

BAMPTON S.P.A.J.E.R.S.



Are pleased to sponsor



50th Shirt Race

**Part of Bamptons Golden Jubilee Celebrations
June 1st 2002**

**Booklets printed by
Margaret Johnsons of Witney**





Above : The 2nd Race in 1954. Winners Harry Hampton and George Hunt hot on the heels of the early leaders.

Below : The start in 1955.



A Message from our Chairman,

Mr. Don Rouse



I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all, for this our Fiftieth Great Shirt Race. Not only to our visitors who are here for the first time but also to those of you who have regularly supported us over the years. This is one of many Fund raising events and you have me assurance that every penny that you put into our tins will find it's way to benefit our senior citizens. Nothing is lost in administration.

I would like to say thank you to all those taking part in the Race. Many are stalwarts who have competed regularly, some are competing this year as it is a special event and there are some who want to take it steady and enjoy the Beer and Hospitality that our Landlords have to offer. I would also like to say a special thank you to those lovely "Hosts cum Landlords for an hour" that is the people who now live in what used to be our Pubs and sportingly provide us with Beer and facilities so that we can maintain the traditional route for "The Great Shirt Race".

I hope that you will avail yourselves of the services offered by our Sponsors who have advertised in this Programme. Without their help and support we could not function as well as we do.

I hope that you will be able to find time to visit our Photographic display of the history of our Great Shirt Race that is on display in the Hall on the North side of the Market Square. We are grateful to all those who have lent us their Photos and to the experts who have prepared the display. For those of you that cannot get around to seeing the display on the night, will be pleased to know that the whole display will be on show at Bampton's new museum in the Old Grammar School from the third of June.

I hope that you will all enjoy yourselves helping us to have a good time so that our Senior Citizens can have the good time that they so deserve.

Yours,

Don Rouse

Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing (SPAJERS)

During 1953, two residents of the Village, John Quick and Paul Bovington organised a 'Shirt Race' as a one-off event to celebrate the Coronation. The rules of the 'Shirt Race' were very simple. A team of two individuals, each of whom were to be dressed in a night-shirt, and with some sort of unpowered transport, such as an old pram, were to take it in turns to push each other from hostelry to hostelry, pausing at each to down a half-pint of ale. For the race, nurses from the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford were invited to attend and collect money for the hospital. Such was the success of the event, however, that John and Paul decided to hold it annually, with the money collected going to the pensioners of the Village. The SPAJERS were then born!

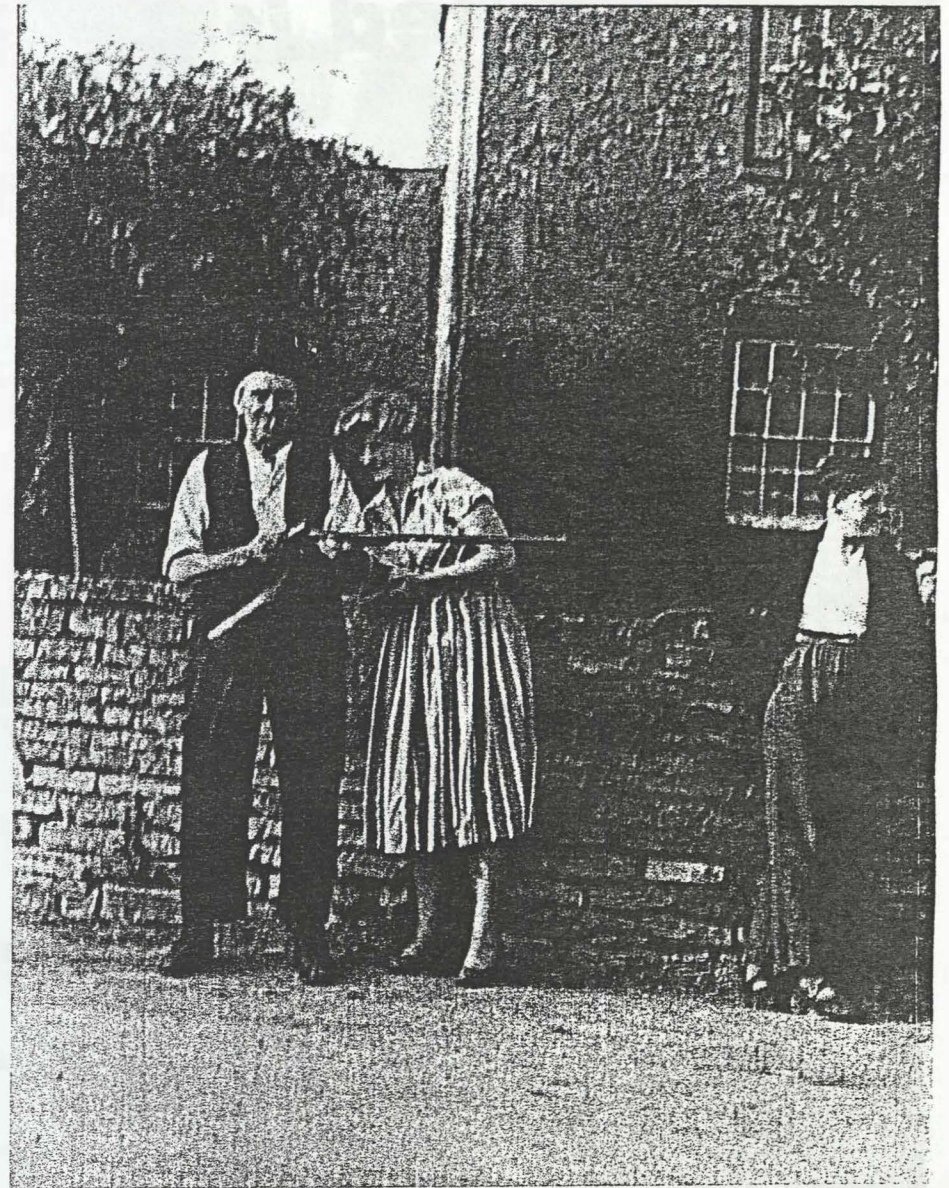
In the early days there were some 11 pubs in the Village, but at the present time, the competitors have it a bit easier, as the numbers are now down to five! There are three races at present for juniors, intermediate, and seniors, with prizes for the winners and runners-up, and the races are held at the Spring Bank Holiday each year. And while the rules remain basically the same, various types of dress attire are now accepted, since night-shirts are a rare items these days, and a shortage of them some years back nearly led to the race's demise!

It is ingeniously said that the origin of the 'Shirt Race' can be attributed either to the occasion, in 784 AD, when Ethelred the Shirtless, chased the burgers of Bampton through the streets in order to clothe his nakedness, or to a certain action of William the Conqueror's soldiers stationed at Shifford during the beer drought of 1067!

The SPAJERS are still going strong after almost 50 years – the present committee numbers 14 members - and are still raising money for the pensioners of the Village. The other major events run by the SPAJERS are the **Village Quiz**, in April each year, the **Donkey Derby and Fete** held on the Monday of the August Bank Holiday at Sandfords Field, and of course the **Mummers**, who perform their play at various locations in the village on Christmas Eve - see elsewhere in the Website for the Mummers.

The SPAJERS raise about £6000 annually, which allows them to give each pensioner £10 at Christmas, an annual party, and an annual outing.

The SPAJERS hold their committee meetings, under conditions of strict security, in The Elephant & Castel!



Who better to start the race than
Percy Shepherd.

Who started it all

Back in 1953

Founder Members



Paul Bovington



and John Quick



"On the hoof", outside the Jubilee.

THE COTTON CLUB

QUALITY FABRICS FOR
DRESSMAKING & CRAFTS

DUTTONS
BRIDGE STREET
BAMPTON, OXON
OX18 2HA
TELEPHONE (01993) 851234
LYNN FINLEY



**Garden
Trading
Company**

Bushey Row, High Street, Bampton
Tel : +44(0)1993 853900 Fax: +44(0)1993 852606
E-Mail: sales@gardentrading.co.uk
www.gardentrading.co.uk



The SPAJERS Committee of 1979

The bench at Lavender Place in the memory of Peggy Roberts.

Back Row : Roger Peck, Frank Hudson, Major Colville, Maurice Wiggins
Front Row : Ruth Shergold, Francis Shergold, Liz Rose, John Quick, Mary Cook

Abbey Properties

ESTATE AGENTS

Specialising in the sale of all types of property
in Bampton & surrounding villages.

Contact Abbey Properties, your local estate agent
for marketing advice

or
a free valuation without obligation.

TEL : 01993 851881

N J WOODLEY BUILDING MAINTENANCE

COMPETITIVE RATES

15 CALAIS DENE, BAMPTON, OXON OX18 2NR

Tel: (01993) 850753
Mobile: 077 99 655 385

THE PITSTOP

QUALITY REPAIRS, SERVICING & TUNING

THE COMPLETE MOTORING
SERVICE

ROLLING ROAD ENGINE TUNING
STATE OF THE ART DIAGNOSTICS

- CAR REPAIRS
- SERVICING
- MOT STATION



- DISCOUNT CAR PARTS
FOR ALL
MAKES & MODELS



01993 850654

UNIT 1, VISCOUNT COURT, STATION ROAD
BRIZE NORTON

LONDIS

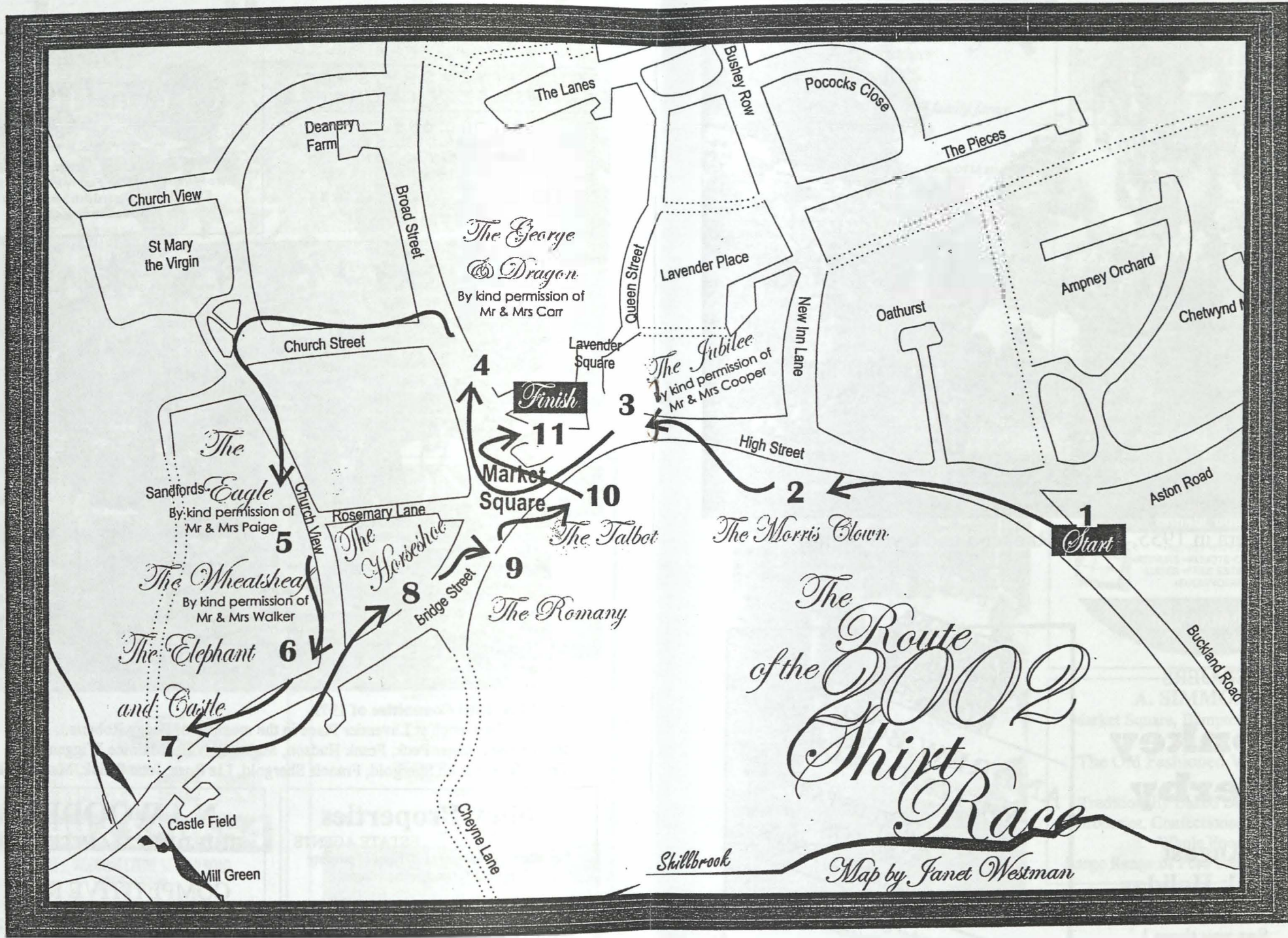
MARKET SQUARE, BAMPTON

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
UNTIL 10:00 PM

YOUR FRESH FOOD COMMUNITY SHOP
AT YOUR SERVICE

- *ELECTRIC METER KEYS CHARGED HERE*
- *NATIONAL LOTTERY*
- *FRESH LOCAL CRUSTY BREAD*
- *HOME MADE SPONGES & FRUIT CAKES*
- *FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES*
- *FRESH MILK AND CREAM*
- *FREE RANGE EGGS*
- *WINES, SPIRITS, BEERS & CIDER*
- *COOKED MEATS & BACON*
- *FROZEN FOOD*
- *GROCERIES*
- *POSTAGE STAMPS*
- *VIDEO HIRE*

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK UNTIL 10:00 PM
HOLIDAY CLOSURES
WE DO NOT CLOSURE EACH



Church View

St Mary the Virgin

Deanery Farm

Broad Street

The Lanes

Bushley Row

Pococks Close

The Pieces

The George & Dragon
By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Carr

Queen Street

Lavender Place

New Inn Lane

Oathurst

Ampney Orchard

Chetwynd

Church Street

Lavender Square

The Jubilee
By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Cooper

High Street

Finish

11

Market Square

10

2

The Morris Clown

Start

Aston Road

The Eagle
Sandfords
By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Paige

Church View

Rosemary Lane

The Horseshoe

Bridge Street

9

The Tabet

The Wheat sheaf
By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Walker

6

The Elephant and Castle

7

The Romany

The Route of the 2002 Shirt Race

Castle Field

Mill Green

Cheyne Lane

Buckland Road

Skillbrook

Map by Janet Westman



Winners in 1955, Robert Radband and Cyril Smith.

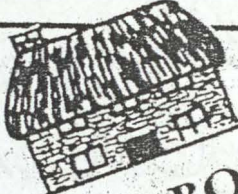
Remember,

SPAJERS

Donkey Derby

August
Bank Holiday

See you there !



ANDREW BOWMAN
MASTER THATCHER
 HEDGEFIELDS FARM
 BAMPTON
 Telephone (01993) 850116

*Member Oxon, Berks and Bucks
 Master thatchers Association*

 **Patrick Strainge** 
 Butchers

Quality meat from our family farms

Bridge St, Bampton, Witney, Oxon, OX18 2HA
 01993 350350

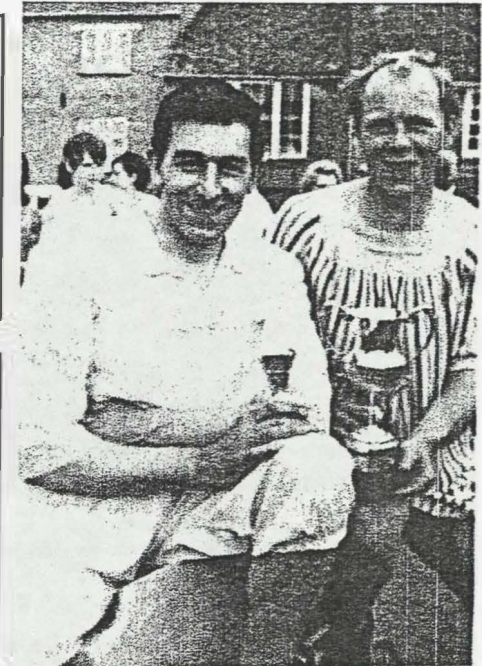
TEMPLE'S

Bampton Ltd.

Builders Merchants,
 Hardware, D.I.Y., Tools,
 Garden Products, Toys
 And much, much more

Market Square, Bampton, Oxon.

Tel: 01993 850877



ASSOCIATED GARAGE DOORS

- SUPPLY • FITTING
- REPAIRS • REMOTE CONTROL
- GATES • FREE ESTIMATES
- SHOWROOM

FOR LOCAL SERVICE
TOM TANNER
 01993 851916

A. SIMMONDS

Market Square, Bampton Tel : 850204

The Old Fashioned Village Store

Traditionally Baked Bread & Cakes
 Groceries, Confectionary, Toiletries
 Whole Foods

Large Range of Pet Foods & Requisites

Memories !

The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketting
 ANNUAL
SHIRT RACE BALL
 Starring Butch Quartz and his three pintz
 W. I. Hall, Bampton, Friday, 7th April
 9.30 till 1.0 a.m. Ticket only admittance
 Profits to Promote the original and incredible Shirt and Chariot Races 1977

ANGLO-AMERICAN
 INVITATION DANCE
 IN LIAISON WITH
 The Society For The Preservation of
 ANCIENT JUNKETTING
 AND SPONSORED BY
 806th FOOD SERVICE SQUADRON
 LAKE CHARLES, L. A.

The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketting
 say again that
 (DYNAMIC YET DISCIPLINED)
 You will never know that life could hold so much
 if you miss

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT JUNKETTING
 (Dynamic yet Disciplined !)
 present their
 HIGH-LITE OF BAMPTON NITE-LIFE !
THE SHIRT RACE BALL
 Select yet Sociable ! Robust yet not Rowdy !
 W. I. HALL, BAMPTON — FRIDAY, MARCH 14th, 1958
 8.0 pm.—1.0 am. Bar Hoped for
 Appropriate Noises made by the
 Fabulous Butch Quartz and his Four Pintz
 ADMITTANCE (reduced to) 4/- — TICKET ONLY
 Profits to Promote THE GREAT SHIRT RACE 1958

THE SHIRT RACE BALL
 W. I. Hall, Bampton Friday, 11th. March 1960
 8p.m. — 1a.m. B. A. F.
 FRANTIC FRED RIDES AGAIN!
 ADMITTANCE (sacrifice at) 5/- TICKET ONLY
 Profits to Promote THE SHIRT RACE 1960

Instigated by S P A J Brighter Britain Movement
 April, 9-30 til 2. 12/6 ticket only admittance, B.A.F.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT JUNKETTING
 (Dynamic yet Disciplined !)
 present their
 FINAL JUNKET OF 1958
 A
GALA DANCE
 W. I. HALL, BAMPTON — FRIDAY, 14 NOV. 58
 "FRANTIC FRED and his PANATICAL FOURSOME"
 TICKET ONLY 4/0 8.0 pm.—1.0 am. BAR APPLIED FOR
 PROFITS TO PENSIONERS

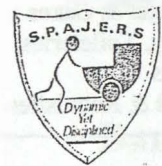
THE SHIRT RACE BALL 70
 You will never know that Life could Hold so Much
 until you
 Trip the Light Fantastic with fred, -Son of FRANTIC
 Profit to Promote The (Original) and (Incredible)
 Shirt and Chariot Races respectively 1970



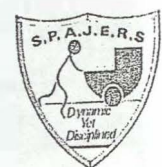
The SPAJERS planting a tree to remember founder member, John Quick.

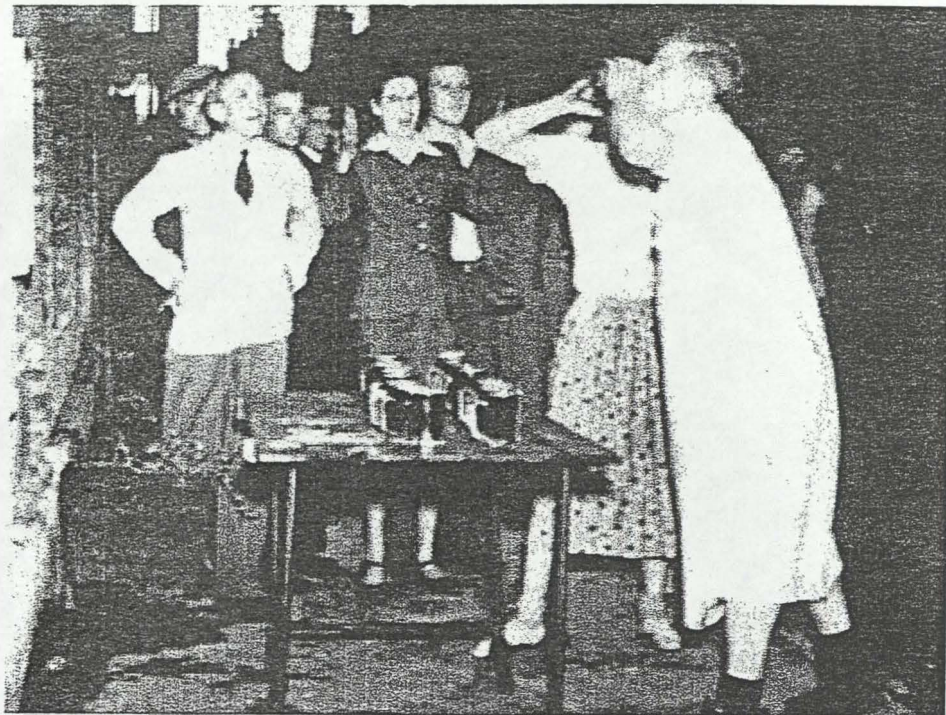


Participants preparing for the big race.



Thanks to all our Programme Sponsors





Rodney Adams & his partner outside the George and Dragon with Landlord Bill Wagner looking on.

**BAMPTON
FAX BUREAU**

Call in
for more
details

at

"Emmies" NEWSAGENTS

Bridge Street, Bampton Tel: 850467

• TOBACCONIST • CONFECTIONER •

NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES DAILY (inc. SUNDAY)

Carpet Cleaner Hire Service Available

BOARDING KENNELS

A
M
P
T
O
N

- ✓ Spacious individual heated kennels with outside runs
- ✓ Large grass paddocks
- ✓ Open 7 days 8am to 10am & 4pm - 6pm
- ✓ All pets to be fully vaccinated
- ✓ Inspection welcome
- ✓ All new constructed kennels

Buckland Road, Tel/Fax : 01993 850671

Bampton Cars

When you need a Taxi

Telephone 01993 851900

We'll take you anywhere

Around the village

Around the country

Air & Seaports

Coach & Rail Stations

Reliable Service

Competitive Rates

Use us Once - Use us Always

All vehicles & drivers licenced by

West Oxfordshire District Council

Tokens Accepted

DON ROUSE CARS

Bampton's Premier Private Hire Service

"A superior service at no extra cost"

Local Runs - Day Trips

AIRPORTS & SEAPORTS

Business Trips - Courier Service

Air Conditioned Luxury People Carrier

Up to six passengers

Non-Smoking

Tel/Fax: 01993 851480 Mobile: 0370 533764



**BAMPTON
GARDEN PLANTS**

Buckland Road, Bampton, Oxon Tel: 01993 852233

WELCOME THE SPRING AND SUMMER
WITH PLANTS DIRECT FROM THE GROWER

Excellent selection of fresh cut flowers including trees, shrubs,
Clematis, Anemones, aliums and hollyhocks,
11 long my baskets, pots, containers and bark.
Wedding plants, trees and foliage.

OPEN EVERY DAY 10am - 4pm
Leave Bampton in the direction of Buckland and you will find us at the
Bamilton, on the left.



From the Oxford Mail November 1959

ANCIENT RITES PRESERVED

Witney Justices yesterday approved an application from the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing for an occasional licence to hold a dance at Bampton.

"It is interesting to see that their motto is 'Dynamic, yet disciplined'," the clerk, Mr. Roy H. Weeks, told the justices.

Inspector A. T. Smith explained that the Society organised Bampton's annual Great Shirt Race. The licence was granted.

SPAJERS Committee

President	Bampton Manor	850231
Lord Donoughmore		
Chairman	University Farm, Lew	851480
Don Rouse		
Vice Chairman	Four Winds, Lower End, Alvescot	842126
Frank Hudson		
Treasurer	29 The Pieces	850756
Dixie Deane		
Secretary	Sherbourne House, Bridge Street	850809
Al Newing		
P.R.O.	Dunlaoghair, Weald	850476
Paul McGrath		
Josie Buckingham	The Bungalow, Weald	850520
Kathy Clarke	The Horseshoes	
Alan Dunbar	3 Bushey Row	850207
Dave Gardner	2 Beam Paddock	851797
Stuart Pierce	Khandou, Buckland Road	850539
Steve Radband	14 Fox Close	210160
Roger Snow	40 Bushey Row	850113
Sheila Tanner	Tanwood Cottage, Queen Street	851046
Neville Woodley	15 Calais Dean	850753

Proposed Timetable,

17:00	<i>Rides, Photo Display etc.</i>
18:00	<i>Dutch Band start playing.</i>
18:45	<i>Judging of the Fancy Dress</i>
19:15	<i>Junior/Intermediate Race</i>
19:30	<i>Senior Race</i>
20:00	<i>Prize Giving</i>



Above : An early bath for Frank Hudson and his cousin, Jim Townsend ?
Below : Prizes are handed out.



Winners in 1956, Frank Hudson (right) and his cousin, Jim Townsend.



Here's to the next 50 years !