









Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 1973.

Bampton W. I. Drama Group.

Dear Joan,  
This small cheque comes as  
a token of our warmest feelings for  
you. We hope that you will buy  
something for your new home & garden  
that will remind you of us all.

Our loss will be Hampshire's gain  
and words cannot express the great  
admiration which we have for you.  
We shall remember your hard work,  
enthusiasm, and good humour as  
long as we meet.

Bampton Drama

Mrs. J. Keyte

With our love and best wishes  
for your future happiness.

We shall miss you Joan.

We wish you every success in  
your new life and hope that —  
for a time at least — you will have  
a much deserved rest.

With much love from  
Helen Pittman

Eldest  
Janette

Vera Edward  
Betty M. Collett  
Angela Collett  
Jane Passmore

Margaret Wythes

Claire

Audrey Bourne  
Penny Shergold

Wythes

Sylvia Barney

A. Lannan

Claire Lovell

Joan Buckingham

M & Rouse

Bridgette Shergold.

Pampton Drama

Mrs. J. Keyte

With our love and best wishes  
for your future happiness.

We shall miss you Joan.



BAMPTON W.I. DRAMA GROUP

Presents

A One Act Play and a Potted Pantomime

THE PLOT THICKENS

By Mark Langham

Mrs. Lovegrove	Sylvia Barney
Mrs. Travers	Dorothy Smith
Mrs. Mincing	Mary Witt
Mrs. Beddingham	Joan Keyte *
Mrs. Tufton	Vera Elward
Policewoman	Ada Tanner

Interval

BABES IN THE WOOD

By Fred Rome

Baron Oofless	Mavis Clack
Marion (The Baron's Daughter)	Betty Lock
Reggie { The Babes }	Jill Draper
Cissy { }	Teresa Lock
Nick { The Robbers }	Audrey Court
Dick { }	Elizabeth Strutt
The Man from Aunty	Joan Keyte *
Teacher	Ada Tanner

Fairies

Maralyn Edwards  
Lorraine Barton  
Gail Wheeler  
Lynne Wheeler  
Sharon Foreshew  
Rachel Foreshew

Plays Produced by  
Hilda Pickard

Pianist  
Vera Elward





The Plot Thickens

Jean Keylé  
Sylvia Banner  
Vera Edward  
Ada Lanner  
Dorothy Smith  
Mary Witt

PETER J. REASON  
STUDIOS  
LECHLADE  
GLOS.

3



BAMPTON W.I. DRAMA GROUP

Present

J A C K

AND THE

B E A N S T A L K

27th and 28th January, 1965





MASTON WOMENS INSTITUTE

LEANA BRIDE

present

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Cast

<u>JILL</u>		<u>ANGELA COLLETT</u>
Widow Twankey	.....	Audrey Court
Egg	.....	Margaret Wythes
Chips	.....	Joan Kayte *
Oderous Egg	.....	Sylvia Barney
Jack	.....	Janette Anderson *
Clarabelle	.....	Betty Collett & Joan Buckingham
Old Lady	.....	Florence Lovell
Giant	.....	Mildred Rouse
Children & Fairies	.....	Claire Wythes Penny Shergold Jane Passmore Bridget Shergold

Act I scene 1 Outside Widow Twankey's cottage  
scene 2 On the road to market  
scene 3 Back to Mrs. Twankey's garden  
scene 4 The same, the next morning

Act II scene 1 The road to the Castle

INTERVAL during which refreshments will be served

scene 2 The Giant's kitchen  
scene 3 The road from the Castle  
scene 4 Outside Widow Twankey's cottage

FINALE And they all lived .....

Pianist Vera Elvard

Producer Hilda Pickard

Any resemblance in this pantomime to any living person will be a miracle.

You are cordially invited to join in the singing of the songs, your help will be greatly appreciated!

Jack Row  
Mary Wilt  
Ida Panner ?  
Anon Clark  
Aval Court  
Anet Edward  
Audrey Court  
Gylvia Barney  
An Kayte

Keith Barney }  
Annet Clark } Con

Jack & Beanstalk  
28/1/65

PETER J. REASON  
STUDIOS  
LECHLADE  
GLOS

- 1 Susan Laylor
- 3 Rachel Forester
- 2 Esther Green
- Lorraine Barton
- Gail Wheeler
- Anne Morton
- Jackie Brooks
- Angela Woolloff 66



THE BAMPTON W.I. DRAMA GROUP

present

ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP

A Pantomime in 3 Acts

by

K. O. Samuel

CAST

Aladdin	..	..	..	..	..	..	Janet Elward
Widow Twanky	..	..	..	..	..	..	Audrey Court
Sing-Sing	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sylvia Barney
Magician	..	..	..	..	..	..	Barbara Molyneux
The Emperor	..	..	..	..	..	..	Joan Keyte *
Baldroubadour	..	..	..	..	..	..	Carol Boaden
Esmeralda	..	..	..	..	..	..	Pat Rose
Mustapha	..	..	..	..	..	..	Marion Clark
Slave of the Ring	..	..	..	..	..	..	Betty Griffiths
Slave of the Lamp	..	..	..	..	..	..	Barbara Peates
Chorus of Girls, Attendants etc:							

\* Josephine Keyte, Lyn Rouse, Linda Smith, Sandra Pierce  
Bernadette Walsh, Sylvia Hughes, Carol Hampton

ACT 1		A Street in Peking
Act 2	Scene 1	Outside the Cave
	Scene 2	Inside the Cave
	Scene 3	Twankey's Home. Special engagement of the BEATLESS
Act 3	Scene 1	Aladdin's Palace
	Scene 2	The same

The Audience is most cordially welcomed to join in as much of the Pantomime as possible. Hiss the villain! Cheer the lovers! and PLEASE join in the singing.

The pianist throughout is Vera Elward

Pantomime produced by Hilda Pickard

Coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval between Act 2 and Act 3.



Emperor

ALADDIN

PETER J. REASON  
STUDIOS  
LECHLADE  
GLOS.

Jean Keyte  
Janet Elward



Lyn Rouse

Yvona Barnes

PETER J. REASON  
STUDIOS  
TECHLADÉ  
GLOS

Vera Edward (President)  
Audrey Court  
Joan Keyte  
Carol (Court) Boarder  
Janet Edward

Betty Court  
Linda Smith  
Alda Pickard

Josephine Keyte

ADDIN



THE BEATLESS

Car of Hampton far right

Josephine Keyte

PETER J. REASON  
STUDIOS  
LECHLADE  
GLOS.

Audrey Court

BAMPTON W.I. DRAMA GROUP

AUTUMN PRODUCTION '66

1. One Hour to Dusk by Anthony Booth

Cast

Dr. Poole	.....	Audrey Court
Mrs. Price	.....	Betty Lock
Sister Lewis	.....	Mary Witt
Sister Denny	.....	Betty Griffiths
Miss Cole	.....	Sylvia Barney
Miss Bede	.....	Joan Keyte

The action of the play takes place in a deserted hut in the Kabiska region of central Africa.

Time: One hour before sundown.

---

2. I N T E R V A L

During which refreshments will be served.

3. Poor Mr. Shakespeare ! by Joy Anderson

Cast

Puck	(Ethel Briggs)	.....	Vera Elward	*
Fairey	(Gladys Lemon)	.....	Joan Keyte	*
Bottom	(Florrie Potts)	.....	Mavis Clack	
Oberon	(Agnes Pout)	.....	Janette Keyte	*
Moth	(Daisy Pigeon)	.....	Carol Court	
Mustard Seed	(Vi. Higgins)	.....	Alice Peacock	
Chorus	(Amy Dobson)	.....	Sylvia Barney	
Mrs. Midgley	(The Cleaner)	.....	Ada Tanner	
Producer	(Mrs. Gibbs)	.....	Hilda Pickard	

The scene is set on the eve of a dress rehearsal of an Institute Drama Group

Any resemblance to any person known to the audience will definitely be a miracle!

---

The producer of both plays is Hilda Pickard

Members of the cast would like to express their thanks to Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Gerring and helpers for preparing and serving the refreshments.





Tom / the Shakespeare 1966

*W*

PETER J. REASON  
STUDIOS  
LECHLADE  
GLOS.

Hilda Pickard  
Ada Lanner  
Mavis Clack  
Janette Keyte  
Carol Court

## Bampton Women's Institute Drama Group



The Bampton W.I. drama group put on the autumn production last Wednesday and Thursday of two one-act plays. On both nights the enthusiastic audience responded well and it was obvious that this group has now built up a muster of loyal supporters.

The first play, "One Hour to Dusk," by Anthony Booth, was a serious drama of conflict and suspense concerning the predicament of six women sole survivors of an ambushed train in Central Africa. Having found temporary refuge in a deserted hut on the edge of a plantation, the six women reacted according to character. The suspense was sustained until the end of the play.

Dr Poole, the natural leader of the group, was played convincingly by Audrey Court, and Betty Lock was effective as the hysterical neurotic Mrs Price. Sister Lewis (a missionary), who retained her strong faith in spite of the horrors of the situation and forceful argument from the doctor, was played by Mary Witt. Her companion, Sister Denny, who had been violently ill-treated by rioters, was played by Betty Griffiths. Miss Cole, the capable and resourceful Civil Servant, was played by Sylvia-Barney, and Miss Bede, the lively character who had won a trip to Africa in a crossword competition, was played with spirit by Joan Keyte.

After the interval, during which coffee and biscuits provided a social half-hour for the friendly audience, the second half

of the evening was in direct contrast. "Poor Mr Shakespeare," by Joy Anderson, was a most amusing episode concerning the reactions and difficulties of an Institute drama group at a rehearsal of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Most of the players portrayed two characters, the village women and the parts that they were supposed to be playing, and a good deal of good humoured fun was made of Ethel Briggs, who was forced to play the part of Puck because the slipper-making class was full! Her attempts to learn her lines (with a Welsh accent) were highly amusing. Joan Keyte injected a great deal of vitality into the part of Gladys Lemon, who was playing a fairy with a cold, and Bottom (alias Florrie Potts) was played amusingly by Mavis Clack. Oberon, Moth and Muster Seed were played by Janette Keyte, Carol Court and Alice Peacock, whilst the bossy, acid Amy Dobson was played most effectively by Sylvia Barney. Mrs Midgley, the despised cleaner, who was forced to stand in for Titania, provided the climax to the show when she spoke the Shakespearean line. Nobody knew that she had once been a professional at Sadler's Wells. The fussy producer (Mrs Gibbs), who had rewritten most of the play because she did not think that Shakespeare's version was suitable for a W.I. audience, was played by Hilda Pickard.

Both plays were produced by Hilda Pickard, and the proceeds will be put towards the cost of the new stage which is now being made. It is expected that approximately £23 will be raised by this production.

1966

BAMPTON W.I. DRAMA GROUP

Presents

A SUMMER REVIEW

The Stolen Prince

A playlet in the Chinese Fashion

LONG FO Son of Royal Cook	Mary Witt
WING LEE His Sister	Carol Court
THE ROYAL NURSE	Sylvia Barney
HI TEE A poor Fisherman	Joan Keyte *
LI MO His Wife	Vera Elward
JOY The little Prince	Josephine Keyte *
LEE ME The Duck	
SOLDIER of the Royal Court	Ada Tanner
THE EXECUTIONER	Gill Draper
THE CHORUS	Mavis Clack
THE PROPERTY MAN	Audrey Court
THE ORCHESTRA	Marilyn Edward
	Julie Powel
	Annette Kearsey
	Winifred Harrison

I N T E R V A L

Refreshments at Modest Prices

SING ALONG WITH US	
A RECORDER SOLO	Julie Whitlock
INFORMATION DESK	Mary Witt
	Audrey Court
A SONG FOR YOU	Janet Elward
	Carol Court
THE TELE	Audrey Court
THE MISERABLE SINNER	Joan Keyte *
ONCE MORE	Janet and Carol
LETS SING AGAIN	The Whole Company

THE QUEEN

Pianist: Vera Elward

Programme Produced by:  
Hilda Pickard



Mrs Portlock.

Miss Matthews.

M<sup>rs</sup> Green.

Taunt.  
Miss Appleton.



M. Bates

Miss Nettie Ford

M<sup>rs</sup> Toliso

M<sup>rs</sup> Gordon

Scene from 'Much ado about Nothing.'

Bampton Team which won Oxford Federation Diana Cup 1924.

Cup retained to Federation 1925.

Replica cup given to Bampton Diana by Col. Bliss.

This is the cast, in costume, of the WI Drama group which performed 'Much Ado About Nothing' and won the Oxford Federation Diana Cup 1924. After handing back the cup in 1925 Colonel Bliss from Bampton House gave them a replica one to keep. Back row are Mrs Portlock, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Green and Miss Taunt; front row Miss M Oates, Miss Nettlefold (Bampton Manor), Mrs Bliss (Bampton House) and Mrs Gordon.



# Women's Institutes

## New members at Bampton

There was a good attendance at the February meeting of the Bampton W.I. in the Institute Hall and three new members, two transfers from other Institutes and one visitor were welcomed by the president Mrs. R. Gerring. A tribute was paid to Mrs. Adams, a committee member who has now moved with her family to Nottingham and a "good wishes" card was signed by all members for sending to her.

It was agreed that covering be provided for the kitchen floor and members were asked to approve the colour. It was decided that increased charges would be made in future to all hirers of the hall who wish to have a licensed bar so that the rising costs of cleaning materials can be met.

Members were informed of the Pantomime "Babes in the Wood" which will be performed by members of the W.I. Drama Group on February 27 and 28 in the Institute Hall. Miss Mary Gerring was thanked for providing an arrangement of spring flowers and Mrs. Eeles was praised for seeing that all around the village were tied and staked firmly.

A useful and informative talk on the care and choice of carpets was given by Mr. Peter Smith, a local carpet manufacturer, who brought a good selection of carpet pieces with him to illustrate points.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. F. Lovell, Mrs. P. Barrett and Mrs. A. Irvin and the winner of the monthly competition for "My favourite figurine" was Miss Mary Witt.





#### DRAMA IN BAMPTON

From the time of its inception the Bampton branch of the Women's Institute have always shown a keen interest in the drama. I culled the photograph opposite from an old issue of the now defunct Oxford Chronicle, dated May 23rd, 1924.

From the late Mrs. Wm. Mathews I learnt that in 1924 the Bampton W.I. competed in a Shakespearean competition, and won the Silver Cup presented by Miss Grace Hadow, the sister of the distinguished Oxford scholar.



### THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

The 1930's were the golden age of dramatic entertainments in Bampton. Encouraged by past successes the W.I. became more ambitious, and put on several full length plays including The Farmer's Wife and The Pink Lady. But by far its most elaborate production was Sheridan's A School for Scandal. Unfortunately the men-folk of Bampton were singularly loath to display any histrionic talent which they might have possessed, so in every production put on some of the male parts had to be taken by women. Of the men who did support the society Arthur Colville of Weald Manor was the most enthusiastic. He invariably took the leading male role, and I am assured by a former member of the society that his performances were of near-professional standard.

untitl38 - Bampton Drama Group in the Village Hall in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

img845/6/7/8 - 4 pictures. Two photos plus 2 pages of Hughes-Owens' notes to the two pictures. The WI had a thriving drama group. In May 1924 they won the silver cup for their production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'. In the 1930s they did full length plays of 'A School For Scandal', 'The Farmer's Wife' and 'The Pink Lady'. Arthur Colville of Weald Manor was almost the only man willing to join the drama group and he usually took the leading male role and by all accounts gave a very professional performance.

img086 - Newspaper report Bampton WI February meeting. drama group will perform "Babes In The Wood" later in the month. Also mentioned in the article, a talk on the care and choice of carpets by Peter Smith, a local carpet manufacturer who brought samples to illustrate his talk.

img109 - Miss Cooper taking part in a WI drama group play. She shared a home in The Pound, behind the three little cottages in Bushey Row with Miss Warren. "Miss Cooper was a gardener and Miss Warren was a dressmaker. Miss Cooper used to teach children to swim in the Isle of White brook (Great Brook). When I was a child there were no bushes on the bank by the bridge so families and children would often take picnics there and paddle. Miss Cooper was not very successful with me because I can remember her dangling me by my swimsuit straps in a deep hole under the bank and telling me to kick my legs! Once children could swim, they graduated to the sluices where the water was deeper. She went to church every Sunday - (I've got a feeling she could have been a churchwarden at one time) and I remember being impressed because she always wore a flowery, cotton dress. During the week she always wore men's clothes while she was gardening. Vera [Elward] thinks Miss Cooper was related to the Coopers who were farmhands at Mount Owen Farm, which at that time was owned by the Smiths. The Coopers, who had a number of daughters lived in a cottage at the farm. After they moved away, one of the daughters used to come and stay with Miss Cooper" *quote from Janet Newman.*

img461 – The WI drama group in 1967.

img459 - The WI drama group. Janette Keyte is on the extreme left. Audrey Court is on the left of the three ladies seated behind the table.

img462 - The WI drama group in Aladdin. Cast members include, Lynne Rouse, Sylvia Barney, Betty Court, Linda Smith, Hilda Pickard, Josephine Keyte, Vera Elward, Audrey Court, Joan Keyte, Carol Court, Janet Elward.

img755 - The WI drama group. These are the names written on the back of the Drama group photo 2015.2553. Lynne Rouse, Sylvia Barney, Betty Court, Linda Smith, Hilda Pickard, Josephine Keyte, Vera Elward, Audrey Court, Joan Keyte, Carol Court, Janet Elward.

img466 – The WI Drama group.

img467 – The WI Drama group.

img737 - Page 1 of a letter from the WI drama group to Joan Keyte wishing her well in her new home in Hampshire and saying how much they will all miss her.

img738 - Page 2 of a letter from the WI drama group to Joan Keyte wishing her well in her new home in Hampshire and saying how much they will all miss her. It is signed by Janette Keyte, Hilda Pickard, Vera Elward, Betty Collett, Angela Collette, Jane Passmore, Margaret Wythes, Claire Wythes, A Tanner, Audrey Court, Penny Shergold, Sylvia Barney, Joan Buckingham, M E Rouse, Joan Buckingham, Bridget Shergold, Louise Lovell.

img740 – The WI Drama group

img742 - The Bampton WI Drama group program for 'The Plot Thickens' and 'Babes In The Wood.' The plays were produced by Hilda Pickard and the pianist was Vera Elward.

img743 - The Bampton WI Drama. The plays were produced by Hilda Pickard and the pianist was Vera Elward. The cast in 'The Plot Thickens' left to right:- Joan Keyte, Sylvia Barney, Vera Elward, Ada Tanner, Dorothy Smith, Mary Witt.

img744 - This is the back of the photograph img743.

img745 - The Bampton WI drama group players in 'Babes In The Wood.' The plays were produced by Hilda Pickard and Vera Elward frequently played the piano for them. The cast list with the parts they played can be seen in entry number img742. "left to right: back row – Jill Draper, Betty Lock, Theresa Lock, Mavis Clack, Audrey Court, Elizabeth Strutt (she was a teacher at Bampton School working with Mary Farmer. She lodged at our house while I was away in London” - *quote from Janet Newman*). Front row: Rachel Foreshow, Lynne Wheeler, Lorraine Barton, Gail Wheeler.

img747 - The Bampton WI drama group. Front cover of the program for Jack and The Beanstalk, January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 1965.

img748 - The Bampton WI drama group. The program for 'Jack and The Beanstalk' showing the cast and the parts they played and where each scene is set in Act 1 and Act 2.



img749 and 749a - The Bampton WI drama group. The players in 'Jack and The Beanstalk' performed January 27th and 28th 1965. Back row left to right, Mary Witt, Ada Tanner, Marion Clark, Carol Court, Janet Elward, Audrey Court, Sylvia Barney, Joan Keyte, Keith Barney & Stuart Clark as the cow. Girls left to right are Susan Taylor, Rachel Foreshow, Esther Green, Lorraine Barton, Gail Wheeler, Anne Moreton, Jackie Brooks, Angela Wooloff.

img750 – back of img749.

img751 - The Bampton WI drama group. The players in 'Jack and The Beanstalk' performed January 27th and 28th 1965. Back row left to right, Mary Witt, Ada Tanner, Marion Clark, Carol Court, Janet Elward, Audrey Court, Sylvia Barney, Joan Keyte, Keith Barney & Stuart Clark as the cow. Girls left to right are Susan Taylor, Rachel Foreshow, Esther Green, Lorraine Barton, Gail Wheeler, Anne Moreton, Jackie Brooks, Angela Wooloff.

img752 - The Bampton WI drama group. 'Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp.' Janet Elward as Aladdin, Joan Keyte as the Emperor.

img754 - The Bampton WI drama group. The whole cast of 'Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp.' See entry img751 for who played which character.

img757 - The Bampton WI drama group. Part of the story line in 'Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp' included this group who called themselves the Beatless. They mimed to a Beatles song.

img758 - The Bampton WI drama group. This is written on the back of the picture of The Beatless img757. It says Carol Hampton far right, Josephine Keyte, Audrey Court. Audrey has a feather in her hat and is holding a broom handle.

img756 - The Bampton WI drama group. A newspaper report about the production of 'Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp.' It also mentions the annual British Legion Children's party which was held in the WI Hall and was attended by over 100 children and their mothers. It was an event many children looked forward to each year.

img761 - The Bampton WI drama group. The autumn 1996 productions of 'One Hour to Dusk' and 'Poor Mr Shakespeare' showing the characters and cast. Cast members in 'One Hour to Dusk' include Audrey Court, Betty Lock, Mary Witt, Betty Griffiths, Sylvia Barney and Joan Keyte, Players in 'Poor Mr Shakespeare' include Vera Elward, Joan Keyte, Mavis Clack, Janette Keyte, Carol Court, Alice Peacock, Sylvia Barney, Ada Tanner and the producer for both plays was Hilda Pickard.

img765 - The Bampton WI drama group. Some of the cast of 'Poor Mr Shakespeare.' They include Hilda Pickard, Ada Tanner, Mavis Clack, Janette Keyte and Carol Court.

img766 - The Bampton WI drama group. Some of the cast of 'Poor Mr Shakespeare' seen in the photograph 2015.2577. They include Hilda Pickard, Ada Tanner, Mavis Clack, Janette Keyte and Carol Court.

img767 - The Bampton WI drama group. Witney & West Oxfordshire Gazette September 23rd 1966. This newspaper cutting gives a really full account of the two plays performed in one evening, the serious and suspense filled 'One Hour to Dusk' and the light and amusing 'Poor Mr Shakespeare.' It was expected that £23 would be raised during the evening which would go towards the new stage which is being made.

img786 - Bampton WI drama group present 'The Stolen Prince' in summer 1966. This is the cast list and the parts they played. They include Mary Witt, Carol Court, Sylvia Barney, Joan Keyte, Vera Elward, Josephine Keyte, Ada Tanner, Gill Draper, Mavis Clack, Audrey Court, Marilyn Edward, Julie Powel, Annette Kearsy and Winifred Harrison.

img787 - Bampton WI drama group. Spring review, April 24th 1969. 'The Last Laugh' with Dorothy Smith, Janette Keyte, Vera Elward, Ada Tanner, Sylvia Barney and Hazel Henly. 'United We Stand' with Betty Collett, Janette Keyte, Hazel Henly and Sylvia Barney. 'Bride At Last' with Ada Tanner, Joan Keyte, Mavis Clack, Vera Elward and Betty Collett. Pianist was Vera Elward and producer was Hilda Pickard. The young ladies were Angela Collett, Susan Tukes, Lynne Wheeler and Pearl Paintin. Proceeds from the Review were put to the fund for providing emergency relief in Bampton.

BA8307 – A stage production at Weald Manor.