

OLD TIME BAMPTON
PEOPLE

BAMPTON FIRE BRIGADE

This photograph is a copy of what is believed to be one of the oldest of the Fire Brigade in existence. If, what I have been told is correct, the firemen were wearing black armbands to mark the death of Queen Victoria, so the date of the photograph must be 1901.

Back Row: L to R. Ossie Williams, Ted Green, Tom King, Jack Cripps.

Front Row: H. Eustace, R.R. Rose, Cambria Williams, George Cripps (?).

Ossie Williams was the son of Cambria Williams, Captain of the Brigade. For some years he was regarded almost unbeatable in One-Man Competitions.

For the history of Bampton Fire Brigade see my 'The Bampton we have lost.'





**BAMPTON WINNING THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE SHIELD,
CRYSTAL PALACE, 1904.**

FIRE
STATION



BAMPTON FIRE BRIGADE

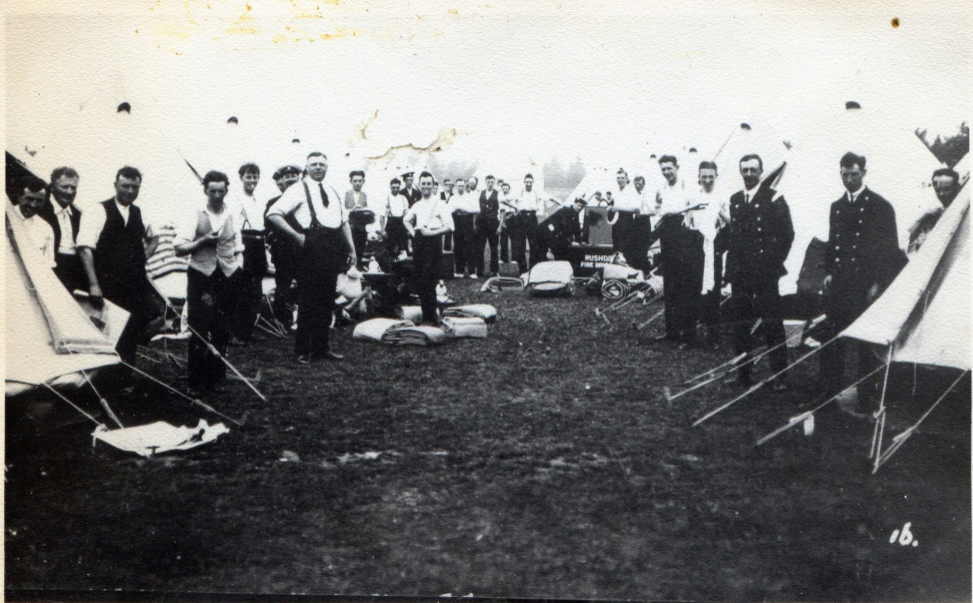
1904 was annus mirabilis for the Brigade. In that year it went to the Crystal Palace to challenge for the National Championship. There were no less than 20 entries for this final test, but Bampton performed magnificently, and came out on top, with the brigades of Burslem, Brackley and Tunbridge Wells following in that order.

BAMPTON FIRE BRIGADE.

There are, unfortunately, no written records of the Fire Brigade but I have been told that it won the National Championship on four occasions. Both photographs show the Brigade proudly displaying the Championship Shield, but I cannot name in what years. In the lower photograph Ted Green is wearing the uniform of Captain, so it must date sometime after 1919. Cambray Williams was elected Honorary Captain after his retirement in that year with permission to wear his uniform







16.



THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Brigade at camp near Bournemouth, sometime I believe before 1914. Bampton's tent with three of the Brigade are just visible on the extreme left of the photograph.

This photograph shows the Brigade taking part in a competition held at Brighton sometime during the first decade of the century. All the competing brigades used equipment provided by the Brighton Brigade. The elderly man in shirt sleeves on the right of the photograph was George Townsend who kept the Eagle Inn, and shot the mad bear way back in 1901.

THE FIRE BRIGADE

This fine action photograph shows some of the brigade taking part in a competition held at Wantage, it is thought in the early twenties.

One of the Brigades minor triumphs. Early in the 1920's Bampton took part in some competitions held at Gloucester. Modestly the Brigade entered three of its younger members for the Jomo Hosecraft Competition, and duly won it. Then much to the chagrin of several well-known brigades who were competing the young gentlemen carried off the Senior Trophy, too.

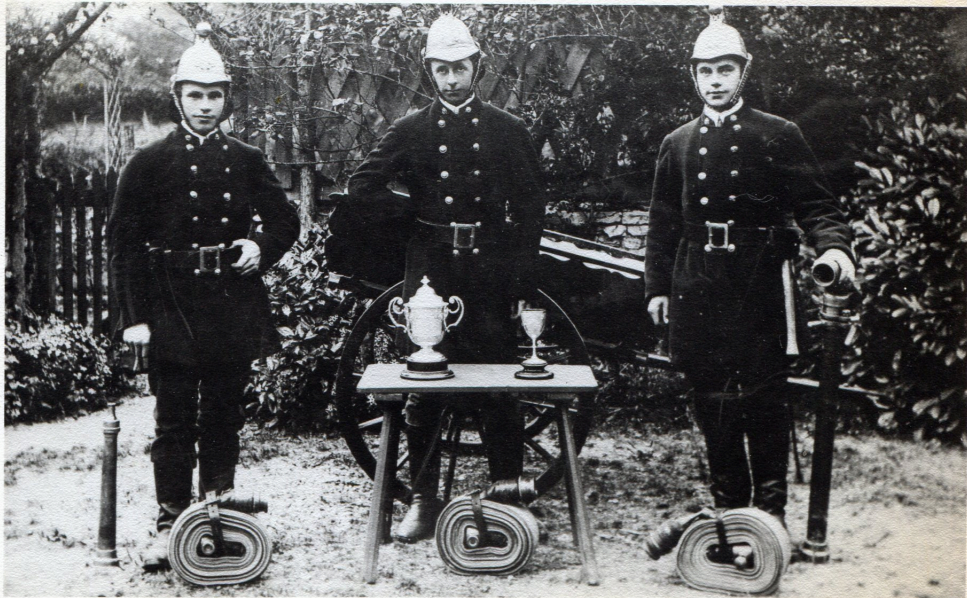
L to R.

Jim Green

Billy Wilkins

Fred Green









The place and time of this photograph are unknown, but as Ted Green is captain it must have been taken later than 1919.

~~xxx Many buildings still bear the marks of the Brigade as if it were they~~

Many buildings in Bampton still bear 'firemarks' on their walls. They are a reminder of the time when the Brigade was financed by insurance companies. I have been told that the Brigade would not turn out to deal with a fire at a house that was uninsured, but I find this hard to believe.

THE MORRIS DANCERS

There was a ring of pride in the old lady's voice as she told me about the morris dancers, and advised me on no account to miss them, if they were resuscitated. She was one of the old school; never doubting in her mind that she was the blest of mortals for having enjoyed the privilege of being born and bred a daughter of Bampton.

The revival of morris dancing in Bampton after the Second World War brought lots of pleasure to many people: for the older villagers it was one of the few remaining links with the old-time Bampton they had known and loved. For we worldly-wise newcomers it was a novelty; one of those anachronisms which penetrate our sophistication, and make rural life the pleasant thing it is.

When the war ended 'Jinky' was approaching his eighties, and one doubts if it had been left to him the Whit Monday* dancing would have been revived. Fortunately, the younger generation in the persons of Francis Snergold, Arnold Woodley and others had not lost their enthusiasm while away at the wars. Thanks to them a team was assembled, and, dutifully, we newcomers sallied forth to watch.

One of my friends murmured to me that it was all very 'quaint', and out of politeness I agreed, but on reflection I felt it was more than that. There was Jinky, normally an insignificant and inarticulate little man, but that morning, it seemed to me, to be invested with a dignity all his own. Furthermore, it occurred to me that here was something that Hitler and his mighty war machine had set out to destroy. Yet on that wet Whit Monday morning Hitler lay dead and dishonoured; his country in ruins. But here was old Jinky scraping away on his fiddle as unconcernedly as he had done fifty or more years ago. I felt that it might be symbolic - at least, I hoped so.

With the air of good-tempered folk willing to pander to the feelings of the locals we duly purchased our portions of cake, and wished our wishes, but if the truth be told, beneath the veneer of our somewhat patronising attitude we were more than a little impressed. Here was something which had persisted over the centuries: it deserved, indeed, insisted upon our respect.

The Times had sent a staff photographer to take pictures of the dancers. To the older Bamptonians there was nothing remarkable about that. It was merely the natural recognition by the country's leading newspaper of the importance of the occasion. But we newcomers raised our eyebrows. If The Times saw fit to send a photographer all the way to Bampton, then there must be more to it than we had been predisposed to think.

I have included several post war photographs of the dancers for reasons which will be obvious.

* Now Spring Bank Holiday.







THE MORRIS DANCERS

The elderly resident who gave me these photographs told me that the top one was taken about 1912, and the other just after the First World War.

The fiddler in the dark trousers in the top photographs is 'Jinky' as a youngish man. In the lower photograph he appears in full regalia.

WILLIAM 'JINKY' WELLS

Of imperishable fame in the world of morris dancing, Jinky provided the music for the Bampton Morris Men for fifty years. A magnificent portrait of him, painted by May Bateman, wife of a former Vicar of Bampton, hangs on the wall in Cecil Sharpe House, the headquarters of country dancing.









THE MORRIS DANCERS

The small snapshot was taken in 1933, and the lower photograph in 1946. The Bampton Morrismen still danced for domestic pleasure; the crowds had not yet begun to roll in.

THE MORRIS DANCERS

By the 1960's morris dancing had become something of a cult, and thanks to the motor car the streets of Bampton on Bank Holiday had already become crowded with visitors.







CHARLBURY FLOWER SHOW 1924 . 19
— THE BAMPTON FOLK DANCING TROUP —



- CHARLBURY FLOWER SHOW 1924 - 20
- THE BAMPYON FOLK DANCING TROUP -

THE FOLK DANCERS

Owing to the shortage of man-power during the 1914/18 War women were called upon to do many jobs hitherto considered only capable of being performed by men. And the women responded to the challenge magnificently. The result was that a subtle revolution took place - the women of the country achieved a very great degree of emancipation. The post-war women ~~was~~ demanding and assuming the right to things which their mothers would never have dreamed of, not would they have been allowed to do if they had wished.

This new phenomenon was reflected in Bampton by the founding of the ~~Women~~ Women's Institute, and there were other ways in which the women took advantage of their new sense of liberty. The idea of six young women careering around West Oxfordshire displaying their skill at folk dancing would have been unthinkable before the war; old Dr. Oates and Alfie Bryant would have considered it most unseemly and improper.

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.



[Photo: Some]

BAMPTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE PLAYERS,
who won the Silver Cup by scenes from "Much Ado about Nothing."



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.

VILLAGE CONCERTS

In the old days, if Bampton wished to be entertained they had to entertain themselves, and very admirably they did so. There seems to have been a deal of amateur talent in the village, and the programmes on the following pages bear witness to this fact. It would be interesting to try to discover whether or not our generation could produce the same amount of talent.

Fred Staples-Brown of The Elms and Dr. Oates were both musically inclined, and were ready to seize any opportunity to lay on a concert.

Jan. 29. 95.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS, BAMPTON.

THE FIFTH

POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT

OF THE SEASON, WILL BE GIVEN

ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1895.

The Chair will be taken by J. P. OATES Esq.

PROGRAMME.

PART 1.

Instrumental,	.. ..	" Pelican,"	.. ..	..	String Band.
Song,	.. ..	" Dear Home Land,"	.. ..	..	Mr. Hoare.
Song,	.. ..	" The Scout,"	Mr. F. J. Staples-Browne.		
Song,	.. ..	" Angel Voices,"	.. ..	..	Miss Warren.
Duet,	.. ..	" The Wild Man of Borneo,"	Messrs. King & Bryant.		
Song,	.. ..	" A Tale of Woe,"	..	..	Mr. N. R. H. Bullen.
Song,	.. ..	" Stand by the Union,"	..	..	Mr. A. J. Bryant.
Song,	.. ..	" Jack will not forget you,"	.. ..	..	Mr. Hoare.
Song,	.. ..	" When the Heart is young,"	.. ..	..	Miss Warren.
Pianoforte Solo,	.. ..	" The Cottage Polka,"	..	..	Mr. N. R. H. Bullen.
Song,	.. ..	" He did, and he didn't know why,"	Mr. F. J. Staples-Browne.		
Song,	.. ..	" Grandfather's Moke,"	.. ..	..	Mr. T. King.
Instrumental,	.. ..	" Across the Bridge,"	.. ..	..	String Band.

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.

PART 2.

Comic Sketch, entitled "Mixed Pickles."

CHARACTERS.

SOWERBY GRUMPY,	.. { A deaf old Growler, retired out of Tallow, &c. }	..	Mr. A. Wallis.
CHARLES GOLIGHTLY,	(A student in love with Clara,)	..	W. J. Williams.
CLARA GRUMPY,	(A victim of circumstances,)	..	J. T. Rose.
LUCY ALLSORTS,	(Domestic Servant to Grumpy,)	..	A. J. Bryant.

God Save the Queen.

ADMISSION: Twopence. Front Seats, Sixpence.

DOORS OPEN AT 7. COMMENCE AT 7.30 P.M.

TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE PRINTING OFFICE.

CHILDREN IN ARMS NOT ADMITTED.

BEARD & MAYES, PRINTERS, BAMPTON.

SCHOOL ROOM, BAMPTON.

THE

O I O

MINSTRELS

WILL GIVE AN

ENTERTAINMENT

On Friday, December 29th, 1899,

IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE

BAMPTON CRICKET CLUB.

DURING THE INTERVAL

“The Absent Minded Beggar,”

Will be recited and a collection made for the Daily Mail fund, to aid the wives and children of those engaged in the Transvaal War.

DOORS OPEN AT 7.30. TO COMMENCE AT 8.

Numbered Seats 2/- ; Second Seats 1/- ; Third Seats 6d.

Tickets may be obtained at the Printing Office, Bampton.

J. BEARD, PRINTER, BAMPTON



Programme.

First * Part.



CHORUS, "Happy are we to-night," ... Minstrels.
 SONG, "Dinah," ... Mr. Staples-Browne.
 SONG, "The old Black Oss," ... Mr. Bullen.
 SONG, "Out comes Polly for a Kiss," ... Mr. Taunt.
 SONG, "But it is so," Mr. R. Staples-Browne.
 SONG, "Baby's Dolly," ... Mr. Oates.
 SONG, "The Cuckoo," ... Mr. Rigden.
 SONG, "Shine Shine Moon," ... Mr. Bullen.
 SONG, "Lazily, Drowsily," Mr. Staples-Browne.

Interval.

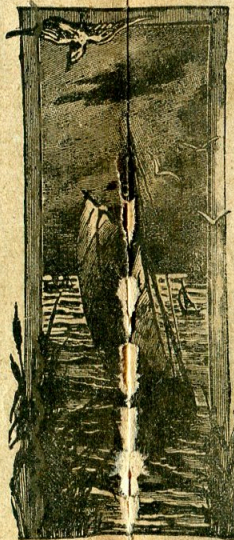
Mr. R. Staples-Browne will recite "The Absent-Minded Beggar,"
 by Rudyard Kipling.

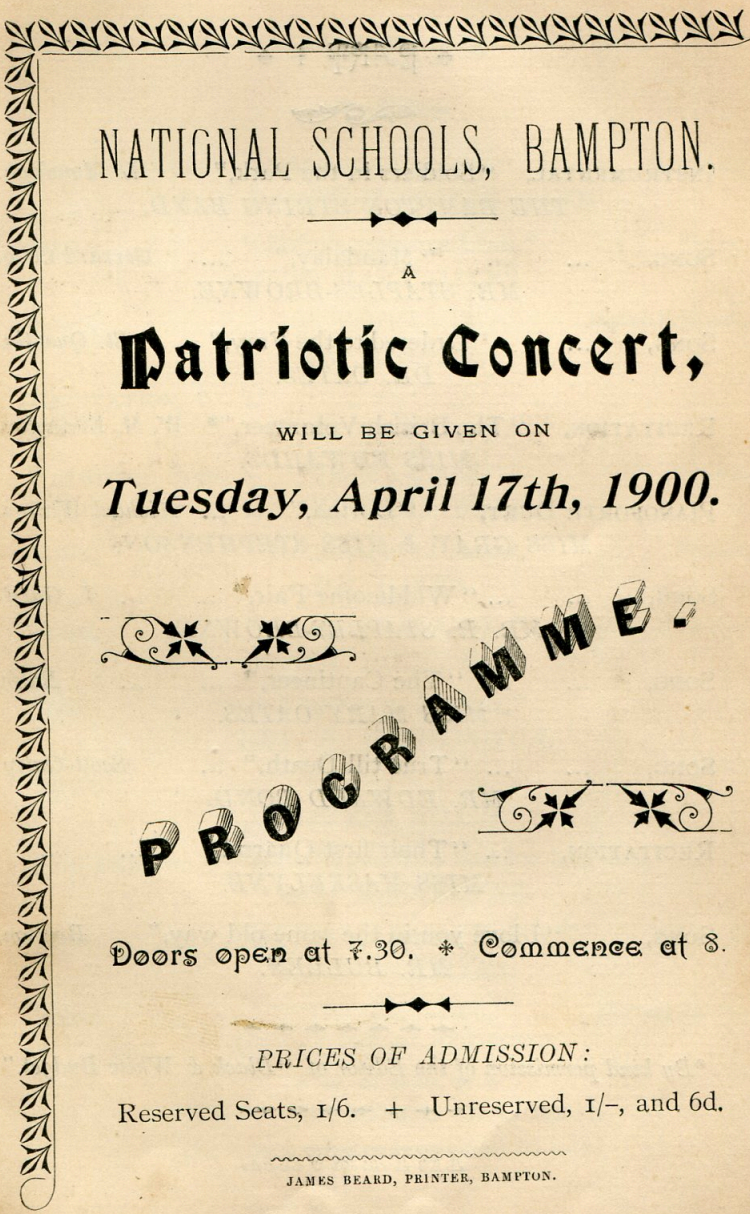
✦ GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. ✦

Second * Part.



COMIC DUET, ... "The Two Gens d'armes," { Mr. Oates, &
 { Mr. Staples-Browne.
 SONG, "Lucky Jim," ... Mr. Bullen.
 STUMP SPEECH, Mr. Oates.
 SONG, "Faust in five minutes," Mr. Staples-Browne.
 FARCE, "So-So," ... { Mr. Oates &
 { Mr. Rigden.
 SONG, "Is yer Mammie always with yer," Mr. R. Staples-Browne.
 SONG, "The Soldiers of the Queen," ... Mr. Bullen.





NATIONAL SCHOOLS, BAMPTON.

—◆◆—
A

Patriotic Concert,

WILL BE GIVEN ON

Tuesday, April 17th, 1900.

—◆◆—
PROGRAMME.
—◆◆—

Doors open at 7.30. * Commence at 8.

—◆◆—
PRICES OF ADMISSION:

Reserved Seats, 1/6. + Unreserved, 1/-, and 6d.

~~~~~  
JAMES BEARD, PRINTER, BAMPTON.



• PART 1 •



INSTRUMENTAL, "Soldiers in the Park," *L. Monckton.*  
THE BAMPTON STRING BAND.

SONG, ... .. "Mandalay," ... *Gerrard Cobb.*  
MR. STAPLES-BROWNE.

SONG, ... "Ordered to the Fray," *St. Quentin.*  
DR. OATES.

RECITATION, "The British Volunteer,"\* *W. M. Elkington.*  
MISS EDWARDS.

PIANOFORTE DUET, "Dorina," ... *Michael Watson.*  
MISS GRAY & MISS STEPHENSON.

SONG, ... .. "Widdicome Fair," ... .. *J. Guest.*  
MR. B. STAPLES-BROWNE.

SONG, ... .. "The Cantineer," ... .. *Balfe.*  
MISS MARY OATES.

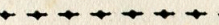
SONG, ... .. "True till Death," ... *Scott-Gatty.*  
MR. EDWARD BOND.

RECITATION, ... "Their first Quarrel," ... ..  
MISS MASKELYNE.

SONG, "I love you in the same old way," *Bratton.*  
MR. BULLEN.



\*By kind permission of the Editor of "Black & White Budget."



INTERVAL.

• PART 2 •



INSTRUMENTAL, ... "Marche Militaire," ... .. *Schubert.*  
THE BAMPTON STRING BAND.

SONG, ... "Baby's eyes are Irish," ... *Perry.*  
MISS MARY OATES.

SONG, ... "St. Patrick's Day," *Isabel Sullivan.*  
MR. RIGDEN.

RECITATION, ... ..  
MISS EDWARDS.

PATRIOTIC SONG, "There's a land," *F. Allisten.*  
MR. EDWARD BOND.

SONG, ... "He thought of Home," ... *Powell.*  
DR. OATES.

SONG, ... "Long ago in Alcala," *André Messager.*  
MR. BULLEN.

SONG, ... "The Kerry Recruit," ... ..  
REV. E. WITHINGTON.

SONG, ... ..  
CAPTAIN HOARE.

RECITATION, "Mr. Brown has had his hair cut," ...  
MISS MASKELYNE.

SONG, ... "Ma Curly Headed Babby," ... *Clutsam.*  
MR. J. C. OATES.

SONG, ... .. "The Old Gown," ... *Corney Grain.*  
MR. STAPLES-BROWNE.



+ THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. +  
(In which all are requested to join).



Programme 

...OF...

Evening Concert,

TO BE HELD IN

THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS,

**BAMPTON,**

IN AID OF THE

Foresters' Brass Band,

...ON...

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1902.

  
Doors open 7.30 Commence at 8 p.m.

Prices of Admission: \* \* \* \* \*

RESERVED SEATS, 2/-. \* SECOND SEATS, 1/-.

AND A LIMITED NUMBER AT 6D.

Beard, Printer, Bampton.



# PROGRAMME.

## ▶ PART ONE. ◀



DESCRIPTIVE BATTLE PIECE, "*A Soldier's Life.*" ... Band.

"The Reveille." "Orders for Abroad." "The Soldier's Tear"  
Marching to Ship to tune of "The Girl I left behind me." Embarkation—  
"Then you'll remember me." "The Anchor weighed." "Farewell ye  
Portsmouth Town." "Rocked in the Cradle of the deep."  
"The Bay of Biscay." "Hornpipe." "The Storm." "Prayer during the  
Storm." "Fine weather again." Song "Under the twinkling star."  
Landing "Advance of Grenadiers." "Advance of Scotch Regiments."  
"Lights Out." Night "Alarm in the distance." "Commence firing."  
"The Battle." Victory "See the Conquering Hero Comes."  
"Marching off." "When Johnny comes marching home." Home again  
"Home Sweet Home."

SONG, ... .. Mr. J. P. Oates.

SONG, ... .. "*Little Dolly Daydream.*" Miss M. Oates.

RECITATION, ... .. "*That Telephone.*" Mr. R. Staples-Browne.  
(Jerome K. Jerome.)

CORNET SOLO, "*Lads of the Red, White & Blue.*" Mr. W. Fox.

SONG, ... .. "*Maggie's Secret.*" ... .. Miss Nudds.

HUMOROUS SONG, "*Kicklebury Brown.*" ... .. Mr. E. Green.

SONG, ... .. "*Message of Peace.*" ... .. Miss Gibbs.

ROUND, "*Rags & Bones.*" Messrs. Bryant, Green & King.

## ▶ PART TWO. ◀



SELECTION, ... .. "*Trafalgar.*" ... .. Band.

TRIO, ... .. "*Hark the Curfew.*" { Misses Gibbs, Nudds  
& Mr. Nudds.

SONG, ... .. "*The Old Fashioned Mother.*" Miss M. Oates.

RECITATION, ... .. "*Back to the  
Army again.*" Mr. R. Staples-Browne.  
(Rudyard Kipling.)

SONG, ... .. "*Should I be troubling you.*" Mr. A. J. Bryant.

SONG, ... .. "*Flight of Ages.*" ... .. Miss Kimber.

COMIC DUET, ... .. Messrs. Bryant & King.

SONG, ... .. "*Ha Ha.*" ... .. Mr. E. Green

VALSE, ... .. "*The Shipperies.*" ... .. Band.

"GOD SAVE THE KING."



#### BEARD THE PRINTER

All the concert programmes included in this book were produced at the printing establishment of James Beard in the Market Square. The wide variety of type used and their general layout point to the fact that Beard was a very competent *printer*.

It is a matter of great regret to me that I have never been able to find out why or when the printing works closed down, or what was the eventual fate of Beard, himself. One would have thought that he would have had assistants who were probably younger than him, but I have never met up with anyone who worked with him.



### 'OLD' WHITE

At the beginning of this century men had to go on working to the very last, for there were no old-age pensions to make the winter of their days a little easier. When the time came that they could no longer perform the heavy manual tasks on the farms they sought lighter work in the gardens. For such men the smock was the every-day garb.

On Sunday mornings the old men of the place would appear in immaculately-laundered smocks and scarlet neckerchiefs, looking for all the world as if they had just stepped out of one of Thomas Hardy's novels.

The smocks were decorated with some intricate stitching known as 'smocking'. Around the turn of the century some Bampton women were well-known over a wide area for the beautiful and complicated designs which they produced. Of those women, perhaps, the best-known was a character who was known as 'Dumby' Ann. Deaf and dumb from birth, she was superb artist in the field of smocking, and was much sought after as a teacher of that kind of needlework.

*I understand that White was buried by his own request in the very smock he is wearing in the photograph.*

### GRANNY WIGGINS

Old Mrs. Wiggins lived at Weald, and earned a few shillings a week by making baskets with rushes culled from the banks of the Thames.

This photograph is most interesting in that it reflects the enormous improvement in the social conditions of the working classes which have taken place over the last eighty years or so. Old Mrs. Wiggins could have been duplicated over and over again in the village at the beginning of this century. Poverty is written all over her, and it is heartening to compare her with the well-dressed septuagenarians of the present day.

















### THE PARISH ORGANIST

Frederick Taunt played the organ in the parish church for fifty years, and was held in great respect by the villagers. When the Foresters decided to form a brass band it was their unanimous wish that he should be invited to become their conductor, although he was not himself a member of the order. He died, aged 74, in 1915, and was succeeded as organist by his daughter who eventually went to live in Canada.

### THE 1910 ELECTION

Bampton found it so very bewildering. The trouble was that Miss Mary Morris looked like a lady; spoke like a lady: WAS a lady in every sense of the word. And this upset completely the preconceived notions of many a Bamptonian as to what those 'dreadful Suffragettes' were really like.

Miss Morris stood at the gate of the school in Church View inviting voters to sign the petition for 'Votes for Women.' But in a conservative place like Bampton her appeal fell on deaf ears.

Several pot valiant louts in the Wheatsheaf announced that they would make Miss Morris look a fool before the day was out. But once in the presence of the lady their self-confidence appeared to desert them, and it did not go unobserved that when they left Miss Morris they touched their caps to her.

While Bampton did not approve of the Suffragette Movement everyone agreed that Miss Morris, herself, had made a most agreeable impression on the place. Parson Rodwell was surprised by 'her ladylike comportment', while one of Bampton's most distinguished residents made no bones about declaring her to be a 'damned attractive woman'.



### THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

At the beginning of the century there were two smithies in Bampton, one was in the corner of the Square red-brick Folly View now stands, and the other was at the junction of Church Street and Broad Street.

Daniel Gibbard was as hard and tough a character as the nails he drove into the horses' hooves, yet he was not without a touch of sentiment. He was intensely patriotic, and on any national occasion he was the first to run up the Union Jack on a flagpole which stood before the smithy in the Square.

The photograph shows the spartan conditions in which the old fellow lived, but this may have been because his wife, who was much older than himself, had already died long before the photograph was ~~it~~ taken. Danile died in 1911, aged 80 years.

### THE DREWE'S

What a difference was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Drewe. Although the old couple lived in the humblest of cottages the photograph shows that Mrs. Drewe did her best to make it cosy and comfortable. The china ornaments on the mantelpiece were probably either won at the Fair or else bought at the annual Penny Bazaar which was held in a barn at the corner where Church View joins Bridge Street. In the 1970's the barn was converted to a private house known as Wychwoods.





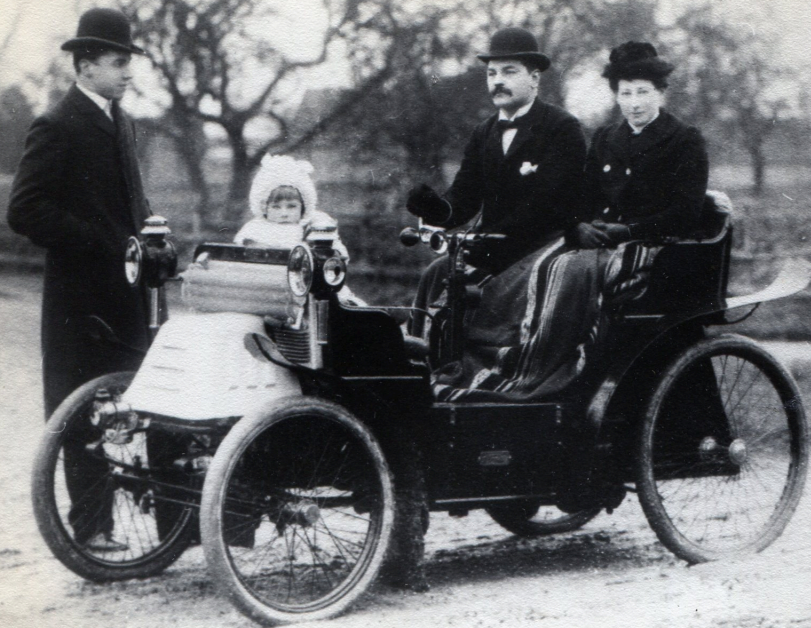
CHURCH PARISH ALMANACK 1904

GOD IS LOVE









The Bampton Voiturelle - & its makers.







### THE BAMPTON VOITURETTE

At the beginning of this century a gentleman who rejoiced in the name of Oliver Onesiphorous Collet kept a jeweller's shop and garage in Cheapside - where stands the newsagent's shop nowadays. An enterprising fellow, in 1903/4 he constructed a mechanically propelled motor car which he called the Bampton Voiturette. Of course all the components of the car, including the engine were built by other firms. He built two of these cars, but proceeded no further which was probably a good thing as Bampton might have become another Cowley.

I have only known one man who had actually driven in the car, and he told me that he believed it was capable of a top speed of some 15 miles per hour.

Collet was the first man in Bampton to instal electric lighting in his house when electricity first came to the village in 1931/32. It was the time of the great depression, and the electricity poles were erected by unemployed miners who were brought over from South Wales.

Collet eventually left Bampton, and went to Didcot where he sold fish and chips!

### HARRY GREEN

The name of Green does not appear in any mid-nineteenth century gazeteer, but by the beginning of the present century the family was of some note in the place: most of its members being engaged in the building trade.

The Green's were always connected with the Fire Brigade, and from the early years of this century until the late 1970's there was no time when one or more members of the family were <sup>not</sup> on its strength.

Harry was one of the three young Bampton men who emigrated to Canada in 1913, but the Dominion did not know him for long. In the following year he returned to England, and was killed in France on June 2nd, 1916.

He was very popular in the village, and was a sportsman of some note. He played left back for the football team, and was a very competent cricketer.



### BAMPTON TOWN BAND

It is pleasant to be able to record that on the occasion of their first public appearance in May, 1901 they did not forget to acknowledge their debt to the effort of their medical officer, Dr. John Prall. After the performance in the Square they marched to Lime Tree House where they played several items as a tribute to the doctor.

For the first year or two the Band was known as the Foresters Brass Band, but later its name was changed to the Bampton Town Band. I gather that the band was quite highly thought of in the neighbourhood, and it continued to exist up until the outbreak of war in 1914, but it seems that no attempt was made to revive it when hostilities were over.

One cannot be certain of the actual date of the photograph, but it is believed to have been taken in 1904. Mr. Taunt, the conductor, is the bearded gentleman on the left of the photograph.

The bandsmen wore black uniforms with gold facings, and one old lady, who had often listened to them in the past, told me they looked 'real lovely!

### FOOTBALL

Bampton had both football and cricket teams from the early 1890's to the beginning of the First World War.

In the years immediately preceding the war Bampton had a very good soccer team. Inevitably the Green family was much in evidence; three of its members being in the team. But by all accounts, the backbone of the team was W.A.D. Morris, an assistant master at the school from 1910 to 1912. A Welshman from Llanelli, he left in the latter year to go to a training college in London to the great regret of all football lovers in Bampton.

He was one of the most remarkable men I ever met: he must, almost certainly, have created a record when he gained a Bachelor of Arts degree of the Open University in 1981 when he was over 90 years old. He eventually became Headmaster of Donnington School, near Newbury, and wrote an excellent history of that place. Although he lived in Bampton for a short time he had a great love for the place. Until a year or two before his death he never failed to visit the village round about Whitsun time. Invariably, he dropped in to have a chat with me, and much of the information recorded in these pages was culled from his prodigious and reliable memory.

### Bampton F.C. 1910/11

Back Row: L to R. Mark Kerry George Batts Harry Green  
Middle Row: Fred Green W.A.D. Morris Bill Tanner  
Front Row: Fred Fox F. Robinson Jim Pryor Billy Walker Jim Green





BAMPTON TOWN BAND

1895







BAMPTON OXON

Pears









### THE EMIGRANTS

From time to time some of the more enterprising of the young villagers shook the dust of Bampton from off their boots, and tried their luck in one or other of the colonies.

In 1913 three young Bamptonians, Stan Solly, Percy Hughes, and Harry Green emigrated to Canada. The photograph shows a crowd of well-wishers assembled on Bampton Station to wish the young fellows god-speed.

Prominent in the centre forefront of the crowd is the ubiquitous Mr. Alfred Bryant. Nothing ever happened in Bampton in those days without 'Alfie' being in the centre of things. He was the proprietor of the Bampton Commercial School, but how he found time to run the establishment in view of his multifarious commitments elsewhere is a mystery, for he was also an insurance agent and a newsagent.

This photograph is interesting in that it shows how close-knit were the villagers in those days. I wonder how many Bampton folk would turn out to say 'ggodbye' in similar circumstances nowadays.

### FIRST WORLD WAR

In the 1914-18 War Bampton could certainly claim to have sent as fair a quota as any place to the fighting services. Casualties were terribly heavy, for of the men who served forty were wounded, and no less than fifty-one came not back at all.

Seven Bampton men were awarded the Military Medal and two the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

This photograph was taken at Christmas 1914, and the men are  
Back Row: L to R. Joe Tanner, Jim White, J. Dewe, Bill Johnson,  
Walt. Lay, Percy Shepherd, Jack Wells.  
Front Row: Jim Green, Jim Wells, Jim Pryor, Jack Pryor.

And the men being true and worthy Englishmen there had to be a dog in the photograph. Very right and proper.

Even among this small group the casualties were very heavy: J. Dewe, Walter Lay and Jim Wells lost their lives, and Joe Tanner, Jim Green and Jim Pryor were wounded.



### CHOIR OUTINGS

Sometime in the early years of the century the Choir of the Parish Church enjoyed a cruise on the Thames in one of Salter's river cruisers. Those were the good old days when the Choir consisted of men and boys with just a few ladies allowed in on sufferance.

Thanks to the coming of the railway to Bampton the Choir, or at least, the adult members, had enjoyed for some years trips to various places on the coast, and by happy chance I came across the account of the choir outing to Portsmouth in July 21st, 1900.

'The members of the Bampton Church Choir had their annual outing on Tuesday last to Portsmouth by the Witney trip. The weather was beautifully fine. Arriving at Portsmouth at 9 a.m. the members made for the sea where some indulged in an early morning dip; they then dispersed to various quarters, some to visit the dockyard while others went by sea trips to Southampton, Ventnor, Ryde and Alum Bay (on the Isle of Wight). Those who went to the latter place had a splendid voyage, and enjoyed the beautifully cool breezes of the Channel from the cliff at the Needles where the fort and Long Tom were inspected. Then the descent from the hill was most amusing, a number of ladies were unable to descend on account of the slippery nature of the grass and heather. Some gentlemen of the party seeing their predicament kindly offered their assistance which was respectfully declined, the ladies preferring to descend alone.

The trip back to Portsmouth was most charming, the band and the singers on board enlivening the proceedings by playing and singing. The Japanese warship stationed in the Solent attracted great attention and the Choir on passing gave them three cheers and cried 'Good old Japs.' The homeward journey commenced at 8.15 p.m. from Portsmouth arriving at Bampton at just 1 a.m. as the chimes were playing 'Abide with me.'

'Good old Japs' indeed! I suspect that the grandsons of the trippers were not so enthusiastic about that nation some forty years later.

I love that bit about the ladies respectfully declining the help of the men when descending down the hill to Alum Bay. It is a comment on what was considered correct behaviour at the beginning of the century. It would, of course, be not quite the thing for a lady to take the arm of a man in those circumstances. He might have ulterior motives!





BOATS TO LET. SALTER BROS BOAT BUILDERS BOATS FOR SALE

SUPERB



## Air Training Corps.

About the middle of World War II a flight of 1013 Squadron, A.T.C. was established in Bampton. A number of lads showed an eagerness to join, but unfortunately, no officer could be found to take over the command, so matters languished. Then I appeared in Bampton, and knowing that I had had experience with the R.A.F.V.R. the authorities asked me to take on the job. Because of my teaching commitments - things were very difficult at school - I was reluctant to agree. However, I was very glad in the end that I was persuaded, because ere long we built up as fine a body of lads as ever I have ever been associated with, and this in spite of great difficulties.

Faithful to tradition, the Government wanted to run the A.T.C. on cheese-paring lines. We had next to no equipment, and our headquarters were the workshop at my school. The lads were remarkably long-suffering in what they had to put up with, but in the end they were rewarded. It was my good fortune to become friendly with Wing-Com. T. Lloyd-Jones of R.A.F. Brize Norton, and he became the fairy godfather of our flight. We spent every Sunday at Brize, and Lloyd-Jones could not do too



much for us.

The lads were terribly keen and efficient which was shown by the fact that they won the Pickford Cup as the best flight in the squadron for the next three years. Then unfortunately I had to give the A.T.C. up. Unluckily there was a succession of c.o.'s, and the flight suffered accordingly. As the cadets went away on national service few came along to take their places, and writing now in 1966, nearly twenty years later, the flight still exists, but seems only a travesty of its former self. This in spite of the fact that it has a splendid headquarters in Aston Road.











