

## **Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II (June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953)**

The Coronation of our current Queen marked a landmark in the social history of the UK. It was the point at which the country finally started to look forward, to a new Elizabethan Age, rather than back to World War II that had ended seven years previously: the post-war period was definitely ending.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953 was rainy in London and the poor weather spread North throughout the day – eventually it even rained in Yorkshire. Newspapers of the time report that the festivities in a wide range of places, including Kildwick and Farnhill, were abandoned early due to the increasingly bad weather. Before and even after then, however, it seems that a fun time was had by all.

## **Kildwick and Farnhill – Planning the Celebrations**

Almost as soon as the date of the Coronation was announced, Farnhill Parish Council formed a Coronation Celebrations committee. The first meeting, on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1952, was attended by representatives from various organisations in the two villages. These included:

- Kildwick Parish Meeting
- Kildwick and Farnhill Institute (Ladies and Gents sections)
- Methodist Church
- Methodist Church Women's Meeting
- Kildwick Albion Cricket Club
- Kildwick and Farnhill Scouts
- Oddfellows Lodge
- British Legion
- Tennis Club
- Playing Fields Group
- Kildwick Church Young Wives Guild
- Kildwick Church Council
- Kildwick Church Youth Movement

It was quickly decided that the form of the celebrations should follow, in large measure, that which had been established for the royal events throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and various sub-committees were formed.

## **Fund Raising**

Previous royal celebrations in the two villages had been largely funded by sizeable donations from a small number of wealthy villagers. For this Coronation however, perhaps reflecting the changing times, money for the celebrations was raised by a combination of house-to-house collections, by letters requesting donations, and by the holding of fund raising events.

A Joint Concert Party was also arranged, in conjunction with other local villages:

*... to give Concerts for Coronation Funds in Bradley, Farnhill, Cononley and Glusburn*

The effect was to make the build-up to the Coronation much more of a community event and, as part of this, an indicator showing how much money was being raised was fixed on the wall of the Old Post Office in Kildwick.

At the committee meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> 1952, it was reported that the three events held so far had raised:

Whist Drive and Dance	£9 12s
Produce Sale	£13 19s
Jumble sale	£8

A Sale of Work was held in the Institute on December 6<sup>th</sup> (opened by Mrs Hartley of Kildwick Manor) and the committee were also involved in the annual Children's Party held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. By January 6<sup>th</sup> 1953, the total sum raised stood at £ 152.

As her contribution to the fund-raising, Mrs Hartley agreed to host a Bring-and-Buy Sale at Kildwick Manor. This raised no less than £75 (equivalent to £1600 at 2012 prices) and, by 31<sup>st</sup> March, the committee's funds stood at £260.

The final total would come to £307 13s 4d.

## Selecting a Queen

The rules of succession to the British throne are fairly straightforward, and Elizabeth II became queen because she was the eldest child of George VI, who died without a male heir. The far thornier issue, in April 1953, was how to select Kildwick and Farnhill's Gala Queen.

The matter was discussed and seemed to be settled at the committee meeting of March 31<sup>st</sup>. The minutes read:

*On the proposition of Miss Simpson, seconded by Miss Overend, it was decided that we have a Coronation Queen – the age to be 14-18.*

*The Queen and two attendants to be elected by ballot at the Dance on April 11<sup>th</sup>.*

*Mr C Lister proposed, and Mrs Holmes seconded, that a sum of £5 be allowed from Coronation Funds towards cost of Dress or Dresses.*

Which seems clear enough. (The amount set aside for dresses was later increased to £10, and £1 was allowed for a page boy's outfit.)

But at the end of the same minutes there is the following note:

*On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April Mr Beedom and Mr Sugden visited my house and informed me that it was against public opinion to elect a Queen by ballot and that they had seen our Chairman and various members of the committee, and that it was decided to appoint judges to make the appointment. Mr & Mrs Whitham, Eastburn, and Col and Mrs Spencer were suggested.*

Quite what happened next isn't clear. But by the time of the next meeting, on April 14<sup>th</sup>, a sub-committee had been formed to meet the Queen elect, her attendants, and their mothers. It was also decided that Mrs Hartley would crown the Coronation Queen at a whist drive and dance to be held in the Institute on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

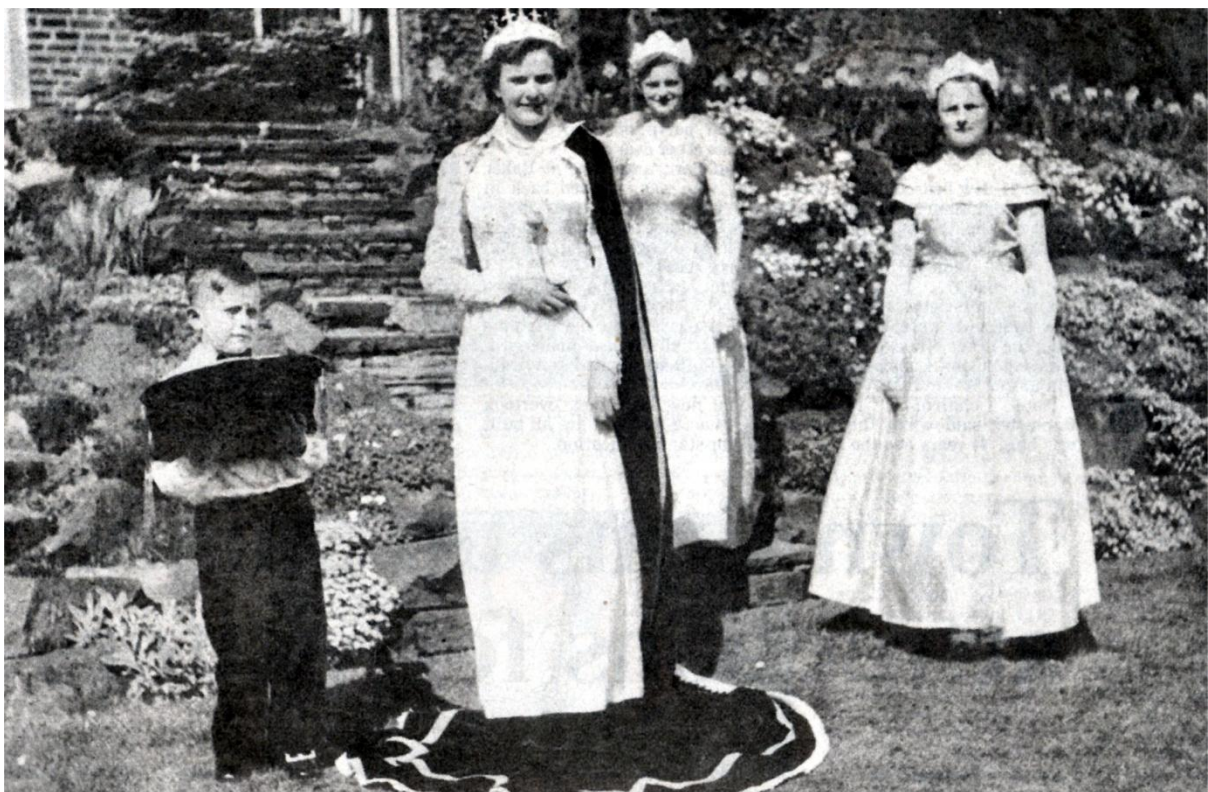
There were also disputes about at least one of the minor players:

*Mr Lister proposed and Mr Bottomley seconded that David Horner be cushion bearer. Mr Teal proposed and Mr Kirk seconded that the cushion bearer be elected by the children at school.*

By the meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, however, all matters were finally settled. There was to be a Crowning Ceremony on the following Saturday, where:

*... presents be made to the Coronation Queen & attendants of compacts & pencil for page boy.*

It is likely that the photograph shown below was taken on the afternoon of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, by a staff photographer from the Craven Herald, prior to the crowning ceremony in the evening.



**Figure 1: The Coronation Queen (Mary Roberts) and her attendants Margaret Hartley and Marion Brown. Michael Sharpe appears as the page-boy, but see below. This photograph was re-printed in the Craven Herald on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2012**

The location for this photograph has been identified as the garden of The Old Vicarage.

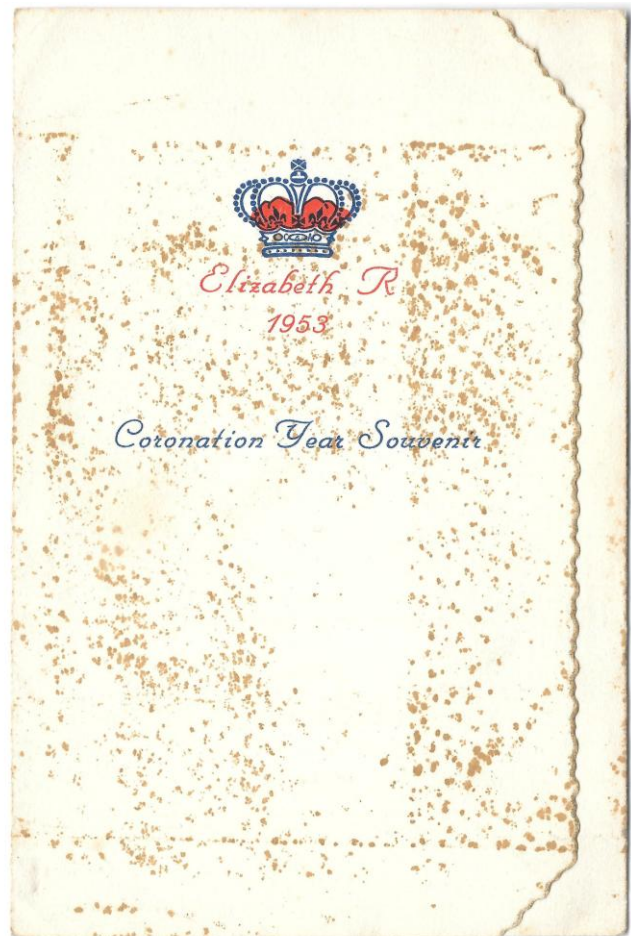
Mary Caygill (nee Roberts), the Gala Queen, recalls that the dresses and cloak were made from fabric manufactured in local mills and were made-up in the village; the cloak, in particular, was most beautifully lined. The crowns were made of metal, with fake jewels set in them.

Studio photographs of the Queen and her retinue were taken.



**Figure 2: "Official" photograph of the Coronation Queen (Mary Roberts) and her attendants Marion Brown (left) and Margaret Hartley (right); with Michael Sharpe as cushion bearer**





**Figure 3: "Official" photograph of the Coronation Queen (Mary Roberts)**

So, the final line-up for the Queen and her retinue was fixed. Well, not quite.

Just a week before Coronation Day, on May 26<sup>th</sup>, it was reported in the committee minutes that the page-boy was ill. Then, at the first meeting to be held *after* the Coronation:

*Mrs Parker proposed and Mr Wass seconded that a letter of sympathy be sent to Page Boy, J. M. Sharpe, and wishes for a speedy recovery.*

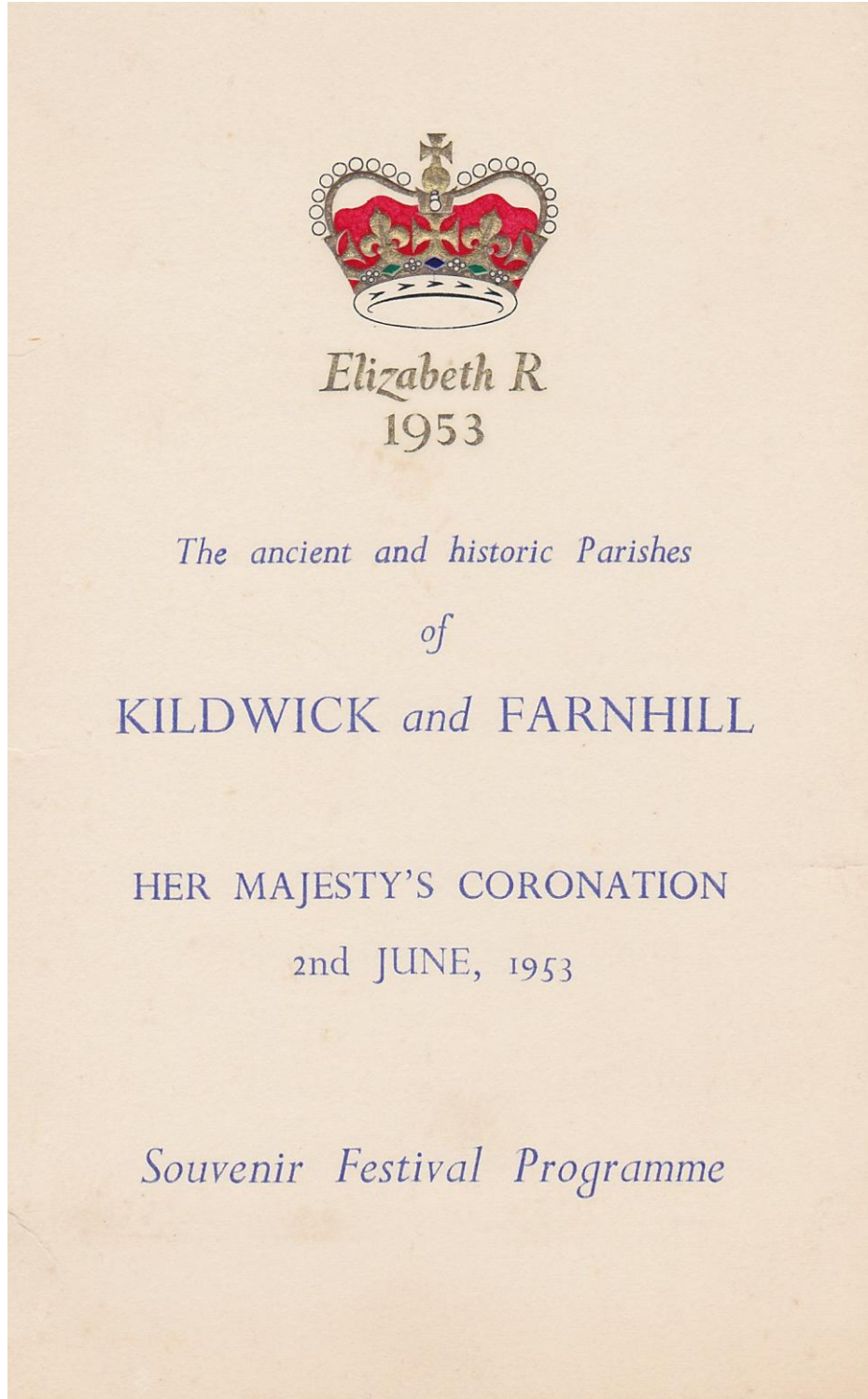
And, subsequently:

*Mr Beedom proposed and Mr Wass seconded that Mr Lister purchase a present for Master Ian Sugden for his services as cushion bearer.*

It turns out that Michael Sharpe developed acute appendicitis in late May and spent June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953 in hospital. His place as page-boy was taken by Ian Sugden.

## Programme of Events

300 copies of the Souvenir Programme of events were purchased and one provided, free of charge, to each household in the two villages. Further copies were available, at cost price.



**Figure 4: Souvenir Programme, front cover**

The rest of this article follows the events as they are described in this programme.

## Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>

The first event of the celebrations took place on the Saturday before the Coronation. This was the traditional tea party for the older residents of the two villages.

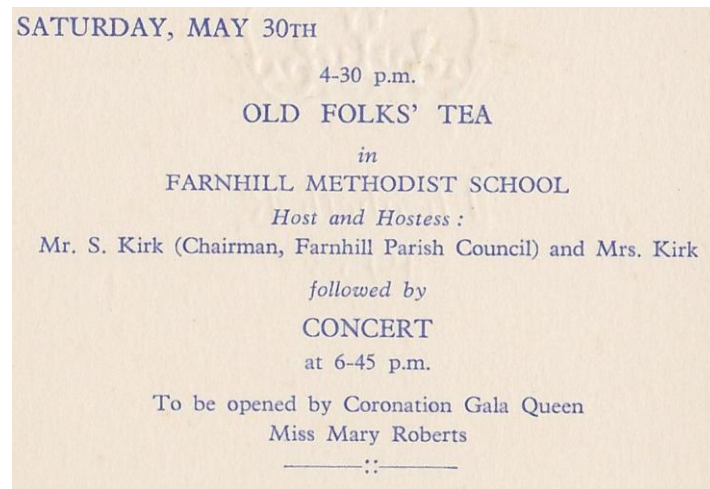


Figure 5: Souvenir Programme, Old Folks' Tea

For previous events of this kind, the committee had created its own list of who was eligible. At the very first meeting it was suggested:

*... all Old people of Kildwick & Farnhill receive invitation to tea & concert by cards.*

However this was later changed to a suggestion that an advertisement would be placed advising all people wishing to attend that they should contact the committee, who would then send them an invitation card. (The same arrangement was made for the children's tea.)



Figure 6: Invitation to Old Folks' Tea

There was some discussion at the second meeting about precisely how “old people” were to be defined: was it to include all people of 60 years or more plus widows and widowers, or men over 65 and women over 60 ? Eventually, a 60+ cut-off was agreed, with the additional proviso that if either member of a couple was eligible, then both would be invited.

On the day, 140 cold salad teas were served, with catering being done by Crosshills Co-Op. Cononley Band played in the schoolyard during the tea, before being fed themselves.

The concert featured:

- The Society Six
- New Imperial Concert Party, Keighley
- Glusburn Male Voice Choir

Free tea and biscuits were served during the interval, and everyone attending was presented with either a selection of sweets (ladies) or five cigarettes (men), issued in souvenir cartons.

Teas were sent out to those who were too ill to attend, and Mr Foster-Jones and others volunteered to drive those who were too infirm to make their own way.

In the June 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the Craven Herald, there was a full report of this event:

*Coronation celebrations in the twin villages of Kildwick and Farnhill began on Saturday afternoon, when 100 over-sixties, widows and widowers, were entertained to tea and entertainment. The guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Kirk (chairman of Farnhill Parish Council) and sat down to a knife and fork tea prepared by the committee's catering section. After tea Pastor J. A. Whitehead presided over a concert given by the New Imperial Concert Party, of Keighley.*

*Mr. Whitehead apologised for the absence of the Gala Queen (Miss Mary Roberts), who was indisposed, and introduced the Deputy Queen (Miss Marian Brown), who was accompanied by Miss Margaret Hartley, a member of the Queen's retinue.*

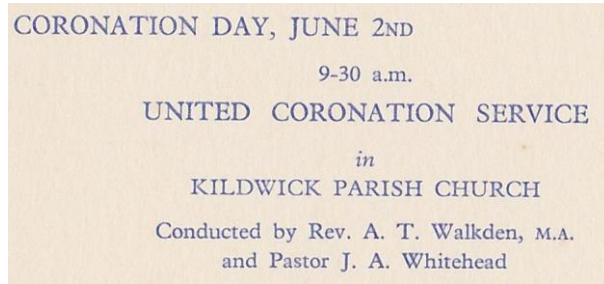
*The Deputy Queen welcomed the guests and Mrs. E. Brown expressed the thanks of the guests to the committee. Sweets and cigarettes were distributed, and Mr S. B. Kirk presented souvenir photographs, given by the Craven Herald and Pioneer, to the Queen and retinue. During the evening light refreshments were served and the evening finished with the National Anthem.*

*Over 20 teas were sent out to parishioners who were too ill at home or in hospital.*

Fortunately, the Gala Queen was fully recovered by the following Tuesday.

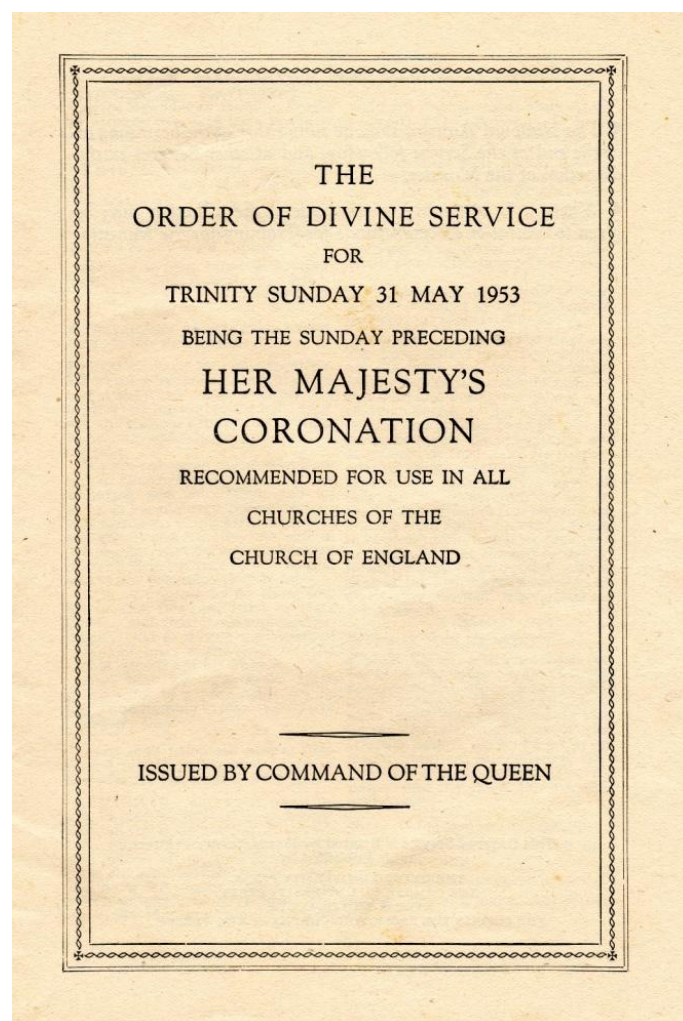


June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953, 9:30 am



**Figure 7: Souvenir Programme, Coronation Church Service**

This was the special church service at St. Andrew's.



**Figure 8: Order of Service for the special Coronation Day church service**

## 11:30am onwards

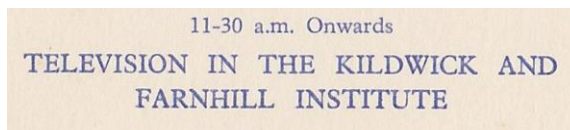


Figure 9: Souvenir Programme, TV

The Coronation was the first major royal event to be televised and this small entry in the Festival Programme is probably the most significant of all the events that happened in the two villages that day.

This becomes clear if you ask anyone who was old enough what they remember about the Queen's Coronation. Throughout the country, not just in Kildwick and Farnhill, a large number of them will say that it was the first time that they had seen a television – something that would prove to have a major impact on everybody's life in the future.

In the same way as the Silver Jubilee of king George V in 1935 was the trigger for a lot of advertisements for radios, so 1953 was a major boost to the UK's own TV industry.



Figure 10: One of the advertisements for TV sets to be found in newspapers and magazines of the period

For the first time, the BBC provided full coverage; beginning with a one-hour long tuning signal.

Television	
<i>Apart from the 10.15 start all the timings below are approximate only. There may be two short pauses in the broadcast at about 2.0 p.m., and again at about 4.35 p.m.</i>	
9.15-10.15 Tuning Signal	
THE CORONATION	
The Queen's Procession to Westminster Abbey	
10.15 Outside Buckingham Palace	10.32 Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother arrives at Westminster Abbey
10.26 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Buckingham Palace	11.0 The Queen arrives at the Abbey
The Coronation Service	
11.20 The Service begins	
12.30 The Crowning	
1.50 The Service ends	
The State Procession through London	
2.20 Outside Westminster Abbey	3.40 The Queen passes Grosvenor Gate
2.50 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave the Abbey	4.30 The Queen returns to Buckingham Palace
The Queen's appearance on the Balcony of the Palace	
5.0 Outside Buckingham Palace	
5.15 The R.A.F. Salute	
5.20 The broadcast ends	

**Figure 11: The BBC Coronation Day TV schedule, as reported in the Radio Times**

From the Radio Times:

*... [broadcasting] will begin at 9.15 with a sixty-minute tuning signal to provide enough time for adjustment to receivers specially set up for the occasion in churches, shops, halls and homes ...*

*[The Coronation Service was to be] described for television by Richard Dimbleby ...*

*... [at 9pm] the Television Service will carry, in sound only, Her Majesty's broadcast to her peoples ... following an introduction by Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill from Downing Street at 8.55pm.*

The TV used in the Institute was provided by Kemp and Bell of Crosshills. They also offered a PA system for the Sports Field and some music for the dance to be held later; all at a cost of £8 10s. Their offer was speedily accepted by the committee.

Subsequently, as reported in the Craven Herald, it was decided to also have a TV set in Kildwick Parish Rooms:

*Television sessions in the Institute and in the Parish Room were well attended all day and the reception was perfect.*

**NOTE:** At this point older readers may need to explain some of the joys of watching early TV sets to any young people around; why it took up to an hour to tune a set, and why perfect reception was something worth reporting in a newspaper! (The TV set-up in the Parish Hall Bradley had a TV engineer in attendance all day.)



Of course, if you missed the TV, you could always see it at the cinema – just a fortnight later.



Figure 12: Skipton Cinema programme for w/c June 14<sup>th</sup> 1953. “A Queen is Crowned” was shown for just one week before being replaced by “Come Home Little Sheba”, starring Burt Lancaster. Was the supporting feature a satirical comment ?

1:30 pm

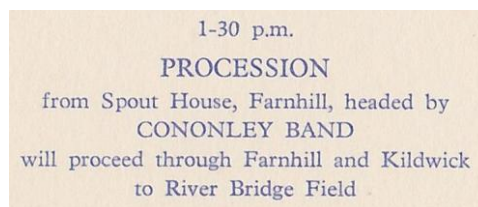


Figure 13: Souvenir Programme, Procession to Sports Field

At this time, the Cononley Band was in two sections. The “Processions” section was booked from 1:30 to 6:30: to lead the march through the two villages to the field, and play selections during the rest of the day. The “Dance” section would take over later. Cost £20.

John Lofthouse, who was just 7 years old at the time, can remember taking part in the procession on a “float”. This fits in with an entry in the committee minutes where thanks are offered to H. Wass, A. Horner, D. Sugden, D. Marklew, and C. Kitson for agreeing to decorate a wagon.

Mary Caygill also recalls the procession: setting off from the junction of Main Street with Bradley Road and going through Farnhill and Kildwick. There was bunting all across Main Street and people waved from their houses, with many joining the procession as it went by. Most of houses were showing flags and everyone seemed to be involved in the celebrations, with lots of the children in Fancy Dress.

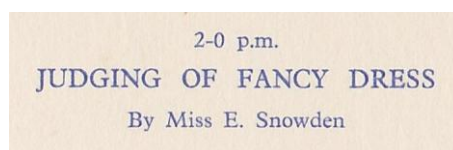






**Figure 14: A selection of photographs of the procession – with Ian Sugden as cushion bearer**

**2:00 pm**



**Figure 15: Souvenir Programme, Fancy Dress Competition**

As reported in the Craven Herald:

*Immediately after dinner, headed by Cononley Band, a fancy dress parade proceeded through the village to River Aire field at Kildwick, and here Miss Snowden and Mrs. J. Smith judged competitors. Winners were:-*

*Fancy Dress: Under five – 1. Paul Lister; 2. Christine Sugden; 3. Sally and John Ward. Up to 15 – comic characters – 1. Joan Marklow; 2. Christopher Law. Under 8 – historical – 1. Edna H. Brown; 2. Ian Sugden. Under 8 – topical – 1. Susan W. Wragg; 2. Christopher Hill. 8-15 – topical – 1. Margaret Beedom; 2. Wendy Hill; 3. Leslie Anderson. Over 15 – topical – 1. Davrill Jones; 2. Mrs. Crick. Decorated vehicle – 1. Mrs. Law; 2. David Wass; 3. Keith Shackleton.*



The first prize, in each class, was 12/6; second prize, 7/6. All entrants were awarded 6d.



**Figure 16: Two photographs of the Children's Fancy Dress Competition. The lower photograph shows: Enga Brown, Susan Wragg, David Smith, Susan Ellis, Jean Bartlett, Christine Smith, Penelope Ward, Christopher Law, Bill Pollard**

**NOTE:** Susan Wragg – dressed as “Tin Foil Girl” in a costume with milk-bottle tops sewn on by her mother – won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Under-8s category; Christopher Hill, won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

2:30 pm

During the sports, refreshments were available on the Sports field and all children received a free ice-cream.

2-30 p.m.			
CHILDREN'S SPORTS			
CHILDREN'S SPORTS			
Under 5 years	.....	30 yards	Flat Race
Boys 5 to 7 years		50 yards	Flat Race
„ 7 to 9 years		60 yards	Flat Race
„ 9 to 11 years		90 yards	Flat Race
„ 11 to 13 years		100 yards	Flat Race
„ 13 to 16 years		150 yards	Flat Race
Girls 5 to 7 years		30 yards	Flat Race
„ 7 to 9 years		50 yards	Flat Race
„ 9 to 11 years		80 yards	Flat Race
„ 11 to 13 years		100 yards	Flat Race
„ 13 to 16 years		120 yards	Flat Race
BOYS' OBSTACLE RACE (Open)			
GIRLS' OBSTACLE RACE (Open)			

Figure 17: Souvenir Programme, Children's Sports

The weather prevented all of these events from taking place, but the results of the events that did take place were reported in the Craven Herald:

*Under 5, boys, 30 yards – 1. David Horner; 2. David Thompson; 3. Stuart Throup. Under 5, girls – 1. Muriel Bailey; 2. Kathleen Walmsley; 3. Geraldine Oldfield. 5-7, boys, 50 yards – 1. Charles Rushworth; 2. Ian Sugden; 3. Bill Pollard. 5-7, girls – 1. Penelope Ward; 2. Margaret Bailey; 3. Christine Sugden.*

*7-9 boys, 60 yards – 1. James Roberts; 2. Derek Kitson; 3. Tony Law. 7-9, girls – 1. Ann Hagar; 2. Jennifer Smith; 3. Christine Smith. 9-11, boys, 90 yards – 1. Jim Whitaker; 2. James Roberts; 3. Ernie Thompson. 9-11, girls – 1. Joan Marklew; 2. Jetta Oldfield; 3. Jean Rishworth. 11-13, boys, 100 yards – 1. Brian Marklew; 2. Peter Wass; 3. Eric Whiteley. Girls, 100 yards – 1. Wendy Hill; 2. Wendy Brown.*

**NOTE 1:** Jim Roberts remembers the day and has told us that he should never have won his race. "There was a lad at school who was a faster runner than me and all the way through the race I was just waiting for him to come past me. At the end I asked him what had happened to him, and he showed me the running shoes he'd borrowed from his older brother specially for the race. They were far too big and he couldn't get up any speed."

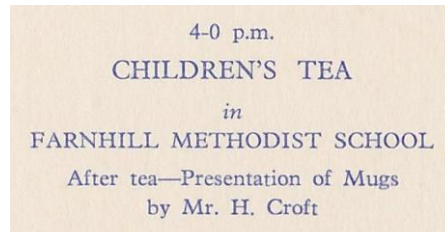
**NOTE 2:** What a full day the young Ian Sugden had ! Page boy to the Gala Queen, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the Fancy Dress competition, and then 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the boys 50 yards race.



4:00 pm

Then, finally, the bad weather arrived.

*After the races, and just as the weather broke, the children accompanied by the Gala Queen (Miss M E Roberts) and her retinue and headed by Cononley Band, made their way to the Methodist School, where tea had been prepared by the Catering Committee. After tea, Mr. H Croft (late chairman of Farnhill Parish Council) presented the Coronation mugs and the Gala Queen handed over to the children prizes for racing and fancy dress.*



**Figure 18: Souvenir Programme, Children's Tea and Presentation of Mugs**



**Figure 19: The Queen and her retinue**

The children's tea, a staple feature of all royal celebrations, was funded by Mr and Mrs Chapman. 175 children's teas were served, with catering being done by Crosshills Co-Op.

At the insistence of the committee, the children's tea was to include an extra cake (deducted from the Old Folks' tea) and jellies were to be served in individual cartons, with small wooden spoons.



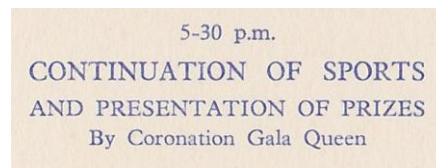
**Figure 20: Invitation to Children's Tea and Presentation of Mugs**

Mugs for all children living in Kildwick and Farnhill, under the age of 16, were bought at a cost of £1 per dozen; a total of 17 dozen mugs being purchased. For the first time, no beakers were provided as an alternative.



**Figure 21: The Kildwick and Farnhill Souvenir 1953 Coronation mug**

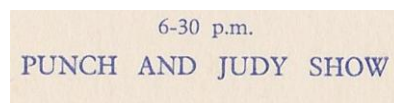
### 5:30 pm (Cancelled ?)



**Figure 22: Souvenir Programme, More Sports and Prize-Giving**

Judging by the Craven Herald report, above, it seems that the weather was too bad for the remaining outdoor events to take place, and the prize-giving by the Queen took place in the Methodist School immediately after tea.

### 6:30 pm (Cancelled ?)



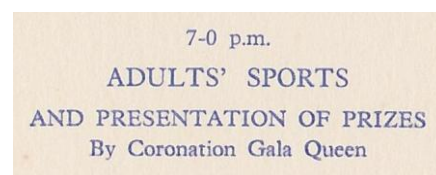
**Figure 23: Souvenir Programme, Punch and Judy Show**

Attempts to have a Punch and Judy show had been part of committee plans for every royal event throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was the only time where a show was actually booked. The committee took no chances and arrangements were made as early as September 18<sup>th</sup> 1952.

But, once again, it seems Punch and Judy was fated not to happen. There is no mention of it in the Craven Herald report of the day's events, and the assumption must be that it was going to take place on the Sports Field and was therefore cancelled due to the bad weather.

### 7:00 pm (Postponed until Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>)

The postponed adult sports, and the children's sporting events that were rained-off on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, took place at 7pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June.





**Figure 24: Souvenir Programme, Adult Sports and Prize-Giving**

The event was reported in the June 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Keighley News:

**Kildwick – Coronation Sports:** *The Coronation Day sports of the Kildwick and Farnhill Coronation Committee, postponed on Coronation Day because of the weather, were held on Thursday evening in the gala field. There was a large gathering. The results were:*

*Obstacle race (boys): 1. John Rishworth; 2. Brian Marklew; 3. Edward Emmison. Obstacle (girls): 1. Joan Marklew; 2. Jean Rishworth; 3. Jetta Oldfield. 150yd (boys): 1. David Slimming; 2. Roy Bottomley; 3. Peter Armitage. 120yd (girls) 1. Daveril Jones; 2. Sylvia Kitson; 3. Irene Butterfield. Men's obstacle race: 1. Alec Shuttleworth; 2. Lawrence Blakesley. Ladies' potato race: 1. Molly Smith; 2. Mrs. M. Kulman. Women's egg-and-spoon race: 1. Mrs. Parker; 2. Blanche Dickson. Mixed wheelbarrow race: 1. Stanley Hargreaves and Blanche Dickson; 2. Michael Green and Marion Brown. Pillow-fight (men): 1. Michael Green; 2. Cedric Lister. Pillow-fight (boys): 1. Max Parker; 2. James Whitaker; 3. Tony Law. Peg-in-bottle: Marion Brown. Ankle competition (judged by Mesdames Parker and Kulman): Freda Baldwin. Knobbly knees competition (judged by S. B. Kirk, D. Sugden, and D. Marklew): Arthur Moore. Tug-of-war: 1. Jack Law's team; 2. Arthur Moore's team. Women's tug-of-war: Mrs. Edith Smith's team.*

*The prizes were handed out by the Coronation Queen (Mary Roberts).*



The prizes for the adult events were:

Tug of War:	First 10/- per man, Second 5/-
Ankle & Knobbly knees:	10/- (one prize per event)
Others:	First 12/6, second 7/6

## 9:00 pm onwards



**Figure 25: Souvenir Programme, Dance**

At least the weather couldn't spoil the in-door finale to the day. From the Craven Herald:

*Dancing rounded off the day's events and in the Institute, with Kenneth Brook's (Cononley) Music, the crowd thoroughly enjoyed themselves.*

*The series of Coronation celebration events had been ably organised by the committee, of which Mr. A. Foster-Jones was chairman, Mr. W. Mason secretary, and Mr. C. Lister treasurer.*

## Village decorations

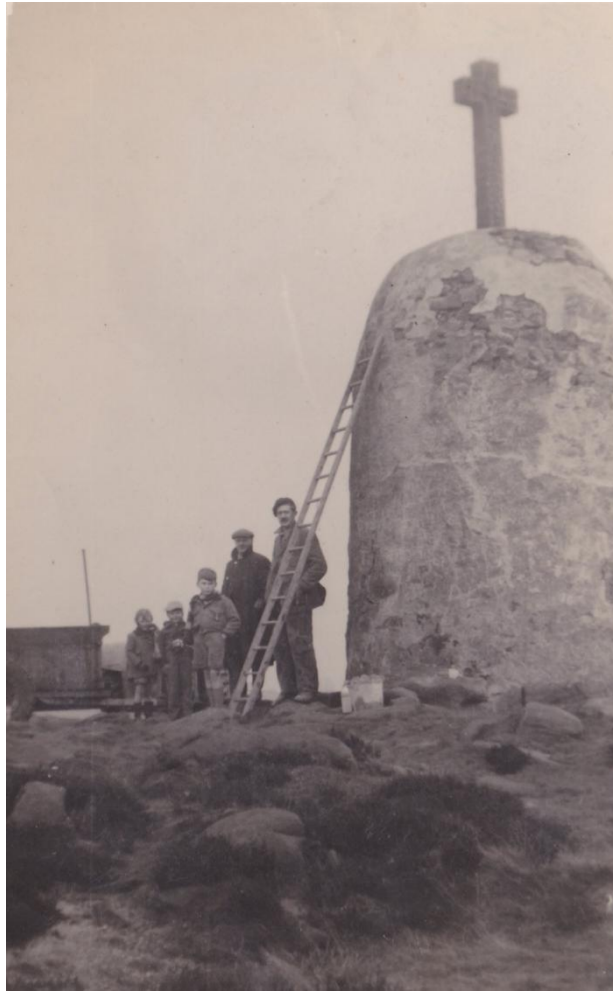
As usual, the two villages were en-fete and a prize was offered for the Best Dressed Building:

*Although the parishes of Kildwick and Farnhill have always been noted for their enthusiasm in entering into any national celebration it has been generally agreed by older residents that the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II brought out more street decorations than on previous occasions. Practically every house has made some show and the whole village of Farnhill from top to bottom was festooned with streamers.*

*In the competition for best decorated houses, which was judged by Messrs. J. Brayshaw, H. Green and Wilkinson, of Bradley, the prizes were awarded to: 1. Mrs. F. Smith; 2. Mr. M. Beedom; 3. Mr. S. Sunderland.*

The Pinnacle had been given a coat of paint:

*Even the well known Farnhill Pinnacle had its flag and was the first high point in South Craven to carry the Union Jack. Messrs. J. Law and A. Horner, who had been responsible for renovating the Pinnacle for the Coronation, were also responsible for placing the Union Jack on the top.*



**Figure 26: The pinnacle being repaired**

The War Memorial was decorated:

*Farnhill and Kildwick War Memorial, which is situated at Kildwick Corner and often referred to as the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales, has throughout this week been beautifully decorated with flowers provided by the funds of the Farnhill and Kildwick Coronation Celebrations Committee. The scheme of decoration had been carried out with red, white and blue flowers predominating.*

The committee had set aside £5 for these flowers. The decorating was done by the ladies of the committee.

A commemorative bed of snowdrops was planted – reflecting the planting done for the accession of George V in 1910.



**Figure 27: A commemorative bed of snowdrops**

## Subsequent events

To commemorate the Coronation, Kildwick school arranged for the pupils to be photographed, individually, and the 3"x2" portraits presented in a commemorative folder.



**Figure 28: Photo folder**

Unlike previously, the organising committee did not close itself down immediately after the Coronation. On July 14<sup>th</sup> the committee assembled to discuss the Financial Statement. There turned out to be a substantial budget surplus – amounting to £68 1s 2d.

The committee decided unanimously that £1 should be given to each resident of Kildwick and Farnhill who were serving in the armed forces on Coronation Day; five in all:

- R. J. Bracken
- Harry Green
- Jack Parker
- Frank Earnshaw
- Jeffrey Pearson

It then called a public meeting to discuss what it should do with the rest of the money. The meeting, held on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1953, came up with a wide range of suggestions. In the end, the money was distributed as follows:

Kildwick Church – towards floodlighting:	£1 1s 0d
Kildwick and Farnhill Institute	£5
To repair seat at Priest Bank bottom	£4
To build bus-shelter	£50

**NOTE:** The bus shelter was built on Skipton Road.



**Figure 29:** Rev. Selby with children from the village during the building of the bus shelter. The “ER” commemorative stone clearly visible



## What next – can you help ?

Do you have any recollections or photographs of royal celebrations in Farnhill or Kildwick that you would be willing to share ? Please email [history@farnhill.co.uk](mailto:history@farnhill.co.uk).

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