

## King Edward VII Coronation Celebrations - 1902

Edward VII, born November 9<sup>th</sup> 1841, was the eldest son of Queen Victoria, and the longest serving Prince of Wales before Prince Charles. He finally became king on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1901.

One hundred and ten years separate the coronation of Edward VII, in 1902, and the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, later this year. Things have changed a lot in that time but a lot has remained the same: for example, both occasions were recognised as an event to be celebrated but the form of those celebrations will doubtless differ.

Documents still held by Farnhill Parish Council describe the planning that went into the village celebrations held on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1902. (In fact the coronation actually took place on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1902. Edward having contracted appendicitis on June 24<sup>th</sup>, too late to stop the planned celebrations – both in Farnhill and elsewhere – which went ahead anyway.)

The documents take the form of hand-written minutes of a Sports Committee. This appears to have been just one of a number of committees set up to manage events, although documents from the others have been lost.

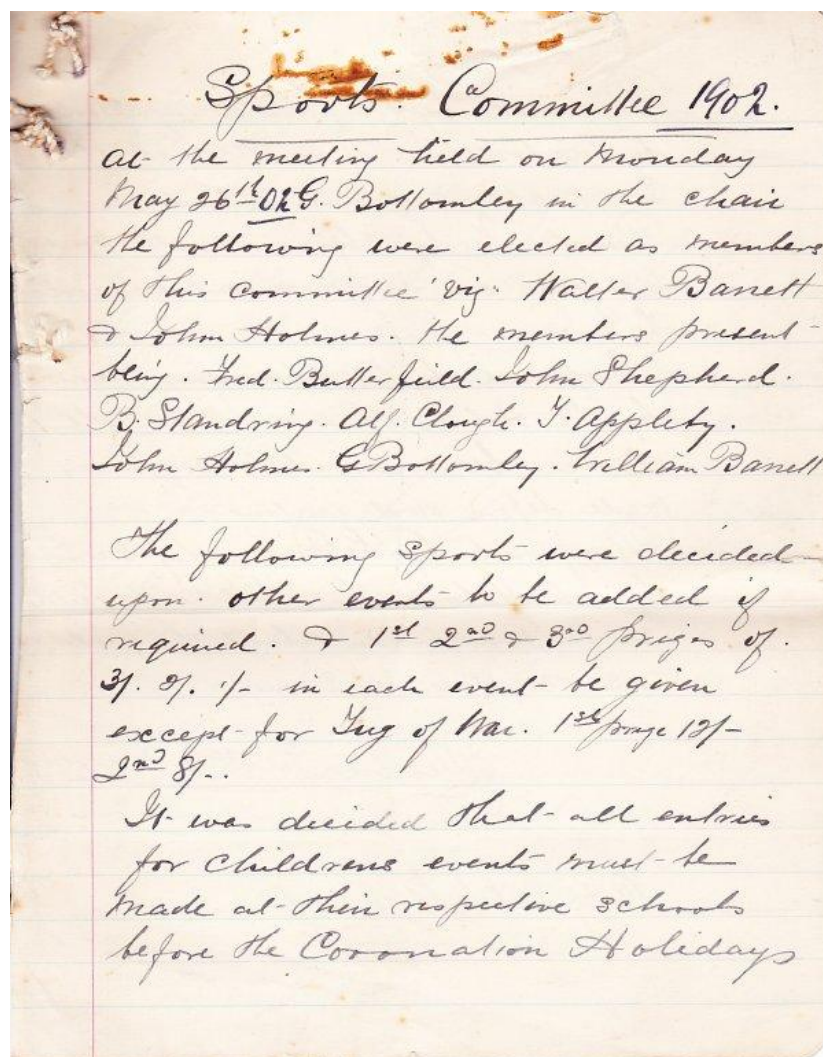


Figure 1: First page of the 1902 Sports Committee minutes (there are 13 in total)

The key discussions and the decisions taken at the Sports Committee meetings are summarised below.

### May 26<sup>th</sup> 1902

- Prizes for sports were decided – 1<sup>st</sup> prize 3/-, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize 2/-, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize 1/- (15p, 10p and 5p) except for the Tug of War: 1<sup>st</sup> prize 12/-, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize 8/-.
- All entries for children's events must be made at their respective schools before the Coronation Holidays.
- Enquiries to be made about a Punch and Judy Show, if one can be obtained for less than £3.
- Plans for a Maypole Dance to be started.
- Mr. Boothman to be approached regarding the use of a field for the events.

### June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1902

- It had been found impossible to find a good Punch and Judy Show and the plan was abandoned.
- Mr. Boothman agreed the use of a field for £3. The committee would arrange the planting of stakes and erect platforms for the band and the Maypole Dance. Mr Boothman would subsequently clear debris from the field at his own cost.
- An arch to be erected at the entrance to the field.
- A sub-committee was created to purchase:
  - 6 shuttlecocks
  - 6 skipping ropes
  - 6 wooden spoons
  - 6 china eggs

And to arrange for the loan of 12 grain sacks, a Hammer, and a Shot for contests.

- Sports to commence at 4:30pm
- Agreement on a Fancy Dress Cycle Parade – ladies and gentlemen separately. Prizes 7/6 and 4/- for each class.
- Agreement on a Quoit Match. Prizes 5/- and 2/6.
- Agreement that the total cost of sports events should not exceed £20

### June 5<sup>th</sup> 1902

- A Hammer and Shot had been obtained from Mr. Wilson.
- Agreement on a Potato Race for Boys over 13 years. Prizes 3/-, 2/- and 1/-.
- Agreement on a 100 yard Scratch Race for Males over 16 years. Prizes 3/-, 2/- and 1/-.
- Agreement on a Clothes Hanging Contest for Women over 60 years. Prizes 1½ lbs of tea (at 3/9), 1 lb of tea (2/6), ½ lb tea (1/3).
- Agreement that in addition to Boys egg and spoon races, similar races be arranged for Girls under 13 years and Girls over 13 years.
- Prize money to be spent in local shops, by means of order forms or money orders.
- Maypole dancing to include Morris dancing.
- A programme for the sports events to be produced.

## June 9<sup>th</sup> 1902

- Mr. Butterfield has agreed to fit-up the field (exclusive of the arch) for £3.
- £1 has been allowed for Ribbons for Maypole and Morris dances and gavotte.
- A prize to be awarded for Best Decorated Building in the several villages.
- A torchlight procession to be arranged.

## June 16<sup>th</sup> 1902

- The events for children under 10 years to be divided into three events for three districts and prizes divided.
- Two prizes only for 100 yards Scratch Race: 7/6 and 3/-.
- Prizes to school children to be given in new (unused) coins.
- Sutton Gymnastics Club have been invited to give a free display.

## The programme of events

**Kildwick Parish and  
District Celebrations,**

ON

*JUNE 25th, 26th, and 27th, 1902,*

*In Honour of the*

**Coronation** ¶ ¶

OF

**His Majesty  
King Edward the Seventh.**



# Programme of Events.

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## Wednesday, June 25th.

### At 6-30 p.m.,

The Day School Scholars will assemble in the Gala Field, and, after being Addressed by the REV. E. W. BRERETON, M.A. (Vicar of Kildwick), will be presented with CORONATION MUGS AND CHOCOLATE BOXES.

\* \* \* \*

## Thursday, June 26th.

### At 10-0 p.m.,

A BEACON FIRE will be lighted on FARNHILL CRAG, preceded and followed by A DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS.

\* \* \* \*

## Friday, June 27th.

### At 10-0 a.m.,

The Judging of EXTERNALLY DECORATED BUILDINGS will commence.

### At 1-30 p.m.,

A PROCESSION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN will be formed at the SUTTON BOARD SCHOOL, headed by the KILDWICK BRASS BAND, WITH MORRIS DANCERS, and including May Queen with Maypole Dancers, Gavotte Dancers, Cyclists in Fancy Costume, Tableaux, &c. The Route will be by way of Sutton, Sutton Mill, and Crosshills, to the Gala Field.

### At 2-30 p.m.,

AN ENTERTAINMENT, consisting of Patriotic Songs, Maypole Dance, Gavotte, and Morris Dance, will be given in the Field by the Scholars of the Four Schools of the District. The Children will then be served with COFFEE AND BUNS.

A MEAT TEA will be provided at the various SUNDAY SCHOOLS, for the ADULT POPULATION, which is estimated at about 4,000.

In the Evening A FREE GALA will be held, in a Field near the Railway Station, belonging to Mr. T. Boothman.

### At 4-30 p.m.,

THE SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS will commence. These will be open only to persons resident in the District. The Children's Dances will be repeated at intervals. The Sutton Church Athletic Club have kindly offered their services. Kildwick Brass Band will play selections. The proceeding will close with a DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS, and a TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION.

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## God Save the King!

# Programme of Entertainment.

## 1.—THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

**G**OD save our gracious King  
Long live our noble King,  
God save the King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King!  
Thy choicest gifts in store,  
On him be pleased to pour,  
Long may he reign!  
May he defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice  
God save the King!  
Crowned by a nation's love  
Guarded by Heaven above,  
Long live the King!  
Loud may each voice proclaim  
Wide as Britannia's fame,  
Long live King Edward's name,  
God save the King!

## 2.—CHILDREN'S CORONATION SONG.

BY G. W. TORRENCE.

(By permission of the Publishers,  
Messrs. Novello & Co.)

**C**OME, raise we now our voices  
In sweet melodious strain:  
An Empire wide rejoices,  
To greet King Edward's reign.  
A loyal British nation,  
Undaunted, brave and free,  
Our Monarch's Coronation  
Proclaims o'er land and sea.  
The Crown of sainted mother,  
Now resting on his head;  
The Sceptre,—badge of power,—  
Swayed by the mighty dead.  
O may their dazzling splendour,  
Bequeathed without a stain,—  
Their virtue and their glory,  
Unsullied long remain.  
From ice bound north to sunny south  
From regions East and West,  
The patriot's fervent cry goes forth—  
"May Edward's reign be blest!"  
May discord cease and love abound,  
May hearts and hands unite,  
To make our favour'd land resound  
With joy serenely bright!  
Then sing we all as children blest  
Of Britons true and brave;  
Our happy lot,—secure to rest  
Where fetters ne'er enslave.  
And as we wave our banners high,  
While music cheers the scene,  
With heart and voice we join the cry,  
"God save our King and Queen."

## 3.—MAYPOLE SONG AND DANCE.

The Dance performed by Children of the  
Glusburn School.

**A**WAY, away, 'tis glad May-day  
Away to the Maypole hie;  
Let song and shout ring gaily out  
As happy moments fly.

## CHORUS

Away to the Maypole hie,  
To crown our lovely queen,  
And trip it, trip it, trip it, trip it,  
Trip it on the green.

Away, away let all be gay,  
For this is a holiday,  
The birds all sing, and sweet flowers spring  
To welcome lovely May.

Away, away, 'tis glad May-day,  
The young and old must come,  
Upon the green to crown our queen  
And join the merry song.

## 4.—SONG (Words by Foxwell).

**L**AND of greatness! Home of glory!  
England, birthplace of the free!  
Famed alike in song and story,  
All thy sons shall cleave to thee.  
North and South are firmly banded;  
East and West as one unite;  
All by honour well commanded,  
Strong in striving for the right.  
Noble deeds of old inspiring  
Every heart with lofty aim,  
Now our emulation firing;  
Lead us on to greater fame.  
So shall English truth unshaken  
English courage, English worth,  
Mighty echoes still awaken  
To the farthest bounds of earth.  
Home by safe defence surrounded,  
Rights which make our freedom sure,  
Laws on equal justice founded—  
These will loyalty secure,  
While with love and zeal unceasing  
We are joining heart and hand,  
Shine in brightness yet increasing,  
Shine, O English Fatherland.

## 5.—VOCAL GAVOTTE.

The Dance performed by Children of the  
Kildwick School.

**S**EE us dance our stately measure,  
Gaily tripping to and fro;  
Sharing now each other's pleasure,  
Making all our faces glow;  
Free from thought of care or sorrow  
We together trip along;  
Work will come again to-morrow  
Now's the time for dance and song.  
Tra, la, la, &c.

Life must have its recreation,  
Care and worry spoil the health;  
Mirth, in harmless moderation,  
Greater blessing brings than wealth;  
Would you have your share of gladness,  
Or the joys of life enhance,  
Use kind nature's cure for sadness,  
Joyous song and stately dance.  
Tra, la, la, &c.

Dancing thus our stately measure,  
Joining thus in happy song;  
Sharing thus each other's pleasure,  
We the joys of life prolong;  
Youth is Springtime, let's be jolly,  
Soon its hours will pass away;  
Moping were indeed a folly,  
We'll be happy while we may.—Tra, la, &c.

## 6.—MORRIS DANCE ... .. By Children of the Two Sutton Schools.



# Programme of Sports and Competitions.

OPEN ONLY TO COMPETITORS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

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**PRIZES** will be given for the BEST EXTERNALLY DECORATED BUILDINGS  
in the District, and

THE BEST-DRESSED COMPETITORS IN A CYCLE PARADE.

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**PRIZES** will also be given for the following Events :—

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- 1.—THREE SHUTTLECOCK CONTESTS for Girls under 10 years.
  - 2.—SHUTTLECOCK CONTEST for Girls from 10 to 13 years.
  - 3.—THREE 70 YARDS' FLAT RACES for Boys under 7 years.
  - 4.—THREE 80 YARDS' FLAT RACES for Boys from 7 to 10 years.
  - 5.—100 YARDS' FLAT RACE for Boys from 10 to 13 years.
  - 6.—THREE 60 YARDS' SKIPPING RACES for Girls under 10 years.
  - 7.—80 YARDS' SKIPPING RACE for Girls from 10 to 13 years.
  - 8.—A POTATO RACE for Boys over 13 years.
  - 9.—60 YARDS' EGG AND SPOON RACE for Girls over 13 years.
  - 10.—80 YARDS' EGG AND SPOON RACE for Girls under 13 years.
  - 11.—80 YARDS' SACK RACE for Boys under 16 years.
  - 12.—50 YARDS' FLAT RACE for Men over 60 years.
  - 13.—100 YARDS' SCRATCH RACE for Men over 16 years.
  - 14.—A CLOTHES' HANGING CONTEST for Women over 60 years.
  - 15.—QUOITING COMPETITION.
  - 16.—PUTTING THE SHOT.
  - 17.—THROWING THE HAMMER.
  - 18.—TUG OF WAR for Teams of Eight representing any SUNDAY SCHOOL,  
CLUB, MILL, OR WORKS.
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Gymnastic Exhibitions will be given by the  
Sutton Church Athletic Club.

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GEO. U. METCALFE, PRINTER AND STATIONER, CROSSHILLS

Figure 2: The programme of events (kindly supplied by the Keighley and District Digital Archive)

## Commemorative mug



Figure 3: The 1902 commemorative mug

## The bonfire

Although news of the king's illness came too late to allow many of the coronation celebrations to be postponed, the Farnhill bonfire, constructed near the Jubilee cairn, wasn't lit until Monday June 30<sup>th</sup> – by which an appendectomy had been carried out and the crisis of the king's health had passed.



From the Craven Herald, 4<sup>th</sup> July 1902:

**Beacon Fire:** *In accordance with the suggestion of the central bonfire committee, the beacon fire on Farnhill Crag was lit on Monday night as a thank-offering for the King's recovery. A splendid pile had been prepared under the direction of Messrs. John Barritt and J. Riddihough. A large crowd gathered on the moor and the Rev. E.W. Brereton, Vicar of Kildwick, gave a short address. At 9:55pm a signal maroon was discharged and the National Anthem was sung. This concluded, the ceremony of lighting the fire was performed by the following representing the different villages taking part – Miss F.W. Petty (Crosshills), Miss D. Horsfall (Glusburn), Miss C. Matthews (Sutton), Master D. Brereton (Kildwick), Master H. Slingsby (Farnhill) and Master A. Kemp (Sutton). The fire gave a brilliant illumination and fireworks were sent up at intervals. The "Coronation" Band from Crosshills attended and enlivened proceedings with their "music" etc. Many people remained on the moor till midnight.*

The bonfire was visible from as far away as Skipton. The following is from an article in the Craven Herald (23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011), describing the 1902 celebrations:

*Although Skipton did not have a bonfire, from the top of Park Hill at midnight, beacons could be seen at Cracoe Fell, Barden Moor, Farnhill, Pinhaw, and Marton.*

## Would you have liked to have been there ?

Well it's a shame they didn't manage to get a Punch and Judy Show but I'd certainly have liked to see the Fancy Dress Cycle Parade, not to mention the Ladies over-60 Clothes Hanging Contest – whatever that was ! And I wonder why the Craven Herald of the time felt it necessary to call the Coronation Band's contribution "music", etc. (their quotation marks, not mine).

Where was Mr. Boothman's field ? How long did it take him to clear up afterwards ?

## What next – can you help ?

Do you have any further information or documents concerning of royal celebrations in Farnhill or Kildwick that you would be willing to share ? Please email [history@farnhill.co.uk](mailto:history@farnhill.co.uk).

## Acknowledgements

The Farnhill Local History Group would like to thank Farnhill Parish Council for the loan of documents. The programme of events is shown by kind permission of Keighley and District Digital Archive. The commemorative mug was loaned to us by Ann Hewitt.