

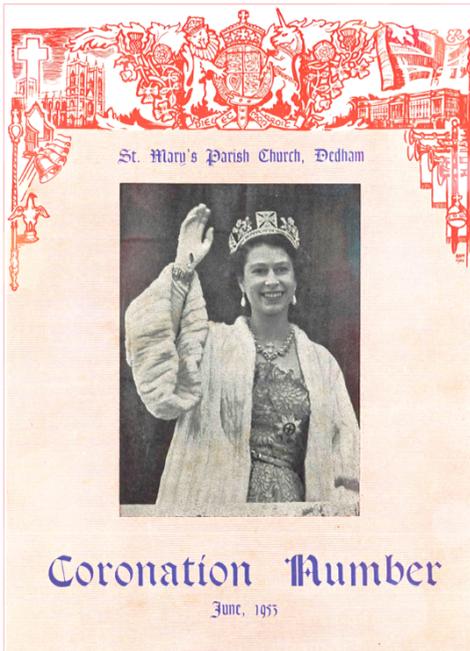


Dedham Parish Magazine - May 1953.

CORONATION DAY. Miss Hooker, the Headmistress of our National School, wonders whether anyone would be willing to loan anything that could be adapted for smocks or Elizabethan costumes. These will be used by the school children on Coronation Day. The Coronation Committee is planning to carry out the programme as advertised but they ask us to say that unless the appeal receives much greater and immediate support the programme will have to be drastically cut. If you have not given your donation or if you wish to increase what you have already given, will you please get in touch with Mr. Shead, Dr. Sleigh, Major Barstow or the Vicar.



Dedham Parish Magazine - June 1953. Front Cover



Dedham Parish Magazine - July 1953.

ST. MARY'S VICARAGE, DEDHAM.
July, 1953.

My dear Friends,

This time last month we were all looking forward to the Coronation. We had spent weeks in preparation for the great day and, despite the very bad weather, most of the day's programme was completed, but not according to plan! The Church services were exceptionally well attended and we believe the united service was much appreciated. On behalf of the School Managers I express our hearty appreciation to the parents of the children who took part in the pageant, for their co-operation in the making of costumes. All agree that your efforts were well worth the trouble. It would be quite wrong not to thank Miss Hooker and her staff for their painstaking efforts with the presentation of the pageant.

The actual Coronation ceremony, which so many of us saw on the television or heard on the wireless, was profoundly impressive by its dignity and perfection. It was to many of us an occasion when spiritual things became real and full of meaning. We understood what a precious thing our Monarchy is for our British way of life, and how it stands firmly upon the principles and practices of the Christian religion. Let us hold the memory of these things and thank God for them, and pray that we may be more worthy of our Christian tradition and of the example set by our Queen.

A. R. JOHNSTON, Vicar.



The Rev A.R. Johnson rehearsing some of the schoolchildren taking part in the Elizabethan Pageant to be held on the Queen's Coronation Day in 1953. In the background are schoolmaster Mr H. G. Flegg, Miss Faye Watson and headmistress Miss E. W. Hooker. (With thanks to Lucy Archer)



In costume ready to welcome Elizabeth 1st to Dedham.
From L to R. Carol King, Avril Garwood, Pauline Whitehead and Maureen Collins



Party for Coopers Lane and East lane residents held at the 'The Old House' which was standing empty at the time.




 JUNE, 1953
Coronation Programme

7.45	Celebration of Holy Communion
2.45	Short Service for members of all Churches
3.30	CHILDREN'S GAMES
4 p.m.	Cricket Match in Costume
	<i>Tea and Entertainment for Old Folk</i>
6.30	The Children welcome Elizabeth I to Dedham
7.45	TUG-of-WAR
	Dedham v. East Bergholt at Fen Bridge
8.20	<i>Fancy Dress Competition</i>
	ADULTS: Original; Comic; Attractive CHILDREN: " " " " (Two prizes for each competition)
8.55	Broadcast by the Prime Minister
9 p.m.	H.M. The Queen. (National Anthem)
9.30	<i>Dancing, Modern and Old Time</i>
10.30	Community Singing. Bonfire
11 p.m.	FIREWORKS

In the evening, performances will be given in the Hewitt Hall by the Dedham Players. Times of performances will be announced by loud speaker.



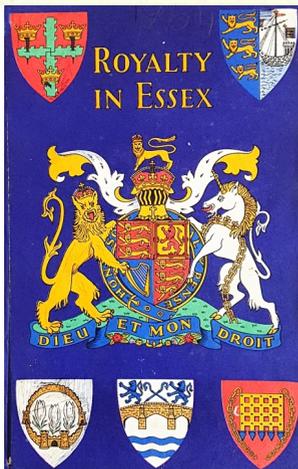
For our children, our children's parents, and our children's grandparents, a coronation is something that you learn about in history lessons, and so the opportunity for the whole school community to mark an event which will one day become something that future generations will learn about, is certainly exciting!

We will be celebrating the coronation with a whole school picnic, and as 2023 sees the 50th birthday of the school on the Parsons Field site, we will also be taking the opportunity to celebrate this.

Last year, Lucy Archer wrote a fantastic article in the Dedham Parish Magazine about the history of Dedham Primary School in which she shared a photograph of children maypole dancing to music from a wind-up gramophone. Whilst we won't be reinstating maypole dancing at our celebrations, there will certainly be some traditional outdoor games, dancing and music as part of our festivities!

According to local media in 1973 – which the children will have the opportunity to read as part of our celebrations – when the new £50,000 building opened, the school dog, Bessie, who belonged to infant teacher Miss Steggall, was not permitted to go too: muddy pawprints would not be allowed on the new carpets! Perhaps I should suggest to Mrs Chester that we reinstate this tradition and that we have her dog on the school staff...!

*Miss Laura Valentine
Deputy Headteacher*



ROYALTY IN ESSEX
 A Souvenir Book for Essex Children.
 Presented by the County Council of Essex
 on the Occasion of the Coronation of Her
 Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on June 2nd, 1953.

Link to a FlipBook of Lucy Archers article.
<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/88cd1614cd.html>