



Felpham Village
Sussex

Coronation

Souvenir
Programme



June 2nd. 1953



FELPHAM VILLAGE
CORONATION
FESTIVITIES

★

Souvenir Programme

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QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

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the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland and of her other Realms and Territories, Head
of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.*

FELPHAM VILLAGE
CORONATION
FESTIVITIES



Souvenir
Programme

June 2nd.

1953



PUBLISHED BY
The Festivities Committee
Felpham Village
1953

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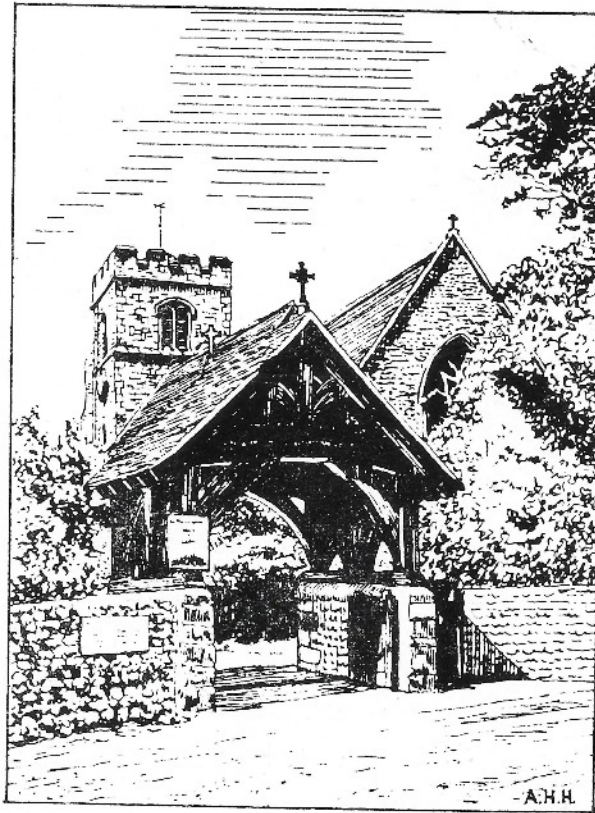
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“Sweet Felpham”

(William Blake)

by GERARD YOUNG.



So many Sussex seaside villages have been swallowed by the sea, or obliterated by the demands of traffic and housing estates, that today the survival of Felpham may be regarded as a miracle.

It is unique on the untidy, ravaged coast of Sussex. It evokes gasps of genuine surprise from holidaymakers when they suddenly spy its charm from a 'bus top. It has resisted, with few defeats, the crudities of urban architecture; has refused to be cowed by the dictates of its civic overlords in Bognor Regis and, in fact, imparts an air of being cared for and guarded. Blake's "ladder of angels" must still be watching over it.

It is true that William Blake, who left the village 150 years ago this September, would find difficulty in recognising the landscape today. The "expanded meadows" that he loved have almost all vanished beneath brick and concrete, and the windmills, the cornfields and the ploughboy in the lane have disappeared, but the heart of the village has not weakened. Its life's blood, paradoxically, was composed of water, the water that gave it its Saxon name and which, by forming a defence with a river and floodland to the west and north-west, has prevented the sprawl of Bognor Regis and saved Felpham's identity.

Saxon farmers who cultivated these fields by the stream (Felbhamme in 880 A.D.) and owed allegiance to their king and landowner, Alfred, have left no relics of their day, except perhaps the shape of the winding lanes and the site of their wooden church on which St. Mary's now stands. The church, the village and its lands were owned from 953 A.D. by the Abbess and nuns of Shaftesbury in Dorset, a gift from Alfred's grandson, and the earliest stones of St. Mary's today belong to a rebuilding of 1100 A.D. In 1345, the church's fabric became the personal responsibility of the Abbey, necessitating the setting up of a little priory in the village which existed till the Dissolution.

Save for the sea rolling in each winter and regularly breaking down the bridge over the rife to Bognor, Felpham was never invaded through the centuries. Wayfarers included pilgrims going along the coast to St. Richard's shrine at Chichester, who paused to receive hospitality at the religious rest-house that later became part of the Fox Inn. The skirmishes of the Civil War a few miles north never peppered the village. Farming, smuggling and church-going was its life till the late 18th century. Then the fishermen and the lime-burners at their kilns on the shore saw the beginning of a new activity—sea bathing.

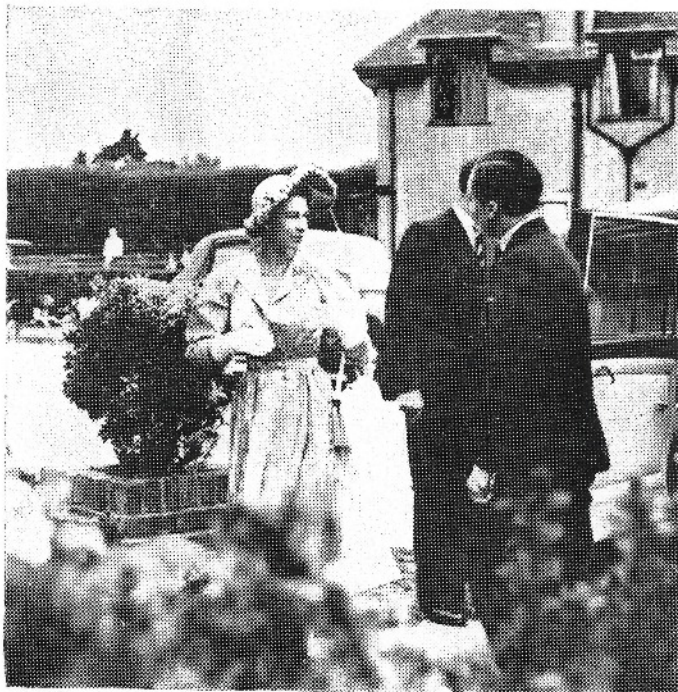
It was this, the sea-water cure advocated by doctors from about 1730, that made Felpham a popular bathing resort long before Bognor. The villagers hired rooms to the gentry from Chichester and other places inland and into the sea went famous people like Mr. Hayley, the poet from Eartham, and Mr. George Romney, the portrait painter from Hampstead. Hayley, liking the village, built the Turret House there for his ailing son and occupied it himself from 1800-20. His friend Blake was invited from London to lodge near him and to illustrate his poems and ballads. Thus, Rose Cottage became the home of a genius. The splendours of Blake's visions in Felpham are now the object of wonder and learned research. The beach to his wife and sister meant sea-bathing, "courting Neptune's embrace" as he put it. The beach to Robert Cobden, Felpham coastguard, meant dangerous duty: "I fell in with a company of smugglers who on my approach and on discharging a pistol, threw down 15 casks of foreign spirits". But to Blake, the shore was the scene of visions which he transformed to poetry, as in his *Milton*: "Loud Satan thundered, loud and dark upon mild Felpham shore."

Hayley has gone and lies buried with his friend Robert Steele, Recorder of Chichester, in Steele's vault in the church. The White Mill slid into the sea in 1879, and Snook's Corner mill went in 1910. Old Falcheham House, once the police lock-up was pulled down to make room for the by-pass in 1938, leaving a ghost stranded in mid-air. She used to appear at the top of the stairs. The smithy has gone, Hale the carrier has gone (but we still have his footpath), the malthouse has gone, the village pound and the old parish hall.

One might say, what is left? Strangely enough, an unchanged village, a place of individuality that desires and keeps its grassy banks in Limmer Lane, its rich trees, its magnificent examples of huge flint walls (surely the pride of West Sussex?), its twists and turns that make the 'buses nose their way respectfully and quietly, its fine church, old inns, pretty gardens and its comparative freedom from the ugliness of commerce.

And its inhabitants? It is not necessary to say any more. They are the people who keep Felpham unique.

When the Queen came to Felpham . . .



Though Her Majesty spent some of her childhood days at Craigweil House, Aldwick, in 1929 during the convalescence of her grandfather George V, it was not until July 31, 1952, that she visited Felpham. The occasion was an informal visit to attend an afternoon party given by Lord Rupert Nevill, Sheriff of Sussex, who was staying with his wife at "Windruff", Davenport Road, for August.

The Queen, accompanied by her lady-in-waiting, Lady Palmer, and the Earl and Countess of Lewes, left Goodwood after the Thursday race meeting and drove via Bognor Regis railway crossing to Felpham. News of her coming had been kept supposedly secret, but nevertheless a number of Felpham people were gathered to greet her. They were rewarded by her smile, not unmingled with surprise, as she alighted from her Rolls on arrival, making a charming figure in her lilac taffeta dress and petal-edged picture hat.

It is of historical interest that one of her ancestors, a Princess who might have been Queen of England, came to Felpham in August, 1808. She was the youthful Charlotte, daughter of the Prince Regent. The Regent himself was in Felpham in 1819, a few months before he became George IV, and is said to have stayed at the Manor House.

Order of the Day

AT

SUMMERLEY PLAYING FIELDS

- 2.30 Fete
4.00 Felpham Folk Dancers
5.00 PAGEANT
5.45 The Rex Melody Makers
6.30 Women's Institute present—
"The Fortune Teller"
7.00 The Rex Melody Makers
8.00 Community Singing
8.30 Competition Results
9.00 Queen's Speech (Relay)
9.30 God Save the Queen
-

ATTRACTIONS

CHILDREN'S PET DOG SHOW by P.D.S.A.

COMPETITIONS

DONKEY RIDES

SIDE SHOWS

REFRESHMENTS

LICENSED BAR

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THE PAGEANT

Our Pageant depicts what might have taken place had Queen Elizabeth I. and her Court visited Felpham during her reign.

Our sentiments as we celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II are no less loyal than those which inspired the subjects of Queen Elizabeth I—for we have inherited and we shall endeavour to carry on the glorious tradition in the new Elizabethan era. To this end our prayers will be offered that her reign may be long and glorious.

- 1.—ASSEMBLY OF CROWD BY TOWN CRIER.
- 2.—DANCE OF THE PERIOD—*GALLIARD*.
- 3.—TRADITIONAL SONGS OF THE PERIOD.
 - (a) *Summer is icumen in.*
 - (b) *Now is the month of maying.*
 - (c) *Greensleeves.*
- 4.—ENTRY OF LORD AND LADY OF THE MANOR.
- 5.—INTERRUPTION OF PROCEEDINGS BY THE TOWN CRIER ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I. AND COURT.
- 6.—QUEEN'S PROCESSION LED BY JESTER
- 7.—PRESENTATION OF LORD AND LADY OF THE MANOR TO THE QUEEN BY THE EARL OF ESSEX.
- 8.—ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY LORD OF THE MANOR.
- 9.—QUEEN'S SPEECH.
- 10.—SONG "ENGLAND". from Shakespeare's King Richard II., to music by Parry.

BLESSING OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II. By Rev. D. Manners.

HYMN—"JERUSALEM"—*words by William Blake, music by Parry.*

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

CAST

QUEEN ELIZABETH I.....	AUDREY BRYANT
EARL OF ESSEX.....	REGINALD BEVIS
LORD OF THE MANOR.....	LYDDON SURRAGE
LADY OF THE MANOR.....	MRS. F. C. GODDARD
TOWN CRIER	W. BRISTOW
Court Ladies and Gentlemen Jester, Herald, Pages, etc.)	PUPILS OF DENISDOR SCHOOL OF DANCING
W.I. LADIES CHOIR	ST. MARY'S CHOIR.

CARNIVAL

Assemble 2.45 p.m. — Snooks' Corner—Thence to Summerley
Playing Fields. Children under 9 years assemble Church
Schools 2.45 p.m.

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FELPHAM NOTES

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It is just over twentyone years ago that a Women's Institute was formed for Felpham and Middleton, and though since that time Middleton has formed a separate Institute, the Felpham branch has continued to grow and now has some 150 members. Meetings are held monthly with programmes of business lectures or demonstrations and a social half-hour. In addition classes are arranged in various handicrafts.

The Drama Group presents plays periodically and takes part in Drama Festivals. The Choir was chosen to sing at the Albert Hall last year. At the Silver Jubilee celebrations in Bognor Regis in 1935, Felpham won First prize for decorated vehicles with its "Silver Ship".

On the social service side, money was raised to supply analgesic apparatus for the benefit of local mothers. During the war, W.I. members collected rose hips and medicinal herbs in addition to their usual activities.

FOLK DANCE CLUB

The minute books of the club records that the formal institution, the Felpham Folk Dance Club took place in October, 1933, and its affiliation to the English Folk Dance Society which was founded by Cecil Sharp in 1911—later to be amalgamated with the Folk Song Society Founded in 1898.

From its first inception, the club has actively engaged in the propagation of the song and dance of the English Folk. During the war years, the club continued its activities and raised money for many war charities.

The present membership of the club is fifty-four Seniors and twenty-five Juniors. Club support is drawn from the districts of Felpham, Bognor Regis, Middleton-on-Sea, Elmer and Yapton.

THE FALCHEHAM PLAYERS

Founded in December, 1930, the Falcheham Players is one of the oldest amateur dramatic societies in the Bognor Regis district and, up to the outbreak of the second World War, regularly presented each year several three-act plays at the Theatre Royal and a number of smaller dramatic productions and revues at various halls in the district.

Since the war the Falcheham Players have presented most of their productions in Felpham itself, as indeed befits a society which bears Felpham's ancient name, first a series of revues and later a number of three-act plays. In all, during their twenty-two years of life, the Players have staged seventy-seven productions.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

The Felpham Young Wives' Group, attached to St. Mary's Church, was formed some four years ago and now has a flourishing membership of over forty young wives and mothers. They meet monthly to discuss all matters that affect their home life and the upbringing of children both spiritually and maternally and the group has been a great influence in the village. Programmes have included Brains Trusts and talks on Marriage guidance, Children's Reading, Juvenile Delinquency and Flower Decorations, etc. and money has been raised for the Local Church School, the C. of E. Children's Society and Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

BRITISH LEGION

The Felpham Branch has during the past few years :—

Arranged the stay at the Legion Convalescent Homes of 7 members or their dependants.

Secured increased pensions for several Ex-service men.

Made financial assistance and loans to many deserving cases.

Built up the Branch Building Fund to over £1700.

Assistance is not only confined to Members, but to any Ex-Service Man or Women, genuinely in need of help.

Childhood, Courtship, Marriage, make this happy story

of

Our Queen's Family Life

Longfellow once wrote—"Home-keeping hearts are happiest". As we celebrate the coronation of our young Queen, our faith and hope for the future are grounded in the knowledge that she and her consort will set a shining example of happy home-life to her people.

The story of their first meeting and of their growing love for each other is a simple romance such as we all delight in.

Princess Elizabeth was born in London on a Spring day in 1926, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. The golden-haired child was a familiar sight to many Londoners as she was wheeled daily through the Park in her pram.

Five years earlier, in June 1921, Prince Philip of Greece was born at Corfu. He, like Princess Elizabeth, was directly descended from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. He spent his early years in Paris, but at the age of eight he was invited to live with his Royal relatives at Kensington Palace, where he naturally soon absorbed the British way of life.

The Princess was educated by a governess, sharing a nursery suite at 145, Piccadilly, with her younger sister Margaret. She learned to ride, swim and play the piano, and spent her holidays at Windsor in a happy family atmosphere.

Prince Philip, meanwhile, was being educated at an English preparatory school and then at Gordonstoun School in Scotland. He showed great promise both academically and in the athletic field and became head of the school and captain of cricket and hockey. He learned to handle a boat and prepared for a career at sea with the British Navy like his uncle, Lord Mountbatten.

After the death of her beloved grandfather, George V. and the abdication of her uncle, Princess Elizabeth became heir presumptive to the throne when her father was proclaimed King George VI.

At her father's coronation, Prince Philip was among the Royal guests, but he and the Princess did not meet. At this time he was studying to enter the Royal Navy, and in 1939 he entered Dartmouth College.

When the King and Queen inspected the Royal Naval College in that year, Princess Elizabeth accompanied them and she was entertained by a group of cadets, including Prince Philip. He escorted her around the grounds and sat next to her at meals, and though it cannot be said that they fell in love then, they certainly enjoyed each other's company. Then war broke out and Prince Philip went to serve his country on the high seas. He and the Princess met again at Windsor in Christmas 1943 when he was on short leave, and after that meeting a friendly correspondence started between them. Arduous duties claimed them both during the remainder of the war, the Princess serving in the A.T.S. as a driver, and the Prince serving with the Navy in the Far East.

With the end of the war the Princess returned to her royal duties; Prince Philip came back to England, and gradually the romance developed. When the Princess was 20 and the Prince 25, he was invited to join a family party at Balmoral, but no formal announcement was made. The Princess went with her parents to South Africa, and during their absence the Prince applied for and gained British nationality, becoming Lieut. Philip Mountbatten.

On July 10th, 1947, their engagement was announced, and the happiness of the whole Royal family was so patent that the whole nation rejoiced.

On November 20th, 1947, Princess Elizabeth was married to Philip, now Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey, and all the pictures of that eventful day show a radiantly happy couple. There followed many months of active public life until in December, 1948, the announcement came of the birth of a son to the young couple, and many happy informal photographs of the baby Charles and his parents were soon seen.

In 1950 a baby daughter was born to them, and some of the best loved and remembered photographs of the late Queen Mary and King George VI. are at the christening of Princess Anne.

Since that date arduous public tours and visits have been undertaken by the royal pair, ending with the sudden sad return from Kenya when King George VI. died and the young Princess became Queen.

From that moment the lives of Elizabeth and Philip have become bound up with the larger family life of this country and the Commonwealth, and they have given us a shining example of service and devotion to duty. May their family life and that of all their loyal subjects be blessed with peace and prosperity.

In Praise of Felpham—

Extracts from the writings of William Blake who lived at Felpham from 1800—1803

“Away to Sweet Felpham, for Heaven is there;
The Ladder of Angels descends thro’ the air;
On the Turret its spiral does softly descend,
Thro’ the village then winds, at my Cot it does end.”

(From a poem to Mrs. Flaxman, Sept. 14, 1800)

“Felpham is a sweet place for study, because it is more Spiritual than London. Heaven opens here on all sides her Golden gates”

(Letter to Mr. Flaxman, Sept. 21, 1800)

“. . . the villagers of Felpham are not meer Rustics; they are polite & modest. Meat is cheaper than in London, but the sweet air & the voices of the winds, trees & birds, & the odours of the happy ground, makes it a dwelling for immortals.”

(Letter to Mr. Butts, Sept. 21, 1800)

“Felpham is the sweetest spot on earth”

(Letter to Mr. Butts, May 10, 1801)

“Felpham men are the mildest of the human race; if it is the will of God, they shall be the wisest”.

(Letter to Mr. Butts, Sept. 11, 1801)

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SUSSEX

Evening Meals by arrangement

The Queen's Prayer

The vow made by the Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) in South Africa on her coming-of-age in 1947.

“ I DECLARE before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong, but I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given.

God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.”

The Queen in her Christmas broadcast, 1952—

AT MY CORONATION NEXT JUNE I SHALL DEDICATE MYSELF ANEW TO YOUR SERVICE.

I shall do so in the presence of a great congregation drawn from every part of the Commonwealth and Empire, while millions outside Westminster Abbey will hear the promises and the prayers being offered up within its walls and see much of the ancient ceremony in which Kings and Queens before me have taken part through century upon century.

You will be keeping it as a holiday; but I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day—to pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.

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The New Elizabethan

NEARLY FOUR CENTURIES AGO ENGLAND WAS RULED BY Queen Elizabeth, who came to the throne when she was twenty-five. At the end of her reign, which lasted nearly fifty years, she had won the passionate loyalty of her subjects. "This I count the Glory of my Crown," she said, "that I have reigned with your Lives." She made many mistakes, and critics have not spared her, but she helped to shape the life of England so that men still talk about "the splendours of the Elizabethan Age". In the reign of "Good Queen Bess" the nation shook off the perils which had threatened, and regained its confidence in its high destiny. The great Elizabethans—Shakespeare and Bacon, Drake and Howard, and many another in great and gallant company—made our land known and honoured everywhere.

Today we anticipate another Elizabethan coronation, and the world is as unsettled and as anxious as it was on 15th January 1559. But we shall come with stronger hope and surer faith than those first Elizabethans could have known.

When the young Queen comes to Westminster to be crowned, she will come as the granddaughter of George the Fifth and the daughter of George the Sixth—kings whose memory is for ever blessed in the annals of our land. She will come, too, as the granddaughter of the late Queen Mary and as the daughter of Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, some time Queen of England, and so closely linked by ties of blood to the British people themselves.

Though Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second comes to the throne at a time when the security of the whole world is threatened, the peoples who acknowledge her as Sovereign do so, not only with readiness, but with an affection that has never been surpassed in the story of our land.

In an unusual intimacy the whole Commonwealth and Empire has shared the sorrows of Queen Mary and the Queen Mother, and now it shares their joy as the young Queen enters into her heritage, and already accepts her responsibility as privilege. Two generations have handed on their strong and simple faith. They have provided an example of Christian home life at its best. Prayer and the Bible have been words they taught their children to use and to understand. These things the first Elizabeth, in her loneliness, never knew. This heritage of faith and home and the love of little children is stronger and more precious than all the powers of an absolute monarch. That is why in our hearts we know that the new Elizabethan Age may well outshine the old.

But who are the New Elizabethans? Are they the great scientists who are conquering space and unlocking the age-old secrets of the universe? Are they the great doctors and surgeons, the poets and engineers, the artists and builders, the men who sail the seven seas or fly through the sound barrier, the musicians and the craftsmen, the soldiers who guard the lonely outposts, the leaders in Church and State? Yes—all these, and—you.

This year of Coronation may be a year in which the great Commonwealth of free Peoples dedicates itself to the service of God and of mankind. In Australia and New Zealand, in Canada and South Africa, in India and Pakistan, and in every British Colony, there must be a crowning and the taking of an oath of fealty not only to a Queen, but to the ideal of service to which she has pledged herself.

"Take care of the children and the country will take care of itself," said King George the Sixth to the people of Australia. That is a solemn trust to the older generation of New Elizabethans.

"It is only by getting to know one another better that closer sympathy and understanding can come," said that same loved voice. "Only so can we realize that we are all members of one family."

That is the close relationship which binds the New Elizabethans together with bonds of mutual respect and unselfish service.

Let us put away envy, hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness. Let us share with the world the ideals of truth and freedom which our fathers gave us as an inheritance. In humbleness and in all sincerity let us pledge ourselves "to leave things in the world a little better than we found them." So shall we help to bring peace on earth and, by the grace of God, this shall be our finest hour.

Again we say—again we pray—God save the Queen. God bless the Queen.

Reproduced from "My Coronation Book" by Dr. L. F. Church, publishers The Epworth Press.

FELPHAM NOTES (*continued*)—

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

To increase food production in rural areas, the Ministry of Food asked the Women's Institute to form Village Produce Associations. At the inaugural meeting twenty members were enrolled. Two founder members are still active Committee members in the largest association on the South Coast with nearly six hundred members.

This Coronation year, the Committee hope to put on a larger Show and plan to entertain the old people and children of Felpham and Middleton. This will be the eleventh Annual Show, with over a thousand adults' and Children's entries. The Press has described recent Shows as County Shows in miniature. In addition, a fine series of film displays and lectures are arranged for the winter months.

During the past ten years the Association has donated over £1,200 to various National and Local Charities.

TOC H

The Branch was formed in 1949 and has a membership of just over twenty.

TOC H sets out for fellowship and service and Felpham Branch has found many opportunities for such service in the village with particular emphasis on the welfare of the old people.

All men over the age of sixteen years are welcomed to their meetings held every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. at the George Hall.

The village is also represented by well established and flourishing Cricket, Football, Archery and Stoolball Clubs and by our energetic Brownies and Sea Scouts.

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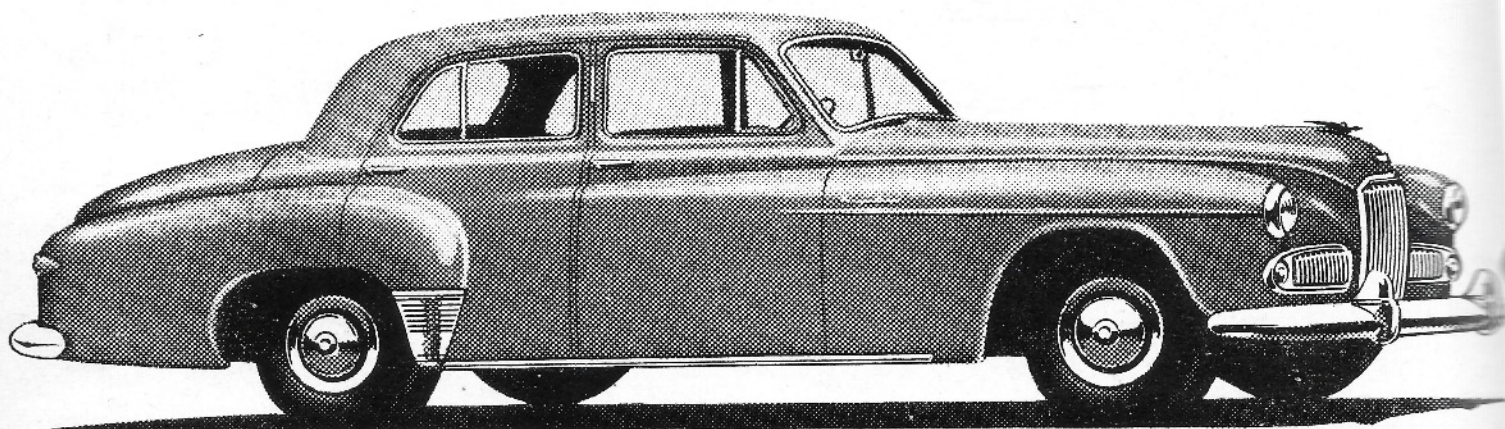
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OUR THANKS ARE DUE

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GERARD YOUNG—

For contributions and indispensable help in arranging
this programme.

LESLIE F. CHURCH—

For permission to reprint "The New Elizabethans."

G. A. OCKENDEN—

For the account of the Queen's Family Life.

DOROTHY WILDING—

For permission to reproduce the Queen's photograph.

DENISDOR SCHOOL OF DANCING—

For assisting in the Pageant.

BOGNOR REGIS POST—

For the loan of blocks.

OUR ADVERTISERS—

For thier generous support.

THE VILLAGERS ASSOCIATIONS—

Who have helped to arrange the Coronation Festivities.

Chairman :
Rev. D. Manners.

Hon. Sec :
A. James.

Hon Treasurer :
G. H. Moffatt.

Hon. Organiser :
W. B. Drewe.

**The Coronation Festivities have been arranged entirely by voluntary efforts,
as requested by Her Majesty the Queen**

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CORONATION
FETE & PAGEANT

JUNE 2nd, 1953

SUMMERLEY PLAYING FIELDS
2.30 p.m. — 9.30 p.m.

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ASSEMBLE 2.45 p.m. — THENCE TO

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Detach and fill in slip at top of front page and return to Miss BAILEY, 79 Felpham Road, or may be handed in at the Fete, June 2nd.

ORDER of the DAY



P.M.

2.30 FETE

4. 0 FELPHAM FOLK DANCERS

5. 0 PAGEANT

5.45 THE REX MELODY MAKERS

6.30 WOMEN'S INSTITUTE presents
"THE FORTUNE TELLER"

7. 0 THE REX MELODY MAKERS

8. 0 COMMUNITY SINGING

8.30 COMPETITIONS RESULTS

9. 0 — 9. 5 QUEEN'S SPEECH (Relay)

9.30 God Save The Queen