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Nº 2028

FARINGDON



CORONATION CELEBRATIONS



MAY 25th

1953

JUNE 2nd

Souvenir Programme

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You must attend

The Grand Carnival Ball

★ ★ ★

in the . . .

Corn Exchange, Faringdon

on . . .

Whit Monday :: May 25th

Dancing 9.30 p.m. till 2 a.m.

★ ★ ★

to the music of . . .

JACK BAXTER

and His Orchestra

★ ★ ★

The Carnival Queen and her Maids
of Honour will grace the Ball with
their presence

ADMISSION 3/6

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FARINGDON CORONATION CELEBRATIONS 1953

Chairman: Mr. J. V. HALE.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. P. F. WHITE.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. H. R. BARTLETT.

Carnival Secretary:

Mr. S. G. MILLS.

Sports Secretary:

Mr. D. J. CROSS.

Transport Manager:

Mr. L. STICKLAND.

Sports Chairman:

Mr. M. HUCKINS.

General Committee:

Messrs. J. R. Tucker, R. Spinage, J. A. Lowe, T. Bishop, W. Carter,
Mrs. J. R. Tucker, Mrs. S. G. Mills, Mrs. C. Burtwell.

Advertising Manager — Mr. F. Chambers.

Illuminations—Mr. J. A. Lowe.

Street Decorations—Mr. W. Giles.

Census of Children—Mr. T. Bishop.

Editorial and Programme Advertising—Messrs. J. Hill, J. V. Hale,
and P. F. White.

Carnival Queen Dances Convenor—Mrs. J. A. Lowe.

Chief Procession Marshal—Police-Inspector P. Combe.

FARINGDON TOWN YOUTH CLUB

present a

Grand
Square Dance

Corn Exchange, Faringdon

on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th

:: *Mr. Pat Shuldham Shaw* ::

with

Macbains Square Dance Band

DIRECT FROM LONDON

7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

ADMISSION - 4/-

ORGANISED PARTIES OF 10 OR OVER 3/6 EACH

First visit to Berkshire of Mr. Pat Shuldham
Shaw, Radio and Television's popular Square
Dance Caller.

!! Don't miss this Tremendous Attraction !!

FARINGDON CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

It was inevitable I suppose, when a Parish meeting was called some months ago to consider how best to celebrate in Faringdon, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, that thoughts should go back to two years ago when we had our Festival of Britain, the success of which, I think, was adequate justification to accept that occasion as a pattern which would provide a basis and a starting point for the different kind of Festival we are celebrating this year. And so it comes about that the Committee, elected at that Parish meeting, has been for some months working up a programme of entertainments and events somewhat similar to those of two years ago.

But not only did the Committee draw from the Festival of Britain an example of a programme to be followed, it has also repeated the principle established at that time, that whatever form our celebrations take they should be so designed as to produce something of permanent use and value to the town. It was this principle which prompted the Committee to call a special Parish meeting so that the citizens of Faringdon should have the opportunity of deciding democratically how any money raised at and by our Celebrations, should be used.

At that meeting we, the people who live in Faringdon, decided without dissent, that it should be the Corn Exchange which would benefit from any financial success the programme detailed in these pages, brought about.

That this decision was a right one is made clear when one realises what a big part the Corn Exchange plays in the life of our town and when one imagines what a paucity of social life there would be without it.

Those of us who are concerned with the administration of the Corn Exchange are perhaps more than any others, aware of the shortcomings of the buildings, but we are also aware that despite these shortcomings, it is the only near-satisfactory rendezvous for all these activities without which we could not call ourselves a modern community. Think of Faringdon without dances, concerts, political meetings, women's gatherings, enquiries, and the host of other activities which take place in the Corn Exchange, and what should we have to live for in a cultural and social sense.

FARINGDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

present

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

v.

A FARINGDON & DISTRICT TEAM

at TUCKER PARK on WEDNESDAY, MAY 6th

Kick-off 6.30 p.m.

Referee : Rev. STANLEY V. DAVIS

1953 Cup Final Linesman and Football Association Referee

ADMISSION : ADULTS 1/- CHILDREN UNDER 15, 6d.

Car Park at Butts Close Cars 1/- Motor Cycles 6d.

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PRINTERS



FARINGDON

Because therefore, of the importance to us all of the Corn Exchange, the responsibility with our limited resources, which the Parish Council has to shoulder, is so much the greater and its magnitude can perhaps best be shown by the estimate received for the replacement of the floor of the main hall only. All users of the Hall are well aware of the need of a new floor and the estimate received shows the cost of this alone to be £750. A considerable sum should be spent on the roof, new curtains are required, measures could be taken to overcome the difficulties of draughts and there is always the problem of repainting and decorating. For all these purposes the amount of money available is Nil, as the money received from lettings only just covers the current expenses of heating, lighting, cleaning, rates, etc.

Let us then make every effort possible to make our Coronation celebrations at once festive and successful in the knowledge that any money raised will be devoted to what is perhaps the most important of all local civic objects.

On another page our Honorary Secretary has tendered the thanks of the Committee to all helpers, but mention must be made in the cases of Miss A. H. Moore and the Governors of the County Grammar School for providing accommodation for the Televising of the Coronation, the Girl Guides for arranging the Confetti Battle, to Faringdon Town Football Club for the match with Swindon Town and the comic football match; the Youth Club for sideshows, whist drive and square dance; the Dramatic Society, the Old Tyme Dance Club; Mr. S. J. Johnson and Mr. L. Boffin for arranging the Darts Tournament; Mr. R. E. Brew and Mr. A. B. Williams who respectively arranged the roasting and the provision of the pig; and Mr. E. A. Pawley for entertaining the children in the Regent Cinema; Mr. C. Wirdnam for photographs, and Capt. T. R. Gleave and his Army Cadet Force, the Band of which is to beat the Retreat as well as take part in the Procession.

Finally, I must draw readers' attention to the cover of this programme which has been designed by two pupils at the Faringdon County Grammar School for Girls. It was the result of a competition wherein pupils in the Faringdon schools and Faringdon boys attending King Alfred's School, Wantage, were invited to submit designs for the purpose of a cover design.

FRIDAY, MAY 29th, 1953

in the

CORN EXCHANGE

Coronation Darts TOURNAMENT

Doors open 6.45 p.m. Commence 7 p.m.

TEAMS of FOUR LADIES or GENTS

Entrance Fee 6/- per team

*Individual Prizes for winners, runners
up and ladies' team*

Competition for Highest Score

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Entries to Mr. L. Boffin, Coxwell Street,
Faringdon

Prizes kindly donated by Morlands & Co. Ltd.
Wadworth & Co. Ltd. Morrells Brewery Ltd. and
J. Arkell & Sons, Ltd.

The response was very good, quite a number of designs being submitted and the selectors really did have a difficult task in coming to a decision. A particular difficulty was dealing with designs received from the younger children, for the selectors felt

that some allowance should be made for age, but as this was not an ordinary examination or competition, but something which had to adorn a booklet for public presentation, such allowances could not be made.

As the design for the cover the selectors finally decided on one submitted jointly by two pupils at the Faringdon County Grammar School for Girls, and the cover you see is the result of the joint work of Eileen Tinker aged 15, and Janet Chandler aged 17.

For second place it was decided to make a joint award to Maureen Henry aged 15, and John Knapp aged 14, both pupils of Faringdon Modern Secondary School, and again in the third place it was decided on a "dead heat" between John Morris aged 16 and P. D. Pearce aged 16, both being pupils at King Alfred's School, Wantage.
J.V.H.

This Programme is **NUMBERED**

FOUR PRIZES OF 10/-

will be awarded the holders of the

LUCKY NUMBERS

DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE AT TUCKER PARK.

FARINGDON
OLDE TYME DANCE CLUB

Grand
Olde Tyme Ball

★ ★ ★

CORN EXCHANGE
FARINGDON

On Thursday, May 28th
8.30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

★ ★ ★

MUSIC BY THE ARCADIANS

M.C.'s

JACK & PHYLLIS ADAMS, A.B.A.T.D., M.W.D.T.A.

ADMISSION - 5/-

REFRESHMENTS

LICENSED BAR

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity of Secretary to the Coronation Celebrations Committee it is my pleasant duty to thank all those individuals and organisations who have, by encouraging assistance, enabled the elected committee to offer the public of Faringdon and District a period of entertainment and celebration which it is hoped will be worthy of the occasion we intend to celebrate.

So many people and organisations are involved that it would require much more space than I have at my disposal to mention them all, but I would assure them that this enforced anonymity is itself expressive of the help the Committee has received in formulating the plans detailed in the pages of this programme.

The organisers have met with certain difficulties which did not arise at the time of the Festival of Britain, particularly in regard to Street decorations, the reason being that, whilst our Festival celebrations did not coincide with any similar local festivities, every town and village is celebrating the Coronation **at the same time**. Thus decorations are hard to come by and the organisers appeal to all householders and shopkeepers to do everything they can to give their properties that gay appearance without which our celebrations are bound to suffer.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that during our festive period we shall all join together in such merriment as will make our Coronation an indelible memory on our minds for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

P. F. WHITE,
Hon. Secretary.

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PARK ROAD - FARINGDON

CORONATION PLAQUE

A Ceremony has been arranged to dedicate and unveil the Plaque at 8.30 p.m. on CORONATION DAY in front of the Corn Exchange. This is being arranged by the Religious Ministers of the town with the unveiling of the Plaque by Fred Carter, J.P., Senior Statesman of Faringdon and the Chairman of the Rural District Council. Following this, loud speakers will relay the Queen's Speech at 9 p.m.

It is fitting that this Ceremony takes place at this time when we can dedicate ourselves to our Queen's Service as she will be dedicating herself to our Service.

Subscribers to the Plaque Fund were:—

Mrs. Panting, Mrs. Probert, Mrs. Greenaway, Mrs. Burtwell, Mrs. F. White, Mrs. P. F. White, Mr. and Mrs. C. Blissett, Mr. and Mrs. S. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tucker, Mr. D. J. Cross, Mr. W. H. Cook, Mr. P. F. White, Mr. S. C. Leverton, Mr. F. H. Lister, Mr. H. R. Bartlett and Mr. Anonymous.

Sunday, May 31st, 1953

A UNITED

Religious Service

will be held in the

MARKET PLACE, FARINGDON

at 7 p.m.

Arranged jointly by the Church Ministers of the Town

HUXLEY'S

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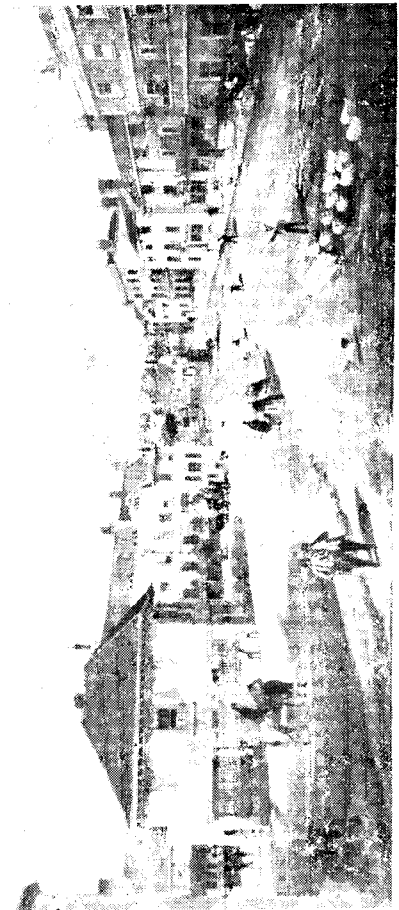
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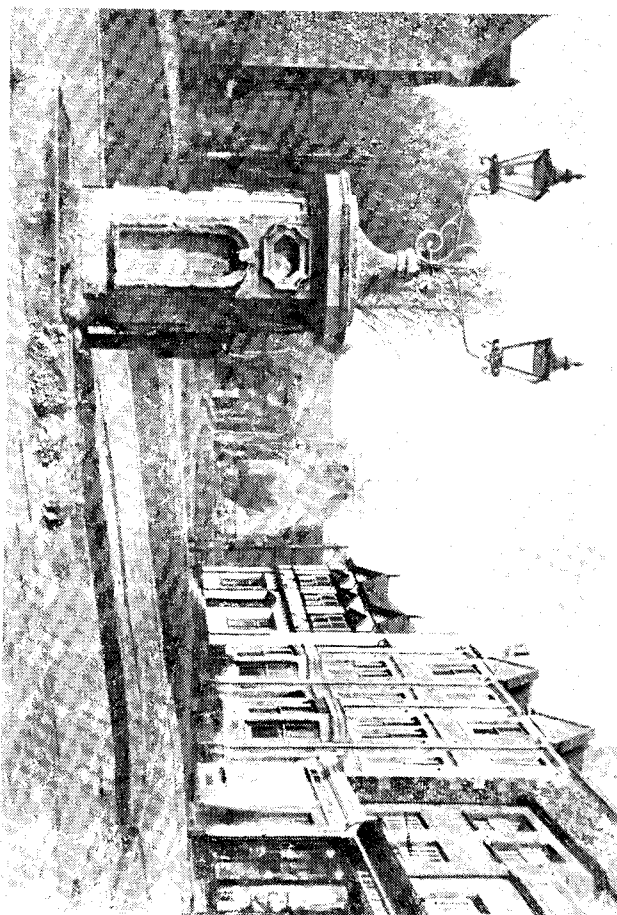
FARINGDON
TELEPHONE 2280

FARINGDON IN AN AGE OF BOUNDLESS ENTERPRISE.



FARINGDON MARKET PLACE, 1850.

ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH WITH PORTWELL IN FOREGROUND



"TIME CONSECRATES, AND WHAT IS GREY WITH AGE BECOMES RELIGION."
—Coleridge.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Diary of Events

Wednesday, May 6th—Football Match in Tucker Park:
SWINDON TOWN v FARINGDON AND DISTRICT.
Kick-off 6.30 p.m.

Friday/Saturday, May 22nd and 23rd—Faringdon Dramatic
Society present:
"BEGGAR MY NEIGHBOUR",
in Corn Exchange, 7.30 p.m.

Whit-Monday, May 25th—Carnival Day. See details next page.

Wednesday, May 27th—Square Dance in Corn Exchange.
7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Thursday, May 28th—Old Tyme Dance, Corn Exchange. 8.30 p.m.

Friday, May 29th—Darts Tournament in Corn Exchange, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 30th—Whist Drive in Corn Exchange, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, May 31st—United Religious Service in Market Place,
7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2nd—CORONATION DAY.

8 a.m. to 12 noon—Roasting Pig in Market Place.

12.15 p.m.—Distribution of Roasted Pig.

10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.—Televising of Coronation in County
Grammar School for Girls.
All persons 60 years and over invited.

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Children's Tea Party in Market Place in two
relays alternated with Cinema Show in Regent Cinema.
Distribution of Coronation Mugs to children at tea tables.

8.30 p.m.—Unveiling Ceremony of Plaque on Corn Exchange
by Mr. F. Carter, with short Religious Service.

PUBLIC RELAY OF QUEEN'S SPEECH.

9.30 p.m. to midnight—Dancing in Market Place.

9.30 p.m. to 2 a.m.—Dance in Corn Exchange.

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MARKET PLACE, FARINGDON

IN THE CORN EXCHANGE, FARINGDON

Coronation Whist Drive

on

SATURDAY, MAY 30th, 1953

at 7.30 p.m.

Grand Prizes

*This Whist Drive has been specially arranged for the
Faringdon Coronation by Mrs. J. Tucker, Mr. R.
Spinage and Faringdon Youth Club*

WHIT-MONDAY (May 25th).

CARNIVAL DAY

11.30 a.m. Details of Programme.

Musical Selections in Market Square.

1 p.m.—1.30 p.m. Judging of Carnival Entries.

1.30 p.m. Crowning of Carnival Queen in Market Place.

2.0 p.m. Carnival Procession moves off from Market Place.

2.45 p.m. Procession arrives in Tucker Park, where Carnival Queen presents prizes to Carnival winners.

3.0 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. (approx.), Sports Programme in Tucker Park.

6.30 p.m. Comic Football Match in Tucker Park.

8.30 p.m. (approx.), Beating of Retreat by Army Cadets in Market Place.

9.0 p.m. Confetti Battle in Market Square.

10.0 p.m. Torchlight Procession, starting from Faringdon Folly.

10.30 p.m. onwards: Dancing in Market Square.

9.30 p.m. to 2.0 a.m.: Dancing in Corn Exchange to Jack Baxter's Band.

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FIRST CLASS WORK MODERATE CHARGES

MARLBOROUGH STREET

:: FARINGDON :: Opposite Fire Station

THE CARNIVAL PROCESSION

Committee:

Mesdames R. J. Tucker, S. G. Mills; Messrs. R. J. Tucker,
L. H. Sollis, D. J. Fish and S.G. Mills (Chairman).

The Procession will be led by Inspector Combe and the British Railways (W.R.) Silver Band, and Hounds of the Old Berks Hunt will be paraded, by kind permission of the Master, Major Hilton-Green.

Her Majesty, the Carnival Queen of Faringdon, will follow in her coach, escorted by the Queen's Mounted Escort.

Entries in the Procession are divided into five classes, and immediately following the Carnival Queen, comes Class I, those vehicles having four wheels or more. As special prizes have been awarded for the most humorous entry and also for the most topical or historical entry, the spectators may be assured of both an amusing and an instructive ? sight.

Vehicles with three wheels or less (any unicycles ? ! !) come next, closely followed by those "dowagers of modern transport" the Veteran Cars. We are reminded here that "it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive". But at least we are full of hope ! !

Next come those models of powerful strength and dignity, the Agricultural Horses.

And finally the largest class of all, The Pedestrians of all ages, shapes and sizes in fancy costumes, each in his or her way making a very real contribution to our enjoyment and the success of the day.

And so we wend our way to Tucker Park, there to receive our prizes, those of us who have been fortunate enough to please our Judges, but all surely proud to have taken part, in some way or other, in this expression of Loyalty and Gratitude to that Most Gracious Lady, Our Beloved Queen, Elizabeth the Second.

:: CORONATION DAY ::

The Grand Carnival Ball

★ ★ ★

in the . . .

Corn Exchange, Faringdon

on . . .

TUESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1953

Dancing 9.30 p.m. till 2 a.m.

★ ★ ★

to the music of . . .

JACK BAXTER

and His Orchestra

★ ★ ★

ADMISSION 3/6

ASSEMBLY OF CARNIVAL PROCESSION

12.30 p.m. ALL ENTRIES ASSEMBLE from PORTWELL
to CHURCH STREET.

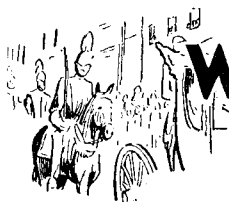
1.0—1.30 p.m. JUDGING.

1.30—2.0 p.m. CROWNING OF CARNIVAL QUEEN.

2.0 p.m. PROCESSION MOVES OFF.

3.0 p.m. ARRIVAL AT TUCKER PARK.

3.0—3.15 p.m. RECEPTION. Followed by Presentation of
Carnival Awards.



**Will you
be there ?**

You can, you know. T/V will be a real Argus on that happy and glorious day in June.

The Route, the Crowds, the Cavalcade, the Ceremony Itself—more memorable scenes from better vantage points than any human eye could cover in a day—all will be brought to your home by Television.



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COXWELL STREET : FARINGDON

THE CARNIVAL PROCESSION

WHIT-MONDAY.

Class I.—Vehicles with Four Wheels or More.

Most Humorous Entry	First Prize £5
	Second Prize £2 10
Best Topical or Historical Entry	First Prize £5
	Second Prize £2 10

Class II.—Vehicles with Three Wheels or Less.

Most Humorous Entry	First Prize £2
	Second Prize £1
Best Topical or Historical Entry	First Prize £2
	Second Prize £1

Class III.—Veteran Cars.

First Prize 2 Guineas. Second Prize 1 Guinea.

Class IV.—Agricultural Horses.

First Prize £3. Second Prize £2.
(All Horses to be hand led).

Class V.—Pedestrians in Fancy Dress.

	Prizes Total
1. Child up to 8 years old	30/-
2. Child 8—12 years	40/-
3. Figure 12—16 years	40/-
4. Figure over 16 years	40/-
5. Groups (3 figures or more)	40/-

An additional prize of £2 2s. 0d. will be given to the Vehicle making the biggest collection of money during the Procession.

The Committee reserve the right to cancel any class or section should there be insufficient entries. The decisions of the Judges will be final.

Entries for Classes I, II, III and IV to be sent to Mr. S. G. MILLS, THE LIMES, BROMSGROVE, FARINGDON not later than 23rd May. Entries for Class V on the day.

Procession assembles in the Market Place and Church Street at 12.30 p.m. Judging will commence at 1 p.m.

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ALBERT W. R. WEAVER

“RED LION”

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ACCOMMODATION BED & BREAKFAST
SNACKS AT ALL TIMES

CORONATION SPORTS

MAY 25th, 1953.

A programme of sports and comic events has been arranged by the Coronation Sports Committee. These are scheduled to take place on Tucker Park, commencing immediately after the arrival of the Carnival Procession on the ground.

This programme will consist of:—

1. CHILDREN'S ATHLETIC AND COMIC EVENTS.
2. GENTLEMEN'S OBSTACLE RACE.
3. LADIES' OBSTACLE RACE.
4. VETERAN'S RACE — over 50.
5. TUG-O'-WAR COMPETITION.
Faringdon District Dart League.
6. FIREMAN'S RACE.
Confined to members of Fire Brigades.
7. (a) PILLOW FIGHTING COMPETITION.
Over 14. Entrance Fee 3d.
(b) PILLOW FIGHTING COMPETITION.
Under 14. Free.
8. INVITATION CROSS-COUNTRY and
ATHLETIC EVENTS.

Entries for all events except (1) Tug-o'-War Competition, (2) Invitation Events, will be taken on the field. Substantial prizes will be given in voucher form.

If you want some cash,
Come on!! have a bash.

SPORTS OFFICIALS.

Hon. Sec.: D. J. CROSS. Chairman: Mr. M. HUCKINS.

Committee:

Messrs. J. STALLARD, R. HAWES, Lieut. R. W. NICHOLSON,
R. W. H. HENRY.

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

presents

"Beggar my Neighbour"

a comedy by

ARNOLD RIDLEY

in the

CORN EXCHANGE, FARINGDON

on

Friday and Saturday, May 22nd and 23rd

at 7.30 p.m.

Cast

MRS. RIGNOLD	PAT PURCELL
JILL NORTON	KATHLEEN ALLANSON
SYLVIA RIGNOLD	BETTY LILLEY
JIM NORTON	PETER LILLEY
HENRY RIGNOLD	GEORGE YOUNG
LESTER HARRINGTON	RON VENN
MRS. ENTWHISTLE	KATHLEEN HILL
MR. PARKINSON	GRAEME GIBSON

Produced by REES DEE

THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY

When I wrote a similar article to this for the Festival of Britain programme in 1951, the Society had been in existence for two years. It was the youngest of the town's organisations but it was a healthy and flourishing one. There were some who regarded it as a flash in the pan and that, like so many small-town organisations it would soon disappear after a brief hour of glory. It needed only some slight trouble the sceptics said, and the Dramatic Society would break up. Well, it has had its ups and downs and now, two years later, it is stronger than ever. We claim that it has gained in stature not only as an important part of the town's social life, and that it has not only maintained but improved immeasurably its standards of presentation. Simply, it has done what it set out to do—entertain the people. Eight productions, nineteen performances, an overall audience of 5,000. That, we feel, is an achievement in itself.

And now as I write plans are being formed to open its own theatre—Faringdon's own theatre. Here again we have met with some scepticism—that we have bitten off more than we can chew is the stock remark.

You've read in the local press of how we started to convert the old cinema in Butts Close Camp into a theatre last June. It was nearly a wreck then; now it looks like a theatre. It has been repaired, decorated and re-wired; 150 tip-up seats are waiting to be fixed. When the curtains and stage lighting have been installed it will be a real theatre. Without detracting from the usefulness and value of the Corn Exchange as a place of entertainment, we shall have a deeper stage, dressing rooms, a workshop and a more comfortable auditorium.

How have we done this? We have raised the money ourselves. We have done the unskilled work ourselves and have found ourselves doing technical jobs we had never even heard of before. We

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must admit that we have been very fortunate in having the expert advice and assistance of friends outside the Society, and it is to these very good friends we owe a great deal of our success. That help and interest alone proves to us that what we are trying to do is worthwhile. I had hoped to mention no names but I feel I must name our Stage Manager, G. R. Gregson, who has directed all the work at Butts Close and spent all his spare time there. In fact, we suspect he has had his bed there.

When we finally open sometime this year we hope that a famous name in the theatrical world will perform the opening ceremony.

When we are there we hope to do more plays, better and more interesting plays, with an even higher standard of performance. We hope you will be there because after all a theatre belongs to the people, not to the actors.

For our Coronation production we present a modern comedy, "Beggars My Neighbour", by Arnold Ridley, author of "The Ghost Train". It may not be a Coronation play in the strict sense of the word but it is about something which will bring the Coronation much nearer to us, namely a television set. It starts off with—well, never mind. Come and see it and help Faringdon's Coronation Funds.

W. REEVES.

THE TUCKER TRADITION

This is no ordinary Programme as it is intended partly as a Souvenir of the events which will take place in Faringdon to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

This is no ordinary advertisement as it is intended to give a brief outline of one of the larger and older business concerns of the town of Great Faringdon which has been in existence during the reigns of 5 Monarchs. Part of this advertisement is done from records but much from assumption.

QUEEN VICTORIA: The business was established by Robert Tucker in 1849 in Faringdon on a very small scale. The living accommodation was a small cottage which still exists, close to, but not part of, the present Nurseries. The business during the control of the first Robert Tucker will have consisted of the growing of vegetables and flowers but there are indications that trees were dealt with as there are one or two trees, notable a Giant Redwood, which must have been planted in the time of the first Robert Tucker. This can be linked with trees planted at the same time on large estates in the district.

EDWARD VII: At the time of the Coronation of Edward VII the business had passed through the control of a second Robert Tucker into the hands of Robert and Walter Tucker and had undoubtedly expanded considerably. The products by then will have included the growing of Forest Trees and hedge plants which supplied the large estates and farms in the area.

GEORGE V: By the time of the crowning of George V the extent of the Nurseries had extended very extensively and the markets for its products extended also. A retired foreman well remembers taking loads of trees to Caversham, Nr. Reading by horse and cart at about this time.

GEORGE VI: When George VI was crowned the business was under the partnership of Walter Tucker and his

three sons. By this time further large additions had been made, the clientele was of nation-wide proportion and the varieties and quantities of plants, trees and shrubs were now very numerous. By this time the world renowned Rose growing firm of George Prince of Longworth had been absorbed.

ELIZABETH II: In the year of grace 1953 when our young and beautiful Queen Elizabeth will be crowned, the firm of Tucker had undergone a major reorganisation. It had become a Limited liability Company under the direction of Robert John Tucker and his wife. Major reorganisation had taken place in reducing the number of nurseries from 6 to 2 with very large increases in the home Nurseries. Production of trees, shrubs and plants exceed 10 million, floristry and vegetables are completely eliminated and customers number tens of thousands, occasional export orders and a large number of Government departments, County, Borough, Urban, Rural District and Parish Councils in all the countries of the United Kingdom. Production has been highly mechanised. A specimen garden has been started to avoid the need for miles of walking which customers have to do on a large Nursery. A start has been made with rock plants by the construction of a rock garden under Mrs. M. M. E. Tucker. These additions will take some time to materialise but a start has been made.

During its 104 years of existence, the business has weathered several difficult periods due to the splitting of partnerships and reorganisation necessary, particularly two world wars which mean almost annihilation to a Nursery business, when vast quantities of stock have to be burnt.

Whilst the nature of the business alters with the passing of time, the old tradition of Service; courteousness to the customer, competitive prices and fair dealing remain.

R. TUCKER & SONS, LTD.

DIRECTORS: R. J. TUCKER

M. M. E. TUCKER

FARINGDON : BERKS

NURSERYMEN DURING 5 REIGNS

THE GREAT BARN

by

A. B. WILLIAMS



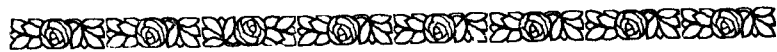
THE GREAT BARN

Towards the close of the twelfth century a strong group of monks of the Cistercian Order had established themselves at Beaulieu, in Hampshire, and frequent visits were made by King John when he was hunting in the New Forest to what has been described by some as "his foundation". The Vale of the White Horse was nearly as popular with this sporting monarch and he would come frequently wild boar hunting in the "Marsh".

On 25th January 1204, King John granted the Manor of Farrendon—Great Farrendon and Little Farrendon with Great Cokewell and Little Cokewell—to the Abbey of Beaulieu in Hampshire. Here the "Order" was well established and a Barn, amongst many other buildings, had already been built.

A group of monks from Beaulieu soon settled at Cokewell, as it was then called, and about ten years later the foundations of the Great Barn were laid. It did not take them long to realise that they needed a larger barn than they had built at Beaulieu, for not only did they like their new home and their numbers were growing, but they found that the tithes from the manor were considerable and they had far more fertile possessions than their Brothers further South.

The site of the Great Barn appears almost uncanny, for it is built on solid rock and nowhere in the area does the rock appear so near the surface. The writer believes that here was a knoll, which appealed to the builders as an ideal site for their barn and they cleared the surface soil till they were on rock. On this spot, then, about 1214—1215 the barn was started with all the help and experience that Beaulieu could give. The masons and carpenters from the Mother abbey were willingly spared and willingly came to help erect what William Morris once described as the finest piece of architecture in England.



TIMBER

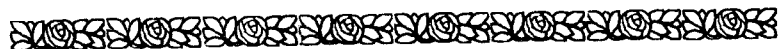
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The conception of such a roof, rising to a height of 60 feet, estimated to weigh 500 tons, and covering a span of 42 feet was reasonable in thought, but to carry the work to such perfection must have been a colossal task. But it was not beyond the ability of those masons and carpenters who undertook the building of this magnificence. To save the strain — what would have been, no doubt, far too great a strain—of such a weight thrust on the walls, twelve pillars six aside, seven feet high, in stone with rough hewn oak above, share this huge burden of the roof. The walls are three feet wide throughout, with additional buttressing.

There is no damp course or spouting and, except for a few new rafters and some strengthening to cross members, the Great Barn stands exactly as it was erected over 700 years ago.

An interesting part of the Barn is the large number of apertures, set throughout the building to give not only ventilation, but as much light within as possible.

The Barn is 150 feet long and the conformation is so perfect, that, viewed from any angle it is most pleasing and restful to the eye. It has been suggested that originally the Barn was thatched, but there can be little foundation for this assumption.

The Monastery was suppressed by Henry VIII on 17th December 1538, and Beaulieu “fell” at about the same time. The Chapel and many buildings went to ruin and on an adjacent sight to the old Monastery the present Court House was built.

That great craftsman and architect, William Morris, loved the Barn and was continually raving about its beauty. It was an easy walk across the fields (in those days) from Kelmscott and back, and every possible visitor to his house had to be taken. “Any excuse to see it again”, Morris would say excitedly.

I remember my cousin, Algernon Gissing (brother of George, the better known writer), who was a great friend of Morris, telling me that he had been urged when planning to visit him to “Spare an extra day for the Barn”. And, if the fields were impassable, the walk by road over Radcot Bridge was not too much for either of those lovers of the Cotswolds.



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Gloucester Street, Faringdon

PHONE 2129

or by

The General Secretary

12/14 Blagrove Street, Reading



Many such barns were erected throughout the country during medieval times. Some were of greater length, but the Great Barn surpasses them all in height and width and, more than many another of its kind, has been well cared for and remains a national heritage, the most perfect specimen and ideal of what a tithe barn should be.

One, Thomas Mores, was Lord of the Manor of both Coxwells at the time of the suppression, and the property continued in the family of the Mores till about 1650, when it passed (by purchase or inheritance is not known) to Sir George Pratt, brother of Sir Roger Pratt, the Architect, with Inigo Jones, of Coleshill House. Sir George left the property to his wife Dame Margaret Pratt, who died on 16th December 1700. Fortunately it remained in the family, for her grandson, George Pratt Richmond purchased as much as he could of the land, together with the manorial rights, the Court House and the Barn. Ultimately this property, together with other lands, descended to John Richmond Webb of Milton in Wiltshire and later to the Earl of Radnor. The property remained in the Radnor family until 1945, when it was purchased by Mr. E. E. Cook who is devising the whole of the Estate including the Barn to the National Trust on his decease.

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A "FOREIGNER" LOOKS AT FARINGDON

Faringdon cannot boast a bed in which Queen Elizabeth slept an oak tree in which King Charles hid, or a kitchen in which King Alfred burnt the cakes, but she need not for this reason hide her head in shame. Is it modesty, apathy or a misguided sense of inferiority which makes people apologetic or cynical about the unpretentious place to which they belong? A man is not considered great simply because he had an illustrious grandfather nor should we judge the merits of a place solely by those dramatic events which happen to be a part of its history.

There are also those people who say "There's nothing going on!" Like so many other casual remarks, this is a revelation of the character of the speaker, which is far from flattering. Are Faringdon people really only "empty buckets waiting to be filled", unable to find interest or enjoyment in anything except the latest ready-made entertainment? For those who have the good sense to make use of them, there are opportunities for the development of interests in music, drama, books, current affairs, woodwork, cookery, sports of many kinds and indeed any activity which is part of the life of the average community.

A stranger, coming to Faringdon from the conventional monotony of suburbia or the vast, impersonal hurry of the city, can find many attractions in Faringdon, all too often unappreciated by its inhabitants, the chief of which is life in a community, which is small enough to be a reality, but not so small that it only grows in upon itself. Our modern civilisation with its intricate organisation, equality of facilities, and mass-produced goods tends to discourage individuality, and to make you feel only one of a crowd. The life of our large towns and cities aggravates this tendency and only

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someone who has experienced this knows the real pleasure there is in feeling that you 'belong', in walking down a street where you can be sure you will meet people you know, and with whom you can discuss the local activities and interests you have in common.

The great national occasion which we celebrate this year will probably be one of the most splendid in the lifetime of the majority of us, and it is at such times that this community spirit is stimulated. We must not imagine, because we live in an out of the way spot, of which many people outside the immediate vicinity have not heard, that the contribution which we make to the life of the wider community, our country, is less valuable. Joan of Arc in Bernard Shaw's play replies to one of her critics, "If we were as simple in the village as you are in your courts and palaces, there would soon be no wheat to make bread for you". This is a justifiable kind of pride, and one which we should share; but the contribution we can make to our country's life is not merely a material one. In a recently published book on Berkshire the writer, explaining that the main road has been the key to Faringdon's growth suggested that "The arms of Faringdon might well be two tradesmen couchant impaled on an omnibus rampant, with the motto—"La route, c'est la vie". This may be true of the life of the town, but the life of the community depends not on its material prosperity but upon the spirit of its people.

We who belong to Faringdon must not only co-operate in the festivities of a special week, but share more fully in the interests and pleasures which the day to day life of a small but attractive market town in a lovely setting offers all the year round.

GWEN LEDGER.

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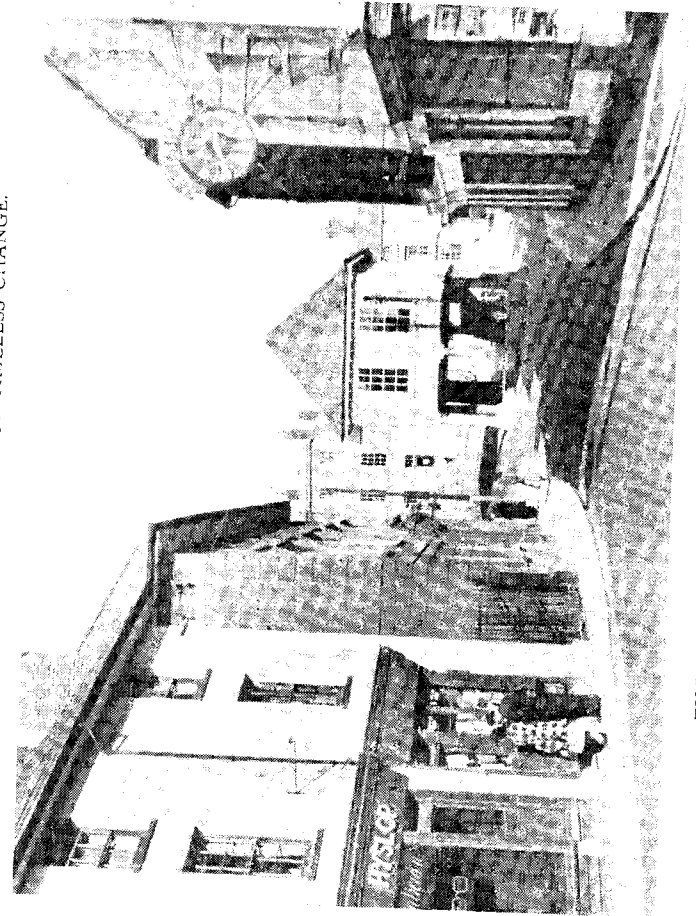
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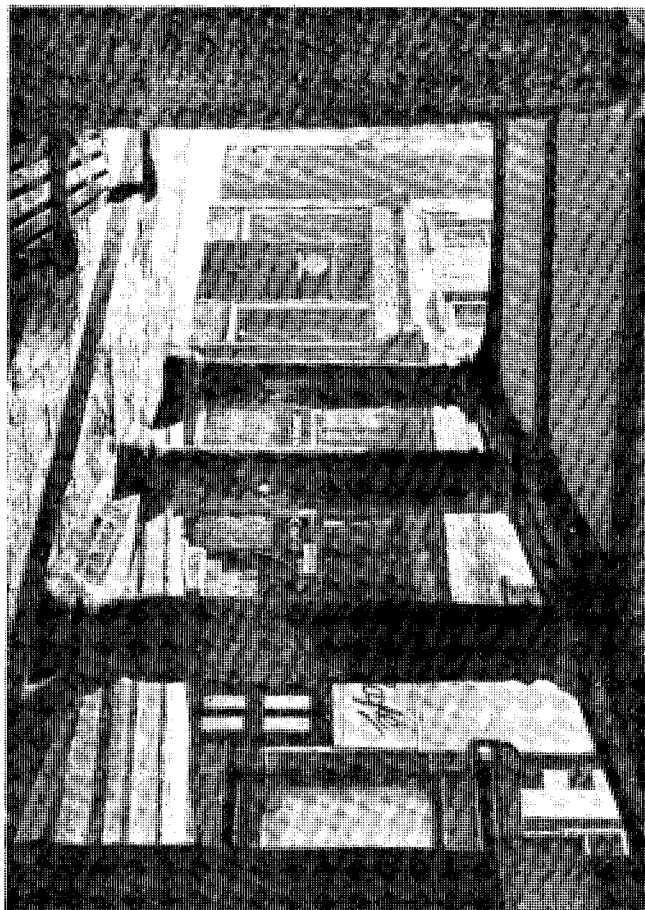
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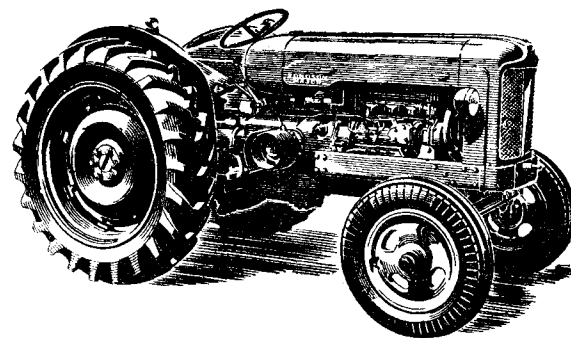
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