



## Merry Morris in Kirtlington



Kirtlington's annual Lamb Ale Morris Festival kicked off on Friday 9th June and ran through until the 11th. Bells, accordions and applause rang out in the village as sides from as far as West Yorkshire and Hammersmith came to the village to take part.

The celebration dates back centuries and was originally a week-long festival of merry-making.

Squire of the Kirtlington Morris side Nigel Holt said it was a brilliant event that saw dancers performing for up to six hours a day and "It was great to have so many sides come from different parts of the country. Morris dancing had a bit of a revival in the 1970s and I remember there were quite a few of us young men who got involved."

"The weekend is a showcase for the best in Morris dancing, and it is an ancient tradition that keeps the community together and that needs preserving. And, for us, it is a great way of meeting old friends, dancing together and enjoying ourselves."

"It was also great to see so many young people involved. We are all a lot older than we were when we joined in the 1970s and we need to keep the tradition alive for future generations."

The Festival kicked off on the Friday night with folk music at the nearby Rock of Gibraltar pub. Then Saturday saw hosts Kirtlington Morris, along with two other groups, dance at sites around the village and tour Blenheim Palace and Woodstock, before a barn dance in the evening.

But the real spectacle began on Sunday morning when all 16 Morris sides gathered outside the village to parade to the parish church for the special Lamb Ale service, which includes music and dance. After the service, the sides danced back through the village to the primary school, where there was a display of traditional dancing by Kirtlington Morris and Kirtlington Maids. Then more dancing took place at various sites around the village until a grand finale at the school on Sunday afternoon.



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### Dates For Your Diary

- Glove Making Talk  
19th June - 7:30pm  
see page 5
- Chipping Norton Town Walk  
25th June
- July Newsletter Submissions  
Deadline  
30th June
- Chipping Norton Countryside  
Walk  
2nd July
- Shelswell History Festival  
7th-9th July  
see page 5
- The Railway in Oxford Walk  
16th July

### AVAILABLE NOW!

Our new DVD, **Bicester's Buildings**, is on sale now. See the website for more details.



# Village History Mixbury

Mixbury is a village on the county border, just south-east of Brackley.

The toponym is derived from the Old English *mixen-burgh*, meaning “fortification near dung-heap”. “Burgh” refers to Beaumont Castle, which was built about 1100. It no longer stands, but its earthworks remain at the north end of the village.

The Domesday Book records that in 1086 Roger d'Ivry held a manor of 17 hides at Missberie. The manor was part of the Honour of St. Valery by 1213, when Robert de St. Valery gave Mixbury's mesne lordship to the Augustinian Osney Abbey. The abbey retained Mixbury until it was suppressed in the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539.

The main road between Buckingham and Banbury passes through the parish just south of the village. It was made into a turnpike by an Act of Parliament in 1744.

Mixbury's inclosure act was passed in 1729 and the inclosure award was made the next year. This is by far the earliest inclosure act for an Oxfordshire parish: the next was not passed until 1758. The area enclosed under the act was about 2,000 acres; land enclosed before 1729 by agreement without the need for an act had been about 445 acres.

The original village consisted of thatch-roofed rubblestone cottages clustered between the church and the stream. In 1874 they were



All Saints Church

demolished under an order of the Court of Chancery and replaced with two rows of brick-faced semi-detached estate cottages laid out as a model village along the road leading south from the church.

All Saints' Church dates from the 12th century. The earliest remaining part being the Norman south doorway, dating from about 1170. Early in the 14th century all the windows were replaced with Decorated Gothic ones, and a south aisle of three bays and a west tower were added. The Perpendicular Gothic clerestory was added later. The chancel was restored in 1843 and the remainder of the church was

restored around 1848.

The west tower has three bells. The treble bell was cast in 1577 by John Appowell, of Buckingham. The tenor in 1609 by Robert Atton, of Buckingham. Then the second in 1627 by Bartholomew Atton, of Buckingham. The church clock appears to be late 17th century, though no records exist of an exact date.

The rector had the village school built in 1838. In 1928 it was reorganised as a junior school and older pupils were transferred to the school at Fringford. It was reorganised as an infants' school in 1948, but then closed in 1955.

- Matthew Hathaway

## Marj's Memories Mr Truby and 'The Bikes'

The Truby family lived in 83 Bucknell Road (in the forties it was 38 Highfield). Mr Truby, known locally as “Naggy Truby” repaired and sold second-hand bicycles. He put together various parts to make bikes to sell.

Alongside the vegetable garden was a store of wood.

There was a pig at the bottom in the corner. When the pig was slaughtered the neighbours and friends had a share of the various goodies and in wartime not a scrap was wasted.

Mrs Truby was a hard-working mother of five. The house was always polished and, like most of that generation, she was a very good cook. This came about because a lot of the housewives, my mother included, had been “in service” and knew the rudiments of cookery and housekeeping.

Their youngest son, Sid, was around my age and when the children played games in the back field, Sid always provided the things we needed. Saddle stems were guns when we played Cowboys and Indians. He was crazy about fairs and the wood all came out into the field to form a roundabout and stalls and, just inside the field, was the family's air raid shelter which was utilised as a Ghost Train with all the real spiders and cobwebs hanging down inside.

Sid achieved his ambition when he left school and went to work and travelled with Butlin's fair, but it didn't last many weeks.

It could be said that Mr Truby was keen on recycling even in those days!

- Marjorie Dean MBE

# Bygone Bicester

(Taken from the Bicester Advertiser)

## 27th June 1863

CRICKET - On Tuesday morning last a single wicket match was played between four members of the Bicester Victoria Club, there being Messrs Crook and Phillips on the one side, and Messrs Tebby and Clack on the other. Owing to the excellent play shown by Mr Crook, he and his friend were victors by one innings.

Mr Phillips went to the wicket first, and scored 5, when a well directed ball from Tebby laid him low. Mr Crook then took the bat, and before being caught by Tebby made nine runs thus making a total of 14.

Mr Clack on the opposite side then went in, and after contending for a short time against the magnificent bowling of Mr Crook, and the first-rate fielding of Mr Phillips gave up his bat for 2. Mr Tebby followed, and was bowled by Crook, after making a total of 4 for the first innings. Mr Clack again went to the wicket, and was bowled by Crook, this time making 0. Once more Mr Tebby went in and succeeded by some very good play in making 7, and thus scored 11 for the two innings, but he was finally bowled by Mr Crook.

On the previous Thursday a match was played between Bicester Commercial School and Bicester Junior Cricket Club. The match was played in a field kindly lent for the occasion by Mr Buckle, of Chesterton. Owing to the good play shown by Messrs J. Bellam and C. Grimsley, the Juniors won by over 30 runs.

## 23rd June 1905

BICESTER GOLF CLUB - The final for a challenge cup presented by a member of the Club, which will in future be called the June Cup, was played off yesterday. The competition has been a most interesting one, and great interest was taken in the results throughout, some of which have proved to be extraordinarily even.

In the second round the match between Mr Hoare and Mr Horatio Fane was halved, and was a hard fought game from start to finish. In the same round Messrs Jagger and Walsh had a most exciting game, Mr Walsh only winning by a putt on the last green.

In the semi-final there remained Mr Walsh and Mr H.A. Fane, and Mr Hoare and Dr Cole. Mr Hoare's and Dr Cole's proved to be about the most interesting game of the competition, and certainly the best golf, both players doing fine rounds and being very even all through, Mr Hoare ultimately winning by one hole.

On the same day Mr H.A. Fane beat Mr Walsh by two up and one to play, thus being left in the final with Mr Hoare. In this Mr Hoare won the first and second holes, and kept ahead all through the game, being two up at the turn. At the 12th hole this lead was reduced to one, but halving the 13th and winning the 14th and 15th he was down three. The 16th was halved, Mr Hoare thus winning by three up and two to play.

## 6th June 1947

CRICKET - Bicester Thursday v RAF Officers, Bicester. This match at Bicester on Thursday week resulted in an exciting win for the visitors, who beat Bicester by one run.

Bicester v Witney. It is some years since the Bicester Club met a Witney XI, but the pleasant games with the Old Grammarians are still fresh in the memory, and one

recalls a Bicester side scoring exactly three runs on one memorable occasion at Witney. Fixtures with Witney Town this season, therefore, were welcomed, the first taking place at Bicester on Saturday.

The visitors are recognised as a particularly strong combination, but although they won fairly easily at first glance, two batsmen scored just one hundred of the total of 133, against Bicester's 53.

## 9th June 1989

KING'S RINK CROWNS VICTORY OVER ABINGDON - Bicester Bowls Club men won their home match with Abingdon convincingly by 124 to 112 at the weekend, George King's rink proving decisive.

His men out-bowled the opposition, only allowing them to score on four of the 21 ends, winning by 33 shots to six.

Scores: D. Read, E. Morris, M. Bracewell, T. Gaskins 17; F. Home, J. Davey, R. Harding, A. Spearman 20; B. Timms, S. Wallington, C. Hathaway, O. Slaymaker 15; R. Surman, D. Bolle, G. Myers, O. Weir 17; V. Varney, F. Archer, R. Jones, G. Archer 20; J. Myers, M. Jones, W. Griffiths, E. Ponting 20; S. Gibbons, B. Smith, T. Edwards, M. Upstone 16; C. Foster, R. Goodall, H. Steele, J. Jenking 29; J. Willock, N. Plunkett, P. Livingstone, G. Linieres 23; J. Whittaker, W. Hole, F. Ponting, P. Magee 20; M. Leach, A. Brown, B. Nicoll, G. King 33; A. Gardner, W. Johnson, E. Turner, G. Bradley 6.

On a very tricky green on Sunday away at Banbury Chestnuts, two rinks of Bicester ladies won their games but the men were less fortunate and only had one winning rink out of four.

Scores: Ladies: R. Edwards, J. Hutchinson, J. Butler, P. Linieres 18; M. Kent, A. Bell, E. Squires, S. Mawle 16; J. Clarke, L. Brown, V. Jones, A. Hathaway 24; O. Webb, G. Good, H. Hilton, V. Washington 16.

Men: J. Willock, C. Morris, T. Edwards, G. Linieres 12; C. Taylor, A. Thomas, D. Stimpson, E. Hilton 26; G. Syme, M. Brown, G. Hodgkiss, C. Hathaway 25; R. Jakeman, B. Fletcher, R. Washington, G. Williams 14; V. Varney, B. Smith, R. Jones, R. Jakeman, R. Allum, J. Kent, G. Squires 28; A. Brown, C. Breeze, D. Clarke, T. Gaskins 14; L. Stimpson, F. Williams, A. Bentley, R. Webb 30.

In the County competitions played at City and County, Jane Plater and Jean Jessett won their games to go through to the second round of the pairs.

In the Watlington mixed pairs competition Dave and Jean Clarke and Cyril and Ann Hathaway both won their games and go on to the next round.



Cyril Hathaway in action

# Roll of Honour

*The following are the local men who died in the Great War, 100 years ago this month.*

**Lance Corporal Frank Austin**, of Launton.

Died: 5<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Aged: 27      Served in: Wiltshire Regiment

**Private Richard John Allen**, buried in Bicester.

Died: 10<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Served in: Training Reserve

**Private Thomas James Pearman**, of Lower Heyford.

Died: 12<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Aged: 26      Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

**Private Arthur Rest Bates**, native of Bicester.

Died: 14<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Aged: 29      Served in: Royal Army Medical Corps

**Private James Winman**, of Bicester.

Died: 14<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Aged: 26      Served in: Machine Gun Corps

**Private Leonard Busby**, of Piddington.

Died: 16<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Aged: 23      Served in: Worcestershire Regiment

**Private William Garnet Holiday**, of Merton.

Died: 16<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Aged: 32      Served in: Royal Fusiliers

**Private Thomas Henry Ayris**, of Stratton Audley.

Died: 21<sup>st</sup> June 1917      Served in: Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars

**Private William Butler**, of Henley Gardens, Bicester.

Died: 21<sup>st</sup> June 1917      Aged: 28      Served in: Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars

**Private Albert James Hathaway**, of Wendlebury.

Died: 28<sup>th</sup> June 1917      Aged: 25      Served in: Royal Berkshire Regiment



Next year marks the centenary of the end of the First World War. Groups and organisations all over the country have done many things over the last few years to commemorate the anniversary, but so far Bicester hasn't seen much at all. As the local history society we are in prime position to organise something ready for next November, but no one has any clear idea of what it should be. So if you have any suggestions then we would love to hear from you.

Whatever we end up doing for the town, we are already trying to collate as much information as we can on the people of the area who served and died in the conflict. But we need help with that too. If you have any information, stories, photos or items about anyone from the local area who served in the war then please get in touch.

You can view the list we have put together from all the war memorials in the area on our website at: [www.blhs.org.uk/index.php/roh](http://www.blhs.org.uk/index.php/roh). Please help us fill in the blanks and add as much information as we can.

## Full Steam Ahead

Trainspotters, including a small group of our committee members, were out in their droves ready to see the famous locomotive, the Flying Scotsman, as it passed through the county on Tuesday 6th June.

The steam train travelled through Bicester Village Station early in the afternoon and on towards Oxford Parkway. It stopped at Oxford Parkway Station before heading into Oxford at 2:51pm. The engine then travelled via Didcot towards its final destination, London Victoria.

Steam Dreams operates the "Cathedrals Express" pleasure trips all over the country. They use a number of old steam locomotives, including 60009 Union of South Africa, 70013 Oliver Cromwell, 46233 Duchess of Sutherland and 60103 Flying Scotsman.

This new route through the county has only been possible since the Bicester to Oxford line was re-opened, but it is sure to be repeated in the future. See [www.cathedralsexpress.co.uk](http://www.cathedralsexpress.co.uk) for more details.



## Talks Update

Over the next few months we have a varied itinerary of talks that we hope will prove very interesting.

### Monday 19th June

Carol Anderson gives us her talk about **Glove Making in Oxfordshire**.

### Monday 17th July

Deborah Hayter tells us about **The Peripatetic Poor in the 18th Century**.

### Monday 18th September

This meeting begins with our AGM, which will then be followed by some **Historical Miscellany**.

## Shelswell History Festival

This is a three day event offering talks, workshops, demonstrations, films, plays and activities for all the family. Celebrating local history from Saxon battles, through the country of Flora Thompson's Lark Rise to Candleford,

recent world wars, and to today.

The Festival takes place between 7th and 9th July 2017 in Shelswell Park Estate, just north of Bicester. For further details, and to book tickets, visit: [www.shelswellhistoryfestival.org.uk](http://www.shelswellhistoryfestival.org.uk)



## Bicester's Big Lunch

Sunday 4th June saw another successful Big Lunch in the town centre. The opening ceremony and church service were slightly subdued following news of the London Bridge attack the day before, but even the constant threat of rain wasn't enough to stop everyone enjoying themselves for the afternoon.

We had our stall at the entrance to Crown Walk, in the same spot we have occupied in

previous years. We decided to put on a more engaging display this time so opted to set up a large television showing various bits of old footage that we had collected together for our first DVD back in 2013.



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