



Ann Shergold

Lily Wells

Miss Williams

Mrs Gillett

Miss Dutton

Dr & Mrs Bullen

Mrs Brown

Nellie Brooks

Mrs Paine

Lucy Shergold

Clara Drinkwater

Lydia Hunt

May Horne

Mrs Wiltshire



Mrs Millicent
Birch

Mrs Lucy
Shergold

Mrs Annie
Amelia
Smith

Mrs Hunt (Lyddie)
(Broad St)

Mrs Nellie
Brooks

Mrs May
Horne

Mrs Emmy
Sollis

Mrs Flux
(Frank Tanner's
sister, Lizzie)

Mrs Davey







OLD-TIME
BAMPTON

Memories of the Over Sixty Club

of

BAMPTON IN THE BUSH, OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE CARE OF OLD PEOPLE.



MEMORIES COMPETITION, 1962.



This is to certify that the entry from
Bampton "Over Sixty" Club was highly
commended by the judges.

Signed John Duke

CHAIRMAN

LOCAL MEMORIES

of

THE OVER-SIXTY CLUB

of

BAMPTON IN THE BUSH
Oxfordshire

February, 1962.

The Bampton 'Darby and Joan Club
meets in the Old Grammar School.



Old folks club closing down

Old folk in Bampton are to lose their regular meeting club which has been run in the village for the past 30 years.

The Darby and Joan Club has decided to close after Christmas to give way to a new day centre set up for the elderly and disabled.

Retiring club leader, Mrs Frances Henly, said: "The decision to close was taken after much thought and heart searching.

"We are all terribly sad about it because the club has been part of village life for so many years. But we feel it will be for the best in the long run."

She said members recognised that Darby and Joan style clubs were now a "bit old-fashioned" and that the new day centre offered a more modern approach.

The club, which meets every fortnight, was started in the 1950s by Mrs

Millie Birch and has been run by Mrs Henly for the last 12 years. It has 33 members at present.

Mrs Henly said: "I have a committee of helpers who do a wonderful job but we have reluctantly agreed that it's best if all the energy and resources are now concentrated on the new centre.

The new day centre, called the Bush Club, is open every Wednesday at the Scout Headquarters in Church View providing coffee, lunch and teas.

It was set up earlier this year by a committee of volunteers including health visitors and social workers to provide the elderly with a regular pop-in meeting place.

The Darby and Joan Club, which will be having its final Christmas party on December 12, has decided to give the £1,000 left in its funds to the Bush Club for entertainment and social activities.

Club to close after 30 years

BAMPTON'S Darby and Joan Club members are preparing for their final Christmas Party next week as it has been announced the club will close down.

The decision to end the club after 30 years follows the retirement of its leader, of 10 years, Mrs. Frances Henly.

For the past year, she has been trying to find a replacement to lead the club, but has had no success. The club committee discussed the situation and it was felt the best course was to close it down.

At present there are 33 members, but numbers have dropped over the past two years, said Mrs.

Henly, as people have died. "We aren't getting enough new people to build up the membership," she said.

Mrs. Henly felt that with the introduction of the town's new Bush Club for retired people it was time for a change.

"The closing down of the Darby and Joan Club is the start of a new era and I think the Bush Club will grow and grow. Everybody's energy needs

to be put into the new club — it must be given every chance," said Mrs. Henly.

The Darby and Joan Club began in Bampton in the 1950's and was run by Mrs. Millie Birch of Weald Manor until her death. She was followed by Mrs. Temple and then Mrs. Henly.

As a parting gift to the new Bush Club, a donation of £1,000 from the Darby and Joan account will be given to them to be used for entertainment and social activities.

The club is holding its final Christmas party next Thursday with a full Christmas dinner and all the trimmings, entertainment and distribution of gifts.

Farewell but not goodbye

Members of Bampton's Darby and Joan Club held their last meeting together as a club, which has provided many happy hours of friendship, last Thursday afternoon when they met in the village hall for the grand Christmas dinner prepared by Leader Mrs. Frances Henly and her band of helpers.

The hall was festively decorated and the dinner tables colourfully laid out with red cloths, red candles, Christmas decorations and crackers. A traditional dinner of hot roast turkey with all the trimmings was served followed by a choice selection of puddings.

After coffee, entertainment was provided by Mr. Tinkler of Bicester who, on his electronic organ, played a vast selection of 'golden-oldies' which soon had everybody singing merrily. Pots of cyclamen were presented to all present provided by a legacy left by the late Mrs Preston who had been a keen and loyal member.

A respite followed while tea and mince-pies were served and this was followed by a large free raffle in which every member received a handsome gift. On behalf of members, Mrs. Ada Tanner made presentations to all Mrs. Henley's helpers and Mrs. Jackson presented Mrs. Henley with a fine pot plant in appreciation of all she had done for the club.

The occasion was only marred by the thought that this was the end of the Darby and Joan Club, but the good times and spirit of the club will long be remembered.



★ OUR PICTURE shows: Mrs. Lillian Craddock (seated) Mrs. Frances Henly (standing left) and Mrs. Topsy Maslin at the Bampton Darby and Joan Club Christmas lunch.



THE BAMPTON DARBY and Joan Club committee before the Christmas party last Thursday

THANKSGIVING

Father, we thank Thee for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light,
For all the rest and loving care,
And all that makes the world so fair.
Help us to do the things we should,
To be to others kind and good,
In all we do and all we say,
To be more loving every day.

Set free our souls,
O Lord from restless-
ness & anxiety, upheld
by Thy strength may
we stand on the
rock of Thy
faithfulness.

End of club is start of new era



MEMBERS of Bampton's Darby and Joan Club pictured with leader, Mrs. Frances Henly (second left).





The Old Grammar School and Church, Bampton

J. H. Salzman

High Street



LOCAL MEMORIES

BAMPTON or Bampton in the Bush, which was its earlier name, lay outside the main stream of affairs at least until the Enclosure Act. Before that it lay in a flat and marshy common covered with scrub, and there were no roads of any kind leading from Bampton to the neighbouring towns and villages. Travellers made their way as best they could to Witney, Burford, Faringdon and Oxford by striking across the common over rough tracks.

Though the advent of the railway, and of course, the motor-car has rendered Bampton more and more accessible, yet it is no wonder that in many ways Bampton has retained its old-world flavour, and has tended to preserve old customs and ways of life. The memories of its oldest inhabitants confirm this.

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THE BAMPTON MORRIS DANCERS

The custom of Morris Dancing has continued without interruption for over three hundred years and may well go back earlier still. The dancers consist of a team of men in snow-white shirts and trousers, and black bowler hats gaily decorated with flowers and ribbons. Rows of 'jingly' bells are wrapped round the trouser legs below the knees.

Memories go back to the famous fiddler Billy Wells who was born in 1868, and played the old tunes to which they danced. At times he would hand over his fiddle, and take his part in a dance, or act as the 'Fool'. They danced (and still do) in the streets, the Square and on the lawns of the larger houses.

A sword-bearer parades with them carrying impaled upon his sword a large cake of which it is good luck to eat a portion. In olden days Bampton enjoyed the privilege of hunting once a year in Wychwood Forest, and in those days a buck was carried round and divided among the onlookers. The cake appears to be the humble substitute of this earlier practice.

A portrait of the fiddler Billy Wells - painted by a local artist - hangs in Cecil Sharp House in London.

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Morris Dancers at the beginning of the Century.



In the Fifties

BAMPTON MORRIS TEAM - around 1900

Back row : Harry Radband - sword bearer
Hiaky Wells - fiddler
David Edgington - fool
Cocky Tanner

Front row: Tom Tanner
Bob Dixey
Philip Dewe
Arthur Dixey
B. Brooks
Joey Rouse







Children with Whitsun Garlands outside the Manor
early in the century

GARLANDS - 1964



THE GARLANDS

The origin of the Garlands seems obscure, but those whose memories go back furthest remember well going round with double hoops made of hazel sticks decorated with leaves and wild flowers - generally with a small doll in the middle.

Early on Whitmonday - the day of the Morris Dancing - the garlands were taken round on show from door to door with one child carrying a tin with a slit in the lid for coppers.

It is not known why the garlands were made for Whitmonday instead of for May Day as in other Oxfordshire villages, but possibly there was originally some connection between the garlands and the Morris Dancers.

THE MUMMERS

For generations a Band of Mummers went round performing at the various inns and larger houses in Bampton at Christmastime. Among the excitements of the festive season it was much looked forward to by all.

There were seven characters, Father Christmas, Dr. Good, The Landlord, Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, St. George and The Tinker, all dressed for their parts and each with his piece to recite

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BAMPTON FAIR

This dates back at least to the early part of the 13th Century, and developed into a horse fair, though doubtless there were many other activities. Some people remember that on the occasion of the Fair held yearly in August the Methodists conducted a service in the enclosure where the Coc-nut Shy was.

One cannot do better than give in her own words her memories of Bampton Fair supplied by Mrs A. Townsend of Ash-tree Cottage, Weald.

'Previous to the 1914-18 War Bampton had one of the largest horse fairs in this country. The Fair was held on August 25th-27th. Hundreds of horses lined the streets, hurdles were hung over the house windows to prevent the horses pushing against the glass and breaking it. When I was a girl my father lived at Calais Farm on the Aston Road. The dealers used to bring horses to the different farms in Bampton, and we used to take in from one hundred to two hundred. They were turned out into the fields the night before the Fair, the charge being sixpence a head. Early in the morning they were brought into the yards and their manes and tails were plaited with straw before going up to the Fair. The piece of ground opposite the Church used to be full up with what were known as Welsh ponies. Buyers came from Wales to buy ponies for work in the coalmines.

I well remember two very stout dealers who came every year - two brothers David and Reece Morgan. Others came from Bicester, Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold. Two of them were also brothers - John and Percy Boulter. The drovers who brought the horses - by road - used to have pink cambric flags to frighten the horses, and make them go faster. Every time a horse was sold a strip was torn off these flags and tied to the horse's tail so that we all knew that that one had been sold.

The buyers stayed in Bampton for two or three days, but when tractors and cars came the horses at the Fair grew less and less until it is now no longer a horse fair, though the fair itself continues.



Bampton Horse Fair





Bampton Fire Brigade



BAMPTON WINNING THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE SHIELD
CRYSTAL PALACE, 1904.

BAMPTON FIRE BRIGADE

This dates back for many years and still continues to operate with splendid efficiency. The original hand-pulled engine was kept in the church and the church bells were rung for an alarm. Today a modern fire engine is kept at the Town Hall.

1904 was the great year in the history of the Brigade as it competed in the National Fire Brigade Union Competition at the Crystal Palace where it won the Championship Cup. Old inhabitants of Bampton remember the great day when the victorious Brigade arrived at Bampton Station - two miles away - by the last train and found a huge crowd awaiting their return. The road from the Station glittered with the lights of vehicles lining the way, and as the cavalcade neared the village the horses were released from the brake which carried the victors, and it was drawn by hand to the Town Hall led by the local Band playing 'See the Conquering Hero Comes.' Capt. Williams, the leader, delivered a speech, horses were decorated, flags were hung out, and in conclusion amid the plaudits of the multitude the brake was drawn round the town. This was a memorable day in the annals of Bampton.

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CHURCH, CHAPEL and SUNDAY SCHOOLS

At the beginning of the century and for some time thereafter the Church was lighted by oil lamps and the organ was blown by hand.

On Ascension Day all the children from the National School came to church.

On Whitmonday the members of the two clubs, i.e. the Foresters and another club whose name cannot now be traced - who had their headquarters at the New Inn and the Lamb* respectively walked to church behind their bands, and after the Service (when the Church was packed to capacity) they adjourned to their headquarters for beef and beer, while the children hung their Whitsun garlands round the inn rooms.

Hospital Sunday was regularly observed on the Sunday before August Bank Holiday, and again the Clubs and the Brigade attended a thronged service.

The fine peal of bells was rehung in 1903.

There is also a Methodist and a Baptist Chapel and a small community of Roman Catholics.

The Church Sunday School was held twice each Sunday - ~~in~~ in the morning at the National School, after which the children marched to the Church being allowed to leave during the first hymn. On their way to Church it was a regular practice to leave the Sunday joint at Wenman's the baker, whose bakery stood on the site of the present War Memorial.

The Baptist Sunday School met three times each Sunday.

Sunday School Treats seem to have been held in fields lent by near-by farmers who sent wagons to fetch the children.

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* The Lamb Inn lost its Licence some years ago and is now due for demolition.



Memorial Service to King Edward VII. The Fire Brigade leaving the Parish Church followed by the Foresters with their banner.



Hospital Sunday. In the background the banner of the Foresters.



SCHOOLDAYS

At the beginning of the century there were four schools in Bampton.

1. The Old Grammar School founded by R.Vesey in 1670 - now unfortunately closed.
2. The National School for which a weekly fee was paid of 1d for infants and 2d for others.
3. A High School for Girls at Apney Lodge.
4. Another School for Girls at the Elms in Broad Street.

Many of the children would walk two or three miles to School each day, and bring their dinners with them. Some of the older people in Bampton remember leaving school at the age of nine and going to work on the farms for 2/6 a week. Most children, however, left at thirteen. The chief subjects taught were of course the three R's, reading, writing and arithmetic. Girls could also learn sewing and knitting. Attendance does not seem to have been very regular till the Education Act of 1903.

The children's games consisted chiefly of hoops, marbles, hopscotch, tops and skipping.

For children who had left school there were various opportunities. There was a Reading Room available at the Grammar School for boys up to fifteen, and evening classes (1/- for the course) were given. These classes were held in the National School for the boys where instruction was given in such subjects as Geography, History, Arithmetic and Drawing. Girls could attend for the same fee courses at the Drill Hall - the subjects including History, Geography, General Knowledge, Vocal Music and Cookery. All these classes met twice weekly. Some girls attended a sewing class run by the three daughters of one of the two doctors.

Boys attending school wore caps, broad white collars, and hob-nailed boots. Girls wore white aprons or pinafores and long black stockings.

THE SMALLPOX OUTBREAK OF 1902

It will be remembered that the Coronation of King Edward VII had to be postponed owing to his illness from June to August of that year. Bampton joined in the August celebrations, but would have been unable to do so if the original date had been kept.

An old man in the village had a coat sent him by a relative in London who had bought it from an East End market. Shortly after receiving it he fell ill and shortly died. It is said that when the corpse was placed in the coffin it erupted into smallpox, and that those who had tended him all contracted the disease: the undertaker himself and one other died.

Suitable precautions were taken and all suspected contacts were removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Shipton. They went in a covered wagonette carrying a red flag with a nurse sitting next the driver on the box. All children living in Church Street and Church View were confined to those two streets and given a garden behind as a playground. By August Bampton was pronounced clear.

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Bampton Horse Fair. A scene in Church Square. Men carried flags to control restive horses.



Mr. Goodman's shop. The cottages have now
disappeared, and where they stood is now
the entrance of the drive to Little Place.

HOUSING AND SHOPPING FACILITIES

Since the beginning of the century a good many old houses and cottages have been pulled down, especially in the Weald district where at least thirteen have gone. They may have been picturesque, but they certainly had many drawbacks. Some had stone staircases and no ceilings to the bedrooms - only the bare thatch with perhaps some canvas stretched across. Water had to be fetched in buckets and sanitary arrangements were extremely primitive.

Some Details:

1. The shop of Mr Beard the printer is now Mr Slim's shop.
2. The shop of Mr. Goodman was next to the George and Dragon. This beautiful cottage has now completely vanished, and the entrance to the drive of Little Place stands on the site.
3. There were two smithies - one in the Market Square and one (belonging to Mr. Cripps) at the corner of Church Street. This house is still called the Forge.
4. Older people remember three bakeries, three butchers and three grocers. Today we have two butchers, one baker, five grocers and a fishmonger.
5. Where Eton Villas now stand in Broad Street (built in 1907) old people remember a small shop standing which sold a variety of articles.



Darby & Joan at Appleton 1964

TRANSPORT AND POSTAL SERVICE

A bus drawn by two horses ran from Weald Bridge to the Railway Station two miles away. The fare was 6d. Those who lived on the route could stop the bus by hanging a red flag from their windows. Men walked to work each morning and back at night, often five or six miles each way.

Letters were carried to Faringdon by a postman who walked each way. Later a horse and van were introduced, the driver being known as 'Johnny the Mailman'.

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HEALTH

Two doctors resided in Bampton, one of whom went his rounds in a dog-cart driven by a man in livery. There was also a district nurse.

District visitors provided soups and puddings once a week for the poor and needy. Parish relief at 1/- a week and a loaf of bread were also available in cases of need. A soup kitchen was open at the Grammar School presided over by a Mrs Dipper who would fill the largest jug for 4d (or less if you could not afford to pay the whole price.)

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VARIOUS TRADES AND CRAFTS

1. Flag baskets in which workers carried their tools and their dinners to work were made at Weald from rushes gathered by the river.

2. There was an old man called Loveridge with a long white beard who was a tinsmith. He pushed a hand-truck round the village hawking buckets, scoops, skimming dishes and colanders which he had made



Gibbard the Blacksmith had his smithy where Folly View now stands in Market Square.



Mr and Mrs. Drewe - the former was a roadman about the turn of thencentury.

'We shall not see their like again.'



'Old' White is said to have been buried in the smock he wears in the photograph.

3. Potatoe nets were also made to hold the potatoes which were placed in big iron pots on the fire with bacon, onions, dumplings or meat puddings.

4. About seventy years ago a deaf and dumb woman called 'Dumby Ann' taught two or three young girls the smocking pattern which had long been used for men's smocks in Oxfordshire.

5. Oxfordshire sunbonnets were made in Bampton and many are still owned by elderly women.

6. Corn-dollies were made and there is one in the church and another in the house of Mrs A. Townsend at Weald.

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PEDLARS

Within living memory many pedlars visited Bampton. 'Tiddlers' Clark walked from the near-by village of Aston carrying a large basket on his head full of fish which he sold from door to door.

An old man called Castle pushed a handcart from Witney every Sunday morning - six miles away - with papers, fish, kippers, bloaters, etc.

Another old man carried a basket of oranges round the village which he praised highly and sold for $\frac{1}{2}$ d each. His basket also contained kippers.

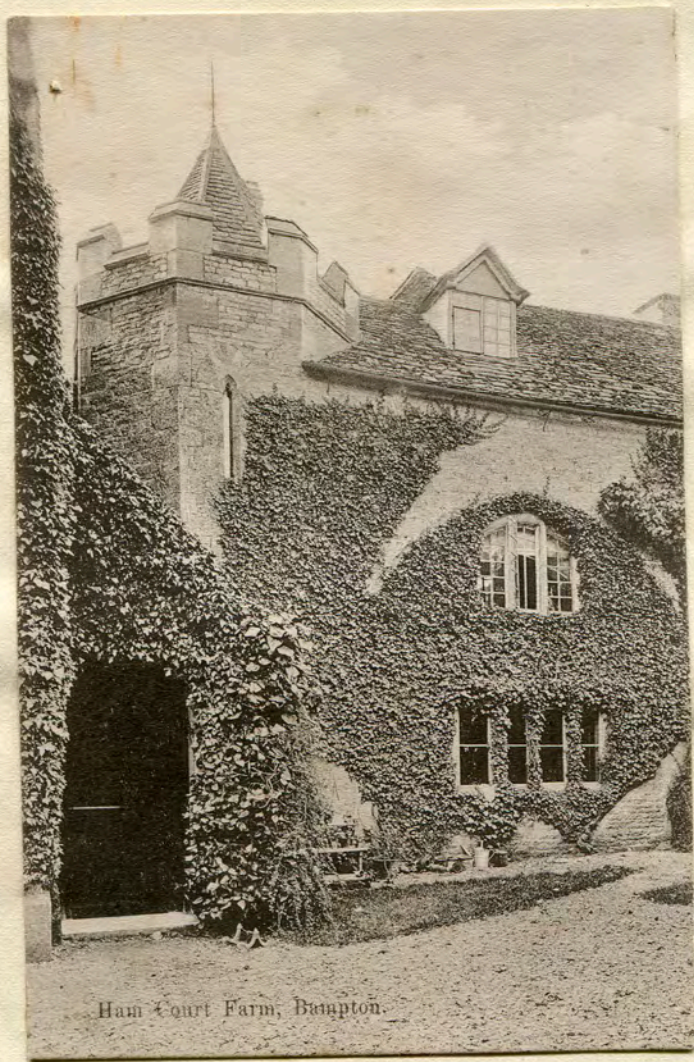
Another man from Witney drove a pony and cart to Bampton once a week selling black and white puddings, i.e. Hog's Puddings. He did a roaring trade.

Once a year in the spring a man called Burrows arrived at Bampton with a flat 'float', a lorry drawn by a beautiful horse. The lorry was laden with farm implements such as sythes, rakes, hoes and pitchforks. He left his cart outside the Jubilee Inn for two days, and then moved away to visit neighbouring farms.

Once a year in a shed belonging to the Wheatsheaf Inn a ld bazaar was held, and many objects bought here are still in existence in Bampton.



Dedication of the War Memorial



Ham Court Farm, Bampton.

The Ladywell stands in the grounds of
Ham Court.

Corner a little south of the village, where at one time there was gibbet and suicides were buried.

Some old people remember a 'trampy' man who stole a hen. Fearing that a policeman was on his trail he plunged the bird into a pot of boiling water without removing the feathers. Ever after children would call after him 'Hen in Pot' or 'Old feathery broth'.

Many families went gleaning (or 'leasing' as it was called) after the stooks had been removed from the fields.

A farmer's wife remembers that when she was very small a menagerie was on view in a field behind the School. A bear went mad and after the owner had tried to keep it at bay with a red-hot poker, her father-in-law was summoned, who seized his gun and shot the poor creature dead. He was presented with the head which remained in the family until quite recently as a memento of a gallant exploit!

There are still many who remember the General Election of 1906. The accompanying photograph shows a lively group of Bampton people assembled outside the Talbot Hotel. One enthusiast is pointing to a poster which depicts 'Jo' Chamberlain.

There was an old lame man called Billie Tanner who lived at Weald, and made toffee on Sundays in an old iron saucepan. He dropped some fat on the stone flags of his floor which was none too clean, and proceeded to rub it with old newspaper. He poured the toffee from the saucepan on to this and made what he called 'black candles' which he sold to the children for a $\frac{1}{2}$ d or 1d a 'candle'.

Some remember an old man called Teddy who lived with his housekeeper Leah at Pudding Corner - so called because many years ago a woman made a pudding so large for her family that when it swelled it could not be extracted from the pot! Leah used to take the children gleaning. She had a wooden truck and on return to Pudding Corner Teddy thrashed out the corn and gave each child a portion to take home

In 1897 (Diamond Jubilee) or perhaps later a greasy

pole was erected outside one of the inns with a ham on the top. One Bampton man succeeded in climbing the pole and securing the ham.

An old man well over 80 recalls that on Sundays men wore white smocks and red neckerchiefs. He also remembers oxen ploughing at Ham Court. He was one of eleven children and his father's wage was 18/- weekly.

When not at school children seemed to have enjoyed 'sticking' (gathering firewood), 'leasing' and weeding lawns at 4d an hour.

Watching the bands and dancing seem to have been very happy memories. A clever fiddler lived in Bampton - 'Deedlum' Butler who at times erected a small tent in the Square and a wooden platform for dancers. As he fiddled he sang

'Up the middle
Down the middle
For she's a pretty little dear.'

Bampton was lighted by oil-lamps and children used to follow the lamp-lighter on his rounds.

Many years ago during the Bampton Fair a gipsy boy was taken very ill in a caravan. The caravan was allowed to stay on after the Fair was over for a few days, but the child died and was given a big funeral as the photographs show. Up to a very few years ago relatives of the small gipsy boy came regularly once a year to visit the grave.

The Lady Well some two hundred yards from Ham Court was noted for its waters being 'a cure for sore eyes' and years ago was much used for that purpose. It got its name from the belief held in mediaeval times that the Virgin Mary delighted to haunt the place, and as Dr. Giles says in his History of Bampton 'perform her personal ablutions in the miraculous well.'



The little gipsy boy's funeral about 1905



The 1906 Election - A group of 'Joe' Chamberlain's supporters .



Baker Wenman's shop stood on the site now occupied by the War Memorial and W.I.Hall.



A glimpse of lower Broad Street.



Morris Dancers of today dance
in the garden of the Deanery.

OXFORDSHIRE ODYSSEY

BAMPTON

By "Oxford Mail" Staff
Reporter

THE town of Bampton, with the spire of the Parish Church dominating an agricultural district 16 miles west of Oxford on a site between the Thames and the Windrush Rivers, has been preserved in an almost unchanged state by a lack of communications cutting it off from material progress.

The full name of Bampton-in-the-Bush describes the remoteness of the town which is not on the main Cheltenham road, is not at a river crossing, has inadequate bus services and is two miles from the railway station which serves both Bampton and Brize Norton.

But the appearance of the town itself with every house and even the local bank built of grey Cotswold stone, with quiet sleepy streets and the look of a place time has forgotten owes much to this isolation.

Although it is head of the Hundred and therefore takes precedence over Witney and Burford, its population of 1,300 was long ago surpassed by neighbouring towns.

This unspoilt quality is paid for in a sense by Bampton's having very poor amenities.

NO SEWERAGE

It has its own electricity and gas works, but there is no sewerage, no indoor sanitation and only a half-dozen bathrooms in the entire town. Water has just recently been laid on from the Windrush.

The Rev. Gregory Bateman, Vicar of Bampton, explained that recommendations for im-



provements by the Parish Council had been submitted to the Witney Rural District Council and it was hoped that in the future more material comforts could be combined with the town's obvious beauty.

For amusements Bampton has more to offer. There are 12 public houses, a town hall and Women's Institute, where dances and whist drives are held, and before the war a dramatic league and debating society, which are soon to be revived, added to the town's social life.

Once a week there is a cinema show in the Institute brought over from Faringdon.

The harvest around Bampton—and the town depends chiefly on agriculture—has been safely gathered despite the weather, and there has been an unusually good potato crop.

But in addition to farmers and farm workers, many of the residents work in Witney or for the Council or for the Thames Conservancy, thus freeing Bampton from absolute dependence on farming.

The fine old parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, which Mr. Bateman describes with such evident pride, is the most arresting building in a town that has also two splendid manor houses and a grange with an admirable ironwork gate.

This church of the English transition period has a chancel and tower of the earliest Norman and the slender tapering spire is 13th century.

Inside there is a copy of the

deed signed by William the Conqueror and witnessed by his wife which explains the old connection between Bampton and Exeter.

Most people will associate Bampton with the old tradition of Whit-Monday Morris dancing. I called on Mr. "Billy" Wells, who next Whit-Monday will have been associated with Morris dancing for 60 years, and found him digging in his front garden, energetic though in his 80th year.

"My trouble is I can't be idle," he told me as he led me into his kitchen for a chat.

On the wall hang his famous fiddles and he has in his possession medals he has won with his Morris dancing team in London and elsewhere during his long lifetime.

"Jingy" Wells they call him, like his grandfather and great-great-grandfather before him, from the bells which jingle as they dance.

"Jingy" Wells is the first Wells to play the fiddle. He plays it by ear and he doesn't mind his blindness in one eye—deafness is the only ailment of old age that he could not bear, and luckily he still retains full hearing in his left ear.

"I'll never give up the Morris," he said, "not if I have to go out and do it myself."

He is the leader of the team, "Jingy" repeated the old rhyme:

*Our oldest man we call the squire,
His duty 'tis to do
To carry the money box, the cake
And sword that cuts the cake
a two.*

and he explained to me how the cake tin is slotted so that the sword enters the cake and the cake falls down to the hilt and is thus carried through the dance.

It may surprise you but he spoke fondly of the old days, 70 years ago when he worked as under-gardener for 2s. a day, and as he looked out of his window at the new Council houses being built on the other side of the road, he exclaimed, "I don't know what's come over folks to-day. All they want is money—they don't care about work."

And with that he returned to his digging.

Next Monday—GUMNOR

BAMPTON CRICKET CLUB

The Club was founded about 1890 by Mr. Ravenor, a lawyer, in the field behind Ampney Lodge, but for over 50 years it has used the glebe field called "Landells". About 1900 the Cricket Committee decided that under no circumstances would the club join any competitive league, such as Witney and District. This has been a feature of the club for over 60 years. Few local players played for the club originally, for the farm labourers who comprised most of the young men, could not get time off, working long hours for low wages. So things went on until about 1906 when the Cricket Treasurer suddenly left the town without paying the necessary bills. After this catastrophe cricket died out in Bampton for some time, until Mr. Norman of the Talbot Hotel suggested another start.

After consulting the vicar, Rev. G.E.C. Rodwell, he agreed to let the field at Landells for cricket. It was, and still is, church land. Cricket has been played there ever since, except between 1915 and 1918 and 1939 and 1945.

The local gentry now took much more interest, chief among these being Mr. Hunt at the Manor House, St. Staples Brown, Broad Street, and Colonel Bliss at Bampton House. With Mr. Norman as Secretary and the vicar as Chairman, all went happily. The fixture list was extended, the Pavilion brought from the Buckland Road; Tim Fox was an enthusiastic groundsman and the cracks in the ground were filled by voluntary labour while sight screens were made, mowers and rollers brought into operation. There was even a well on the ground for watering when necessary. Mr. Hunt brought a team from his former Oxford College to play at Landells for many years. There were at least 12 Vice-Presidents and the subscription for players over 18 was 5/-, under 18 2/6. On Bank Holidays all day matches were played.

Then came the first world war and several of the Bampton young men never came back to play on Landells again. After the war reconstruction was necessary, the inspiration coming chiefly from Colonel Colville of Weald Manor, Mr. Mason the Secretary who came from Burford, Mr. Rodwell, Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Fox. Agricultural conditions were now much better and many more of the young men were able to join. Fixture lists were made more ambitious and few matches were played against local villages. Mr. Harwood, the horse bus driver to and from the station, Mr. Taylor the coal merchant, Captain Gough at the Grange, with the Captain Mr. Arthur Plaster all gave valuable service for many years. After the second world war they club had to make yet another start.

A fixture from pre-1939 days was renewed. It was the games against the Merton Barons, which was composed chiefly of Oxford University Graduates, under the guidance of Mr. Edmund Blunden, the poet. This was always a Whit Monday fixture. Today, (1965), the club is in a flourishing condition under the Presidency of Air Commodore A.S. Ellerton, and the Chairmanship of Mr. Roy Stroud, the Captain being Mr. Fred Rouse. As the fixture list for this year shows many of the old matches are still played as well as a wide range of new ones. The match arranged by Michael Ellerton on 26th June is the 10th annual one of the series with some of his Oxford contemporaries still playing in it.

Mrs. Timms, who has for many years prepared the teas so excellently, continues to do so to the satisfaction and gratitude of all.

Long may Landells continue to resound to the sound of the willow.

CONCLUSION

The general picture is one of a poor but honest and industrious community. Their life must have been hard and in many ways monotonous, but 'cheerfulness kept breaking through'. They had their joys and their happiness and their lives seems to have been full and in many ways satisfying.

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February, 1962.

The large and representative congregation at the Funeral Service was eloquent of the many-sided activities of a lady who had lived in Bampton for the past twenty years and of the affection in which she was held. A good and faithful Church woman she had served on the Parochial Church Council for a long time. Her particular outlet for service was the Darby and Joan Club, whose members will especially feel her passing. It is difficult to realise that only last Sunday she was attending Evensong in the Church she loved and served. During the Service she was taken ill, and in a few hours she was called to her rest. It was a wonderful end for one who had served the community well, and we believe that in the fuller life she will find increasing opportunities of service. Of her someone has said that she was the perfect lady with the common touch.

R.I.P.

**MRS. MILLICENT
BIRCH DIES
AT HOME**

The death occurred last week at her home at Weald Manor of Mrs. Millicent Birch, a greatly loved Bampton resident.

The funeral service was held at the parish church of St. Mary's, conducted by the Rev. C. G. Dawe the Vicar of Bampton. Interment followed in Bampton cemetery. A large number of local people attended the service to pay their last respects to a very dear friend.

Mrs. Birch had lived in Bampton for the past 25 years and had made her home with Mrs. P. Colville, of the Manor Weald. She came to live here whilst her brother was the Vicar of Bampton, and very quickly became an outstanding figure in local activities. She was a regular churchgoer and was a founder member and first president of the present women's section of the British Legion.

Mrs. Birch was also a keen member of the Women's Institute and was the president for many years. She also founded the present Darby and Joan Club.

News

BAMPTON

Women's Institute

Bampton Women's Institute's July meeting last Wednesday had a floral theme. A bowl of "Peace" roses was provided by Mrs F. Wilcox for the president's table. Mrs Warburg (widow of a famous professor of botany) who spoke on flowers and the occult, illustrated with many specimens. She was thanked by Mrs Dinah Green. The competition, judged by Mrs Warburg, was for a posy for a blind person and the winner was Mrs Sheebere. There was a larger entry than usual for this competition and the hall was enhanced with the fine display and with the perfume. All the posies were taken by Mrs Gering for distribution to the residents of Lavender Place. The winning entry and a bowl of mixed plants was presented to Mrs B. Moye, an institute member who had undergone several operations on her eyes. Two new members, Mrs Bye and Mrs Wilson, were welcomed and Mrs Howells was welcomed as the newly appointed assistant secretary. Mrs Howells reported on the visit to the Standlake Institute where they saw a demonstration of paper sculpture. Mrs Lee stated the Bampton Women's Institute stall at the fete in aid of Cheshire Homes, had produced £30. Mrs Eccles was thanked for planting the additional shrubs in the plot in Cheapside and Mrs Cole for cutting the grass so regularly.

Legion women's trip

Bampton Royal British Legion women's section last Wednesday evening visited RAF Brize Norton where they were given a conducted tour.

Badminton club

Winners at bingo in aid of Bampton Badminton Club were Mesdames Barratt, J. Smith, Hope, Northam, Snooks, Davies, B. Craddock, Pullen, Radband, Stevens, McDonald, Papworth, Comley, Keeble, Burrill, Cookson, A. Tanner, Bendall, Bartlett, Sandford, Walker, R. Wheeler, the Misses L. Wheeler, S. Foreshe, P. Bartlett, P. Roberts, M. Radband, Messrs Bishop, S. Beckett, D. Foreshe and Runyard.

Numismatic Society

Bampton and District Numismatic Society heard a talk by Mr F. J. Jeffery, who illustrated his talk with coloured slides. Much of his talk was devoted to the showing of mementoes of the late Duke of Windsor and included stamps, coins and crockery inscribed by King Edward VIII. Slides were also shown of enamelled coins. Mr M. Bull gave a vote of thanks and arrangements were made for a coin auction to be the main feature of the next meeting on August 13, at the society headquarters, the George and Dragon Inn.

Darby and Joan Club

A social afternoon was held on Friday in Bampton Old Grammar School for the Darby and Joan Club. Prizes were won by Mesdames C. Tanner, Williams, J. Smith, G. Smith, Shergold, Ivings, Lovell, A. Tanner, Green, Wilkins, Preston, Craddock, Townsend, Jackson, Lock, Whitlock, Taylor, the Misses Goulding, Wiltshire and Wickson, Messrs Hargreaves, Wells and Preston.

Primary school fete

Although most of the attractions at the Primary School fete on Saturday afternoon had to be brought inside owing to rain, there was full support of parents and friends. Draw winners were: Mrs Tanner, Mrs Walton, Miss R. Brooks, Miss E. Radband, Miss Josephine Buckingham, Miss Norburn, Miss Janet West, Mrs B. Taylor and Mr Stephen Hornsby. Canteen staff raffle winners: Mesdames Owen, V. Beckett, Wooloff, R. Wheeler, Wixey and Mr A. Martin. The event raised £130.

Please could I have this one returned sometime, no hurry. (27 posies)

Treads Meeting