



Golden Wedding of June and Graham
4th September 2004

AUGUST 28, 1951



OFFICER CADET G. T. TAYLOR, of 36, New Road, Bampton, who was among a number of officer cadets who recently received their "wings" at No. 3 R.A.F. Flying Training School, Feltwell, Norfolk, on satisfactorily completing basic flying training. Educated at Burford Grammar School, he was a bank clerk with Barclays Bank, Ltd., Oxford, before joining the Royal Air Force.



● Faces from the team of 1952.

Back row:

- R. Hurst,
- B. Barnett,
- F. Fox,
- F. Rouse,
- E. Timms
- D. Cannons.

Front row: *Phil. Horne*
Treasurer

- G. Taylor (president),
- R. Stroud (captain),
air commodore
- Ellerton (president),
- F. Cannons (chairman)
- J. Barton (vice-captain)

30/8/97(w6)

Bampton Cricket Club celebrates its centenary this year. David Horne talks to club chairman John Lawrence about the past fortunes and future hopes of the village side. The old photographs are on loan from the club.

Gilbert Jessop, one of the great names in English cricket, was renowned as one of the original demon bowlers, once injuring two batsmen and his own wicket-keeper by bowling bouncers round the wicket.

He was also supposedly one of the hardest and biggest ever hitters of the ball, a style developed from one of the earliest pieces of advice he was given-if it's loose, hit it, no matter who's bowling.

Which is why whenever Jessop took to the crease at Bampton's village ground a local lad was always positioned for retrieval purposes by the river bank. He was always kept busy.

This little gem of cricketing folklore has gone down in the annals of the Bampton club, currently celebrating its centenary. Jessop, who died in 1955 at 80, was an assistant master at Burford Grammar School and played at Bampton many times, always drawing a large crowd.

But it's not the only 'famous name' connection the club can boast of. One of the Concorde jet test pilots Michael Trubshaw lived in Bampton and played for the club.

The Niven link

He was also a friend and best man at the wedding of suave screen idol David Niven who, it is remembered, made the occasional appearance at the old ground off the Buckland road.

But so much for glitter and glory name-dropping. To locals, names like John Rose of Broad Street, Jim Slatter of Church Street and John Clark, the village butcher, have a more familiar and stalwart ring.

They are some of the earliest names that appear in the club's annals. Then there are the Green brothers, Dick Jodrell, of Sandfords, Jim Pryor, Walter Smith, Harry Smith and Walter Lay, all local village lads.

Bampton Cricket Club was formed in 1890. Diarists record a Mr J.P. Oates as the leading light though others mention a Mr Ravenor, a local lawyer.

Chance find

The first match they ever played was against Faringdon and they didn't do too well. Bampton scored 71 and Faringdon 161. To make the game last till opening time Bampton were put in again and were skittled out again, for 78.

The Bampton club's first records have been lost and it was

only by chance while playing a limited overs game last season at Faringdon that they discovered the history of their first match.

"They even had the scorebook. It didn't take long to realise the best way to mark the centenary," said club chairman John Lawrence. "Who better to invite than our first ever humiliators?"

A hint of sportly revenge was in the air at the Buckland Road sports field on August 5.

The teams did their best to recreate the spirit of 1890 by dressing up in old flannels and ties (used as belts) and the odd piece of stick-on sideburn and whiskers.

"It was a friendly game, that's the sort of cricket we play," said club chairman John Lawrence. "But it was good to put the record straight!"

Bampton won the toss and batted, slumping to 35-5, but with John Lawrence and club treasurer Chris Marston putting on 60 for the sixth wicket they battled through to a respectable 132-8 off 40 overs.

In reply Faringdon also lost early wickets but were unable to lead a fightback, finishing with just 72 runs.

In the early days Bampton played all the local village sides including Lechlade and Burford Grammar School.

Scandal

There was also a spot of disaster and scandal when in 1906 the treasurer left the village without paying the club's bills. The man's name has been expunged from the record books.

The incident obviously hit the club hard because for a while there was no more cricket.

John Lawrence says: "There have been several periods when cricket ceased in the village, most notably from 1971 to our present reformation four years ago.

"But the village has always wanted a cricket team and I think this is the reason why we are now celebrating 100 years of cricket in Bampton."

Five shillings

Subscriptions in those early days were five shillings for adults and 2s 6d for under 18s. All day games were played on Bank Holidays.

In 1912 the captain was Dick Jodrell and he experienced the loss of many of his team when young men from the village left to find better jobs in Canada.

After the Great War cricket again flourished and many famous village names appear in the record books. One of them was Jim Pratt, a hard-hitter who always wore his longjohns. Others are still alive, like wicket-keeper Stan Gordon, now living in Oxford, and 'Pussy' Danford who got his nickname as a cat-like village goalkeeper, now in his 70s and living in Clanfield Road.

Jack Rose, now 90, still lives in Bampton and is believed to be the oldest surviving playing member of the club.

Looking forward

The club's revival in 1986 was largely due to the inspiration of Paul Willmer, who has now left the village. The current president is Peter Smith, of Churchgate House, and secretary Trish Pickford, of Rosemary Cottages.

The current fixture list includes many local derby games against surrounding villages. But although they play on the sports field at Buckland Road the club is looking for a new home.

"The boundary behind the stumps is very short and we really need extra space," says John Lawrence. A longer boundary would mean fewer fours past the wicket-keeper and fewer sixes through the slips.

"We also need extra players and officials and anyone, really, who is prepared to help the club. It's an open invitation. We're a very friendly club and, if we can keep getting new, young blood there's no reason why we shouldn't celebrate a bicentenary in 2090."

● He can be contacted on Bampton Castle 851141.

Witney Gazette 24th Jan 1996 Movie-making action in Bampton

LOTTERY mania hit Bampton a week later than the rest of the country, when diners in the restaurant at the Romany Inn on Sunday found themselves caught up in a film being made about a fictional lottery loser.

Passers-by in the Market Square were taken by surprise to see the actor playing a ticket holder who thought he had won millions pouring a bucketful of mud over the head of his erstwhile boss.

Enjoying his role was actor Harry Robinson from Headington, while Chris Watkins, from Moreton near Thame, was his unlucky victim.

The film's title is *Life's A Lot of Things but it Ain't a Lottery*.

The action was part of a production by an independent company, Spires Films, headed by writer-director Ken Watkins, for Oxford. A West Oxfordshire College student, Gerrie Smee, who lives at Aston and is following an advanced level media studies course, was also involved.

He wrote to Mr Watkins asking for advice on funding for projects of his own, and the director was so impressed by his ideas that he invited him to work with the company on this film, which has been made for a Channel One cable television competition.

Gerrie also enlisted the help of a



Filming in progress at the Romany Inn, Bampton

former fellow student at West Oxfordshire College, Dan Stewart, who lives in Witney. Dan has followed a media studies course, but is now studying psychology at university.

Gerrie and Dan were responsible for most of the camera work and sound, and Gerrie chose most of the locations.

The competition entry is being made on a low budget and the actors, members of Oxford Film Artists,

gave their time without fee. Should the film win the £5,000 prize, everybody who contributed will take a share.

The film explores the dilemma of a man trying to cope with the problems he created for himself in the heady days when he thought he was a big lottery winner.

Spire Films next project is to be a tourist guide to Oxford, and Gerrie is looking forward to being involved.



WINNERS: Esther Green and Susan Taylor (front), first prize winners in the garland test at Bampton on Saturday, with Deborah Hiram and Gale Wheeler who took second



TWO youngsters who found a pumpkin made a handy seat for them to rest and drink their "pop" were Pauline and Leslie Taylor.



● Three bell ringers who have all celebrated golden anniversaries of bell ringing: Graham Taylor, Terry Rouse and Ted Dixey have each been members of the team of ringers at Bampton Parish Church for 50 years ZCOTS0278

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Ringers' gold jubilee

TWO more members of the bell-ringing team at **Bampton** Parish Church have just rung up 50 years of service.

Graham Taylor and Terry Rouse joined a third member of the team in having achieved this record; Ted Dixey completed his 50th year in 1995.

Graham, who is also Tower Keeper, and Terry were both taught to ring by Terry's father, Reg Rouse, while Ted was taught by a former sexton of the church, Jack Tanner. Ted still has the certificate given to him when he became a member of the Bell-ringers' Guild.

The Rouse family have many associations with the church, as both Reg and Terry have been secretary of the church council and Terry's sister Teresa Piercey is also a bell-ringer. Terry has also been a churchwarden.

The belfry and tower contain a number of examples of Graham's skill in

working with wood and other materials. He master-minded the making of a wood canopy that covers the bells, has framed each of the certificates won by the Bampton ringers in striking competitions and has also made a model of a bell which enables new ringers to understand the mechanics of bell ringing.

When the bells were silent for a period during structural work on the church tower he wrote *The Bell-ringers' Lament*, regretting their temporary loss which was printed on a tea towel and sold in aid of the restoration appeal.

Graham has also done much research into the history of the church's bells and can answer many questions on the origin of such traditions as the curfew bell, rung until earlier this century both morning the evening; the pancake bell, rung every Shrove Tuesday and why the bells should in the past have always been rung on May 29 to celebrate Oak Apple Day.

Sorting out big from the small

Members and friends of the Pumpkin Club met in the village hall on Saturday evening October 11 for the great event of the year – The Great Weigh-In.

There was a record number of entries, and under the watchful eyes of the weighmasters, Mr Ron Bateman and Mr John Simpson, each gourd was carefully lifted on to the scales. The results in the pumpkin class were:

Adults – 1 Mr Roger Glyde 167.5lb, 2 Mr Stuart Lenlord 97.5lb, 3 Mr John Buckingham 153lb.

Junior section – 1 Carly, Aaron and Nathan Smee 117.5lb, 2 G Palmer 97.75lb, 3 E Glyde 86.5lb.

Marrows – 1 Mr P. Hartly 22.5lb, 2 Mrs Kath Tanner 21.25lb, 3 Roger Glyde 16.75lb.

It was announced that the six largest pumpkins would enter the competition held in the Bear & Ragged Staff Hotel, Cunnor, on November 3.

Then followed an auction of goods donated by local people and the bidding for the varied lots was fast and furious thanks to the valiant work done by the auctioneers, Mr Graham Taylor and Mr Keith Sykes.

One suspects that these gentlemen suffered from sore throats the next day.

There was also a large raffle with handsome prizes and the bar did well throughout the evening. All the takings from the event will be put in the club's funds for providing local pensioners with cash gifts at Christmas.