter Sale - The Village Hall 10 -12

Friday 21st May

Quiz Night The Village Hall
(Teams of 4)

Monday 3rd May

May Balloon Race - Street Fair

Saturday 18th September

Autumn Sale, The Village Hall 10 -12

Wednesday 17th November

Pre Christmas Bingo - The Village Hall

Friday 3rd December

Quiz Night The Village Hall
(Teams of 4)

Friday 17th December

Country & Western Dance - Social Centre, Carterton

Anyone wishing to join us contact **The Cleavers Tel: 850682.**

West Oxfordshire Conservative Association *The Bampton, Clanfield and Black Bourton branch.*

We enjoyed a highly successful Christmas Drinks Evening, courtesy of Major and Mrs Robert Colville at Weald Manor in early December. 140 people attended the event. The entertainment was provided by the 'Cool Jazz' swing group and the Bampton Mimmers. The Mimmers collected over £100 for the SPAJERS. Lord & Lady Hurd as well as our MP David Cameron called in, despite having had an earlier commitment in Carterton.

The next event in the calendar will be the 'Jazz Night' on Saturday March 27th in the Bampton Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm. Entrance will be by ticket only priced at £15, this does include supper. For more information on the Jazz Evening please contact **Graham Haslam Tel: 851014.**

The Annual AGM was held in February and the new committee is as follows:

President - Lord Donoughmore

Chairman - Graham Haslam

Vice-Chairman - Rosemary Colville

Treasurer - Fred Gray

Secretary - Janet van den Berge

Membership Secretary - Sally Cooper

General Members - Reg Chambers
Joan Haslam, Alan Crisp and Brian Ferguson.

We would like to thank Marion Dowding, Mary Smith and Fenella Gray for all their help given over the years especially when the Association here in Bampton became near to folding up.

For more information on the WOCA please contact **Graham Haslam Tel: 851014.**

Charity Shop Thanks

The Committee and helpers would like to say a sincere, and big, Thank You to Alan Clarke for all of his help and support over the years that the shop ran from the premises next to The Horse Shoe.

Unforeseen circumstances have caused the closure of the Shop....but it is hoped that it can be resurrected in some form soon for the benefit of the Village.

Again, thank you Alan!

Some Useful Telephone Numbers

Police	0845 8 505 505
Witney Hospital	01993 602900
Minor Injuries Unit	01993 602966
Power Cuts	0345 708090
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Water & Sewerage	0645 200800
BT General Enquiries	0800 309409
BT Line Fault	151
Env.Services	01993 770222
Abandoned Vehicles	01993 770308
Bulky Waste	
Collection	01993 770222
Witney Town Council	01993 704379
Tourist Information	01993 775802
Citizens Advice	01993 705691
Train Information	08457 484950
Trading Standards	01865 815000
Bampton Surgery	01993 850257
- out of hours	01993 851616
Witney Health Centre	01993 703641
Stagecoach Witney	01993 702197
WODC	01993 702941
Lost & Found	01608 659029
Clerk Parish Council	01993 850776

THE BUSH CLUB NEEDS YOU!

The Bush Club needs people aged 60 and over. We meet every Wednesday in the Bush Centre, Church View 10am - 2pm

Collection arrangements can be made for you. Come along and enjoy a day out in a different environment than your usual one.

We provide morning coffee, lunch and tea. Most weeks we have entertainment or a speaker comes to visit

We go on trips, The Pantomime at Christmas, Lunch out at The Ferryman Inn, Millets Garden Centre, Strawberry Tea at the Manor and lots more.

We celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival. Raffles and Coffee Morning's, if that's not enough we have a game of Bingo or a Sing-a-long.

Why don't you come in and visit - drop by for Morning Coffee - Join us for Lunch - or come and listen to the entertainment.

You don't need to stay the day with us, come in to suit yourself.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12th June
in The Town Hall, 10am - 12 noon

OPEN DAY AT THE BUSH CLUB

Wednesday 16th June
Church View 10am - 12 noon

**IF YOU DON'T USE THIS FACILITY HERE IN THE VILLAGE WE MAY
HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN AND THAT WOULD BE AN AWFUL SHAME FOR
THOSE WHO ALREADY DO USE IT AND ENJOY
A SOCIAL DAY OUT.**

Cooks, Drivers and Helpers are urgently needed.
An hour or two now and then would be very helpful.
For more information contact
Vera Allport Tel: 850411 or Barbara Daw Tel: 851491

During August we close, but the first Wednesday in September we are up and running once again.

Bampton Traffic

By Sue Helm
Residents for Action on Traffic

Increased numbers and size of heavy goods vehicles

Unacceptable speeding

Rat running

Road safety

These were the main concerns of those responding to a short pilot survey on attitudes to traffic in Bampton. RAT (Residents for Action on Traffic) has been formed to represent those who are concerned about these issues.

A high percentage of returns for the survey showed that there are major concerns with traffic and its effects on life in what is essentially a rural community. Consequently RAT has been working hard in the background - on Bampton's behalf - for over a year.

With expanding housing developments in areas close to Bampton, and corresponding predicted increases in local and national traffic volumes it is essential that traffic issues be addressed with greater scrutiny than ever before.

Between major strategic road links, Bampton is in danger of becoming a more useful route for HGVs, whilst the closure of RAF Lyneham and relocation of its activities to RAF Brize Norton will probably result in more commuters.

No one would wish to prevent legitimate deliveries or commerce within the village, however the way in which traffic behaves within Bampton undeniably influences village life for us all.

RAT does not aim to stop drivers using our roads, but asks them to respect the community by obeying speed limits and respecting the safety of both pedestrians and other drivers. In other words we are guided by - and share the aims of - national bodies such as the established 'Transport 2000', which has developed an excellent approach to these issues.

The Parish Council has achieved some successes in cutting speeds and improving driver behaviour using painted calming methods, and has been successful in getting the OCC to agree to install buildouts at the en-

trances of the four main roads coming into the Village.

RAT is keen to work with the Parish Council to ensure that this work continues and has also lobbied the County Council on your behalf regarding many issues.

RAT is concerned to note that despite requests from the Parish Council and RAT, the present calming scheme has not been refurbished by the County Council.

We also note that many Oxfordshire Villages and roads are being supplied with updated calming measures, the most notable in the area being Long Hanborough. We would like to redress this imbalance.

To this end a questionnaire is enclosed with this copy of The Beam. We would be most grateful if you could take a little time to fill it in and return it by 20th April to Cotton Club or Temples.

Even if you responded to the original survey it would be useful if you could also respond to this one too, so that we can get the broadest possible picture.

RAT is also arranging a 'Day of Action' following the successful and well-reported day last year. Following Police guidelines on what is permissible we aim to be present on several roads to bring our message to the attention of all users.

The next day of action is planned to take place on April 26th 2004. Please do your best to attend. We will meet in the Market Square at 8am.

We hope to publish the survey results in the next issue of The Beam. Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

The RAT committee is as follows:
Sue Helm - Chair, spokesperson and Parish Council contact.

John Holloway - County Council contact.

Roger Bradley - Publicity.

Mark Wannell - Treasurer.

Roger Howard - Secretary.

To get your views, we would appreciate you filling in the questionnaire on the next page.

BAMPTON LIBRARY IS NOT JUST A LIBRARY

**There are Books
(fiction and non-fiction)**

**Best Sellers
(soon after publication)**

Talking Books, Videos

Free use of Computer

Children's Section

Books on Wheels

also

The Robert Vesey Room for

exhibitions of local

artists and exhibitions of

photographs and oral

history from the Bampton

museum.

Coffee and Tea and Biscuits

OPENING TIMES

Monday
2.30pm - 5.00pm
6.00pm - 8.00pm

Tuesday
CLOSED

Wednesday
10.00am - 12.30pm

Thursday
2.30pm - 5.00pm

Friday
2.30pm - 5.00pm

Saturday
9.30am - 12.30pm

Explore the WWW.world at your Library

- **Send or pick up your emails**
- **Practise your surfing skills**
- **Look up telephone numbers**
- **Take up some training**

***Our staff are there to make
sure you get the most from
your Library: please ask
them for any help you need.***

Traffic Questionnaire

1. Do you feel that there are concerns with traffic in Bampton and, if so, which aspects worry you? Please tick.

Heavy Goods Vehicles	
Rat-running	
Speeding	
Disrespectful driving	
Parking on roadsides/verges	
Lack of controlled/marked parking spaces	
Other....	

2. Are there any locations that you consider are dangerous? If so, where are these areas and why

3. Are there any locations that you consider are dangerous? If so, where are these areas and why?

4. Please indicate your support or otherwise for the following traffic calming measures. Please tick.

	Yes	No
Build-outs at entrances to village		
Build-outs, or similar, within the village		
Humps		
Pedestrian crossings		
Traffic lights		
Speed cameras		
Speed indicator devices		
Increased number of 30mph repeater signs		
Calming measures painted on the road surface		
Lower speed limits (such as 20mph through the centre).		
One-way system		
Other...		

Thank you for your time and support. Return (with any additional comments) to the 'Cotton Club'.

Name/Address.....

Would you consider supporting RAT...

....thereby supporting safe, respectful road use in and around Bampton? If so, please complete the slip below, enclose £2.50, and return the whole sheet. By having a wider voice RAT will be able to influence traffic issues within Bampton and its approaches more easily. Cheques payable to 'RAT' please. Subscriptions will be used for campaign materials and to provide a newsletter.

I support RAT. I enclose £2.50 to assist with expenses. (Please PRINT).

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

MOBILE:

E-MAIL:

Road and Traffic Issues

By Fred Gray
Bampton Parish Council

Elsewhere in this edition of 'The Beam' you will find an article from 'RAT' – Residents for Action on Traffic – and a questionnaire, which we would all appreciate you filling in so that we can find out your views on traffic issues within the Village.

Please fill it in whether you support or do not support the various traffic calming measures listed in the questionnaire, as this will be valuable information to gauge the strength of feeling on the issue.

While the RAT article covers what the concerns of RAT are, it was thought beneficial to accompany it with an article on what the Parish Council's policies and plans are on traffic issues; this with a view to helping you all to fill in the questionnaire, and of course to hopefully enlighten you as to what your Parish Council is trying to achieve on road and traffic issues.

There are two main issues which the Parish Council is addressing at the moment, viz., speed of traffic, and the increasing use of the Village roads by HGVs.

Speeding

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways Department conducted a traffic (speed) survey for us in late 2002. What the survey found was that Bampton does have a traffic problem in terms of vehicle speed at the extremities of the Village, but does not have a major problem within the Village itself – some motorists were found to be speeding, but the majority were within the speed limit. These results have recently been verified by a survey by 'Speedwatch'.

On the basis of the survey, the Parish Council requested the OCC to install 'Buildouts' (Chicanes) on the four main roads leading into the Village, in order to slow down incoming traffic – the experience with Buildouts is that once the traffic has been slowed down, it generally does not speed up again (although you will always get some drivers speeding no matter what you put in their way!).

The Buildouts have now been ap-

proved by the OCC, and the detailed design has been sanctioned. Funding for them has not yet been cleared, but the Parish Council is hopeful that the OCC's 2004-2005 budget will include the funding.

In the meantime, discussions have also been held with Speedwatch and the Police to review what other measures might be considered to tackle the drivers who break the speed limit within the village, and consideration is being given to the ad hoc use of temporary mobile speed cameras, speed warning devices, posters, etc.; and perhaps additional road markings. It has to be stressed that the surveys mentioned above found that only a relatively small proportion of drivers were speeding within the Village limits. As such, the Parish Council wants to target these drivers with appropriate measures to try and get them to reduce their speed, rather than to attack the issue by the wholesale use of major permanent traffic calming measures, such as Buildouts and/or speed humps, within the Village itself. Such measures, if employed, would have a major detrimental impact on the character of the village street-scene, and the Parish Council does not believe that the Villagers want Bampton to be turned into another Long Hanborough with its plethora of traffic calming devices.

An additional concern of the Parish Council in employing traffic calming measures is that it is very conscious of the need not to put too many obstacles in the way of the car driver who uses the Village for shopping. Bampton, for its size, boasts an excellent array of shops. It also has a bank and a post office, and they are well used by people from the surrounding villages such as Clanfield, Alvescot, Black Bourton, Aston, Buckland, Brize Norton, Curbridge and Lew, as well as the Villagers themselves. The Parish Council wants people from surrounding villages to continue to come to Bampton to do their shopping and to feel that they are welcome in the Village.

Hence the Parish Council's policy of using appropriate traffic calming measures to try to ensure that the approach on the issue is balanced and proportionate to the scale of the problem, and that the commerce of the village is not negatively impacted by any of the measures taken.

HGVs

On the HGV situation, a key issue is that some HGV drivers are using the Buckland Road-Bampton-A4095 route as a 'rat-run' to go between the A420 and the A40 – instead of using the A415 via Standlake. Discussions have taken place with the OCC to try and have the Buckland Road declared 'Unsuitable for HGVs', and the appropriate signs put up, but so far all that has been achieved is the installation of signs warning of the dangers of 'Grounding', which are having no impact on HGV drivers at all as far as can be determined. This is being followed up in the hope that the OCC can be convinced of the need to declare the Buckland Road as 'Unsuitable for HGVs', even though it is understood that such signs are not 'mandatory' but 'advisory'.

Notwithstanding the lack of success here with the OCC, letters have been written to companies whose HGVs have been seen using Bampton as a rat-run, and some success has been achieved, with one or two companies (notably Smurfitt) advising that they would be advising their drivers to use other routes – as long as driver working hours were not at risk of being breached.

In addition, letters have also been sent to local firms whose heavy vehicles use Bampton's roads regularly, and whose drivers had been seen speeding. Positive action has been taken by those firms – for example Watson – and it has been noticeable that these drivers do now tend to respect the speed limit within the Village.

Although the Parish Council has two main priorities at the moment in terms of the speed and HGV issues, there are other traffic issues being looked, such as the need (or not) for Pedestrian Crossings in the Village, and the problems of car parking.

Pedestrian Crossings

The crossings at first seemed easy to resolve; just find out where you want

to put one, obtain the Villagers agreement, and arrange finance! However, it is not as easy as that. As far as is understood, such crossings need 'no-parking' zones each side - around 30 metres either side - which would increase the parking problems we already have; and there are also issues over distances from road junctions etc. Further work will be required before we know whether we can install pedestrian crossings, and where; and of course we then have to ask the question "do the Villagers want them?"

Car Parking

Car parking can be a contentious issue, and even more so when the grass verges along the Clanfield Road, and the grassed area on Broad Street, are being considered as potential car parking areas. On the latter, there is no intention to remove the grassed area completely and turn it into a car park. What is being considered is to create more car parking bays around the grassed area perimeter, by constructing some additional bays on the west side of the grassed area by the houses. It is then understood that, if we have the remaining grassed area declared an 'Ornamental Verge' we could legally stop cars being parked on it, which would arguably help us in maintaining the grassed area in a better condition than it is today.

On the use of the verges along the Clanfield Road as car parking bays, this has been looked at in the past, but was turned down by the OCC. However, the subject has been raised again by some of the residents of the area, and as such is on the Parish Council agenda once again.

The issue in fact will be the subject of a debate at the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st April (Village Hall 7.30pm), with the arguments for and against being put by the opposing sides. It could be an interesting debate, so please do come along and participate, since it is important for the Parish Council to hear all of the views.

Transport Study

Finally, the OCC do recognise that the County has a major problem with traffic, and have commissioned Halcrow to conduct a comprehensive Transport Network Review, with one of the main aims being a total review

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 21st April

Village Hall, 7.30pm

Please do come along to the Annual Parish Meeting, and participate in the debates!

The agenda is as follows:

- Presentation on Aircraft Noise, by the Station Commander, RAF Brize Norton
 - *Questions will be taken!*
- Use of grass verges for car parking, by Jo Lewington
 - *Have your say on the pros and cons!*
- Annual Updates by:
 - Parish Council
 - Recreation Ground Trust
 - Police
 - Primary School
 - Welfare Trust
 - Exhibition Trust

The Gardening Club

The Annual Summer Show

Saturday 26th June 2004

The Village Hall

Market Square

Opening Times for the Entrants
Staging 9am—11am
Late Entries at the Door
9am—10am

Show Open to the Public

3pm

Entrance Fee 50p

Instead of Registration Night, Boxes will be once again in Temples and Patrick Strainge the Butcher's for two weeks prior to the show.

Schedules can be obtained from the middle of April, from the above shops or from Fenella Gray Tel: 851653.

Please can you return your trophies to Marion Dowding, Baytree Cottage, Church View, or bring them to the Coffee Morning in May. Thank you.

of the trunk road systems around the County. The review is due to be completed in March 2004 and we look forward to the Review's recommendations in the hope that plans can be put in place to improve the County's trunk road systems and alleviate the HGV problem in local villages. Obviously, if major works are to be

done to improve the County's road systems, a lot of money will be required, and it will take some time to arrange such financing. But hopefully something sensible will come out of the Review that will in time lead to a reduction of heavy traffic now using the County's minor roads.



**Simple,
Straightforward
Advice**

Buying double-glazing need not be complicated! Let us advise you on windows, doors, conservatories, patio doors, sash windows and secondary glazing - no pressure, no obligation.

Call (01865) 517200

E-mail: info@oxforddoubleglazing.com
www.oxforddoubleglazing.com

Opening hours:
9.30 - 5.30 Monday to Friday
10.00 - 4.00 Saturday

Showroom
3 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7JL

**GREY
GABLES
GARAGE**

CURBRIDGE, WITNEY, OXON OX18 7PD

Telephone
01993 702609
Fax
01993 774169

NEW SKODA



DEALER

New & Used Cars
of other makes available

MOT and garage repairs

LONDIS

MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

UNTIL 10PM

YOUR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SHOP

AT YOUR SERVICE

ELECTRICAL METER KEYS CHARGED • NATIONAL LOTTERY • TOP UP MOBILE PHONE CARDS
'ET VOILA' FRENCH BREAD BAKED ON THE PREMISES • FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES
FRESH MILK & CREAM • FREE RANGE EGGS • WINES, SPIRITS, BEERS & CIDER
COOKED MEATS & BACON • FROZEN FOOD & GROCERIES • POSTAGE STAMPS • VIDEO HIRE

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL 10PM
BANK HOLIDAYS UNTIL 10PM

WE DO NOT CLOSE FOR LUNCH

Carpenter/Handyman A Bonner

Carpentry Decorating
Electrical Plumbing

Fencing
Shed Building

Any Job Undertaken

Tel: 01993 852124
Mob: 07802 413008



Grange Photographic

Portraits
Events—social & sporting
Weddings
Copies, enlargements &
restoration of your treasured
photographs

For details contact Caroline on
01367 810452
or e-mail
cdhudson@btopenworld.com

THE POST OFFICE

Bridge Street

*Foreign Currency
Stamps
Pensions
Variety of Cards
Stationary
Etc*

The new Pension
Scheme is a threat to
the existence of
Bampton's Post Office.
Please continue to sup-
port us by collecting
your pension here!



Spring and Summer
fabrics now in stock

Open on
Morris Dancing Day

Closed Wednesdays p.m.

THE HORSESHOE INN

Bridge Street, Bampton
01993 850201

Your Hosts are Alan and Kath Clarke

The Horseshoe public house was rebuilt in 1923/24 after the original pub burned down in 1923. This makes the Horseshoe the only purpose-built pub in Bampton!

Relax in our lounge bar in front of an open log fire with a pint of real ale or fine wine. Or, if you like pub games, then try our other bar with its a pool table, dart board, music and Sky TV. We also have a walled garden where, in the summer, you will see 'Aunt Sally' being played, and from April to the end of May, on Sunday evenings, we have Morris Dancing.
Come and join us - we know that you will make it a regular habit



PATRICK STRAINGE

(Butchers)

Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon

Tel: 01993 850350

Quality Meat Direct From Our Family Farms

Hire of Pig Roasts for Parties etc.

Extensive Range of Cheeses Now Stocked



Bampton Cars



Your Reliable and Friendly Service



National and Local

Air and Seaports our Speciality

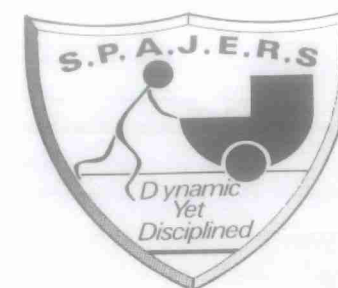
Competitive Rates

Tel: 01993 851900

Fax 01993 851909

Use us Once - Use us Always

It's the 52nd



Bampton



Saturday 29th May

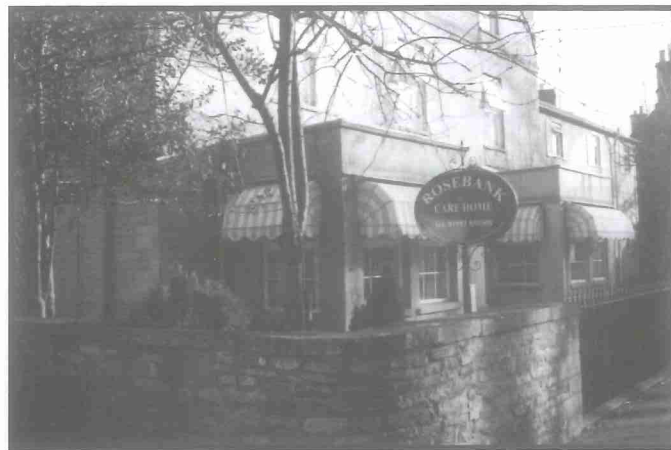
6.30	Judging of the Fancy Dress
7.00	Junior Race
7.20	Senior Race

All times very approximate!

Rosebank Care Home

A personal view by Richard Wilkins (Activities Coordinator)

In June 2003 I responded to an advertisement for Activities Coordinator at



Rosebank Care Home

Rosebank Care Home in Bampton. An interview with the manager Penny Haslam and a tour of the Care Home opened my eyes to the new progressive nature of care homes today.

The immediate impression was that of a large happy and purposeful family living in a comfortable and well-kept home. Any old memories of passive



Father Christmas visits Rosebank's oldest resident, Laura. Dolly (wearing Christmas Puddings!) looks on

people sitting round the edges of a room with a TV flickering unnoticed in the corner were quickly dispelled. During the interview a couple of residents wandered in to see the new visitor. It was clear that they felt welcome in the manager's office and that they regarded Rosebank as their home.

I discovered that that Rosebank is providing comprehensive care 24 hours a day for

older people in a safe, comfortable and happy environment. There are long stay and short stay residents and also residents enjoying day care, respite care and rehabilitation.

Upon completion of the necessary formalities of references and police checks I started my work as Activities Coordinator in August 2003.

The residents were already enjoying a wide range of activities and entertainments and we are now continuing to develop and increase those activities with the support of families, friends and local organisations.

By these means we aim to maintain a homely atmosphere and a healthy lifestyle for the residents.

We maintain a calendar of events and activities. My times of attendance are shown on the calendar.

During those times I conduct group and individual activities appropriate to the needs of and at the request of the

residents.

Impromptu activities could be playing games, discussion groups, arts and crafts, or simply socialising. Posting my times of attendance also enables family and friends to know when they can see me.

The calendar shows visiting entertainers, musicians and speakers/demonstrators.

Regular features include exercise classes twice a week by a visiting qualified instructor, visits by a hair dresser, visits by local clergy and outside services/therapy which complement the regular daily care.

We have theme days, birthday parties and other special events.

We are particularly fortunate to be situated in an area rich in clubs, societies and performing groups which support us in many ways and which make the residents of Rosebank feel part of our community.

Penny Haslam wrote at the bottom of my aims and objectives: - "To be anywhere and have nothing asked of you



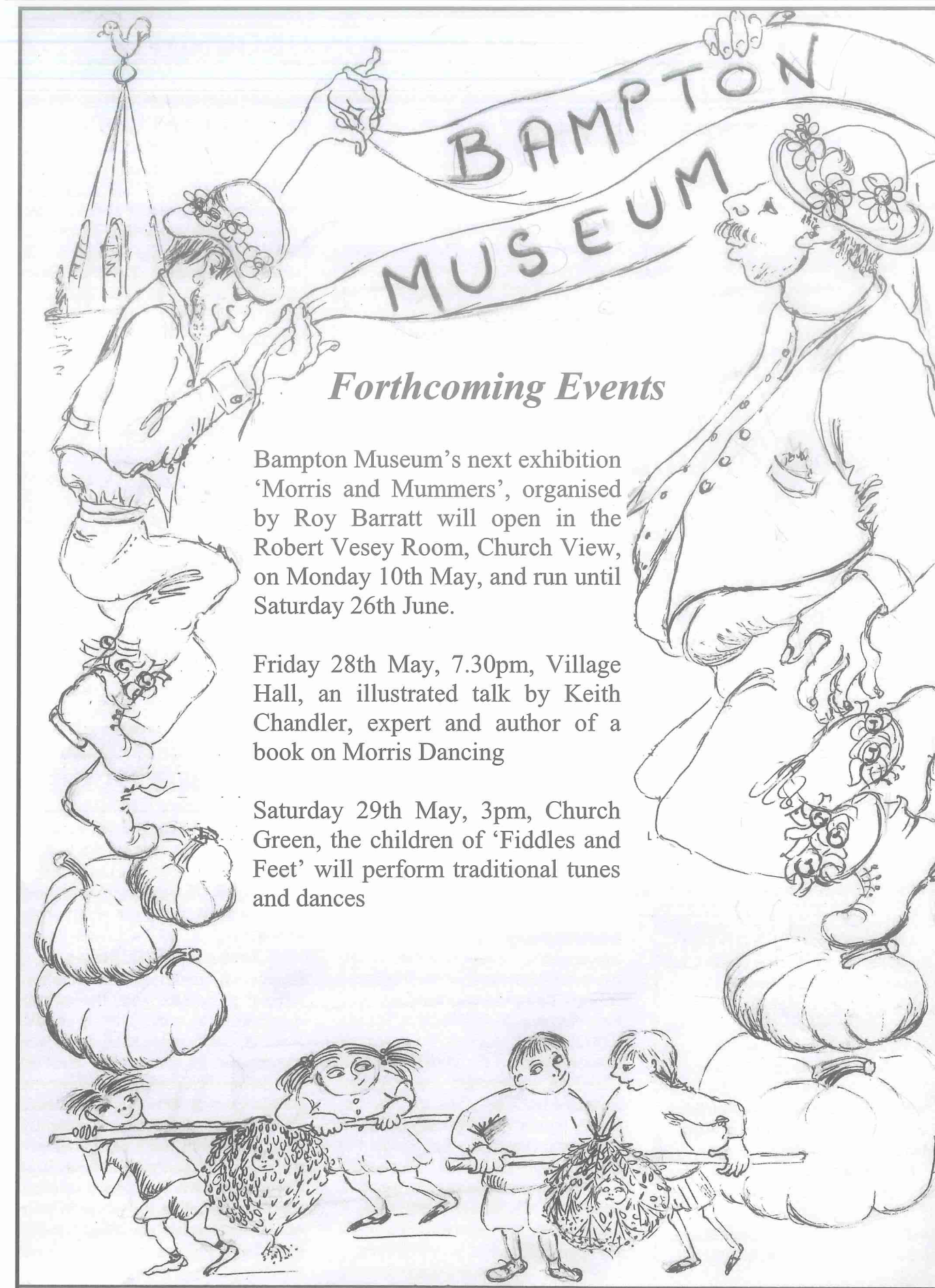
Residents John, Joan, Sheila, Bob, giving a rousing rendition of 'Rule Britannia' at one of the regular sing-songs

in any way constitutes 'existing'. To have plans, tasks, interests, hopes and dreams means you are 'living'.

We are certainly enabling the residents of Rosebank to truly 'live'.

Our residents have pursued a large range of activities and interests in their lives.

If you have an interesting hobby or collection and wish to share it with others or you are able to provide a demonstration or entertainment, please contact me at Rosebank Tel: 01993 850308.



Forthcoming Events

Bampton Museum's next exhibition 'Morris and Mummers', organised by Roy Barratt will open in the Robert Vesey Room, Church View, on Monday 10th May, and run until Saturday 26th June.

Friday 28th May, 7.30pm, Village Hall, an illustrated talk by Keith Chandler, expert and author of a book on Morris Dancing

Saturday 29th May, 3pm, Church Green, the children of 'Fiddles and Feet' will perform traditional tunes and dances

THE BAMPTON RECREATION GROUND

Buckland Road, Bampton.

The Tennis Club

Spring is upon us again and with it the tennis season! Bampton has its own friendly, low-key club which meets at the Recreation Ground on Buckland Road, and we'd love to see more people coming along to join us.

In April when the evenings are light enough, Bampton Tennis Club's two club nights will recommence on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Benefits to members include being able to pre-book and use the tennis courts throughout the year. We will also be organising a number of friendly matches and tournaments, and we hope to have coaching sessions for members too.

Membership fees are £25 per year for adults, £50 for families, £10 for students and £5 for juniors. For further details contact **Karen Easterbrook, Membership Secretary, Tel: 01993 850772, or email membership@bamptontennis.org.uk** or turn up and see us on a club night. See you on court soon!

EASTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Children's Sporting Adventure

West Oxfordshire District Council in partnership with Wycombe Leisure Ltd are offering youngsters the chance to take part in a number of sporting and adventure activities throughout the Easter holidays.

The Council are launching the Easter Programme for 2004, which offers a variety of activities for the young people in the District to get involved in.

Activities on offer include Cricket, Basketball, Tennis, a Mountain Bike Day, Trampolining, and Adventure Days. There are also two weeks of Football Courses with fully qualified coaching to suite all levels of ability, as well as skills training and matches.

All activities are taking place between the 5th and 16th April. They vary in 4 day or 1 day courses and are available for children from 7 - 16 years, with the Football Courses starting from age 5.

It is advised to book early to avoid disappointment as there are only a limited number of places for each activity.

For further details, or to book an activity, contact the Sports Development Team **Tel: 01993 861080 or email: cultural.services@westoxon.gov.uk**.

For further information contact:

Carys Davies/Geraldine Tyas

Publicity Office Tel: 01993 861615: or Mob: 07771 965360

Other Sporting Activities

Bampton in the Bush Cricket Club

Contact Alan Clarke Tel: 850201

The Horseshoe, Bridge Street.

Short Mat Bowls

Mr G. Taylor Tel: 850566

Bampton Archery Club

Chairman: John Hill Tel: 850513.

The Horseshoes Football Club

Chairman: Alan Clarke Tel 850201

Manager: Bill Godfrey

Bampton Youth Football Club

Sec: Mrs Mandy Bowman, Tel: 850116.

Under 13s Adrian Smith Tel: 212549.

Under 9s Alan Day Tel: 210093

Under 6s Philip Walker Tel: 852361

Meetings at 8pm in The Talbot Hotel every 1st Wednesday of the month.

Bampton Gun Club

Sec: Debbie Holifield Tel: 01451 822327 or

Trevor Gardner Tel: 850950.

Clay Pigeon Shooting:

Sunday 10-12am

Bampton Weightlifting Club

Chairman: Don Rouse Tel: 851480

Sec: John Davies Tel: 702266.

Bampton Badminton Club

Enquiries: Judy House Tel: 851406

Meets every Tuesday 10 - 12am

Bampton Village Hall.

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

Monday - Thursday

£30 morning, afternoon, or evening sessions

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

£30 morning and afternoon sessions

£60 evening session

All week

Whole Day £150

Football Pitch £25 per game

Multisport £7.50

Bampton Residents

£10.00

Non-Residents

For more information on charges and facilities for hire please contact:

Ray Willis Tel: 01993 852483 or

Mobile: 07855 537559.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET

Protective Clothing

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.

The Gardening Page

By Edie Bindweed

I expect like me you have all been inundated with bulb catalogues; they seem to appear with each post. While reading through some of them 'Blueberries' caught my eye. If I buy some specified plant I can get two blueberry bushes free, and if I buy two of another, I get one blueberry bush free.

It made me begin to think, we don't really use the blueberry over here, it's more common in American. There, they seem to eat this fruit for breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner. There are blueberry pies, blueberry crumbles, blueberry muffins, blueberry cheese-cakes; anything it seems can have blueberries in it.

So I thought to myself, I'll have a go at growing one of these bushes. But first I'll find out a little more about this plant. I do like to know what I'm planting in my garden!

Believe it or not it turned out that the blueberry bush is a distant relation of our ground covering wild bilberry, which flourishes best on the wild moors Dartmoor and Exmoor.

With that piece of knowledge I now know that it likes peat to grow in, and as most of our soil around here is clay, I guess it would really benefit by planting it in a tub, using a peat based compost.

Another interesting fact is that blueberry does not need to be sprayed, as it has its own unique way of dealing with pests and diseases.

As the bush matures it has lovely light green foliage which in the autumn turns to a lovely orange scarlet colour just before the leaves fall. These bushes will carry on bearing fruit for at least 50 years. Just think, a lifetime of delicious desserts from the same bush - a new entry in the fruit section at the Gardening Club's show??

Don't forget about all your springtime bulbs that have been flowering away for weeks and brightening the garden up after the misery of winter. It's a great temptation to cut those unsightly dead looking leaves off, but don't. The bulbs need the nourishment of the dead plants to be able to flourish well the next year. This normally takes a

month or so to do. To give them a treat you can give them a drop of 'phostrogen' which the old leaves will love. The same applies to the bulbs, which you have had in the house. Let them stay in the pot and wither away, then keep them somewhere dry and you can plant them out the following autumn.

Getting back to all these catalogues, as they like to remind us it is time to think about what plants we will be putting in our hanging baskets and pots this year. Also, what seeds we need to be planting. Always so much to do and think about this time of the year! These days though it's easy just to pop down to the local Garden Centre and choose. You then don't need to store trays around the window sills or wherever they won't get the frost. Many times I've lost my young seedlings as I've left them outside thinking they would be safe.

Good Friday is the day when you should be planting your first potatoes, so when the evenings get lighter and the weather warmer you can sit back and enjoy that lovely taste of fresh early new potatoes, especially with the aroma of fresh mint.

I can't remember too many wet Good Fridays; they always seem to rally around things which were happening in the garden and it was always sunny. Mother would be weeding the flower borders, my father giving the grass its first cut of the year and inevitably the mower would misbehave so the job took twice as long! We enjoyed our hot cross buns, with freshly made butter and jam, which the baker had delivered to the house a few days before. The garden at Bampton Manor as you look through the gates is a beautiful picture of early snowdrops and crocuses. Easter time it will be daffodils and tulips. It's worth making a detour when you're out walking in the Village just to look in as you pass the gate.

That's enough from me rambling on, hope to see you at the Garden Club's Summer Show in June. Get busy with manuring those roses as you've got some competition coming!

Don't forget the Gardening Club has a Bampton Only Composition where you can enter your hanging baskets, window boxes and private vegetable garden and flower gardens front or back of your house.

Gardening Club Forthcoming Events

Sunday 18th April

Shuttleworth Aircraft Collection

Swiss Cottage Garden

Birds of Prey Centre

Sunday 16th May

Stourhead House and Garden

Sunday 20th June

Gardeners World Live Show

At the NEC Birmingham

Sunday 8th August

David Austin Rose

Gardens at Wolverhampton

Sunday 5th September

Garden Show, Shepton Mallet

Sunday 24th October

Botanical Gardens at Kew

Friday 5th November

Evening Trip

Bridgewater Carnival

Sunday 21st November

Bullring Shopping Centre

Sunday 12th December

Christmas Market Bath

Sat Nov/Dec

Evening Trip

Westonburt Illuminations

For more information or to book yourself a seat, please contact **Ellen Parker Tel: 843985.**

Saturday May 1st 2004

Bampton Village Hall

10.00am-1.00pm

Unusual Plant Sale

Herbaceous perennials, Herbs, Clematis, Ferns, Bulbs, Vegetables

Specialist Nurseries

Barcote Garden Herbaceous Plant

Arn Hill Plants

Steventon Road Nurseries

Refreshments

Proceeds to The Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Bampton Environmental Watch Group (BEWG)

By Ralph Norman, Chairman

On the 15th October last year BEWG held its last open meeting of the year when Dr John Wilson, an historian based at Cogges Farm Museum, gave a fascinating insight into past rural life in England. He based his talk on his own collection of rural artefacts, which he brought along to the meeting.

As is usual we held no open meetings throughout the winter months with the next meeting being our AGM on 5 March 2004 when our speaker will be Mark McArthur-Christie, an independent writer and commentator on transport. His talk entitled "Road Rage — road traffic in the 21st century" is close to the heart of everyone living in Bampton. Our other open meetings scheduled for the year are: 28 April, when Martin Way will give a talk on "The History of Brize Norton and Carterton"; 28 July when we will have a talk given by Ian Gourlay who is a dendrologist [dendrology—the scientific study of trees]; 27 October when we hope to have a speaker on conservation.

There are three planning issues that have been exercising BEWG for some time. The first, which has finally come to a conclusion relates to the redevelopment of the Fairacres Nursery. Following various proposals spread over several years, the last application to redevelop the site with six industrial workshops (Class B1/B8) was given conditional approval on 16 February. Many Bampton residents along with BEWG, the SPB and the Parish Council opposed this proposal, but both our District Councillors supported it at the final stage. Let us hope that the site does bring some jobs to Bampton without too great an effect on our traffic problems and the floodplain.

The second planning issue, which is becoming something of a saga, relates to applications by the Church Commissioners to build on the water meadow alongside Deanery Cottage in Church View. The initial application for two cottages was refused by WODC. The Church Commissioners

went to appeal but at the same time submitted a new proposal for one cottage. Subsequently WODC refused their second application for a single cottage. The Church Commissioners then went to appeal on this second refusal. This means they now have two appeals outstanding on the same site. We understand that the Inspector, representing the Secretary of State for the Environment, will be hearing both appeals together in the summer. We must wait until then to find out if there will be one, two or (we hope) no cottages built on this site.

Finally we have the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011. You will be aware that in the second deposit draft of the plan, against the advice of both their Cabinet and Planning Officers, WODC was persuaded by one of our District Councillors (Jonathan Phillips) to include a site at New Road for 100 houses with 50% "affordable". This was met with much opposition and a little support (in fact it attracted vastly more letters of opposition than any other change to the plan across the whole of West Oxfordshire). The next official stage in the progress of the Local Plan is a Public Inquiry scheduled to begin on 6 July this year, but in the light of the opposition WODC have now decided to recommend to the Inquiry Inspector that the New Road site be deleted from the plan. WODC have also decided to express their preference to the Inspector for a smaller site of 25–30 houses with 100% of these being affordable (but this last preference is dependent on changes to the planning guidance that is still to be published by Central Government). Even if both these recommendations are adopted by the Inspector, included in a revised Local Plan and the houses are built, the Plan will not give any priority to people with a Bampton connection in the allocation of the "affordable" houses on the site.

If you would like to know more about BEWG or would like to join us please contact the Membership Secretary Ann Norman 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

The Cookery Corner

By
Emma Deacon
Kedergree



When thinking of April we think of April showers, freshly cut grass, Daffodils and of course Easter eggs! So in anticipation I have come up with a fantastic egg recipe which is great for springtime, as it is slightly summery and light but also nutritious and satisfying! This classic recipe can be a great meal for breakfast, brunch or really any time of the day!

Ingredients

180g of basmati rice
700g smoked haddock
4 eggs boiled for 9 minutes
bay leaf
ground cumin
lemon
turmeric
1 onion chopped
2 cloves garlic
fresh parsley
tablespoon of cream

Firstly cook the rice in plenty of salted water for the appropriate time then drain, rinse in cold water and refrigerate until needed. Next, fry the haddock in a little olive oil for a few minutes on a low heat then add a little water and a bay leaf and turn off the heat and cover. When cooled flake the fish into chunks.

Peel the eggs and cut into quarters. Melt about 115g of butter in a pan over a gentle heat and add the chopped onion and garlic. Soften for five minutes then add the cumin and two teaspoons of turmeric and continue cooking for one minute. Add the juice and grated rind of one lemon, the fish and the rice, and gently heat. Add the cream and stir through. Finally add the eggs to heat them then serve with a generous handful of chopped parsley and wedges of lemon.

Hi-Fi Opera

By Gilly French

Haydn's delightful comic romance *La Vera Costanza* – which in the new lively English translation by Gilly

Clifton as director and Murray Hipkin as conductor.

Bampton Classical Opera goes from strength to strength: last year's rave reviews were especially summed up in the comment in the international magazine *Opera Now* "There isn't a company in England with as sharp a sense of fun as Bampton. Season after season they dig up rare gems, served up with a canny wit, visual deftness and a musical spring that makes them one of the high pleasures of an English summer". The name of Bampton is indeed well known in musical circles across the country, and it's on your doorstep, so come and join in the fun!



The audience enjoy last year's performance of Salieri's *Falstaff*



French and Murray Hipkin becomes *High Fidelity* - forms the centrepiece of Bampton Classical Opera's biggest summer season.

Haydn is of course one of the greatest classical composers and yet his operas are still unjustly neglected, and Bampton provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy this ravishing music in the beautiful setting of the Deanery Garden. Performances are on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 July at 7.30, and will be in the capable hands of a directorial team from English National Opera, with Alexander

successful 2003 production of Salieri's *Falstaff* (high opera meets Dad's Army!), this time at the Theatre



Betty (Ilona Domnich), Mrs Slender (Joanne Thomas) and Mrs Ford (Amanda Pitt) enjoying their plot

Royal, Bath, as part of the Bath Shakespeare Festival. Also coming up in 2004 are another Haydn opera,

L'Infedelta Delusa at the English Haydn Festival, Bridgnorth (5 June) and Gazzaniga's *Don Giovanni* at Westonbirt School (a glorious Victorian country house and Grade I gardens, just an hour from Bampton) on 28 August and at St John's, Smith Square, London on 16 September, performances accompanied by one of Britain's leading orchestras, the London Mozart Players. Also for your diary is 21 December when the annual St Beornwald's Day concert will be a Mozart piano concerto extravaganza. Tickets for *High Fidelity* at Bampton are on sale from Abbey Properties or Tel: 01367 810721. Information on other venues from Tel: 020 7222 1173 or visit - www.bamptonopera.org.

And finally, a plea: the company desperately needs long term storage – an empty garage would be ideal – for scenery, props and costumes. Can you help? Please contact Jeremy Gray Tel: 01993 851876.

Bampton Classical Opera

Presents:

Haydn's *La Vera Costanza*
(High Fidelity)

Friday 16 and Saturday 17
July 2004

The Deanery Garden, Bampton, Oxfordshire
Conductor: Murray Hipkin
Director: Alexander Clifton

Gazzaniga *Don Giovanni*
Saturday 28 August 2004

The Orangery Terrace,
Westonbirt
School, Gloucestershire
and

Thursday 16 September 2004,
St John's Smith
Square, London

Conductor: Jason Lai with the
London Mozart Players
Director: Jeremy Gray

Advance tickets £25 from
Abbey Properties

The Morris Clown**A True Free House***A better quality insult from your hosts*Over 100 Guest
Beers a Year**Tom and Steve**
High Street, Bampton,
CAMRA Member Since 1997
(Campaign for Real Ales)Proud not to do
Food!

Darts

Aunt Sally

Bar Billiards

Licensed Integral Function Room

Enjoy the contemporary atmosphere and Moulin Rouge Décor of this old coaching inn, which is the only pub we know to have fully absorbed the principle of the emancipation of the fairer sex, with having the ladies toilet outside! The gents of course is inside in the warm!

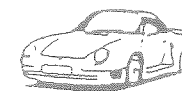
Age Concern Oxfordshire
are searching for sociable people looking
for interesting, varied and rewarding
ways of helping older people
Our Information & Advice Team needs
volunteers to help and advise older peo-
ple across Oxfordshire in a variety of
locationsPeople of all ages welcomed
We offer
flexibility - team spirit
full training and support
expenses**AGE**
*Concern*For more details call:
01235 849 400
Ask for "Information & Advice"
Registered charity No. 1091529**PHILIPPA RAYNE****Registered Osteopath**
*Treatment for all
ages, including
Cranial Osteopathy
for Babies***FIONA FARMER****Chartered
Physiotherapist
(Spinal and Sports)
Therapy +
Acupuncture**MOONRAKER LANE,
BAMPTON, OXON. OX18 2JH**TEL: 01993 851359****Cotswold Bed & Breakfast**

Comfortable and well appointed accommodation in a
quiet backwater of Bampton, Oxfordshire
(on the edge of the Cotswolds 8 miles from Burford)

Ample off road parking

For information and booking

Tel: 01993 852703 or 01993 851126

E-mail: poshmargaret@btpopenworld.com
or Encompass5@aol.com**SICK WASHING MACHINE
POORLY COOKER?**THE
APPLIANCE DOCTOR
IS
"ON CALL"TELEPHONE FOR
FREE ESTIMATE OR
ADVICE
WITNEY 705947Evening and Weekend Calls at NO Extra Cost
Comprehensive Stock of Parts**BAMPTON FAX
BUREAU**Call in and send a fax message or
ask for details of special schemes**Emmie's
NEWSAGENTS**Bridge St. Bampton
Tel: 850467Newspapers delivered anywhere in
Bampton**Curtain
Choice****Makers of Fine Soft Furnishings**
*A personal and professional service for
all your
CURTAINS, BLINDS, LOOSE COVERS ETC.*
To arrange a home visit and a quote
without obligation telephone:
01993 843103E-mail: enquiries@curtain-choice.co.uk
www.curtain-choice.co.uk**THE
PITSTOP****QUALITY PARTS, COMPONENTS & ACCESSORIES**THE COMPLETE MOTORING SERVICE
ROLLING ROAD ENGINE TUNING
STATE OF THE ART DIAGNOSTICSCAR REPAIRS
SERVICING
MOT WORK
BREAKDOWNS
DISCOUNT CAR PARTSALSO HOUSING
OXFORD CARB SERVICES
Weber • Solex • Pierburg etc**01993 850654**

Unit 1, Viscount Court, Station Road, Brize Norton

W.I. MARKETSMasonic Hall,
Church Green Witney
8am - 10.45amCome along and buy fresh
Vegetables
Eggs, Assorted Cakes
Savouries Pies
Assorted Handmade Cards,
Knitted Articles
Garden Plants, Flower
Vegetable Plants
The last Friday in the
Month brings out a
Craft Stall with Special
Christmas Gifts for sale
Everything home-made or
Home-grownCome along and visit us.
Refreshments on sale.**The Robert & Doris Watts**
Residential & Nursing Home30/32 Black Bourton Road
Carterton,
Oxfordshire OX18 3HA
Tel: 01993 844923/84310218 Single Rooms
2 Double Rooms
All With Modern Facilities
Tastefully Decorated
Nurse Call SystemThe Robert & Doris Watts Residential & Nursing Home is a family run home offering a
high standard of nursing in a warm and homely atmosphere.
The fees represent excellent value for money.**Life Lease Purchase Also Available**In a new initiative, the concept of purchasing a lease-for-life is now being offered.
Such leases offer major benefits to clients of the home, and their estate.

Call us now for further information.

Or why not call in and see us? We will make you very welcome.

OUT OF WORK FARMER - TURNED AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

By Don Rouse

They say that when you get older all you have left in life is your memories! That sounds terribly sad doesn't it? But I must admit that it is nice to have been there, done that, and got the 'T' shirt. If more of our youngsters were to take time out to listen to the tales of us 'oldies' they would find out that we are guilty of more outrageous behaviour than they could ever dream of. It is just that our tricks were not quite so destructive!

I do find it increasingly difficult to keep up with modern parlance, even with the help of my Grandchildren. I overheard some youngsters the other day discussing STD. Now Subscriber Trunk Dialling is something I happen to know about. I remember when it first came in, as it saw the demise of the Witney telephone exchange; all those lovely girls that we could have a chat to and get to know them by name as they made our telephone connections to the National Network were made redundant. But sadly I had got it all wrong! STD nowadays mean Sexually Transmitted Diseases! Thank goodness there was not so much of that about in our days. It is vogue nowadays to be 'wicked' and 'cool'. As I have always been naughty and these last few months been so cool that I've been ruddy frozen, then surely I must be part of the 'in' crowd.

Getting back to memories, I spent a wonderful morning recently viewing the "Bampton in World War One" exhibition in the Vesey room of the old Grammar School. It was fascinat-

ing; all credit to those who prepared and presented such a wonderful show. I did not come to Bampton till 1943 so I did not know many of the people in the photographs. Those that I did were of course much older when I knew them, but every one was a true Bamptonian with loads of character. My memories are based more on World War Two and I do feel that there is a great need to get a record of what went on then in Bampton whilst there are still people about who can remember. Things like the aeroplane crash at Backhouse Farm - we were

Guard with their parades. Much more entertaining than the 'Dads Army' that we used to see on television. To be honest they were much more frightening as well, especially when you consider that they were Bampton's last line of defence! I remember George Collins, my Dad's boss, always being immaculately turned out. I am sure that he has a few stories to tell. On one 'Sunday exercise' down by the Signal camp, they were using a similar appliance tied to their rifles that you get in the middle of a Christmas cracker to make it go 'bang'. This was done to acclimatise them to gunfire! Then there was the V.E. day celebrations in Bampton; what a day! There was a band playing, much singing, dancing and revelry culminating with a bonfire right outside the Town Hall. My best memory was seeing father leading my pet lamb Valentine (she was born on the 14 February) through the streets with two Union Jacks stuck in her fleece. I do feel that all these things are part of



still ploughing up remnants in the 1960s. Then there was the young teenagers who used to trek over to what was known as the 'DZ' down the Chimney road and come back with pieces of silk parachutes and elasticised ropes, I was too young to go with them, but they would come back and regale us with what they had seen. How I would love to hear those stories again.

Then there was Bampton's Home

Bampton's history and should be recorded now. So those of you who are a little older than me and were able to play a bigger part in Bampton's role, please get in touch with either the Editor or those responsible for recording our heritage. Let's call them the 'Vesey Gang'. We shall all be richer for it.

In my last Beam article I raised concern about the alterations to the area around the Town Hall and how it

might affect our Shirt Race. I see now that there was no need for alarm, in fact I must say it is fantastic and I just can't wait to try it out.

Wearing my Agriculture and political hat, I find it fascinating that many of the immigrants to this country, both legal and illegal are being employed in agriculture. Why? Is there a resurgence in menial tasks on the farms? All my life I have seen foreign people being part of the lowest paid work force; there were Italian POWs followed by Germans; then, what was for the day, a very politically correct description 'Displaced persons', who were mainly Poles and Slovaks. So I don't know what all the fuss is about. I know that the Government is complaining that it is very difficult to keep 'tabs' on these people, but for a Government who, mainly due to the co-operation of our farmers, knows the whereabouts of every cow and calf in this country, as well as their birthdays and gender, I would have thought that it was quite simple!

When you look at the agriculture scene around Bampton now, those enormous tractors and equipment, no animals, just acres and acres of arable crops you can see that there is no need for a large work force. Yet it was not so long ago when many of us were growing sugar beet as part of a Government initiative as well as potatoes and swedes that we were desperate for helpers on the land. Thinking about it, sugar beet was very labour intensive. First there was the operation in the spring known as 'singling', where the seedlings had to be singled out to twelve inches apart. This involved a large number of Bampton women folk as well as the local gypsies; the ones that were of the true Romany tradition, who for a field to camp in and a small remuneration would work for you.

Then in the Autumn at harvest time the sugar beet would be lifted two at a time to be banged together to knock all the dirt off then placed in rows with their roots facing each other ready for the next operation, topping. Here, armed with all sorts of appliances from billhooks to meat cleavers, machetes to broken slasher heads, the work force would chop off approximately one inch of the top of the beet and throw them into small heaps along the field, a bit like the Indians scalping the cowboys! You can imagine that during cold weather spells when you could not feel the tips of your fingers, that we kept the local doctors busy with their stitching. In fact Dr Bullen was renowned for his expertise at stitches. After all this work, the scalped tops would be placed in rows ready to be fed to the cows as fodder, then it was time to pick up the heaps of beet, load them onto a trailer, very often putting two trailers on to the tractor, one behind the other; it was allowed in those days, no brakes on the trailers but then they only travelled at about eight miles an hour - imagine the chaos it would cause on the roads today! Then off we would go to Bampton station, where if we were lucky, and the rail staff were in a good mood, they would arrange for a fifteen-ton truck to be in the dock by the platform for us, making it easy for us to unload. More often I am afraid, they were awkward and made us throw the beet some six feet into the air onto the trucks that were left in the sidings.

It was hard work, but to this day I still enjoy the rapport that I have with all those people that I worked with; the Bamptonians with great characters and a fantastic community spirit. Yes I know that all that I've got is my memories. But I am definitely not sad!

SPAJER'S NEWS

By Don Rouse

It is with great sadness that I have to report the loss of our Treasurer and former secretary Al Newing. Here is part of the wonderful eulogy given at the memorial service by his close friend and a former Treasurer of the SPAJERS, Dixie Dean.

'Alistair was a long serving member of our committee, having been secretary for many years followed by two years as Treasurer. Al was responsible for the computerisation of our membership list. He will always be remembered for the many years that he ran the Crockery Smashing Stall at our Donkey Derby as well as doing more than his stint of selling raffle tickets at our stall in the Market Square. He was a tireless worker, who was always there ready to help at a moments notice. A person that you could always depend on. At payout time he would arrange for all the money from the bank to be put into envelopes that he had already got the addresses prepared for, then he would deliver all those to our Senior Citizens that were on his patch. Al was a very hard worker for our cause, he will be sorely missed.'

I would like to say a big thank you to all our senior citizens who sent us 'thank you' letters and cards for their Christmas presents. It is always nice to know that our efforts are appreciated, and it was very kind of you all. This year we made a £100.00 donation to the residents at the Rosebank residential home. Our vice chairman Frank Hudson attended their 'Party night' to make the presentation, it was well received.

Our next fund raising event will be our annual Quiz night to ascertain the 'Brains of Bampton Team' This will be taking place in the village hall on **Friday 23rd April**. St George's Day! It is for teams of six, entry forms from our secretary **Roger Snow, Tel 850113**. As always there will be supper included in the price of £6.00 per head.

We are already making plans for our Annual Great Shirt Race. The date this year is **Saturday 29th May**. I hope that many of our juniors will soon be in training for this event. I know that the seniors have been practising the drinking aspect of the race all through the winter!

Our President has presented us with a Marquee that is 10m x 4m to use at our events. For a donation to the SPAJERS of around £150.00 we would erect it and take it down for any private party or other use. For more details contact Roger Snow our Secretary.

Finally we are very grateful to the Bampton Mimmers for there wonderful efforts on our behalf.

This last Christmas they raised the grand sum of £785.00. So thank you to all those of you who invited them into your homes and donated so generously.

This amount included not only the £132.00 collected for their performance at the Conservative's party at Weald Manor, but also a £25.00 donation from a family who preferred them not to visit!

To qualify as a SPAJER, you must have lived in Bampton for at least six months and attained the national pension age.

To apply contact **Dave Gardner Tel: 851797**. We rely on you the Bampton public to inform us of people newly qualifying or leaving for whatever reason.



West Ox Arts

W.O.A. Gallery, Market Square, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2JH

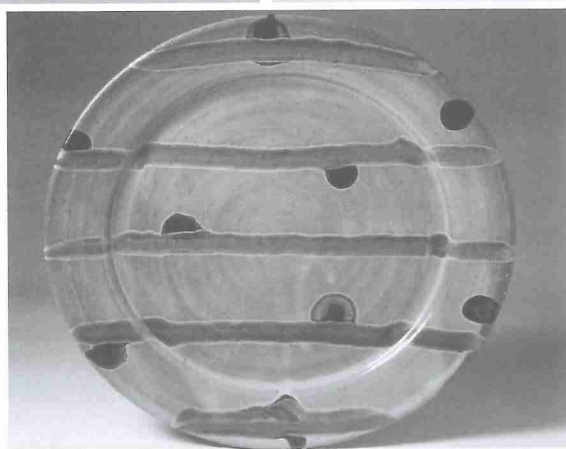
Tel: 01993 850137 E-mail: westoxarts@yahoo.co.uk

Opening Hours: Tues - Sat 10:30am - 12:30pm and 2pm - 4pm; Sun - 2pm - 4pm
Membership fees - Single £15, Family £25, Student £7.50.

Sunday 4 April

Slipstream - Contemporary Slipware

An exciting exhibition of the country's leading contemporary potters: Nigel Lambert, Josie Walter, Sean Miller, Mark Titchiner, Richard Phethean and Clive Bowen. These experienced and established craftspeople display the life of clay and slip that is captured at the moment of firing.. Skilled work perfect for presents.



Saturday 17 April

Pottery Workshop with Lesley Williams

To complement our prestigious Slipware exhibition, celebrated local potter Lesley Williams will hold a workshop at her studio in Bampton to teach us the techniques of the wonderful tactile art of potting.

Cost for workshop: £20 or £15 for members
Please contact the administrator for more details.

Sunday 18 April

Saturday 1 May

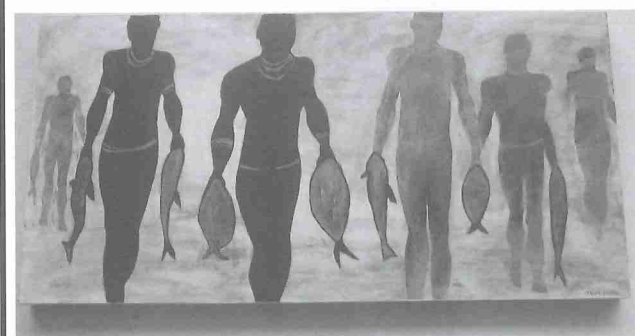
West Ox Arts Members Exhibition for Artweeks

One of the social and artistic high points in the WOA calendar as our members showcase their work in a wide range of styles in fine art and crafts. Each artist includes two or three pieces to give you a taster of their work. WOA is one of the larger venues for this for this fantastic county-wide open-studios event, in which you are invited into the homes and studios of the region's artists.

Sunday 13 June

Michelle Buhl-Nielsen

The bright African light is central to the work of acrylic artist Michelle Buhl-Nielsen. She paints black silhouette figures with bold primary colours, onto thick blocks. This is a perfect June exhibition, a celebration of the human form under the hot summer sun.



Sunday 4 July

Stitchers at Work

Margaret Charlton, Pat Clayton, Jill Cooper, Denise Harrison, Pat Mummery, Val Norris and Jane Treavis will be exhibiting in fabric, thread and mixed media.

This beautiful and varied display will include wall hangings and three dimensional, freestanding work as well as embroidered boxes.

The artists also use photos, sketches and paintings. There will be many chances throughout this exhibition to meet the artists as they stitch in the gallery.

Sunday 30 May

Sunday 27 June

Sunday 25 July

Welcome to West Ox Arts

West Ox Arts is a registered charity (no. 266542), part-funded by West Oxfordshire District Council and Bampton Parish Council, and staffed by volunteers, except for its part-time administrator.

West Ox Arts is dedicated to

- Promoting participation in and appreciation of the arts and crafts in West Oxfordshire
- Supporting the area's artists and craftspeople

West Ox Arts hosts a vibrant and varied programme of over 14 exhibitions per year and provides valuable exhibition space for its members and the community. A charge is made of £150 per week or 25% on sales for members and 35% for non-members, whichever is the greater.

West Ox Arts also supports exhibition space, the Robert Vesey Room at Bampton's Library, a literature group, life drawing classes, live performances in the village hall and outings with WODFAS.

WOA Membership is open to everyone and new members are always welcome.

Benefits include:

- discounts on WOA lectures, life classes and workshops
- invitations to private views
- regular mailings of the WOA events guide
- discounts at local art suppliers
- reduced commission rate for exhibitors

Membership fees Single £15, Family £25, Student £7.50

Administrator Olivia Thornton is usually in the gallery Tues-Thurs 10am - 4pm.

Please contact her if you would like to exhibit in the gallery or if you have any ideas or comments about WOA.

Robert Vesey Room at Bampton Library Exhibitions

Monday 1 March to Saturday 3 April

Meg Head-Garber

Journeys through Graphite and Watercolour

Monday 5 April to Saturday 8 May

Art in Bampton

Monday 10 May to Saturday 26 June

Morris Dancing (Bampton Museum)

The Robert Vesey Room is open:

Monday and Thursday 2.30pm-4.30pm

Wednesday and Saturday 10am-12pm

If you would like to book this exhibition space for a month please contact Ailsa Matheson on 01993 851004.

The only charge is 20% commission on sales.

Are you sitting comfortably?

WOA always needs volunteer sitters to look after the exhibitions.

It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to see each exhibition.

If you could spare a couple of hours a month to support WOA in this way then please contact the Administrator Olivia Thornton for the gallery, on 01993 850137. Or for the Robert Vesey Room, Barbara Daw on 01993 851491.

The Great WOA Stair Lift Appeal Fund

Fund-raising plans are under-way and money is coming in to support our stair lift appeal but we need your help to raise the £17,500.

2004 marks the full introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act, where all those who provide a service to the public, must make a reasonable attempt to provide and equal service to those with a disability.

At present WOA has no wheelchair access which is a constant struggle for our many elderly and disabled members and patrons.

We are now able to offer our events guide for easier viewing for those with sight impairment, on tape or on e-mail to be read by a speech package.

We also have new white lines on the stone steps so they may be seen more easily.

If you are able to help us and make a donation to the charity's stair-lift fund, you would be helping many elderly and disabled local people who have supported the gallery over the years and are now no longer able to attend because of their disability and our shortage of funds.

You would also be helping artists who have large pieces of work they would like to display which are difficult to move up the stairs.

We will shortly be introducing an Access Board, which will enable wheelchair users to see photos of the exhibition from downstairs.

Our current total is £1,215 so we still have a long way to go.

All donations to the gallery are very gratefully received and may be put into the collection box in the gallery or sent by cheque made out to W.O.A.

West Oxon Decorative and Fine Arts Society Excursions

Saturday 24 April

British Library and Geffrye Museum

Tuesday 22 June

Petworth House, West Sussex

Details from Catherine Malcolm Tel: 01993 843414

Gallery Life Drawing Classes

Untutored sessions take place in the gallery
Monday 10am-12.30pm and
Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm

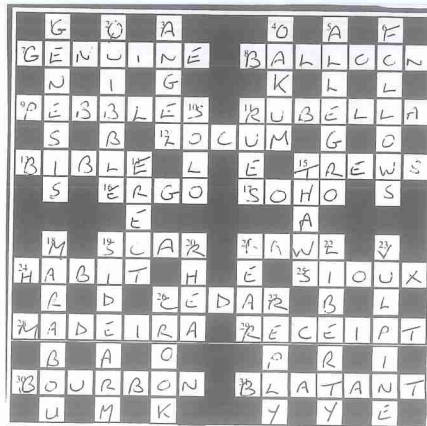
They are aimed at those who wish to draw without the need for guidance.

These are drop-in sessions, pay as you attend.

Cost: WOA members £6, non-members £7.50



Solution to the December BEAM CROSSWORD



For the first time in living memory, there were no entries for the Crossword!

Was it too difficult?

Or did the festive season get in the way?

Come on, we'll have a rollover: £20 for the winner of this edition's crossword!

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'.

A. G. R. S.

The Bampton Beam Adverts

Why not give your local business a lift?

Advertise in 'The Beam'

(and get a free advert on the Bampton Website!)

The rates for 'The Beam' are very reasonable. So why not call the Editor now and book your spot for the next edition?

Tel: 01993 851653

Examples

Full Page £100

Half Page £50

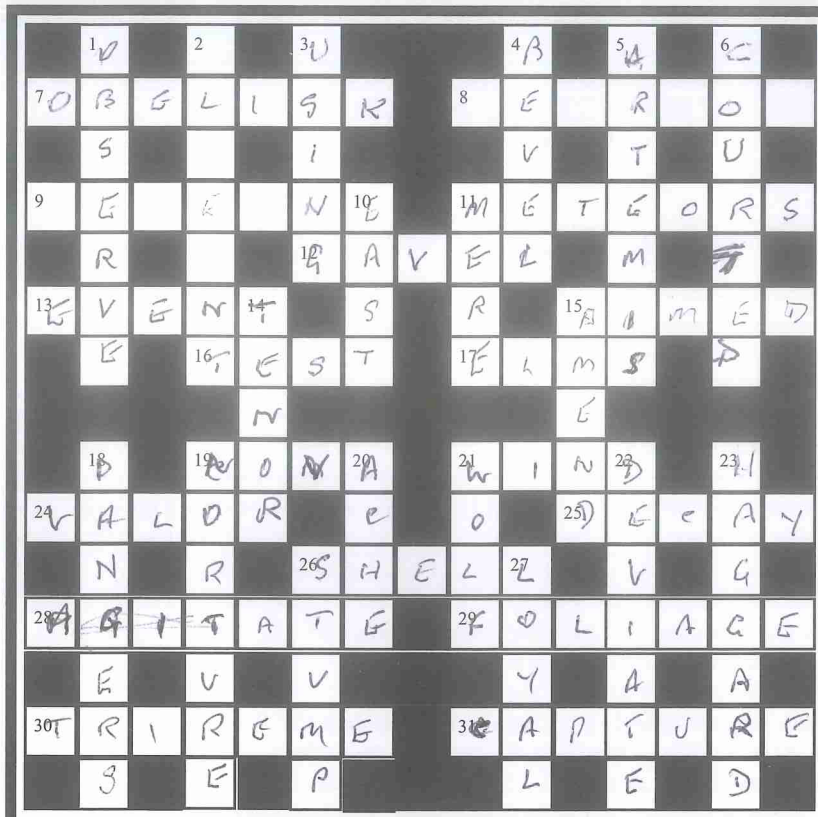
1/3rd Page £30

1/6th Page £25

1/12th Page £16

Additional Artwork from £20

THE BAMPTON BEAM'S CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Quadrangular tapering pillar
- 8 To evolve
- 9 Relevant to
- 11 Shooting stars
- 12 Auctioneers hammer
- 13 A happening
- 15 Pointed with a weapon
- 16 Analysis of a substance
- 17 Trees of the genus ulmas
- 19 Star that flares with explosive violence
- 21 Air in motion
- 24 An affair of gallantry
- 25 To rot
- 26 Carapace
- 28 To excite, disturb or perturb
- 29 Leaves in the aggregate
- 30 War-galley with three benches of oars
- 31 The seizing of a prisoner

CLUES DOWN

- 1 To regard attentively
- 2 Merciful, mild
- 3 Employing
- 4 Oblique or sloping edge
- 5 Greek goddess of retribution
- 6 Sought the affections of
- 10 Toward to rising of the sun
- 11 A pool, lake or pond
- 14 Voice above bass but below alto
- 15 To alter for the better
- 18 Mental pictures
- 19 To nourish, rear and educate
- 20 A dull persistent pain
- 21 Canis lupis
- 22 To turn aside, diverge
- 23 Gaunt from fatigue
- 26 A stub
- 27 Faithful

Town Hall Bookings

For Town Hall bookings contact Mrs B. Sapsford

Tel: 850776.

Town Hall keys to be collected from Londis shop.

DANETREE

Veterinary Surgeons

14 Coxwell Road
Faringdon
Oxon. SN7 7EZ

Tel: 01367 242777

www.danetreevets.com



N Nurden

Motor Body Repairs

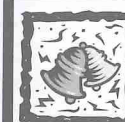
1 Rosemary Lane
Bampton

Oxon OX18 2NF

Tel 07970 255594

Free quotations

Insurance work undertaken



**CHRISTOPHER
BROOKS**

PHOTOGRAPHY

Relaxed and informal wedding photography by husband and wife team capturing the magic of your special day

Contact

Christopher & Lynda Brooks

Tel: 01993 852026

E.mail:

brooks@cblr.fsbusiness.co.uk

YOUR HANDY MAN

MATTHEW SHAW

PAINTING & DECORATING
HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS
GARDENING

01993 842085 07779 012845

HOURLY RATE

S. J. Cooper

General Builders

ROSEBROOK, ASTON ROAD, BAMPTON,
OXON OX18 2AF

Office: 01993 851700 Mobile: 07747 612826

All Building Aspects Covered

Including

Design and Build

FREE ESTIMATES



Systems & Solutions

Your Local Computer Shop

New Computers

Computer Repairs



Computer Components

27 Fettiplace Road, Witney, Oxon, OX28 5AP
Phone: 01993 706161 Fax: 01993 703770
www.systems-and-solutions.co.uk

Calendar of Events

April

- 3rd Easter Sale, Cancer Research, Village Hall 10am – 12noon
 10th Coffee Morning, Gardening Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
 10th Easter Bonnet Parade, The Romany, 2.30pm
 18th Outing, Gardening Club, Shuttleworth Aircraft Collection, Market Square, 9am
 21st Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Council, Village Hall, .7.30pm
 23rd Quiz, SPAJERS, Village Hall
 29th Village Hall AGM, Village Hall, 8pm

May

- 1st Unusual Plant Sale, Village Hall, 10am – 1pm
 3rd ~~Street Fair, Pumpkin Club, Market Square and High Street~~
 3rd Balloon Race – Street Fair, Cancer Research
 10th Exhibition Opening - Morris and Mummers, Bampton Museum, Robert Vesey Room
 16th Outing, Gardening Club, Stourhead House and Garden, Market Square, 9am
 13th Coffee Morning, Christian Aid, Cobb House, Church Close, 10 - 12 noon.
 21st Quiz Night, Cancer Research, Village Hall
 28th Talk by Keith Chandler on Morris Dancing, Bampton Museum, Village Hall, 7.30pm
 29th Traditional tunes and dances, children of 'Fiddles and Feet', Church Green, 3pm
 29th The Great Annual Shirt Race, SPAJERS, Market Square, 6pm
 31st May Garlands, Market Square, 11am
 31st Craft Fair, Village Hall, 9.30am
 31st Morris Dancers, Village, early until late!

June

- 12th Coffee Morning, Bush Club, Town Hall, 10am – 12noon
 16th Open Day, Bush Club, 10am – 12noon
 20th Outing, Gardening Club, Gardeners World Live Show, NEC, Market Square, 9am
 26th Annual Summer Show, Gardening Club, Village Hall, Open to public 3pm

July

- 16th – 17th Haydn's *La Vera Costanza*, Bampton Classical Opera, Deanery Garden, Bampton

August

- 8th Outing, Gardening Club, David Austin Rose Gardens, Market Square, 9am
 28th Don Giovanni's *Gazzaniga*, Bampton Classical Opera, The Orangery Terrace, Westonbirt School, Gloucestershire

THE BAMPTON BEAM

The Bampton Beam is published three times a year and distributed free to all households and businesses in Bampton. Extra copies are available from the Post Office, Emmie's, Abbey Properties, Temples and The Library.

Editor

Fenella Gray Tel: 851653

Sub-Editor

Fred Gray Tel: 851653

Artwork

Jo Lewington

Treasurer

Grace Wilkins

Advertising

Fred Gray: Tel: 851653/Fax: 851892

E-mail: fredgray@witneyservice.net

Photography

Fred Gray

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

Fenella Gray Tel: 851653

Contributions are always welcome and should be sent to: **The Editor, The Bampton Beam, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, OX18 2HA.**

Next deadline - 30th June 2004

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in *The Bampton Beam*, the editor and publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any error that may occur.

The views expressed in *The Bampton Beam* are not necessarily those of the Editor. Personal views are the responsibility of the author in each case.

The Beam Team wishes to thank

The Cotton Club - quality fabric suppliers - as well as the 'Beam' letter box!

Also thanks to the **Parish Council** and all of our **advertisers** for their financial support each year.

If you wish to have *The Bampton Beam* posted to yourself or a relative or friend on a regular basis, please send your name, address and cheque (made payable to The Bampton Beam) to: The Bampton Beam, Subscriptions, c/o The Cotton Club, Bridge Street, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2HA.

Annual Subscription

£2.50 for UK

£5.00 for overseas

West Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Services Bampton Easter Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Timetable

Normal Day	Substitute Day
Wednesday 7 April	Tuesday 6 April
Wednesday 14 April	Thursday 15 April
Back to normal Wednesday 21 April	
Following the May and August Bank Holidays, your waste and recyclables will be collected one day later than normal that week	
For further information access the Website on www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment	