

Kathleen Parkin(nee Woodall) Memorie's
of the Coronation Queen Elizabeth 11

I was aged four when the celebrations started for the Queen's Coronation in June 1952. On the actual day my mam, dad, brother and myself were crammed into our next door neighbour's sitting room. Mr and Mrs Corner had welcomed everyone to come and sit in the front of one of the few TV sets in the village. Families had brought their own chairs and we were packed in like sardines to watch 'this big event on a tiny screen'.

The Saturday after Coronation Day a street party was held, adults as well as children were in fancy dress. People had decorated their homes in red, white and blue bunting, and I can recall helping my mam to make rosettes to put in the window. I was made a costume out of crepe paper. It consisted of a grass skirt a bikini top and flowers in my hair. I remember my mam liberally applying to my skin brown dye with cotton wool. This had been bought as Clemitson's Chemists in Crook specifically for the purpose. In my bottled suntan and costume I looked to the part of a 'hula hula dancer from Hawaii'.

Everyone paraded up to 'Hooks Farm' (now Nortons) at the top of Valley Terrace where the judging was due to take place their field. Marrie Woodward was dressed as the Queen. She was wearing a crown and she won the first prize. After the contest we then had a big party in the barn and there was foods and fun for everyone. All the children were given a coin to commemorate the Coronation and it was a wonderful day. The coin was worth five shillings

My most vivid memory of this time was the day after. It was Sunday and every Sunday after dinner(lunch) the 'ice cream man 'came down our back street with his horse and cart. My brother and I went out to buy our cornet from him and to my astonishment David Hodgeson (a boy in our street who was younger than me) was using his commemorative coin to buy his ice cream. I remember running in to tell my mam what he had done. I went to the draw to see if my coin was still safely tucked away; it was, as it is to this day.

The events surrounding the Coronation of the Queen in June 1952 are a time that evokes nostalgic memoires.

Coronation Celebrations June 1953

Valley Terrace The pit heaps are in the background

Back Row L to R

**John Aisbitt, Rene Hanson, Jenny Corner,
Louise Marshall, Harry Corner**

Front Row L to R

**? ,Colin Pratt, ? ,Marie Woodward,
Kathleen Woodhall, Jennifer Corner, Pauline Hodgson, Anthea Ling**



Valley Terrace Coronation Celebrations

Coronation Celebrations June 1953

40, Valley Terrace

Back Row L to R

**Sarah Woodhall, Ted Woodhall, Dorothy Winter,
Maureen Aisbitt, Mary Calcutt**

Front Row L to R

**David Calcutt, John Woodhall, Tony Calcutt,
Kathleen Woodhall, Jennifer Corner, Marrie Woodward**

