



Bampton Beam

July 2025

Topic	Page No
MBE for Jenny Chaundy	1
Bampton Garden Club	2
Bampton Classical Opera	2-3
Bampton Welfare Trust	4
Local Gov Reorganisation	4-5
Update from Spajers	5-6
The Society for the Protection of Bampton	6-7
Afternoon Tea Fundraiser	7
Vincenzo the Warrior!	7-8
The Market Tavern	8-9
Jazz Blues Jam Nights	9
Bampton Bridge Club	10
Bampton Weightlifting Club	10
BabyMoon Massage & Wellbeing	10
Bampton Doughnut Econ Group	11
West Oxford Arts	11
Bampton Obelisk	11-12
Upcoming events	12

Welcome!

Welcome to the July issue of the Bampton Beam and thank you to everyone who got in touch to say you were pleased the Beam was back!

The Beam will be published quarterly and the next issue will be in October 2025. A web page has been launched as an additional resource to keep up-to-date with what is going on in our local community. Please visit: <https://www.bamptonbeam.co.uk>.

Ideas for future issues, reviews and articles would be most welcomed. The deadline to send in any articles is Friday, 19th September ready for distribution in the community at the beginning of October.

Please email: bamptonbeam@gmail.com

Huge congratulations to Jenny Chaundy!

So often we hear and agree that it is the number of volunteers and their tremendous contribution to Bampton life that make it such a great community.

It is especially gratifying that the amazing work of volunteers has been recognised by the award of MBE in the King's Birthday Honours list to an outstanding volunteer, Jenny Chaundy, for services to the community in Bampton. On behalf of us all, thank you and congratulations Jenny.

Jenny has volunteered in the community for many years and has been a driving force behind Bampton Community Shop, Bampton Archive and shop, and Bampton Library.



She organises the activities at Bush Club and has been involved in fundraising for many village projects including helping to save the library, when it was threatened with closure, and the huge restoration project at The Old Grammar School. She helped raise money for the Jubilee Clocks on the Town Hall and even ended up helping to put them up on the building! She helps and supports other community groups with ideas, graphic design, and the promotion of community events.

Deadline for all contributions for the next issue is: 19 Sept 2025

The Bampton Beam newsletter will be produced four times a year and is available free to all households in Bampton and surrounding villages. Every effort is made to provide accurate information and updates. No responsibility is accepted for any errors. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the Parish Council who are covering the costs of production. Please send any comments to: bamptonbeam@gmail.com

Bampton Gardening Club

The Bampton Gardening Club is going from strength to strength with 163 members! We continue to meet on the first Saturday of the month for a coffee morning which includes home made cakes and stalls with seeds, books, plants and crafts for sale.

Our second outing this year is to Aston Pottery on 16th July and is free to attend! Stephen Baughan will talk to us about how he makes his magnificent gardens every year. Spaces are limited so please sign up for it on our coffee morning in the Village Hall on July 5th. You can make your own way to Aston, but if you need a lift, put your name down at the desk at the coffee morning and we will find you one. There will be teas, but you pay for that.

Our Annual Show is on the 6th September. After all this sunshine, it should be amazing. There is a special 'tallest sunflower' entry for children. The schedule for the show will soon be appearing in our Community Shop.



Jo Lewington's drawing of people bringing their dahlias along to the Dahlia Show at Ham Court

Try and save a dahlia for our Dahlia Show at Ham Court on Sunday, 7th September.

The Bampton Community Orchard is being planted by the gardening club on land at the Recreation Ground. Nearly 40 apple trees have been planted so far – pears, plums, damsons, and greengages will be planted this autumn. There will be no fruit this year as, for the first 2 years, we have to concentrate on sturdy growth and NOT fruit production. Dogs are not welcome at the moment because dog-wee can kill off young trees. In the next few months there will be a notice board, with a list of all the trees planted, together with their history and characteristics.

We are also planning a book of fruit recipes – so if you have a particularly favourite recipe, hand it in at the coffee morning or email it to us on:- gardeningclubbampton@gmail.com

Bampton Classical Opera

For more than 30 years, Bampton has been the home to a rather wonderful small professional opera company. From modest beginnings in 1993, originally under the auspices of West Ox Arts, Bampton Classical Opera has grown to be respected as one of the UK's most accomplished and interesting small companies.

In addition to annual staged productions in the delightful Deanery Garden, adjacent to St Mary's (which becomes our indoor 'opera house' if the weather causes upset), BCO performs regularly at the magnificent Victorian-country-house venue of Westonbirt School near Tetbury, and at St John's Smith Square in Westminster (now re-named as Smith Square Hall), one of London's architectural masterpieces. It has performed at festivals around the country and, most remarkably, has twice recently been selected as a finalist in the prestigious International Opera Awards, effectively the Oscars of the operatic world. Each

year it attracts national critics and glowing press reviews, most recently in the magazine *Opera Now* which claims “there’s still nothing lovelier in the British operatic summer than Bampton Classical Opera”.

Bampton has won over many converts to opera, a form of music theatre which can sometimes appear forbidding to those who are unfamiliar – how does the Bampton magic work? Our Deanery venue (with huge thanks to the owners Mr and Mrs Armitage) is loved by our audiences and the event is delightfully relaxed – dress up or how you wish, bring a picnic or order one ready-made, sample our well-stocked bar – and settle down to enjoy an evening of stunning singing (with orchestra) by some of the UK’s finest and liveliest young singer-actors.

All of our operas come from the time of Mozart but our ‘USP’ is to select little-performed rarities, which give audiences something fresh and intriguing, rather than the familiar repertory which can be heard anywhere. One of the composers we’ve especially ‘adopted’ has been Antonio Salieri (1750-1825), and this year’s opera *The Landlady (La locandiera)* has been chosen to mark the 200th anniversary of the composer’s death. Salieri’s melodious and often hilarious operas are



Lisetta (Margo Arsane) & Bonafede (Jonathan Evers)



Ecclitico (Nathan Vale), Cecco (Sam Harris) & Ernesto (Catherine Backhouse)

hardly ever performed nowadays, despite in his lifetime being the most accomplished and respected opera composer across Europe, teacher of Beethoven and Schubert amongst many others.

As with all Bampton operas, the Italian script of *The Landlady (La locandiera)* has been translated into English and audiences always love our appealing rhyming versions. It’s a charming comedy about the tribulations of a wily and determined tavern landlady, Mirandolina, who has to fight off the unwanted attentions of her gentleman guests, but also rashly takes on the challenge of ‘educating’ the Baron, a man who claims to dismiss and dislike all women. Mirandolina proves to be a feisty

feminist, determined to show the Baron just who wears the trousers.

Tickets are selling fast: www.bamptonopera.org or telephone 01993 851142. Bampton Classical Opera has been running to national acclaim for over 30 years – if you haven’t been before, don’t miss it whilst it’s still here! Remember you need to bring garden chairs as we don’t provide seating – it’s part of our relaxed ethos.

‘Brilliant – won me over to opera’; ‘The performers were such wonderful singers and actors – music was divine, and the whole experience was delightful!’; ‘This company could seduce even the most resistant critic into the world of opera’ (recent audience comments).

Driver volunteer needed: We are looking for someone to help as a van driver to transport our scenery and costumes to central London and back on Tuesday 16 September, with pick-up/unload day before and day after in Bampton. Hire vehicle possible. Please email jeremy@bamptonopera.org for details.



Bampton Welfare Trust

Do you know that there is a Trust which exists ‘to relieve either generally or individually, persons resident in the Ancient Parish of Bampton, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress’?



The parish now covers Bampton, Lew, Aston, Cote and Shifford. The income of the Trust is from bequests made in the 17th and 18th centuries amalgamated in 1972 and invested for future need and administered by the Trustees of the Bampton Welfare Trust who are all residents of the parish.

Bampton may seem to be a relatively affluent area but it is not immune to national trends. Unemployment, illness, relationship breakdown, rising cost of living for example take their toll of our residents. The Trust gives help to individuals or families in emergency situations not covered by other agencies. So, food vouchers, expenses for hospital travel, essential household equipment, bedding and heating, including 37 payments last winter to help with rising fuel costs, are examples of help given. The Trust has also helped groups with donations to Aston playground, Aston Community shop and Bampton school among others.

If you know of someone needing temporary assistance in an emergency, distress or in circumstances beyond their control, please encourage them to contact the Trust if no other agencies can help. The Trust Welfare Officer is Janet Newman who can be contacted on 07866207948.

The Trust income is limited, and the fund is occasionally boosted by donations, often as a small thank you from a grateful recipient. If you felt able to make a one-off or a regular donation however small it would enable us to help more of our residents. The Trust’s Clerk Peter Alcock would be happy to provide more information, contact 07775786621.

Local Government Reorganisation

Change is coming to local government across England, and five councils are working together to propose two strong and locally accountable unitary authorities for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. In the coming years, the government will replace the current two-tier system of local government, which consists of district and county councils, with new unitary authorities. It has asked current councils to put together proposals based on a set of criteria and with a target population of around 500,000 people.

The government wishes for councils to work together on plans for how these new unitary councils will work. As a result, the majority of the Oxfordshire authorities have teamed up with West Berkshire to work together positively and constructively on a proposal that meets the government’s criteria and also provides an option for a better future for both Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. This proposal would deliver better services while retaining a close link to local communities.

The two unitary proposal: The proposal is for two new unitary councils with the working titles of Oxford and Shires Council and Ridgeway Council. It aims to create strong, financially stable councils that provide high-quality, cost-effective, and locally driven services.



- **Oxford and Shires Council** would comprise all of the existing district areas of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- **Ridgeway Council** would be made up of the whole of West Berkshire Council's area and all of the existing district areas of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

You can find out more about this proposal by visiting the following website:

https://twocouncils.org/home?mc_cid=17a6b6062f&mc_eid=8be8a8eefe

This proposal is one of three being developed.

The other two proposals are:

A single unitary council covering the current county council boundary. This is being developed by Oxfordshire County Council.

Three unitaries:

- One covering Oxford City but with expanded boundaries from the current city council.
- A second including the current districts on Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire along with West Berkshire.
- A third including the current districts of West Oxfordshire and Cherwell. This proposal is being developed by Oxford City Council.

All the final proposals must be submitted to the government by 28 November, after which the government will chose which model is to be put in place. Any new councils would likely take effect in 2028 at the earliest.

The councils have launched a comprehensive public engagement exercise from **4 June to 16 July** to gather views that will help ensure the final proposal reflects the needs and aspirations of residents. Your input will directly shape how the two unitary proposal is developed and you can have your say by visiting the following website:

https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/corporate-services/two-councils/?mc_cid=17a6b6062f&mc_eid=8be8a8eefe

You can also attend one of the engagement events held throughout Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Details of the events in West Oxfordshire are below. Officers will be available to listen to your thoughts, take feedback and discuss the two unitary proposal.

- Bampton Village Hall, Market Square OX18 2JH 3pm-7pm on Tuesday, 8th July
- Unit 14a, Marriotts Walk, Witney OX28 6GW 3pm-7pm on Thursday, 10th July

Update from SPAJERS

Firstly, can we begin by saying how delighted we are that the Bampton Beam has been resurrected! – it is the perfect vehicle to not only promote events and activities within the village, but also to enhance community spirit and well-being.



SPAJERS – a major village charity also has as its main aim, supporting the local community.

Those of us on the committee, are often asked by the general public, exactly what SPAJERS means! – it is of course an acronym and quite a mouthful! –

The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing! In other words, pram racing or as it's known in the village – The Shirt Race! The event has been taking place in the village for over seventy years.



The first race took place the same year as the late Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953! The village gas man John Quick, farmer Doug Read, and fishmonger Paul Bovington dreamed up the idea of a pram race to celebrate the Royal Occasion.

The race involves teams of two or more, often in fancy dress pushing a non-powered contraption around a pre-designated route in the centre of the village, having to stop at various refreshment stations along the way, taking care not to spill any of the liquid on their 'shirts'..hence the races name! There is always a terrific variety of 'chariots' made by both children and adults alike.

The event takes place each year on the second bank holiday in May. This year's event was another huge success made only possible with the help of over 70 volunteers who marshalled the course and rattled donation buckets.



This year's event organiser, Lewis Jenkins commented: 'It was fabulous to see the community once again come together to support this wonderful village tradition. It could simply not happen without the help of many volunteers and the local highways authority. Everyone seemed to have a really marvellous time, which makes the effort of organising such an event, very worthwhile.'



Over the years the charity has also organised other events, including a Donkey Derby on Sandfords Field, Fireworks Display and Josie's Draw. Raffle tickets are sold prior to each event and all the profits raised by SPAJERS benefit more than 250 pensioners in Bampton and the neighbouring village of Lew.

A steam train outing for pensioners in the village is being planned for August 6th.

The next SPAJERS event will be The Donkey Derby on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August in Sandfords Field – 2pm until 5pm.

If you would like to join the SPAJERS committee, please contact the Chairman, Nick Rivett at: chair.spajers@gmail.com

Nick Holmes - Committee Member/ Publicity

The Society for the Protection of Bampton

The Society for the Protection of Bampton (known as the SPB) recently celebrated its 30th. Founded in 1993 by a local resident Earl Donoughmore, who sadly passed away recently, it was established 'to improve the quality of life of the people of Bampton'. With over 300 members, it continues to protect the unique character of Bampton.

One of our early successes was to rescue a piece of land in the heart of the village from development by the County Council. Thanks to the generosity of our founder, Sandfords Field is now owned by the village and used for fetes, the Donkey Derby and the enjoyment of everyone.

With the arrival of Covid in 2020, the SPB initiated and funded the village Covid support group, known as Bampton Aid Network (BAN). This quickly established a dedicated mobile number through which a team of volunteers could be accessed to do all types of jobs, mainly the collection of



prescriptions and shopping. Long after lockdown ceased, BAN continued managing Covid vaccination clinics for the elderly and vulnerable in local surgeries.

Funded entirely by its members, the SPB continues to oppose inappropriate development. We accept the need for growth but feel this should be small-scale and in keeping with the unique character of our village. During the planning process, the SPB often makes constructive points to increase the resilience of developments, especially as regards flooding.



Bampton has history when it comes to flooding. On the 20th July 2007, five inches of rain fell within twenty-four hours, affecting nearly one in eight homes. These were not just those near the Shillbrook but in New Road, Fox Close, and The Pieces. Not only did the damage take many months to repair, but some residents had their insurance quotes double while others were refused coverage entirely. Even today, residents occupying properties that never flooded have been faced with inflated quotes at renewal. This issue affects anyone with home insurance.

In recent years, a speculative developer attempted to build 127 new houses off the Aston Road in an area known to flood. The SPB raised over £20,000 to fight this application. We commissioned a hydrologist to model the flood risk and employed a planning barrister to fight our case. The developer's appeal failed.

As West Oxford District Council attempts to draw up their local plan, they need to build up to 16,000 new houses – and Bampton is once again on the hit list. We need to make sure that if we are subject to yet more development, it is both sympathetic and resilient. To ensure our voice is heard, we need as many members as possible. Please contact me directly if you are interested in either joining or helping. The future of our village is at stake!

Richard McBrien, Chair SPB richardmcb@me.com

Afternoon Tea

With

Montmorency

In aid of

Children with Cancer

Saturday 6th September

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Bampton Methodist Church

Bridge Street, Bampton

Suggested donation £5.00 per person
payable on the door (cash)

Vincenzo the warrior!

Our son Vincenzo was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia at just six years old.

He was a healthy, kind, and incredibly happy little boy—full of energy and joy. But on the 1st of June 2023, our lives changed forever. For three months, Vincenzo had been complaining of pain in his lower back and legs. After countless trips to the doctor and A&E, blood tests finally revealed our worst fear: cancer.

Our world stopped. We were suddenly thrown into a reality that no parent ever imagines. Vincenzo began a two-year treatment plan, which included:

- Six months of intense chemotherapy
- Intravenous treatments
- Chemotherapy injected into his spine to protect his brain and spinal cord
- Ongoing oral chemotherapy

There were countless nights in the hospital. He lost his hair. He experienced extreme sickness. He lost his ability to walk. And yet, through all of it, Vincenzo remained strong, focused, and incredibly brave.

As a family, we entered a world of pain, confusion and helplessness. But within that world, we also discovered a powerful community, families who had walked this path before us, offering love, strength

and solidarity. They reminded us that we were not alone.

As parents, we couldn't take away our son's pain. But we could choose to take our pain and turn it into purpose. We began raising awareness and funds for Children With Cancer UK, a charity that funds life-saving research into less invasive treatments, something that children desperately need.

Vincenzo's daddy, Nathan, ran the London & Rome Marathon for the cause.

Vincenzo and I, along with our incredible family and friends, hosted bake sales, toy sales, and raffles.

Together, we raised over £16,000 for the charity.



Vincenzo the warrior!

Vincenzo, even while fighting his own battle, remained focused on helping other children and families. His strength continues to inspire everyone who meets him.

We also want to share our deepest gratitude to those who walked beside us:

- The doctors and nurses of Kamran's Ward in the JR Oxford, you are real-life heroes.
- Bampton Primary School, especially Miss Phillips, for your unwavering love and support.
- And to the beautiful village of Bampton, especially the school mums, who wrapped us in care like we were your own family.

This is not just a story about cancer.

This is a story of resilience, love, and community, and of one incredibly brave little boy who continues to inspire everyone he meets.

Anna Mancari-Rees

The Market Tavern

First of all, we would like to start off by thanking everyone for the unbelievable support we've had since opening. We knew that Bampton wanted a foody pub again but didn't think we would be this busy! Lots of



beer has been drunk, plenty of food consumed and lots of sunny weather has been soaked in since the end of April and we hope it continues in the same vein for many years to come.

A little about the pub and how we came to decide on the name and concept.

We went through a lot of different names for the pub before finalising on The Market Tavern. We wanted it to have a link to the history of Bampton and be in keeping with the town. With Bampton being a historic market town, and a market being a main source of fresh food and a perfect meeting place for locals, just like a pub, it seemed like a no brainer to go down this route. We also put it to the locals on the Facebook page to see if anyone had name ideas and to include the local people in the decision, with the winner being given the chance to have dinner on us! We had one person send in the exact same name we had decided on and it confirmed we were doing the right thing.

The concept, in Will's opinion, is an easy one. We want to deliver what the local people want and do it really well. From having a cosy and comfortable bar area to enjoy a drink, to a fully laid, clean and professional restaurant, we feel like we can cater for all needs. Families are encouraged to come in, as well as those on a date night or just a casual lunch.

Keep your eyes peeled on our social media, website or posters in the pub for any upcoming events, plans are already in motion for the forbidden 'C' word too, which we will be advertising towards the end of the summer!



Will, Ellie, Stuart and the Team

Jazz Blues Jam Nights at The Market Tavern



The first Monday of every month, a subtle transformation unfolds at The Market Tavern, (previously called Fleur de Lys). For most of the month, it's an upmarket but traditional village pub full of low chatter, familiar faces, fancy cocktails and decent pints. But, on the first Monday of every month brings something new, something soulful. It starts when Matthew Morton (Matt), an ebullient middle-aged kiwi, with a perennial smile and his vintage harmonica, walks in early evening.

Matt has spent most of his life working here and there and trying his hand to find work he enjoyed. Work that brought him closer to nature and made best use of his extraordinary likeability and musical talents. To pay the bills, Matt has his own gardening business 'Gaiaveda', but his real love is performing with his band Papa Nui and just about anywhere

that will have him.

Matt loves the 'terror' of standing before an audience, just before any gig. The buzz and the anticipation giving him the rush of energy helping him to perform at 100%.

A chance meeting with Steve Geekie, arrived one day in 2023. Matt out walking 'crashed' Steve's private party when he heard him playing. Matt claims he was drawn to the music he heard on the 'air'. Steve introduced other accomplished Bamptonian musicians, Spencer Komodromou (lead guitar), Keith Fairbairn (drums), Gary Horne (bass guitar), and they loosely formed the Broad Street Blues Band ... they just needed a local venue to play.

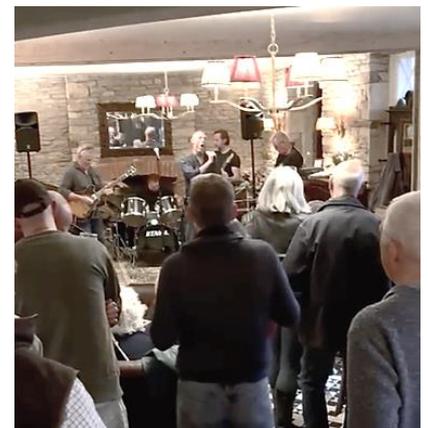
Matt approached the landlord at the Market Taven, about starting a jazz / blues jamming session. Matt's idea to encourage likeminded musicians to play without an agenda, to invite anyone to play or sing and generally 'have a go'. The landlord agreed to give it a shot. Matt doesn't run the session like a performance. He opens the floor. 'No egos,' he'd say. 'Make the moment matter'. Encouraging newcomers experienced and novice, even those with shaky hands and nerves, to step up.

Word began to spread.

The session is now a regular fixture for Bamptonians in search of a real experience. Make sure you get to the venue early if you want a seat; the bar gets packed. The music is loud and rhythmic and everyone is enjoying the evening.

Matt sometimes sings, sometimes playing his harmonica, always with a broad grin, no doubt 100% terrified and delighted at the same time.

The next session will be on Monday 7th July from 7pm to 10pm at The Market Tavern.



Bampton Bridge Club



Bampton Bridge Club is a small friendly bridge club that is not EBU affiliated.

We welcome new members of any standard.

Currently we play Duplicate bridge online, using Real Bridge, every Tuesday evening. The session opens at 19:00 with play commencing at 19:15.

Members pay £1 table money per session and visitors £2. The club also holds 2/3 social playing sessions a year at Bampton Village Hall.

Beginner classes are available.

For more information go online to: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/bampton> or contact the Club Secretary on 01993 200233.

Bampton Weightlifting Club

BWC has been a staple of the community for almost 70 years, providing a welcoming environment for the folk of Bampton and the surrounding areas to get fit, strong and confident.

Since January, BWC have joined up with Swindon Barbell Club to provide monthly coaching and group training evenings at BWC for competitive powerlifters or first time lifters. We have had good attendance and hope to develop this partnership further.

Competition report:

BWC member Ed Lewis recently competed at Crazy Strength Southern, coming first in his category.

BWC lifter Mark and Lucy Anderson have had an excellent year in the British Drug Free Powerlifting Association, Mark qualifying and coming first in the European bench press, also setting a world record in his age/weight category. Lucy doing the same with a 75kg bench press.



Dan Reed

Baby Moon Massage and Wellbeing

I'm Natalie, and I'm the founder of Mama and Baby Moon, where I offer nurturing postnatal classes for mums and babies in Bampton. With over 20 years of experience working with families, supporting parents and their little ones has always been my passion. In addition to running mama and baby moon, I work at the John Radcliffe Hospital's neonatal ward, helping premature babies and their families transition home with confidence. It felt like a natural next step to build on my Nursery Nursing qualifications and bring the incredible benefits of baby massage to my local community.



I quickly realised the significant gaps in postnatal support—especially around breastfeeding guidance and the feelings of isolation many new parents experience. Inspired to do more, I expanded my expertise and recently became a certified Learn, Stretch, and Play teacher, and now offer these along with Baby Yoga. Looking ahead, my vision is to grow Baby Moon into a comprehensive support hub for parents, offering a wide range of classes that provide connection, education, and reassurance during the early stages of parenthood. I'm passionate about creating a welcoming space where families can feel supported, empowered, and truly part of a community. Please get in touch: nataliesundblad@gmail.com

Bampton Doughnut Economics Group

Bampton DE Group is currently organising an event with Burford Beagles, Oxfordshire Doughnut Economics Collective and CAG called 'Making Connections'. It is being held at Asthall Manor on Saturday, 2nd August from 10am to 4pm. The aim of the day is to explore ways we might be able to work collaboratively with other local projects to increase our impact both locally and globally using the framework of Doughnut Economics.

There is an opportunity to build connections and network with likeminded people in a beautiful setting. To register your place please scan the QR code to complete the online form.



For more information about Doughnut Economics, watch [Kate Raworth Introduction to Doughnut Economics - YouTube](#)



Therapeutic Garden

The group has decided that the focus in the short term will be on developing the therapeutic garden behind the car park at Bampton's Medical Practice. The plans are being drawn up to present to the practice for approval and work can then commence. There will be opportunities to get involved and volunteer your time so please look out for further updates in the months to come.

If you would like to come along to the next meeting please get in touch and we will be pleased to welcome you. Email: bamptondegroupp@gmail.com

West Ox Arts (WOA)



Venture up the stairs of the Old Town Hall found next to the Post Office and you will discover The Gallery run by members of West Ox Arts. With the focus on visual arts West Ox Arts Gallery hosts between 10 and 12 exhibitions per year including Oxfordshire Artweeks. The Gallery promotes the talents of a staggering number of artists from Oxfordshire and beyond, often exhibiting in small groups. In addition to exhibitions, WOA is an organisation where members can meet to make art together. We also offer workshops and demos led by the artists it helps promote.

Run by volunteers it is an inclusive organisation working to make art accessible to all in the heart of Bampton. We always welcome offers of help. Please contact gallery@westoxarts.com

Upcoming Events:

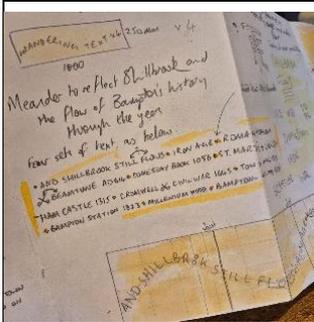
- West Ox Arts AGM Tuesday 1st July 2025, 7pm in the gallery.
- WOA and Members Arts and Crafts Exhibition running until Friday 25th July
- A Journey Through Art - Styles & Visions A fascinating and dynamic exhibition featuring eight talented WOA artists working in a variety of media.
- Workshop Week Monday 27th October - Saturday 1st November. www.westoxarts.com



A Landmark Commissioned to Celebrate Bampton's Past and Future

We are delighted to announce the commissioning of a new public artwork for Bampton — the Bampton Obelisk — a celebration of our town's rich heritage, deep-rooted identity, and ongoing evolution.

This initiative, part of the Bampton Sculpture Project, is made possible through funds provided under Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These funds, allocated by developers in accordance with planning obligations, are designed to support the community and enhance its environment in thoughtful, lasting ways.



In this case, the funds were specifically earmarked for the creation of public art, with two clear stipulations: the artist must make their living from their art, and they must be local.

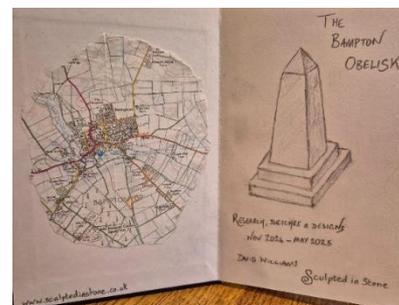
After reviewing several proposals, we are proud to have selected David Williams, a professional sculptor based in Bampton, whose work has gained recognition for its strong sense of place, historical resonance, and craftsmanship. David's connection to the region and his deep appreciation of Bampton's historical fabric made him a natural choice for this commission.

The Design

The Bampton Obelisk will be a four-sided, carved stone structure positioned prominently in the garden outside the Town Hall, forming a visual and cultural anchor in the heart of the village.

Each face of the Obelisk will tell a story including:

- A coats of arms of the four founding families of Bampton, as recorded in the Domesday Book, grounding the sculpture in a thousand years of local history.
- Bampton's internationally recognised tradition of Morris dancing, with finely detailed reliefs celebrating this vital aspect of our living heritage.
- Iconic Bampton scenes and vistas, reflecting the village's unique architectural charm and rural setting — sights that all residents will recognise and cherish.



David is also producing a photographic journal documenting the creation of the Obelisk, from raw stone to final installation. Accompanying this will be a fold-out concept book, illustrating the design journey and artistic decisions. Both will be preserved for public viewing as part of Bampton's historical archive, ensuring the process behind this cultural investment is as accessible as the final piece.



The first of the stone is delivered!

A Lasting Landmark

The Bampton Obelisk has been conceived not only as a tribute to our shared past but as a symbol of continuity — integrating the stories of long-standing residents with those of newer members of our growing community. Located centrally and surrounded by everyday activity, the Obelisk is intended to become a focal point for the town, a place to reflect on where we've come from, who we are, and where we are going together.

We hope this new landmark will be embraced by all as a lasting expression of civic pride, local identity, and artistic excellence.

Andy Cutler, Bampton Parish Council

Upcoming Events

Time in Wonderland - Free Family Fun with our storyteller Lucy Walters. In support of the Summer Reading Challenge 'The Story Garden' **Sat 19th July from 2pm** at Bampton Library. No booking required.

Block printing session - In support of this year's Summer Reading Challenge 'The Story Garden' join our free BLOCK PRINTING SESSION Marea Brown will be joining us at Bampton Library for a block printing afternoon. **Wednesday July 30th 2.00pm – 3.30 pm Ages 8-12yrs** This is FREE but booking required!



For more details of upcoming talks, workshops, events and exhibitions, or for a selection of local clubs and groups that you can join or volunteer for in and around Bampton, please visit Bampton's Community Hub website: <https://bamptoncommunityhub.org>