

## How the Parish Council Organised the 1935 Royal Jubilee Celebrations

A separate article has covered the public events that were arranged to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V, in 1935; including the recollections of someone who was there at the time. The purpose of this article is to look at how these events were organised by Farnhill Parish Council.

The documents relating to the activities of the “Kildwick and Farnhill Silver Jubilee Committee” are quite extensive. This is almost certainly due to the organisational capabilities of the Secretary to the committee, Mr. George Bottomley, who seems to have been an almost compulsive note-taker. It may be worth noting that the same George Bottomley is also responsible for all the official documents that survive from the 1902 and 1911 Coronation celebrations.

The committee was made up of members co-opted from a number of village organisations, including: Farnhill Parish Council, Kildwick Parish Meeting, St. Andrew’s Church and Sunday School, Farnhill Methodist Church and Sunday School, Kildwick and Farnhill Institute, Kildwick and Farnhill Institute Ladies Section, The Oddfellows, the local Tennis, Cricket and Football clubs.

### Programme of Events

There is no printed programme of events amongst the committee papers – but see Figure 1. However there is a handwritten sheet headed “Copy of Programme Printed by Craven Herald Skipton” which lists the events in full detail.

It appears that copies of the Souvenir Programme were distributed, free of charge, to residents of the two villages by members of the committee.

The printing of the programme, which cost £2 10/- for 500 copies, was not without incident. Although the handwritten sheet refers to “Kildwick and Farnhill”, the Craven Herald appear to have got them the wrong way round. The following is an extract from their letter of apology:

*If the question should be raised, would you be so good as to explain that the error occurred at this office, and arose from our knowledge that Farnhill is the larger of the two townships, that alphabetically it comes first, and that in the Register of Electors, which we print, Farnhill is placed before Kildwick.*

*If this placing on the Jubilee Programme should offend local sentiment, perhaps you will accept my regret, and express it also to anyone who queries the point.*



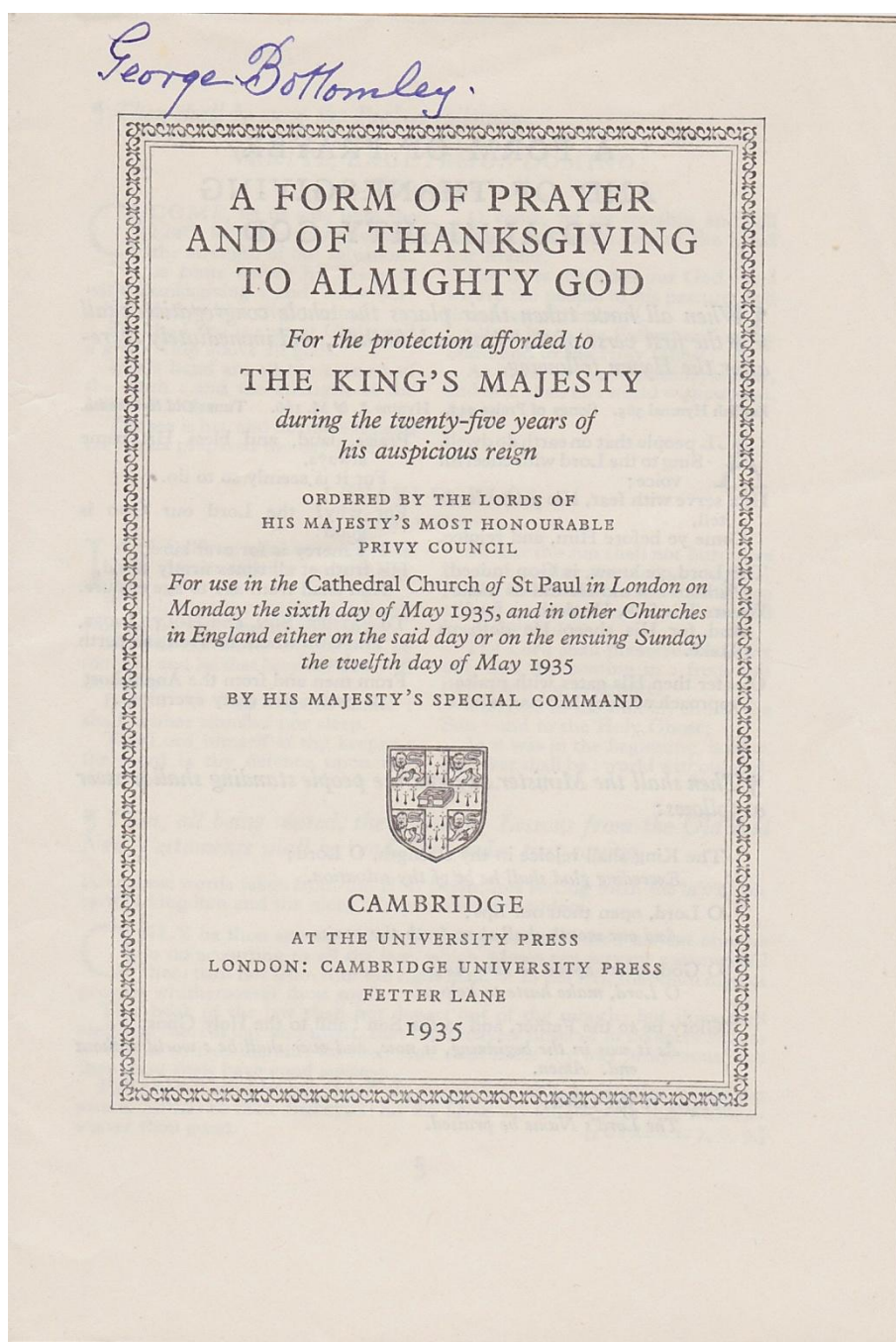
**Figure 1: The Kildwick and Farnhill Souvenir Programme front cover – with the names of the two villages printed the wrong way round by the Craven Herald**

The following pages will use the programme details to guide us through the events held in the two villages on May 6<sup>th</sup> 1935.

10:30 am

**United Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in Kildwick Parish Church conducted by the Rev A J Walkden and the Rev W Johnson. A Collection will be taken in aid of the King George's Jubilee Trust Fund.**

George Bottomley's copy of the official Order of Service survives, as does the order for 300 copies at a cost of 15/7, from the Church Bookshop, North Parade, Bradford.



**Figure 2: The official Order of Service for the Silver Jubilee celebration service**

The collection, as reported in the committee minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> May 1935, came to £7 13s 9d.

***At the close of the Service a wreath will be placed at the foot of the Memorial Cross by Mr. George Bottomley.***

The wreath was bought from the Earl Haig British Legion Appeal at a cost of £2 2/- and was decorated with ribbon (cost 1/6d). This appears to have been the gift of the "Souvenir Programme Committee" and is not included in the committee accounts for the celebrations, although permission for the wreath laying was approved by the committee meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1935.

### **1:30 pm**

***Massed singing in the Kildwick School yard.***

### **1:45 pm**

***Children's Sports in Bank Field Kildwick.***

The use of the Banks Field was by arrangement with Mr. Hagar, at no charge.

### **3:45 pm**

***Procession to Farnhill Methodist School.***

The committee meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> clearly understood the problems in arranging this procession of school children:

*[Proposed that ...] the Committee be given full power to make all necessary arrangements & in conjunction with Sports Committee to marshall the Children from the Sports Field to the School.*

### **4:00 pm**

#### **1. Tea for children attending Kildwick School and Secondary Schools.**

The children's tea was funded by Mr. and Mrs. Reddihough, owners of Farnhill Hall, and supplied by Hammond's Caterers who also agreed to do the washing up. The minutes of a committee meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1935 reported:

*The Secretary ... had seen Mr. Mrs. Reddihough Farnhill Hall and that they had offered to provide a substantial tea for all children attending Kildwick Day School. (Now 92.) Scholarship Children from Kildwick School & now attending Secondary Schools (11) and arrange for the catering.*

#### **2. Presentations of Beakers and Mugs to Scholars and all children under Five years of age by Alderman W A Brigg, Kildwick Hall.**

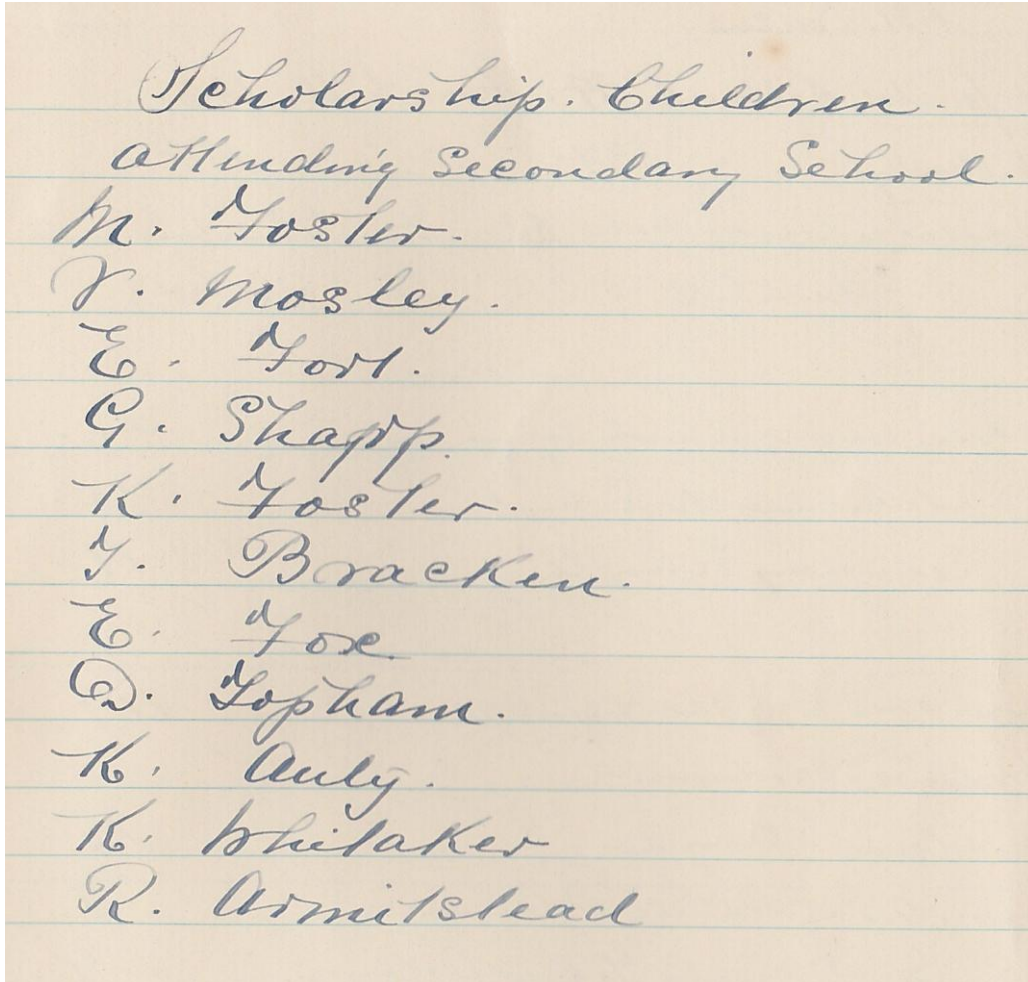
This was funded by Mr & Mrs. Brigg. Again, the committee minutes report:

*... he [the Secretary] had also seen Mrs J J and Mr A Brigg of Kildwick Hall & they had offered to provide Beakers & Mugs for all Children in Kildwick & Farnhill (42 under school age).*



The total number of mugs and beakers required was: 92 (school children), 11 (secondary school children), plus 42 (under school age). A total of 145.

Although the full list of children is not known, the names of the 11 secondary school children appear in the back of the committee minute book.



A photograph of a handwritten list on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: 'Scholarship Children. Attending Secondary School. M. Foster. J. Mosley. E. Gort. G. Shapp. K. Foster. Y. Bracken. E. Fox. W. Lopham. K. Auly. K. Whitaker. R. Armitstead'.

Scholarship Children.  
Attending Secondary School.  
M. Foster.  
J. Mosley.  
E. Gort.  
G. Shapp.  
K. Foster.  
Y. Bracken.  
E. Fox.  
W. Lopham.  
K. Auly.  
K. Whitaker.  
R. Armitstead

**Figure 3: The list of former Kildwick school children now at Secondary school**

After the celebrations, on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1935, the committee minutes record:

*Mr. Shuttleworth reported that Mr. Brigg, Kildwick Hall, wished to present each member of the Executive Committee with a Jubilee Mug. Proposed that the Secretary write & thank Mr Brigg for his thoughtful and generous gift which was deeply appreciated.*

4:45 pm

***Tea in Farnhill Institute for Residents of Kildwick and Farnhill over 60 years of age and for Widows and Widowers.***

This part of the celebrations was also a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Reddihough. A copy of the invitation card is among the parish records.



**Figure 4: An invitation to Tea**

A note in the back of the committee minute book suggests that members of the committee (as well as the Concertina Band) were also invited. The full list includes:

<i>Persons over 60 years of age / Widows and Widowers</i>	<i>119</i>
<i>Concertina Band</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Committee</i>	
<i>Farnhill P. Council</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Kildwick P. Meeting</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Oddfellows</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>St Andrew's Church &amp; Sunday School</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Methodist Church &amp; Sunday School</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Institute</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Tennis, Cricket &amp; Football Club</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Caretakers &amp; co-opted member</i>	<i>3</i>

This total comes to 171. Which makes the total number of meals the Reddihoughs paid for: 274.

Mrs. Reddihough was billed by the committee for the cost of the invitations, envelopes and postage, which came to 13/4.

## 6:00 pm

### **1. Continuation of Children's Sports followed by Presentation of prizes by Mrs. J Reddihough, Farnhill Hall.**

At a committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1935 it was decided "That £10 be allocated to the Sports Prizes". It was later decided to increase this: on April 16<sup>th</sup> a further £1 was allocated, and on April 30<sup>th</sup> a further 30/-.

The total cost of prizes eventually turned out to be £10 8s 6d for the children's sports, plus a further £1 15/- for adults. A total of £12 3s 6d.

### **2. Novelty Events and Sports for adults. Games and Dancing Music will be provided by the Keighley Concertina Band.**

According to the committee minutes, the Concertina Band, 15 members in all, performed from 7pm to 9pm at a cost of £4 4/- plus tea.

## 9:00 pm

### **Grand Display of Fireworks in the Field.**

On April 7<sup>th</sup> 1935, the committee minutes report that fireworks to the value of £6 had been selected and ordered. They were obtained from James Pain & Sons Ltd of London.

**Note:** Pain's, along with Standard Fireworks were the UK's leading suppliers of fireworks up until as late as the 1970s (see [http://www.cyberheritage.com/pains\\_fireworks\\_box/index.html](http://www.cyberheritage.com/pains_fireworks_box/index.html)); the company is still in operation today.

## 10:00 pm

### **Beacon Lights and fireworks (to be lighted by Robert H Walkden, the Vicarage Kildwick, and Tom Smith, Myra Rigg Farnhill) at the Pinnacle which has been restored as a permanent memorial of their Majesties Silver Jubilee.**

The original estimate for the restoration work, was reported at the committee meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1935:

*The Secretary reported that he had seen Messrs. John Barritt, Builders, Crosshills respecting repair of the Cairn on Farnhill Moor & they agreed to thoroughly restore it, at no profit, for around £2.10.0 plus carting & weather permitting carry the works out before 6<sup>th</sup> May.*

By April 30<sup>th</sup> however it was suggested that the restoration be completed:

*... later in the summer when conditions & weather suitable. A sum of £2 to 3 be reserved.*

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> Barritt's submitted their bill for the first part of the work. This was for £4 19/-.

Completion would turn out to cost a further £3 17s 6d but Mr. Barritt agreed to settle the matter for the £3 originally agreed.

## How much did it all cost ?

The cost of the meals, funded by Mr. & Mrs. Reddihough, and the commemorative beakers and mugs, provided by Alderman Brigg, are not known.

Setting these items aside, however, the committee papers show that the total cost of the events came to £42 4s 6d. This was exceeded by the donations made by individual villagers, which amounted to £44 9s 9d. The balance (£3 5s 3d) was given to the Kildwick School Games Fund.

Donations were of all sizes, from £10 10/- down to 1/-, and appear to have accumulated rapidly. The celebrations committee was formed on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1935, and by March 25<sup>th</sup> the treasurer was already reporting donations of £16 7s 6d.

Major donors were Mr. J A Smith of Myra Rigg (10 guineas) and Mr. T E Sugden (£5). Smaller amounts were collected by members of the committee from individuals and at the church Thanksgiving Service, as shown in the committee's final accounts.

Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee Celebrations. May 6 <sup>th</sup> 1935.									
Kildwick and Farnhill.									
Income.			£	s	d	Expenditure			£ s d
Donations - Mr J. A. Smith			10	10	.	Prizes for Chr's Sports			8 8 6
" J. E. Sugden			5	.	.	Consolation Prizes, Oranges &c			2 . .
per " Bottomley			7	14	.	Voucher Prizes for Adults			1 15 .
" " Sturdy			2	0	6	Fireworks & Money Order			6 0 6
" " Bracken			1	12	.	Keighley Concertina Band			4 4 .
" " Anty			1	3	6	Souvenir Programmes			2 10 .
" Rev. A.T. Walkden			1	10	.	Service Forms & P.O.			15 9
" Messrs Bancroft & Shuttleworth			7	6	.	Repairs at Pinnacle			4 19 .
Collection at Thanksgiving Service			7	13	9	Receipt Books			2 .
						Caretaker of Parish Room			10 .
						Half Dozen Beakers			6 .
						King Geo's Jubilee Trust			7 13 9
						work still to be done at Pinnacle			3 . .
									42 4 6
						Bal. handed over to Kildwick Sch. Games Fund			2 5 3
									44 9 9
			44	9	9	A.T. Walkden. (Chairman)			
						E. Anty (Hon. Secs.)			

Figure 5: The celebrations committee's final accounts



Details of most of the smaller donations have been lost, but those collected by George Bottomley were recorded most meticulously.

Silver Jubilee Festivities Hillmurch - Barnhill.		£	s.	d.
Mr. S. Denton. °		1.	0.	0.
✓ " A. Proothman. °		10.	0.	0.
✓ " G. Bottomley. °		1.	0.	0.
Mr. G. Sunderland. ° ✓		5.	0.	0.
Mr. Fred Barnett.		10.	0.	0.
✓ " Penkinson		2.	6.	0.
✓ " S. Davis		2.	6.	0.
✓ " John Rushton. ° ✓		5.	0.	0.
✓ " L. Richworth		2.	6.	0.
✓ " Charley Hill. ° ✓		2.	6.	0.
✓ " Rowland Hill		2.	6.	0.
✓ " Miles Parker.		2.	6.	0.
✓ " Lofthouse. °		5.	0.	0.
✓ " Churcher. ° ✓		5.	0.	0.
✓ " Thomas Skell. ° ✓		2.	0.	0.
✓ " Thomas Trindle		5.	0.	0.
✓ " Trindle Bros. ° ✓		5.	0.	0.
Mr. John R. Leese. °		2.	6.	0.
✓ " Est. Holmes. °		1.	0.	0.
Miss Alice Mosley.		1.	6.	0.
Mr. Harry Barnett. °		2.	0.	0.
✓ " John W. Dawson.		2.	0.	0.
B. A. Smith. °		7.	14.	0.
Y. E. Sugden. °		10.	10.	0.
		5.	0.	0.
		23.	7.	0.

Figure 6: Some of the smaller donations made

## **What next – can you help ?**

Do you have any recollections or photographs of royal celebrations in Farnhill or Kildwick that you would be willing to share ? The Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group would like to hear from anyone with their memories of the 1935 Silver Jubilee, the 1937 Coronation, the 1953 Coronation, or the 1977 Silver Jubilee. Please email [admin@farnhill.co.uk](mailto:admin@farnhill.co.uk).

## **Acknowledgements**

The Farnhill Local History Group would like to thank Farnhill Parish Council for the loan of documents.

The programme shown in Figure 1 was kindly loaned by John Lofthouse.