

The Parish Council swings into action

On Friday 30 May 1952, Lynsted Parish Council swung into action forming a Celebrations Committee to start the arrangements for Coronation Day.

We assume that fund raising would have been the first priority as the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had advised that Parish Councils were limited to their ordinary expenses if any Coronations expenses were incurred.

Here, as elsewhere, this celebration gave a welcome break from the austerity and human suffering of six years of war and 14 years of rationing. It has to be remembered that rationing did not fully come to an end until July 1954. Although sweets and chocolate had come off rationing in February 1953 the celebration cake makers still had to contend with sugar rationing. Rationing of sugar did not end until September 1953.

East Kent Gazette 29 May 1953:

GRAND CORONATION FETE

at
AYMERS and LYNSTED PARK
on
CORONATION DAY, TUESDAY, 2nd JUNE,
1953
Opening ceremony to be performed at 2.20 p.m. by
MRS. ARTHUR PILCHER
CHILDREN'S & ADULTS' SPORTS
FANCY DRESS PARADE
Miss Annette Max presents
THE MEDWAY SWEETHEARTS
WHITSTABLE SEA CADETS
SHEPPEY PRIZE SILVER BAND
40 SIDESHOWS

Bonfire and £100 Fireworks Display
in the evening

Lynsted Church prepares

The hand-crafted programme of Lynsted's Coronation service, seen below, was found among the possessions of the late Rev Gordon Sherwood. Gordon was a long-time local resident, serving as altar boy and chorister in Lynsted Church at the age of 11. This programme was kindly shared with the Society by Gordon's widow, Stella.



A cold and wet day dawns

Sadly, Coronation days in the UK have not been blessed with good weather. The Coronation of our Queen's great grandfather, Edward VII, Coronation was delayed due to illness and eventually took place on 9 August 1902, when it was cold and cloudy. Her grandfather, George V, was crowned on 22 June 1911, when it was cloudy with a chilly breeze. Her father's, George VI, Coronation on 12 May 1937, was cool and cloudy with rain.

Hopes were high for good weather following a glorious May with weeks of warm sunshine and the Whitsun Bank Holiday reaching 31.7°C. The following day brought thundery showers and a sharp drop in temperature. From then until the middle of June the British Isles lay under a very cool and wet northerly airflow.

Coronation day dawned a miserable, November-like day in London and the east of England, with dull skies, a chill wind and sporadic outbreaks of rain during the morning. The afternoon temperature climbed no higher than 12°C - several degrees lower than the Queen's wedding day in November six years before.



Undaunted revellers on the streets of London

Lynsted's celebrations went ahead, but not quite as planned

The article in the East Kent Gazette on 5 June 1953 (below) reports on Lynsted's somewhat reduced entertainment programme:

GRAND FINALE AT LYNSTED

People came from far and near to the grand fete at Lynsted Park and Ayners, where an ambitious programme covering the whole afternoon and evening had been arranged.

The fete was opened at 2.30 by Mrs. Arthur Pilcher, who was welcomed and introduced by Mr. E. Bottle (chairman of the Coronation celebrations committee).

Mrs. Pilcher referred to the unpleasant weather, but expressed the hope that everyone would have an enjoyable day. In a reference to "our young and gracious Queen" she said she hoped everyone would do all they could to make her reign one of happiness and peace.

Little Marianne Boots presented a bouquet to Mrs. Pilcher, after which the Sheppey Silver Band played the National Anthem. Three cheers for the Queen were called for by Mr. Bottle.

The band continued to play throughout the afternoon - even when rainwater almost bubbled from their instruments. The programme was carried through practically without a hitch, despite the rain, but the display by Miss Max's "Medway Sweethearts" had to be called off. The weather did not stop the Whitstable Sea Cadets from putting on a first class display which was greatly enjoyed.

Despite the rain many people patronised the numerous side-shows and attractions, while the sports attracted many entries.

All the children from Kingsdown and Lynsted were entertained to tea in Lynsted School, and the under fives were each given a bag of sweets and fruit by Mrs. Brice.

In the evening there was a monster bonfire and £100 firework display, which compensated in some measure for the unpleasant weather conditions which prevailed throughout most of the afternoon.

The committee are indebted to everyone who worked so hard throughout the day, and especially those whose efforts enabled the bonfire and firework display to be staged and arranged. The house-to-house collection realised £67, and donations included one of £5 and another of £4 10s. Contributed by the central committee from their funds. It is hoped to present gifts to the old people later in the year. A speech by Her Majesty, which preceded the bonfire and fireworks was listened to attentively by a large crowd.

Competition winners were Mrs. Thomas, G. Stickens, B. Austin, Mrs. Andrews and "John". Other prizes: Mr. Crapp, A. Austin and Mrs. Apps.

Among those responsible for the arrangements were Mr. E. Bottle (chairman), Mr. A. Dack (secretary), Mr. H. W. March (treasurer), Mr. and Mrs. T. Broad, Mrs. Seagar and Mrs. R. Ruck.



.... but brighter days were ahead for Lynsted's celebrations

Across the country organisers of street parties, which were very much community-driven, were asked to avoid clashing with the Coronation Day events. As a result many parties enjoyed the better weather later in the week.

In the Parish of Lynsted we have a wonderful photographic record of the community at **Batteries Close**, which came together to share in the celebrations.

The **Lynsted Coronation Pageant**, held on August Bank Holiday (then celebrated on the first Monday in August) also enjoyed a sunny and warm day.

Street party at Batteries Close

The residents from Batteries Close really pushed the boat out for their Coronation celebrations.

At that time the houses were only 4 years old. "Airey Houses". These were of prefabricated concrete design

introduced here in 1948, built following WW2. They were replaced in 1992 by the homes we see today – with one exception of an original house that the owner would not allow to be demolished.



Jean Harris & Joyce Gates delivery goodies



Batteries Close
Coronation Street Party 1953
Courtesy of Joyce Gates
Flo Seagars facing the camera



Street Party 1953



Batteries Close 1953



Street Party 1953



7
Party to the sound of the barrel organ



The house of Joyce Gates dressed for the occasion



6
Fancy dress parade

Lynsted Coronation Pageant - August Bank Holiday 1953

In addition to the regular village fete that took place at Park Farm, Lynsted held a coronation themed event at Aymers on August Bank Holiday 1953. Unlike Coronation day, this event

was held in glorious warm sunshine. The celebrations were led by "Pageant Queens" and a fancy dress parade represented people of the world.



7

The grand opening of the fete fell to Mrs Stephanie Davies. Reverend J D G Reeve, vicar of Lynsted, is seen far left of the photograph.



8

Arrival and parade of the Pageant Queen and her attendants



8



1, 2, & 3 Not known; 4. Mrs Reeve (Vicar's wife); 5. Rosemary Stanley; 6. Joan Huntley; 7. Dawn Clarke; 8. Edward Jemmett; 9. Brian Underhill; 10 & 11. Not Known; 12. Johnnie Buttle; 13. Robin Austin; 14. Michael Sutton; 15 & 16. Not Known



9



1. Yvonne Stickings; 2. Dot Hartshorn & Baby Ann; 3. Mavis Hartshorn; 4. Not known; 5. Len Apps; 6. Rosemary Stanley; 7. Not known; 8. Michael Sutton; 9. Not known; 10. Ann Taylor; 11. Johnnie Buttle; 12. Not known; 13. Joan Huntley; 14. Not known; 15. Robin Austin; 16. Dawn Clark; 17. Mrs Eames; 18. Alan Eames; 19. & 20. Not known; 21. Roland Grigsby.



Parade and judging of the "Countries of the World" fancy dress



10



11

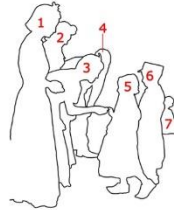


1st place:



1. Rosemary Stanley; 2. Joan Huntley; 3. Dawn Clark; 4. Rev. Reeve; 5 & 6. Not known; 7. Daphne Chesson; 8 & 9. Not known.

..... and in 2nd place:

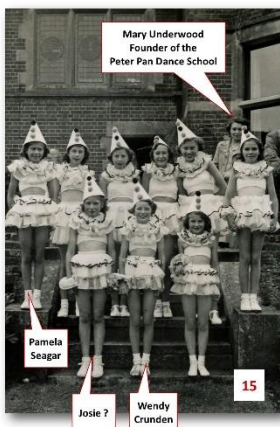


1. Rosemary Stanley; 2. Dawn Clark; 3. Joan Huntley; 4. Rev. Reeves; 5. Janet Coleman; 6. Paul Cutting; 7. Not known.



1. Rosemary Stanley; 2. Joan Huntley; 3. Dawn Clark; 4. Johnnie Buttle; 5. Daphne Chesson; 6. Robin Austin; 7. Not known; 8. Robin Austin; 9. Not known; 10. Michael Sutton; 11. Paul Cutting; 12. Janet Coleman; 13 & 14. Not known; 15. Mavis Hartshorn?; 16 & 17. Not known.

The entertainment continued with the "Peter Pan Dance School"



and races for the children



The celebrations come to an end

After weather problems and hours of organisation, Lynsted 1953 Coronation celebrations came to an end. We now take our place in history in celebrating the first Platinum Jubilee of a monarch anywhere in the world.

East Kent Gazette 7 August 1953

GRACED BY FETE QUEEN

Lynsted church effort realised £130

The work of the parishioners of Lynsted in providing an annual fete for fellow villagers and visitors, and at the same time helping with the upkeep of the parish church, was rewarded on Monday with the finest August Bank Holiday weather for several years. A large number of people supported the fete, enjoying themselves amid the picturesque grounds of Aymers.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Harold [sic] Davies, who wished everyone a happy afternoon, and hoped they would support their beautiful parish church. She was introduced by the vicar (the Rev. J. D. G. Reeve), who, later in the week, told the Gazette that it was expected that proceeds would amount to £130.

Most impressive ceremony of the afternoon was the entrance of the fete queen, pretty 16-year-old Miss Joan Huntly, and her attendants.

Accompanied by maids-of-honour, Dawn Clark and Rosemary Stanley, the queen entered the fete arena by descending the steps from the house, and to the accompaniment of regal music, walked among the spectators until she reached the platform. A canopy was borne by four heralds (John Bentley, Robin Austin, Michael Reeve and Roger Holland) and a page (Michael Sutton). The Elizabethan touch was fitting to the surrounding.

Fancy Dress

The queen and her attendants then judged the fancy dress parade. The winners were Daphne Chesson (Hawaiian), Paul Cutting and Janet Coleman (Dutch twins) and Roland Grigsby (decorated bicycle).

Display by the Peter Pan School of Dancing were presented during the afternoon, and children's sports were organised. There were various stalls and sideshows and members of the Lynsted Young Wives Group looked after the children while the parents enjoyed themselves. Dancing on the lawn in the evening concluded the day's programme.

The winners of the competitions were:-

Happy baby snapshots:- Up to one year, Jacqueline Nichols. One to three years, Pamela Hunter. Three to five years, Michael Reeve.

Miniature garden in soup place:- 1st Mrs. Armitage; 2nd Mr. B. Underhill; 3rd, Mrs R. Wyles.

Other competition winners were Mr. Fisher (chicken hoop-la), Margaret Giddins (hidden treasure) and Mr. A Dack (bowling for cockerel).



Thank you!

The Lynsted with Kingsdown Society is indebted to those who answered our call for photographs and memories of Lynsted's past. As a result of our "History Days" held in 2009 and 2010, we have been able to put together this display to share some of Lynsted's history.

Images in this display were donated by Roy Woodward, Ellen Olney, Alec Lewis and Maggie Goodwin.

We should also like to thank Jennifer Bones for assisting with our detective work on some of these images.

*Can you help us identify more people who appear in this display
..... or correct ones we may have got wrong?*



We have numbered the photographs in this display and invite you to leave comments on the notepad provided.

Alternatively we have left leaflets with contact details should you want to get in touch at a later date.

This display is also available to view on the Lynsted with Kingsdown Society website via:

lynsted-society.co.uk/research_royal_events

