

THE SCHOOLS OF BAMPTON

BY

J. L. HUGHES - OWENS

## THE SCHOOLS OF BAMPTON

### The Grammar School

In any account of the schools of Bampton pride of place must be given to the Old Grammar School although it has served no useful academic function since the end of the 19th Century.

Sometime during the early years of the 17th Century a Burford woollen merchant called Robert Vaisey or Vesey bought the estate of Chimney, and set up as country gentleman. We know little about this man but it would appear that he was a person of vision and public spirit. In his will he directed that the sum of £300 be given to the town of Bampton for the purpose of establishing a free grammar school in that place. Vaisey died in 1635 but his nephew and sole executor was in no hurry to hand over the money. At the instigation of one John Palmer the townsfolk took legal proceedings against the younger Vaisey who was compelled to carry out the terms of his uncle's will.

About John Palmer we know nothing: he is always described as being 'of Weald', but we do not know where he actually lived in that hamlet. It could not have been the manor house for at that time it was occupied by the Coxeter family. But whoever he was and whatever his status in Bampton he must be regarded as one of the co-founders of the grammar school. Obviously, a man of substance, he gave £100 to augment the Vaisey bequest, and generally tried to whip up some enthusiasm for the project. Then civil war broke out, and all Palmer's plans for the school were put in abeyance.

However, Palmer was not to be deterred from his purpose, and as soon as hostilities ceased he went into action, and in 1653 he had

2

the satisfaction of seeing his dreams come true. A new school building in Church View stood ready for occupation, and the Rev. Wm. Jackson, M.A. of Charlbury was appointed headmaster.

It is sad to relate that the school was a failure from the first. There were two reasons for this. In the first place it was redundant from the beginning. The ancient foundation at Burford had for long been held in high repute, and shortly after the Bampton school was opened a grammar school was established at Witney. S.W. Oxfordshire could not sustain three grammar schools, and it was our school that went to the wall. At no time in its history were there more than a handful of pupils attending the school, and more often than not, none at all.

The second reason for the story of failure was its lack of endowment. Whereas the master at Witney received a salary of £30 per annum - quite reasonable by 18th Century standards - the Bampton trustees could only offer a salary of half that amount, and this was not sufficient to attract first-class men. Sometime in the 18th Century the trustees believed they had discovered a solution to the problem: henceforth the mastership should be regarded as an appurtenance of one or other of the curates of Bampton. But it was a period when the Church of England was at a low ebb; when many of the clergy showed little zeal in the pursuance of their duties, and there is no evidence to show that any Bampton curate bestirred himself to recruit pupils to the school.

But if the clergy showed little interest in the school there were some parishioners who deplored the failure of the establishment. In 1768 the Misses Fredericks of Bampton Manor left £100 to the school on condition that twelve 'poor children' of the town were taught the Three R's, but again there is no evidence to show that this undertaking was carried out.

As late as 1848 Giles tells us that there were no pupils in the school, but he also states that some people deplored the

situation. By 1855 it is clear that the trustees were of the same mind, and they made a momentous decision. Hitherto, and following the original school statutes, the master was always in holy orders, but in that year they decided to appoint a layman as master. Mr. Robert Fairbrother was given the post. He had been educated at Magdalen College School, but I cannot discover that he was a graduate of any university. Nevertheless, he came to Bampton with an enormous reputation as a very fine classical scholar. Of course he could not live on the miserable stipend offered him, but he was an accomplished musician, and was able to undertake the duties of parish organist.

It would appear that for some years Fairbrother's reign was reasonably successful. A testimonial to his effectiveness as master of the school was the fact that some of the local gentry sent their sons to receive their early schooling from Fairbrother before going off to their public schools. Indeed, it was possible later on for the Witney Gazette to record that some of his ex-pupils had 'trod the path to fame and fortune.'

In 1893 Mrs. Fairbrother died, and henceforth the old schoolmaster lost all interest in life. The late Arthur Dutton, the last member of the well-known Bampton family of that name, and when I first came here the last surviving pupil of the old school, told me of his experiences at the school during the nineties. Every day at the beginning of the afternoon session Fairbrother would set his pupils a task, and then throwing a handkerchief over his face, would compose himself in his chair, and sleep for the remainder of the afternoon.

He died in February, 1899 in his seventy-fifth year, having been master of the school for forty four years.

Then a storm burst over Bampton. For long past the Charity Commissioners had been exercised in their minds over the state of the school. While the old man was in charge they were disposed not to interfere in the affairs of the school, but following his death they decided to act. The trustees were informed that no longer could the school be considered a viable instrument of education. It was to close down forthwith, and the endowment funds were to be devoted to

to the provision of scholarships for deserving Bampton children at Burford or Witney. Bampton's reaction was immediate and typical. For two hundred and fifty years the townsfolk had shown themselves completely apathetic about the wellbeing of the school, but now, suddenly, they discovered that they were about to lose one of their most cherished institutions. It was not to be tolerated. Was this latest action of the Commissioners not an affront to the dignity of the ancient town? Not for the first time, nor the last Bampton prepared to do battle with authority.

For some time the newly constituted Parish Council had been trying hard to gain some degree of control over the school, but hitherto the trustees had been successful in keeping it at arm's length. However, they did not relish the thought of a confrontation with the Commissioners, so they agreed to allow the Parish Council take the initiative in the struggle which was to ensue.

Only one voice in the parish was raised in support of the new proposals, albeit, a very influential one. 'Squire' Southby of Bampton Hose was our county councillor, and because of this he realised better than anyone the birth of a new concept of secondary education in the country. Certainly, the Parish Council exhibited a profound ignorance of what was expected of a grammar school at the turn of the century. How else could they have invited 'Alfie' Bryant to succeed Fairbrother as headmaster of the school? This man had no academic or professional qualifications as we understand them, but he was the proprietor of the Bampton Commercial School, a third-rate private school in the town. 'Alfie' was never deficient in self-confidence: he was the sort of individual who would undertake anything, and he made no bones about accepting the Council's invitation.

A battle of words between Bampton and London continued for several months to the immense satisfaction of the Editor of the Witney Gazette who delighted in drawing a ~~precedent~~ parallel with the epic encounter between David and Goliath. But biblical precedent was not repeated; this time the giant won.

With the demise of the school the old building became something of an embarrassment to the village. For many years it served as a poorish apology for a social centre; various clubs and committees using it as a meeting place, but with the competition from the W.I. Hall and the Town Hall the trustees never found it easy to make both ends meet. Now that it houses the splendid branch of the County Library it can be claimed that the old building is performing a more useful function than at any time in its long history.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### St. Mary's College

The middle decades of the 19th Century saw the founding of many of our best known public schools. Within a twenty-mile radius of our own village Radley was opened in 1847 and St. Edward's in 1863. Had history taken a different turn to these might have been added a third - Bampton.

Giles in 1848 and Gardener in 1852 both record the existence of a school at Weald Manor. It does not appear to have been very successful, and it was sold in 1853. Almost immediately, another school was established at the Manor. It was called St. Mary's College, and there were high hopes that it would be just as successful as the recently founded schools at Cheltenham, Marlborough and of course, Radley.

The school was intended to prepare the sons of professional men and the less well-to-do gentry for the universities and the services. With this object in view great emphasis was laid on the moderate nature of the fees. By the end of the first year the school had thirty five pupils which was promising enough, but almost immediately it ran into financial difficulties. Loath to raise the fees the school sought to increase its capital by holding a series of concerts in Oxford, but these proved to be a fiasco, and the school actually lost money over them.

The following year the school's financial situation had become desperate. Some years ago I was shown a copy of a circular addressed

#### THE BAMPTON COMMERCIAL SCHOOL

About the middle of the last century a man named Bryant kept some kind of private school at Clanfield. He was assisted by his son Alfred who later on moved over to Bampton. He took a lease of the house in the Square now known as Wheelgate House, and opened the Bampton Commercial School. 'Alfie', as he was universally known, was quite ubiquitous: nothing happened in Bampton without he was in the midst of it. Besides running a school he was an insurance agent and a news agent, and he was secretary of a number of local societies. I cannot hazard a guess how he was able to cope with all his multifarious activities.

I have known several former pupils of the school, and reading between the lines I fancy that its chief asset was some degree of snob value. All the pupils, both boys and girls, wore straw hats which set them apart from the hoi polloi of the local school. The school closed about the beginning of the First World War I believe, and the indefatigable <sup>'Alfie'</sup> died in 1916 at the age of 61

\*\*\*\*\*

#### BAMPTON NATIONAL SCHOOL

During the 18th Century the Grammar School received several legacies from well wishers who deplored the moribund state of the school. One legacy stipulated that a dozen poor children should be taught the Three R's, but nothing seems to have resulted from it. Perhaps the curate/ masters felt it beneath their dignity to teach the poorer classes. It might be inferred from this that there was no provision in the town for working class children to receive any education. It is true that once or twice I have come across vague references to the existence of dames' schools, but it does seem that up to the beginning of the 19th Century no formal provision was made for these children. But at last the people of Bampton bestirred themselves, and on November 1st, 1812, with the help of a grant from the National Society the Bampton National School was opened. It was housed in a building which occupied the site upon which Box House now stands. Although under the same

roof boys and girls were taught separately, the boys using the ground floor, and the girls the first floor.

The school appears to have had a smooth and unchequered history from the beginning. It is odd that Giles, himself an ex-schoolmaster, hardly mentions it, but as the former headmaster of one of the great metropolitan schools he probably regarded the local establishment as very small beer. On the other hand, he may, like so many of the clergy of those times, have been opposed to the children of the working classes being educated.

In 1852 there were more than 150 children attending the school, and this is a remarkable tribute to the local inhabitants. It must be remembered that attendance at school was wholly voluntary at that time, and moreover, parents had to pay for it. In a period when rural folk were notoriously antipathetic, indeed, antagonistic to the idea of their children attending school it is surely a testimonial to the people of Bampton that they should want their children to have a modicum, at least, of education. Of course, most children spent only a few years at school. Old Bob Radband, who died in 1956 at the age of 94, remembered those times well. He, himself, left school at the age of ten as did most of his contemporaries. He went to work at Lower Haddon Farm for the princely wage of two shillings (10p) a week, but as he said proudly to me, he had acquired a smattering of reading and writing.

But attitudes were changing throughout the land. Successive governments had come to realise that the future prosperity of the country depended upon a reasonably well educated population. In 1870 the famous education act was passed in parliament which altered the whole outlook on public education. And nowhere were the effects of the act felt more than in Bampton. The townsfolk realised that the school building in Bridge Street was no longer adequate, and at a public meeting in The Town Hall it was unanimously agreed that a new school must be erected 'worthy of so important a town as Bampton'.



The legendary pride of the Bampton folk was manifesting itself once again. Churchfolk and dissenters combined for once to raise funds for a new building to be erected in Church View on a parcel of ground given by the 18th Earl of Shrewsbury.

The new school was opened on July 29th, 1873, and when I came here there were several elderly people who could remember helping as children to carry the furniture from the old school to the new.

At first, the building consisted of three large rooms, each of which was considered adequate to accommodate seventy children, for it was confidently anticipated that the school would exceed the two hundred mark by the end of the century. The headmaster was a W.V. Williams who was helped by two assistant teachers. Three teachers for nearly two hundred pupils ! Yet such were the times that no one thought the teacher/pupil ratio to be unreasonable.

For the next half-century the school appears to have pursued a steady and unexciting course free from upheavals of any kind. In 1905 Williams retired through ill health, and was succeeded by G.W. Gordon who in turn was followed by E.W. Fry in 1922. It was during the latter's headmastership that an important development took place. In 1927 it was decided that all the children in Aston, Clanfield, Black Bourton, Brize Norton and some from Carterton over the age of 11 years would attend school at Bampton, and so the school became

#### BAMPTON SENIOR SCHOOL

Under the new regime the school increased in numbers considerably; there were nearly three hundred pupils on the books. The staff, too, had grown, and was now in double figures. To accommodate the extra pupils a wooden building containing two classrooms and a headmaster's room was built in 1928/9. This was regarded as only a temporary building pending the erection of a permanent one, but it was still in use in 1965 when the school closed. In addition two large army huts

adjoining the school premises were rented to provide a workshop for the boys and a domestic science room for the girls. The sporting side of school life was not overlooked, and to that end Sandfords Field and the field beyond Horse Close were purchased.

In September, 1939 over one hundred pupils and their teachers from London descended upon the village\* to be assimilated into the school. This necessitated requisitioning buildings in the village to accommodate them. But as was the case generally most of the evacuees did not find Bampton to their liking, and soon returned home to London. At the end of the war only a score or so remained here.

Fry retired at the end of the war, and I came up from Somerset to take over. The next few years were an exciting time in the world of education. The Butler Education Act of 1945 had devised what was known as the 'tripartite system in education, and Bampton was earmarked to become the secondary school for the district south of A 40; from Standlake in the east to Langford in the west. Plans were drawn up for an impressive range of buildings to be erected in Sandfords field, but in the meantime some temporary buildings of the 'Horsa' type were put up

In 1960 the new primary school was built in Colvile Close, and all children under the age of eleven were transferred to that establishment. Bampton Senior School now became

#### BAMPTON SECONDARY SCHOOL

At first there were a mere 120 children on the roll, but it was anticipated that there would be something like 400 when the projected buildings were completed. But a small school presented certain problems: it was not possible to provide specialist teachers for all the subjects in mind for O Levels. I solved this problem by forming

\* By this time the majority of the population were comparative newcomers, and they invariably called Bampton a village. An ever dwindling number of indigenous residents still called the place a town.

a close association with the Witney Technical College. I devised a scheme by which pupils with further education in mind went to the 'Tec' in their last year. The scheme worked well, and it was very gratifying to me to see the number of ex-pupils of mine who proceeded to universities and polytechnics, later on.

Then the blow fell! The nation as a whole was subscribing to the gospel of 'big is beautiful'. In every field of endeavour, industry, the business world, education, etc. it was believed that a large unit is more efficient and productive than a small one. The Ministry of Education seized upon this new creed, and its future policy was for the smaller schools to disappear, and to substitute for them huge, pantehnicon 'comprehensive schools', with anything up to two thousand pupils. Our fine old grammar schools were to go, and as for Bampton it was to have no place in the national scheme for secondary education.

Owing to the fact that I had not been enjoying the best of health for several years I had already made up my mind to retire at an earlier age than is generally the custom, so the future of education in S.W. Oxfordshire was really only of academic, albeit of sentimental, interest. Nevertheless I felt that a secondary school at Bampton would have been a beneficial thing for the pupils; for the place and for the whole district. And I still think so. I believe it is significant that vandalism, which was hardly known in Bampton at one time, has increased enormously since the pupils have been going to Witney.

The last two or three years of the school's existence were very difficult ones. Most of my best teachers, with an eye to future security, left us, and it was impossible to obtain adequate replacements, for who would apply for posts in a school soon to close. But we struggled on. However, I must admit that when towards the end of July, 1965 I turned the key in the door of my room for the last time it was with a sense of relief as well as sadness. I had spent

73  
exactly twenty-one years as head of the school, and I am bound to say that throughout that time I had as nice a lot of pupils as any headmaster could wish for.

So the school came to an end after one hundred and fifty-three years of respectable history, and now the question presented itself - what to do with the buildings? For a few years the primary school used several rooms as an annexe, but as the numbers of the school grew less and less the old school became something of a problem. The Education Authority were at a loss what to do with it, and just allowed it to deteriorate with the passing of time, and of course, it became the happy hunting ground of the vandals. Then in 1983, thanks to the efforts of certain parishioners, it was decided that the old Victorian building should become a permanent youth centre, and at the same time The County Scouts Association bought the Horsa buildings for a residential training centre.

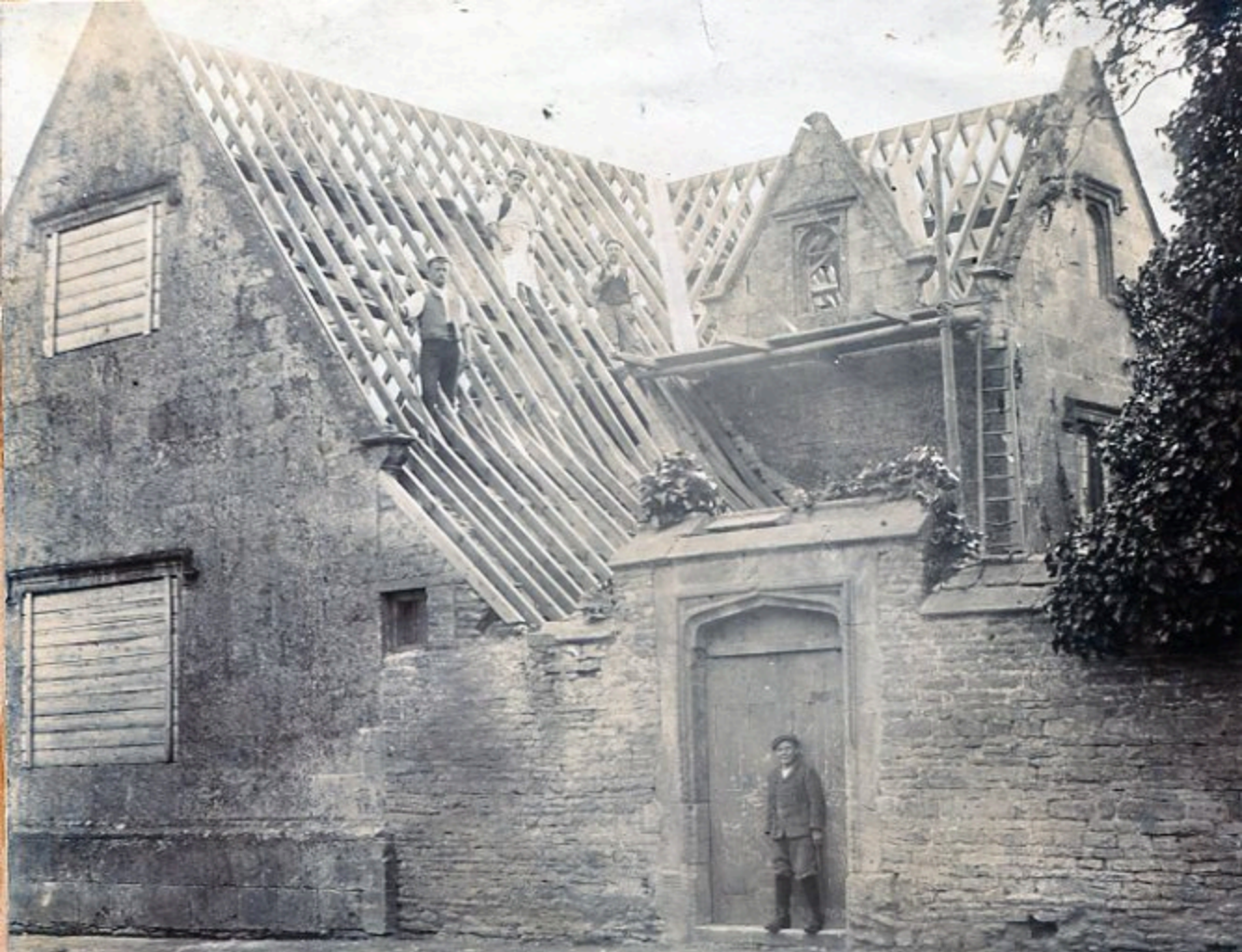
\*\*\*\*\*

THE  
OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Externally the building remains the same as it was over two hundred years ago: a little the worse for wear, perhaps.



By R. Woods 1870



6

### THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Whatever charges may be levelled at the grammar school trustees in the past there can be nothing but praise for their successors of the 20th Century. Until the Oxfordshire Education Committee took over the building for a for a branch library the meagre endowment funds made it difficult for them to make ends meet. But they did their best.

About 1910 they were faced with the heavy expense of completely re-roofing the building. In the photograph we see three well-known craftsmen of Bampton who carried out the work.

Arthur Plaster

John Tanner

Alfred Collett



## BAMPTON NATIONAL SCHOOL

Front elevation. At some time between the two wars central heating was installed. The tall chimney piece was taken down, and a small cloakroom built in its place.

The front yard was gravelled, and in wet weather could be in a terrible mess: I have seen lorries sink almost to their axles. When I first came here I could not understand why such conditions had been tolerated for so long. In 1947 I was able to persuade the L.E.A. to tarmac both front and back yards, and the difference was indescribable.

I am given to understand that this series of photographs date about 1905.









1. North elevation - showing the onetime  
school garden. The wooden shed was  
removed sometime in the 1920's.

2. West elevation..

1. Rear of school - taken from the S.W.
2. Present day residents of Bampton may find it hard to believe that only a little more than twenty years ago main drainage was first brought to Bampton. Except for the fortunate few of us who had septic tanks most of the houses only had earth closets. I was horrified by the primitive lavatories at the school, and lost no time in persuading the L.E.A to provide a modern range of lavatories.











### 'Big Room'

Even as late as the outbreak of the Second World War it was not unusual to find teachers in charge of forms of between fifty and sixty pupils. After the war saner counsels prevailed, and in most cases the forms were reduced to half that number. These photographs show 'Big Room' as it was called, and it will be seen that the long old fashioned desks provide ample accommodation for the number of pupils mentioned above. The headmaster was responsible for this form, and in addition he had to deal with all the administrative work of the school. No wonder poor old Williams retired through ill health.

Sometime in the early years of this century the classroom was divided into two by a curtain, which was later replaced by a solid partition.

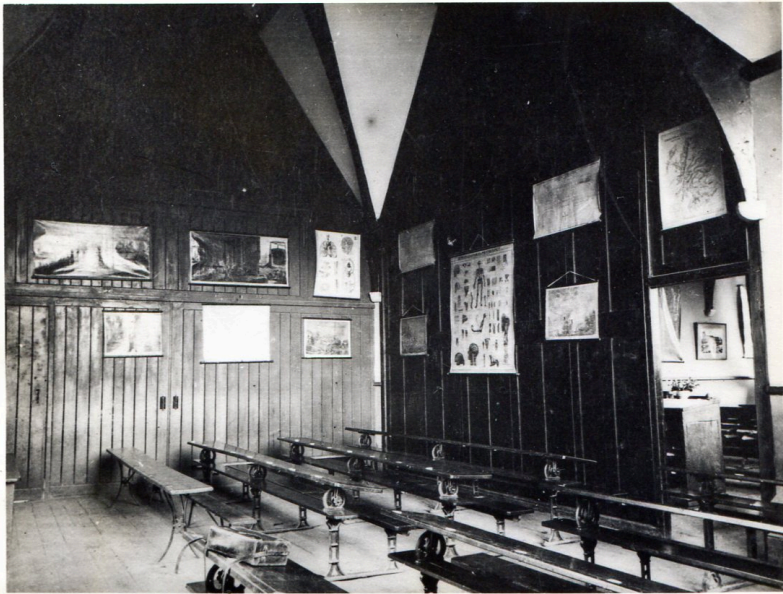
1. Another view of 'Big Room.
2. The S.E. classroom. Orinally this room was part of a larger room which ran at right angles to 'Big Room'.



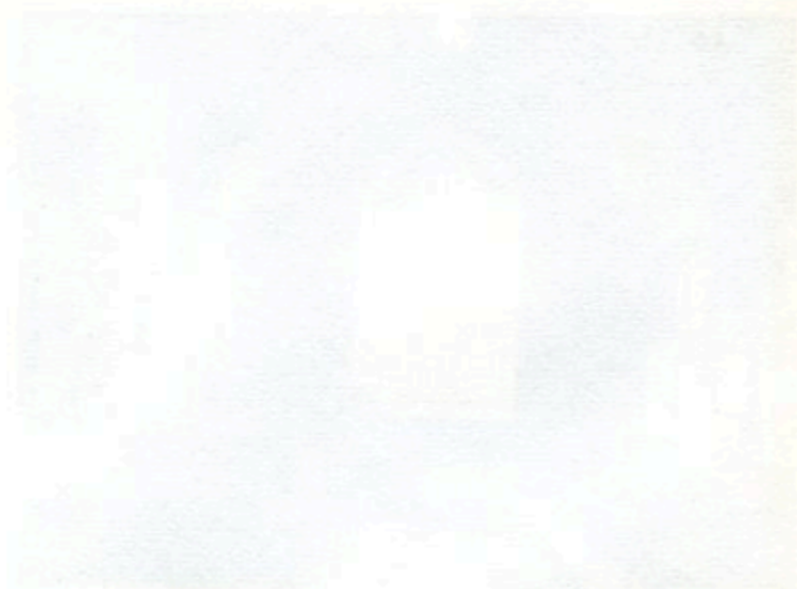


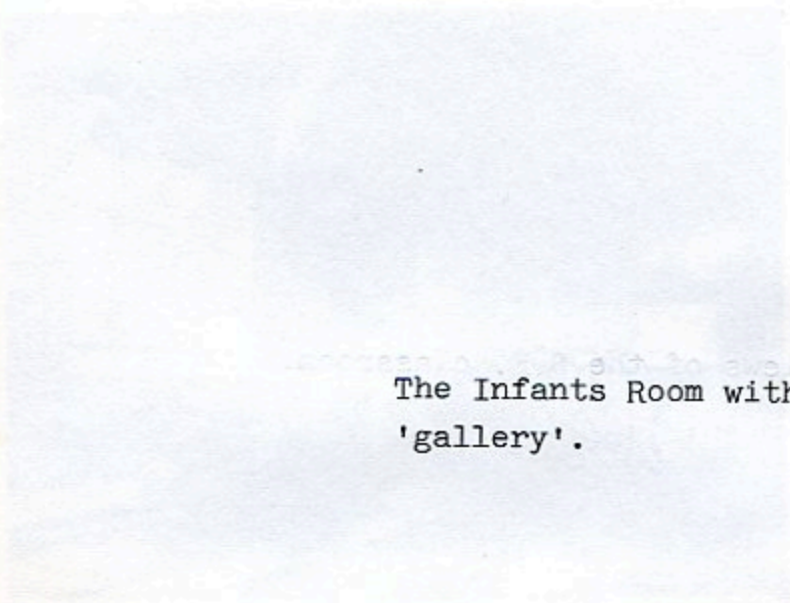






Two more views of the S.E. classroom.





The Infants Room with the inevitable  
'gallery'.











The S.W.classroom. 'Just big enough to swing  
a cat in so I was told by Bob Radband.



According to an aged parishioner these photographs must have been taken in 1902. He told me that in those days the coming of the school photographer was one of the great events of the school year. On the day before the girls told to be sure to wear freshly laundered pinafores, and the boys to wear their 'sunday' suits and, of course, collar and tie. My informant told me that a boy wearing an 'eton' collar as shown in the photographs was called 'a donkey looking over a white-washed wall.'

In the lower photograph the two boys on the extreme right of the front row display the typical footwear of the period - hobnailed boots. A former teacher told me that a frequent excuse for non-attendance at school was that the pupil's shoes or boots were at the cobblers. Such was the poverty in those days that many of the poorer children possessed only one pair of boots.







These two photographs belong to the period immediately after the end of the First World War. The lower photograph is interesting because among the pupils are two who were later on to become associated with the school for many years. The girl with hair ribbon, second from the left in the second row was Lucy Fox who as Mrs. Slatter was to reign over the school kitchen for very many years. The biggish boy on the extreme left of the front row was Ben Tanner who was school caretaker for over twenty years.



1095



1914







These two snapshots of mainly eleven-year olds were taken in 1960 and are included for comparison with the older ones.

## BAMPTON SECONDARY SCHOOL

The photographs in the remainder of this scrapbook are included because they will be probably the only record of the relatively shortlived secondary school. Unhappily they provide only a very incomplete picture of the many activities which made the school a lively and rewarding establishment to work in. During our final packing up in 1965 a box containing scores of photographs of activities and personalities associated with the school most mysteriously went astray, and was never found.

It provided me with much food for thought when compiling this section of the scrapbook to discover that most of my former pupils appearing in the photographs are already grandparents!

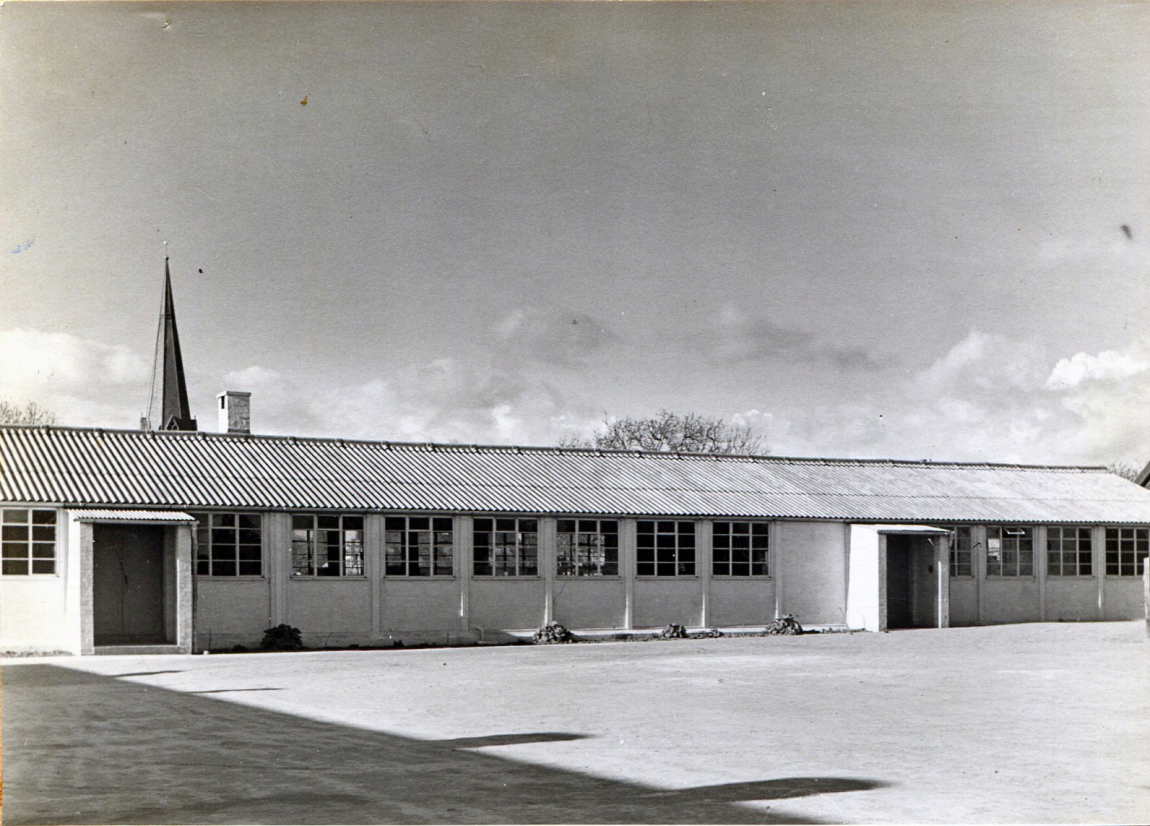
The wooden building was built in 1928/29. It contained the art room, the headmaster's room and the geography room.

#### The Art Room





COUNTRY DANCE  
PARTY  
COUNTRY HOUSE  
BANTON, N. J.  
SATURDAY, JULY 10  
8:00 P. M. - 12:00 A. M.







1. Heavy Crafts Centre & Science classroom.

2. Dining Hall & Home Economics Centre.

1. Interior of Dining Hall & Kitchen beyond.

2. A Science Classroom.











Adjoining the school on its north boundary was a paddock of about three-quarters of an acre in area. I long coveted this paddock, and after some years persuaded the owner to sell it to the school. Had the school continued in existence it was intended to lay down four grass tennis courts. At the remote end of the paddock was a dilapidated cowshed which I was determined to pull down as soon as possible, but W.J. Young, the Woodwork master, suggested that, if I gave permission, he and the 4th year boys would convert it to a very useful shed. I was not sure that it would be a feasible project, but Young was persuasive, and eventually I agreed. The result can be seen in the bottom photograph, and understandably, the boys were very proud of their work.



It is a great shame that so many school photographs were lost when the school closed in 1965: the few to be found on the following pages provide only the sketchiest record of life at Bampton School during the last years of its existence. All the cricket XI photographs have disappeared; most of the football teams; some of the girls hockey teams, and a host of photographs of general school activities.

\*\*\*\*\*

A GROUP OF THIRD YEAR GIRLS  
1951

Back Row: Sheila Fitchet (Aston); Shirley East (Aston); June Crapper (Lew); Joan Harrison (Clanfield); Evelyn Brown (Bampton); Doreen Ellis (Bampton); Pamela Fizzie (Bampton).

Second Row: Betty Long (Aston); Yvonne Timms (Aston); Hazel Sutton (Aston); Primrose Mansfield (Bampton); Doris Radband (Bampton); Rosemary Day (Bampton).

Front Row: Patsy Keen (Aston); Maureen Barron (Bampton); Enid Owen (Lew); Shirley Bishop (Aston). <sup>May Robinson (Bampton)</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

A GROUP OF THIRD YEAR GIRLS  
1952.

Back Row: Elisabeth Allam (Bampton); Eileen Archer (Br. Norton); Jennifer Knight (Bampton); Sylvia Dew (Bampton); Joyce Buckingham (Bampton); Nina Cross (Clanfield).

Front Row: Pat Hall (Cote); Hazel Hall (Br. Norton); Judith Pudwell (Clanfield); Nancy Radband (Bampton); Iris Wheeler (Bampton).







A GROUP OF SECOND YEAR PUPILS

1950

Back Row: Patsy Keen(Aston);Jennifer Barton(Aston);Joyse Buckingham(Bampton);Doreen Ellis(Bampton);Maureen Barron(Bampton) Judith Pudwell(Clanfield);Albert Radband(Bampton) Robert Watts(Bampton).

Middle Row:Michael MacDonald(Clanfield);Pat Hall(Cote);Yvonne Timms(Aston);Jennifer Knight(Bampton);Primrose Mansfield(Bampton) Elisabeth Allam(Bampton)Terence Sweetingham(Bampton).

Front Row: Nancy Radband(Bampton);Hazel Hall(Br.Norton);Gillian Goddard(Clanfield);Robert Widdowson(Clanfield) John McCrudden(Aston);Michael Franklin(Aston); Gene Harper(Bampton).

## FOOTBALL

Throughout the years our football teams suffered from one great disadvantage:our boys always seemed to be on the short side.But what they lacked in stature they made up in spirit and skill,and they won just as many matches as they lost.

The 1950/51 was possibly the best team the school ever had



1950/51 Team.

Back Row: Roy Farmer(Bourton); Terence Sweetingham(Bampton)  
John Hayward(Bourton); Bryan Comley(Clanfield)  
Albert Cresswell(Aston); John McCrudden(Aston).  
Front Row: Gordon Barnett(Bourton); Alan Govier(Bampton);  
John Cummings(Aston); Raymond Kingston(Aston)  
Brian Barnett(Bourton).





FOOTBALL 1st XI - 1954/55.

Back Row: Roger Bass, Richard Smith, Fred Fowler, <sup>John</sup> Alec Wixey, Richard Temple, Keith Winfield, Michael Radband.

Front Row: Norman Godfrey, Peter Busby, Mr. P. Thompson, Adrian Horne, John Brown, Anthony Harrison.

Mr. Thompson was the former Headmaster of the Marlborough Secondary School, Woodstock, who finding retirement irksome, had come back to teaching to do 'supply' work. Enthusiastic about many forms of sport, he was an absolutely first-rate coach.



FOOTBALL 1st XI - 1955/56.

Back Row: Chris. Pettifer, William Smith, Keith Winfield, <sup>JOHN</sup> Alec Wixey,  
Richard Temple, Roger Bass, Simon Goddard.

Front Row: Richard Smith, Rex Kingston, Adrian Horne, Anthony Harrison,  
Michael Radband.

## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

### Football.

Something which never ceased to puzzle me was the fact that Bampton itself never furnished the school football team with many players; year after year it was Aston and Clanfield which provided the backbone of successive teams. It must be appreciated that Bampton was a small school; there were never at any time more than sixty boys of between the ages of eleven and fifteen, and our opponents invariably had four or five or even six times that number. Another curious fact was that our boys were in the main small of stature; their opponents often towered above them. Yet in spite of these disadvantages Bampton played the larger schools on equal terms, giving as good as they got, and making up for their lack of inches with skill and enthusiasm.

Perhaps the chief reason for the School's successful showing at football was that skifulness at the game often runs in families, and Bampton was fortunate in having among its members certain families who were invariably gifted players. One calls to mind the three Cummings boys and the Bishop brothers of Aston; the Kingston's and the Horne's of Clanfield, and the brothers Bryan and Gordon Barnett of Black Bourton. Year in, year out, one was always sure to find one or other of these names in the team lists.

It is a disputable point which season provided the best ever Bampton team. Perhaps 1950/51 just had the edge over the 1961/62. The former team had in Kingston and B. Barnett the finest pair of backs the School ever had, while the captain John Cummings was a very fine centre forward. On the other hand the later side had no less than four of its members playing representative football for the Mid-Oxon Schools. Both were very fine sides.

#### 1950/51 Team.

Back Row: Epy Farmer(Bourton); Terence Sweetingham(Bampton)  
John Hayward(Bourton); Bryan Comley(Clanfield)  
Albert Cresswell(Aston); John McCrudden(Aston).  
Front Row: Gordon Barnett(Bourton); Alan Govier(Bampton);  
John Cummings(Aston); Raymond Kingston(Aston)  
Brian Barnett(Bourton).

## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

### Athletics.

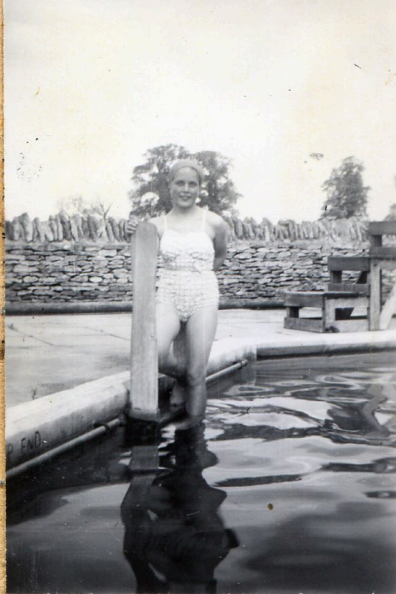
Sometime in the early 1950's Jo Ainley and Percy Thompson, headmasters respectively of Gosford Hill and Woodstock secondary schools, asked me to join with them in forming the Mid-Oxon Schools Athletics Association. It was a success from the beginning, and although Bampton was the smallest school it played a big part in making it so.

Each summer term the Association, which stretched from Bicester in the east to Burford in the west, held a sports meeting at one or other of the schools in the area. Later on a team representing the Association competed in the Count Sports at Iffley Road. From the latter meeting a team was selected to represent the County at the All-England championships.

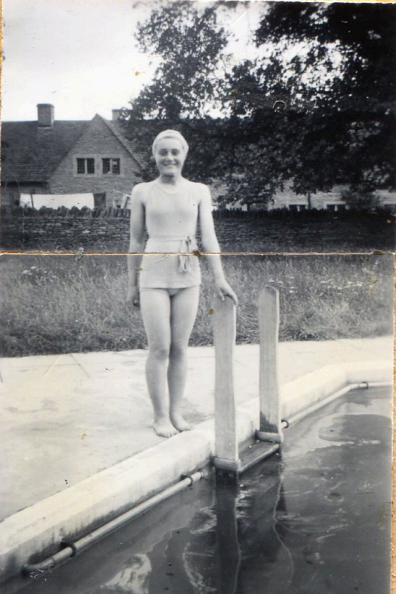
The photographs show Bampton teams in the 1960's. The master in the lower photograph is R.J. Evans who inspired great enthusiasm among the children. He was games master for a number of years, and the School suffered a sad loss when he went to Bartholomew School in 1964.

\*\*\*\*\*

















School Rounders Team 1952

Back Row: Mary Robinson, Primrose Mansfield, Eileen Archer, Jennifer Barton.

Front Row: Evelyn Brown, Shirley Bishop, Shirley Mansfield (Capt.), Joan Whitlock, Yvonne Timms.



School Rounders Team 1953

Back Row: Maureen Pallett, Audrey Gough, Barbara Lawrence, Iris Winterbourne.

Front Row: Joan Hayward, Beryl Timms, Patricia Keen (Capt.) Sandra Ritchie,  
Nancy Radband.



SWIMMING CLASS, 1948

Back Row: Colin Comley (Clanfield), Patricia Dixon (Bampton), Roy Farmer,  
(Bl. Bourton) Ronald Hewer (Aston), Bryan Brown (Br. Norton)  
Michael Harrison (Clanfield) ~~Another~~ Philip Knowles (Bampton)  
Norman Smith (Bl. Bourton) An Other, Derek Gardner (Clanfield)  
Fred Brooks (Bampton) Edwin Monk (Clanfield)

Front Row: Mary Kingston (Aston), Ada Monk (Clanfield), Jacqueline Nicholson  
(Aston and London), Lorna Cross (Clanfield), Milly Wright (Clanfield).



At Easter, 1960 the School received an invitation to enter the Hailey Junior Six-a-side Soccer Tournament. To the mortification of the knowledgeable ones and the chagrin of the locals Bampton won the Tournament beating the much-fancied Long Hanborough team in the Final.

Back Row: L to R. Graham Kingston, Victor Blake, Michael Smith.  
Front Row: Henry Barber, Roger Brewer, Richard Snook.









## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

### Dinner Hour Activities.

Unlike the situation in some schools where dinner hour supervision can be a nightmare for the teachers, it was no trouble at Bampton, for everyone was too busy chasing after some kind of ball to cause any trouble. Down in Sandfords most of the boys would be playing football or cricket according to the season. During summer term our one tennis court was in constant use, and in the Paddock the girls would be playing hockey whatever the time of the year. However often one might suggest to the girls that rounders or tennis might be a nice change, if left to their own devices, out would come the hockey sticks whatever the temperature.

\*\*\*\*\*

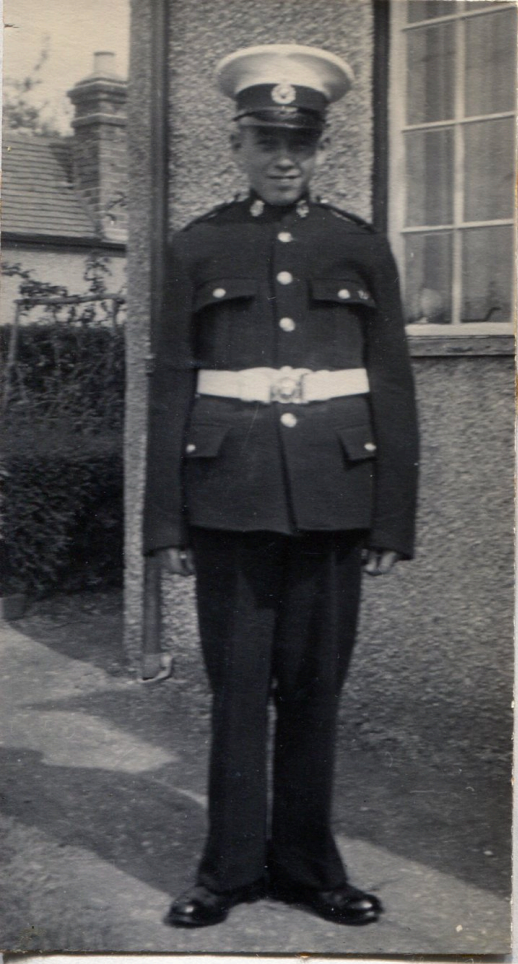
Old Boys.

During the post-war period all our old boys had to do National Service, but even after Conscription had been abolished a number of them served in one or other of the services of their own volition.

Oddly enough, it was the Navy which appeared to attract more of our lads than did the other two services. Claude Cummings of Aston started it all: he went into Submarines, and thereafter a succession of our ex-pupils went into the Navy.

John Hayward (1948-51), a Black Bourton lad showed some initiative by joining the Royal Naval School of Music, and eventually he graduated to the band of the Royal Marines.

David Brown (1944-53) had a wholesome respect in school for authority, but was quick to take advantage of a weak disciplinarian. Out of school he was constantly at odds with the police who, I am sure, heaved a sigh of relief when they heard that Brown had joined the Navy. Service discipline was just what he needed, and when I last saw him he had grown to be a fine young fellow; smart and sensible.



DAVID BROWN  
1944-53

A 'tough-nut' who joined  
the Royal Navy and  
made good!

JOHN HAYWARD (Black Bourton)  
1948-51

House Capt. Horde 1951  
School Football 1950-51  
Inter School Athletics 1951

Joined Royal Naval School of  
Music 1951 and became a Royal  
Marine Bandsman.







Head Girl 1953/54

School Hockey 1951-2-3-4

Captain 1953/54

House Captain Horde 1953/54

Rounders 1952-3-4



Sandra Ritchie (Clanfield)

1951-55

House Captain Horde 1954-55

School Hockey 1952-3-4-5

Captain 1954/55

School Rounders 1953-4-5





SHIRLEY MANSFIELD (Bampton)  
1948-51

House Captain Talbot 1951

School Hockey 1949-50-51

School Rounders 1949-50-51

Captain 1951

Inter School Athletics 1950-51

JOAN WHITLOCK (Aston)

1947-51

House Captain Horde 1951

School Hockey 1949-50-51

Captain 1950-51

Scholl Rounders 1950-51



## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

Shirley Bishop 1948 - 52

Shirley Bishop, an Aston girl, was a born hockey player, and quite the finest player the School ever turned out. She won a place in the school XI in her first year, and in her third and fourth years was invariably the dominating player on the field. While still only 14, and when not required by the School, she played regularly for Headington Ladies 1st XI, and was their leading goal scorer.

I always hoped and believed that one day Shirley would play for England, but I failed to reckon with certain social forces. Shirley came of a humble family, and her playing for Headington meant, in the eyes of some of her neighbours that she was stepping out of her social class. They resented this and Shirley had a great deal to put up with on this account, and after leaving school found it too much for her. Then, of course, along came the inevitable boy friend, and marriage became the goal rather than international honours.

\*\*\*\*\*

Primrose Mansfield 1949 - 53.

Primrose was the best all-round athlete the School ever produced. A fine centre forward with a devastating shot: she once score thirteen goals in a match. A very fine tennis player who would have gone far with further coaching, and outstanding as a runner and jumper.

In 1951 she broke the County High Jump Intermediate record, and the Senior in the following year. In the latter year she was 'first string' for the County at the All-England Schools Championships. Unfortunately the coach trip upset her and she did not jump her best. However, she came 7th out of over forty competitors in her event.

Shirley and Primrose were very nearly contemporary. They were both temperamental young women, and did not like one another a little bit. This situation used to cause me a lot of amusement, and, I must say, required a great deal of tact on my part. I was very proud of both of them.

## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

Elisabeth Goodway 1952 - 56.

In spite of the fact that the School regularly turned out some excellent players it never occurred to us to send any to the County Trials. However, at someone or other's suggestion we sent two of our girls to the 1955/56 trials. Yvonne Farmer our captain and centre forward was a beautiful player. While Elisabeth Goodway, a left inner, was not quite in the same class, she was an extraordinary good player.

It was with very mixed feelings that we heard Elisabeth had been selected to play for the County 1st XI against Warwickshire Schools. While we were delighted at Elisabeth's success, Yvonne was so immeasurably the better player, and had apparently played exceptionally well in the trials, that we wondered whether the selectors had not mixed their names. Be that as it may, Elisabeth was the very first 'secondary modern' girl ever to be selected to play for the County Schools 1st XI.

Adrian Horne 1952 - 56.

Adrian and Stanley Horne of Clanfield were two of the nicest lads one could wish for. Both were superlative footballers, and both captained the School team at various times. Adrian, the elder, was also a remarkably good cricketer.

During their time the Mid-Oxon Schools F.A. had not been formed, but Adrian played for the Oxford City Schools in 1954-5-6. Strictly speaking, he was ineligible, as Bampton was outside the twelve mile radius around the city. But Oxford wanted him so much that this fact was conveniently overlooked.

Stanley Horne after leaving school became a professional footballer. He played for Aston Villa and as I write these notes he has joined Manchester City.



SHIRLEY BISHOP (Aston)  
1948-52

The finest hockey player  
ever produced by the school.

Played for Headington Ladies  
1st. XI while still at school  
and for Witney after leaving.





Head of School 1952

House Captain Horde 1952

School Hockey 1948-9-50-1-2

Captain 1949-50 : 1951-52

Inter School Athletics 1951-52

School Rounders 1951-52

PRIMROSE MANSFIELD (Bampton)  
1949-53

- The School's best all-round athlete.
- School Hockey 1951-2-3: Captain 1952-3
- School Rounders 1952-3
- Inter Schools Athletics 1951-2-3
- County Intermediate High Jump Record 1951
- Senior County High Jump 1953
- Represented Oxfordshire in All-England Schools High Jump 1952
- Head Girl 1953
- House Captain Talbot 1952-3





YVONNE FARMER (Clanfield)  
1952-6

Head Girl 1955-6

House Captain Leofric 1955-6

School Hockey 1953-4-5-6

Captain 1955-6

School Rounders 1954-55

Inter School Athletics 1954



ELIZABETH GOODWAY (Clanfield)

1952-55

School Hockey 1954-55

School Rounders 1954-55

Inter School Athletics 1954-55

Oxfordshire Schools Hockey 1st XI 1955





ADRIAN HORNE (Clanfield)  
1952-56

House Captain Leofric 1955-6

School Football 1953-4-5-6

Captain 1953-4-5

School Cricket 1954-5-6

Captain 1955-56

Inter School Athletics

1953-4-5-6

Played for Oxford Schools Football XI

1954-5-6

DAVNET OSBORNE (Clanfield,

Head Girl 1954-55

School Hockey 1952-3-4-5

House Captain Talbot 1955







## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

### Bampton School.

#### Hockey.

When I first came to Bampton there was no provision for any kind of game for the girls. The boys had had a football team before the war, but it had never occurred to anyone that something might be done for the girls. Having played a good deal of hockey myself I decided in 1948 to introduce the girls to the game. A problem was hockey sticks. The School had no funds with which to purchase sticks, and there was a tradition among the girls of buying sports equipment. However, in one way or another sticks were acquired - very ancient ones some of them - and the girls began to learn the basic principles of the game.

One of our former pupils, Sneena MacKenzie was in the Burford Grammar School first eleven, and hearing that we were playing hockey, she offered to bring a team to play the School. It was explained that we had no decent field and next to no equipment. But Burford did not appear to mind, and so the School played its very first hockey match.

It was confidently anticipated that Burford would annihilate our girls, but the latter, making up for lack of skill with a superabundance of energy, put up a fine show. The match ended with the more sophisticated Burfordians defending their goal desperately to avoid the indignity of defeat by a village school.

This was most encouraging, and the girls began to show tremendous enthusiasm for the game. During the summer the School's other field Horse Close was brought into shape, and later on we had the thrill of seeing a set of hockey posts erected.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### The School's First Hockey Team.

Back Row: Milly Wright; Doreen Dabnor; Ada Monk; Rita Hall;  
Lorna Cross; Jacqueline Nicholson.  
Front Row: Mary Cresswell; Mary Kingston; Ivy Timms (Capt.);  
Joyce Sweezyingham; Gillian Kingston.

## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH

Hockey - 1948-50.

In 1948 a special annual grant for sports activities was made available, and this solved all our problems except one: this was uniform. Strange to relate, that while the parents were perfectly willing to fit their boys out with football 'togs', they were reluctant to spend one penny on their daughters' outfits. I think this was due to the fact that none of the mothers had played hockey, and they could see no reason why their girls should. We were, therefore, at an impasse. Then the Needlework mistress came to the rescue. There were in the School any amount of black-out curtains, a relic of the war, and Miss Perry suggested that these could be made up into quite smart hockey uniforms. I was dubious, but the girls persuaded me to let them try, and the result was most satisfactory. The black uniforms were relieved with gold piping, and the team looked really smart.

The 1948/49 was our first full season, and the team won all its nine matches; most of them by handsome margins, but 1949/50 was most disappointing: match after match was rained off, and our final record read Played 1, Won 1. It was all the more trying because we obviously had an extremely good side. The one solitary match played was against Burford Grammar School, and our comfortable win showed what might have been if the weather had been kinder.

We were very anxious to strengthen our fixture list, for we were too strong for our fellow secondary schools. But we found the grammar schools oddly reluctant to give us fixtures ~~ag~~ with their Under-15 elevens. It seemed that our success was militating against us, and that certain grammar schools, at least, felt that it would be harmful to their prestige if they were to be beaten by a 'village school'!

### 1949/50 Team

Back Row: Sally Ellis; Patricia Dixon; Shirley Mansfield;  
Joan Whitlock; Doris Radband.  
Front Row: Sheila Fitchett; Rosemary Buckingham; Shirley  
Bishop (Capt); Dinie Van Dyk; Mary Robinson





In view of the enthusiasm shown the previous season it was decided to run an official school hockey team. Matches were arranged with Witney Gr.School, Burford Gr.School and the Batt School, Witney. The team looked very smart in its uniform in spite of the fact that the girls made it themselves from wartime 'blackout' material, brightened by gold piping. Players who distinguished themselves were awarded their 'Mitre'

#### Team

Back Row: Shirley Bishop, Diana Widdowson, Sylvia Panting, Lorna Cross, Doris Barnett, Gillian Kingston.

Front Row: Kathleen Loder, Mary Cresswell, Milly Wright(Capt.), Beryl Bishop, Dinie Van Dyk.

1949-50

By now some really promising players were being produced, and this season's team won all its matches; usually by a handsome margin. Although only a second-year girl Shirley Bishop was Captain, and was already showing herself to be a player of outstanding ability.

Team

*Edwin Brown*

Back Row: Sally Ellis, Patricia Dixon, Shirley Mansfield, Joan Whitlock,  
Doris ~~Pancy~~ Radband.

Front Row: Sheila Fitchett, Rosemary Buckingham, Shirley Bishop (Capt.),  
Dinie Van Dyk, Mary Robinson.







1950-51

This was the beginning of the 'golden Age' of Bampton Hockey. This team was very strong indeed, and usually crushed its opponents. Shirley playing at Left Inner dominated every match, and Primrose Mansfield had a devastating shot.

Team

Back Row: Doreen Ellis, Enid Owen, Patricia Keen, Primrose Mansfield  
Sylvia Dewe, Mary Robinson, Jennifer Barton.

Front Row: Shirley Mansfield, Shirley Bishop, Joan Whitlock (Capt.)  
Eileen Sweetingham, Evelyn Brown.

New uniform of Old Gold shirts and blue shorts ~~were~~ gave the team an immaculate appearance.

## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH

### Hockey.

1951/52 was annus mirabilis as far as school hockey was concerned. Several new fixtures were arranged including one against Faringdon Grammar School. Unlike most grammar schools Faringdon had gladly given us a fixture, and were most generous in their compliments when our girls beat them handsomely. In the years to follow the Faringdon match was always the favourite one with the Bampton girls. While we had gained Faringdon we lost the fixture with Burford Gr. School. Burford had become bi-lateral, and their new games mistress insisted upon Bampton playing their secondary modern team instead of their grammar school side. My girls showed what they thought of this by beating their opponents by nineteen goals to nil.

Recently Miss Marjorie Pollard, the famous All-England player, had come to live in Bampton, and through her good offices matches were arranged with two girls' public schools. The girls beat Headington at Oxford, and then went over to Cheltenham to try conclusions with Ladies' College. Unfortunately, following a thunderstorm the game was played in a sea of mud. Our girls were ~~wearing~~ wearing smooth-soled plimsolls and could not keep on their feet. This was undoubtedly the cause of their losing the match, and although it was no disgrace to lose to the best hockey school in the country, my girls took their defeat very much to heart. And a good thing too, for they went out forthwith, and bought themselves hockey boots; just what I had been asking them to do for ages!

Later in the season Bampton entered the County Schools Tournament. The team played superbly all the way to the final which they played with only ten players. Our goal scoring centre forward twisted her ankle in an earlier game and could take no further part in the tournament. However, the girls played well and shared the Under-15 championship with Oxford High School, the score being 0-0.

#### The team.

Back Row: Patricia Keen; Doreen Ellis; Nina Cross; Eileen Archer; Jennifer Barton; Joan Brown.

Front Row: Mary Robinson; Primrose Mansfield; Shirley Bishop (Capt.); Sylvia Dewe; Enid Owen.

## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH

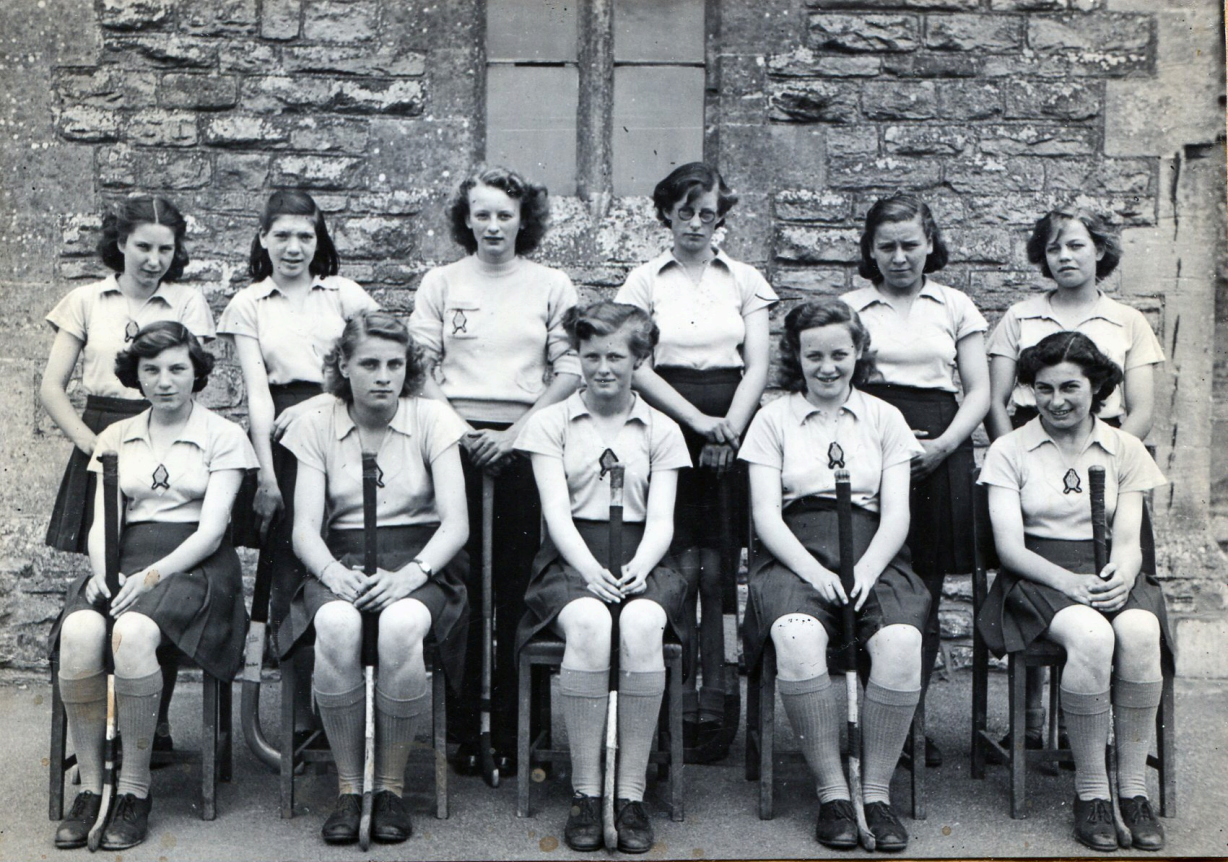
### Old Bamptonians' H.C.

The School continued to field a hockey team until 1960 when the partial transference of girls in their third year made it impossible to do so any longer.

In 1962 some of my old girls approached me with a view to forming an Old Bamptonians' Hockey Club. I was assured that there was any amount of enthusiasm for the idea, so I agreed to become chairman and generally godfather of the club.

The first season 1962/63 was as successful as we dared to hope. The team was very young; the girls' ages ranging from fifteen to eighteen, and their opponents were much older and more experienced. More matches were lost than won, but it was agreed when the end of the season came round that the experiment had been well worthwhile. The following season was equally enjoyable, and there seemed no reason why the club should not become a permanent institution.

Then in 1964 troubles appeared thick and fast. There was an unexpected spate of marriages amongst the older members of the club: two of our best players went off to America, but most serious of all was 'boy-friend trouble.' Without exception, all the girls had boy-friends, and some of these objected to being deprived of their fair ones' company on every Saturday afternoon. Being confined to the old girls of the School, the club had a limited membership. It was still possible to run a team, but some of the players were more remarkable for their enthusiasm than their skill. The new season began with some heavy defeats, but the storm could have been weathered had it not been for the fact that I fell victim to one of my periodical bouts of ill-health, and could not take an active part in running the club. And without the encouragement and guidance from an older head, the girls became discouraged, and the club gradually petered out. It was a great pity for the talent was there.



1951-52



1952-53

Now led by Primrose the Team was still very strong, winning all its matches. But it lacked the inspiration of previous sides

Team

Back Row: Joan Hayward, Sandra Ritchie, Beryl Timms, Davnet Osborne,  
Jean Fitchett, Nancy Radband.

Front Row: Nina Cross, Patricia Keen, Primrose Mansfield (Capt.),  
Eileen Archer, Joan Brown.

1953-54

This season produced yet another strong side. Nina Cross was an enthusiastic captain, and there were some very promising players coming along.

Team

Back Row: Nancy Radband, Joan Hayward, Yvonne Farmer, Valerie Rouse,  
Audrey Gough, Maureen Pallett, Mary Fleetwood.

Front Row: Sandra Ritchie, Beryl Timms, Nina Cross(Capt.), Davnet  
Osborne, Jean Fitchett.







1954-55

The younger players were beginning to acquire experience, and another successful season was enjoyed. The defence was exceptionally strong and Betty Yeatman in Goal was almost a permanent spectator.

Team

Back Row: Betty Adams, Bridget Hall, Ruth Harrison, Yvonne Farmer, Shirley Daniels, Betty Yeatman, Elisabeth Goodway.

Front Row: Valerie Rouse, Davnet Osborne, Sandra Ritchie (Capt.), Mary Fleetwood, Maureen Pallett.

1955-56

A very fine team indeed. In Susan Gardner, Yvonne Farmer and Elisabeth Goodway the team had a trio of inside forwards which took some stopping. For the first time the School sent one or two players to the County Trials, and as a result Elisabeth was selected to play for the Oxfordshire Schools 1st XI against Warwickshire.

#### Team

Back Row: Bridget Hall, Betty Yeatman, Betty Adams, Ingeborg Rabensteiner, Pamela Watts, Ruth Harrison, Anne Lucas, Susan Gardner.

Front Row: Jill Ruston, Shirley Daniels, Yvonne Farmer (Capt.), Elisabeth Goodway, Sally Addison.





1956-57

A very good side with Betty Adams outstanding at centre half. But the writing was on the wall. After this season the Headmaster was no longer able to coach the teams, and there being no games mistress the School had no official hockey team. In any case the numbers were falling, and it was becoming increasingly difficult to raise a reasonable team. From time to time occasional matches were played, but after 1957 no regular fixture list was followed.

#### Team

Back Row: Jean Elward, Jane King, Jennifer Brown, Winifred Baughan, Shirley Whitlock, Belinda Giannadrea.

Front Row: Ann Lucas, Betty Adams, Bridget Hall (Capt.), Betty Yeatman, Pamela Watts.

BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

Domestic Science.

As was the case with most secondary schools the making of a Christmas cake was part of the Housecraft course for third and fourth year girls at Bampton. A few years after I came to Bampton some well-meaning, but as I thought, misguided person offered prizes for the best cakes. The girls, themselves, were very keen, and the 'cake competition' soon developed into a tradition in the School.

Prize Winners, 1956.

L to R: Faith Hogarth(Brize Norton); Shirley Whitlock (Aston); Bridget Hall(Clanfield); Betty Adams(Lew); Hazel Frankland(Aston); Susan Monks(Bampton).

\*\*\*\*\*

## BAMPTON IN THE BUSH

### The Canoe Club.

In 1958 W.Phillips joined the staff as Woodwork master, and it was due to his initiative that a very successful Canoe Club was established in the School. The senior boys made some very fine craft for the School and for themselves, and on a summer evening there was much activity on the Thames.

The top photograph shows the School's very first canoe in the process of being made and the boys are

L to R: S.Newman; D.Robey; V.Long; R.Maidment;  
P.Ham and R.Eagles.

When the School closed down there were two canoes left to be disposed of, and I gave these to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. It is pleasant to report that they are now doing good service with the Cambridge University Canoe Club whose members have commented most favourably on the quality of the craftsmanship.

\*\*\*\*\*





The ribs of the very first canoe to be built, eventually to be covered with canvas. Later craft were built of plywood.

Boys: L to R: S Newman; D. Robey; V. Long; R. Maidment; P. Ham; R. Eagles.



Most boys showed a little nervousness at first in handling the light craft, but confidence was quickly achieved.



## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

### Patterdale and Tregoyd.

The 1950's were a very progressive period for education in the County. One interesting and very successful project was the courses for boys at Patterdale in the Lake District. The courses lasted six weeks and instruction was given in social studies, archaeology, map reading and basic rock climbing, etc. Later on the the courses were linked with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The courses were tremendously popular, and were always oversubscribed.

Jess enthusiasm was shown by the girls of the County for their courses which were held at Tregoyd in Breconshire. I think it was a mistake to have chosen an isolated place like Tregoyd as the centre: it would have been better to have selected somewhere nearer civilisation. Girls are interested in different things from boys, and exploring the hills of Breconshire did not have the same appeal for them as did the Cumbrian mountains for the boys. However, our girls always seemed to enjoy the courses, but in time lack of support from the schools generally brought about their being dropped in 1966.

### Photograph.

Joan Allan, Mrs Hughes-Owens and Grete I, and Carol Weston in the grounds of Tregoyd. February 9th, 1964.

## BAMPTON-IN-THE-BUSH.

Sidney Scott B.A. (Oxon)

During the 1950's the School built up a strong staff of specialist teachers against the time when it would become secondary modern. There were some specially good masters at this time and among them was Sidney Scott.

Scott had been up at Brasenose where he had obtained a very good 'Second'. Upon coming down from the university he married a Radcliffe nurse, and he wanted to spend a few years teaching in Britain before returning to Jamaica.

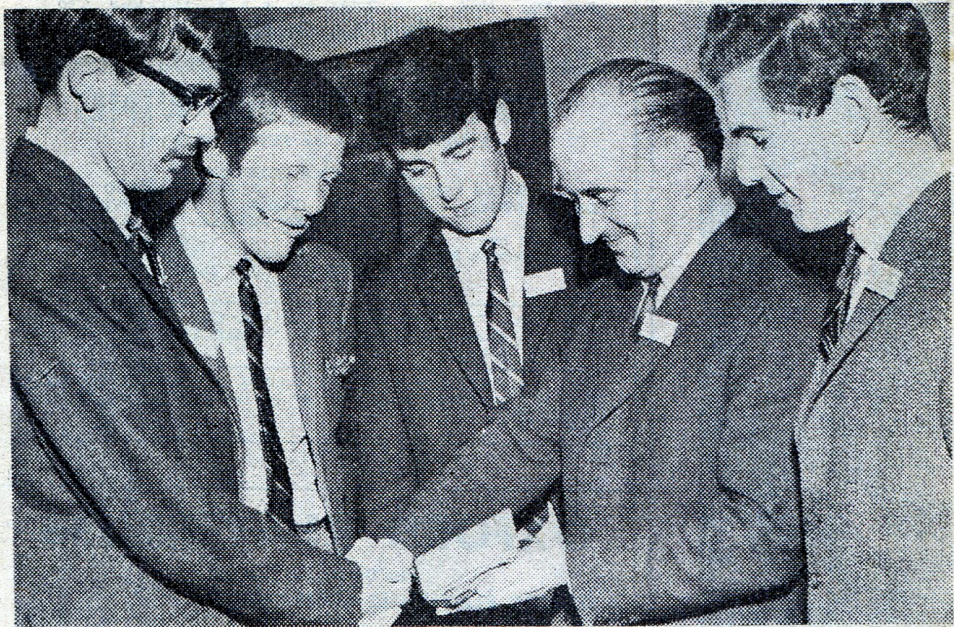
With the shortage of teachers as there was he expected no difficulty in obtaining a post in Oxford. But in spite of his excellent credentials he found a curious reluctance on the part of Oxford heads to appoint him to their staffs. He strongly suspected that some kind of colour prejudice existed in Oxford. He turned to the County, and he obtained a temporary post with me.

Polished and cultured, he soon became very popular with staff and children alike, and he applied for a permanent post with us. There was however the question of accommodation in Bampton. Hitherto he had been making the journey from Oxford by bus every day, and the strain was beginning to tell. Although accommodation was available in Bampton he found the owners strangely evasive when he applied for a house or flat. Once more he felt that his colour was against him. Reluctantly Scott decided to return to Jamaica, and after a few years became head of one of the most important grammar schools in the island.

Later on I discovered that no prejudice existed against Scott, ~~him~~ Bampton: it was Mrs Scott who was the stumbling block. In the eyes of some folk she had committed an unperdonable offence. She, an English girl, had married a coloured man!







Pictured at the Smiths Apprentices prizegiving on Tuesday are (left to right) Graham Eley, Henry Barber, Victor Blake, Mr. John Thompson—who made the awards—and Jonathan Butchers.

\* Former pupils of Bampton School.

## Smiths' prizegiving

May 1969

### Awards

The divisional managing director's prize for the best apprentice of the year was awarded to 22-year-old Graham Eley, of Aston, near Bampton. The general manager's prize was shared by Victor Blake, aged 20, of Clancfield, and Jonathan Butchers, aged 21, of Repton, Derby.

Twenty-year-old Henry Barber, of Bampton, won the works manager's award.