

Editorial

'The present life of man, O king, seems to me, in comparison of that time which is unknown to us, like to the swift flight of a sparrow through the room wherein you sit at supper in winter, with your commanders and ministers, and a good fire in the midst, whilst the storms of rain and snow prevail abroad; the sparrow, I say, flying in at one door, and immediately out at another, whilst he is within, is safe from the wintry storm; but after a short space of fair weather, he immediately vanishes out of your sight, into the dark winter from which he had emerged. So this life of man appears for a short space, but of what went before, or what is to follow, we are utterly ignorant.'

The Venerable Bede (c.672 – 735)

Our twentieth anniversary year has been a good one so far; our Birthday party on April 19th was full of friendship and good companionship. Following a short AGM in which founder members were presented with certificates and to celebrate their long service, two Honorary Vice Presidents were made – Ken Joysey and our founder Bill Wittering, the party began. The hall was decorated and wine and supper were provided by the Committee with a wonderful cake made by Penny Grant. Quizzes and a competition for a homemade hat were enjoyed by all. We welcomed Pat Easthope as a new member to our committee, (a list of Committee members appears at the back of this Journal).

In May we had a guided history walk around the village with a good number of members, followed by supper in the Green Man.

In June we joined with the Whittlesford Society to follow Ashley Arbon around the Orchid Meadows where we were delighted to see Marsh Orchids, Bee Orchids and Twayblades as well as learning the difference between male and female nettles! This was followed by a strawberry cream tea in the village hall. Thanks to the committee for all their hard work.

We also helped enjoy the Golden Jubilee celebrations by inviting Peter Allen with his nephew to come and demonstrate the Blacksmith's Art; we were nice and warm in the Smithy! But despite the rain the celebrations were wonderful and the committee are to be congratulated for working so hard to make the day a success. A scrapbook is being compiled by the Thriplow Society to be placed alongside the Silver Jubilee scrapbook presented to the Cambridgeshire Collection and Nick Wittering is putting photographs taken of the day on the village website – thriplow.org.uk/gallery. Angela has written in more detail in this Journal.

We hope you enjoy the rest of our programme for the year. If you have not received a programme please let a committee member know and we will get one to you. We now have 87 household members, that's approximately 174 individuals, wonderful.

Angela Rimmer and Shirley Wittering, joint editors.

CELEBRATIONS IN THE PAST

The Editors thought it might be interesting to readers to print an article from previous Journals about celebrations for our Queen. This article was first published in 1998. The footnotes were written in 2012.

THE CORONATION AND THE BUS SHELTER

A very interesting hand-written book came to light in 1998 which recorded the minutes of meetings of a committee set up to organise Thriplow's celebration of Her Majesty's Coronation on 2nd June 1953. The Thriplow Coronation Committee, as it was called, arose from a public meeting held in the school on 28th October 1952. It was formed from representatives of organisations in the village, as follows:-

Mr John Shaw (representing the Parochial Church Council)
Miss M Softly (Congregational Church)
Mrs N Howes (Thriplow Women's Meeting)
Mrs Irene Bowes (Mothers' Union)
Mr Quarry (Jubilee Friendship Club)
Mrs Deller (Women's Voluntary Service)
Miss D Parker (Young Farmers' Club)
Mr Greenall (Jubilee Room)
Mrs Rowlands (Conservative Association)
Mr A Flack (British Legion)
Mrs Flack (British Legion – Women's Section)
Mr Honeyball (Labour Party)
Mr Badcock (Cricket Club)
Mrs Barron (Women's Institute)
Mr Hodge Sheldrick

John Shaw was appointed chairman, Mr Howes Secretary and Mr Quarry Treasurer. The Committee held 15 meetings before it disbanded on 7th October 1957.

At the first meeting, the chairman expressed the view that the committee was too large and that its work would better be carried out by sub-committees as follows:

Social (Convenor – Mr Howes)
Whist Drive (Mr Vic Freeman)
Jumble Sale (Mr Flack)
Raffle & Draw – later renamed Ways & Means Committee (Mr Honeyball)
Dance (Mrs Flack)
Refreshments (Mrs Deller & Mrs Howes)
Sports (Mr Shaw)
Fancy Dress (Mrs Barron)

Two whist drives per month were to be held, a social on 12th December 1952, a social and dance in the school on New Year's Eve and a further dance in the New Year. In addition there would be a house to house collection and cups and saucers (at 30/- per dozen) would be presented to the children. The highlight of the day was to be a Coronation Tea in Deller's barn.

Between meetings, members of the sub-committees obviously went round the village persuading other people to help. For example, a Mr Cooper offered to connect up a number of TV sets so that everyone could see the Coronation in progress in London.

Mr Hodge Sheldrick suggested that cherry and oak trees be planted on the village green.ⁱ

As time passed, money came in to finance the events; the social on 12th December raised £8.18.6 and the three whist drives £5.13.0. Tickets for a raffle were said to be going well and, by 19th December, the balance in the Post Office Savings Bank account had reached £30.

Further ideas were forthcoming:

Hold an auction with Mr Hitch as auctioneer. (It was held on 17th April 1953 and was a great success)

Put up a bus shelter (to be designed by Mr Crompton) in Brook Road.

Have a firework display at a cost of not more than £10.

Have a fancy dress parade.

Hold a religious service.

Mr Quarry to run more dances.

The Ways & Means Committee to hold a fete.

A social to take place in the Jubilee Room on 27th March 1953. (it must have been a bit of a squeeze!) [The Jubilee Room is now in private ownership and stands in Georgina Butcher's garden in Middle Street.]ⁱⁱ

The house-to-house collection to take place on 23rd March.

Arrangements for the Coronation Tea in Deller's barn were progressing and an estimate of those who would be attending was 265 including 76 children. Transport was to be arranged for the 'Thriplow Heath people'.

Mr Honeyball reported to the Committee on 21st April that he had purchased the cups and saucers for the children but to do so, he had had to buy plates as well at an additional cost of 4d each making 3/- per set.ⁱⁱⁱ

By the time of the meeting on May 8th, with less than a month to go, detail assumed importance. The Secretary was instructed to order 30 dozen Walls ice-creams (to be collected) at 2s.3d. per dozen (twopence farthing each). Mr Hodge Sheldrick was to make a maypole; Mrs Kath Pettit to train children for the dances and Mr Quarry to obtain appropriate music from Miss Grandjean, schoolmistress.

It was decided that because of the small number of TV sets in the village, their owners would be reluctant to loan them and the proposal to put some in the school to enable non-owners to watch the celebrations in London would have to be abandoned.

A proposal to ask Mr Nobby Clarke, entertainer, to come to the village was not proceeded with and Mr Murray was to be asked instead.

A combined religious service would be held on Monday June 1st at 7.30 pm and judging of decorated houses at 2.0 pm on Coronation Day, June 2nd.

Mr Badcock would organise a men's comic cricket match on Coronation Day with Mrs Bowes and Mrs Flack organising a ladies' cricket match

A final pre-Coronation committee meeting was held on May 20th with no more meetings until June 12th. Coronation Day had been wet but, very sadly, there is no record in the minutes of how the day went. Perhaps readers who were there will write and tell us. However, it was recorded that Mr Davies of Barrington brought his funfair free of charge but had been given a donation of £2. But what effect had the weather had? Did the fancy dress parade, the cricket matches, the sports events and the maypole dancing still take place? How successful was the tea in Deller's barn? What did the food consist of and how many people turned up? Are there any photographs of the day's activities in existence?^{iv}

Sadly Miss M Softly died in the autumn of 1953 and members of the Committee stood for two minutes at the beginning of the meeting on December 14th in her memory. The cherry and oak trees were planted on the village green at 2.30 pm on Saturday December 19th 1953.

After Coronation Day, there was still a lot to be done. The bus shelter in Brook Road had to be erected. Mr P Cope of Duxford built it to Mr Crompton's plans and charged £72.15.1 which was £6.18.1 more than had been collected. After its erection, a suitable plaque was fixed to it, but members were not pleased with it. The bolts holding it to the ground were inadequate; they should have been two feet in length. The shelter had been built of softwood instead of hardwood and should therefore have cost less. A fence should be built at the back to prevent cattle breaking the windows. Mr Honeyball offered to erect this fence as a gift to the Committee. At a later meeting, he said that there was a rumour going round that the posts he had used were not new but had been given to him. He denied this and tabled the receipt for their purchase for the Committee's inspection. Mr Sheldrick said that the glass used in the shelter was only 18 oz not 30 oz as specified. Blue clout nails had been used instead of galvanised ones and were rusting already!

By July 10th 1954, reports of vandalism at the new shelter were already before the Committee and the police were notified.

There was still the matter of the outstanding £6.18.1 to be found before Mr Cope's account could be paid and it was agreed to hold a whist drive in the school at a charge of 1s.6d. The Committee objected strongly when they learned that the hire charge for the school would be 10/- and the Secretary was instructed to cancel the booking. The whist drive eventually took place in the Jubilee Room free of charge as a contribution to the funds; Mr Vic Freeman organised the event.

The Committee wound up at its last meeting on 7th October 1957. The chairman presented a précis of the Committee's work in its five years of existence and that and all other relevant documents were handed to the Parish Council – and that was that. But where are those documents now? Does anyone know?

Bill Wittering

ⁱ The Cherry trees on the Green all died due to their dislike of the chalk subsoil.

ⁱⁱ Now Graham and Georgina Tindall

ⁱⁱⁱ Does anyone have a cup, saucer or plate from the set? If so may we photograph it?

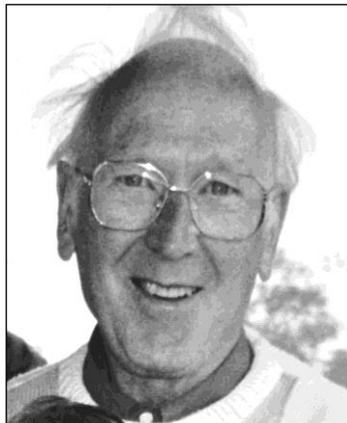
^{iv} If anyone can answer these questions now, please contact Shirley Wittering 01763 208269.



20TH Birthday Cake made by Penny Grant

A Farming Dynasty

Philip Pumfrey – 5 April 1928-12 October 2011



Philip Pumfrey was born in Duxford into a farming family; he moved to Thriplow in 1938 with his two brothers – Richard (Dick), Harold and a sister Margaret in 1935. The family, headed by their father Sidney Pumfrey, farmed 1,500 acres in Thriplow centred on Manor

Farm and Cochranes. His brother Robert (Bob) complimented all this at Temple Farm, Duxford and also controlled the heavy haulage steam engines used for threshing and deep cultivation.

Philip, a friendly and charming individual, quickly became integrated in the village life including becoming a chorister and server at the village church. The whole family could be relied upon as contributors to the village life and activity in addition to employing in excess of 50 people. The farming group included up to 30 working horses and cattle and a large sheep flock in addition to the 50 odd permanent employees. Casual labour was required generally for sugar beet and potatoes and sometimes to assist during grain harvesting. Very often these were well skilled Irish groups.

Number of labourers on the various Thriplow farms and smallholdings:

Pumfreys (Manor Farm)	50 (previously called St John's College Farm)
Bacons	25 Mr Smith
Dellers (Rectory Farm)	10
Perrins (Foremans)	3
Parker's Winter Egg Farm	10 (Thriplow House)
Freemans Middle St.	2 (Dairy House)

Total 100

The farming area is now covered by Thriplow Farms and Russell Smith Farms who together employ approximately 10 permanent employees. The Pumpreys sold up in 1947.

Philip's passing prompted many memories and a fairly dramatic incident on August 12th 1944 when a Mustang Aeroplane (from Fowlmere Airfield) crashed on to the cattle yard at Manor Farm next to the house, killing an animal, and the poor pilot; this was witnessed by Margaret Pumfrey, who remembers the fire and the heat cooking the apples on a nearby tree.

As it was wartime, compared with the present time, this incident caused very little outside interest, no media coverage, police attention or road closures. The village dealt with it and carried on in their own way!



Margaret Pumfrey harvesting with Traction Engines in Thriplow 1938

Michael Moule

QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE



The Parish Council 1977, Back – David Easthope, Jack Howe, Lewis Stone,
Front – John Luckham, Barbara Pointon, Dick Flack

During Millennium year we were all invited to write down some of our memories of Thriplow life to accompany the photographs which would become the Millennium Records of Thriplow. I started well, but instead of producing an article my memories were rapidly turning into a small book as I found that my thoughts rambled over the more than 30 years that I have lived in Thriplow. So far I have dealt with the first dozen or so years and I hope one day to go on to complete my reminiscences.

Thinking about the Queen's Golden Jubilee this year brought back memories of Thriplow's Silver Jubilee celebrations twenty five years ago and I hope the following extract from my notes will bring back some happy memories.

June 1977 marked the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The Parish Council decided that the village should mark the event with a grand celebration and I was invited to chair a committee to organise this. My memory of the committee is that Barbara Pointon was secretary, Arthur Wragg was treasurer and the other committee members were the school headmaster Rob Crompton, Frances Betts, Ann Doody, Janet Flack, Jack Howe, John Luckham, Kathleen Pettit senior, Kathleen Pettit junior and Lewis Stone.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee was a one day event held on June 3rd 1977. The weather forecast for the day wasn't very good and, in the event, the weather was even worse!

The day was split into three sections, with a men versus women cricket match in the morning, organised by the cricket club. The most interesting feature of this match was the requirement

for cross-dressing. I do not know who won the match or, indeed, whether there was a winner, but it was quite a spectacle.

The afternoon celebrations started from the school with a procession of school children, led by Rob Crompton banging a drum that he pushed before him in a pram. The children followed behind in fancy dress playing 'yellow submarine' on Kazoos. There was a carnival queen, Jane Butterworth, sitting on a float on the back of a lorry made up by Thriplow Farms and, for some reason that I can't now recollect, Jack Howe dressed in women's clothing on the back of a lorry - perhaps his job was to keep the younger children who could not walk from falling off the lorry. The procession wound its way from the school along Church Street, down Middle Street and eventually to the cricket meadow where the fancy dress was judged.

On the cricket meadow were a number of stalls including 'knock the princess out of bed', which was a 'Heath Robinson' type contraption designed by Lewis Stone which, as well as a princess and a bed, also included several tracks, a target, a projectile and a canon ball.

Pauline Bunyan (who lived at 8 Lower St.) painted a life sized picture of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with cut out faces in which you could have your photograph taken. Tim Turtle (9 Middle St.) ran his famous 'throwing for a bottle of whisky' stall, there was pillow fighting, china smashing and lots more besides which I cannot now remember. We had our caravan on the meadow with its awning up - I think drinks were being served from it. During the afternoon there was a wheelchair hockey match. At this time Wally Smith ran the scrap yard up at Thriplow Heath and had acquired a number of wheelchairs in full working order. The match involved players consisting of one person who sat in the chair wielding a hockey stick or something similar, being pushed by a colleague. For the start all of the players lined up on the back line and a football was tossed into the middle, whereupon all of the players rushed at one another in an endeavour to get at the ball first. The inevitable result was the ball was immediately forgotten and chaos ensued. Again, I can't remember who won, or even if there was a winner. In retrospect it must be considered that they were all winners in avoiding serious injury.

Several other games ensued loosely based on "It's a Knockout", a television game show which was popular at the time, and the afternoon culminated with an event which involved rescuing a princess from a castle erected by Lewis Stone and John Luckham. This was a team game with teams formed from different village streets. At that time I had a small estate car on which I had attached a loud speaker system and I endeavoured to give a commentary on the final event in true Eddy Waring style.

During all of this it has to be said that the weather was freezing cold with the occasional shower. I had the 'flu and felt dreadful. Most of this event, and a good deal of the preparation that led up to it, was captured on a cine film, made by Malcolm Pointon, of which there are several video copies around the village.

Perhaps the most significant thing about this event was that the whole village took part. Indeed, so much was going on with everyone contributing in some way that there were very few people to act as customers at the stalls and stall holders had to take it in turns to wander around to provide customers for their fellow stall holders.

The evening event was held in the barn, which now houses the 'Revivals' car repair business, in Lodge Road.

A lot of people spent a number of weeks clearing out this barn which had been used for years for storage of cattle cake, etc. and was thick with dust and grime. The whole place was dusted, swept, hoovered and still you got dirty whenever you touched any of the walls or the steel structure. Nevertheless, there came a point when we had to say enough is enough and the time for decoration of the barn arrived. One wall was hung with perforated silver foil. Barbara Pointon had suggested this. Apparently, when milk bottle tops are made they are stamped from a four inch wide strip of aluminium foil which comes on enormous rolls. The strips, after the holes have been punched out of them, are sent back for recycling, however, they are only sent back in batches so that at any one time there are quite a large number of these very large rolls of punched foil on the milk bottler's premises. Provided we let the bottlers have the foil back again, we could use it in the meantime for our decoration.

I believe that it was also Barbara who arranged for us to borrow the folding tables and seating that was set out in the barn. On the evening of Jubilee day almost everyone in the village, some four to five hundred people, sat down to a meal together. After the meal TADS led a sing-along with music provided by Barbara Pointon and Rob Crompton.

In the couple of days before Jubilee day I had felt that the approach to the barn looked fairly bleak - there were more buildings than there are today, and a series of silos ran between the barn and Lodge Road. To brighten up this approach Pat and I spent a couple of evenings making bunting. Obviously we were looking for red, white and blue bunting but the nearest we could get was to cut up blue and orange fertiliser bags, with the white flags being made from paper. All this was cut up into triangular shapes, wrapped round a length of string and stapled together and then erected by Jack Howe and myself around the entrance to the barn and on the silos. As I mentioned before, the weather was unkind and, by the dawning of Jubilee day, most of the paper had disintegrated, leaving bunting with flags of orange and blue interspersed with blank spaces!

The bunting was not altogether a failure and despite the lack of white flags this bunting was brought out for several years thereafter at school fetes.

I have always been a regular attender at The Green Man. I do like a pint of beer and whilst drinking beer at home can be good, it is never quite the same as drinking it in a pub, particularly if the company is right. Whilst liking a pint of beer I don't think I am a boozier - at least, not any more. I do say, and I believe this, that if I never had another pint of beer it would not bother me. I would, however, continue regular social visits to the pub.

At the time of the Jubilee the landlord was a chap named Eric - I forget his surname now. He had probably been there a year or so, and had done his best and from memory I believe it was he who started the work to open up the two bars into one. Whilst he retained the porch which is no longer there, he made the link between the two bars with an arched opening at the foot of the stairs to the first floor. Eric's popularity was limited to the relatively few people from Thriplow who used the pub and he had little success in attracting outsiders. As people will have observed, The Green Man cannot exist on Thriplow customers alone. The result of this was that things did not go too well for Eric. During discussions at the Jubilee Committee meetings it was suggested that a more congenial landlord, (from The Black Horse in

Fowlmere), might be invited to run the bar in the barn. I believe this may have been Earl but I am not sure - it may have been his predecessor. I argued strongly against this saying that we should support the village businesses for village occasions such as our Jubilee celebrations and it was agreed that we should ask Eric to run the bar. I explained to Eric before the event that facilities were extremely limited. We could let him have trestle tables on which he could set up his bar and there was a water supply, although the tap was outside the barn. However, there was only one power point in the barn from which we would have to run the lights and the music and there would certainly be no electricity to heat water for washing up or any other purpose. Eric agreed that he would cope.

As I said before, I awoke on Jubilee day with the flu. I had a rotten headache, a streaming cold and I could not see straight. Nevertheless, it was Jubilee day. I was chairman of the organising committee and there was a lot to do. So, trying to ignore the flu, I got on with it. The day went very smoothly despite the weather and the evening followed the same pattern. I, along with others, said my few words to the gathering after the meal and at long last felt I could relax. I went to the bar to get a pint of beer only to be told that I couldn't have one because there were no clean glasses and no means by which to clean them. I believe there may have been some inference of incompetence on behalf of the organisers of the event as well, but if this was so I didn't hear it because by this time I had exploded. I told Eric in language far too colourful to use here exactly what I thought of him, his bar and his ability to run it. I also told him that I would not set foot in The Green Man again whilst he was there. Fortunately I was able to keep this promise because he only survived as landlord for another six months or so after Jubilee.

Another part of the celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee was the erection of the village sign. The jubilee committee decided that it would be nice to have a permanent memorial erected in the village and village signs were becoming more popular at that time. We decided that as part of the other celebrations we would raise money for this.

Peter Speak suggested that the father of a colleague of his, Harry Carter, who lived in Swaffham, had previously carved a number of village signs. I contacted him and Harry agreed to design and carve our sign for us. At his request I sent him photographs of village buildings, told him about the orchids, daffodil weekend and something of our history. The sign that you see on The Green today was made by Harry Carter's grandson a couple of years ago, but the original can still be seen in The Smithy.

Another exercise carried out to celebrate Jubilee was a photographic record of the village. Over most of the year preceding jubilee day Sid Burton went around the village photographing buildings, people, activities, etc. and produced some very fine results. When all was completed Barbara Pointon made up an album to be presented to the Cambridgeshire Collection. On the day that the village sign was unveiled this album was presented to Mike Petty, who was then curator of the Cambridgeshire Collection. In return Mike presented the village with a framed map of Cambridgeshire which now hangs in the school.

David Easthope

The story behind the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Since Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, the Queen has awarded this prestigious national honour to certain groups across the country. The Award is equivalent to the MBE and recognises the outstanding contribution that volunteers make to their local communities.

On 2 June 2011 it was announced in the media that - "130 groups across the UK have been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service"

Thriplow's Daffodil Weekend (Committee) was one of the eight 'lucky' groups from the East of England. Having said that we all know that luck doesn't really come into it – successive teams of villagers have worked very hard to make Daffodil Weekend a success every year since 1969 thus ensuring that many local groups and external charities have benefited.

The story began in the summer of 2009 when I was invited to represent the Cambridge Bench of magistrates at a meeting held in New Hall College, Cambridge. Lord Duberley, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire hosted the event and present were his deputies, Cambridge notables and representatives from most of the clubs, societies and voluntary groups in South Cambridgeshire. We listened to presentations about the award and discussed previous winners.

The more I heard about the Award the more I thought of Daffodil Weekend.

Back in Thriplow and reading through the 'Rules', I started with the *Eligibility Requirements*. To be eligible a group must benefit the community, show that it has been operating at a high standard for at least three years, and 50% must be volunteers. So far so good.

Next – the *Standards that are looked for*. The Award recognises groups whose work has significantly benefited others and sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering by such groups. This was more difficult – how could I begin to compare Daffodil Weekend with other groups? I just knew how hard the villagers worked, how nearly all of the village was involved, how the church and the school joined in and how many local groups and external charities had benefited from their efforts over the years.

So an application was put together with the help of Tim Holmes, Chairman of the Daffodil Committee and Geoff Link, Chairman of the Daffodil Weekend Trust. This was submitted in January 2010 – a copy has been lodged with the Thriplow Society for future villagers to read. Suffice it to say here that no stone was left unturned making sure that the judges understood the work of the group.

The Queen's Award administration works to a tight immovable timetable dictated by the need to announce winners every June – Daffodil Weekend had missed the 2010 deadline. But eventually a letter arrived from the Queen's Award Administrator stating that the group was eligible for the Award and that a Selection Panel led by the Lord Lieutenant's representatives would consider the application. There followed a gruelling interview when the Panel members attended a Daffodil Weekend Committee meeting, asking searching relevant questions. Many months later we learnt that panel members had visited the 2010 Daffodil Weekend *incognito*, to see for themselves how the event was organised. Then – the

agonising wait for the Committee's decision which was publicised on 2 June 2011 in, of all places, the London Gazette. Success!

Hugh Duberley, the Lord Lieutenant, presented the Crystal Award and a certificate signed by Her Majesty the Queen to Tim Holmes, Chairman of the Daffodil Weekend Committee on 16 July on the Village Green a celebratory dinner was held in the Green Man that evening. The splendid engraved vase is now on display in Thriplow Village Hall.

Well done Daffodil Weekend! This award - the MBE for Voluntary Service, recognises in a very special, 'royal' way the contributions made to the Weekend by all those people, past and present who have been associated with it.

Mary Duff JP
April 2012

Thriplow Diamond Jubilee celebrations 3rd June 2012
Planning



Our President, William Russell, David Martin, Nigel Moore and Chris Arnold Cooking for the Feast on Jubilee Day.

After Christmas 2012 a general meeting was organised by the parish council chairman Derek Pinner at which the initial idea of a diamond jubilee celebration event was presented, and a video of the 1977 jubilee shown by courtesy of Barbara Pointon. As a result one dark night in February a group of villagers met at around 8pm in the Green Man to discuss what form the Thriplow celebrations should take. At that time in deepest winter no-one had hardly realised there was to be a diamond event. Anyway it seemed ages away, in June

Those of us in the pub were immediately co-opted (with no discussion!) onto the committee by Derek. Where to begin? What to do? Over the next few weeks lots of varied and often wild ideas were floated around. Games, competitions, sports, bouncy castle, fancy dress, and even cross dressing were all given a good airing. There was some indecision about using a barn, the cricket field versus village green, needing a marquee or not (thank goodness we did in view of the weather!) Reminiscing about the events of the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and Golden one in 2002 were very much the order of the day and by around April/May time a sensible programme of events began to take shape. This included plans for a performance by Thriplow Amateur Dramatic Society. We began to get enthusiastic!! Also Thriplow Daffodil Weekend Committee had generously agreed to give financial support from their budget, and offered to allow us to use their Summer BBQ as a basis for the celebration.

But would anyone want to come, would there be enough support? One concern was the fact that the jubilee was at half term with an extra Bank holiday so would a lot of families be away on holiday? At first ticket sales were slow despite mail shots and posters round the village.

Publicity

So on Saturday morning a week before the event Jack Lindop sat outside the shop in the sunshine to encourage feast ticket sales. The total numbers began to swell helped I am sure by the good weather and Jack's charm. From the expected 150 it rose to nearly 300! Hasty changes were made to the catering plans and size of marquee needed. Requests for more chairs and tables were e mailed into cyberspace. The feast was very generously to be cooked and organised by the Daffodil Committee with much help by Mary our pub landlady. Not an easy task in view of the numbers and their willingness and sterling efforts are very much appreciated. Fliers were delivered announcing the programme and competition details. We just hoped people would enter.

The Event

Celebration Day, Sunday June 3rd dawned. They said it would be wet and it was. The programme started at 8.45 with bells ringing at the church proclaiming the day. The 9.30 communion service was well attended and led by our Rector, the Reverend Linda Church. The church was beautifully decorated in honour of the occasion with lilies, delphiniums and carnations in red white and blue of course. Rousing hymns including Jerusalem were sung, prayers said for the Queen in thanks for her long reign, with all verses of the national anthem at the end.

During the rest of the morning timed cycle trials round the village were organised by the Lycra Lads and were very competitive indeed, so I am told. Entries for the cake, bunting and posy competitions – all on a Royal theme – were brought for judging to the village hall. The standard of the entries was excellent, and the judges found it very hard to choose, especially for the cakes. These included a crinoline queen, a castle, crowns, very imaginative postage stamps, various union jacks, and even a Corgi! The posies were very well done, made up of such pretty garden flowers, in both the adults' and childrens' sections.

There was a cup cake decoration table and the hall was buzzing with people saying ‘Ooh look at that’ and ‘Wow how clever’ and so on. The red white and blue boxer short bunting was admired by many and one or two comments were made ‘where are the ladies knickers?’

Between 12 and 3pm most people went home to watch the flotilla on the Thames on TV and it was still raining, even worse than in London I think. Thriplow’s own grand parade set off from the top of Church Street at around three and processed soggily with many wellies and umbrellas in use, down School Lane to The Green. There was a good turnout including decorated wheel barrows, a motor bike, bicycles, several vehicles, pushchairs, and a fabulous golden coach/wheelbarrow with the queen inside. The queen was busy as she also sat on the bonnet of a Land Rover in her green wellies and headscarf, and also in a wheelchair! The misty rain didn’t seem to dampen the activities at all. There was piped music via a speaker and Henry Moore welcomed us onto the Green playing his trumpet. Most of those in the parade wore red white and blue and there were several decorated hats to brighten the day. At around 4pm the weather cleared a little so the races were able to go ahead on the green, and spectators could watch the fun without umbrellas. Brenda Perry and Pat Yates had organised a fab programme for all the age ranges. Lots of children and adults joined in and we had sack races, egg and spoon, pig race, which is like three legged but there are five legs (three people tied together) plus dads’ and mums’ races, and tunnel ball. A new one to some was egg throwing. This was popular with all ages and involved couples throwing raw eggs to each other and gradually moving apart to increase the distance to aim, and the last pair with an unbroken egg were the winners.

Helped by David Easthope and Master of Ceremonies Bernie O’Sullivan who helped to keep order and fair play, the races were really competitive. Finally we had two tugs of war, one for adults and one for children; but it seemed to me this developed into a free for all just to even up the sides. Amazingly the ladies won! First aiders had to be called in to sort out three boys after the pig race. They were so tightly bound together it took quite a while to disentangle them.

At 6pm a great crowd gathered by the Smithy for a village photograph. In due course this can be purchased from the village shop. The Smithy was open from 3 – 6pm and manned by blacksmith Peter Allen from Guilden Morden with his nephew, demonstrating how the forge works. There were also records of the silver jubilee on display including a photo album.

The Feast - Menu –crisps, olives, nibbles - barbequed burgers, chicken, salmon, sausages, various salads, bread, hot potatoes -strawberries, meringues & cream - cheeses & biscuits - competition cakes.

The marquee looked lovely, decorated by the committee with bunting, balloons, and big red white and blue paper pompoms made over the previous weeks by the Lindop and Webber families. Some of the village teenagers and young adults served out the food which was a hard job with the tables very close together. After the sumptuous meal the Queen was toasted, speeches were made and the much prized Thriplow rosettes were presented to competition winners. Many thanks are due to Katherine Martin and her team for running the BBQ, and shopping for and preparing all the food

Winners

Best hat – Keith Evans, Georgia Martin, James Earnshaw

Cakes – various categories - Adults – Nickie, Pip MacGarry, Ali Starr

Child – Kitty Forster-Lewis, The Holmes children, Sophie Earnshaw

Bunting – various categories - Gill McDonnell, Lisa Maltpress, Keith Evans, Emma Holmes, Sophie Forster-Lewis, Helena Russell

Adult Posy – Glen Link

Childrens posy – Lucy Le Masurier

Cycle trial – Jack Lindop, Gill McDonnell, The Brown family

Best decorated vehicle – Paul Earnshaw and Sophie Earnshaw

TADS

The dramatic society had been busy rehearsing in previous weeks and presented their usual high class show with plenty of slapstick thrown in. This began with The National Anthem and the entrance of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II (alias Mrs Sue Pinner). She graciously said how thrilled ‘one was to be visiting Tripelow’. We then romped through sketches, songs and highlights of her reign throughout the decades from the fifties up until the present time. The programme packed a few surprises including a rendition of ‘The Happy Wanderer’ performed by, believe it or not, a whistling ‘Tummy button’! The audience were urged to whistle along but couldn’t do so as they were laughing so much. Other Songs included ‘Yellow Submarine’, ‘Any dream will do’, and of course ‘Land of Hope and Glory’. Barbara Pointon led the music on the piano, and the audience were encouraged to join in. At the end of the performance the Queen was presented with the winning child’s posy when we all sang ‘Happy Jubilee to you’. After this, further music was provided by Matthew Rowland Hall and I believe dancing continued into the night.

If you want to see pictures of the cakes, the parade and other activities please look on our village website. Thanks to Nick Wittering for collecting photos after the event and uploading them.

All in all it was a smashing event, well organised, and thoroughly good fun. **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK PART** - and cleared up in whatever way big or small. A day to remember for everyone.

Angela Rimmer

GLEANNINGS

In Memoriam: We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Ruth Stone whilst on holiday in France on Wednesday May 16th. Ruth and Lewis have lived in Thriplow since the early 1960s and contributed much to the life of the village. She will be missed by all who knew her. We send out deepest condolences to Lewis, her daughters Mandy and Catherine and all her family.

Dawn Cutter has presented the Thriplow Society with the beautiful doll’s pram she had as a child over 50 years ago. **Many thanks** to her for giving it to us. Perhaps someone has an old doll that we could put in it for display at Daffodil Weekend. Her brother has also given us a Scythe which had belonged to their Uncle.

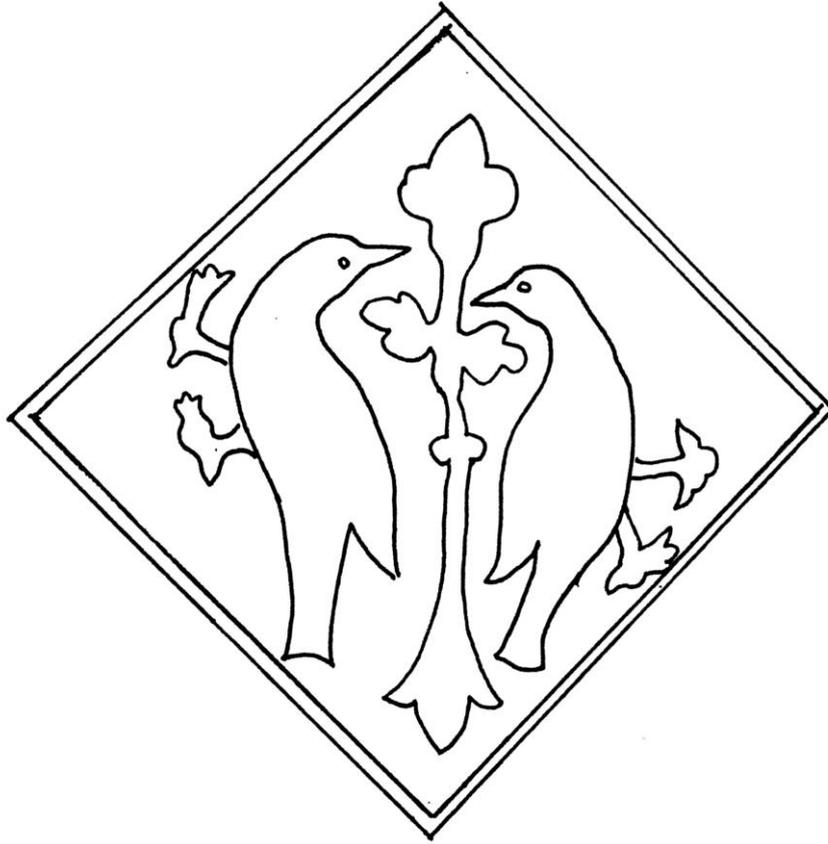
Thanks to Peter and Pat Yates, Jean Tomlinson, Ben MacDonald, Geoff Axe, Barbara Pointon, Pat Easthope and Nick Wittering for their Jubilee Photos. Nick has put them on the Village web site: thriplow.org.uk We are also planning to make a scrapbook of the day to present to the Cambridgeshire Collection to sit alongside the one made for the Silver Jubilee.

If you get the chance on a sunny day to go up to the Church do walk around the churchyard and note the beautiful wild flower meadow; these are interspersed with mown paths and the number of butterflies prove that God’s Acre is certainly an environmental treasure.



Thriplow Society Committee members 2012 -13

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Back cover, Victorian Tile in Church