

The Witney Gazette

FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd, 1955

"FOREIGNERS" DEFEATED IN BAMPTON SHIRT-RACE

The Great Bampton Shirt Race, revived three years ago, was held on Whit Saturday evening amid a large crowd of amused spectators, many of them visitors. It was won by two Bampton lads, Cyril Smith and Robert Radband, representing the Elephant and Castle, Bampton, in spite of stiff "foreign" opposition. —

The 13 competing teams included three from Witney, and two members of the American Army, Cpl. A. Dews and Sgt. J. Everett. The race was started by the official starter, Mr. Ernest Sheppard who arrived in a bath chair complete with 12 bore gun, and amid the cheers of their supporters the competitors dressed in night shirts or similar attire raced from pub to pub trundling their varied vehicles, sipping half a pint at each stop.

Two competitors on an ancient bicycle almost came to grief when taking avoiding action from a spectator. They crashed headlong into a doorway but suffered no-injuries. The race this year started at Weald Turu and the course was over six public houses ending at the Swan, Buckland Road. .

The first prize was a 4½ gallon barrel of beer presented by the brewers of any House they chose.

Mr. J. A. Quick, President of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing explained that the collection was for the old and needy in the district, and thanked competitors for taking part in such good spirit and the spectators for their support.

Photographs, rail strike permitting, will be published next week.



RACING THE ROMAN WAY IN BAMPTON

BEN HUR might have done better, but then, he did have horses to pull his chariot. This latter-day charioteer had to make do with six of his friends — making up the Raforium Bamptonius team — who are shown with laurels askew and togas slipping during the first Great Chariot Race at Bampton yesterday.

It succeeds the Original Great Shirt Race, which Bampton has seen each

Whitsuntide for many years, and was run last night through the streets of the town.

There were only four chariots and there were not so many spectators as for the shirt race. But Mr John Quick, secretary of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing, the organisers, said afterwards he was well satisfied with the turnout.

The chariots bore an excel-

lent likeness to the Roman carriages of old, and the slaves were even more realistic in their togas. The circlets of laurel leaves on their heads completed their turnout.

Six slaves pulled the chariots although at each of the stops at seven inns, the drivers tossed back a mug of ale and changed places in turn with one of the slaves. Stirrup pumps, small bags of flour and other missiles were

used in attacks on each other.

The Talbot Gladiator got an early lead and won the race. Second was The Eagle and third, Raforium Bamptonium, apparently hiding the identity of an RAF team. Bringing up the rear was The Shooting Star.

The street collection will swell the Bampton old age pensioners Christmas fund.

Picture: MALCOLM ROUSE.

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NIGHTSHIRTS ON WHEELS

An undress occasion

From Norman Shrapnel

BAMPTON (OXFORDSHIRE),
SUNDAY.

Civic self-expression takes different forms. Edinburgh and York have their festivals; Bampton has its Shirt Race. Of all the Whitsuntide country ceremonies—the Morris dancing, the beating of bounds and of choir boys, the rush-bearing, and cheese rolling, the throwing of food down from 10ft. walls—the Bampton Shirt Race is the most mysterious and the barmiest.

So grotesque a frolic, indeed, is this nightmare scamper through the seemly town—the normal way to compete is to wear a silk hat and a nightshirt and ride a tricycle with solid tyres—that it can only be explained in terms of psychology. Bampton is compensating for something, compensating hard. It is a charming little town—the quickest way to earn black looks is to call it a village—but it evidently feels itself overlooked.

Tucked away between the upper Thames and the Windrush, between the two tourist streams that flow through Oxford and the Cotswolds, between mind and muscle, between heavy industry and heavy ploughing, and also between the American Air Force and the British Signals, it has a compulsive need to tell the world of its existence. And now it has discovered or rediscovered the means. That must be why a considerable part of its usually quiet male population yesterday put on their false noses, mounted their demented vehicles, and let rip. The effect was startling all right: it was as though a community of Trappists were to let off a small atom bomb.

Finding Bampton at all is difficult if you approach from the north over the high Cotswolds. The map and even the compass can strangely mislead. Ask the way of some rangy American in the neighbourhood of Brize Norton—the B-47 bomber country—and he will point due west towards the foothills, when you are fairly confident that you should be going due south towards the Vale of White Horse. You are both right. The vast airfield has to be got round, defying normal navigation.

Record field

There were no Americans in the Shirt Race, when finally we came upon it, but two off-duty young men of the British Signals had discovered the frolic and were joining in with the solemnity of a battle exercise, their khaki shirts, Service issue, flapping bravely through the ancient streets. More than forty men took part—the biggest field on record—dividing into pairs and pushing each other on derelict perambulators, Victorian tricycles, mobile rubbish bins, and other troll vehicles. There were farm labourers, steel workers, the two school-boys, the local postman, and a pair of old inhabitants in their seventies. The Bampton children excitedly discussed the race in accents of the Cotswolds and the Middle West; the Bampton cattle—astonished at nothing since the "Danger—low flying" notices went up in these parts—watching calmly over fences.

They scarcely twitched an ear when a consequential-looking retired gentleman, by whose side a tall black granny in bonnet and moth-eaten tippet was smoking furiously like a suffragette resentful of Bampton's barring of women from its Shirt Race, suddenly fired off a twelve-bore sporting gun. This was the starting signal. The main street leapt from a doze into a chaos. Invalid chairs collided, tricycles interlocked their wheels and overturned, men in their dream suits bunted and bored for positions. Rubber horns burped, L plates flapped and dangled from push-chairs, side-splitting slogans fell off in the confusion, comic noses were dented, and there were yells of dismay as passengers thrust their feet through the

[Continued on back page

Wiltshire Gazette and Herald

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1959

PHONE CALL FROM DEVIZES

THE protest at last week's meeting at Devizes of the Wiltshire Rural Councils' Association against the Postmaster-General's action in allocating only ten new telephone kiosks to the county in the coming year is timely.

In fact, it is a protest that, to borrow Post Office phraseology, should be made in a ringing tone.

Last year Wiltshire was given 16 new kiosk sites. In the opinion of the Post Office, "most of the needy cases have been met," and it has therefore been decided to cut the allocation. Yet the rural councils in the area want at least 36 new kiosk sites—a somewhat different story from that given by the Post Office.

One realises that the Post Office, which deals with every county in the country, must preserve balance in its development of rural telephone facilities, yet the fact that Wiltshire is faring much worse than in past years suggests that the county on this occasion may be getting a raw deal.

Moreover, as with other amenities, the countryman has a right to his full share. In many respects, public telephones are more needed in the country than in the towns, even though the amount of business that accrues to the Post Office may be much smaller.

Amenities in rural areas cannot be provided on a strictly economic basis. The Post Office, which is, after all, a public service, must be prepared to provide rural phone kiosks irrespective of the amount of income they produce. Their value, in fact, cannot be judged in money terms, for a solitary telephone call that may be made in a time of emergency must be offset against the purely social use to which the telephone is so often put in the towns.

No one would say that a doctor or a district nurse is less needed in the country than the town. Equally the telephone is a prime necessity.

Vandalism

THE news that gangs of vandals, wandering round the village after dances, have been doing so much damage at Lea, near Malmesbury, is disturbing.

We must expect youth to have its fling—even, on occasions, to perpetrate mischievous acts. But the sort of behaviour experienced at Lea is not mischief, but downright malevolence.

The police, we understand, are making inquiries. We hope they will be able to bring the culprits to justice.

Meanwhile, dance bookings at the village hall have been cancelled. Although such action is necessary, it is none the less a great pity. Surely people can enjoy themselves at a dance without subsequently having to paint the town red.

WHERE CRAFTSMANSHIP STILL COUNTS

Bampton has a shirt race round its eleven inns



The main street of Bampton, with the Town Hall on the left.—G. & H.

IT was at Bampton-in-the-Bush, a small country town of great antiquity, that I came across Mr. Albert Chandler, rare craftsman and one of the oldest parish council clerks in Great Britain.

Now 81 years of age he, equally with Lord Goddard and Sir Thomas Beecham, is still far too fit and spartan even to contemplate resigning from public life. Indeed he laughed outright at the absurdity of my suggestion that, at 81, he might soon be contemplating retirement from his business as a saddler.

His wife, too, enjoys the bustle of active life—but she is only 80. Albert belongs to a well-known family of master saddlers who for generations have practised their craft in the West country. Is it surprising, therefore, that he should have established himself in Bampton, long renowned for its three-day horse and fun-fair at which, each year, many thousands of pounds hands?

20 WORKERS

He was born in Marlborough—one of a family of eight children, five of whom worked long hours, with their father, fashioning saddles for the Army, race-course, the Hunt and Rotten Row, as well as turning out a surprisingly wide range of other leather goods.

"Aye," he recalled, "ten of us gathered round the breakfast table those days, and there were 20 workers in the shop."

As to the three-day fun-fair he recalled seeing as many as 200 horses tethered in the main street. "There was plenty of money about then, trade was good and we lived well."

"We still hold the fair in Bampton," he added, "but it's not the same and there have been no horses at all for the last four years."

But plenty of work still comes along for Albert, including regular orders from liveryies and from firms as far away as Teddington and Winchester.

"A LITTLE TOWN"

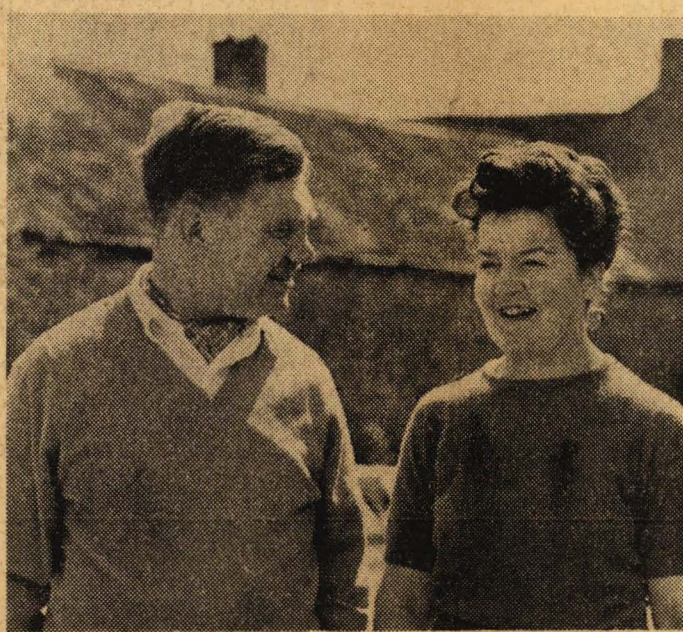
As chairman of the Parish Council he reminded me about the 100 council houses they had built since the war at the Weald. "Quite a little town going up there." The houses were tenanted just as soon as they were ready, for Bampton's population is steadily increasing—1,325 in 1951 and 1,500, or thereabouts, at present.

Another interesting craftsman and one who, like Albert, spurns the artificiality of machine work, is the "bespoke and surgical boot-maker" higher up the street. He delights in the name of P. O. Money and in the quality of his work. "Everything here is done by hand, and even repairs are hand-sewn." Bampton, true to tradition, likes it this way.

"It may cost a few coppers more," he conceded, "but there is far more lasting value in the hand-made article."

Reaching across the counter he selected a pair of boots—a hand-sewn repair job—and with the air of one who would say "Don't take my word alone for it," passed them on to me. Here, obviously, was the work of a real craftsman.

P. O. is a man of the people—a founder of the local debating



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Scott-Norman, of the Elephant and Castle, Bampton.—G. & H.

society, secretary of the bowls club and so on. He told me that Bampton had its own cricket, football and badminton teams, and various social organisations, including a Women's Institute, 11 public-houses and the recently-formed Society for Ancient Junketing.

SHIRT RACE

Mr. John Quick, whom I met at the Elephant and Castle, told me all about the Ancient Society, of which he is secretary. It runs an annual shirt race in which couples, clad in long gowns, make a round of the town, taking refreshment at each of the inns—first home gets the prize. This year's race, by the way, will be run on May 16 next.

The Elephant and Castle, scheduled as an ancient building, is a little haven for the gourmet and is run by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Scott-Norman, two remarkable people with the story of a two-tier romance to tell. They first met in their young schooldays and next—in Tanganyika, this time never to be separated again!

During the war Mr. Scott-Norman was in the RAF and, subsequently, in the Colonial Service at Dar-es-Salaam. His wife was a daughter of the late Captain Harry Cook, of the Grenadier Guards, who rose from the ranks—only once previously in the history of the Brigade of Guards had this been known.

ROYAL PRESENTATION

A trained nurse and midwife and formerly matron of the Aga Khan Hospital at Dar-es-Salaam, Mrs. Scott-Norman had the proud distinction of being the only woman outside of Kenya to be presented to the Queen when, as Princess Elizabeth, she visited Africa. It was during this tour that Her Royal Highness received news of the death of the King.

Recently the Elephant and Castle, a 16th-century inn, was gutted by fire and rebuilt surprisingly true to its original picturesque character, though the roof now carries tiles instead of thatch.

But what of Bampton itself? Surely nowhere in all broad England could one stumble across an historic settlement so

possessed of reposeful dignity. Its very name means tree town, being derived from "beam" or "baum"—a tree, and "ton"—a town. There is much here to fascinate the visitor—the little Town Hall, the wonderful church dating from Norman days, the Tudor manor-house among the trees, the lovely stone buildings and stone mullioned windows, with a thatch here and there.

FIERCE BATTLE

The place is steeped in history and folk-lore, and has been famous since medieval days for its Morris dancing. In 614 it was said to have been the centre of a fierce battle in which King Cynegils, King of the West Saxons, and his son Cuichelm met and defeated an army of marauding Welshmen, slaying 2,065 of their number.

More than 200 years later King Alfred, after settling with the Danes, devoted his talents to the good government of the country, arranging boundaries and creating hundreds and tithings. He made Bampton the chief town in the local Hundred, which he called the Hundred of Bampton—it included Clanfield, Burford, Witney and Stanlake.

It is related that once a year all the inhabitants over 12 years of age were required to attend at Bampton and swear fidelity to the King. Bampton was long a most prosperous and influential township, being the centre of great farming and milling interests and a tanning and leather industry.

And in the middle of the last century it might very well have been retrieved and vastly improved upon its old-time prestige. There were persistent rumours that the railway was to be extended through Bampton, and locally it was realised that this would bring about a general revival in trade.

The station, it was said, would be located in a field called the Quies, which was close to the town.

But a sad disillusionment was in store, the new railway bypassing the town by two miles. Nevertheless, Bampton is still quietly progressive—will soon have a new secondary modern school—and with plenty of good employment available at Brize Norton, Witney and elsewhere, it has gracefully accepted the partial role of a dormitory town. And so population is slowly but constantly increasing. E.H.Y.

Next week: Milton Lilbourne.

RURAL COUNCIL REFUSED LOAN

"Go On Open Market," Advised

Devizes Rural Council has been refused a loan by the Public Works Loan Board for the first time, said Mr. John Spencer (Clerk) at Friday's meeting of the Wiltshire Rural Councils' Association at Devizes.

It now meant that the Council would have to seek loans on the open market and he inquired about the experiences of other rural councils in the county in this matter.

"It's time you went into the open market," advised Mr. W. S. G. Mills (Clerk, Highworth Rural Council). "By and large it does mean difficulties, but we have found the answer and it is cheaper than going to the PWLB."

TOPICS AND C

IT was like old times at Faringdon, on Sunday of last week, when the railway passenger service was running again. Mr. Hale, stationmaster, was there, together with the porters to receive a train that brought some scores of visitors to the town. Unhappily this did not mean that the branch line had had a reprieve—it was the occasion of a special trip arranged by the Railway Enthusiasts' Club, the members of which find great joy in exploring the country's forsaken branch lines and bringing them back to life for just a day.

British Railways are fully co-operative and for this particular visit arranged for the party to travel main line as far as Uffington, where they found a special train waiting to take them on to Faringdon.

Faringdon Trade Fair

It is nine years now since Faringdon lost its railway passenger service, a loss that everyone in this enterprising little town will never cease to regret.

There is consolation in the knowledge that a splendid bus service has been developed and this, no doubt, helped the local Chamber of Trade in their decision to embark upon a really ambitious Trade Fair to be held from December 1 to 5 next.

Mr. A. E. Drew, immediate past president—he was succeeded by Mr. N. V. Needler—tells me that it is hoped to arrange for a noted personality to open the Fair and also to introduce TV cameras, on a closed circuit, which will enable the public to see themselves entering and moving around.

Other attractions will include a real garden setting in a corner of the hall, and a full-scale non-stop programme of demonstrations to excite and hold the interest of all visitors.

Faringdon traders have built up a reputation for their Fairs which, in the past, have attracted representatives from many outlying Chambers including those of Abingdon, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hungerford, Marlborough, Swindon and elsewhere.

An Aldbourne Wager

How readily a Spartan spirit jumps to the challenge to do this or that and thus to sustain a boast that might well have been lightly spoken. Maybe you've been caught that way one time or another?

Well, Mr. Victor Gilbert, the butcher of Aldbourne, was, and so one cold dark night when most folk gathered round the fire, or shivered outside, he found himself committed to a little exploit that would make him the first man to swim across the new duck-pond.

As a member of the Parochial Church Council and bellringer to boot, it was not surprising to find that Victor had the Rev. Gilding as his second. And Johnny Morris, of the BBC, was also there to provide permanent proof of the occasion.

As a matter of fact it was on Coronation Day and it seemed as though the whole village turned out and followed the trio around. Victor was as good as his word, but the populace was impatient and it is said that he was pushed in and so won his wager with a premature plunge.

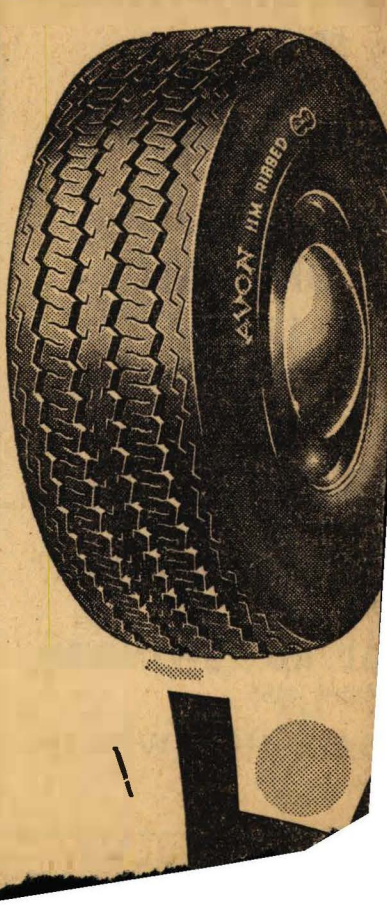
Victor loves water, anyhow, and has made a boat for himself—one which, I hope, will keep him well afloat. He has now left Aldbourne for the coast at Swanage, where he is entering the wholesale butchery trade.

Four Nursing Cadets

Nursing Cadets of the Swindon No. 1 Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade recently won the county competition for First Aid and Nursing, at Salisbury. This, incidentally was the first time



Mr. Albert Chandler, the saddler, at work at Bampton. On the right is Mr. P. O. Money, the shoemaker, working in his shop.—G. & H.



BABIES CRYING ROOM IN CHURCH

MORRIS DANCING—600 YEARS OF HISTORY AT BAMPTON

MORRIS DANCING is more than an occasional weekend pastime in Bampton — it has been a part of village history for 600 years. And this history is events for as far back as anyone has been able to trace it.

It contributed to a united and competitive feeling in Bampton that is perhaps unique in the Cotswolds. There are two Morris

teams in Bampton, the Morrismen and Traditional Morrismen, the result of a dramatic split in the original team 55 years ago.

Between then these two Morris teams were squires by Arnold Woodley and Francis Shergold have carried the Bampton dance to the corners of Britain and soon will be taking it to the United States. Bampton is accepted to be the only village or town in England where dancing has gone on continuously from the day it was born.

Memories of the dances and dancers were passed down by word of mouth and example before both sets of teams began gathering records from photographs and newspaper articles.

SOUVENIRS
Arnold Woodley's Honeymoon Cottage is crammed full of pictures, trophies, souvenirs and old fiddles of Bampton Morris throughout the centuries.

"Jingy" Wells is the Jekyll and Hyde character of local Morris — the dancer and fiddler who did so much for the dance but engineered the split of the team in 1924.

Articles have said "Jingy" was a self-appointed leader of the team but other dancers were not keen on accepting him.

He has been accused of betraying the novel Bampton dance to another village team, of adapting old tunes and dances that were so much part of Bampton's tradition.

During one torrid argument in neighbouring Clunfield, "Jingy's" violin was cracked in two — it is now replaced on Arnold Woodley's sideboard.

But the fiddler has also been attributed with bringing the Morris dance into this century and re-inforcing Bampton's tradition.

"SPLUTTERED"
When the split occurred the old Bampton team spluttered a little without a fiddler or enough dances. For a few years they folded up before Arnold Woodley, a true Bamptonian, secured the services of a Carterton fiddler and the Traditional Morris Men were back on the road.

One of the most substantial claims the Traditionals have that they are the direct descendants of the Bampton Morris is in the character of Albert "Son" Townsend, the only member in the team before the split still dancing in the village.

The Traditionals have tried to pull on the memories of "Son" and others locals to keep the Bampton Morris intact. "Son" is the fool of

the team, Albert the squire and fiddler and they are both born and bred of Bampton families.

Francis Shergold's men are the direct descendants of "Jingy" and they have built their dance on the foundations laid by that great character of dance. For a period they were the only dancing team in Bampton.

STILL SIMMERS
The dispute still simmers 55 years later, although the feeling between the teams has improved dramatically from the early quasi-violent stage.

The split may have done harm to the unity of Bampton Morris but the competition has done no harm at all for publicity, determination, interest and the standard of local dancing.

The days have changed from when teams performed on the traditional Whit Monday and the Saturday before, and hung up their costumes for the rest of the year.

They are now invited to a variety of functions all over the country. Interest seems to have been revived locally with a string of

reserves and youth teams backing up the dancers.

While towns and villages begin to realise what they have lost and try to re-form Morris teams, Bampton have the warmth of an unbroken past behind them.

The photographs used are mostly from Mr. Arnold Woodley's collection.

Next week we look at the origins of the Morris dance, the stories of two men who between them have clocked up 99 years dancing and the national association, The Morris Ring.



THREE of Arnold Woodley's uncles all members of the same 1920's



A DANCE between the showers for the 19 80 Morris Men at this year's Charlbury fair,



BAMPTON fiddlers from past and present. Fiddler Sam Bennett tunes up his instrument 50 years ago while (below) Arnold Woodley, the team's present squire and fiddler, poses for a photograph eight years ago.



A TEAM from the 1880's with fiddler "Jingy" or "Jinky" Wells and a fool in the costume wearing a different outfit from the one worn at present (see next week),



BAMPTON MORRIS perform outside the Elephant and Castle in Bridge Street, Bampton in 1938. The pub at one time belonged to the father of Albert "Son" Townsend who still dances with the Morris. "Son" is dancing on the left of the main group, Arnold Woodley is the second right.

BAMPTON PRAM RACE



"WORLD CUP CREW" in the Bampton pram race on Saturday, Ian Morris (10), left, and Richard Elliott (8).



TWO who thought it better to pick up the pram and run were Mr. R. Hatherell and Mr. John Edwards.



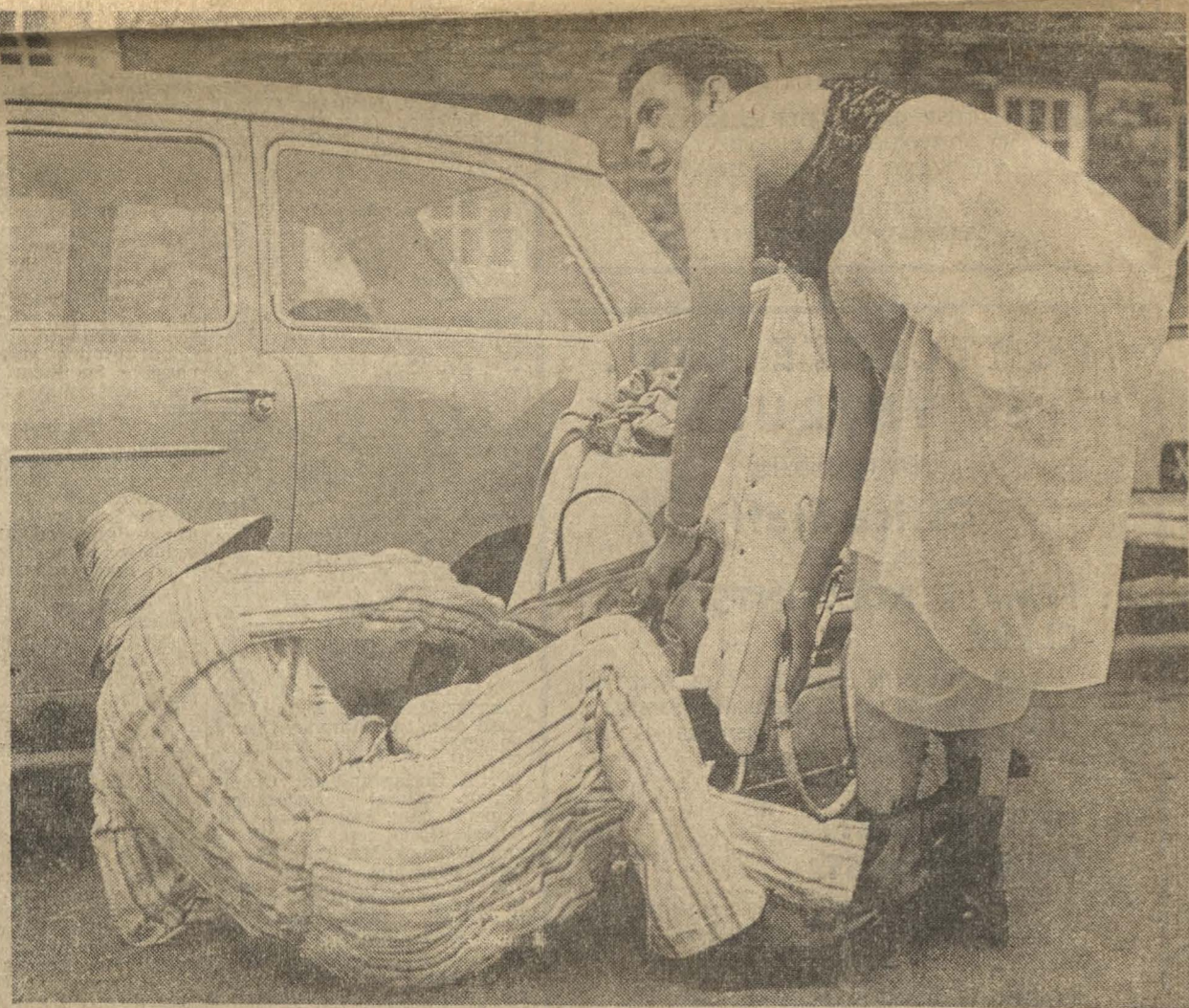
"THE KINKY BIRD," Mr. Bob Rees and Mr. Pete Laws.



ONE of the larger entries in the race.



TEAMS making their way through the centre of the town.



ACCIDENT! One of the teams comes to grief.



THE large crowd which gathered in the Square to watch the race.

Around the Oxford countryside with S. P. B. Mais

BAMPTON STILL HAS NIGHTLY CURFEW

Customs of its own—and big drainage grievance

BAMPTON owes a great deal to its splendid isolation, to the fact that it was formerly roadless, a region of thickets, literally Bampton-in-the-Bush.

It owes to this isolation its unbroken continuity of tradition and custom in which it is richer than any other place of its size in the country.

Every night of the year curfew is still rung from the church at 7.55, followed by the date or calendar bell which rings out the day of the month.

On Shrove Tuesday, at noon, the pancake or pudding bell is rung to remind housewives that it is pancake day.

The annual horse fair, inaugurated in the reign of Edward I, is still held on August 26.

Every year at Christmas the mummers, in their medieval dress, go from house to house acting the ancient play of St. George and the Dragon.

The Ancient Order of Junketry turn out annually in great strength for the wheelbarrow race from one end of the town to the other, in which competitors, dressed in nightgowns, wheel their partners to each of the 11 pubs in turn and there drink a full pint of ale before they change places and continue the hazardous perambulation.

600 YEARS OF DANCING

The Bampton Morris Dancers have danced their own traditional dances every Whit Monday for over 600 years.

Francis Shergold, the head gardener at Weald Manor, showed me some of his dancing clothes.

"I am known as the Squire and bagman," he said proudly, "and my team consists of nine—six dancers, a clown or fool, an old fiddler and a collector who carries the ceremonial cake in a silver container impaled on a sword.

"If you manage to snatch a

once a year, on Whit Monday, but we go round to dance with other clubs—Abingdon, Headington, the City of Oxford and University of Oxford—during the summer.

"On Whit Monday we dance right through the streets all the morning and in the afternoon dance in the gardens of private houses."

Another ancient custom observed on the same day is the



Mr. F. Shergold, squire and bagman of the Morris dancers.

procession of garlanded children who collect withies, bend them into hoops which they decorate with wild flowers, and then march round the town from eight in the morning till noon.

Bampton is certainly to be congratulated on having been able to keep up so effortlessly its many precious and picturesque ancient customs, but isolation has its disadvantages.

SANITATION SCANDAL

I was shocked to find in 1954 a community of 1,300 people in Oxfordshire still without a main drainage scheme, and stories of buckets put out on the pavement to be collected do not make pleasant reading.

Miss Marjorie Pollard, a prominent member both of the Rural District Council and of the Parish Council, was rightly indignant about this.

"I should like to wheel our sewage cart up to Whitehall and face the Ministry with it," she said. "They say something will be done in two years, but it's always 'two years' and two years never come.

"Meanwhile, the estimated cost is rising. Now it's up to about £50,000. It was only about half that sum before the war."

PUBLISHER

Miss Pollard, who is a hockey and cricket international, somehow finds time, in addition to her intense practical devotion to the improvement of parochial amenities, to run a most enterprising publishing house in her beautiful Tudor home at the Deanery.

She edits and publishes a highly successful magazine, the "Women's Hockey Field," the fortnightly official journal of the A.E.W.H.A.

She showed me several pamphlets and illustrated books that she has lately published on lacrosse and hockey for girls, and her office is decorated with the multi-coloured badges of all international hockey teams.

At the other end of the town, in the study of Mr. J. L. Owens, the headmaster of the Senior School, I got another sidelight on Bampton's interest in hockey. The walls were lined with photographs of girls' hockey elevens of the last five or six years.

GREAT TRADITION

"I'm specially proud of those," said Mr. Owens. "Ours is an all-age school of 260, and our children's ages range from five to 15. We have a great tradition in hockey, and that team at which you are looking had an unbeaten record that year except for a defeat by the Cheltenham Ladies' College under 15's."

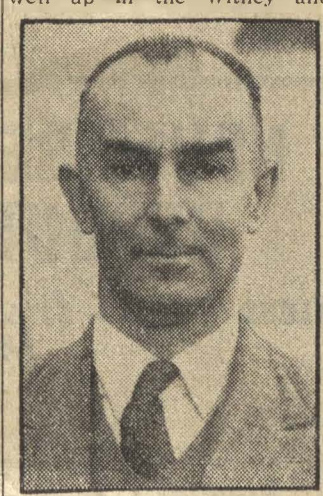
"As I have only about 40 girls to choose from you can see that they are as keen as mustard. But between November and March our ground is better fitted for water polo than hockey. It's pretty well always waterlogged. Our most pressing need is for new playing fields."

"And a drainage scheme," I reminded him. "Oh! they've told you about that," he said. "I'm chairman of the playing fields and we've already got a grant from the Playing Fields Association. But we must have a dry ground for our boys and girls to play on."

BOYS TEACH FOOTBALL

"I send my boys up to the American school at Brize Norton to teach them to play English football, and we've made good friends up there, but we want to invite them back. We must have playing fields fit to play on, both when they're at school and after they leave."

"Our men's football team are well up in the Witney and



Mr. Wesley Jones

District League, and our cricket team play Merton College Barmocles, so you can see that the sporting spirit is a dry ground."

Mr. Owens' school is decidedly go-ahead, not only in games. He showed me a copy of "The Bamptonian," a most attractive school magazine which is not only written and edited by the school, but actually printed and published by the children.

I wonder how many rural elementary schools in England have the enterprise to print and

publish their own magazine.

Hockey and publishing seem to go hand-in-hand in Bampton, a most unusual partnership.

Much that I saw in Mr. Owens' school is unusual; the headmaster's study, for instance, which was entirely built by the boys. "And whenever they come to see me they take jolly good care to see that I haven't scratched the paint off the walls," he said.

He took me to see the very well furnished school library and the spacious school hall.

"This is the meeting place," he said, "of our famous debating society and of the girls' club. We also have folk dancing classes here on Wednesdays, woodwork classes, dairying and dressmaking classes, and I have just started a choral society."

"The school seems to be the focal point of all the aesthetic and cultural activities," I said. "Isn't it the obvious place?" he replied.

EXQUISITE SPIRE

From the school I went to the church. St. Mary's is a cathedral in little. Its slender, exquisitely proportioned 13th century spire rises to a height of 170ft., standing out above the tall elms, stone houses and surrounding water-meadows. At each corner of the tower are flying buttresses supporting life-size figures of saints, standing like sentinels.

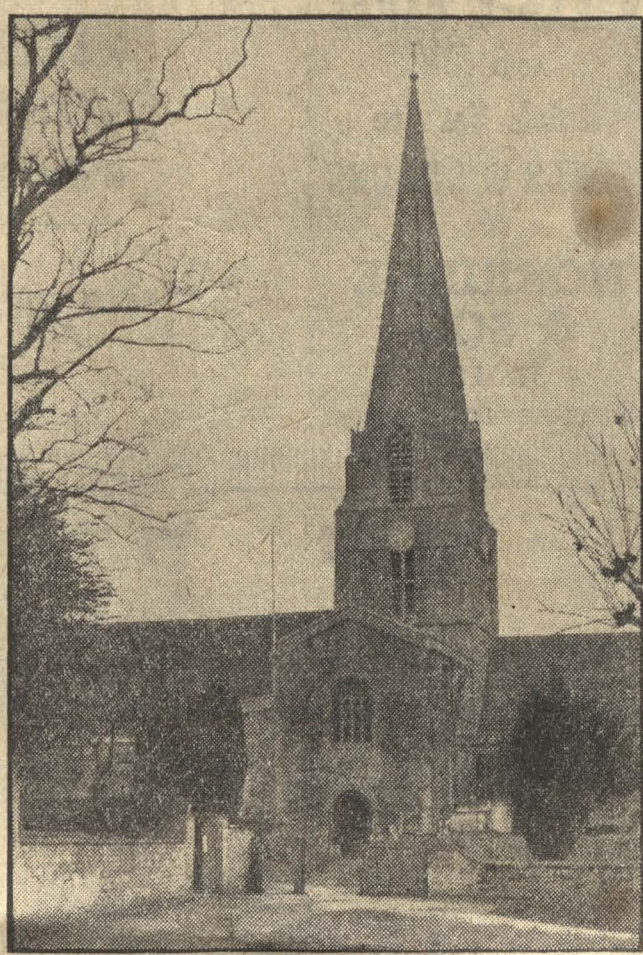
It is one of the loftiest, lightest and best-kept churches that I have seen and contains, among other treasures, a 15th century Easter sepulchre, a 15th century stone reredos, a Tudor iron chest and an effigy of Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Bampton Castle, who fought at Arincourt.

The Vicar, the Rev. C. C. Kelway, told me that he had already raised £1,300 of the £2,000 required to repair the roof.

"Bampton people," he said, "give readily. They have lately given £800 towards the organ and windows. Bampton is the birthplace of Leofric, first Bishop of Exeter, which explains why the living is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter.

"All religious denominations thrive here. We have a Methodist and a Baptist Chapel, and the Catholics use a room in the Eagle Inn for their services."

Mr. Kelway took a bright view of Bampton youth. "More than 100 children," he said, "attend Sunday School, Red Cross Cadets, Scouts and



St. Mary's, "a cathedral in little" with a 13th-century spire.

side and have had Americans from Brize Norton, officers of the Oxford Union, our local M.P. and leading Communists.

"This month John Cripps opposed Com. B. Brown, Deputy Mayor of Oxford, so it is perhaps not surprising that we sometimes get as many as three coachloads of visitors from Oxford."

TWO MILES TO STATION

Mr. M. John, the station-master, explained why the station was two miles from Bampton.

"The then Lord of the Manor refused to allow a railway to run through his land, so we remained cut off. Transport from Bampton is not easy,

market square every morning taking the girls to Smith's instrument factories, the Witney blanket mills, and the men to work on maintenance at Brize Norton.

"Some go to Pressed Steel and Morris's and some, of course, work in the shops."

STARS

It was while I was in the fishmonger's shop, a very up-to-date concern run by Mr. Bovington, who is also a professional beekeeper, that I met two of Bampton's most famous worthies, Count Munster, who lives in the Manor House, and Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr, the New Zealander who accompanied Shackleton to the Antarctic and made the first R.A.F. long distance non-stop flight from England to Persia 27 years ago.

Bampton is also the home of Air Commodore A. S. Ellerton, A.D.C. to the King until his retirement in 1949, and of Mr. Lloyd, the late chairman of Christie's.

With so many stars to pick from, one wonders why Mr. Wesley Jones ever goes outside Bampton for his debaters.

I didn't see signs of many ancient crafts but Mr. John showed me a rushwork stool made from local rushes by the W.I., who also, he told me, write poetry; and he took me to see Miss Taunt, who has been organist at the church for 40 years, following her father, who was organist for 50 years.

"My ladies of the choir," she said, "look very smart in their vivid blue gowns."

HUGE HANDKERCHIEF

She showed me some sacred pictures worked in silk and wool by her mother when she was 12, and a huge handkerchief, 3ft. square, bearing the date 1769, with picturesque prints of sedan chairs and Thames barges round the border, the body of the fabric being taken up with a table of distances between all the principal towns in the Kingdom.

I was told that the Ashmolean are very interested in this heirloom, as they might well be.

Mrs. P. M. Colville, of Weald Manor, told me that Bampton still has a thatcher, Mr. Tanner, who is scarcely ever at home as he is so busy thatching all over Berkshire and Oxfordshire, that there are still excellent carpenters and stone masons, one saddler, and one shepherd, Mr. Radband, who is over 90.

Col. J. J. Powell, churchwarden, told me that the bowling club which meets on Mrs. Colville's lawn is extremely



Miss Majorie Pollard, hockey and cricket international, and the multi-coloured badges in her office.

Brownies are all active, and there is a young men's social club which meets in the old Grammar School.

"Most of our activities are held in the W.I. Hall, which holds about 100."

"They have square dances there on Fridays, whilst drives on Tuesdays, badminton on Thursdays, a cinema on Mondays, and the W.I., who have a membership of 80, meet once a month, on Wednesdays."

THE TOWN HALL

"What about the Town Hall?"

"It consists of a fire engine station, a public lavatory and a bus shelter. It's not beautiful. We're not proud of it, but it does contain a clock in the tower which keeps time."

Mr. Wesley Jones told me of another social activity of which Bampton is justly proud.

"Bampton Debating Society," he said, "was founded in 1936 and is now acknowledged to be the most flourishing society of its kind in rural England. We meet once a month in the school dining hall and attendances vary from 80 to 120."

"We get speakers from out-

There are very few buses. There are seven trains each way on weekdays and one on Sundays.

"The Americans use the line a lot, and the schoolchildren and 40 or 50 Bamptonians go into Oxford on Saturdays."

"On the other hand, we are kept busy with freight, particularly with coal, coke, sugar beet, grain, agricultural machinery and stores for the Americans."

"We have six special freight trains for the Americans every week. We are proud of the fact that automatic train controls were first used on this Fairford branch in 1907 and have been in use ever since."

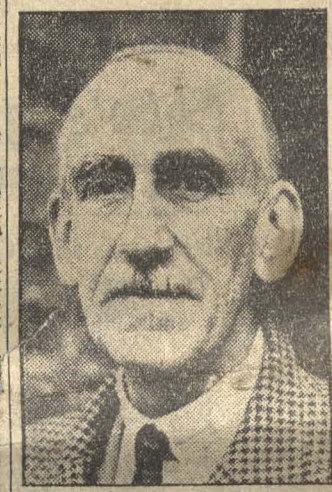
INDUSTRIES

Mr. John told me about the local industries.

"There used to be a tannery," he said, "but that's gone. There are ten farms, one of them at Ham Court, which stands on the site of Bampton Castle."

"Mr. Wilkins, of Coal Pit Farm, has one of the biggest dryers in the country. I suppose agriculture employs about 50 of the population."

"A dozen buses leave the



Col. J. J. Powell, churchwarden, who will be remembered by old soldiers as Adjutant of the Depot, Cowley Barracks, about 35 years ago.

active, winning ten matches last season, and that the badminton club is flourishing.

"I should say that we are quite a lively community for our size," he said. "The British Legion is nearly 100 strong and there is also a women's section who organise lectures and social gatherings."

"The colonel turned my attention to the tunelessness of the church bells. 'We have,' he said, 'a wonderful peal of eight bells and everybody wishes we could hear them more often.'"

TWO BUSES DAILY

As I stood in the market place waiting for my return bus (there are only two a day) I was struck both by the silence and the beauty. It was still afternoon, but there was scarcely any movement; just a tram being wheeled and two lorries full of sugar beet passed by.

Spying a fellow creature standing in the porch of the Talbot Inn, I wandered over and put the inevitable question.

"What is Bampton's most urgent need?" I asked.

He slowly took his pipe out of his mouth and pointed it at the grey stone building that occupies the centre of the square.

"See that?" he asked. "That, believe it or not, is our Town Hall. It ought to be blown up. We're genuine antiques at Bampton. That isn't. It's bogus. Blow it up, I say. It's a blot on the landscape, a disgrace to the town."

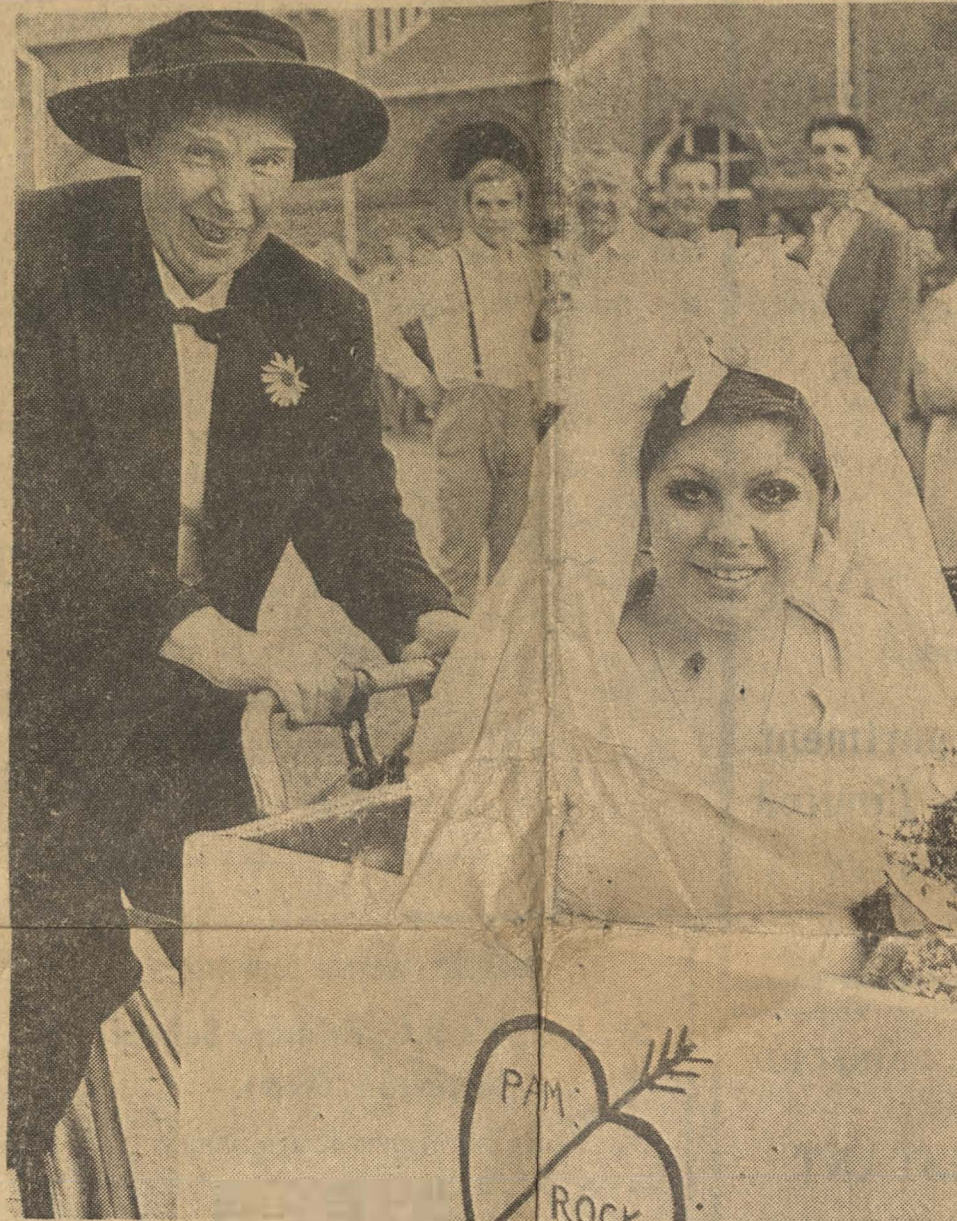
Town halls don't seem to be popular in Oxfordshire.

Next Friday: Bloxham.

BAMPTON SPAJERS ANNUAL SHIRT RACE



TWO young girl entrants, 15-year-old Gwyneth Quick (left) and 15-year-old Jam Janaway.



70-YEAR-OLD Mr. Ernest Hunt and 15 year-old Pamela Bartlett entries in this year's race.



"BARBARA and the Breathalyser" as portrayed by Pete Preston (left) and Ron Batten.



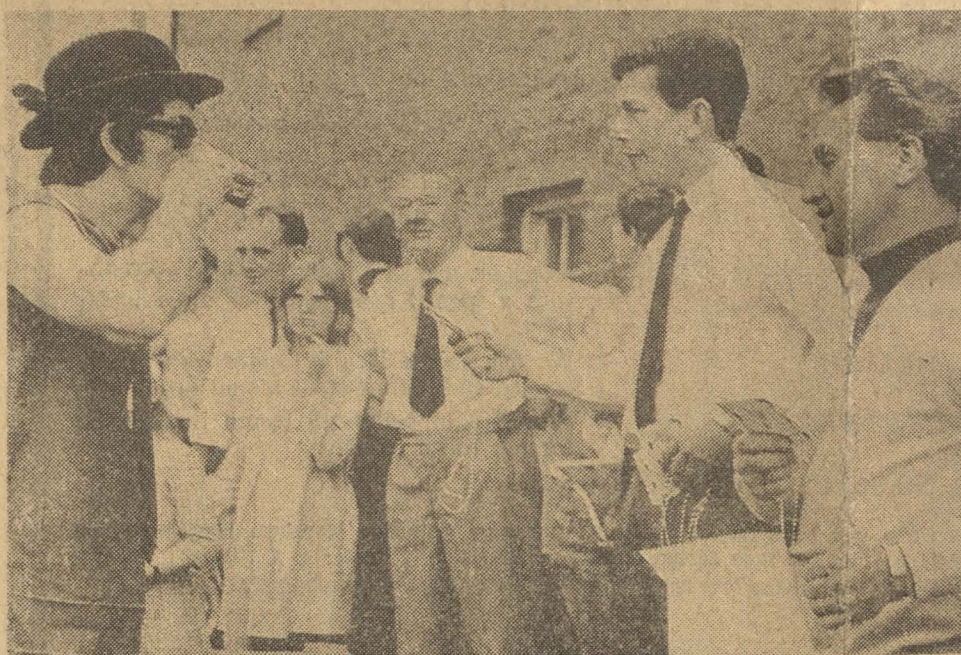
BARBARA HOPWOOD and Sarah Morley ready for the start.



MR. AND MRS. ARNOLD WOODLEY ready for the "off".



IT was thirsty work and this competitor quickly made short work of his drink at the Talbot.



THE first stop for ale at the New Inn.



COMPETITORS stop for the last half pint of ale at the Talbot Inn.



ENJOYING his glass of beer at Saturday's Bampton SPAJERS old folks party was 75-year-old Charlie Whiting.



CHEERS... 83-year-old Nellie Brooks, the oldest guest at the Bampton party, joins chairman Frank Hudson in a pre-dinner sherry at the Primary School on Saturday.



TOPPING-UP at the annual Mardi Gras church party at Burford Country Club was Mrs. Betty Gill, served by committee member Peter Harris.



GUESTS at a Mardi Gras church party held in the Country Club, Burford last Tuesday.

Letter to Editor TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS SUFFERERS

Sir, — We would be grateful for help in contacting families in your area who have relatives with the condition known as Tuberosus Sclerosis (or Epiloia). Tuberosus Sclerosis is a genetic condition which has been known for over 100 years but remains poorly understood and without a cure. The name comes from "tuber" like growths in the brain which harden or become "sclerotic" — hence Tuberosus Sclerosis. Children are born with TS, and although the condition is not obvious at birth apart from white skin patches, the disease can have a devastating effect on them and their families. A faulty gene causes things to go wrong with the development of cells in the brain and skin, and sometimes in the eyes, kidneys and heart. Severely affected children will be epileptic and mentally handicapped and early death may occur. Nowadays however many children live until adulthood, and the less affected ones will marry and have children. Sadly such carriers of the gene may be unaware of their 1 in 2 chance of passing TS on to their children.

Because of the rarity of the condition and its many problems, families can feel isolated. In 1977 a few families involved with TS formed the Tuberosus Sclerosis Association so that problems could be shared and research encouraged. We are trying to find contact as many families as possible affected by this condition, as even the number of people who are affected in this country is unknown. Could anyone who could help us contact such families, or who wants to know more about Tuberosus Sclerosis please write to me?

Ann Hunt (Mrs.), Secretary, Tuberosus Sclerosis Association, Church Farm House, Church Road, North Leigh, Oxon. OX8 6TX. Tel. Freeland 881238.

Councillors dismayed at news

AT THE monthly meeting of Bampton Parish Council last week members were dismayed to learn that the likelihood of Rosemary Lane being adopted by the County was nil.

A letter from the County Council stated that it was unlikely that this lane would be taken over as an adopted highway, in spite of the fact that in the past the road surface has been tarmaced and maintained by the Highways Department. The meeting was also unable to discuss further the possibility of the parish taking over the running of the allotments from the Church Commissioners as the clerk Mr. J. Ackerman said that he had not yet received a reply from the District Valuation Officer regarding a realistic rent to charge for the allotments. Cllr. Mr. D. Read reported that as requested he had spoken with the agents Messrs. Hobbs and Chambers who had said that at present there were only verbal agreements between agents and tenants.

Further frustration followed when it was learned that there was no news about repairs to the rail which separates the Sandford Field path from the stream. As several councillors said that the rail was now in a worse condition, it was agreed that the matter should now be pursued with the Area Surveyor.

CARAVAN
Members became almost irate about a caravan and toilet which has been parked in a lay-by in the Clantfield Road for the past four months in spite of letters and phone calls to the County asking that they be removed. Something must be done now was the unanimous cry of all members and finally the deputy chairman Cllr. Col. M. Rowlands offered to take copies of the letters sent by the clerk to County Hall and to ask for immediate action. There was much discussion about the Street Market, following a letter received from Mr. B. Govier a trader who now wished to accept the terms proposed by the parish council and to set up his stall in Market Square. At a previous meeting held some four months ago between the market traders and the parish council, the council's proposals had been rejected and therefore the negotiations for obtaining planning permission for the setting up of a street market had not been pursued. On Wednesday evening councillors voted in favour of setting out the proposals once again and the market traders accepted these in writing. Application would then be made to the District Council for permission to regularise the market.

INJURIES IN ACCIDENTS
Motorcycle rider, Mark Woodley, aged 17, of 22 Colville Close, Bampton, was injured after being involved in an accident with an Austin Princess car on the Brize Norton to Bampton road at 3 p.m. on Sunday. The car driver, Mr. Robert Probert of Nursery Drive, Banbury, was not injured. Mini-van driver, Mr. David Everly of the Grey House, Chadlington, was taken to Horton General hospital, Banbury, after being involved in a collision with another Mini on the A361 near Chipping Norton on Sunday. The driver of the Mini, Mr. Roger Hickman of 8 Hannis road, Chipping Norton, and his two passengers were also injured and taken to hospital.

TIDY VILLAGE COMPETITION
The meeting heard that members of the W.I. would like the council to enter for the Best Kept Village competition as not to enter was a negative way of accepting the untidiness of the town. Several ladies had offered to help and the Youth Club had also offered to give support. The meeting also heard that the Scouts might be prepared to lend a hand, and so it was agreed that the competition should be entered. Several local clubs now use the town hall for Saturday sales and had asked that another table be provided for setting out the goods. Cllr. Mr. D. Read agreed to obtain a table from the V.D. surplus sale for this purpose. Members heard from Cllr. Mr. J. Quick, chairman of the Cemetery committee that it was now necessary to remove the vast pile of soil (some 200 tons) which had accumulated in the Cemetery and it was agreed that estimates be obtained for its removal. The news letter to be circulated to all parishioners was discussed and several items approved whilst the date of the annual parish meeting

SHIPTON

Film Show. — The third annual film show by Mr. Alan Robertson of BP, took place in the Parish Hall on February 11. The first film was called Pipeline Alaska, which dealt with the seemingly impossible task of getting oil from Alaska to ports for marketing, and the second film was the third episode of Vintage Motorcycling, dealing with the 1940s. During the interval light refreshments were served, and in a raffle winners were Mr. A. Robertson, Miss J. Cook, Mrs. E. Biles, Mrs. Hartley, Mark Perry and Mrs. Rice. The evening swelled Parish Hall funds by £50.

Wednesday Club. — The Wednesday Club met in the Parish Hall on February 13, when members enjoyed a slide show, given by Mr. J. McClelland, entitled "Highlands and Islands".

Planning permission must be sought

A Carterton man is to be told he must obtain planning permission for five illuminated book display cabinets he has sited in the front garden of his home.

At Tuesday's meeting of West Oxfordshire District Council's Lowlands planning sub-committee, members were told that the erection of the cabinets constituted commercial activity at 30 Milestone Road, Carterton. When interviewed, the occupier stated that he intended to have up to seven display cabinets and ultimately to convert the bungalow

into a bookshop. He was advised that planning permission was necessary for such a change of use. Mr. J. Horrocks said the man was providing a service in an area short of amenities. "I would like to see him encouraged but on a more suitable site," he told members.

He proposed, and the committee agreed, that the matter should be deferred and the bungalow occupier should be told that he must put in a proper application for planning permission or enforcement action would be taken.

PARKING FOR THE SPORTS CENTRE

People visiting the sports centre at Witney can continue to use the temporary carpark nearby. West Oxfordshire District Council's Lowlands Planning sub-committee has granted permission for the continued use of the area.

The Chief Planning Officer, Mr. John Sykes, said that another 20 to 30 spaces could be provided if rubble was cleared from the council-owned site and the sub-committee agreed to ask the relevant committee to look at this possibility.

BAMPTON

Bampton Brownies. — Held a coffee morning and sale on Saturday in the Bampton Town Hall where they raised £45 for their general funds.

Mothers' Union. — There was a change of venue for the February meeting of the Mothers' Union of Bampton-with-Clanfield, for at the invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. D. Casson they met at The Hermitage, Broad St., Bampton. Members were welcomed by the

Enrolling Member Mrs. Betty Cooper and a short service was led by the Rev. Casson. The guest speaker was Mrs. Anne Stevens of Bampton who showed slides and spoke about French churches she had visited on a recent trip. She gave many details about the various forms of architecture and other interesting features. Ladies of the committee helped with the serving of refreshments and thanks were expressed to Mrs. Stevens and the Rev. and Mrs. Casson for providing a most pleasant afternoon.



MR. R. D. BLOGG AND MISS D. A. HEMPSTEAD

The wedding took place recently at St. Giles Church, Standlake, between Miss Deborah Anne Hempstead and Mr. Richard David Blogg. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Hempstead of Abingdon Road, Standlake, and the bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. P. Blogg of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. The Rev. M. Farthing conducted the service and Mr. P. Ball was the best man. Wearing a dress of white satin and lace and carrying a bouquet of white roses and stephanotis, the bride was attended by her sister, Miss Alison Jane Hempstead and the bridegroom's sister, Miss Denise Blogg. They wore cream dresses, figured with pink flowers and carried posies of pink cream and bronze freesias. A reception for 60 guests was held at the Corn Exchange, Witney, and the couple left to honeymoon in London.

The bride works as a catalogue editor for Pergamon Press, Oxford, and the bridegroom is serving in the Royal Air Force, stationed at RAF Abingdon. The couple will make their home at RAF Laarbruch, Germany. (Photo: Titchington, Witney.)



FOUR of the guests, at the Bampton SPAJERS old folks party on Saturday. Left to right, Mr. Sidney Dunbar, Mrs. Vera Kempster, Mrs. Winifred Dunbar, and Mr. Reg. Kempster.



GUESTS tucking into their meal at the party held at the Primary School.



SOME of the guests who numbered over 100 in all.

NEW RALLY CAR WAS DEVELOPED AT WITNEY

A NEW TYPE of rally car, developed in Witney, is attracting interest from enthusiasts all over the country.

The car, a Mark 3 Escort, has been developed by T & B Motors of West End, Witney. It is tipped as a car with a tremendous rallying future. T & B Motors have spent the last 18 months and over £30,000

developing the car which has been converted from an ordinary Mark 3 Escort using many standard parts from Ford's Mark 2 rear wheel drive version. Last week the car was unveiled at Standlake arena where potential customers and representatives from the national motoring magazines were able to take it for a test run.

Owner of T & B Motors, Mr. Tony Godfrey said, "The modified Mark 3 is an excellent car and even better than the Mark 2 Escort. We were pleased to take the opportunity to show it off - it certainly is impressive."

It takes the company about a month to convert each car and the new shells are being sold at £3,000.

One problem facing T & B Motors at the moment is getting permission to use the car in rally competitions. Because it is not a production model made by a major manufacturer it is not yet accepted as a competitor in international events.

But, the RAC, the governing body for rallying in this country, is considering a special section for the car in the near future. Meanwhile, T & B Motors will be taking another opportunity to show off their innovation at the Manx International Rally on September 15. The distinctive blue and white Escort will act as course car.

Manilow mania

MANILOW MANIA hit Woodstock last Saturday as 40,000 fans of the singing heart throb Barry Manilow packed the grounds of Blenheim Palace to see their hero perform.

The concert was a re-sounding success. The painstaking organisation paid off for concert promoter Paul Loasby who had spent months convincing people that everything would go on without a hitch.

Even the weather was kind. As if ordered specially, the sun shone all day without even a hint of rain.

Woodstock and the neighbouring village of Bladon had never known anything like it. The area was swarming with excited fans for much of the day and hotels for miles around had been fully booked weeks before hand.

Approach roads were jammed solid with cars and coaches travelling to Blenheim and the AA warned drivers to avoid the area if they didn't want to get stuck.

Villagers joined in the spirit of the day making hundreds of sandwiches and cups of tea which were served at the Youth Club and Methodist Hall.

Barry's performances started at 8.30 p.m. when he appeared on stage in a dazzling white jacket. Fans screamed in unison as he sang his familiar romantic ballads and love songs. Guests were the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. Boy George of the pop

Helping tourists

Three more tourist leaflets have been published by West Oxfordshire District Council.

They form part of a series produced to help visitors to the area.

One pamphlet is a guide for walkers and gives details of publications about walks in West Oxfordshire. Another leaflet is called "Landscape Features of West Oxfordshire" and is an historical account of how the landscape in this area has been formed.

The third leaflet is aimed at students. It provides information about West Oxfordshire's geology and its effect on the landscape.

All the leaflets can be obtained from the district council offices on Wood Green.

The District Council is continuing the series with future guides on folklore and activities for children.

SEB role



The Southern Electricity Board has a new Deputy Chairman.

Former secretary of the Central Electricity Generating Board, Mr. John Anderson, took up his new position on Monday.

Educated in Edinburgh, Mr. Anderson (52) did his National Service in the Black Watch and the Cheshire Regiment. After qualifying as a solicitor in 1956, he spent two years in the Estates and Property Department of the Bass/Worthington Group at Burton-on-Trent.

Five years later, Mr. Anderson joined the secretary's Department at the CEGB. In 1978 he became Head of Administration and he was appointed Secretary two years later.

Mr. Anderson lives in Thornton Heath in Surrey with his wife and three children. His interests include sailing and classical history.

Wroughton Airfield Open Day

The Science Museum is to hold its fourth Open Day at Wroughton Airfield, near Swindon, on Sunday, September 11.

This will present another opportunity for the general public to see items from the Science Museum's collections held at Wroughton. Three hangars will be open with displays of agricultural machinery, civil aircraft, commercial vehicles and space rockets. In particular the Science Museum's collection of 75 tractors will, for the first time, be on display in its entirety.

Many clubs and societies are being invited to join in presenting a varied and enjoyable programme of static displays and working demonstrations. Attractions will include demonstrations of harvesting and threshing showing scything, sail reaper, binder, threshing and a modern combine harvester. There will be demonstrations of thatching, fire-fighting and a parade of commercial vehicles.

A competition for children, with prizes, will be held. The airfield will be open from 10.00 to 17.30.

FIRE DESTROYS HAY AND LORRY

Two-and-a-half tons of hay and a flat-bed lorry, together worth £20,000, went up in smoke on Tuesday afternoon.

Both were completely destroyed in a fire on the drive of Major Pope at Upton Grove, Tetbury. The hay and lorry belonged to Mr. Anthony Osborn of Cui Lodge, Tebbont, Brecon, Wales.

Firemen from Tetbury and Nailsworth tackled the blaze.



FRIENDS of the Elms Day Centre, Witney, all dressed up in old time dancing dress on one of the floats which paraded around Witney on Saturday before the start of the Age Concern Fete, held at the Centre.

Bampton

Sheep Dog Trials: A great deal of work went into organising the sheep dog trials in Bampton last Sunday and it was a great pity that the much needed rain chose that afternoon to descend on Bampton.

45 shepherds with their dogs, from all parts of the country competed and were judged by Mr. Michael Lewis of Glamorgan in a field kindly lent by local farmer Mr. Brian Stevens. Organising the event were Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery of Calais Farm, Mrs. Janet Rouse of Backhouse Farm and members of the P.T.A. of the Bampton Primary School. In addition to the sheep dog trials there was a dog show, a demonstration of sheep shearing and a large variety of stalls with a wide range of goods. Members of the P.T.A. provided refreshments and ran several stalls, whilst Mr. Don Rouse of Lew Farm kept the spectators amusingly informed. The Brickell Cup was won by Mr. W. Reed of Mornmouth who scored 80 points, second was Mr. L. Evans of Towcester with 75 points and third was Mr. L. Suter with 73 points. The Bampton Primary school benefited by just over £200 for which headteacher Mr. M. Mason is most grateful to all who worked so hard.

Good Boost for church funds: Members of the Roman Catholic Church led by Mrs. J. Jones organised a lunch on Saturday at Weald Manor by kind invitation of Major and Mrs. R. Colville and raised a handsome £335.50 for their church funds.

Sale helps the funds: Members of the Bampton Horticultural Society held a jumble sale last Saturday afternoon in the W.I. hall at Witney and raised a useful £71 for their funds. Prizes were won by Mrs. MacFarlane, Mrs. Hastly, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. A. Tanner, Miss Angela Collett, Mrs. Till and six others.

Brownies on holiday: The Bampton Brownies had a great time at their pack holiday at Foxlease, Lyndhurst, Havant, during the week 13th-20th August. Their theme for this holiday was Peter Pan and their leaders, Mrs. M. Clack, Mrs. M. Wythes, Miss E. Tanner, Miss R. Clack and Miss C. Wythes took the part of Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Tinkerbell, Nana and Tiger Lily respectively, whilst the brownies were fairies and pirates. Perfect weather was enjoyed and swimming was a popular activity.

Land is surplus to needs

Oxford County Council is to sell off about an acre of land at Witney county primary school in Hailey Road.

The land which forms part of a playing field is said to be surplus to requirements. It may be used for housing.

An outline planning application has been submitted by the county to West Oxfordshire District Council. They are proposing to build about eight houses on an area of the playing field next to Hailey Road.

The county council has said that some of the money from the sale would be used to improve educational facilities at the school.

Sheldonian venue

The Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford was the venue on Bank Holiday Monday for the Mastermind International contest.

Competitors from London, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand battled it out for the Mastermind of the World title. The winner was 35 year old London train driver Mr. Christopher Hughes.

BRIDGE

Winners of the duplicate pairs competition at the weekly session of the Malmesbury Bridge Club on Thursday were: 1 Tony Clarke and Diana Pierce, 96 points; 2 Norman Oakley and John Napier, 88; 3 Mike and Dorothy Mindeatt and Marjorie Knowles and Jean Martin, 85.

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Winners in the Sindy competition

A "Sindy" doll colouring competition was held at Giles Sports, Toys and Cycles Shop at Carterton recently.

It was open to children up to the age of 12 years, and many from Carterton and the surrounding area entered. The 75 pictures were judged by Mr. and Mrs. V. Holden from Wincher.

The results of the competition were as follows:

The first prize, a Sindy Land Rover, was won by Suzanne Farmer, aged 11 of 27 Corbett Road, Carterton. The second prize, Sindy pram, was won by Annelene Watson, aged seven of 23 Cranwell Avenue, Carterton.

The third prize, a Sindy cycle, was won by six-year-old Samantha Jackson of 19 Daubinghey Mead, Brize Norton. Six children won consolation prizes.

New look at police

Thames Valley police officers and civilian staff are the stars of a new educational book just published.

Wayland Publishers Ltd. from East Sussex have produced "Working for the Police Force" for 11-16 year olds.

The 70-page book features 12 members of staff, including a girl cadet, a mechanic, a traffic warden and a detective. They were interviewed by co-authors Doreen May and David Pead about their day-to-day tasks in the Force.

Supt. David Eyles, head of the Community Liaison Department who supervised the police side, said: "It was the first time we had undertaken a venture of this type, and we are very pleased with the book."

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