

# MIXED BLESSINGS

T I M E S

LITE

Each edition of this magazine has a flavour of its own. This one is all about your memories of Coronation Day in 1953. It has developed from an idea of Barbara Miller, who was in hospital on that special day. So, we asked you what you remember of the celebrations on the day our Queen was crowned.

You did not disappoint. Inside you will find fascinating and varied accounts of what you got up to. It's a real historical treasure. When you've read it, why not let your children and grandchildren know about it? Thank you to all of you who contributed, and thank you to Graham for putting it all together. You are a wonderful group.

Enjoy reading, *Derek*

**Issue 9**

**24 July  
2020**



*Mixed*  
**The Lantern**  
*Blessings*

**STAY ALERT  
CONTROL  
THE VIRUS  
SAVE LIVES**

## Elizabeth II crowned at Westminster Huge crowds cheer the young monarch London 2 June

Vivat Regina! A new Elizabethan age began today with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey. Crowds thronged the London streets, defying the rain for a glimpse of their new young monarch, and the abbey itself brimmed with heads of state, prime ministers and other dignitaries gathered from every corner of the earth. London was witnessing its greatest celebration since the end of the Second World War.

In a ceremony dating back to the Middle Ages, Princess Elizabeth was anointed with holy oil by the Archbishop of Canterbury, then presented with the symbols of her authority - the orb, the

sceptre, the rod of mercy and the ring of sapphires and rubies. Then the archbishop raised the crown of St. Edward above her head, lowered it and proclaimed, "God save the Queen".

As the peers and dignitaries echoed the cry, and trumpets and bells echoed across the capital, the guns of the Tower of London fired their salute. Then Prince Phillip led forward his fellow peers in the formal act of homage to the woman who is not only his Queen but also his wife.

Afterwards the crowd had its reward - a procession of carriages that took the Queen to Buckingham Palace.

### **Daily Mirror** CORONATION SOUVENIR **HAPPY** FORWARD WITH THE PEOPLE No. 15,412 \* \* \* Wednesday, June 3, 1953



... And this was  
the happiest  
picture of all

## —AND GLORIOUS

For the coronation of the Queen, I was serving in the Royal Navy at Rosyth Scotland.

A large team of us went up to Edinburgh where we assembled to represent the Royal Navy to honour the Queen in a march past.

It was a very important day for us all.

*John Taylor*



## *The servant Queen and the King she serves*

Helen Goldenberg (Lantern Church member)

Queen Elizabeth's coronation took place just eight days before my ninth birthday. All school children were given a holiday and a mug commemorating this special occasion. Sixty-seven years later, I still have mine!

My mother was up early in the morning, busy preparing sandwiches and home-made cakes for a buffet lunch, as several friends and neighbours were invited to watch the ceremony with us on our little twelve inch black and white television.

The children were all very excited to be watching the live broadcast of this rare special event but, because it was a day long affair, we dipped in and out of the proceedings, playing in the garden between times.

I remember watching some of the processions parading through the streets of London to Westminster Abbey, followed eventually by Queen Elizabeth in her horse drawn coronation coach being cheered by the crowds lining the streets all the way from Buckingham Palace up The Mall and on to the Abbey. I also watched her making her vows to serve God and her country, being anointed with oil and, finally, the beautiful crown being placed on her head.

Looking back now I often reflect on how well the Queen has fulfilled the

promises she made that day to the nation and to her God, The King of all Kings.

In a book entitled, "The servant Queen and the King she serves,"

published on her ninetieth birthday, she shares her faith saying, "Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings and to put my trust in God."

God loves each one of us unconditionally. We are made in His image to live in relationship with Him. He sent Jesus his son to earth to be The Servant King of Kings, demonstrating Father God's love.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, the way was opened for all, who simply believe and put their trust in Jesus, to become children of Father God and to enjoy eternity with Him.

Father God extends to each of us this invitation of eternal life. All we have to do, is simply trust in Jesus and put our life in His safe hands, following the good example of Elizabeth our gracious Queen.

*Helen*



### **Practical Help and Support during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

The Lantern Church tel: 01202 887733 or email: [help@thelanternchurch.org](mailto:help@thelanternchurch.org)

*The rose on the front page is named Queen Elizabeth*



I was 9yrs & 6mths old, living in the village of Shaw, in North Wiltshire, with my parents, brother, sister and grandfather.

I remember being dressed up as General Wolfe in a pageant (maybe there was a shortage of boys). The procession through two villages was on a hay wagon.

After the procession a sporting event took place, sack race, egg and spoon, relay races etc. This was then followed by afternoon tea in Lydiard Millicent (nearby village) village hall. Children were given a money box and mug, which I still have today - see photo.

Jenny Warner



### Number One Songs in 1953 included:

"I believe" by Frankie Lane - *most no. of weeks at no.1*

"She wears red feathers" by Guy Mitchell

"(How much is) That doggie in the window by Lita Roza



My family and I were kindly invited into our neighbours' home to watch it on T.V. (as we did not have one). We had cakes, biscuits and tea which was delicious.

It was a wonderful day.

I think our Queen has been fantastic. *Lui*

I was serving with the Royal Army Service Corps in Egypt. There weren't any televisions there so I didn't see the Coronation.

*Ted*





*Barbara was in hospital from March until September in 1953.*

After breakfast those of us on bedrest had our beds pushed together and we moved across them until we were close enough to see the very small TV which had been loaned to the ward, propped up on a stand. It was an extra treat for those of us who'd never seen one before.

I don't really remember the details of the day, except it was a party atmosphere and the Doctors came round with treats and even served our meals. I didn't know at the time that I was missing the street party at which my little sister Hilary, six, was chosen as the Coronation Queen (*on right in photo above*). The shivering fairy was her best friend, Rochelle, and our brother Brian, twelve, was the pirate.



A few weeks later, the ward was loaned a cine version in colour which we watched on a larger screen.

*Barbara Miller*

### **In 1953 ...**

Average house price	£2,750
Average weekly wage	£9 5s 0d
Income tax	47.4%
Average working week	45 hours



We were living in Reading at the time, in Tilehurst. Richard's parents were living in Reading, in Shinfield. We did not have a television so the Doswells kindly said that we could go to them! I am so thankful not to have missed such a wonderful scene, though what I did with the children I cannot remember. Ian was 5 and the twins were 3 so they would not have wanted to sit still that long. They had already sat on a bus into Reading and another up to the Doswells.

Ah, happy days. *Babs*



My father had purchased a 9" x 9" black and white, television, due to pressure from my mother and me! Very few people had televisions, as they were expensive, around £70 (£1,000+ in today's money)

married on a Wednesday, early closing day! )

They invited several neighbours to come in and watch this wonderful piece of technology, and it was a truly exciting and memorable day.

*Jenny B*

when the average weekly wage was around £9 (£125 today).

It just happened my future brother-in-law ran the 'Good Listening' premises at Wallisdown, so he got a discount! It became popular to rent televisions instead of buying them.

My parents ran a grocery shop in Boscombe and because it was a Public holiday the shop was closed, otherwise it wouldn't have happened. (I had to get



### **New on TV in 53 ...**

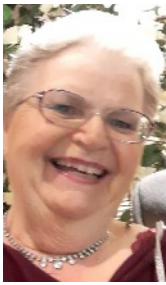
- Patrick Troughton was TV's first Robin Hood
- Peter Scott broadcast the first natural history programme from his home in Slimbridge
- "The Good Old Days" started its 30-year run
- "Panorama" was first broadcast.



Chris, almost facing the camera, at her street party in Shepherds Bush, London.







It was such an exciting day for me and my friends, Coronation Day 1953. I was living with my parents and brother in a modern house in North London. The day started with appalling weather, and it rained constantly until early afternoon.

My father had a very good job, and he always wanted the latest technology and gadgets (something I inherited from him) so although we had had a television since 1948, soon after we moved into the new house, it had only a 9" screen, so Dad went out and ordered a 14" screen TV in a mahogany cabinet, with doors which could be closed across the screen, and incorporated a wireless in the cabinet. A fine piece of furniture, which was delivered a few days before the coronation.

By 11 a.m. we were joined by many of our neighbours, friends, and family to watch the coronation. I seem to remember there could have been as many as 20 to 25 people in our living room, with the children sitting on the

floor, and the adults sitting or standing around behind us.

I don't remember whether we watched the whole ceremony as it went on for almost 3 hours, and a street party was planned. However, because of the weather the party was moved to a local establishment named Shropshire Hall, which was normally used to supply hot meals to lesser fortunate people in the area. On this day the hall was set up for our "street" party, and there was a large stage on which many of us were due to perform. I had been taught to tap dance by my cousin, Joane, (a dancing teacher) from the age of 3, so was quite happy to get up and perform. I sang two songs, "When April Showers", and "Daddy wouldn't buy me a BowWow", together with accompanying tap dancing. As it was a public holiday, there were plenty of adults in the audience, but all the performers were children.

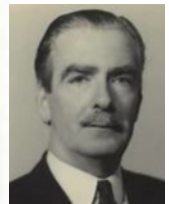
I think all the children were given a commemorative mug, but sadly mine has long since disappeared, together with any photos that were taken at the time.

*Josie Lemon*



### Politics in 1953 ...

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● Prime Minister       | Winston Churchill              |
| ● Chancellor           | Richard Butler ( <i>left</i> ) |
| ● Foreign Secretary    | Anthony Eden ( <i>right</i> )  |
| ● Leader of Opposition | Clement Attlee                 |



### Cars you'd see in '53

- Austin A30  
*left*
- Ford Popular
- Morris Minor  
*right*



I remember the 1953 Coronation very well. I was working as a staff nurse in the A. & E. department at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Folkestone.

Peter and I were engaged to be married in the August. It was my day off, and I went over to Deal by train to see him.

He was a miner in those days, working on nights. We had a couple of hours together before he caught the bus at 9pm to the pit. I stayed at his house overnight in his bed. He came home about 7:30 and we had some breakfast, then I had to go, and he to bed. What I hadn't been told was that his parents had said that if I came over I was to go and stay with his brother and wife. His parents were in London overnight for the Coronation. There was no hanky panky and his parents never knew I had been over. Things, I am sure, would be different today.

*Pat Piddock*



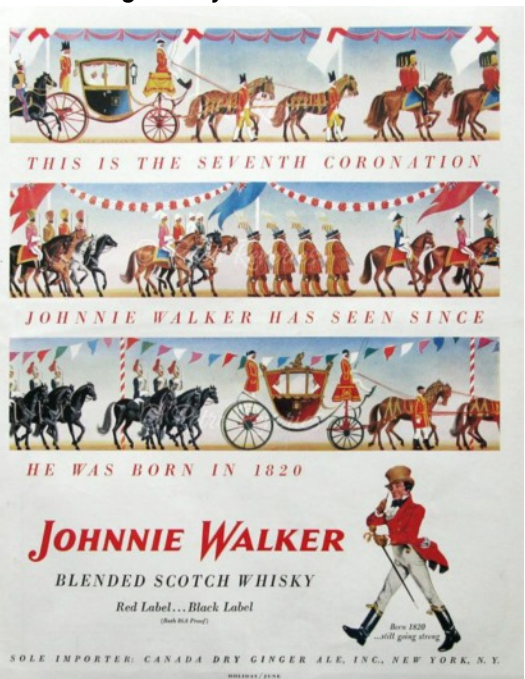
*Above - Peter and Pat on their wedding day in August 1953 - this year will be their 67th anniversary!*  
*Left - Peter and Pat on our outing to Swanage last year.*



My sister, Hazel, and I left our husbands to look after the children and went to London to stay with a friend who lived in Shepherds Bush.

We had a good look round - the decorations were wonderful. There were, of course, lots of people about, and we stood among them outside Buckingham Palace and saw the Queen wave from the balcony. I saw different regiments marching past, the Scots were particularly memorable.

*Margaret Bailey*







### In 1953 ...

Fish and Chips cost	1s 4d
Pint of Beer	1s 3d
Loaf of Bread	6½d
1 lb cheese	2s 6d
8 oz butter	1s 8d
5 lb potatoes	10d

On Coronation Day I was a window cleaner, complete with small ladder and bucket. My brother was a daffodil and my sister was Nell Gwyn (All she knew about Nell Gwyn was that she sold oranges!)

We lived with our mum and dad in the married quarters of RAF Hemswell, in Lincolnshire, and we kids were dressed up to go to a fancy-dress party on the station. My brother was triumphant and won a coronation spoon, and he deserved that as he had to spend the whole party with a broomstick daffodil stalk stuck up his back.

We all had a good time though, eating lots of jelly and custard and we were all given a coronation crown each (the coin, not the headwear). I still have mine today.

However, all the ceremonials going on that day in Westminster Abbey completely passed me by.

Derek

### FA Cup Final 1953

*After years of trying, Stanley Matthews finally wins the FA Cup with Blackpool. He was paid four shillings and sixpence.*





At the time I was living in a huge block of flats in Islington, London. My dad had a television, I think it was a 9-inch square one, and invited everyone in to watch the Coronation - it was standing room only! The television frequently went wrong so my dad kept hitting it to get the picture back. Afterwards we had a party in the grounds of the flats. Children sat at long tables, and everyone provided the food. My mother, a professional pianist, played on a piano which had been lifted onto a stage, and we all sang along. There was bunting, and we made hats to wear. It was a real party, and after all the years of austerity it was absolutely lovely. It was a super day.



Two days later, the Queen drove through Islington on her tour of London, and we all cheered her.

*Pat Gilbert*

### **Born in 1953 ...**

- Tony Blair - Prime Minister
- Jim Davidson - comedian
- Graham Gooch - cricketer
- Nigel Mansell - F1 Champion
- Graham Souness - footballer
- Victoria Wood - comedienne

### **Farewell in 1953 ...**

- Queen Mary - widow of George V
- Dylan Thomas (39)
- Sweet rationing



**Quiz** - coins in circulation in '53  
Which nine coins were in general circulation in 1953?  
*Answer page 15*



## Films we paid to see in '53 ...

From Here to Eternity

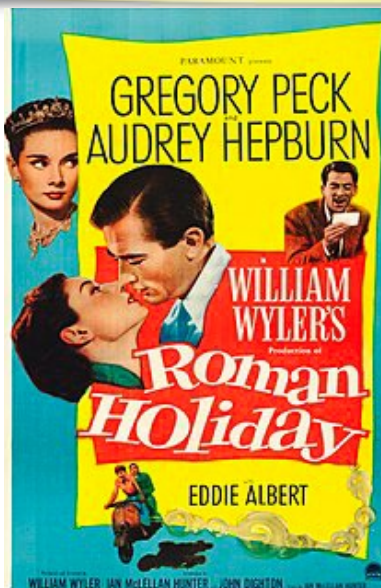
Genevieve

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

Roman Holiday

The Cruel Sea

Trouble in Store



THE BOLDEST BOOK OF OUR TIME...  
HONESTLY, FEARLESSLY ON THE SCREEN!



BURT LANCASTER · MONTGOMERY CLIFT



DEBORAH KERR



FRANK SINATRA · DONNA REED







My recollection of the big day was intrigue at the thought of television. I was living with my parents and three older brothers in Dagenham, Essex at the time. Life was unremarkable, and I

didn't really know what TV was all about, so when our family was invited into our next door neighbours to watch their television it was quite exciting. All I could think of was: was it similar to home movies, using a projector to shine it up on a wall?

So we went into their front room and in the corner there was a piece of furniture that looked like a wooden cabinet with doors. Our neighbour proudly showed off the cabinet and proclaimed it was their latest model with 14" screen. I still had no idea what was going on. After a few minutes more neighbours arrived and they opened up the dividing doors between the back and front rooms to get us all in.

All the children were sitting in front of this box, on the floor, with the adults sitting or standing around. About ½ hour before the ceremony started the neighbour, Mr. Blewitt came and opened up the box to show the screen, which he switched on to give it time to warm up. When the picture finally appeared, he twiddled a few knobs to get fine adjustment. We saw the Mall with the Royal coach travelling along, with all the crowds of people lining the roads, and the BBC commentator describing the scene. I later discovered this was Richard Dimbleby.

We watched as the coach continued to Westminster Abbey, where the Queen got out and was escorted into the Abbey. It was the first time many of us had seen the Queen.

We all sat and watched for an hour or two, but after about an hour some people started to leave and others arrived. I believe I was told to stay put so I wouldn't get in the way while they were putting up the tables and chairs for the street party. About 1.30 I went back home to get tidied up for the street party. All the children from the area were told where to sit at the tables and then the food was brought out. Everybody brought out food from their own homes because there was still some rationing on. There were sandwiches, cakes, jellies and blancmange, and fruit drinks like squash. My neighbour, from next door but one, Chris was crowned Street princess for the day. She was very pretty, and one of twins, although the sisters didn't look alike at all.

Pictures were taken, but once the food was finished that was the end of our celebrations for the day. My parents were there with me although I do not remember where my older brothers were. I think the eldest, John, had gone to London to watch the parade live.

*Bill is in the centre of the photo below.*

*Bill Lemon*



### **Most popular radio shows in 1953 ...**

- The Goons
- Educating Archie
- Take It From Here

## Sporting winners in 1953 ...

- Open Golf - Ben Hogan (USA)
- Grand Prix - Italian Alberto Ascari (Ferrari)
- Wimbledon Ladies - Maureen Connolly (USA)
- Cricket Ashes - Len Hutton's England
- First Division - Arsenal
- FA Cup - Blackpool



### Open Golf

*In his only Open appearance, 5ft 8 ins Ben Hogan won at Carnoustie by 4 shots from four runners-up including Welshman Dai Rees. He also won 8 other majors.*



### Motor Racing

Italian Alberto Ascari won the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, and his second consecutive World Championship. There were 9 races, and a driver's best four results counted towards the championship.

### Wimbledon

*18-year old Maureen Connolly beat fellow American Doris Hart to win the second of her three Wimbledon singles titles. It was the year she became the first woman to win all four Grand Slam titles. She was known as "little Mo" because she was 5ft 5ins tall.*



### Football

Arsenal finished the season level on points with Preston North End, but took the First Division title because they had scored more goals and had the better goal difference.

### Cricket

Yorkshireman Len Hutton was England's first professional cricket captain. He led his team of gentlemen amateurs and professionals to a 1-0 series win - the first four tests were drawn. And so the Ashes returned to England after 19 years. *In the scorebook, amateurs had their initials before their surname eg P.H.B. May, while professionals had them after eg Trueman F.S.*



## Other news stories making the headlines in 1953

### Hundreds die as east coast is flooded 3 February

Hurricane-force winds combined with high tides to swamp the sea defences along England's east coast from Lincolnshire to Kent. At least 280 people are known to have drowned and thousands more are homeless. A major operation has been launched to save people trapped on rooftops by 8 feet of water, some in villages 5 miles inland.

At Canvey Island in Essex 125 people have drowned, 500 are missing, and 13,000 have been evacuated. Near Clacton, holiday chalets are under 12 feet of water and survivors are falling from rooftops into the floodwater due to exhaustion. In Suffolk boats were rowed into a church to rescue 40 trapped children.

### British expedition conquers Mount Everest Nepal, 1 June

Mount Everest, at 29,028 feet the world's highest peak, has been conquered at last. Two days ago, at 11:30 a.m., New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay stood on the summit, planted their respective flags, plus that of the United

Nations, and spent 15 minutes taking photographs and eating mint cake. The British expedition, led by Sir John Hunt, had made one earlier attempt, which was defeated by bad weather. Now the peak has been scaled - a fitting prelude to tomorrow's coronation.

*At last! Newly knighted jockey Sir Gordon Richards finally wins the Derby at his 28th attempt.*





## *Lu's Recipe for Coronation Chicken - serves 6-8*

### Ingredients

- A. 3lb cooked chicken with bones and skin removed  
- cut into bite-size pieces
- B. 200 grams plain yogurt  
3 tablespoons mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 tin apricots in juice (optional)  
2 tablespoons apricot jam sieved (optional)  
3 teaspoons medium curry paste
- C. 1 small onion finely chopped and gently fried for 4 or 5 minutes  
3 celery stalks finely chopped.



### Method

Drain the apricots, reserve 6 halves, and slice the rest.

Mix ingredients B and C thoroughly with a light hand whisk.

Add salt and pepper to taste, adding more curry paste and mayonnaise if required.

Fold the chicken pieces into the mix, and turn into a dish. Decorate with apricots.

### **Quiz answer**

There were 9 coins:

- Farthing
- Halfpenny
- Penny
- Threepence
- Sixpence
- Shilling
- Scottish shilling
- Florin (two bob)
- Half crown



### ***Mixed Blessings in Bloom***

Closing date for entries is 31st July. Please send photos of your horticultural efforts to Derek or Graham.

Karen, the new Lantern Curate, has kindly agreed to be our judge and award the prizes **(yes - prizes!)**

*Pictured is Babs' splendid daisies*

## Our Father in Heaven ... Pat Piddock

In Thee O Lord do I put my trust.

We give thanks for our Queen's steadfast love for You.

Thank you for giving us this devoted monarch who loves our country very much. She has given us years of complete dedication in spite of her own family problems. So many changes she has seen in our society yet remains resilient.

Thank you for the encouraging speeches she has given during lockdown covering so many different issues.

Bless our Queen, Lord, and Prince Philip in the years ahead.

In Your name, Amen



## Wordsearch

*In the wordsearch, find the following 15 words -  
words can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal, and forwards or backwards:*

BUCKINGHAM	N	L	X	A	M	M	J	M	B	L	E	Q	M	H	B
CARRIAGE	E	R	L	J	V	A	O	C	A	B	W	Q	G	T	B
CATHEDRAL	Q	F	D	A	I	N	H	R	U	C	S	O	I	E	F
CORONATION	E	C	A	L	A	P	D	G	O	L	U	O	L	B	U
CROWN	B	D	H	R	U	E	C	R	N	P	A	A	H	A	S
ELIZABETH	Z	O	C	Q	H	J	O	A	N	I	Y	G	L	Z	C
LONDON	T	H	R	T	W	N	I	P	R	O	K	K	U	I	E
MONARCH	E	Q	A	B	A	N	X	U	R	R	D	C	Y	L	P
ORB	A	C	H	T	W	E	J	O	U	R	I	N	U	E	T
PALACE	N	O	I	S	S	E	C	O	R	P	L	A	O	B	R
PRINCESS	D	O	Q	O	Q	U	D	Z	L	K	C	Z	G	L	E
PROCESSION	N	E	B	P	G	Q	C	R	O	W	N	J	A	E	H
QUEEN	P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S	L	C	C	T	M	D	W
ROYAL	U	L	K	V	X	G	M	F	G	H	P	J	I	I	T
SCEPTRE	N	P	T	Z	I	S	B	H	D	M	M	F	G	Y	D

### Mixed Blessings Times contact details:

Derek Baker

Tel: 01202 888241

Graham's email: [maths.graham@gmail.com](mailto:maths.graham@gmail.com)