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HONITON

Flyer

SUMMER 2022

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Summer is here! And with it the latest edition of The Honiton Flyer for Summer 2022.



We hope that you appreciate the new photo on our front cover – the waterfall is on The Gissage, near Roundball Hill off Battishorne Way.

Our articles in this edition cover Honiton Street Market on **Pages 6 & 7** and an interesting review of the arrival of Ugandan Asians to Heathpark in 1972 on **Pages 14 & 15**.

Our walk this time is around Dunkeswell Turbury and the Gliding Club. See this on **Pages 20 & 21**.

The Honiton Flyer spent time with 3 local “women at work”, and we offer a “30 second” interview with each of them on **Page 24**.

In view of the very recent Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, our contributor Terry Darrant chronicles this and earlier Jubilees on **Pages 26 & 27**.

We have tremendous support from local businesses who see great value in taking space in **The Honiton Flyer**. Their message is visible to at least 10,300 readers in the EX14 postcode. We distribute via Royal Mail to every private and business address in Honiton and surrounding areas.

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Best wishes,

Anthony Bucke. EDITOR. Wednesday 22 June 2022.

Email honiton@theantiquetourist.com

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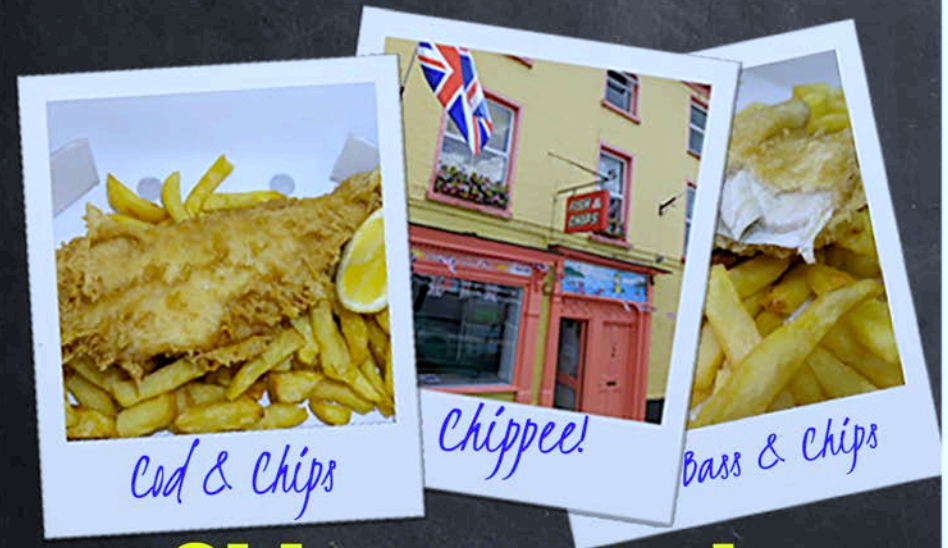
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Honiton

This ancient charter market at the gateway to Devon traces its history back to a charter granted to the Lord of the Manor in 1257. The market owes its centuries of success to its position on the main road from London to Exeter.

Of course history and road improvements have now changed this – many would say for the better! Honiton Street Market continues to this day, lining the High Street, and attracting trade from outlying areas, whilst the busy A30 from London to Exeter thunders away a few hundred yards to the west.

The Honiton Flyer met Market Superintendent Lee Leppington on Thursday 9 June. Lee has been instrumental in restoring and revitalising the market. The streets were busy with shoppers, although very few traders had set up their stalls that morning.

“Well Lee, what does Honiton Street Market offer?”
“Variety! Eggs, cakes, chutneys, fruit and veg, hats, gloves, clothing, plants and flowers, tools, greetings cards, fishing tackle, sweets, teas and coffees, takeaway food, bric-a-brac and much more.

“We hold special events throughout the year, to mark festivals and national holidays, and the arrival of seasonal produce and fresh ideas. Many of our market traders have been with us for 15 years. However, new traders are always welcome, as they are vital to keep our market fresh, and innovative. However, Thursday is always our quietest day,” Lee concluded.



Market Superintendent Lee Leppington



Honiton Market was traditionally held every Tuesday and Saturday, although from 2013 a market every Thursday was added.

As The Honiton Flyer mingled with traders, shoppers and officials on Thursday 9 June, one memorable comment was “Axminster market has always been every Thursday.....”.

This was meant as a helpful comment, possibly to explain the low number of traders that day, compared to every Tuesday and Saturday.

The Honiton Flyer also talked to Naomi Lihou of Mole End Plants, who hasn't missed a day since she started in 2019. “I love talking to the people visiting the market. I want to help them, and many have become my friends. They look for me each market day, and I love to hear stories of how my plants have brightened up their homes. We propagate all our plants at home, so I am confident the plants will do well.”

For the latest news on Honiton Street Market, please go to their Facebook page
www.facebook.com/OfficialHonitonStreetMarket/

If you would like more information on how to take a stall at Honiton Street Market, please contact Market Superintendent Lee Leppington
marketsuperintendent@honiton.gov.uk



Naomi Lihou of Mole End Plants



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TREE PLANTING AND CELEBRATION EVENT TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH UGANDAN ASIANS ARRIVING IN HONITON

A tree planting ceremony and celebration event is being planned, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of British Ugandan Asians arriving at Heathfield Resettlement Camp in Honiton. The former army camp, situated at the west of the town, which was officially closed as a 'military installation' in 1970, became one of sixteen temporary resettlement centres across England and Wales that were made ready, at short notice, to receive Asian families fleeing from Uganda in the autumn of 1972.

Following the shock announcement on August 4th of that year by the President of Uganda, Idi Amin, who declared that 'Britain would need to take on the responsibility of caring for British subjects who were of Asian origin' and giving them a deadline of 90 days to leave the African country, the British Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Edward Heath put plans quickly in motion to receive a total of 27,200 displaced British citizens. The Ugandan Resettlement Board was formed to administer the process and worked with voluntary organisations, such as the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) and the Red Cross.

The first of the special chartered flights from Entebbe Airport near Kampala, landed at Stansted Airport on September 18th. Three weeks later on October 9th, the Asian families arriving at the London Airport boarded a Greenslades coach from Exeter and were brought to Heathfield Camp

in Honiton. Bina Saujani who was 13 years old at the time remembers the harrowing experience before she boarded the plane to safety in the UK and arriving at the camp. Bina said: "I had a crochet doll which I treasured, which was torn apart by a Ugandan soldier to check if there was anything valuable hidden inside. When I arrived in England it was very cold and snowing, which I'd never seen before and looked like small cotton wool balls falling from the sky. At the Honiton camp, I was given a winter coat by a kind lady, which was lovely and warm."

Bina only stayed at the Honiton camp for a few days before moving on to stay with relatives in London. She is now living in East Devon and is part of the Honiton project, helping to organise the commemoration day and compiling a history of the Heathfield Resettlement Camp, which will be kept for posterity in Allhallows Museum. Leading the Honiton project, to celebrate the 50th anniversary and say thank you to the people of Honiton for their kindness, helpfulness and friendliness, is Mahendra Dabhi.

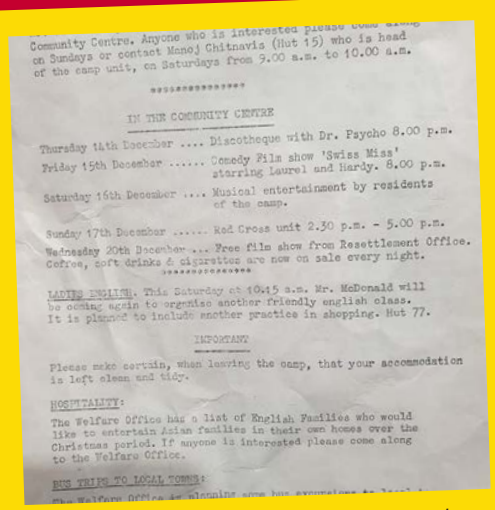
Mahendra was 17 years old when he was at Heathfield. He left Honiton a few days before the camp closed. Mahendra said: "We all look back with fond memories. We did not have much at the time and everyone's friendliness saw us

through dark and hard times." On Wednesday 31st January 1973, 200 Asians boarded a Western Dragoon locomotive at Honiton Railway Station for Market Rasen in Lincolnshire and temporary resettlement at Faldingworth Camp.

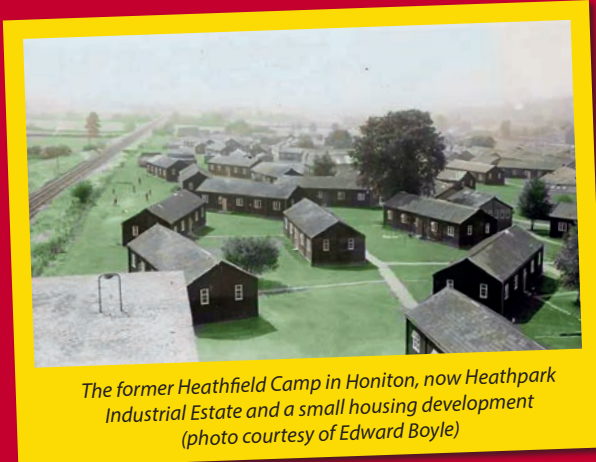
The combined efforts of the WRVS volunteers, co-ordinated by Bunty Charles, students from Honiton Secondary Modern School, who visited the young Asians and offered friendship, local people who donated warm clothes and all those who helped to make the Asians feel safe and welcomed them into the community, is a time that Honiton folk can be extremely proud of.

British Ugandan Asians at 50 is being commemorated nationally. The India Overseas Trust has secured a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to record the oral histories of Asians and volunteers who were at the resettlement centres. The October celebration event on 29th, is being planned by the Honiton project team and East Devon District Council. Anyone who has memories or photos they are happy to share, please email ua50athoniton@gmail.com

by **Ana Collingridge (c)**



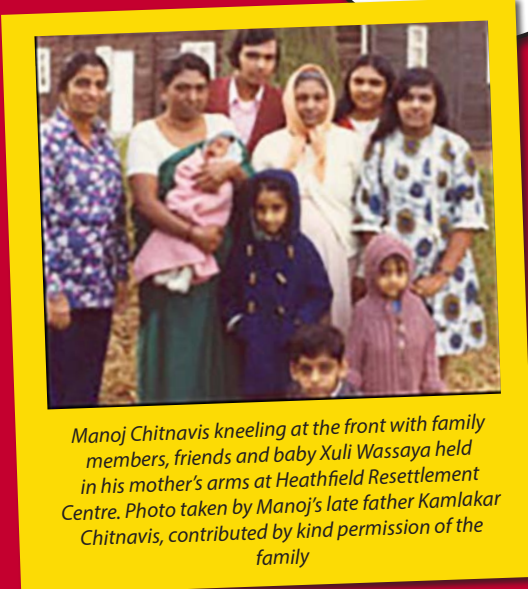
Extract from the Heathfield Newsletter of December 14th 1972, showing the educational classes and entertainment available for the Ugandan Asians at Heathfield Resettlement Centre (photo courtesy of Ugandan Asians 50 At Honiton project team)



The former Heathfield Camp in Honiton, now Heathpark Industrial Estate and a small housing development (photo courtesy of Edward Boyle)



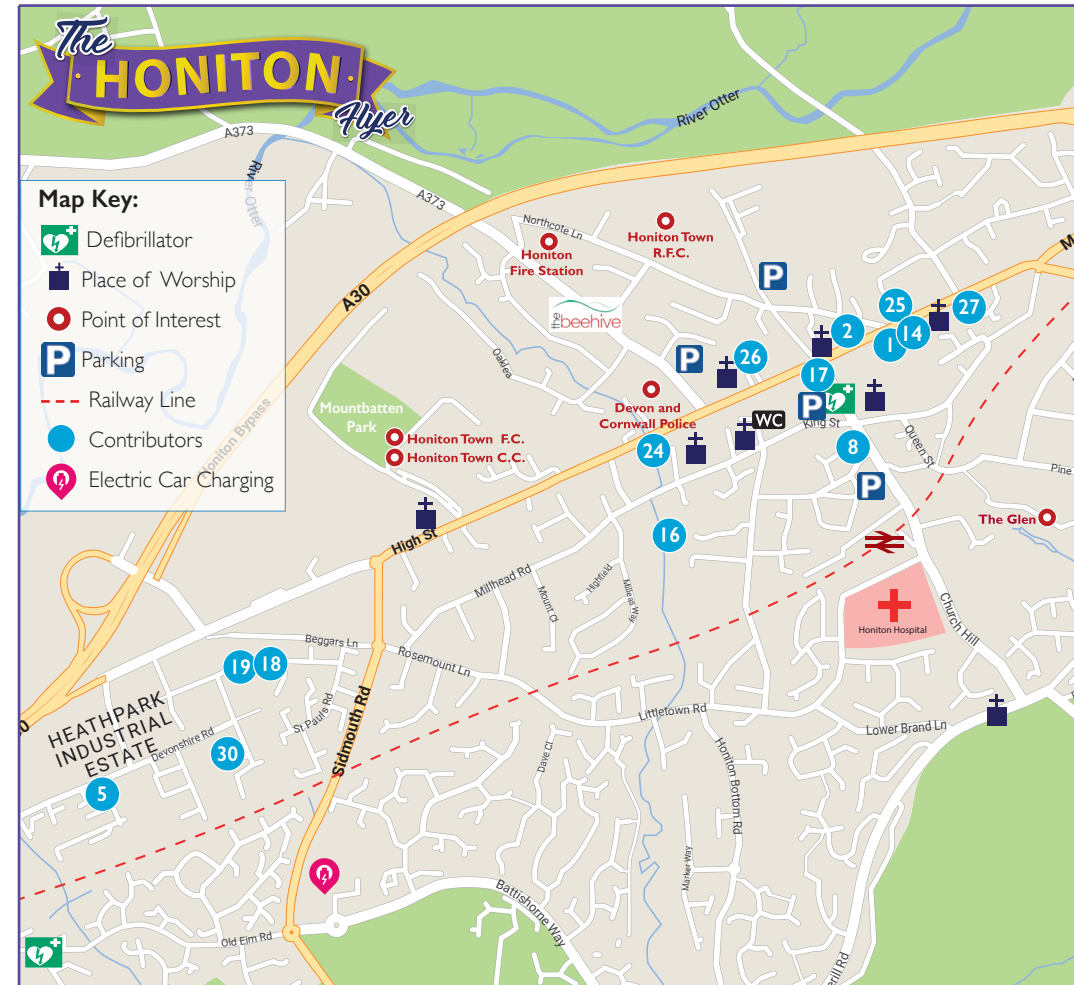
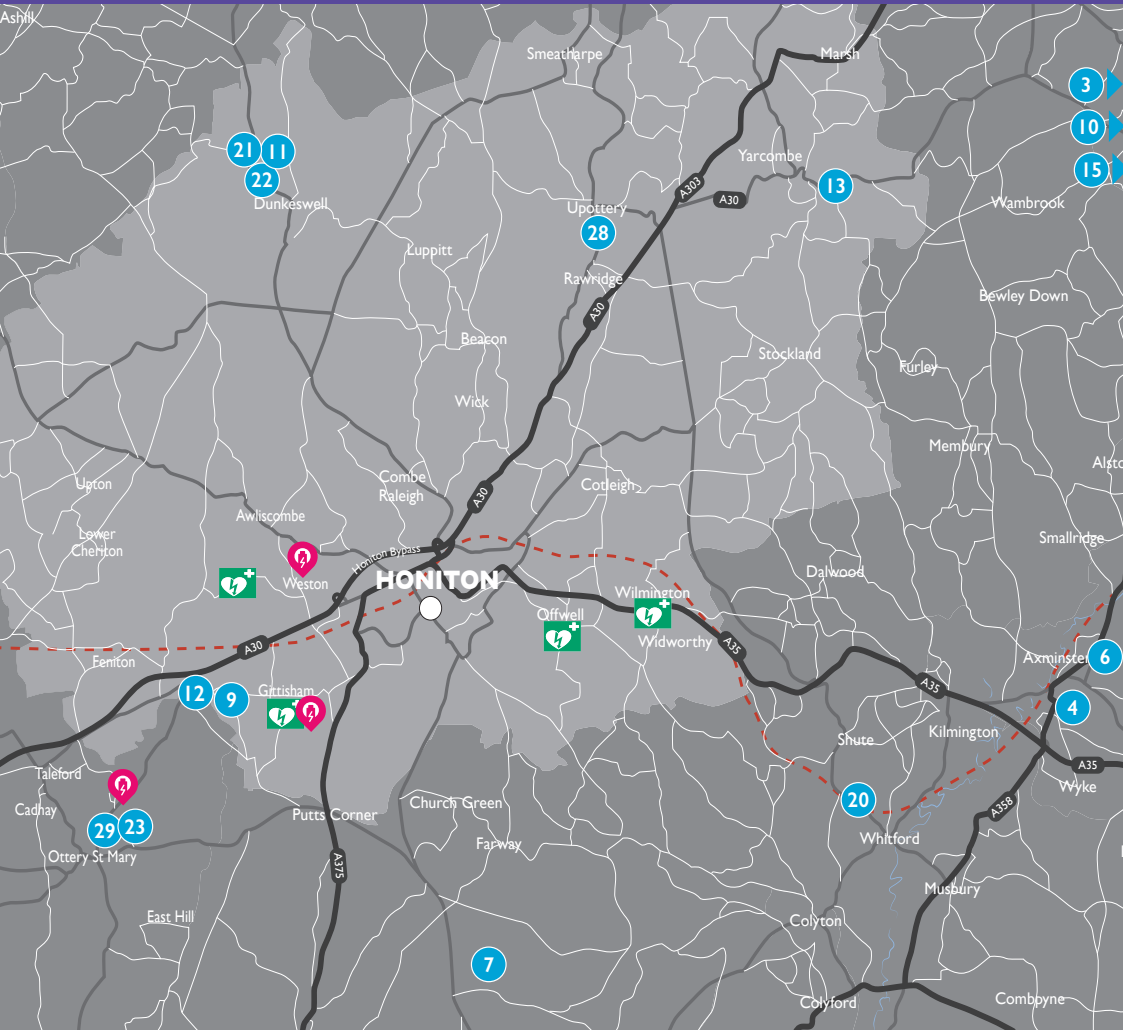
Jane Collins dressed in traditional Indian costume with her Ugandan Asian friend Smita Luka (photo kindly contributed from private family collection)



Manoj Chitnavis kneeling at the front with family members, friends and baby Xuli Wassaya held in his mother's arms at Heathfield Resettlement Centre. Photo taken by Manoj's late father Kamlakar Chitnavis, contributed by kind permission of the family



Mrs D M Charles, known as Bunty, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours list of 1975 for her service to the WRVS and work with the Ugandan Asians (photo kindly contributed by Bunty's family)



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DUNKESWELL TURBURY, GLIDERS, PANORAMIC VIEWS, HAY MAKING.

We started from Dunkeswell Turbury crossroads, taking the lane towards Broadhembury. It was a beautiful afternoon in mid-June. Within about half a mile, just after the poultry farm, and as the lane dropped away towards Broadhembury, we took a bridlepath on the right.

This led us between farmland on the right, and pine woods on the left. These obscured our view across the valley, but more on that subject later. Through several bridleway gates, we enjoyed some ancient trees on the right, and a lovely selection of foxgloves.

Please follow the site instruction – “KEEP TO THE ROAD AND DO NOT WALK ON THE AIRFIELD”. To achieve this we kept left handed around the buildings and paused a while at the “Wyvern” – a memorial seat with amazing views back to Dunkeswell Turbury.



We then continued along the grass bridleway to the end of the airfield. From here a fresh bridleway skirts around beneath the tip of the hill, but we decided to retrace our steps from this point.

Back through the airfield, with a few holiday homes in a most enviable location, and many gliders stored on the grass.

Once we were back on the road, we



View of Dunkeswell Turbury from The Wyvern

turned right, and stayed on the tarmac. Out of the beech trees again, the road allowed us to view the full extent of the panorama on our right, stretching across Broadhembury, East Devon and Mid Devon, with Dartmoor and Exmoor in the distance. The panorama which we had missed on the outward leg of our journey. Along the lane hay was being baled in a large flat field – a very typical mid-June activity.

Then we were soon back at Dunkeswell Turbury crossroads.

DISTANCE. 5 miles.
DURATION. 2 hours 15 minutes.
DIFFICULTY. Moderate.
FOOTWEAR. Good walking boots.
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The Wyvern Memorial Seat



We soon emerged at horse paddocks, to be greeted by a very friendly bay.

Turning right here we climbed to the road, turning left through the beech trees, and after a few hundred yards joined another bridleway on the left, leading to Devon and Somerset Gliding Club. Once out of the avenue of beech trees we emerged into the expanse of the airfield.





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Steve and Andy Vatter who run Honiton Tiles and Bathrooms have a great deal to be proud of. Their fully fitted showroom on Heathpark, Honiton is a joy to behold, and those seeking the best range of tiles, showers, baths and accessories should visit soon. Steve has over 25 years experience specifying, supplying and installing tiles and bathrooms.

Steve's son Andy now heads up the showroom, with expert help from their team of advisors, designers and installers.

A recent addition to the portfolio of products are spas and hot tubs. The showroom for

these is in an adjoining unit, with fully working spas on display for customers to try. All projects are completely customer-led.

Firstly the team meet the client and establish their requirements. Much inspiration comes from the variety of displays in the showroom at Honiton Tiles and Bathrooms. Then a site visit by Steve, followed by a fairly intense session deciding the most appropriate layout and materials, and fittings. Then comes the presentation to the client, which may result in amendments and revisions. Hopefully the next stage is supply and installation, followed up by aftersales service and guidance.

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HONITON WOMEN AT WORK

CLAIRE JOHNSON

Lead Interior Designer at Honiton Tile and Bathroom, Heathpark, Honiton.

Q. What gets me up in the morning?

A. My 4 rescue dogs. I always look forward to my walks through the forest with my dogs, for some peace and quiet....

Claire is also a regular DJ on East Devon Radio and you can catch her from 4 pm every Saturday.



TRACY SEEMENS

Tracy runs "Tracy's Catering trailer in the large layby near Monkton on the A30, Monday - Wednesday. Then in the High Street, Honiton Thursday and Saturday. Tracy's sister Linda shares the other days in the layby.

Q. What do I like about living in village of Dunkeswell?

A. It's nice and rural, I walk the dogs for miles in the countryside, but it's not too far that you struggle to get to places



MARGARET LEWIS

Volunteer Curator at Allhallows Museum, Honiton.

The museum has become my life over the past 23 years. My passion is family history and I started working in the archives, then became Secretary. And my husband David is Treasurer.

Q. What gets me up in the morning?

A. My to-do list! And knowing that I have to get to the museum to open up!



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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 1952 – 2022



Following the once in a generation 'something to tell your grandchildren' event that was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last month, the town saw a four day celebration starting with the lighting of a beacon on Roundball Hill, on the Thursday, to a grand tea in the High Street on the Sunday. However, Honiton is not adverse to grand parties and wild celebrations when it comes to Royal events.... The Coronation of Queen Victoria on 28th June 1838 saw the town witness a grand celebration. Business was suspended for the day, and amongst the children feasting on the cakes and buns and the free teas were also great processions with bands....

"There were the schoolchildren; the ladies, two-and-two; lacemakers with garlands...Then another band, followed by the clergy "in full canonicals"; constables with staves; the bailiff with his mace; the Portreeve; the Ale-tasters; members of the Friendly Societies in their regalias; followed in the rear by the traders, sporting bright colours, and "the gentlemen and inhabitants of the town three and tree.""

The jubilees of Queen Victoria and before her, George III were also greatly celebrated occasions in 1809, 1887 and 1897. The golden jubilee of Victoria was so immense that the town even had the archway over 'Old School Lane' erected. Great celebrations were also held when George IV and William IV were crowned, there was even a party when the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, recovered from typhoid in 1872! Such celebrations were an old custom in Honiton; there is evidence of a celebration of a Royal birthday in 1695, when great drinking parties were held and bonfires lit. Possibly the grandest celebrations of the last century was that of the Coronation of George VI on 27th May 1937. For the entire week, women wore red, white and blue dresses, over 700 hundred local children were given commemorative mugs and medals, a public tea for 2,500 burgesses was put on, there were 30 sporting events organised, the poor of the workhouse were given cigarettes, tea and a shilling each, there was a maypole and ballet dancing, 300 people attended a dinner & dance at the Dolphin Hotel, a 20 foot bonfire was lit at the former Kirton's scrap yard (now Millhead Road), parades swept the High Street, St Michael's Church was illuminated by red flares, and the cream on the cake of festivities was when the Glen was presented to the town the following

day by Major Henry H. Lilley. The celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of George V, some two years earlier, saw similar extravagance. From 6.30am on the morning of May 6th 1935 events took place to commemorate the grand occasion, which included church services, whist drives, sporting events, a public dinner and dancing and community singing. The day finished at 10pm with bonfires and firework displays held on Gittisham Hill, Hembury Fort Hill and Roundball Hill; a tradition that was similarly re-enacted this year keeping both the history of the townspeople's celebrations in line with their continued present respect and appreciation for the longevity of the sovereign.



George V Silver Jubilee celebrations in Queen Street - Allhallows Museum



Great tea Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee - D Smyth



Programme cover for Elizabeth II Coronation (Honiton) 1953 - Allhallows Museum



Queen Victoria diamond jubilee - Terry Darrant

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