



## **BAMPTON MAY HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS BUT OUR SERVICE TO CLIENTS HASN'T**

Since opening our Eynsham office in 1983 we have sold a wide range of village property throughout West Oxfordshire by combining traditional standards of service with modern selling methods which include:-

- *Extensive local advertising*
- *Quality details with colour photographs*
- *Computer linked 'two office' marketing*
- *Internet property display - <http://www.star.co.uk/abbeyprop>*
- *Experienced and settled staff offering honest and professional advice with unrivalled knowledge of the area*
- *Competitive commission structure - no sale no fee*

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**ABBNEY PROPERTIES**

MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON, OXON OX18 2JH

**Tel: 01993 851881 Fax: 01993 850953**



These photographs belonged  
to the late ADRIAN SIMMONDS  
of the shop the square Bampton.  
We believe the best place for them  
is Bampton library if not requested  
would you please give them to  
the charity shop as a donation

Yours Carol Langley

CAROLE & BOB LANGLEY  
75 PINECROFT  
OWLSMOOR ROAD  
SANDHURST, BERKS  
GU47 0SP  
TEL. 01344 774825



[Janet Newman](#) I think the date is more likely to be 1916. William (Bill) Lock's building company were doing lots of building work in Bampton at that time. Charlie Lay (1895) was a stone mason living at Mill Green. He was the father of Alfred Lay and Walter Lay, both of whom died in WW1 and commemorated on the War Memorial. He was father of Ted Lay who was married to Ruth Pocock, sister of Harry Pocock. Fred Lay (1897) was also Charlie's son. Thomas Dipper (1850) was a bricklayer and lived in Mill Street. The only one I'm not sure about is H. Lock. William's brother Herbert had worked on the building with his brother but emigrated to Canada, returning to Bampton to marry, Marjorie in 1918, only to be killed at Aulnoy, in France a few months later. It's possible that H. Lock could have been a relative of William (Bill).



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**Tel: 01993 851881 Fax: 01993 850953**

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Broad Street, Bampton, Oxon.













The Square, Bampton, (Oxon)

Copy  
1874



# One of the earliest photos of Bampton



One of the earliest photographs of Bampton showing Wenman's Bakers on the site of the war memorial in 1897.





**An early road traffic accident caused quite a stir in the village when the baker's cart overturned opposite the church.**

# The popularity of the three-day horse fair

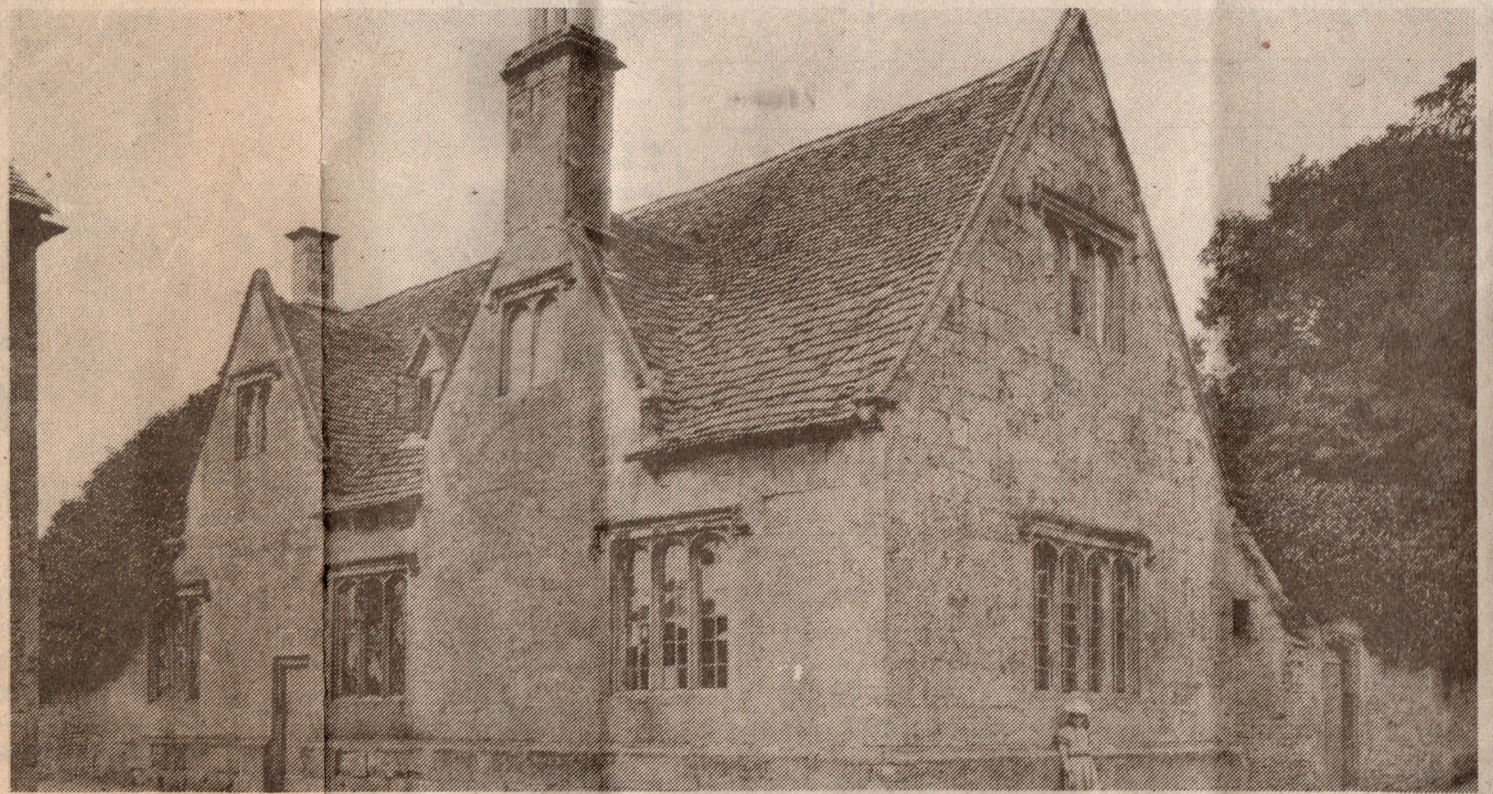


**Bampton Horse Fair in Bridge Street in 1911. The three-day fair was a popular event in those days, attracting visitors from all over the country**

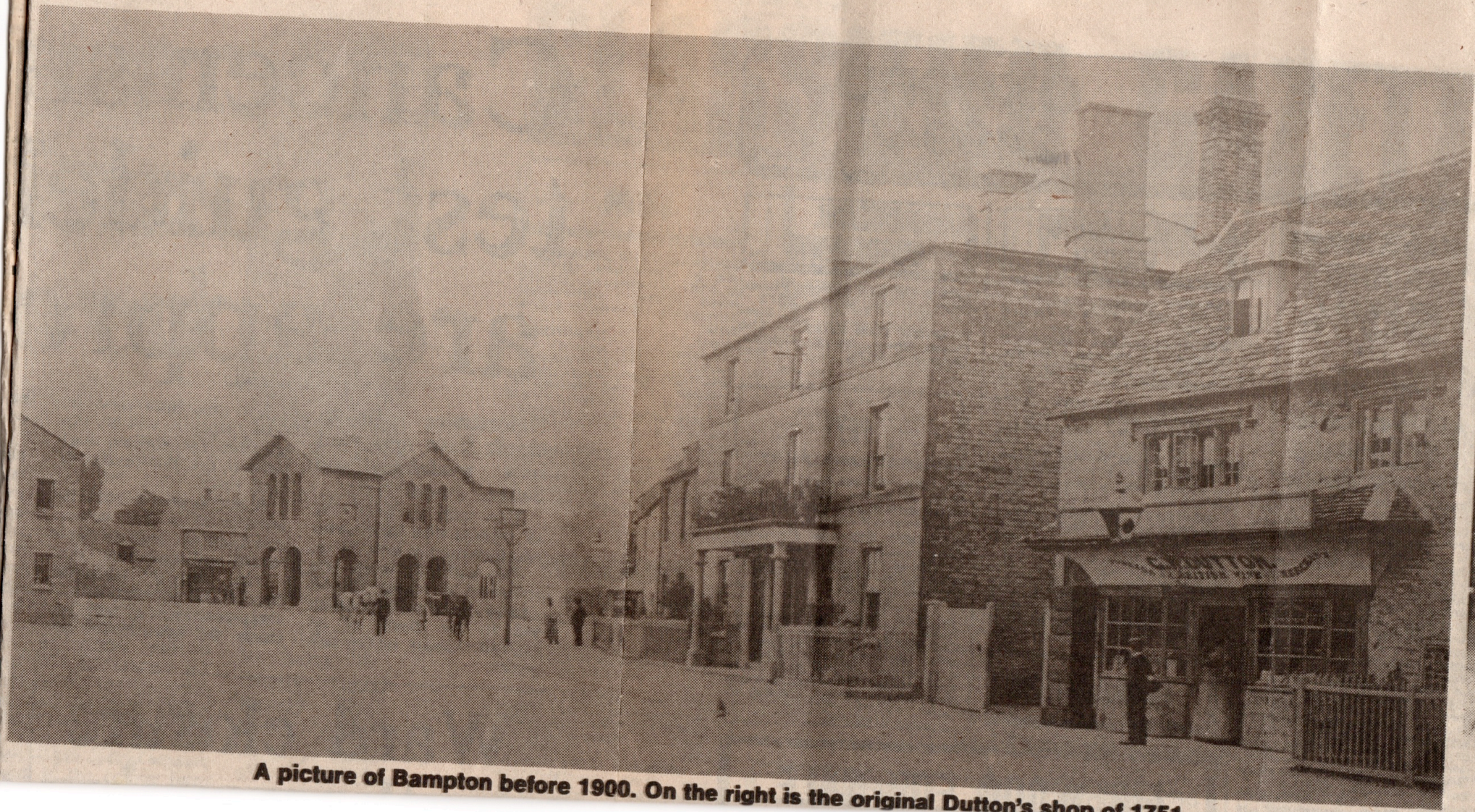


**Original  
reason  
for the  
festival**

**The Old Grammar School which is celebrating its 350th anniversary this year — the initial reason for the Bampton Festival.**







**A picture of Bampton before 1900. On the right is the original Dutton's shop of 1751.**





**Colletts garage where Yeats newsagents now is. On the right is the Bampton Voiturette, one of two cars built by Oliver Onesiphorous Collett in 1903.**



**No traffic and very few people — an early photograph of the Market Square.**



**viners FASHIONS SALE**

**starts Thursday 4th JULY**

Wonderful bargains in SKIRTS, SLACKS, SWEATERS, SUITS, COATS, DRESSES, EVENING WEAR, etc. Many HALF PRICE or less!

**64 High Street Witney**

**BURFORD GARDEN LEISURE CENTRE**

Everything for the English country garden

**THE WATER GARDEN CENTRE**

Perennials, Potted Plants, and Cold Water Pools

Open 10.30 am to 5.00 pm, 7 days a week at BURFORD GARDEN, BURFORD

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THE SPARROW'S DEN TEA-ROOM Open 10.30 am to 5.00 pm, 7 days a week at BURFORD GARDEN, BURFORD

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FOR SPECIAL FEATURE ON  
WITNEY MOTOR SHOW  
WOODGREEN SCHOOL, JULY 4  
SEE PAGES 22 & 23

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**8 pm**

Here at  
**OXFORD AND COUNTY NEWSPAPERS**

we are extending our office hours, to help those of you who want to advertise, but find it inconvenient to ring us during the day.

Our trained staff will now be here till 8 o'clock in the evening — ready to help you. They will advise you on the wording of your advertisement, the costs, and which papers you should use to get the best results.

So if you want to promote your business, or sell your car, or if you want information about any sort of advertising, give us a ring in the evening — at your leisure!

**Telephone: 249944 until 8 pm**

## Festival events

The festival programme includes:

**SATURDAY, JULY 13**  
A peal of bells will open the festival. Gift day at St Mary's Church. During the afternoon, tea will be served in the church and the Witney Chorus Orchestra will play. Summer Music in the Denney Gardens. Opera Interga will sing excerpts from Rossini, Verdi and Beethoven. This concert is a repeat of the successful evening held in 1981. Concert goers are invited to bring their own picnic to be consumed in the grounds after the performance. (If wet, concert in the church and picnic in the Denney).

**SUNDAY, JULY 14**  
Patronal Festival Service and Parish Communion, 10.30 am, St Mary's Church.

**Bampton Gardens**  
Fifteen gardens of all sizes will be open to the public. During the afternoon the Oxfordshire Youth Orchestra will provide music in several of the gardens. Tea will be served in the village hall.

**Front Garden Competitions**  
Candida Lycett-Green, author of *The Front Garden*, will judge the entries during the afternoon.

**MONDAY, JULY 15**  
**The Origins of Bampton, St Beowulf and his Minster Church**  
Enlarging on his exhibition in the church, Dr Blair will talk about his discovery of a previously unknown saint buried in St Mary's. His illustrated talk will cover the earliest known history of Bampton and the subsequent cult of St Beowulf.

**TUESDAY, JULY 16**  
**A History of English Gardens**  
The classic English garden with its herbaceous borders and mown lawns is less than 100 years old. Penelope Daxat will show how gardens and gardening has evolved over the centuries and how traces of past garden styles can still be identified today.

**Morris Dancing in Bampton**  
For over 300 years there have been Morris dances in Bampton, one of the longest unbroken traditions in

England. Roy Donnett will talk about this tradition and show his films of the Bampton dancers, (some of the films date back to the 1930s). There will also be a dancing display by the current Bampton Morris men.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17**  
**Organ Recital**  
Bampton boasts a rare example of an untouched Gray and Davidson organ built in about 1840. It will be played this evening by Simon Gutierrez, organist of Holy Trinity Kingsway and St Paul's Covent Garden. He will play a selection of works by 18th and 19th century Romantic composers.

**THURSDAY, JULY 13**  
**The Conservation of Historic Buildings**  
An illustrated talk by Daryl Fowler will cover the problems of maintaining, converting and conserving the type of historic buildings that abound in the Cotswolds.

**Bampton on film**  
In an evening of pure nostalgia re-enact on film the flooding of the Shill Brook in 1968, the Christmas celebrations and the mummery in 1977 and the Jubilee Street Party. Other films are still being traced.

**FRIDAY, JULY 19**  
**Walk around Bampton's historic houses**  
Bampton has a number of historically interesting houses. Geoffrey Tyack will take a small party of people round the Denney, Ham Court and Weald Manor.

**Folk song in Bampton**  
Bampton was the haunt of folk song collectors in the early years of this century. Some of these old songs will be heard again tonight when Len and Barbara Berry, in an evening of song will celebrate the importance of folk music in the traditional life of Bampton.

**SATURDAY, JULY 20**  
**Scout Training Centre open day**  
The Old Primary School annex, now converted into the Scout Training Centre, will be open all day.

**Barn Dance and barbecue**  
The final event of the festival is a barn dance and barbecue to be held in the Market Square.

By JACKIE DAY

Janet Newman didn't know what she was letting herself in for when she volunteered to help organise the Bampton Festival.

Her house is littered with hundreds of old photographs, dozens of village memorabilia and a treasure trove of human bones! "Human bones?" "Yes," says Janet enthusiastically. "The bag contains the remains of a five or six-year-old child. I'm hoping to get a doctor friend to reassemble the skull for display during the festival."

If the records, the skull will be one of the more unusual exhibits at the week-long festival — a grisly reminder of Bampton's past.

It was found earlier this year during building work in an area near The Priory. At first everyone thought they had stumbled across evidence of a recent murder until more skeletons were dug up and identified as being between 1600 and 2,000 years old, the remains of an early settlement.

The festival, heralded as a celebration of Bampton past and present, is on from July 13 to July 20 and offers an ambitious and varied programme of events.

Concerts, talks, exhibitions, old photographs, a garden contest, Morris dancing, music — it will all be going on during the week.

The festival actually started out as a celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the village grammar school, now the library.

But the idea soon snowballed to embrace all aspects of village life and the organisers have been busy since last November setting up the programme. It's just as well that the focus is not all on the grammar school for the establishment did not enjoy a very distinguished reputation.

It was set up with a £300 donation left by local woolen merchant Robert Vesey in 1635. But because of various delays including the Civil War it did not get built until 1653.

Then apparently, it was run on a shoestring budget, attracted rotten teachers and a rotten reputation. Things picked up under a later long-serving headmaster, but went downhill again when his wife died and he turned to drink.

The place was closed around the turn of the century and became a grain store before being used as a library. "You could say now is its heyday," said Janet Newman. "It's present is a lot better than its past."

In the old school during the festival there will be an exhibition of paintings and art work by children from Aston and Bampton Primary Schools, showing Bampton's history from pre-historic times to the First World War.

Bampton is, of course, widely known for its Morris dancing and folk music traditions and these will be amply reflected during the week.

On Tuesday, July 16, well-known musician Roy Donnett will be giving a talk on Morris dancing in the village and showing his cine films of the dancers dating from the 1930s.

And on Friday, July 19, there will be a folk night with Len and Barbara Berry performing some of the old songs which were collected in the village by Cecil Sharp.

The festival ends in fitting folk style on Saturday, July 20, with a barn dance and barbecue in the Market Square.

Since the festival planning started, villagers have been urged to root around in their attics for old photographs and relics of the past.

Another of the organisers, Karen Cowan, said: "It's been marvellous the way people have come forward with their old photos. We have gathered together a fascinating collection."

The collection includes about 600 old photographs — a few of which we have borrowed for these pages. They will be on display, along with an exhibition of memorabilia, in the Old Primary School throughout the week.

Other exhibitions include *The Treasures of Bampton Parish* — it's on at the Arts Centre and is a rare opportunity to see documents, maps, decorative treasuries and other treasures normally kept in museums, bank vaults and archives.

At Kilmore House there will be an exhibition of 150 years of needle and thread with many of the pieces coming from private collections. Each afternoon the West Oxfordshire Lacemakers will give demonstrations.

Oxford don, Dr John Blair, is setting up a display in St Mary's Church to show what the early church building looked like.

He is also giving a lecture on Monday, July 15, on his discovery of St Beowulf, a previously unknown saint, buried in St Mary's.

Also in the church will be a display of vestments, a floral display and a peal of bells will open the festival on Saturday, July 13.

Bampton's architecture also comes

under the festival spotlight with a lecture tour by Geoffrey Tyack. The tour will include Ham Court, now a farm, which is all that remains of Bampton Castle, built in 1314.

It will also take in Weald Manor, built in the 1740s and the Denney, another early building.

There will also be a talk on the conservation of historic buildings from Daryl Fowler with emphasis on the special problems presented by old Cotswold stone houses.

On Sunday, July 14, the public will have the chance to visit 15 of Bampton's finest gardens, including the famous five-acre garden at Bampton Manor.

And continuing the garden theme, there is to be a front garden competition judged by Candida Lycett-Green, author of *The Front Garden*.

There is also a talk on the history of English gardens from Penelope Daxat in the village hall on Tuesday, July 16. On a musical note there will be a Glyndebourne style open air concert at the Denney on Saturday, July 13, with the London opera group, Opera Interga.

And on Wednesday, July 17, organist Simon Gutierrez will give a recital in St Mary's Church.

Throughout the week pubs and restaurants will be open to cater for visitors and the organisers have set up a festival office in the Town Hall where tickets for all the events can be bought. Souvenirs and publications can also be bought from there with all profits going to various local charities.

A full programme of events is available. The office number is Bampton Castle BS0873 or Janet Newman can be contacted on Bampton Castle BS0755.

A picture of Bampton before 1800. On the right is the original Dutton's shop of 1751.

## Celebration of the past and present



An early road traffic accident caused quite a stir in the village when the baker's cart overturned opposite the church.

## The popularity of the three-day horse fair



Bampton Horse Fair in Bridge Street in 1911. The three-day fair was a popular event in those days, attracting visitors from all over the country.

## Original reason for the festival

The Old Grammar School which is celebrating its 350th anniversary this year — the original reason for the Bampton Festival.



Collett's garage where Yeats newagents now is. On the right is the Bampton Volturra, one of two cars built by Oliver Onesiphorus Collett in 1893.



No traffic and very few people — an early photograph of the Market Square.

## One of the earliest photos of Bampton



One of the earliest photographs of Bampton showing Wenman's Bakers on the site of the war memorial in 1897.



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Opera Integra will sing excerpts from Rossini, Verdi and Beethoven. This concert is a repeat of the successful evening held in 1983. Concert goers are invited to bring their own picnics to be consumed in the grounds after the performance. (If wet, concert in the church and picnics in the Deanery).

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The festival ends in fitting folksy style on Saturday, July 20, with a barn dance and barbecue in the Market Square.

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