

Tim Edwin : Polevaulting Closes Waterhouse Street

I can tell you an interesting thing which happened which I was involved in. And this would be.... probably round about 60...1968? Um, I'm not sure if you're aware, but I used to be a pole-vaulter? And.....the man who used to coach us, he actually had quite a....a big reputation. He was the PE teacher at Cavendish school. His name was Morton Evans. He actually became a national coach in the end. And, along, where Bridge Street comes to Waterhouse Street and goes down towards the bus station, there used to be quite a wide area of grass, along the side of the water gardens. And we actually brought an air bed which had actually come from America called Cloud 9? Which pumped up with air. And, we actually did a sort of pole vault competition, along the back of there. And the Gazette will have photographs of that because I've actually got some photographs as well.

What Morton Evans was was doing is that erm, he'd got a chap in America, to to actually give him some poles, because fibreglass poles were very expensive in those days. This was, this was when we were in transition to fibreglass poles. So so he he put it on, I think one was to get the general public to get up more close to people pole vaulting, but also to to get some public relations stuff so he could send it back to America. The, the poles which had been supplied were called Catapoles". They they are sort of like the third generation of fibreglass poles, at the time. So that's why he, that's why he sort of put it on. But that, the whole of that sort of Waterhouse Street came to a standstill cos there were so many people (laugh) right across the road.