

The Coronation Celebrations 1953

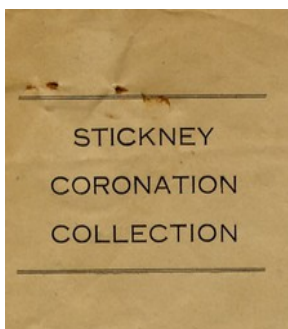
A Public meeting was held at 7-30pm in Stickney School on Thursday 8th January 1953 to establish what the village would like to do to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June, and if any permanent memorial of the occasion should be considered for the community. The meeting was well attended and several good ideas were suggested by the house. The usual items for fund raising and entertainment were put forward such as a rummage sale, whist drive and dance and also a Bonfire and a Firework display was mentioned. This idea was eventually dismissed as being too expensive for what would be a relatively short event and not really suitable for the summer time. A suggestion of hiring a television set for the coronation day received little support as it could only be appreciated by a small number of viewers. The building of a bus shelter appeared an interesting project at first but it was pointed out that this was the responsibility of the Parish Council and would probably only have a short life span. It would also only favour one section of the public

The mention of a playing field was brought up at the start of the meeting and seemed the most practical and worthwhile scheme. Although football was often played in Mr Handsley's grass paddock just over Tavern Bridge there was not a permanent area for sports in Stickney at this time. It was unanimously decided that funds were to be raised to buy a field and it was to be called the "Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field"

A working committee was set up to organised the "Fund" and several volunteers were forthcoming. Nominations were accepted by Edward Dodds to be the Treasurer and George Blanchard to be Secretary. James Braybrooks, the Chairman received no objections to his proposal of opening an account for the Coronation Fund at the Stickney branch of the Midland bank.

Raising The Money

House to House



The house collection that was originally planned had to be postponed because of the flood relief collections being made around Lincolnshire to help the victims of the East Coast Towns and Villages devastated by the disaster. When they eventually began in the middle of April certain areas of the village were allocated to volunteers to collect the envelopes from each house.

Mr Casswell was to collect the Leake Fen to Watson Bridge area. Mr Dodds down Pinfold Lane and Mr Wilson West Fen Lane. Mrs Simpson Hall Lane. Mrs Herd from Skegness Road to the Church and Mrs Hudson from Parkinsons to Skegness Lane. Mr Donner from the Church to the Station Bridge. Mrs Dracas Station Bridge to Shaws Mill and Mr Bull along Skegness Lane to Watsons Bridge. The printed envelopes displaying “Stickney Coronation Collection” raised a total of Sixty Six pounds ..

Whist drive and dance

This was held on the 24th April in the School with the music provided by Ron Diggins and his Diggola from Boston. An entrance fee was charged for both the whist drive and the dance with the aim of raising revenue for the Coronation celebrations. The Whist drive started at seven o'clock followed by the dance from ten until one o'clock the next morning.

The Coronation Queen who was chosen at the dance was Miss Hazel Butler, and her two attendants were Miss Margaret Head and Miss Joyce Ingamells

Concert

A very successfully concert was held in the School on the evening of

Friday 10th April with the “Sibsey Woman's Institute Drama Group” providing the entertainment with two short plays called “Home Cured “and “From five to five thirty”. Mr Allan Bull gave a bottle of port for the winner of the lucky programme number that were sold for 6d.each. He also gave his services to erecting the stage for the event. Mrs Simpson offered to pay the twenty one shillings required, to obtain the necessary licence to perform the plays. Mr Dodds and Mr Casswell willingly volunteered to transport the ladies to and from Sibsey in their own motor cars.

Donation

The School was the only place in the village with a reasonable size hall at the time and was usually well booked up for meetings and entertainment, so some whist drives were held in Mr Baker's Nisson Hut down West Fen Bank with the proceeds given to the Coronation Fund. Members of the Sick and Dividing Club based at the Rising Sun Public House managed to collect eight pounds and thirteen shillings towards the cause.

Garden Competition

A garden competition was organised in the village and the surrounding area for anyone wishing to take part. One section was for flowers and another for vegetables with the entry fee set at two shillings and six pence.

The participants were judged on Thursday 28th May by Mr Howe and Mr Turner who awarded the three prizes of thirty, twenty and ten shillings.

Film show

Mr Scupholm the coal merchant had to decline the request to provide a film show in the School because he had just previously disposed of his equipment. A friend of Mr Donner offered to show a two hour film for a fee of five pounds, which the committee kindly turned down.

Stickney's Coronation Day

The Coronation Day activities on the eighth of May started with the large crowd assembling in the school play ground for the formal crowning of the Coronation Queen. At one thirty Hazel Butler, Margaret Head and Joyce Ingamells appeared wearing the dresses specially purchased for the event from Keightley's of Boston for a fee of twelve pounds and nine shillings. Mr Cott, the village carpenter had made a throne for the Queen to be seated on and this was mounted on the back of a lorry that Mr Hane's had kindly loaned for the occasion. The two "attendants" were seated one either side of her and the crowning ceremony was performed by Dr Murial Yates, who had been elected the President of the Coronation Fund. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Miss Butler and a spray of flowers each for the two attendants.



After the traditional speeches had been made the whole of the procession set off for a parade around the village. Many of the children leading the procession were in fancy dress costumes and were followed by the adults and then the decorated cycles and vehicles. The pre-planned route took them along the main road to the Station Bridge, then back to Horbling Lane junction. Down Hall Lane and then returning to the Rector's field that Mr Taylor had previously removed his live stock from for the occasion. On arrival here a short religious service was conducted by the Parish Rector Reverend Hodge and the Methodist minister Rev J Saul. A public address system on hire from Hurst, Son and Page from Boston had been set up to announce the days programme and to play back ground music during the intervals. Luckily some plans had been made to postpone the games if the weather was unkind on the day and due to the heavy rain that afternoon most of the sports program had to be implemented on the following Saturday in the football field down

Green Lane . Some of the other events were still able to go ahead inside the School and on the play ground

Dr Yates, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Thompson judged the two categories for the children's fancy dress parade and prize money of between five and ten shillings was awarded to the three best entries. In the adults section of the competition Mrs Ivy Simpson, dressed as a scarecrow, won the first prize of three pounds. Second and third places of two and one pound were given with the same amounts for the best decorated vehicles and cycles.

A stall selling ice creams, fruit and drinks was organised by the ladies of the committee, after the offer from "Irelands Shop" to maintain it themselves was politely refused. The coronation novelties such as streamers, hats, balloons and blow-out trumpets that had been previously ordered from WB Bradshaw of Surrey were also sold on the stall.

The children's tea at four o'clock in the school canteen went ahead as planned but most of their afternoon sports program had to be cancelled. Two cases of pop and minerals were generously given by Mr Wilson. The potted meat in the sandwiches was kindly offered by Butcher Shaw and the large selection of fancy cakes were made and donated by Mr Donner the village baker.

Arrangements were made for up to one hundred and fifty people over the age of sixty-five, and their partners to be treated to a cold meat tea in the Methodist School room from five o'clock onwards. The ham was provided by Tom Wilson, and Mr Donner offer to roast it at his bake house oven. This was kindly declined by the ladies present as they preferred it to be boiled and asked if Shaws would carve it for them. Mr and Mrs Taylor from the Lineside Dairy Farm donated all the milk required.

The Coronation Queen's duties were to be present at the children's and also the "old peoples" teas. She was asked to present the prizes for the sports winners, one being a football given by Bob Kingston the Village Cobbler, and to give to every child a souvenir mug that was financed by Mr Harry Dodds. An apple, orange, bottle of pop and an ice-cream were also given to each child, with the fruit being supplied by Lincolnshire Fruit Importers of Boston.

The Carnival Dance

Probably the highlight of the day was the Carnival dance held in the main school from eight o'clock in the evening. The room had been prepared and well decorated the night before by members of the committee and "The Railto Trio" from the New Inn in Boston provided the dance music until one o'clock in the morning. The entrance to the dance was free but it was mainly restricted to the residents of the parish with Tom Wilson and Mr Casswell volunteering to be the door keepers for the evening. A decision was taken that the usual tradition of holding a whist drive before the dance was to be dispersed with on this occasion. The lady members of the Committee took charge of the novelty stall and organised the raffle and the prizes. Refreshments were sold too, as at all the village dances, but only soft drinks were allowed on the school premises.

The Sports Day

Due to the bad weather on the day of the carnival the sports program had to be postponed but took place in the football field on the following Saturday. The event was well attended and commenced with the usual races of "one hundred yards" sprint, the quarter, half and the one mile flat races were all well subscribed with Mr Casswell appointed MC for the day. All committee

members had been asked to wear badges so they could be easily recognised if anybody required help. The agile youths of the village took part in a “flinch trail” which was a slow bike race with specific rules around the perimeter of the sports field with the winner being the last one home

The six a-side comical dress football tournament was a show of entertainment rather than a game of skill with awards for the best performance being made. The men's and ladies teams competed for a small share of the forty four pounds of prize money that was allotted for all the sports events on this occasion.

The sports subcommittee took charge of organising the obstacle race and also finding suitable candidates to form teams for the Tug-of-war. There was some doubt as to whether this event would have to be cancelled but, Mr Donner managed to find a suitable rope at the last hour.

The pig pelting and the traditional side shows and wooden games that always seemed popular at any kind of village gathering were arranged and supervised by Fred Herd, George Pickering and Mr G Wilson.

And Finally

At a meeting held in the October the treasurer presented to the committee a balance sheet showing a return of ninety two pounds towards the purchase of a playing field for the village. The general feeling amongst the members was that this scheme should now be abandoned and the proceeds used elsewhere. It was deemed necessary to hold a Public meeting for the village to voice an opinion as to where the money should go. It was finally decided in 1966 to donate all the proceeds to the youth club to assist them with buying the freehold on the site where their hall was situated. The trustees of “The Robinson's Charity” had offered to sell then the land for five hundred pounds. A final total of one hundred and forty pounds, including all the interest

was donated to the club in 1969 and then all the committee members resignations and the termination of the "Coronation Fund " was accepted by the charity commission.