

QUIRKY: Race will see hundreds line Bampton's streets

MAY 2nd 2018



SERIOUS FUN: Early jockeying for position in the senior race at Bampton Shirt Race 2017

Picture: Ric Mellis

Village's wacky races to return this month

Stuart Rust

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THE weird and wonderful event which sees teams of beer lovers charge through the streets of Bampton in homemade chariots returns this month.

The Bampton Shirt Race – which sees competitors push each other around in prams, stopping only for beer – will have its 66th outing on Saturday, May 26.

Hundreds of people are expected to line the streets to watch West Oxfordshire's very own wacky races, with all the funds raised on the day going to the elderly in the community.

Don Rouse is the race coordinator for the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing (Spajers), the charity behind the race.

He said: "Everything is going very well – the only mystery at this stage is what vehicle I'm go-

ing to be following the races in. Previously I've had a Russian motorbike and sidecar with a reverse gear; the last few times I've been in a trailer towed by a quad bike like a lamb or a pig.

"I don't know what it's going to be this time. I could be on the back of a tandem."

The 80-year-old said he was excited to see the 'unbelievable' chariots and costumes produced by people in the village.

The event requires teams of two to dress in nightshirts and push each other around the village in a pram, stopping at four pubs and four other spots to swig half a pint along the way.

Adults enjoy beer while racers under 18 get orange juice.

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'Chariots' with teams of three or more compete at the same time as the teams of two to add to the fun and chaos.

There are three separate races divided by age category.

There is also a fancy dress parade which last year brought the Flintstones, Roman centurions and a corpse bride out into the centre of the village.

Winners enjoy the honour of being named shirt race champions for a whole year – with adult winners also taking home eight cans of beer.

Those wanting to take part in the race or the fancy dress parade can head to High Street (with a pram, if competing in the race) at 6.45pm on the day. The first race can get under way after the 7.10pm bus passes through the village.

It is free to take part, with money raised from collections.

The Spajers, which has also been supported by Bampton's mummers play, pays for Christmas treats and day trips for elderly villagers.



Produced by The Bampton Branch
The Royal British Legion
Meeting at the Romany Inn Public House Bampton

Contact and Membership information
Secretary - Secretary.BRBL@outlook.com
Chairperson - Bampton.chairman@rbl.community

**Bampton Traditional Morris
Squire - Craig Godwin**

0830 THE OLD PLAYING FIELD
NEW ROAD - **A**
0900 BUSHEY HOUSE - **B**
0920 GREY BARN - **C**
0940 BLACKTHORN COTTAGE - **D**
1000 ROMANY INN
1015 WESTBROOK HOUSE - **E**
1030 WEALD MANOR - **F**
1100 HAM COURT - **G**
1130 SANDFORDS - **I**
1200 CHURCHGATE HOUSE - **K**
1220 THE DEANERY - **L**
1240 COBB HOUSE - **M**
1300 LUNCH
1400 THE TALBOT HOTEL
1420 KILMORE HOUSE - **J**
1450 HOME FARM - **H**
1520 GRAYSHOTT HOUSE - **N**
1540 MORRIS CLOWN
1600 TEA
1700 GOTHURST - **R**
1715 CHURCH STREET - **S**
1730 LITTLE PLACE - **T**
1800 ROMANY INN WITH GUEST TEAMS:
ABINGDON MORRIS
ARMALEGGAN
MOULTON MORRIS
1830 BAMPTON MANOR
1900 STREET DANCING

**Bampton Morris Men
Squire - Mat Green**

0830 GOTHURST - **R**
0925 ANCHORAGE HOUSE - **V**
0945 DIXIE DEANS - **W**
1015 BREAKFAST
1040 WALNUTS - **X**
1120 WESTBROOK HOUSE - **E**
1150 ROSEMARY LANE - **U**
1215 ROMANY INN
1230 THE TALBOT HOTEL
1300 LUNCH
1400 BRIDGE STREET - **BB**
1430 ST MARY'S CHURCH - **Y**
1530 MARKET SQUARE - *****
1600 THE LANES - **P**
1700 TEA
1800 MORRIS CLOWN
DANCING IN THE VILLAGE CENTRE
WITH GUEST TEAMS

**TIMINGS AND LOCATIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN
CIRCUMSTANCES**

<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bampton>

or follow us on  at
Bampton Royal British Legion

**Traditional Bampton Morris Dancers
Squire - Lawrence Adams**

0900 THE TALBOT HOTEL
0930 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK - *****
1000 LAVENDER PLACE FLATS - **O**
1030 MORRIS CLOWN
1110 MARKET SQUARE - *****
1130 CHURCH GATES - **YY**
1200 LUNCH
1300 TOWN HALL - *****
1330 ROMANY INN
1400 WESTBROOK HOUSE - **E**
1430 CHEYNE LANE - **AA**
1500 THE OLD GEORGE - **Z**
1530 THE DEANERY - **L**
1615 GOTHURST - **R**
1700 TEA
1800 DANCING WITH GUEST SIDES:
(STARTING AT MARKET SQUARE - *****)
MAD JACK'S MORRIS
BOURNE RIVER MORRIS MEN

Venues

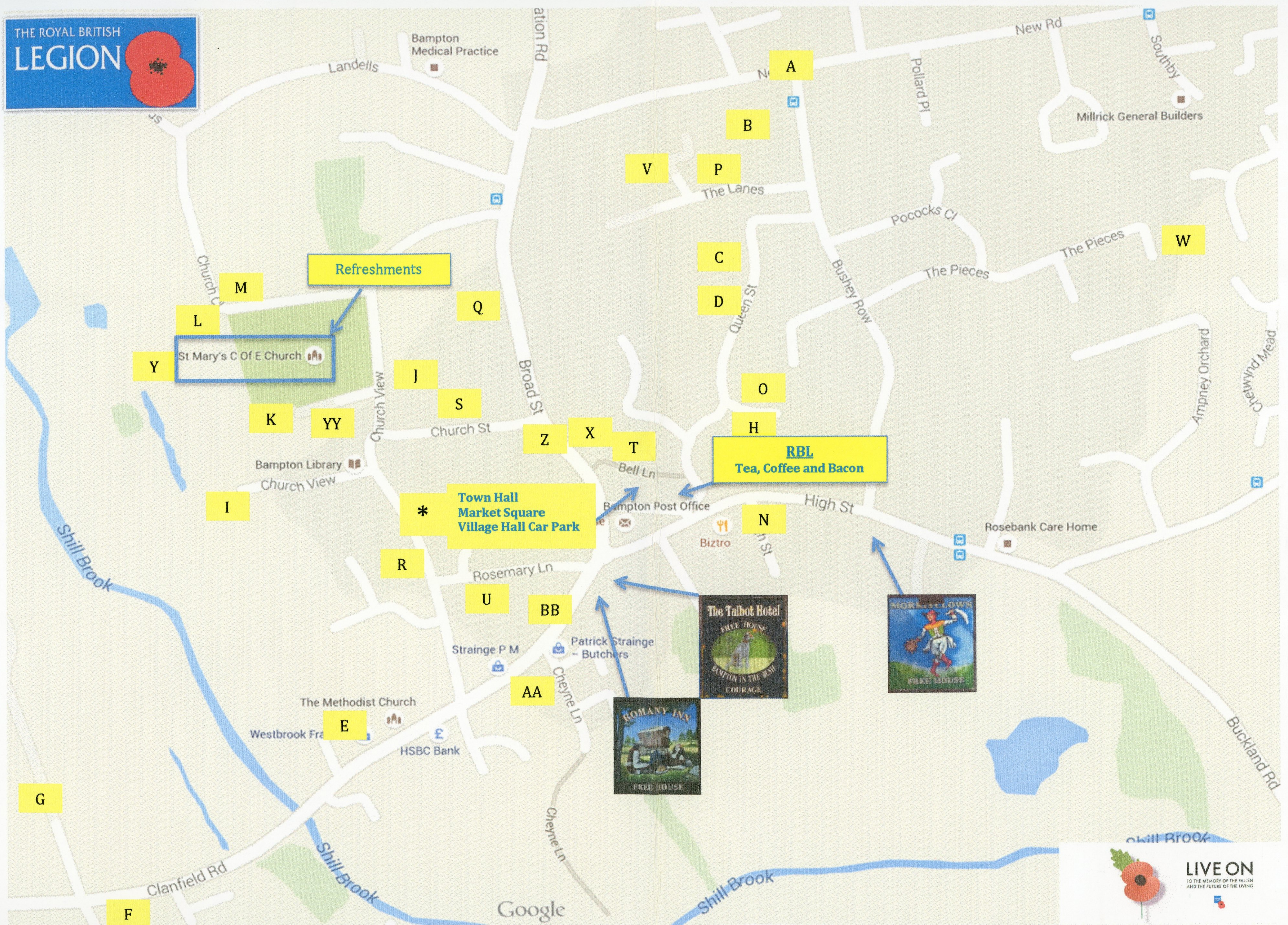
A The Old Playing Field - New Road
B Bushey House
C Grey Barn
D Blackthorn Cottage
E Westbrook House
F Weald Manor
G Ham Court
H Home Farm
I Sandfords
J Kilmore House
K Churchgate House
L The Deanery
M Cobb House
N Grayshott House
O Lavender Place Flats
P The Lanes
Q Bampton Manor
R Gothurst
S Church Street
T Little Place
U Rosemary Lane
V Anchorage House
W Dixie Deans
X Walnuts
Y St Mary's Church
YY Church Gates
Z The Old George
AA Cheyne Lane
BB Bridge Street
***** Town Hall/Market Sq. /Car Park

Please remember that the owners have allowed us access to their homes. This is a privilege for both dancers and spectators. It would be greatly appreciated if you could respect their gardens and property

Thank You.



LIVE ON
TO THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN
AND THE FUTURE OF THE LIVING





Bus Stop
Bridge Street
Carterton

AA
Guest
Accommodation

RESTAURANT

THE ROMANY INN

Restaurant

ACCOMMODATION























































