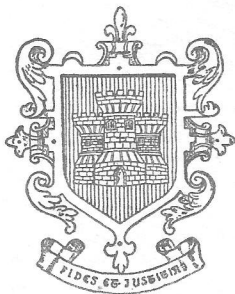


BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE



SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

OF

EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES

IN THE OLDEST BOROUGH IN
HER MAJESTY'S KINGDOM
FOR THE CORONATION

29th May to 6th June
1953

Price : One Shilling and Sixpence



ELIZABETH II

CORONATION . . . 2nd JUNE, 1953



The Mayor's Message

THE Coronation of our beloved Queen will be a solemn act of dedication to everything that is good in this rapidly changing world, and such a moment must surely make us all wish that our lives and our homes shall reflect this high example of service.

The values underlying the rich and sacred Coronation ceremonies can truly live only if Her Majesty's high and unselfish example is followed by her people.

This Coronation should therefore teach us all never to be unmindful of the spiritual symbolism of this great occasion, so that we may go forward rejoicing with dignity, truth and prosperity.

CHARLES F. DART



The Mayoress's Message

IN this Coronation Year our thoughts constantly turn with thankfulness to our young Queen, her husband and her lovely children. The bond of family affection and royal tradition so clearly exemplified in our gracious Queen must be an example to all mothers and help to promote that strength and happiness that come from a steadfast family life.

The values underlying such precious gifts are all-revealing when we dedicate ourselves to the service of others.

MINNIE E. DART



"OUR QUEEN"

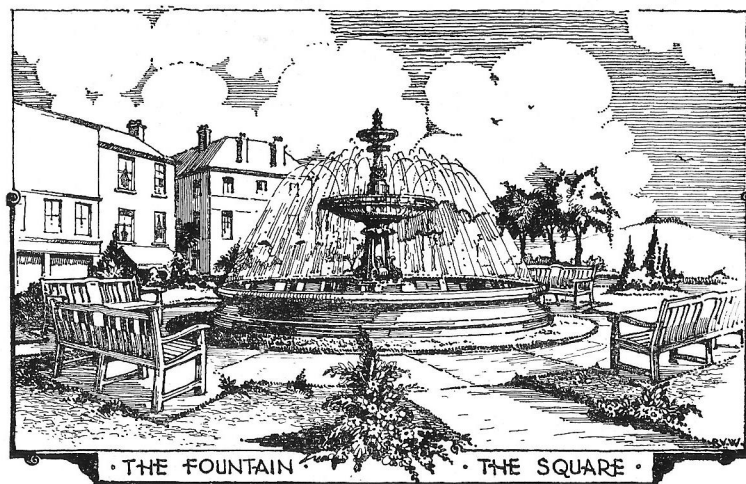


H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

A Centre of Attraction!

FOUNTAIN, FLOWERS AND SEATS COMMEMORATE

(By His Worship the Mayor, Alderman C. F. Dart, J.P.)



WRITING of the joy of gardens, Richard Le Gallienne suggests that a happily-devised private garden is one that should be walled in on three sides—the house itself counting as one of the walls—and open to the country on the fourth, “sheltered from the undue violence of the elements, but open also to the great life-bringing tides.” The designers of the public garden in the Square might almost have taken that as a recipe for their work, if you allow for all three “walls” to be the over-looking buildings themselves, and the open vista the tidal waters of the Taw.

Set centrally in one part of the garden is a pleasant Fountain; but for two decades it has been without its leaping waters, and as silent as a cabbage patch. Indeed, for much of that blank time it very nearly *was* a cabbage patch, for its capacious basin was solemnly stuffed with municipal soil, and little floral plants (not, it must be conceded, vegetables) were invited to grow at an unnatural level, suggestive more of a barrow-boy's stand than an abiding garden plot. Nothing but a World War, I think, would have made us accept for so long, without violence, this strange official perversion of the functions of a sparkling fount. I am still not sure (as one of the accessories to the fact) whether we were in a time of national peril making a counter-demonstration of “the British sense of humour” rather than striking a shadow blow for that Top Priority, but sometimes Top Heavy, civic principle we call “Economy.” I cherish the hope that we were just having our little joke (to cheer us up) and that we “didn't really mean it.”

Whatever the psychological explanation, it is a pleasure to announce that after the long lapse the Fountain in our Square will function heartily and happily again on Coronation Day. In the light of this news, we can afford to acknowledge generously that there may, after all, have been one understandable reason for the cutting off of the original water supply. The pattern of the fountain jets at the time was such that on particularly gusty days the spray of water was apt to wander beyond its appointed limits, and to fall lightly but wetly upon the unsuspecting passer-by. To do the double job of restoring the fountain flow and restraining the reach of its diamond drops would, at any time, have meant appreciable expense.

The Coronation's stirring proclamation “The Fountain is dead—Long live the Fountain!” ensures the resumption of the original happy concept of making Remembrance of a great public figure in the life of Barnstaple take the form of a memorial which should be a thing of beauty and joy for ever. That figure was the late Charles Sweet Willshere, of whom there is a life-like bronze bust on a pedestal nearby in the same Gardens. Mr. Willshere was Mayor from 1876 to 1878. Among the many contributions he made to promoting the good of the Town was his great gift of the finely-designed iron railings, the work of a local craftsman, which completely enclosed the Gardens. The War which deprived us of so much else deprived the Borough of those railings. But the Gardens remain. In their new “Coronation shape” they will be perhaps more pleasing than ever.

The restored Fountain, with its illuminating lights and its circle of close-cut grass verge, but still with its impressive inscription—“Erected to record the gift by C. S. Willshere, Esq., of the Railing Enclosing this Square during his Mayoralty 1876-1878”—will be the pivot of a further change of layout made possible by the generous new gift of four teakwood seats which will surround it. These four Commemorative Coronation Seats are the gift of Colonel J. N. Oliver, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., and Mrs. D. Oliver, his daughter Mrs. Marjorie Hughes, J.P., and Mr. A. W. Hughes, and other members of the family, in memory of the late Alderman A. N. Oliver, J.P., who was for 25 years a member of the Town Council, and who, in 1951, was admitted an Honorary Freeman of the Borough in recognition of his outstanding services to the civic, business and recreational life of Barnstaple. From the restful comfort of these seats (made by the famous local firm of Shapland and Petter, with which the names of the late Alderman and his son are so closely associated) the many who will use them as a sanctuary from the bustle of the streets will have before and around them fragrant reasons for remembering these stalwarts of Barum's past, as well as letting their thoughts move to the opening and unfolding of a new reign. This, I think, is just as it should be—for has not our great English poet Tennyson described Memory as “thou who stealest fire from the fountains of the past, to glorify the present”?

Programme
of
CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

29th May to 6th June, 1953

The Mayor wishes to express his personal gratitude to the Chairman of the Coronation Committee (Councillor J. B. Cruse), and to record the thanks of the people of Barnstaple to him and his Committee for all the hard work and the admirable arrangements they have made to celebrate Her Majesty's Coronation in Barnstaple.

Friday, 29th May

The Corporation have purchased Souvenir Mugs bearing the Royal Coat of Arms, a photograph of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Borough Arms, for presentation to each child of school age in the Borough.

The distribution is being arranged through the Schools, and His Worship the Mayor, accompanied by the Mayoress and members of the Council, will attend at each School to-day and make the presentation.

8.30 p.m. — 1 a.m.

ELIZABETHAN

OLD TIME DANCE

Blue Serenaders Orchestra

M.C. Mr. Wilf Dunn

Buffet

Licensed Bar

Tickets 5/-

Saturday, 30th May

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

QUEEN'S HALL

POPULAR MUNICIPAL

DANCE

Music by

The Country Club Orchestra

Buffet

Tickets 3s. 6d.

Sunday, 31st May

This day, being the Sunday preceding Her Majesty's Coronation, SPECIAL SERVICES will be held in Churches of all denominations.

Monday, 1st June

The Corporation, in conjunction with the Barnstaple and District Chamber of Commerce, have organised the following competitions, and they desire to express their thanks for the splendid way in which all have co-operated to decorate the Town in such a worthy manner :—

- A.1 Best decorated business premises (excluding shop windows) in High Street, Boutport Street, Cross Street and Joy Street. (Prizes include a Silver Cup given by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor J. B. Cruse, T.D., J.P.).
- A.2 Best decorated business premises (excluding shop windows) anywhere in the Borough, except those in Competition A.1. (Prizes include a Silver Cup given by Councillor F. J. B. Sanders).
- B. Best decorated residential street in the Borough. Judged for its decorative appearance as a whole. (Prizes include a Silver Cup presented by the Chairman of the Coronation Decorations Sub-Committee, His Worship the Mayor, Alderman C. F. Dart, J.P.).
- C. A Shop Window Decoration Competition for business premises in the Borough. (Prizes to be given by Barnstaple and District Chamber of Commerce.)

The Judging of these Competitions will take place during to-day, and the prizes will be presented by His Worship the Mayor in the Guildhall at 6 p.m.

7.30 p.m.

UNITED

EVE OF CORONATION SERVICE

This, being the Eve of Her Majesty's Coronation, a Religious Service will be held in the Castle Grounds, in which all denominations will participate. Music will be provided by the Bands of the Salvation Army and the Barnstaple British Legion.

In the event of wet weather, the Service will be held in the Pannier Market. If this is found necessary, notification will be given by loudspeaker during the afternoon.

Coronation Day

Tuesday, 2nd June, 1953

DOCTOR RICHARD HARPER will present to each baby born in the Borough on Coronation Day a Silver Spoon suitably inscribed.

7.30 - 9.30 a.m.

Peals of Bells

From the Parish Church and Pilton Church

9.45 a.m.

QUEEN'S HALL

The Procession from Buckingham Palace and the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey will be shown on large screen Television.

10 a.m.

ROCK PARK

THE MAYORESS WILL PLANT A MAGNOLIA TREE
in commemoration

12 noon

NORTH WALK, BARNSTAPLE

21 GUN ROYAL SALUTE by R. BATTERY ROYAL DEVON YEOMANRY 296 FIELD REGIMENT, R.A. (T.A.)
(Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel P. E. Pettit, M.C., T.D., R.A. (T.A.).

2.30 p.m.

BARNSTAPLE RUGBY GROUND

Grand Amateur Athletic

SPORTS MEETING

For Children and Adults
(under A.A.A. and W.A.A.A. Laws)
organised by

The Barnstaple Amateur Athletic Club

Prizes, including the Perpetual Challenge Cup for Inter-Schools Relay Race given by Alderman H. S. Youings, will be presented by His Worship the Mayor.

Admission to Ground: Free

Grand Stand 1 -

Small Stand 6d

3.0 and 7.30 p.m.

ROCK PARK

Band Concerts

by

THE BARNSTAPLE BRITISH LEGION BAND

7.0 p.m.

CASTLE GROUNDS

A Coronation Production of

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

By William Shakespeare

will be given by the

MARIST CONVENT SCHOOL

and the

BARNSTAPLE BOYS' SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL

Admission: Free

8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

QUEEN'S HALL

CORONATION CARNIVAL

Dance

THE TONE BALLROOM ORCHESTRA

BUFFET

Tickets 5 -

Licensed Bar

Carnival Novelties

8 p.m.

PANNIER MARKET

Dancing to Amplified Music

Admission 1 -

At Dusk

SEVEN BRETHREN'S BANK

BONFIRE

To be lighted by His Worship the Mayor

Wednesday, 3rd June

12 noon - 7.0 p.m.

POTTINGTON SPORTS GROUND
CORONATION CRICKET MATCH

His Worship the Mayor's XI
v.
Devon County Cricket XI

We are indebted to the Devon County Cricket Committee for sending their team to Barnstaple for the first time and on such a fitting occasion.

The Mayor's XI, with MALCOLM ELWIN as the Captain, will be a strong side, and amongst other prominent players will be C. J. BARNETT (England and Gloucester) and H. W. PARKS (Somerset and Sussex).

Admission : Adults 2 -, Children 1 -
(Half price after 5 p.m.)

5.30 p.m.

PANNIER MARKET
OLD FOLKS' TEA

followed by
A CONCERT in the QUEEN'S HALL

Well-known Artistes will take part

Thursday, 4th June

7.30 p.m.

ROCK PARK
BAND CONCERT

given by
THE BARNSTAPLE BRITISH LEGION BAND

7.0 p.m.

ROCK PARK SWIMMING BATHS

CORONATION
SWIMMING GALA
(under A.S.A. Laws)

Organised by the Barnstaple Swimming Club

SWIMMING and DIVING
by
COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Water Polo Matches
BARNSTAPLE v. A DEVON COUNTY TEAM
BARNSTAPLE v. ODDICOMBE

Admission : 1/6 Seated ; 1/- Standing

Friday, 5th June

4 p.m.

PILTON HOUSE OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

OPENING OF NEW WING

by The Countess Fortescue

supported by His Worship the Mayor

A cordial invitation is extended to the Public to attend

7.30 p.m.

ROCK PARK

BAND CONCERT

given by

THE BARNSTAPLE BRITISH LEGION BAND

8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

QUEEN'S HALL

CORONATION BALL

(Pageant Dress Optional)

under the patronage of His Worship the Mayor of
Barnstaple and Members of the Council

Music for Dancing by

TOMMY LOVEGROVE AND HIS MUSIC

from the West End, London

Tickets
7s. 6d.

Spot
Prizes

Carnival
Novelties

Licensed Bar

Saturday, 6th June

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

QUEEN'S HALL

CORONATION DANCE

TOMMY LOVEGROVE AND HIS MUSIC

featuring THE REX CULL TRIO

from THE WEST END, London

Tickets 3s. 6d.

Buffet

Spot Prizes

9.0 p.m.

ROCK PARK

CORONATION

FLOODLIT PAGEANT

Compere : Freddie Grisewood

THE BRITISH LEGION BAND

will play in the Arena from 8.30 p.m.

Tableaux will include :—

QUEEN ELIZABETH at Tilbury : The Boys of Belmont College.

THE GREAT PLAGUE : Barnstaple Arts Club.

JOHN GAY and the Highwayman : Barnstaple Riding Club.

THE DEATH OF NELSON : Local Youth Clubs.

THE LADY WITH THE LAMP : The Red Cross.

THE SUFFRAGETTES : The local Townswomen's Guilds.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR : The British Legion.

THE YEARS BETWEEN THE WARS : Barnstaple Musical Comedy Society
and Barnstaple Operatic Society.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR—"Britain Can Take It"—Civil Defence.
"Britain Can Give It"—The Services.

FINALE : The United Choirs.

THE STORY OF BARNSTAPLE—is it not to be found in the pages of Gribble, Ingledon, Harper and Gardiner, our local historians? And what a wonderful story it is of the Borough of a thousand years. Already a Borough when King Alfred reigned, his grandson, Athelstan, granted great privileges, including the annual Fair which through the centuries has maintained its tradition and unique character to the present day.

When the Normans came, they destroyed twenty-three houses in order to build the great Castle at the confluence of the Yeo and the Taw, and the Moat and fragments of the Keep still remain. Joel de Totnes founded the Priory, his successors the de Tracey's built the Long Bridge in the thirteenth century, dedicating its Chapel to St. Thomas a Becket, who was slain by their kinsman.

Lord Audley, the hero of Poitiers, was Lord of Barnstaple in 1350, a century when the Town was prospering. The Church was re-built, the Port was of importance, busy exporting cloth, wool, lead and silver. It was represented on the Naval Council, and its ships were at the Siege of Calais. Later they sailed in the invasion of Aquitaine. Pilgrim ships sailed hence to Comportella, and Barnstaple merchants traded with the known World, increasing in wealth and power until in the great days of Elizabeth I the Merchant Princes Paige, Dodderidge and Penrose, together with the Earl of Bath, were members of the trading Guild "The Merchants of Spain," and despoiling the Spaniards with their Reprisal ships, the *Lion*, the *John*, the *Prudence*, the *Hinde*, and many others. When the call came to fight the "Invincible Armada" the Town sent five ships to join Sir Francis Drake at Plymouth. Barnstaple-built ships were particularly sea-worthy, and brought home rich spoils from the Spanish Main. Sir Richard Grenville made Barnstaple his headquarters, and under him, with the Earl of Bath and Mr. H. Fortescue, the men were mustered, and the evacuation of the Town was organised; should the Spaniards land on Devon's soil the Townsfolk were to be conveyed to Halsinger Down for safety.

Barnstaple suffered severely during the stormy years of the Civil War, changing hands no less than four times. It was safely held by the Royalists in 1645, when Charles, Prince of Wales, spent two months in the Town, but a year later the Plague smote it, and again it fell to the Roundheads. Yet, despite these troubles, the Great Fair was held year by year, preserving the unbroken tradition from the days of Athelstan.

Many Barumites attained national fame in the centuries between the First Elizabethan period and the Second Elizabethan period now dawning; not the least of them being John Gay, and the men from the days of Marlborough to Montgomery who served to hold this land and their native Town free from all foes, that it may look forward to another glorious period under our young and gracious Queen Elizabeth the Second.

BRUCE W. OLIVER.



"OUR QUEEN AND HER CHILDREN"

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
CORONATION COMMITTEE



I welcome this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the Members of my Committee who have all worked so hard to organise the various parts of our Programme of Events.

My Committee comprised :—

Aldermen : C. F. Dart, J.P., H. S. Youings, and F. A. Dunning, C.C.

Councillors : Miss M. K. Howard, Walter J. Thomas, Wilfred J. Thomas, F. Karslake, A. W. Clarke, E. H. Peace, F. A. H. Molland, S. C. Dyer, and W. J. Squire,

together with the Council's Officers, and a great many more ladies and gentlemen who have been co-opted to the various Sub-Committees. Space will not permit my mentioning them all by name, but I hope they will accept my sincere thanks for their invaluable assistance.

We have found it a long and arduous task to organise our Programme, but I know that all concerned will feel the effort well worth while if the Coronation Celebrations in this Ancient Borough prove worthy of the occasion.

I sincerely hope that everyone will have an enjoyable time, but in particular that the children and the older folk will find particular pleasure in our festivities.

Finally, may I express the wish of all of us, that the sunshine we all hope for in Coronation Week may symbolise long life and happiness for Her Gracious Majesty and her family.

JOHN B. CRUSE.

OTHER EVENTS DURING CORONATION WEEK
WILL INCLUDE :—

STREET PARTIES, ETC.

(Notified up to the time of going to Press)

Junction Area (Sticklepath) (Monday, 1st June).—Children's Tea, Fancy Dress Parade, and Entertainment.

Vicarage Street (Coronation Day) — Children's Tea and Entertainment.

Bradiford and Chaddiford Lane (Coronation Day)—Children's Sports and Tea—Mr. Bernard May's field, 2.30 p.m.

Abbey Road District (Thursday, 4th June)—Tea in Pilton Church Hall for Children and Old People. Games and Film Show. Each child will receive a souvenir.

Portland Street and Broadfield Road (Friday, 5th June)—Children's Tea, followed by Social Evening.

Gloster Road (Saturday, 6th June)—Children's Tea and Entertainment. Each child will be presented with a Coronation spoon.

Rolle Street and Braunton Road (Saturday, 6th June)—Children's Tea, Sports, etc.

BARNSTAPLE BRITISH LEGION—

Children's Party and Entertainment in Castle Grounds, Saturday, 30th May, 2.30 p.m. Tea, Punch and Judy, Conjuring, etc.

BARNSTAPLE AMATEUR ATHLETIC CLUB—

Annual Inter-Club Athletic Contest, Barnstaple Rugby Ground, Saturday, 30th May. National Fire Service Drill Competitions for the "Parry" Trophy, by the N.F.S. of North Devon.

List of Members and Officers of the Council

CORONATION YEAR 1953

His Worship the Mayor :
Alderman CHARLES F. DART, J.P.

Mayoress :
Mrs. CHARLES F. DART

Aldermen :
R. BROUGH
F. A. DUNNING, C.C.
J. SMALE, J.P., C.A.
W. H. WILKEY, J.P.
H. S. YOUNG

Councillors :
R. BERRY
G. CASEY
A. W. CLARKE
J. B. CRUSE, T.D., J.P.
S. C. DYER
A. J. HERN
Miss M. K. HOWARD
F. KARSLAKE
J. A. MACKIE
F. A. H. MOLLAND
E. H. PEACE
F. J. B. SANDERS
W. J. SQUIRE
B. I. G. THOMAS, J.P.
WALTER J. THOMAS
WILFRED J. THOMAS
E. VANSTONE
F. O. WILKEY

OFFICIALS

Recorder : W. B. FARADAY, Esq.
Town Clerk and Solicitor : F. J. BROAD
Clerk of the Peace : J. H. L. BREWER
Borough Coroner : S. A. COPP
Borough Treasurer : A. HOYLE, F.I.M.T.A.
Borough Surveyor : W. G. DOUCH, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.M.E., Cy.E.
Medical Officer of Health : Dr. F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector : W. RODGERS, M.S.I.A.
Entertainments Manager : G. M. KENNAN, A.I.M.E.M.