





A LOOK BACK AT 'MOVEMBER'-STYLE FUN

Whisker a go-go!

IT'S a village famous for wacky ideas... Bampton, near Witney, has played host to the Great Shirt Race, the donkey derby, the Great Pumpkin Challenge and more.

So it was perhaps no surprise in 1973 when it organised the great moustache-growing race.

Twenty regulars took up the month-long challenge in the bar of the Eagle Inn.

And when the night of reckoning came, 18 were there sporting a variety of whiskers ready to parade before the judges.

The judging panel was Vic Stevens, landlord of the Trout Inn at Tadpole Bridge, *Oxford Mail* columnist Anthony Wood and *Witney Gazette* reporter Sue Bowes.

Anthony Wood wrote in the *Mail* next day: "Looking up and down the ranks of serried bristles of every shade from blond to black, we could at least console ourselves that it might have been worse.

"There might have been 20 of

them if Robert Radband hadn't cried off at the start and Dave Passmore hadn't weighed in at the last moment with a poetic apology for his lack of whiskers.

"But the others who had solemnly presented their shaven upper lips for inspection a month ago, paid their 50p entrance fees and agreed to cough up another 50p if they defaulted, now all brandished fresh growths.

"The rules said we could deduct points for the presence of egg yolk, soup, tea stains, birds' nests or other foreign bodies among the whiskers. But every exhibit was as clean as a tooth brush."

After much debate, the judges awarded first prize to Cowley car worker Bill Daniels, who received £3.50 and a cup, praising him for a moustache which had everything – "classic lines, rich but unostentatious growth and perfect symmetry".

Second prize of £1.50 went to

Chris Lewis, landlord of the Eagle, for "a fine moustache with a slight lack of balance in the left antenna", while third prize of a razor went to Mick Blake for an exhibit which "made up in sculpturing for what it lacked in luxuriance".

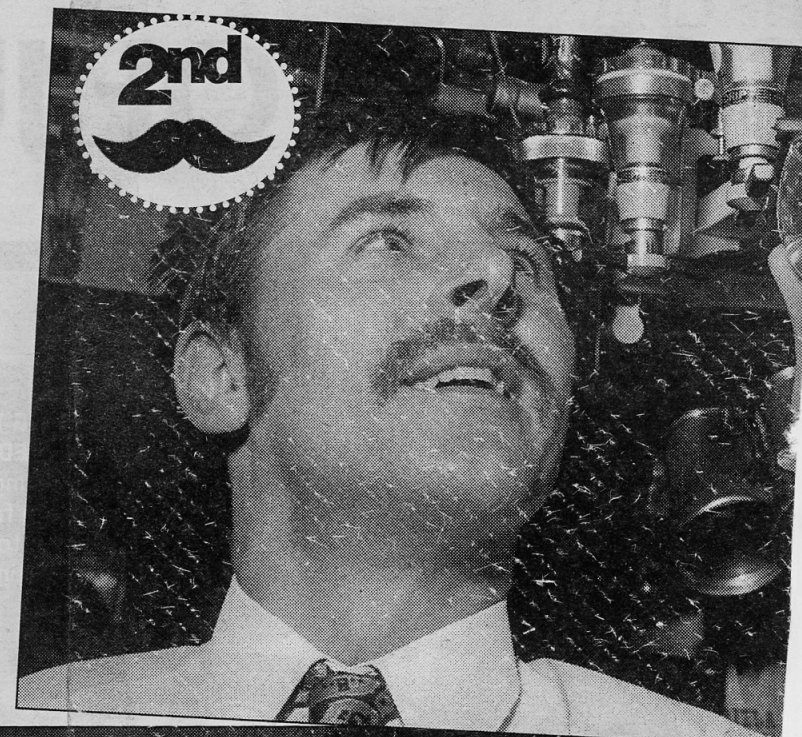
Fourth and fifth prizes, also razors, went to Barry Broome for his Mexican-style offering and John Tanner, for a "magnificent growth which unfortunately he hadn't succeeded in taming".

Bill Daniels attributed his success partly to the fact that he had watered his upper lip regularly with the Eagle Inn beer and partly to daily press-ups and good breeding.

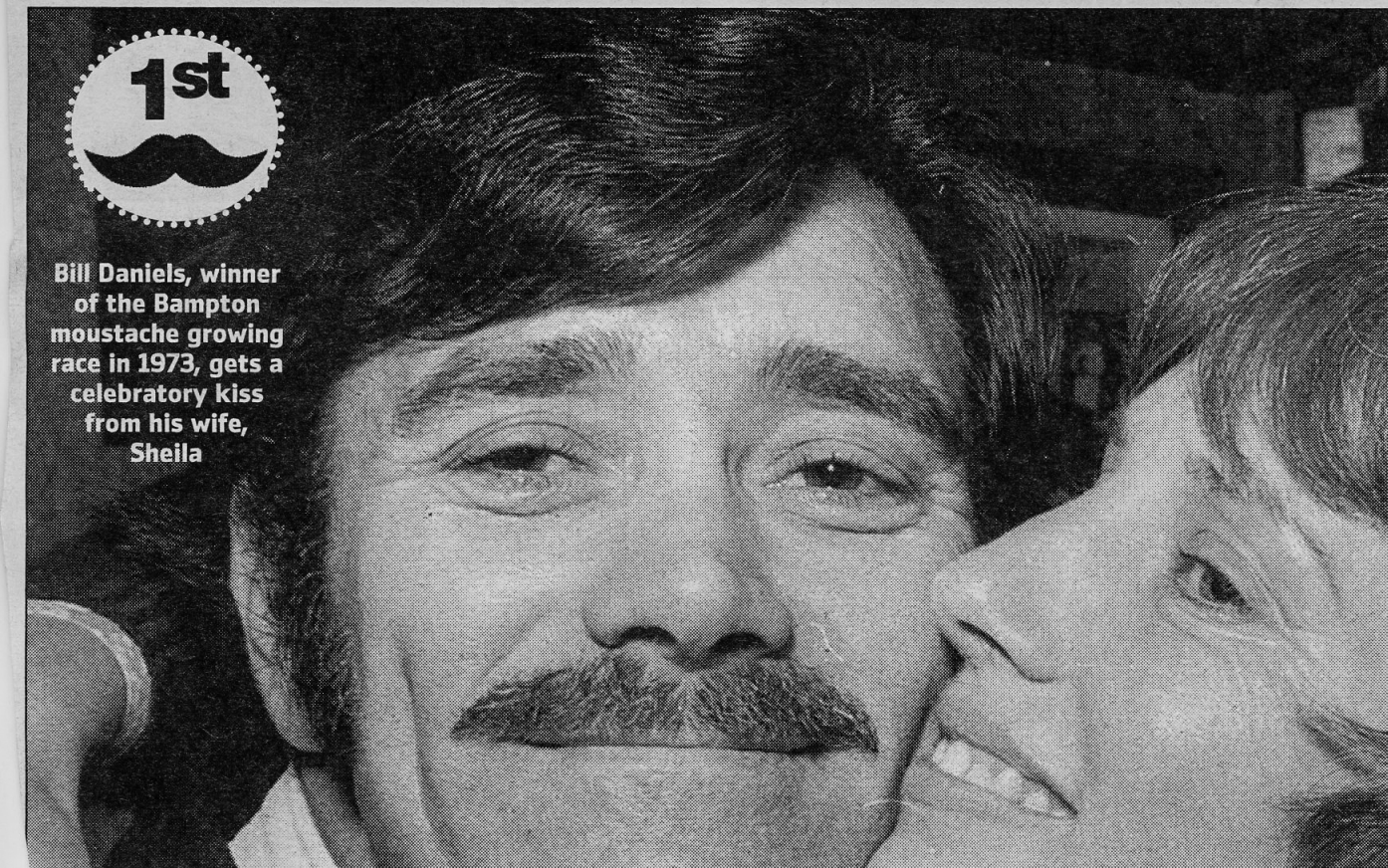
He pointed out that his family had lived in Bampton since 1520 and a good moustache was something of a family, eh, hairloom.

The real beneficiaries of the competition were the village's old folk. This and other fundraising efforts had put more than £1,000 into the Eagle's Christmas fund.

TOP TACHES:
Right, Chris Lewis, landlord of the Eagle Inn, who came second.
Below, Third-placed Mick Blake waters his moustache with a pint



Bill Daniels, winner of the Bampton moustache growing race in 1973, gets a celebratory kiss from his wife, Sheila



Bill
Daniels



Bill Danies

Ted Hunt

Arnold Woodley



Albert Woodyly

Don Rouse

Frank Purslow



Bill Daniels as the
Old Woman
in The Mummies

Bill Daniels

Shirley Daniels

Peter Wheeler

