

JUNE 2nd 1953
CORONATION CELEBRATIONS
STANSTEAD ABBOTTS, ST. MARGARETS AND GREAT AMWELL

By
Stuart Moye

In May of 1953 the weather had been very good with weeks of very summery warm weather. Eight days before the Coronation the Whit Monday bank holiday had seen temperatures above 30 centigrade. However from the following day much colder conditions were experienced. The organisers of the coronation celebrations in the three parishes must have been decidedly disconcerted when temperatures began to fall dramatically as the big day drew nearer. Coronation Day turned out to be more akin to a miserable November day with temperatures barely reaching a maximum of 11 degrees centigrade in the village. The day was overcast with some rain showers and a noticeably chilly north to north east wind which made it feel colder than it actually was.

People awoke to the news that Hillary and Tensing had conquered Mount Everest on May 29th. This was reported exclusively in the Times newspaper but to everybody of course via the radio. It is interesting to reflect that it took days for the news of this achievement to reach the England and that for many people in the village they would have heard this news on a radio powered by a wet cell battery which would need regular recharging courtesy of Andersons shop in the High Street.



An example of the type of memorabilia on sale in village stores in 1953

Despite the inclement weather the planned celebrations went ahead as shown on the rather splendid commemorative brochure that had been produced. The brochure is reproduced on the following pages



THE
CORONATION

HER OF
MAJESTY

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

GREAT AMWELL
STANSTEAD ABBOTS and ST. MARGARETS

CELEBRATIONS

TO COMMEMORATE THE
CORONATION OF H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

TUESDAY, JUNE 2nd

AT

ST. MARGARETSBURY CRICKET FIELD
(BY KIND PERMISSION OF STANSTEAD ABBOTS CRICKET CLUB)

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

EMR
1953

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1953



TIMETABLE

5.0 p.m.	Carnival Procession assembles in Station Sidings
5 30 p.m.	Procession proceeds to Pied Bull Corner and arrives at Cricket Field at 6.30 p.m.
6.30 p.m.	Official Opening, "Flag Break" and National Anthem.
6 30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	Sports (see page 2) Sideshowes Tableaux Display of Countermarching by A.T.C. Performance by Amwell Bell Ringers Square Dancing Display by The "Allamanders"
9 30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.	Open Air Dancing for all in front of Pavilion. Prizes presented by Mrs. Shrubbs assisted by the Carnival Queen
10 30 p.m. to 11.45 p.m.	Camp Fire and Community Singing
11.45 p.m.	Chairman's Remarks
11.50 p.m. to Midnight	Epilogue led by the Vicars of Great Amwell, Stanstead Abbots and St. Margarets Hymn: "All People that on Earth do Dwell" <i>Sung to "Old Hundredth"</i> Sentences and Prayer Silence National Anthem Set Firework Display "God Save the Queen"

*It is hoped to relay the Message Broadcast by Her Majesty the Queen
at 9.30 p.m. (approx.)*

SPORTS

CHILDREN

- | | | |
|---|---|----------|
| 1 | Toddlers' Race, age 3 to 5 years | 25 yards |
| 2 | Sack Race (Boys) age 9 to 16 years | 50 yards |
| 3 | Wheelbarrow Race (Boys) age 9 to 16 years | 50 yards |
| 4 | Egg and Spoon Race (Mixed) age 5 to 7 years | 25 yards |
| 5 | Egg and Spoon Race (Mixed) age 7 to 9 years | 25 yards |
| 6 | Skipping Race (Girls) age 5 to 9 years | 50 yards |
| 7 | Skipping Race (Girls) age 9 to 16 years | 50 yards |
| 8 | Three Legged Race (Mixed) age 9 to 16 years | 50 yards |

Prizes (Vouchers) 1st - 7/6 2nd - 5/- 3rd - 2/6

Handicaps arranged where necessary

ADULTS

- | | | |
|---|---|----------|
| 1 | Thread and Needle (Mixed) age 16 and over | 50 yards |
| 2 | Cock and Hen (Mixed) age 16 and over | 50 yards |
| 3 | Veterans (Ladies) age 50 and over
(1 yard start for each year over 50) | 75 yards |
| 4 | Veterans (Gents) age 50 and over
(1 yard start for each year over 50) | 75 yards |

Prizes (Vouchers) 1st - 7/6 2nd - 5/- 3rd - 2/6

- 5 Tug of War. Inter-Parish (Ladies) Teams of eight.
 St. Margarets v Great Amwell
 St. Margarets v Stanstead Abbots
 Great Amwell v Stanstead Abbots
 5/- each to winning team

- 6 Ditto. (Gents)

Comic Football Match proceeding during above events.

PROCESSION WILL INCLUDE :—

Tableaux and Carnival Items (see page 3)
County Fire Service, Appliance and Crew
Civil Defence Rescue Vehicle and Crew
Band of the Hoddesdon and Hertford A.T.C.
Stanstead Abbots Guides
Amwell Sea Scouts and Cubs
Stanstead Abbots Scouts and Cubs
Miscellaneous Decorated Vehicles

Free Car Park—Entrance opposite "Folly" Estate
Late Coach and Cars available for distant parts of Parishes after Epilogue
Lighting arrangements by kindness of W. & C. French Ltd.
Amplifying Equipment by Smith & Hunter, Hoddesdon
Licensed Bar and Minerals. Snack Bar, Tea. Ice Cream Parlour
Photos at reasonable prices by G. Kemp, St. Margarets
First Aid Tent organised by the St. John Ambulance Brigade
Procession and various items during the evening will be filmed by T. L. Franklin for Hoddesdon
News-reel and shown in Stanstead Abbots during the Autumn.

Organized Street Teas in each Parish at which Souvenir Coronation Mugs will be presented to
all children, from the youngest to those still at school.

Old Folk's Tea and Entertainment in the Village Club on Saturday, June 6th, from 4 to 7 p.m.
Programme: Games. Items by The Abbots Players. Community Singing.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER ALTERNATIVE PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE
See Official Notice Board on Coronation Day.

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES

GREAT AMWELL PARISH CHURCH

Trinity Sunday, May 31st.

OFFICIAL SERVICES :

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 9.15 a.m.

Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.

Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.

Special *Family* Service, 2.45 p.m.

Monday, June 1st.

Day of Prayer for H.M. The Queen and for rededication.

Vigil Service, 8 p.m.

Coronation Day—Tuesday, June 2nd.

Parish Communion, 8 a.m.

STANSTEAD ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH

Trinity Sunday, May 31st.

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Authorised Coronation Service, 11 a.m.

Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

Coronation Day—Tuesday, June 2nd.

Holy Communion, 8 a.m.

United Service, 10 a.m.

The authorised form of service will be used.

ST. MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH

Trinity Sunday, May 31st,

Holy Communion, 8 a.m.

Special Service, 11 a.m.

Special Service, 6.30 p.m.

Monday, June 1st

Vigil Service at 8 p.m.

Coronation Day—Tuesday, June 2nd.

Holy Communion. 9.15 a.m.

The procession once formed up in the railway station car park set off up the High Street before turning round to head towards St Margaretsbury playing fields.



The band of the Hoddesdon and Hertford ATC march past Hope Cottages



The author and his mother well wrapped up against the inclement weather watch the passing procession opposite the top of South Street



The dignitaries including the Carnival Queen pass by in horse drawn luxury

Houses and shops made an effort to be part of the celebrations as shown in this view of a flag bedecked South Street



South Street as it appeared on Coronation Day, June 2nd 1953

The children of the three parishes were all invited to tea parties and all received a commemorative coronation mug as a keepsake of the event.



The authors coronation mug which has survived through 60 years and five different house moves

There were a variety of commercial businesses that produced Coronation related packaging which all added to the national sense of celebration

A tin containing one pound of tea by Brooke Bond is just one example of the types of products which could be bought in the village shops.

