

100+ years of entertaining Wheatley



# Primrose League

Established in 1883, the Primrose League was a milestone in political development in Britain as it provided a more social aspect to political campaigning and lobbying. It appealed to women at a time before they were able to vote, and by 1891 over half of the membership of the League were women.

The Oxford Journal on 23 October 1886 reported the inaugural meeting of '1744 Wheatley Habitation'. At the AGM the following year, Mrs Biscoe of Holton Park was re-elected as Ruling Councillor, Mr Gale of Garsington as Secretary, and Mr E Bott of Wheatley as Treasurer. Miss Tyndale, Miss Frampton and Mrs Way joined the Council. Other reports in 1888 and 1889, detailed its fete in Holton, and on 16 August 1890, a cricket match between Forest Hill and Holton, followed by a programme of sports.



In 1895 Wilfrid Sheldon remembered a good 6d. worth  
German Bands, dancing bears, sword swallowers, fire-eaters and stilt walkers  
in the village.



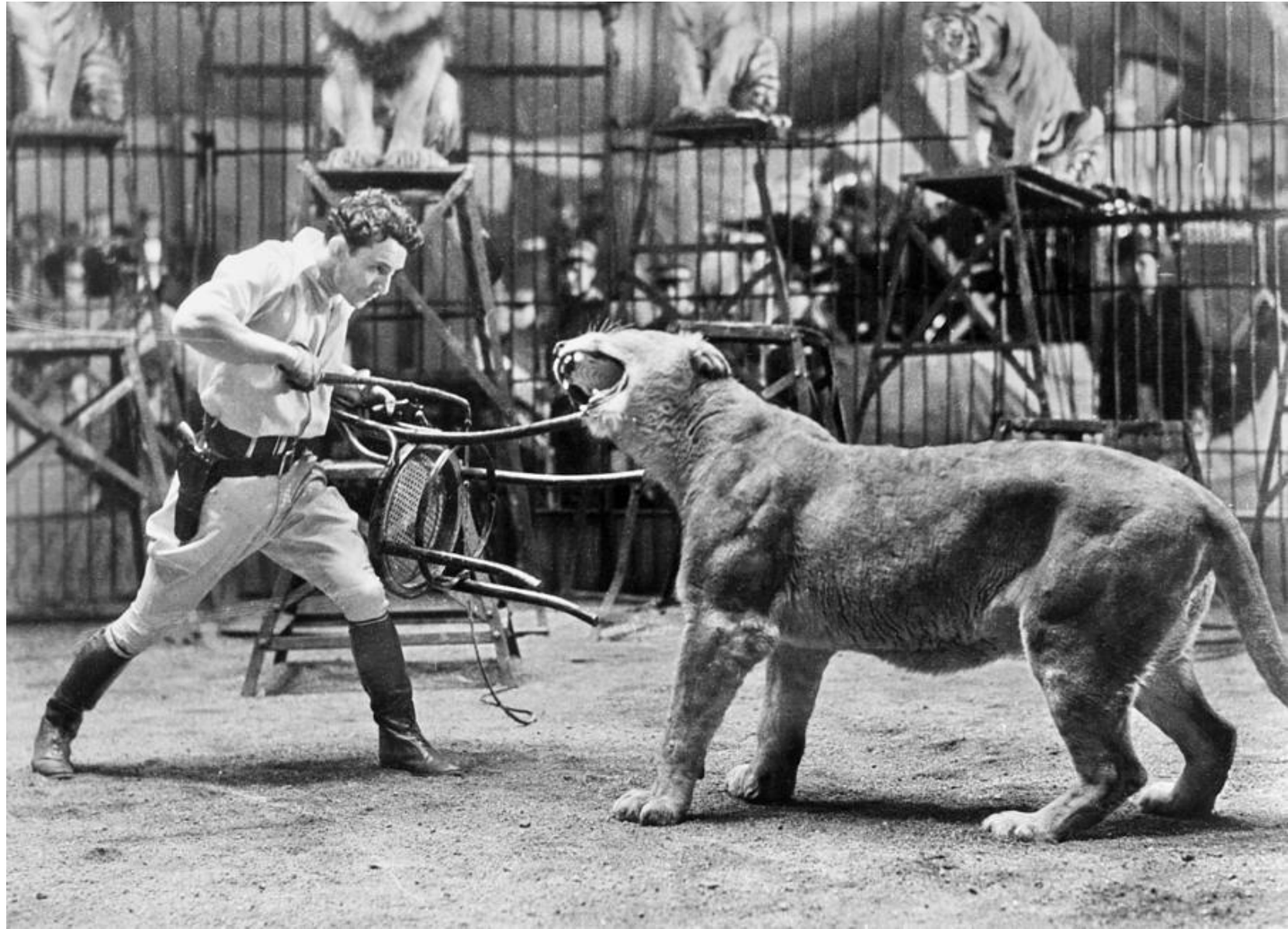
In 1895 Wilfrid Sheldon remembered a good 6d. worth

Organ grinders with monkeys and the cheerful piano organs, travelling circuses and menageries, all usually in the Crown Yard.



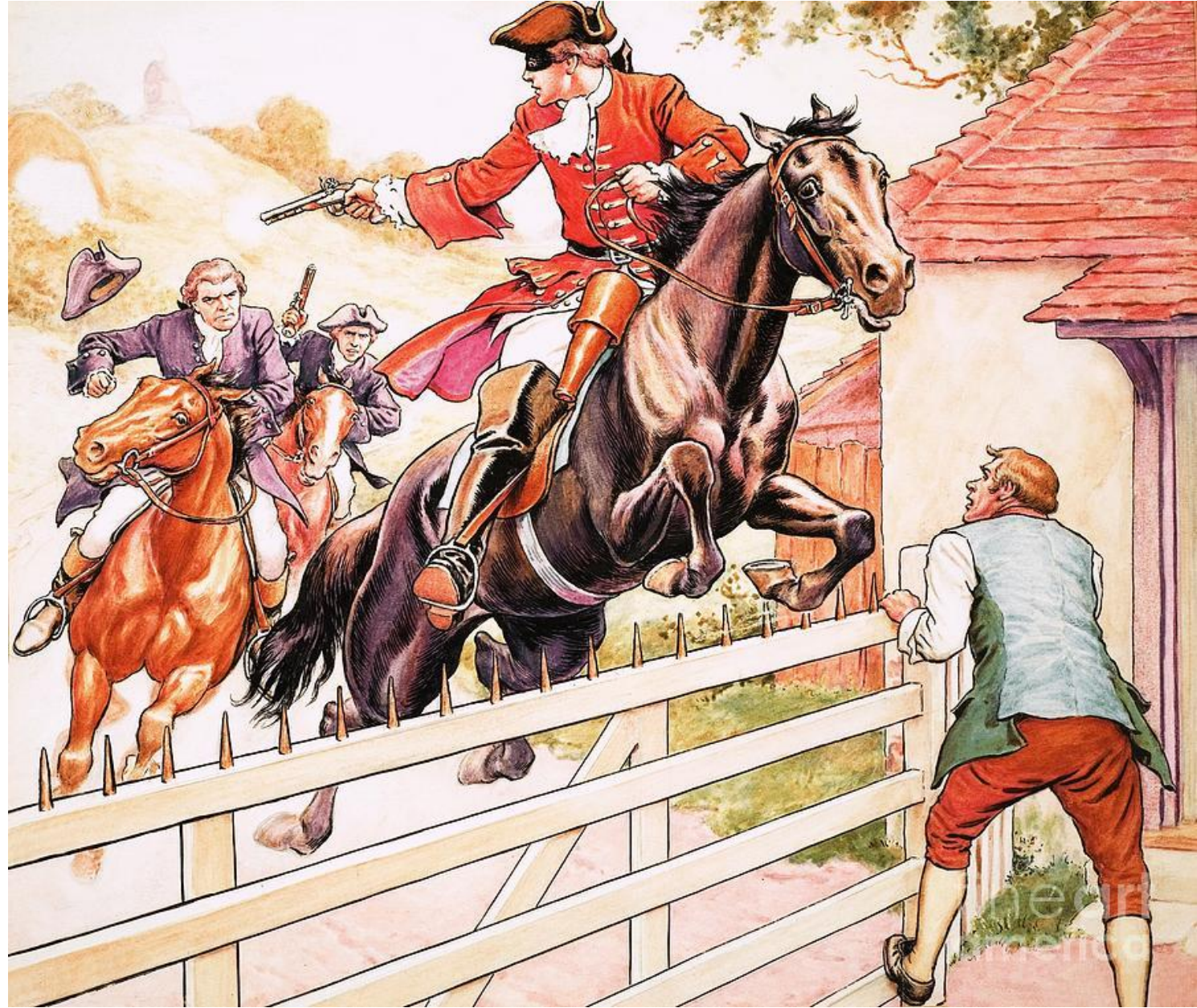
In 1895 Wilfrid Sheldon remembered a good 6d. worth

A lion trainer entering the lion's cage with men with red hot iron bars in case of emergency, trainer with a whip in one hand, a pistol in the other.



In 1895 Wilfrid Sheldon remembered a good 6d. worth

The final item was always the same, Dick Turpin's ride to York. After cantering round the ring a few times, Turpin in a red coat on his famous mare jumped a gate and disappeared.



# 1902 Coronation of Edward VII



Oxford 1902 Coronation medal found recently in Steph Cox's garden



# 1902 Coronation - Meat tea in Wheatley

## Coronation arrangements 1902

The organising committee consisted of Messrs Newell, Alder, Spearing, Rose, Mann, White, Cullum, Cruikshank, Cooper, Smith, Shepherd, Jennings, Shepherd C, Sheldon, Capt. Saw, Jennings, Avery, Stamp, Fowler, Leyshon, Saunders, Goodlake. Only men!

The cost of the festivities was £66 3s 7d with outgoings of £52 14s 4d. Of the surplus, £8 was donated to the Radcliffe Infirmary and £4 to the Eye Hospital.

600 tickets were printed.

The meat tea was based on the following weights (lbs), supplied by Messrs Rose & Bathard @ 9.5d. per lb.

Roast beef	100	
Boiled beef	140	
Hams	80	
Legs of mutton	70	
Shoulders of mutton	50	
Leg/shoulder veal	35	
Meat pies	<u>25</u>	
Total	500	About 1 lb per person

Clayton and Fowler provided the bread of which there were 80 quarters.  
Mr Stamp provided 70 lbs of cheese

12 carvers and 30 waiters were needed

20 dozen lemonade and 20 dozen ginger beer were provided by Messrs Stamp and Smith



# Mid 1900s, Ellen Gunn remembered

Wild beast show Bostock and Wombwell came to the village in the field where 132 Church Road, now stands, more or less opposite the Kings Arms.

Old caravans arriving for feasts and fairs erecting stalls under the trees near the Alderman's House [College Farm], sold glittering china, rattles, dolls, wheel barrows, sweets and even gingerbread snaps. Coconut shies, peep-shows, dancing booths with a local fiddler.

A butcher used to come from Oxford to cook sausages; gas flares to light up at night.

# Mid 1900s, Ellen Gunn remembered

One amusement called 'sea on land'. The old people had a ride and it made them ill!

Cheapjacks used to sell their crockery in White Hart Yard, Peep Shows, stalls, waxworks and many amusements often came.

Men used to come with dancing bears, also a music man with five instruments working at once, bells on a trumpet-shaped hat, drum, cymbals triangle etc.

Fiddlers used to play in booths for dancing at Feasts and Fairs.

# Football

A football club was established by 1902 and the first photo, outside the Merry Bells, which we have is of the team in 1907, (we have most of the names).



# Cricket

There was also a cricket team the same year (again we have most of the names). The background is believed to be an earlier version of a dovecote on the Shotover estate

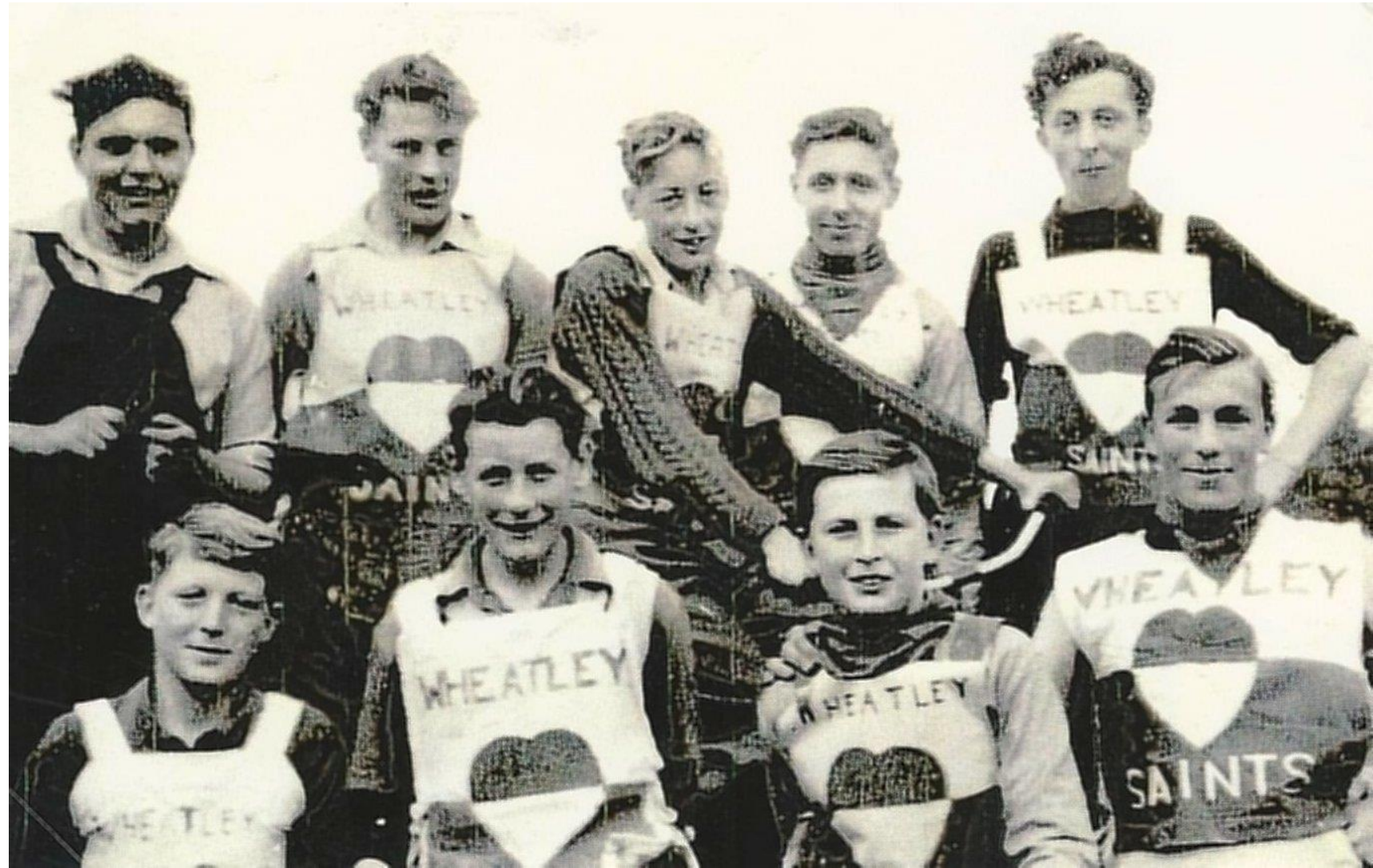
There is a record of a Merry Bells cricket team in 1894.

In 1922, this was run as a combined team between the Merry Bells and the British Legion



# Cycling

Wheatley had a long history of cycle shops which, by the 1950s, manifested itself as Cycle Speedway teams in the 1950s.



# Coronation of George V in 1911 - Sports

## WHEATLEY CORONATION SPORTS

22 JUNE 1911.

### PROGRAMME

- |     |   |                          |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 1.  | 100 yards handicap for Boys under 16  | Prizes 1/6, 1/- and 6d.  |
| 2.  | 50 yards Sack Race for Boys   | Prizes 1/6, 1/- and 6d.  |
| 3.  | Skipping Competition for Girls under 16   | Prizes 1/6, 1/- and 6d.  |
| 4.  | High Jump for Adults. Prizes  | Prizes 3/- and 2/-       |
| 5.  | 100 yards handicap for Adults   | Prizes 3/-, 2/- and 1/-  |
| 6.  | Egg and Spoon Race for Ladies.  | Prizes 2/-, 1/6 and 1/-  |
| 7.  | Three legged Race for Boys under 16   | Prizes 2/-, 1/6 and 1/-  |
| 8.  | 300 yards handicap for Adults   | Prizes 4/-, 3/- and 1/6. |
| 9.  | Thread and Needle Race for Ladies and Gents   | Prizes 2/6, 2/- & 1/6    |
| 10. | 100 yards handicap for Veterans over 40   | Prizes 3/-, 2/- and 1/-  |
| 11. | Skipping Competition for Ladies,  | Prizes 2/6, 1/9 and 1/-  |
| 12. | 120 yards Hurdle Race,  | Prizes 4/-, 3/- and 1/6. |
| 13. | Obstacle Race.  | Prizes 4/-, 3/- and 1/6  |
| 14. | Potato Race for Boys under 16,  | Prizes 2/6, 1/6 and 1/-  |
| 15. | Long Jump.  | Prizes 3/- and 2/-.      |
| 16. | Tug of War for teams of 8 Girls against 6 Boys. Prize 6d for each member of winning team. |                          |
| 17. | Tug of War for Adults,(teams of 8). Prize 1/- for each Member of winning team.            |                          |
| 18. | Consolation Race for Men.   | Prizes 2/-, 1/6 and 1/-. |
| 19. | Consolation Race for Ladies.  | Prizes 2/-, 1/6 and 1/-. |

NOTE. If there are less than six entries for any of the above Races, two Prizes only will be given.

There will also be two BOWLING COMPETITIONS, the entrance fee for which will be 1d. Men will be handicapped as against Ladies. All Bowling must take place before 7.30, when the ties will be played off.

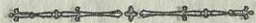
The Prizes will be -

1. A PIG VALUE ONE POUND.
2. A TEA SERVICE VALUE ONE POUND.

Entries should be made as early as possible to the following Members of the Sports Committee,- Mr. Grant, Mr. A. Chapman, Mr. C. Cooper, Mr. H. D. Cooper, Mr. C. Harris, Mr. W. C. Sheldon, Mr E Shepherd, Mr. F. Turner and Mr. T. White.

# 1923 – Trial by Jury

## Merry Bells, Wheatley.



On Thursday, February 8th, & Friday, February 9th,

THE WHEATLEY SONG CLUB

will present the Opera

### “TRIAL BY JURY,”

By W. S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN.

— :: —

The Learned Judge	... ..	ERNEST ROBERTS.
The Plaintiff	... ..	FREDA HEATH.
The Defendant	... ..	KENNETH PEACOCK.
The Counsel for the Plaintiff	... ..	ERNEST SHELDON.
The Usher	... ..	FREDERICK SHEPHERD.
The Foreman of the Jury	... ..	ALBERT BURGESS.

The Bridesmaids	{	AMY WALKER, DOROTHY ANTROBUS, ALICE HARRIS, MAY HARRIS, ELIZABETH JONES and WINIFRED STONE.
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The Jury	{	HERBERT ARCHER, ARTHUR CHAPMAN, RISBY COOMBES, HENRY HAINES, EDMUND HARRIS, BERNARD PERKINS, JAMES PIGOT, ALFRED STONE and THOMAS WHITING.
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The General Public	{	CLARA ARCHER, EDITH BARNES, HILDA BATES, BLANCHE BATHARD, MARGARET BROWN, ROSINA CRIPPS, EMMA CHRISTIAN, LILY ELLISON, CONSTANCE FOWLER, LINTON GOSTICK, MARGARET HAINES, ANNIE JENNINGS, AMY RADFORD, CONSTANCE STONE and DAPHNE STONE.
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SCENE : A Court of Justice, 1870 or thereabouts.

At the Piano - ARTHUR SHELDON, A.R.C.O.  
Conductor - MAURICE BELL.

On Thursday, February 8th,

“TRIAL BY JURY,” WILL BE FOLLOWED BY  
MISS JENKIN'S DRAMATIC COMPANY

— IN —

(1)—

### “The Sire de Maletroit's Door,”

(Adapted from R. L. Stevenson).

The Sire de Maletroit	... ..	MISS HUXLEY.
Denis de Beaulieu	... ..	MISS COUNSELL.
Blanche de Maletroit	... ..	MISS SARGENT.
A Monk	... ..	MRS. BIRCH.

SCENE : FRANCE, 1429.

(2)—

### “The Spell,”

PANTOMIME IN TWO ACTS by Miss HUXLEY.

Miss Snippitt	... ..	MISS HUXLEY.
Miss Larnem	... ..	MRS. BIRCH.
Mr. Precisely	... ..	MISS SARGENT.
Professor Bomboso	... ..	MISS POYNTON.
The Queen	... ..	MISS LIVESAY.
A Fairy	... ..	MISS COUNSELL.

Act 1.—A SCHOOLROOM.  
Act 2.—A CAVE.



WHEATLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE PAGEANT  
- THE FAIRY PLAY - NO. 1

# 1929 W.I. Pageant



WHEATLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE PAGEANT  
THE FUNERAL PROCESSION OF ARCHBISHOP LAUD THROUGH WHEATLEY - 7.  
IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II



WHEATLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE PAGEANT 2.  
ANGLO SAXONS AND KENTISH TRADERS AT WHEATLEY ABOUT 500 A.D.



WHEATLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE PAGEANT. 9.



Charabanc outing in 1930 – look at the hats!



# 1935 George V Silver Jubilee



# 1937 Coronation of George VI



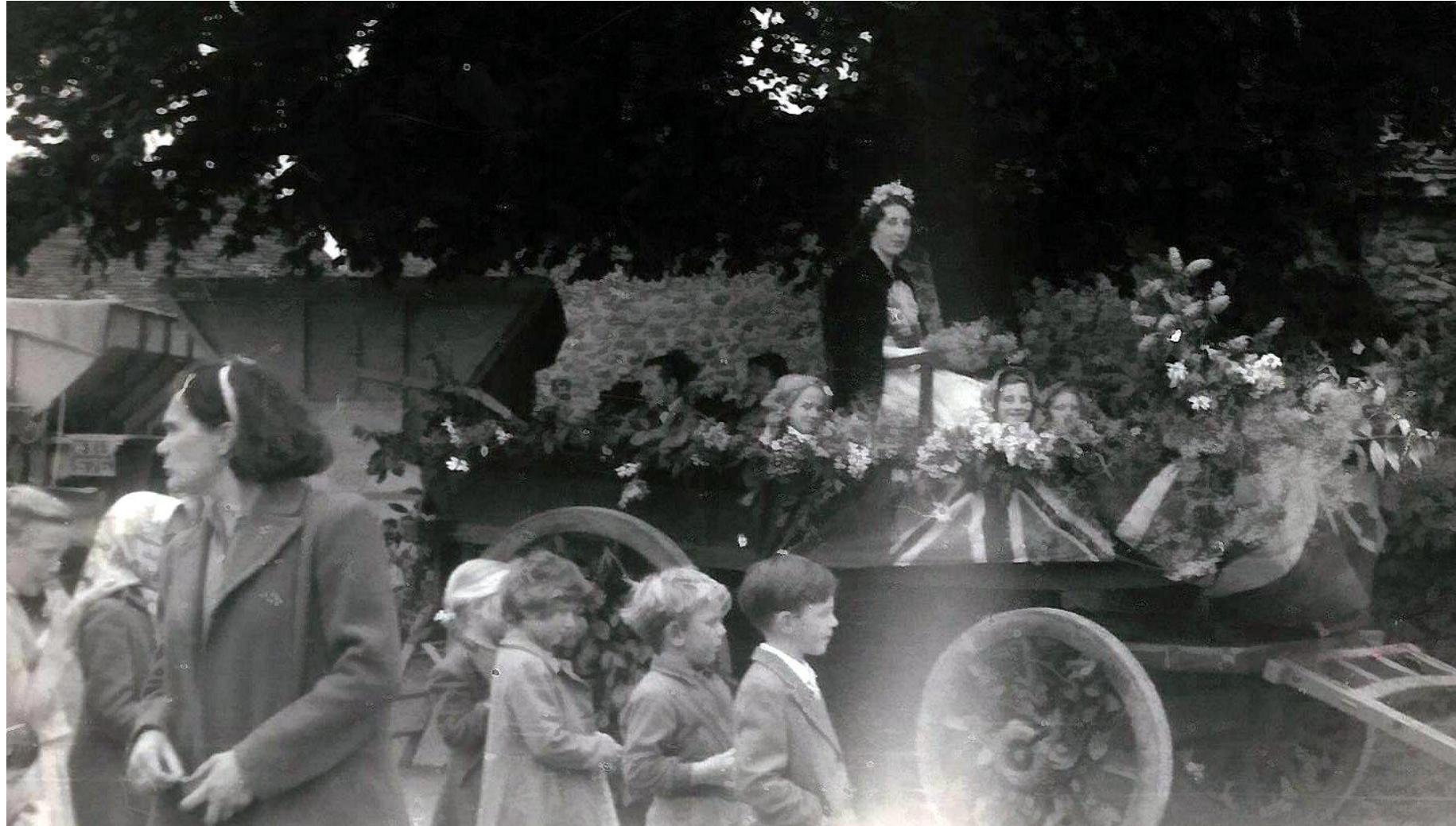
# Drama group in 1950



# 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II



# 1953 Coronation of Elizabeth II



# 1953 Coronation of Elizabeth II – village celebrations

1.

9.30 - Combined Service, conducted by the Vicar,  
10.0 a.m. The Rev.C.R.de Lyons Pike, M.A.  
Lesson read by Mr.F.B.Shepherd of the  
Congregational Church.  
Service sheets will be available.

2.0 p.m. Fancy dress procession, starting from the  
Avenue and proceeding via Roman Road, High St.,  
and Holloway Road to the Recreation Ground for  
judging.

Good prizes will be given for the most  
original, comic, and artistic costumes, both  
children and adults, as well as for the best  
decorated bicycles, prams and push chairs etc.

This will be followed by a race for men in  
fancy dress costume, and pushing decorated  
prams or push chairs, starting at and returning  
to the Recreation Ground, via Holloway Road,  
turn right, High Street, turn right to the  
Sun Inn and so back to start.

Prizes will also be given for the best  
decorated houses - judging to take place on  
Coronation morning.

4.30 p.m. Teas for children:

- (a) Toddlers and up to the age of 7, or still  
at the Infant School, in the Junior School  
Canteen.
- (b) From 7 years onwards, and all children still  
at school, in the Secondary School Canteen.

A Coronation Mug will be presented to each child  
at the meal.

2.

6.0 p.m. Sports on the playing field of the Secondary  
School, (Entry by the Top Gates) by permission  
of the Governors and Headmaster.

- (a) Children's events - list available from,  
and entries to, the Headmasters of the  
schools, where possible before the day.
- (b) Adult events mainly of a comic nature -  
entries on the field.
- (c) At the Cycle Speedway, Wheatley Saints Club  
will compete for prizes offered by the  
Committee.

8.30 p.m. Dance, open to all, at "The Merry Bells"

10.0 p.m. Bonfire, on waste ground near the New Council  
Estate. A number of fireworks will herald  
the lighting of the fire.

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Thursday, June 4th. Tea and Entertainment for the  
"over 60s" at the Merry Bells at  
5.30 p.m.

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Friday, June 5th. A Free Whist Drive at 8 p.m. at  
"The Merry Bells" with good prizes,  
for all those of Wheatley and  
Littleworth who have supported the  
Coronation Whist Drives throughout  
the winter.

# 1953 Coronation of Elizabeth II

Outside Hanks Cottage in Crown Square: L to R: Bob Clack, ?, Jack Hanks, Eileen Dungey (nee Hanks), Mr Hanks (senior), Jack Hanks horse (Winston), Norman Hanks, George Dungey, Les Hilsdon





# 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

£357 cost is equivalent to about £30,000 today

Wheatley Coronation Fund		
Final Monthly Statement of monies raised 31 <sup>st</sup> May 1953		
Receipts		Expenses
Balance 30 <sup>th</sup> April	234 " 15 " 0	
May 1 <sup>st</sup> Military Whist Drive	22 " 19 " 0	May 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dance
Draw for tea & dinner services (details already given)	15 " 8 " 0	Room £. 5 " 0
" 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dance	£. 5 " 0	Band 6 " 15 " 0
Door 12 " 0 " 0		Refreshments 8 " 11 "
Raffle 1 " 12 " 7		Prizes 4 " 2 1/2 "
Refreshments 1 " 5 " 11		Raffles 1 " 2 " 3
		Gas 1 " 0
Balance to fund £4 " 14 " 1 1/2	14 " 18 " 6	
" 9 <sup>th</sup> Sale of antique mug - per Mrs Underwood	2 " 0 " 0	
Donation Mrs Fuller	10 " 0 " 0	
" Mrs Dimsdale (19/3/53)	2 " 0 " 0	
" 14 <sup>th</sup> " Mr H Avery	5 " 0 " 0	
" Miss Avery	10 " 0 " 0	
" Wheatley R.A.O. Buffaloes	5 " 0 " 0	
" 16 <sup>th</sup> " Mr V.C. White	5 " 0 " 0	
" Aid W Tombs	1 " 0 " 0	
" Wheatley Women's Legion	2 " 0 " 0	
" Wheatley Congreg <sup>n</sup> Church	1 " 1 " 0	
" 16 <sup>th</sup> Dance		" 16 <sup>th</sup> Dance
Door 11 " 0 " 0		Room £1 " 13 " 0
Refreshments 1 " 0 " 6		Band £6 " 10 " 0
Draw 3 " 0 " 2		Refresh 11 " 6
	15 " 0 " 8	Draw £1 " 0 " 1 1/2
Balance to fund £5 " 6 " 0 1/2		
" 18 <sup>th</sup> Further Ticket Money from Concert on 24 <sup>th</sup> April - per Mr Davis	4 " 0	" 18 <sup>th</sup> Duplicating paper
" 20 <sup>th</sup> Donation - Mrs Cane	7 " 6	
" Mr & Mrs Cox	5 " 0	
" Mr Edwards	2 " 6	
" 21 Variety Concert organised by Messrs E Whitley & J Padbury		" 21 <sup>st</sup> Variety Concert
By pre-sale of tickets		Room £1 " 5 " 0
Mr Whitley £2 " 0 " 0		Refreshments 6 " 4
Mr Padbury £1 " 17 " 6		Taxi 7 " 0
Mrs Morris £3 " 5 " 0		
Mr G Crook £12 " 10 " 0		
Door £4 " 4 " 6		
Balance to fund £21 " 18 " 8	23 " 17 " 0	" 27 <sup>th</sup> Rosettes 10 " 0
" 22 Donation - Wheatley Women's Institute	3 " 0 " 0	Hats 10 " 0
" 21 Collecting Boxes from Business premises	2 " 6 " 8 1/2	Flags & Pennants 1 " 14 " 6
		Fireworks 2 " 2 " 6
	£357 " 4 " 10 1/2	Balance at Bank & in hand 329 " 13 " 0 1/2
		£357 " 4 " 10 1/2

Before payments for the coronation preparations commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> May, the fund stood at approx £335

F.C.E. Anson  
Hon Treas.

# The 'Not So Young Club' in the 1950s at Mulberry Court



# Cast for a play in the early 1950s in the Merry Bells



# Girl Guides at a Valentine's dance in 1958



1 Sarah Fitt 2 Yvonne Paris 3 Leader from Garsington 4 ? 5 Gloria Knight 6 Katherine Allen  
7 Diane Syson 8 Jean Harrison (Wheatley leader) 9 Angela Coleman 10 Kathleen Spence  
11 Margaret Coleman 12 Marguerite Paris 13 Gladys King 14 Kay Humphries 15 Deborah Syson

# Wheatley Festival in 1976

Tug-of-war  
Templars Close team



# Wheatley Festival in 1976



# Wheatley Festival in 1976

## Wheatley Morris Men

Dick the musician, David Oxford,  
Peter Mott, John Brock,  
John Brookes, bagman Barry ?  
Ron Hollingworth, Mick Jones,  
John Chandler, the fool (top hat and  
frock) David ?



# Queen's silver jubilee in 1977

## Procession with floats





# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977



# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977



# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977

Skittles



# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977

Silver Jubilee 1977  
with traditional Games.

Knur and Spell. The ball, 'Knur' (seen in the air in line with his midriff) is launched from the flat piece of timber on the ground and he then has to hit it as far as possible with the stick, the 'Spell', in his hand.



# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977

Wellie  
Wanging



# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977

Tin Can Shy



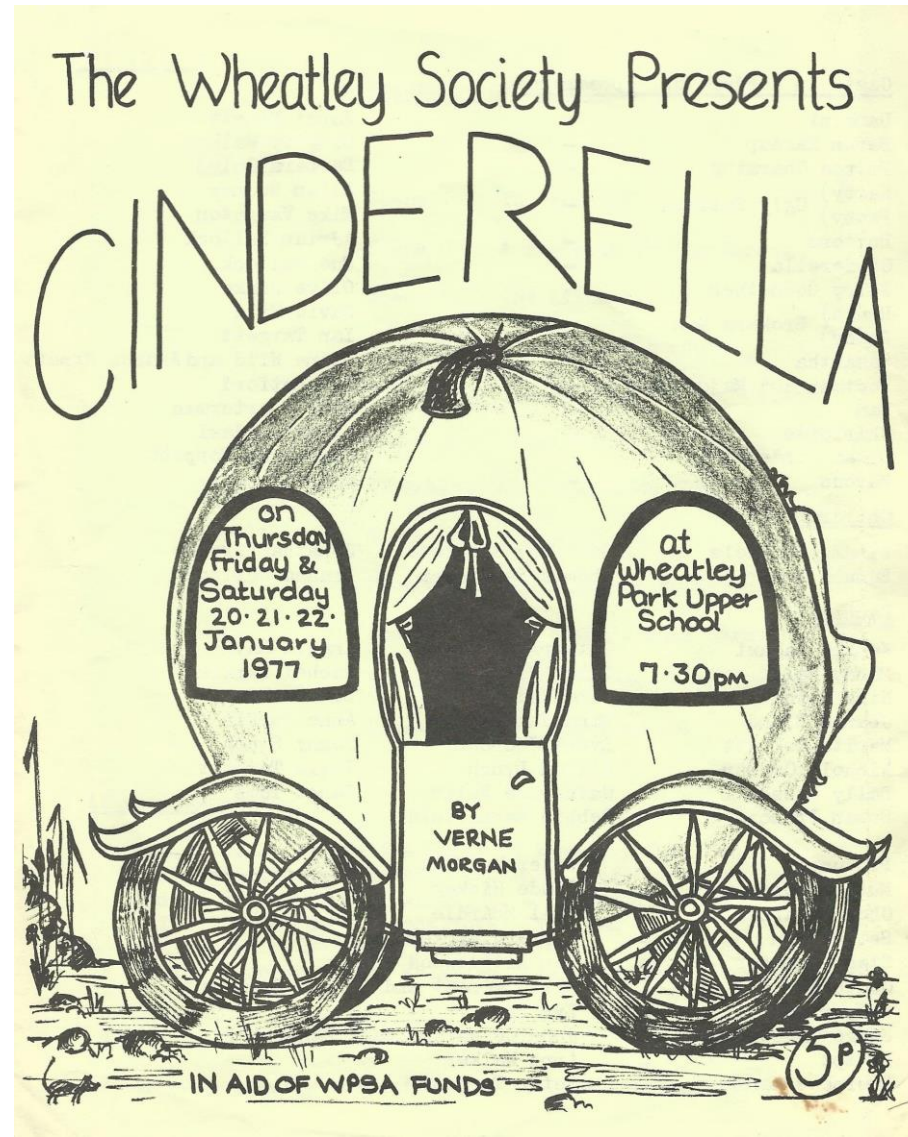
# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977

## Pole Jousting



# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977

Wheatley's first  
pantomime?





# Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977



Dancing at the New Club

# Pram Race at the Wheatley Festival in 1982

in Crown Square



# Pram Race in 1987

with a bed!



# Merry Bells Centenary 1988

Processing outside  
the Sandpiper in  
High Street



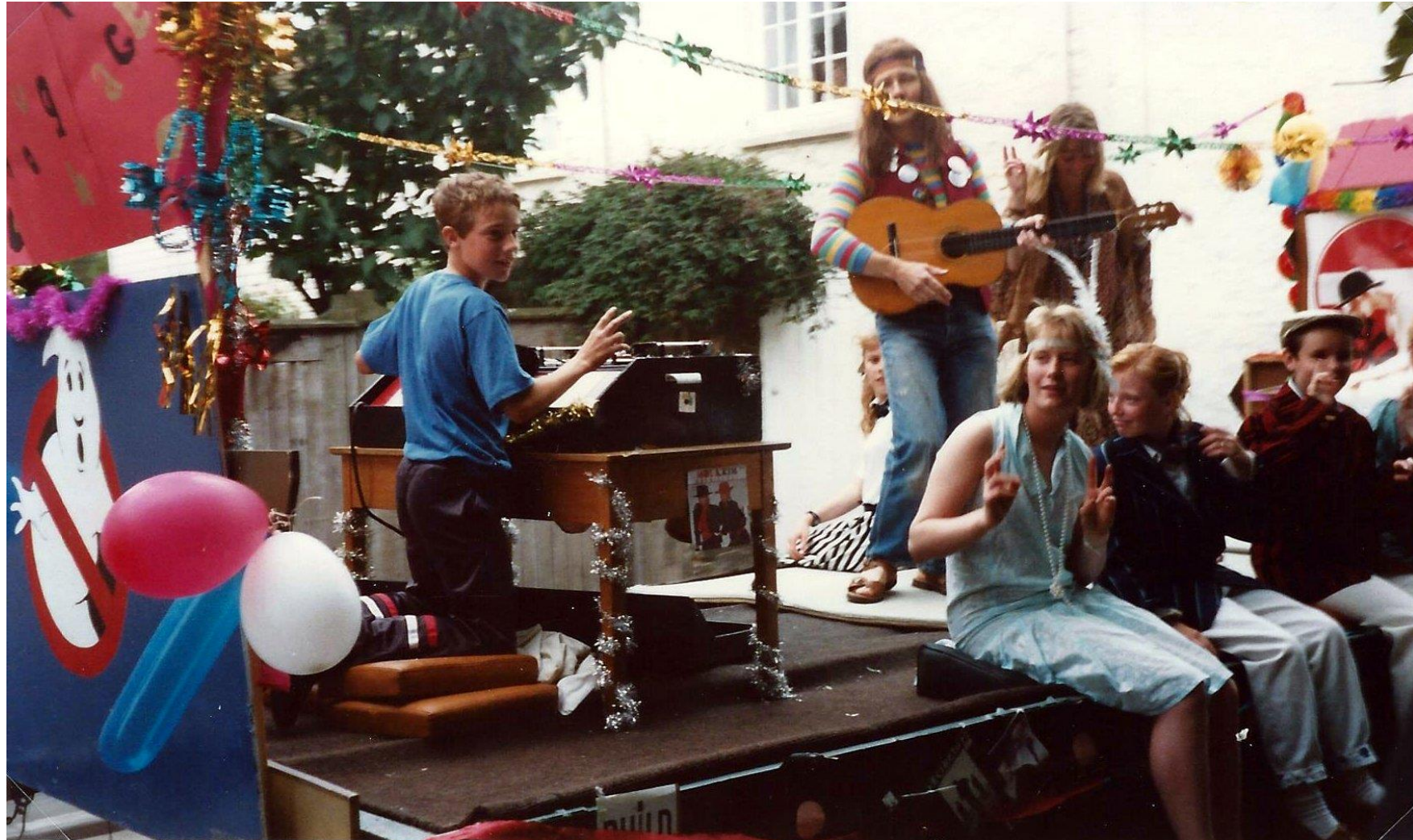
# Merry Bells Centenary 1988



# Merry Bells Centenary 1988



# Merry Bells Centenary 1988



# Millennium Celebration 2000

Still processing...





# Millennium Celebration 2000



# Millennium Celebration 2000

Introducing  
exhibitions after  
the Archive was  
officially formed



# Village Produce Association 2001



# Village Produce Association Awards in 2002

## TROPHIES AND AWARDS 2002

RHS BANKSIAN MEDAL Mr R. GIBBONS

A/G RED RIBBON MR ALF PRESTON

THE KNOWLES CUP MR ALF PRESTON

THE WILFRED SHELDON TROPHY N/A

DR ORCHARD'S CUP MR ALF PRESTON

THE SHELDON ROSE BOWL Mrs G. TRUENAN and Mrs G. MORGAN JONES

THE R F WHITE CHALLENGE SHIELD MR D RYE

THE WHEATLEY (VPA) WINE CUP N/A

THE FRED ANSON WINE CUP MR K. LUPCOCK

THE GEORGE BOWLER AWARD MR T BROOKLYN

THE MARKHAM JUBILEE TROPHY MRS G. TRUENAN

THE GEORGE SMITH "COUNTRYMAN" TROPHY MR R. GIBBONS

THE HAROLD PIGEON AWARD Mrs Anne Clarke

THE WYEVALE GARDEN CENTRE TROPHY Mr R. GIBBONS

THE FRED DAVIS CUP Mr R. GIBBONS

THE HARDING CUPS 1 Robert Claxfield

2 Louise Claxfield

3 \_\_\_\_\_

THE HARDING CUP (JUNIOR GARDEN) \_\_\_\_\_

THE MILLENNIUM TROPHY MRS G. MORGAN-JONES

# VPA 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010

In 2010, Wheatley Village Produce Association (V.P.A.) celebrated the 70th anniversary of its formation during the Second World War. During this time, the Village Produce Association has served the local community well in a variety of ways and is now probably the oldest established organisation in Wheatley. While some of the earliest activities such as the Annual Show and Dinner remain, more social activities are now enjoyed by members such as the annual day trips to gardens of note or large horticultural shows and a year-long programme of events and lectures. Recent years have also seen the introduction of holidays where members can mix horticulture with pleasure.

## **DIGGING FOR VICTORY**



**WHEATLEY  
VILLAGE PRODUCE  
ASSOCIATION  
1940 - 2010**

# Celebration of Queen's Diamond Jubilee - 2012

Still processing...  
Clive Hallett as  
Queen Elizabeth I



# Celebration of Queen's Diamond Jubilee - 2012



# Celebration of Queen's Diamond Jubilee - 2012

Sue and  
Chris Hales





# Celebration of Queen's Diamond Jubilee - 2012

Tea on the rec.  
in the rain



# Celebration of Queen's Diamond Jubilee - 2012



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

## Wheatley Park Soul Band



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

Dave Simms,  
Paddy Hill,  
Harry Mennie



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

Wheatley Community  
Choir, also known as  
'Around the Piano' run  
by Rachel Cave



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

Asda Community  
staff



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

The cake with the  
cook - Karen Betts





# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

Some 'floats' have now become a means of transport rather than walking



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

## Wheatley Cubs and Scouts



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016



**Queen's 90th birthday celebration cake  
made by Karen Betts**

# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016

Edna Ackroyd,  
Nikki (Olive's carer),  
Tony Barry (background),  
Olive Drake



# Wheatley Society recent events

40<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
in 2014 with original  
members



# Wheatley Society recent events

2017

Wales Cymru



Hello, Good Evening and Welcome to  
Wheatley Society's Welsh Evening

Helo, Noswaith Dda a Croeso i'r  
Noson Gymraeg Gymdeithas  
Wheatley



# Wheatley Society recent events

2019

**Arrival:** Background French Café music

**Pre-supper:**

The Concessionaires– Roger Simmonds, Mike Geary, David Keene and Danny Wilkinson

Il est bel et bon

Michelle

Wendy Benson – Fauré - Au Bord de l’Eau

Kathy Keene and Cyril Newton - I Remember it Well from Gigi

**Between courses:**

Arthur Maddox – diplomatic tales from Paris

Allan Hicks, David Mancey and Robin Vernède – Breakdown sur le Motorway

Bill Jackson - Le Hibou et le Poussiquette - Edward Lear

Wendy Benson and Ann Gajda – “Deux Chats Chanteuse” Rossini

Laurence Lalanne-Devlin - French Cookery Quiz

**Later on:**

Robin Vernède – Chanson d’Automne – Paul Verlaine & Les Feuilles Mortes - Yves Montand

The Concessionaires

Under the Bridges of Paris

I love Paris

Roger Simmonds

Sur le Pont d’Avignon

Frère Jacques

Finale: La Marseillaise

# What did the Wheatley and District Conservative Association do?

We know that they held:

Annual dinner

Whist Drive

Christmas party

Cine film shows

Stratford Theatre trip in 1957

BBQ

Wine & cheese



# What did the British Legion do?

We know that they held:

Children's parties

Bingo

Annual dinner

Trip to the Imperial War Museum

Visited Chelsea Pensioners 11 July 2013

Speakers and luncheons

Poppy Day



100+ years of entertaining Wheatley





The End