

JUBILEE MAGAZINE



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Eynsham Primary School Magazine

NUMBER 1

JUBILEE ISSUE

Jubilee Year seems a good time for looking back over the past twenty-five years of the Elizabethan age, and further back to the Jubilees of 1935 and Victoria's reign. And also over the past ten years since in 1967 *Eynsham Primary School* (Mark I) was built. So we have concocted this gallimaufry of reminiscences: earlier jubilees as celebrated in Eynsham, the Coronation recalled by Eynsham inhabitants, and early memories of the school recounted by those who taught and learnt in it ten years ago. We also include some recent children's work describing events that have made such a deep impression that they will surely live as memories for years to come. We offer this collection of recollections not merely to be read but perhaps to unlock some memories of your own ...

But it also time for looking forward. We hope to publish an *Eynsham Primary School Magazine* on or about May Day each year, though perhaps not as lavishly produced as this one, which has been made possible by the generosity of Information Printing Limited. The front cover is by Norman Hayes. The photographs are by Susan Chapman, and are reproduced by kind permission of the Oxford Mail and Times. The typing has been done by Oxford Typing Service Limited and the issue has been put together by Sara Bannister, Susan Chapman, Elizabeth Crawford, Anna Hill, Ruth Hodges and Christopher Schenk.

... PAST ROYAL OCCASIONS ...

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee - 28 June 1887

A magnificent treat was given by Parish Church warden, Mr. Walter Wilkins, at his house in Mill Street to the children of the National Infants School and a number of others under eight years of age, amounting together to more than 250. Ample justice was done to an unlimited supply of tea, plum cake and jam, after the consumption of which, swings and various amusements, ending with a display of fireworks, were thoroughly enjoyed.

Edward VII's Coronation - 26 June 1902

In the afternoon about 400 children of the parish were entertained at the Gables by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blake. On their arrival the children were regaled with cake and lemonade after which they enjoyed rides on a steam roundabout, which had been engaged for the occasion, and ran races. Biscuits and sweets were distributed and before separating at half past seven o'clock the youngsters sang God Save the King and gave hearty cheers for their host and hostess.

George V's Coronation - 22 June 1911

At 2.45 the children assembled at the Council Schools to the number of about 400 and processed to the Square where the National Anthem was sung, after which the march was continued by way of the Abbey Farm to Litchfield, kindly lent by Mr. Saunder, where tea was provided for the children, each of whom received a Coronation mug.

George V's Silver Jubilee - 6 May 1935

A fancy dress parade around the village headed by the Scouts' Band opened the Jubilee Celebrations. Racing and Sports, Morris dancing and acrobatics by Scouts Dorner and Blunt followed in Lichfield where refreshments for everyone was provided. A bonfire was lit on Beacon Hill.

George VI's Coronation - 12 May 1937

The Carnival Procession was led by the Boy Scouts' Band. In the afternoon, there was a fete in Mr. Coates' field with folk dancing by the children trained by Miss L.Pimm. After tea in the School the children received Coronation mugs and ran races.

SOME 1953 EYNSHAM CORONATION MEMORIES

The Archbishop of York, Stuart Blanch (at that time Vicar of Eynsham) - "How well I remember those Coronation celebrations with a service on a farm cart in the village square and the torrential rain afterwards".

Mrs. Cathy Morris, who was a child at the time, remembers watching the ceremony on a friend's television as there was no T.V. at home. She "felt a great interest in the crown and the costumes of all the people involved". However, black and white T.V. meant that the colour of the occasion made no impact. She had imagined the Queen to be an Elizabeth I-type of person and thought Elizabeth II rather disappointing "as she seemed too like any other lady. I also wondered how she could sit still for so long!"

Alan Timms remembers the appalling weather, how it poured and poured. "Televising the event was a wonder of the age; just as well there was television, with that dreadful downpour. Outstanding in my memory is that our young Queen almost had her thunder stolen by Queen Salote of Tonga. I have never forgotten this massive lady in an open landau, spurning the rain which poured increasingly on everything and everybody for almost the entire day." He remembers the relief afforded by the Coronation to a nation which was really only just getting over the aftermath of the war.

Mrs. Ruth Hayward, who was Secretary of the Coronation Committee in Eynsham, remembers in greater detail. She recalls the judging of the Fancy Dress parade: "Young Peter, Ackland took first prize as the Queen's Herald, and also most original Coronation costume. He really deserved it, with his merry, bright eyes popping out with excitement when the large sum - to him a fortune - of 15/- for first prize and 12 special prize was handed to him. (He was only six at the time)." There followed teas and sports for the children, a meal for the old folks, a tug-of-war for the men, and also maypole dancing. She remembers the presentation of the mugs to the children: "What a scramble! Oh dear, our Vice Chairman emerged from the fray feeling as though he had been in the middle of the January Sales!" Because of the weather, the fireworks and bonfire had to be postponed until the following Saturday. However, a good time seems to have been had by all. Mrs. Hayward recalls one little girl saying to her, "Oh, I did enjoy myself; I had eight ice-creams", and a little boy told her he had ten bottles of pop. She feels it was well worth all the months of hard work the Committee had put in.

... THE FIRST CHAPTER ...

By Judith Baines

The Spring Term of 1967 was one of great excitement, preparation and anticipation. Every week or so, George Baines would take several teachers down to the Beech Road site to see how the building was progressing and we would wander through the lovely light areas listening to George as he told us of his plans. In our imagination we peopled each bay with the lively, busy children that we already knew and loved.

Towards the end of the term we talked to the children about the new building and the great move and on one day we all walked down to Beech Road, finding our still unfinished home bays and having our very first assembly in the hall.

By this time the building was looking beautiful. The lovely natural wood below the clear stories, the white walls and purple doors, the shiny wood block floors all cried out to be cared for and enhanced by the children living and working among them.

'Our school is like a palace,' said George Baines in that first assembly, 'and therefore we must behave fittingly.'

During that Easter holiday we worked unceasingly among the painters and plumbers, arranging furniture, equipment and resources, and putting things into each area that would both interest the children and proclaim plainly what work should be undertaken in that place.

On the 10th April, 1967, the School opened.

For the first few days, the children moved around in groups and the teacher taught them carefully how to use each area, where to find the things they needed and how to put them back ready for the next comer.

We rejoiced with the cooks in the splendid new kitchen and initiated the pleasant family service lunches that we enjoy today.

Within a few weeks the children began to feel settled and patterns of work and behaviour were set.

It was so exciting to have the facilities one needed to teach in a variety of ways: to be able to withdraw a small group for direct teaching in the theatre, unworried by the rest of a large class as all were working under the supervision of colleagues, to be able to block print and cook and read in areas designed for these activities that in themselves promoted appropriate attitudes and responses.

Visitors from all over this country and the world poured in: architects, teachers and educationalists of all kinds. I remember one particularly well dressed group were given the once over by one lad who said in tones of deep disgust: 'Cor! Looks like a blinking wedding!' Another small boy who had just completed a felt toy came to me saying 'I've just showed the customers my fish!' The then Minister of State for Education came on one occasion and while passing through the hall after a movement lesson, was called upon to tie up the laces of a sturdy five year old who had quickly learnt to turn visitors to good account. Then a film was made as part of a BBC series called 'The Expanding Classroom'. Ann Price will never forget me sitting up in bed the night before drinking brandy! The film has now been shown all over the world but its particular value to us is as a record of our beloved first building. Only a few months after it was made, after a school trip to Bath which the children had celebrated with lovely work which decked the walls together with displays of Victorian costume, fans, jewelry and an exquisite collection of christening gowns and baby clothes, the school burnt to the ground and for a few hours it appeared that all traces of the two years of love and labour on the part of children and staff were gone.

But we learnt much during the days that followed and came to realise that all that really mattered we still had. Children, parents, officers and well-wishers from all over the county rallied round to help us in the mammoth task of reassembly. For ten weeks that included the entire summer holiday we strove to recreate a wholesome learning environment for the children and only a week late we opened the autumn term in assorted buildings. Some of us had worked until midnight on the Sunday but when we arrived just after eight o'clock on the Monday to find the first comers reading, drawing and happily exploring we felt amply rewarded.

Well the year of the caravans is the second chapter in the story of the decade. I begin to think I should write a book.

Beech Road Memories

recalled by James Clennett, Ann Hayes
Lucy Richards, Karen Stowe & John Wright

Walking down the school path with my mother's hand holding mine, a new world stood before me.

We were told to go and do some work; I remember the first work I did was maths. Having done this I felt it was high time I explored the rest of the school. I ventured into what was later to be termed "the other end". Eventually of course I got lost. I continued to wander around and found myself in Mr.Hayes's class. He promptly returned me to my teacher. It was now almost time to go home to lunch as new children did not stay. My mother collected me from school. While walking home I recounted the morning's events.

One of my clearest memories is of when the BBC descended on the school to do a film of the then revolutionary way in which the school was run. I remember that our class was selected to show how a class circulated about the school during a school day, and to this end we were given green nylon smocks to wear while we were out of our "bay" and we had to come to school in the same clothes for about a week. I can clearly recall the technicians setting up lights all over the place and also of cameras being set up in our bay. In the end they only showed a small part of that sequence even though the cameras seemed to have been in the bay for a number of days. Just before the BBC started filming the teachers told us all to avoid looking at the cameras and to carry on as usual. I remember I was very disappointed at the end because when the programme was eventually screened, I didn't get into the picture even though almost all the rest of my class got in during the part shot in our bay.

A prominent memory that I have is of the book binding which not only completed a study but also became a feature. The technique is a cherished memory: the meticulous scraping of the lino block, the roller thick with sticky paint, the binding and the glue oozing out in all the wrong places, the pride of producing a book contained within a hardback.

I would like to add a little detail on the only two casualties of the fire, two mice named Jay and Aramadill which Anthony Barrett and I had been responsible for and had bought one lunchtime after driving round Oxford trying to find a pet shop which sold mice. They were stabled in one of the bays in the East wing on a little shelf which soon had a rather large number of mice on it as Aramadill and Jay produced lots of young. We were forced eventually to split up the two mice as we were running out of room to put the young in. We then sold the young mice or gave them away to people so that only Jay and Aramadill were left at the time of the fire.

We all paraded down Back Lane in twos in a long line wondering what we were going to find. When we reached the school we sat on concrete blocks before going in. I was puzzled as to why we had to wait outside in the cold, sitting on cold, hard concrete blocks; I didn't realize for a while that they were in the shape of an 'S' standing for school, of course. I remember thinking how 'posh' and clean everything looked and looking forward to starting. I can't remember any teachers standing around, but everyone was talking and excited. When we were actually in the school I liked everything because it looked so new and tidy. The bays felt homely but I felt rather lonely.

*I was Jane Seymour, Henry's wife,
The third to be in his life.
The first divorced, second was beheaded
Me, in the four poster bed was deaded.
My dress was padded really wide,
So I could get in the bed but I couldn't get outside.
Melanie who was Anne Boleyn
Tried to push me from within
She pushed and tugged but I seemed to be dead
I couldn't move even my head.
It began to be funny, children started to laugh
But I don't think they did it on our behalf...*

One enjoyable memory is of our visits to the house and gardens of Mrs. McGregor. We would take clipboards, papers and pencils, and compared her beautifully tended, cultivated garden with the long yellow and green grasses of the uncultivated land which was joined to it. We were instructed to sketch flowers and plants and I drew the tiny, white, delicate buds nestling in the branches of the apple tree. Faces peered down into the cold stone well, and then watched eagerly the thatcher, perched on the roof of an old barn. The yellow buttery colour of his recent work contrasted with the dull grey of the older straw, as he demonstrated the technique.

A MEMORY: THE FIRE

Start of the school day

- tiny hearts were ready to induce life into the dormant body of school.

It was early morning when the telephone rang

Despondently. The voice said that the school had burned down.

Momentary amusement flowed through my body then drained.

Disbelieving shock absorbing any remaining drop.

My mind would not crystallise the image of reality -

School existing as ashes.

Later we went to see - the house next to it had the best view.

Amongst others congregating, I gazed at the devastation:

A spectrum of blacks and grays stared back,

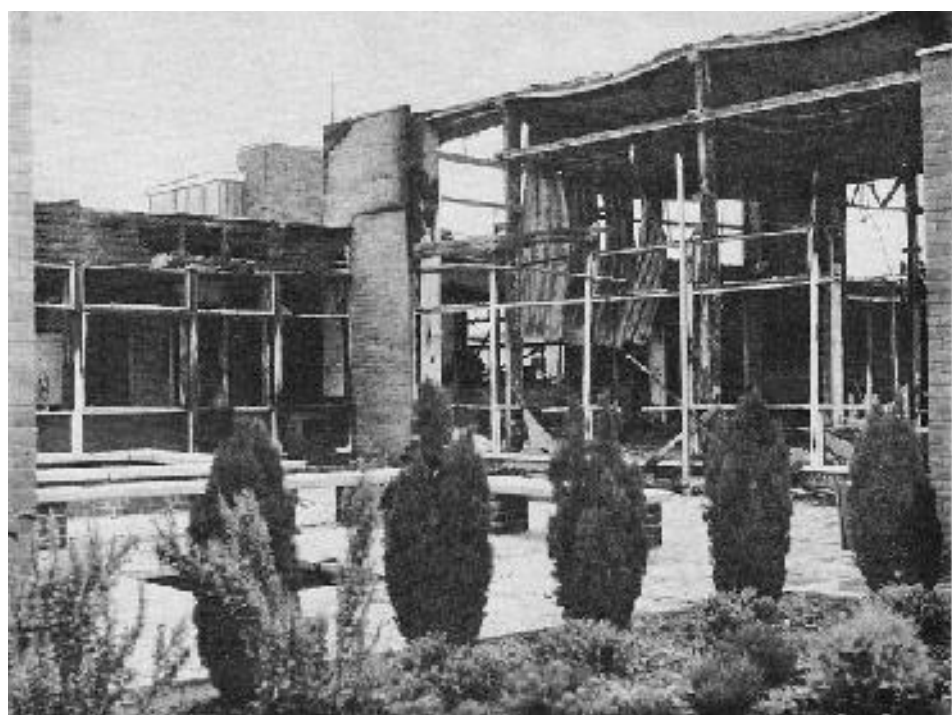
Flaking and charred beams, brick smouldering, twisted metal.

Only the skeleton stood - deformed and eroded.

Amid its diseased body and the s-shaped stepping stones.

Heat currents rose from the cremated mass.

Directing the dying smoke upwards.





ABOVE:

*"I sat down on a slight bank
and drew pictures of the old
Oxfordshire wagon"*

LEFT:

*"Peckham" Lane raises
money for a P.T.A.
Slimming Contest.*





Filming "The Expanding Classroom".



LEFT:

*"Sunny Smiles" Queen of 1977.
The School raised £254 for
National Children's Home.*

BELOW:

*Ann Langford leads
the first May Queen procession.*



... MEMORIES OF A MAY QUEEN ...

Ten years ago I was elected to be the first May Queen of Eynsham Primary School.

The Election was to be taken in the main hall of the school. All the girls who were to leave in the September were allowed to enter and the rest of the school children were to vote.

When all the votes had been collected in we all sat down, while the teachers sorted out the votes. At last the votes had been sorted! The results were that Karen Cox and myself were both voted equal first place. So a re-election was to be taken. Karen and I had to go out of the hall while they all revoted.

We went and sat with Mrs. Lane in her classroom. A quarter of an hour later, Debbie Annetts came to fetch us. We all walked very quietly back to the hall. As they read the results, Karen patted me on the back and said "Well done!". All I can remember is that I was very overwhelmed.

When it was time to go home, everyone kept coming up and congratulating me. As soon as we got off the bus, Debbie went running up to my mother and Aunt Lin shouting "Ann is the May Queen!"

My mum and my Aunt Lin went to Oxford to buy the material for my dress. They bought white cotton and Nottingham lace to go over the top. Mrs. Madge Timms very kindly made my dress. Mr. Hayes, the school teacher, made the crown. It was made of gold-covered wine and blue velvet and on the day it was decorated with pansies.

I had eight attendants, Debbie Annetts, Gail Timms, Cheryl Edwards, Karen Cox, Suzanne Hall, Joanne Spillane and Joanne James. They had long dresses and the colours were, two in peach, two in blue, two in lilac, and two in green. They wore small haloes with flowers around.

Mr. Derek Hedges drove the tractor and float down to the school where the procession was to start.

We kept having showers and a girl who was at the side of the float kept passing the umbrella to me.

Everyone seemed very happy. It was a very happy day in my life and it brings back many happy memories to me. ANN LANGFORD

This may day I was the May Queen. The night before I couldn't sleep of fright. I woke up in the morning right round the bend and I tried to put the plates for breakfast in the fridge. At school I couldn't concentrate because of all the people outside in the end my mum came down and they wanted me to go out and try something so for the rest of the morning I was outside. First thing in the afternoon Mr Baines wanted me in the staff room to get ready my mum was already there waiting. By now I was getting very shaky and I kept standing up and sitting down until my mum was quite dizzy.

When we were all finally dressed, we lined up and got into our places, we waited for what seemed like hours and just as I was about to die of suspense a lady came in and said Miss Price wants you in the corridor of the games hall so we all went in and I felt so frightened I just wanted to go through the floor. Then I heard our music come on and I had to go in. I could hear my heart thumping so much I thought it would break the pumper but as soon as I sat down I was o.k. except that I didn't smile. When I got out I felt so relieved but the others said they wouldn't mind if it happened all over again, to me it will be the biggest day of my life.

The Cormorant

The cormorant's body is brown
and soft,

and his neck is velvety.

He dives under the rippling sea

and with his long curve-
pointed beak

He catches fish to eat.

His plucked white breast
is soft and thick

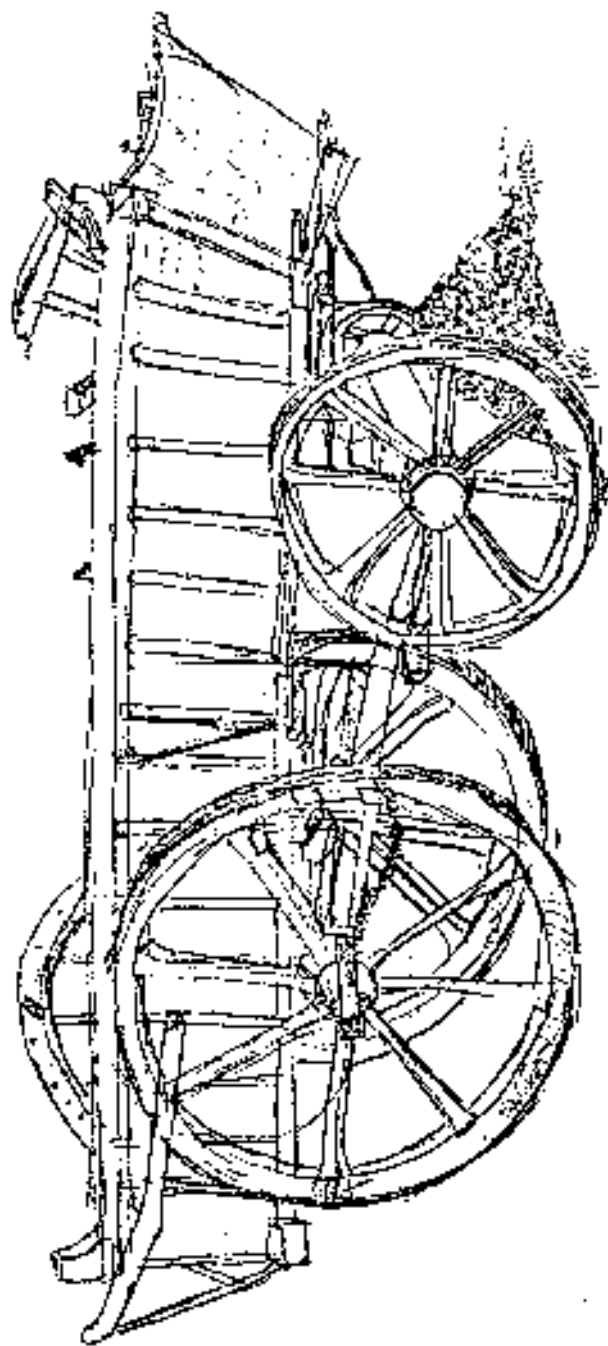
and his feet are leathery

The beautiful bird
with beady eyes
stands so still on the rock

This Crown is a Silver Jubilee
Crown and it has the
queens horse on it
with the queen in her full
uniform it weighs 359 g
and it weighs 3 more times
heavier than a big cork
and she has her medals on







ONE DECADE OF ASSOCIATION

Kellmer Pringle wrote:-

"... we must act as if all children were equal and then respect as well as accept and cater for, their differences. This means giving recognition to and developing all the different abilities and talents a child may have. Within such a framework it is legitimate both provide a democracy of opportunity while at the same time to strive for excellence so as to ensure an aristocracy of achievement."

Eynsham Primary School is committed to such objectives and strives for their achievement. The School's Association of parents and teachers is similarly committed and in addition to supporting the School seeks to provide like opportunities for its members.

Of the happenings and provisions over the years there is an impressive catalogue expressing the energy and commitment of a thriving, vigorous Association.

There has always been association between home and school but the origin of our formally constituted Association lies in an informal, co-operative effort of a group of parents in October, 1969, following the destruction of the school buildings and equipment. Their first "Autumn Fair" brought a gift of money with which to purchase pottery, baskets, pictures and other aesthetic resources lost in the fire and which could not otherwise be replaced. That act of goodwill in a spirit of voluntary co-operation, which recognised the need to provide such things in a school environment for children, was uplifting. Asked to stay in existence as a group those parents formed the basis on which our present Association has been built. Much more has since been achieved in building good personal relationships, providing resources and establishing events which are becoming traditional.

With that consensus we can continue to seek and hopefully find that which is right and best to be done, together with how it can best be achieved, for the common objective of home and school - and it is really only one - that which is right for each child.

The production of this Jubilee Year/Anniversary book manifests the co-operative partnership of children, parents and teachers which makes for a successful school community. It marks a decade of association.

Long may that association continue. George R. Baines

