Castrol
LUBRICATION SERVICE
OFFICIAL STATION
SUPER
POWER
Firestone
OUT 49

Daisy Box
Daisy Box

LUBRICATION SERVICE
SUPER
POWER
OUT 49

LICENSED FOR MUSIC AND DANCING

NO PARKING

GRAND CARNIVAL
NO PARKING

GARLANDS - 1964

THE GARLANDS

The origin of the Garlands seems obscure, but those whose memories go back furthest remember well going round with double hoops made of hazel sticks decorated with leaves and wild flowers - generally with a small doll in the middle.

Early on Whitmonday - the day of the Morris Dancing - the garlands were taken round on show from door to door with one child carrying a tin with a slit in the lid for coppers.

It is not known why the garlands were made for Whitmonday instead of for May Day as in other Oxfordshire villages, but possibly there was originally some connection between the garlands and the Morris Dancers.

THE MUMMERS

For generations a Band of Mummers went round performing at the various inns and larger houses in Bampton at Christmastime. Among the excitements of the festive season it was much looked forward to by all.

There were seven characters, Father Christmas, Dr. Good, The Landlord, Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, St. George and The Tinker, all dressed for their parts and each with his piece to recite

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Garlands

By Ruth Wheeler

One of Bampton's longstanding traditions is the making of garlands of wild flowers, which children carry around the village before being judged. It would be fantastic to see a large entry this year. The instructions for making a garland are reproduced below:

To make a garland for 2 children you need 2 supple sticks (preferably willow), each about 1 metre long. Bend each stick into a circle and tie at the top firmly. Place one inside the other and tie them together at the top and bottom. Then tie bunches of wild flowers, such as cow parsley and buttercups, to each of the 3 sides. (May or horse chestnut blossom should not be used). Then place a doll inside the frame, and put a stout stick through the middle of the garland to make a handle for one child to hold on each side. Many thanks to all the children who took part in making a garland this year. I know it is very hard to find flowers these days. Mrs Jenny Webb andMrs Elward helped with the judging: Thanks to them both.

Mrs Dawn Knight presents a plaque in memory of her daughter Corrina who was killed some years ago to the winners of the garlands. This year the prizes were won by:-

1st Prize Xsaviour and Eddy Walsgrove and Devon Townsend
2nd Prize Cerise and Pippa Carrington and their little sister
3rd Prize Sarah Ader and her friends

All children that took part were given sweets

I would like to thank John and Rose Grant for their sponsorship. Also Mrs Rose Gerring and Mrs E Quick for donations towards sweets.

The weather was kind to us this year. Perhaps we'll be lucky again next year. Keep the old tradition going even if you can only come up with a few flowers. Thanks to all that took part.

WINNERS: Esther Green and Susan Taylor (front), first prize winners in the garland test at Bampton on Saturday, with Deborah Hiram and Gale Wheeler who took second

GARLANDS

Whit Monday, 7th June 1965.

Traditional garlands made of wild flowers and carried from house to house by the children on the morning of Whit Monday, collecting pennies as they go.

To revive interest amongst the children a competition has been organised for the most attractive garland made on traditional lines. In addition to the first and second prizes every entrant receives a bar of chocolate.

This garland was made with two ovals of branches, cross tied, and containing the following flowers:

Bluebells, bugle, Self heal, Moon Daisies, Daisies, White clover, Stitchwort, Red clover, Red campion, Ragged robin, Sorrel, Yellow rattle, Cowslip, Ragwort, Birdsfoot trefoil, Buttercup, topped with Yellow flag and Purple Orchid, and with a small doll sitting inside.

Presented by
MRS DAWN KNIGHT
for the best
MAY FLOWER GARLAND
In memory of her daughter
CORINNA MARIE NEWLAND
1970 - 1989

BA5452 - Flower garland being held by Evelyn Hornsby nee Brown and a young friend with vicar Kelway in the middle.

BA6381 - Children with flower garlands waiting to be judged outside the Town Hall.

BA59F5 - Flower garlands made for judging at Whitsuntide, probably in the 1890s.

BACC65 - Children with their garlands, Whit Monday, in the Market Square, waiting for the judges to come along. Notice the poster for a Carnival on the wall of the Town Hall.

Untitl52 - Rachel and Sharon Foreshew as children 1962 with their flower garland. It is the custom to go around the village showing your garland and hoping people will put money in your collecting tin and then going on to the Market Square for the judging of all the garlands that have been made.

a1 - Outside the Talbot. Taken in the early part of the 20th century. Freda Bradley said: "Seeing the straw Bonnets reminded me of when we used to go with the Garlands in the 1930s. We had the same straw Bonnets. Children always had new clothes for Whitsuntide."

a78 - Children with garlands, Matthew and Alexander Morgan. Winners 2003.

B0078 - Garlands presentation by Countess Munster, Kate Wylie and Reg Pratley outside the WI Hall.

b0129 – Garlands on Whit Monday 1965.

a239 - Garlands being judged by Ada Tanner in the Market Square by the Town Hall.

a1012 – Mary garlands May 28th 2007.

a1014 - May garlands 28th May 2007 with entrants outside the Town Hall ready for judging on a cold and damp morning.

img608 - Newspaper article May 22nd 1964. Esther Green and Susan Taylor win first prize in the Flower Garland competition on Whit Monday.

img224 - An article from the July 2012 issue of The Beam. An account of the Flower Garlands by Ruth Wheeler.

img021 - Approximately 20 flower garlands for judging in 1964. The children are all lined up down the length of the Market Square by the Town Hall.

img023 - These are 'old folks' memories of the Flower Garlands and the Mummers. Their recollections of the Mummers are not correct through. The Mummers characters are:- Father Christmas who is basically the narrator in both acts; St George the Knight / Royal Apprussia King played by the same person; Turkish Knight / Soldier Bold played by the same person; Doctor; Robin Hood / Jack Finny played by the same person.

img333 - In 1965 the WI created a scrapbook of life in Bampton at that time. The scrapbook was compiled by members of Bampton's Women's Institute as their entry for the competition instigated by the National Federation to mark the golden jubilee of the movement. This page shows pictures and text all about the garlands made for Whitsuntide Monday originally and now on spring bank holiday Monday. The colour pictures were taken on June 7th 1965.

img335 - In 1965 the WI created a scrapbook of life in Bampton at that time. The scrapbook was compiled by members of Bampton's Women's Institute as their entry for

the competition instigated by the National Federation to mark the golden jubilee of the movement. A picture of the garlands made for Whitsuntide Monday originally and now on spring bank holiday Monday. The colour pictures were taken on June 7th 1965.

img336 – From WI Scrapbook. A picture of s garland made for Whitsuntide Monday originally and now on spring bank holiday Monday. The colour pictures were taken on June 7th 1965.

2015.2.24 - Three judges of the flower garlands, left to right Mrs Hampton (back to camera), Ada Tanner and Hilda Pickard. In the background to the left of the Market Square Garage can be seen one gable end wall of what used to be The Lamb Inn which was finally completely removed in 1960 to build the show room for the garage.

2015.5.3 img849 - Sisters Sharon and Rachael Foreshew got first place in the Flower Garland competition in 1960. They each received a box of Dairy Box chocolates for winning.