

# **A CHRONICLE OF CORONATION MALPAS**

**Malpas from 1952 to 1954 through reports and  
photographs from the 'Chester Chronicle' together  
with some additional archive material  
(researched and written by David Hayns)**

Images of the Chester Chronicle are stored on microfilm at the Cheshire Record Office in Chester. These images are not of sufficiently sharp quality to produce reasonable photographs so the County Archivist kindly arranged for the original bound files of the newspaper covering 1952, 1953 and 1954 to be brought up from the Record Office's out-store in a disused salt mine, deep underground at Winsford. Here the environmental conditions are perfect for document storage and the mine is used for this purpose by many organisations. Thanks are due to Michael Green, who was the Executive Editor of the Chester Chronicle at that time, for granting permission for the photographs to be published. Thanks too for the help received towards this presentation from Ian & Pauline Lawrence and Mary Davis.

# **SOCIAL EVENTS**

## The Farming Community

Naturally in this agricultural area much of the social activity in Malpas revolved around the farming community. Many farmers were also involved with fox-hunting and belonged to the Wynnstay or one of the other local hunts. The Malpas Farmers' Daughters Dance is something that would be unlikely to happen today – perhaps it was an opportunity for the daughters to meet potential partners!

MALPAS YOUNG FARMERS'  
CLUB

## A Fancy Dress Ball

will be held in the  
JUBILEE HALL - MALPAS

on  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1952.

Dancing 8 p.m.—1 a.m. to  
REG. WILLIAMS' BAND.

Catering by Chatwin's, Nantwich.

Valuable Prizes will be given for  
the Fancy Dress Competition

TICKETS . . 12/- Each  
(inclusive).

obtainable from Miss G. Willett, Bank  
Farm, Tilston (Tel. Tilston 264) and  
members of the Committee.

MALPAS YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB.

A Grand

## Whist Drive and Dance

will be held in the  
JUBILEE HALL - MALPAS,  
on THURSDAY, FEB. 26th, 1953.

Whist to commence at 7 p.m.  
Dance 10 p.m. to 1-30 a.m.

NOEL BRADLEY and His BAND.  
Tickets for Whist . . 3/6 (inclusive).  
Dance only . . 5/-

Refreshments at moderate charges.  
Tickets obtainable from Miss G. Willett  
Bank Farm, Tilston (Tel. Tilston 264),  
or any Committee member.

MALPAS YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

## Dinner and Dance

TUESDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 1953  
7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

QUAINTWAYS RESTAURANT,  
CHESTER.

Tickets £1-1-0 each.

## MIDDLEWICH BEAT MALPAS IN Y.F.C. QUIZ

In the second round of the Federation Quiz competition for Young Farmers' Clubs held at the Town Hall on Thursday last week, the Middlewich team won by 52½ points against 45 by Malpas. All the questions related to agriculture and the answers revealed wide knowledge and sound judgment.

Mr. J. Platt presided and welcomed the Malpas team and the quiz-masters, Mr. T. Cooper, well known member of the Stretton Club, Mr. Haggie, Cheshire A.E.C. Advisory Officer, and Mrs. Shelmadine, of Allstock. The timekeeper was Mr. Howarth. The Malpas team consisted of Messrs. P. Claire, D. Allen, T. Moore, G. Cross, J. Siddorn and J. Parsonage, with the Misses G. Vickers, M. Cornes and J. Riley. Opposing them were Messrs J. Platt, M. Brindley, J. Glendinning, M. Hollinshead, J. Moss, J. B. Stringer and the Misses J. Barker, D. Moss and H. Sherwin. The Chairman was Mr. A. E. Parkinson, A.E.C. Advisory Officer.

In the interval refreshments were served by Messrs. Hancocks. The evening concluded with a dance to the Evergreen's band (Knutsford). The annual dance will be held on Thursday February 12th.



**NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION**  
(Malpas Branch).

The Annual  
**WHIST DRIVE and DANCE**

will be held in the  
**JUBILEE HALL MALPAS**  
on **WEDNESDAY JAN. 23rd, 1952,**  
commencing 7-15 p.m.

**PRIZES VALUE £20.**

**Tickets 7/6 each (Inclusive of  
Whist Refreshments).**

Tickets obtainable from the Secretary:  
F. W. Cureton N.F.U. Offices, High St.,  
Malpas (Tel. 10)

**NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION**  
(Malpas Branch)

**THE ANNUAL**

**Whist Drive & Dance**

at **THE JUBILEE HALL, MALPAS**  
**WEDNESDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1953**  
commencing 7.30 p.m.

**PRIZES VALUE £20,** subscribed by  
the Tradesmen of Malpas.

Tickets : 5/- each.

(Refreshments at moderate charges)

**In aid of Jubilee Hall Fund.**

Tickets available from the Entertainment  
Committee or Secretary, F. W.  
Cureton, N.F.U. Office, Malpas.

**NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION**  
(MALPAS BRANCH)

**The ANNUAL BALL**

will be held at  
**The Jubilee Hall, Malpas**  
on

**FRIDAY, 6th NOVEMBER, 1953**

Dancing 8 p.m. till 2 a.m. to  
**FRANK LLOYD & HIS BAND**

**Tickets 15/- (inclusive)** available  
from the Secretary, F. W. Cureton,  
N.F.U. Office, Malpas (Tel. 10), or  
members of the Entertainment  
Committee.



**MALPAS FARMERS' HUNT  
BALL**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30th,**  
at The JUBILEE HALL, MALPAS.

**KINMELL HALL BAND.**

Tickets . . price £1.1.0.

Apply Mrs. G. Brooks, The Hough,  
Malpas. cp239

Preliminary Notice.

**MALPAS FARMERS' DAUGHTERS.**

**\* A DANCE \***

to be held in the  
JUBILEE HALL - MALPAS,

on

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1954.**



## SIR W. W. WYNN'S HUNT

### The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held in the  
JUBILEE HALL MALPAS  
on WEDNESDAY, 23rd JAN. 1952,  
at 3 p.m.

All Landowners, Covert Owners, Subscribers and Tenant Farmers within the boundaries of the Hunt are entitled to attend, in addition to members of the Hunt, and will be cordially welcomed.

G. E. FITZHUGH,  
Hon Secretary.

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## SIR W. W. WYNN'S HUNT

**T**HE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Hunt will be held in the JUBILEE HALL, MALPAS, on Friday, 6th FEBRUARY, 1953, at 2-30 p.m.

All Landowners, Covert Owners, Subscribers, and Tenant Farmers within the boundaries of the Hunt are entitled to attend, in addition to members of the Hunt, and will be welcomed.

G. E. FITZHUGH,  
Hon. Sec.

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## Sir W. W. Wynn's Hunt POINT-to-POINT

will be held at  
OVERTON HALL, MALPAS

on

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st 1953

First Race 2-30 p.m.

Five Races including—

HUNT CUP,

LADIES OPEN RACE,

THREE ADJACENT HUNTS'  
RACES

Adjacent Hunts are, Cheshire, Cheshire Forest, Flint and Denbigh, North Shropshire South Shropshire North Staffordshire

Further information from:

Major E. R. Kearsley, Rose Hill,

Erbistock, Wrexham.

Tel Overton-on-Dee 214

ENTRIES CLOSE 10 p.m. Saturday,  
March 14th

21/787a



**The annual Garden Parties/Fetes at Saint Joseph's College (The Beeches) in Tilston Road were always very popular events. Coach parties used to come to them from as far away as Birkenhead (Saint Joseph's was part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury, which had its headquarters in Birkenhead). When was the last time a Ladies' Cockerel Race was run in Malpas?!**

THE BEECHES - MALPAS  
**Grand Garden Fete**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 28th, 1952

To be Opened by  
Mrs. Rasbotham (Ebnal Grange)  
at 2 p.m.

Side-Shows, Pony Rides, Ladies' Cockerel Race, Children's Races, Punch & Judy Show, etc.

**Final of Lawn Tennis Tournament**  
(Entries of Mr. Cyril Taylor, "Hilbre," Tilston Road, Malpas, not later than June 21. Entrance Fee 5/- per couple.)

**DISPLAY OF IRISH DANCING.**  
**Children's Fancy Dress Competition**  
to be judged by Capt. and Mrs. J. C. Wolley Dod.  
(Entries to Mrs. R. J. Corker, Church Street.)

Special Engagement of  
**WHITCHURCH TOWN PRIZE BAND**  
Refreshments :: Free Car Park.

**ADMISSION: Adults 1/6, Children 6d.**  
Proceeds in aid of St. Joseph's College Repair Fund.

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*Garden party at The  
Beeches, Malpas*





**PUBLIC NOTICES**

MALPAS NEW BOWLING CLUB.

**A GRAND DANCE**

to be held in the  
**JUBILEE HALL MALPAS,**  
**WEDNESDAY, 30th JAN. 1952**  
Dancing 8 p.m to 1 a.m

**BILLY GIBBONS and His**  
**Broadcasting BAND**

Tickets 3 6 (or pay at door)  
Refreshments at moderate charge.

**SELECTION of 'MISS MALPAS**  
at 10-30 p.m approx

455

These clippings from the Chronicle illustrate two popular Malpas sporting activities. The tennis courts were on the levelled section at the top of the Recreation Ground in Tilston Road.

**TENNIS TROPHY FOR MALPAS CLUB**



Miss Barbara Cartwright, captain and secretary of the Malpas club, with the Tarporley and District Mid-week Tennis League cup. Also in the picture are Mr. and Mrs. H. Meredith, of Tarporley. Mr. Meredith is the donor of the cup and his wife presented it to Miss Cartwright. The ceremony took place on Wednesday last week at the Jubilee Hall, Malpas.



**THE CYNTHIA HANCOCK  
SCHOOL OF DANCING**

CLASSES will Commence  
in the

**VICTORIA JUBILEE HALL,  
MALPAS,**

on THURSDAY, 8th OCTOBER.

**Babies 3-30 p.m. Juniors 4-45 p.m.**

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Many will remember Cynthia Hancock's dancing school which was one of the many which have run, and continue to run in the Jubilee Hall.

Miss Ida Jones was the headteacher of Malpas Infants' School. At this time it was still a Church of England school, completely independent of the Malpas Alport School. The original school was housed in the wing purpose-built in 1833 onto the original 1745 Alport School in Tilston Road. In 1874 a new infants' school (now the Alport School annexe) was built and the original school became the infant headteacher's house. In 1960, following the opening of Malpas County Secondary School (now the Heber High School), the Infants' School finally merged with the Alport School to form the Malpas Alport Endowed Primary School (5-11 years), as it still is today. Miss Jones was elected President of the Chester and District Teachers Federation in March 1952. In May 1955 she became the first woman to be elected as a Malpas parish councillor but sadly died two months later.



# MARITAL MILESTONES



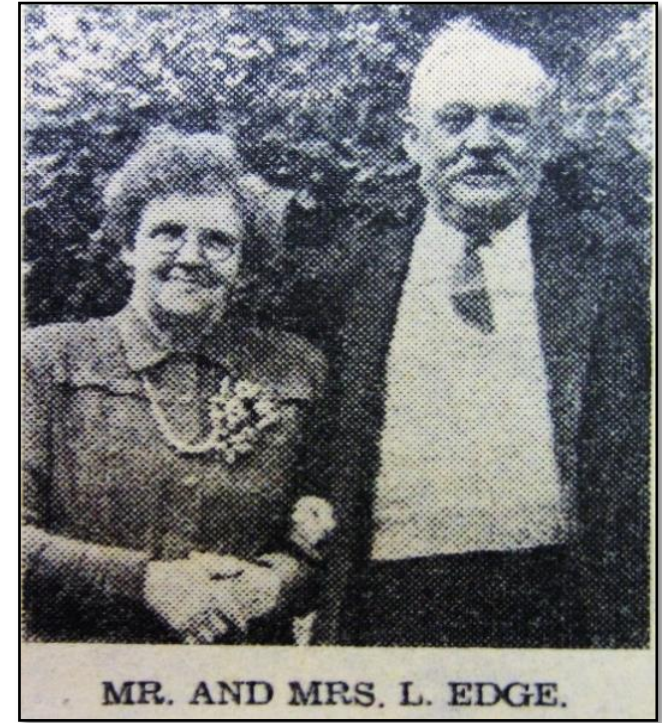
## Wedding of Miss Jacqueline Leche



There are few local wedding photographs in the Chronicle for 1952 & 1953. This may have been because the newspaper did not generally send its own photographers to weddings but maybe a photographer could be paid for. This might explain this photograph published in June 1952 where the couple are both from better-off families. Miss Helen Jacqueline Leche came from Stretton Hall (near Tilston) and Mr Richard Buckmaster came from London. Their wedding was in the Roman Catholic Chapel which had been opened in 1950 at St Joseph's College (The Beeches) in Tilston Road.



There was always an interest in Golden (50<sup>th</sup>) Wedding Anniversaries. The three couples shown here (left to right) are Mr & Mrs Leonard Hewitt of Malpas High Street (September 1952), Mr & Mrs Charles Bickley of Wrexham Road (June 1953) and Mr & Mrs Levi Edge (June 1953). Mr Edge was a retired master tailor.



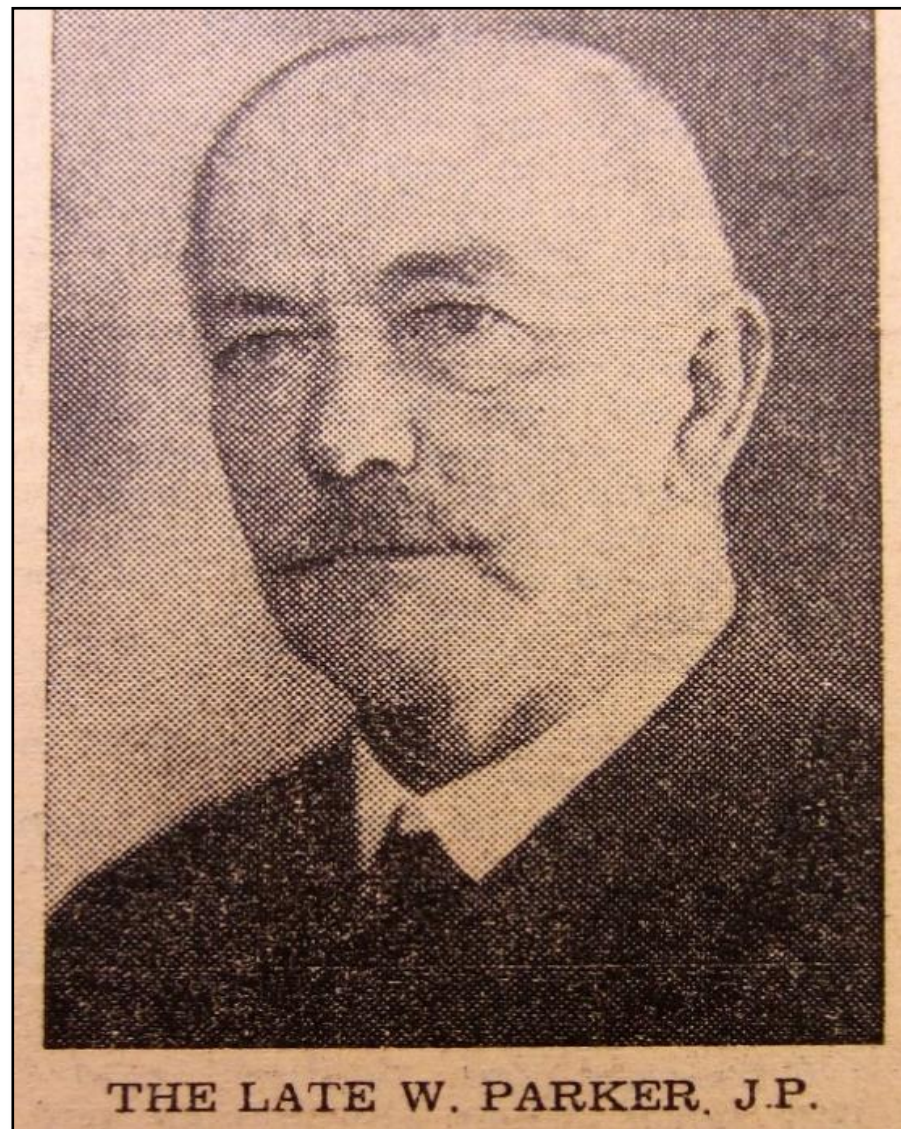
# LOCAL GOVERNMENT



It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. William Parker, formerly of 2, Oathills, Malpas, which occurred suddenly at his daughter's home, 2, Church-street, Malpas, on Tuesday. He was 76.

A native of Cuddington, Mr. Parker was for many years in business there as a bulder and contractor. He shared the business, known as Parker Bros., with his brother, Mr. John Parker, who died four years ago. A Justice of the Peace, Mr. W. Parker served as a magistrate on the Broxton Bench from 1921 until he was placed on the supplemental list at the age of 75.

In 1919, Mr. Parker was elected a County councillor, and represented Malpas on the authority for three years. He was a member of the Advisory committee for the County and in 1928 became a member of the Cheshire Insurance committee. For some years he was secretary of the Malpas and District Savings Association and the Malpas Savings committee.



NOVEMBER 1952

**CIVIL DEFENCE AND THE  
WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE**



## JOINT MALPAS AND TATTENHALL CIVIL DEFENCE EXERCISE MARCH 1953



Members of Malpas and Tattenhall W.V.S. who took part in the C.D. exercise.

Many people have reason to remember with gratitude the excellent work done by members of the Women's Voluntary Service in the last war. Now the Service—with many "veterans" of 1939-45 still in its ranks with their old skill and practical experience—is preparing itself for any future emergency.

The W.V.S. provides most of the volunteers for the welfare services which form the largest section of the Civil Defence scheme, and in Cheshire they seem to be well advanced with their training. This was shown when members from Tattenhall and Malpas took part in a Welfare Services exercise at Tattenhall on Tuesday, and dealt capably with everything from tackling an incendiary bomb to providing a bowl of water for a dog.

Two teams of eight the first from Tattenhall and the other from Malpas, went through the exercise separately, and other W.V.S. members realistically acted as "victims."

### REST CENTRE.

For the exercise the Barbour Institute was transformed into a rest centre. Bombs had fallen on Merseyside and Crewe, and into the centre

came some of the people whose lives had been disrupted, hurriedly evacuated from the stricken area. Some were slightly wounded, some were mothers with babies and young children, some were old and frail, and all had a problem for their helpers to solve.

Met at the door by reception hall. The wounded were attended to at a First-Aid post, the children were led to their special corner where toys and games were waiting for them, and babies were put into improvised cribs made from cloth slung over two chair backs. The W.V.S. have clothing depôts in each rest centre they run, and one room was set aside for those who needed an overcoat or a replacement for a badly-torn garment. There were magazines and newspapers to help the arrivals to relax, and an information desk where they could seek advice on such problems as lost ration books and cheque books. Through it all the canteen helpers kept up a smooth service of hot, soothing cups of tea.

### INCENDIARY BOMB.

But, even Tattenhall was not safe from enemy action. A whistle blew as a signal that an incendiary bomb had dropped just outside the rest centre and the fire party section of the team donned tin helmets and stout mackintoshes and went out to deal with it, using a stirrup pump.

The exercise was under the direction of Dr. W. J. Birchall, Divisional Medical Officer, who, with Mr. L. N. Jones (Chairman of Tarvin R.D.C.) and several county officials, watched Institute. It was conducted by Mrs. M. I. Totty, W.V.S. County Civil Defence Officer, assisted by Mrs. J. Lanyon, W.V.S., C.D. Officer for Tarvin Rural District, and Mrs. C. Y. Williams, W.V.S. Divisional representative, Central Cheshire, was also present.

The exercise was the climax of six months' courses of welfare lectures at Tattenhall and Malpas, and will serve to give volunteers some practical experience and to crystallise their training for them. But the organisers hope its message will go further than that. They find that the general public are still apathetic about the work and training of the Civil Defence Corps, and they hope that news of such exercises will create wider interest and encourage volunteers to come forward.

Stressing the importance of such training as these W.V.S. members are undergoing, a county official told "The Chronicle" "Many people think they would be willing to come forward and help in an emergency, but they don't realise that an untrained person would then be more of a nuisance than a help."

Before the exercise began all present stood in silence for a moment in memory of the late Queen Mary.

# HOSPITAL



# **DRAMA & MUSIC**

The 1940s and 1950s were a 'golden age' for artistic and social activities in Malpas. Those who participated and are still living have fond memories of those days. The venues for these activities were the Jubilee Hall, the Alport School, Saint Oswald's church, the Congregational and two Methodist churches/chapels, and the Parish Hall. Of the last three in this list the Wesleyan Methodist chapel has been demolished, the Primitive Methodist chapel is now a private residence and the Parish Hall is no longer available for public use.

**There appear to have been two main factors which helped to hasten the demise of this range of activities. Many residents had purchased their first television sets in order to watch the broadcast of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953. After that many became rather addicted to watching the 'box' and possibly became more reluctant to venture out in the evenings to take part in other activities. The other factor appears to have been the need to repair the floor of the main room upstairs in the Jubilee Hall, which had become unsafe soon after the Coronation. From May 1954 the room was closed while fund-raising was undertaken to pay for re-laying the floor. The Parish Hall provided an alternative venue for plays, concerts, etc., but was unable to offer facilities to match those of the Jubilee Hall.**



The Head Teacher of the Alport Boys' School from 1938 until 1944 and then of the combined Alport girls' and boys' school from 1944, until he retired in 1958, was the legendary Herbert Yates. He was also organist and choirmaster at Saint Oswald's church. Mr Yates, an indefatigable organiser, and others such as Jack Peberdy, Tom Mercer, rector Guy Hepher and verger Richard Harrison, were responsible for many musical and dramatic events in Malpas from the time of the second World War into the 1950s.



L to R: Richard Harrison – Tom Mercer - Herbert Yates with Alport pupils on home made instruments - Reverend Guy Hepher

# **Rector Guy Hepher's Annual Productions**



These pictures are from the Rector's re-writing of the classic pantomime 'Cinderella', produced over three nights in the Jubilee Hall in January 1952. The total audience was nearly 500. Cinderella, shown centre, was played by Margery Ball, one of the sisters of Jack Ball who ran the greengrocer's shop in Church Street.



A scene during the finale. Chronicle Copyright

**FOLLOWING** the topical pantomime last year, a most entertaining play with music is being presented at the Jubilee Hall, Malpas, each evening this week (except Monday) in aid of the Malpas Church fund.

It is not an easy production to classify, for it could not be described as a fairy play, a pantomime or a revue, though it contains elements of each. There are frequent references in the play itself to the word "pan-vue," which is a clue to its make up. It has been written in rhyme throughout, and many of them are sung to well known tunes arranged by Mr. H. C. Yates, the musical director who has done his job very well indeed. The author and producer is the Rector (the Rev. C. G. Hepher).

Roman transit camp, A.D. 200, and Henry II's camp in Normandy 1170, where Richard Brereton reported having taken part in the murder of Thomas A'Becket. The next scene is dated A.D. 2053 and shows a clever scene in New York, where "portraits" of St. Anthony Dog and his wife are played by John Leche and Kathleen Shenton, who come down from their frames and sing a duet.

**Arrested**

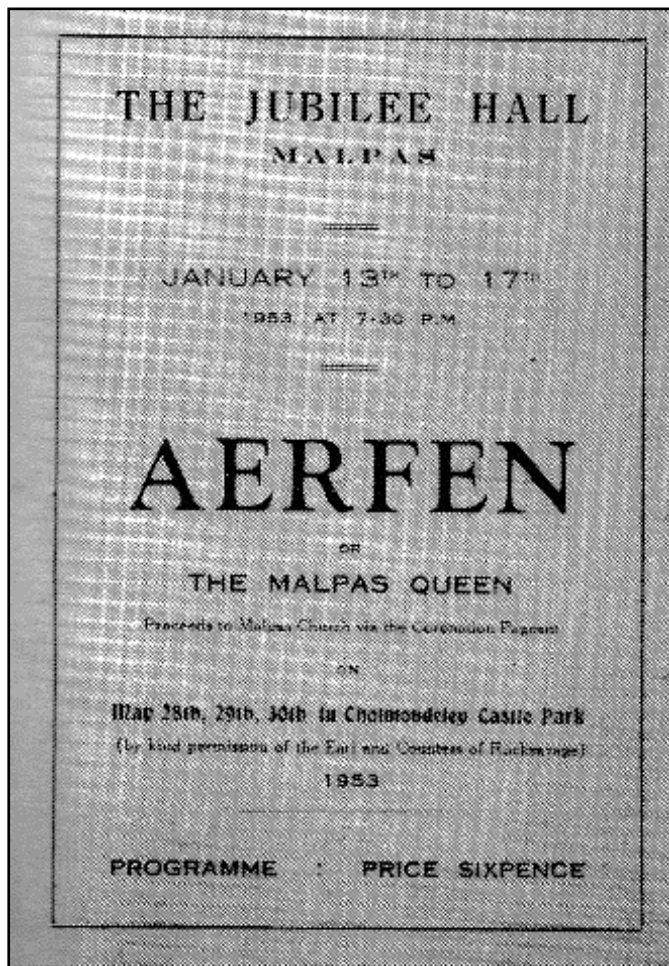
Then comes a tournament at which William Brereton, victor of a Joust, picks up Ann Boleyn's handkerchief and is arrested with her at the command of Henry VIII.

Scene 5 is in Malpas churchyard, when Richard Dawson comes out of his tomb in 1953 to explain in song why he died in 1625 (played by John Leche). Finally Gillian Pickering and Susan Hepher, a couple of school-



1953





These are are pages from the 'Aerfen' programme, reproduced with acknowledgements from Bill Coffin's book 'Back in Five Minutes'.

**ACT ONE**

THE DANCING CHILDREN ...	SHEILA PROBIN, PATRICIA BICKLEY, SANDRA LECHE, CAROL STEEL, ANN PETERS, GILIAN LIGHTFOOT, PAT BICKLEY, PADDY EDGE.
HAVRINA ...	MARJORIE BALL
FREA ...	JEAN MEREDITH
MARGARET } Mermaids ...	KATHLEEN SHENTON
EDNA ...	MURIEL WILSON
A YOUNG LADY ...	PADDY EDGE
FIRST SANITARY INSPECTOR ...	JOHN DAVIES
SECOND SANITARY INSPECTOR ...	LAURENCE LLOYD
THIRD SANITARY INSPECTOR ...	WILLIAM PROBIN
AERFEN (the Mermaid Queen) ...	ANNIE SHENTON
A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ...	GEORGE PETERS
FIRST CONSTABLE ...	JOHN PEBERDY
SECOND CONSTABLE ...	EDWIN RICHARDS

Scene I. A sandy stretch before a Cave at Erhistock.  
Scene II. The same stretch three hours later.  
Scene III. The same stretch the next day.

**ACT TWO**

MYRTLE (Billposter-in-Chief to the Parish Council) ...	JIM PARSONAGE
SERGEANT OF THE POLICE ...	VINCENT BRADBURY
THIRD CONSTABLE ...	PERCY WOOD
FOURTH CONSTABLE ...	BRIAN HASSALL
SPECIAL CONSTABLE ...	HARRY BEVIN
THE LADY SUPERINTENDENT of the POLICE ...	ANNIE SHENTON
FOUR LADIES (lately Mermaids soon to be Lady Police)	

Chorus of male and female citizens:

Scene I. Any Police Station, Malpas on the same afternoon.  
Scene II. The same a month later.

**ACT THREE**

The Malpas Historic Revue ordered by the Parish Council.

**SCENE I.**

FOUR WOMEN'S ROYAL AUXILIARY CORPS ...	M. BALL, J. MEREDITH, K. SHENTON, M. WILSON
CENTURION ...	PERCY WOOD
MARCUS, a soldier in the Roman Army of Occupation G.B. ...	JOHN DAVIES
FOUR SOLDIERS (ditto) ...	S. CRUMP, W. WAINWRIGHT, W. SHONE and P. BOAK
A MESSENGER ...	JIM PARSONAGE

Scene. A Roman Transit Camp A.D. 200—Barrel Farm, Bickley

Reference:

From Ordered History of Cheshire, Broxton Hundred, page 561  
"In a field adjoining Barrel Farm was found in 1812 an inscribed copper tablet containing a decree of Trajan. Now in British Museum, London.  
This decree granted Citizenship to veterans of the Army and is addressed to the C.O. of regiments from many European countries forming the Army of Occupation G.B. Trajan was Emperor of Rome 200 A.D."

**SCENE II.**

SERGEANT OF THE GUARD ...	LAURENCE LLOYD
FOUR SOLDIERS OF THE GUARD ...	S. CRUMP, W. WAINWRIGHT, W. SHONE, P. BOAK
QUEEN ELEANOR ...	AVIS DOUGHTY
KING HENRY II. OF ENGLAND ...	WILLIAM PROBIN
LADY MALPAS ...	SYLVIA BRADLEY
LORD MALPAS ...	GEORGE PETERS
DAVID, a page ...	CEDRIC MADDOCKS
EDWARD, a page ...	WILLIAM GRIFFITHS
RICHARD BRERETON ...	BRIAN HASSALL
SIR JOHN AGDEN ...	EDWIN RICHARDS
ARTHUR LARCH, Captain of the Guard ...	JOHN PEBERDY

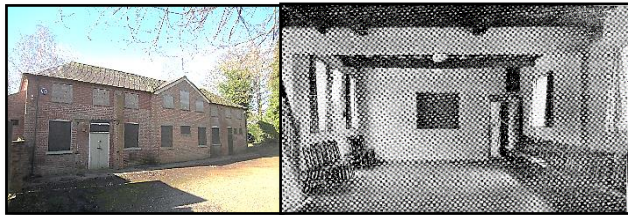
Incident 'A': Henry II.'s Camp somewhere in Normandy, Christmas Eve 1170  
Incident 'B': Henry II.'s Camp somewhere in Normandy, two hours later.  
Incident 'C': Henry II.'s Camp somewhere in Normandy, ten days later.

Reference:

From "History of Brereton Hall" H. L. Moir, F.R.S., His. Soc. page 42  
"In a window in Brereton Church placed there 25 March 1608  
this inscription in Latin: "Richard Brereton  
murdered Thomas (a Becket) 1170."  
This is the ancestor of Randle Brereton, whose tomb is in the south aisle of Malpas Church."



The following year the Jubilee Hall was not available for the Rector's production. The only viable alternative venue was the, now sadly redundant, Parish Hall alongside the Rectory Drive. Here the pantomime was 'The Story of Richard Whittington', with the cast of six as shown in the photo. The two characters on the left were played by the Probin brothers Jack and Bill, who will be remembered by many. The play was presented cabaret style, with supper being served. The Parish Hall was a conversion in 1949 of the former Rectory stables. Below left is the hall standing derelict today. Below right is how the interior looked in 1949.



THE Malpas Parish Hall was gaily decorated this week for an unusual event in its history, a dance with a cabaret and supper. The cabaret is a one-act pantomime, again written by the Rector, in his own particular style, called, "The Story of Richard Whittington", and the artistes are the Misses Marjorie Ball, Jean Meredith, Kathleen Shenton, and Marie Wilson, and Messrs. Jack and William Probin. The orchestration is by Mr. H. C. Yates, and the beautiful scenery was by Mrs. Elizabeth Baxendale and Second-Lieut. David Hephner.

The ladies responsible for the cooking of the supper were Miss Ada Purcell and Miss B. Cartwright, Mrs. Hephner, Mrs. R. J. Lockett, Mrs. Bebbington, and Mrs. Bickley, and the helpers were Mrs. Lloyd-Williams, and the Misses Heather Youd, Gillian White, Margaret Cornes, P. Edge, and I. Lawes.

The cabaret was produced by the Rector and Mr. Geoffrey Baxendale, and the host and hostess for Wednesday night were Col. and Mrs. A. J. W. Grubb.



# Malpas Evening Institute



JUBILEE HALL — MALPAS

TUESDAY to FRIDAY,  
MARCH 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th,  
at 7-30 prompt each evening.

MALPAS EVENING INSTITUTE  
(Music and Drama Section)

presents

The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera..

# “THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD”

(by permission of  
Bridget D'Oyly Carte).

SEATS .. 5/-, 3/6, and 2/-.

Box Office at Rowland's, Chemist,  
Malpas (Tel. Malpas 46).

Other enquires to H. C. Yates, Head-  
master, Alport School, Malpas (Tel. 67).

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## THE Malpas Evening Institute (Music and Drama section)

presented another of its annual performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operas on Tuesday to Friday evenings in the Jubilee Hall. This year they chose “The Yeomen of the Guard.” This work stands alone among the operas written and composed by Gilbert and Sullivan, inasmuch as it is more serious in mood with a story set against the romantic background of the Tower of London and free from that topsy-turvydom which we call Gilbertian. There is much humour throughout, although sentiment predominates.

Consequently its production calls for a different outlook and a different method from the other operas of the series. John C. Peberdy, who is the master in English and Drama of the Institute, was the producer, and is to be congratulated on obtaining the right atmosphere.



1952



John ('Jack') Peberdy

# Malpas Amateur Dramatic Society



ONE WILD OAT Two feuding neighbours, a barrister and a bookmaker, join forces to try and prevent their secret pasts from coming back to haunt them.

Oakeroft,  
Malpas,  
Ches.  
10th, October, 1952.

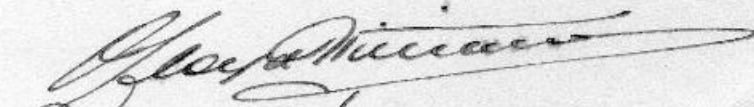
J.C. Peberdy, Esq.,  
Hon. Sec. Malpas Coronation Festivities,  
Alport House,  
Malpas.

Dear Mr. Peberdy,

At a committee meeting of the Malpas Amateur Dramatic Society held last Tuesday night, it was decided that the proceeds from the production of 'One Wild Oat' is to be given to your committee, for the Coronation Festivities which you are arranging for next year.

The play will be produced on November 19th, 20th & 21st, and it would be much appreciated by our Society if the members of your committee will make a note of these dates, and advertise it to their friends.

Yours faithfully,



Hon. Secretary.





1952

**HOBSON'S CHOICE** Henry Hobson, a British widower, is the overbearing owner of a shoe shop. His three daughters - Alice, Vicky and Maggie - work for him and all are eager to get out from under his thumb. When the headstrong Maggie announces she intends to marry Will, Henry's best employee, father and daughter engage in an intense showdown. As Maggie works on launching a competing business she also helps her sisters free themselves of their domineering father.

**MALPAS AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**  
will present..  
**"Hobson's Choice"**  
(a Lancashire Comedy by  
H. Brighthouse),  
Produced by H. I. Andrew,  
JUBILEE HALL MALPAS,  
FEBRUARY 27th, 28th, and 29th.  
SEATS .. 4/- and 2/6 (Reserved),  
1/6 (Unreserved).  
Seats Bookable at BICKLEY'S,  
The Cross, Malpas (Tel No. 137).  
Proceeds in aid of  
The National Institute for the Blind.

"HOBSON'S CHOICE" was Malpas Amateur Dramatic Society's choice, and a very good choice, too for their production on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, at the Jubilee Hall.

This entertaining comedy of Lancashire life was written by Harold Brighthouse, who belonged to what was known in those days, as the "Manchester school" in the early days of the repertory theatre.

"Hobson's Choice" is a story of the Hobson family who had a boot shop in Salford, run by the father and his three daughters. Father belongs to the stern domineering type of parent, who tries to rule the life of each of his three daughters down to the minutest detail. Maggie, the eldest, revolts, marries the young employe of her father, who is a genius as a bootmaker, leaves the family shop and opens a rival establishment which attracts those customers who appreciate craftsmanship. The result is a diverting comedy.





1953

THE MONKEY'S PAW is based on a horror short story by W W Jacobs. In the story, three wishes are granted to the owner of The Monkey's Paw but the wishes come with an enormous price for interfering with fate. MEET THE FAMILY is a comedy of domestic life. It revolves around the lives of the Singleton and Marsh families and their staff, including a crooked butler!

## "THE MONKEY'S PAW" AT MALPAS

IN place of their usual second three-act play of the season, Malpas Amateur Dramatic Society presented two plays, "The Monkey's Paw," a dramatisation by Louis N. Parker of a short story by W. W. Jacobs, and "Meet the Family," by John J. Melluish, in the Jubilee Hall on Wednesday and Thursday.

The former tells the gruesome story of a monkey's paw which carries with it a curse. If the owner, while holding it in his hand, wishes anything, it is granted, but with tragic results. It required considerable skill in emotional acting on the part of the five players to maintain the tense atmosphere, and it is a tribute to Edith Jones, as Mrs. White, and Lawrence J. Lloyd, as her husband, that they had the audience enthralled.

Bill Rich, as their son, H. J. Andrew, as Sergeant-Major Morris, and George Peters, as Mr. Sampson, had little to do, but did it well. H. I. Andrew produced the play skilfully.

### SHARP CONTRAST.

"Meet the Family" was a sharp contrast. This was a comedy of domestic life which went down very well. J. C. Peberdy is to be congratulated on his production. The scene is set in Major Singleton's country house, and involves his family and that of the Marshes,

whose son is the lover of Singleton's daughter. Jack Probin was well cast as the irascible Major Singleton, and Margaret Lloyd-Williams partnered him gracefully as his wife. The part of Mrs. Marsh, a delightful matron, whose misunderstanding owing to her deafness was a source of great amusement, was one of the best in the play. Avis Doughy made a distinct hit in this part.

The Singletons were unfortunate in their staff of servants, for the butler was a crook, with an eye on his mistress's diamond necklace, and Bill Probin made the most of the part. As his timid and unwilling partner in crime, Bill Rich had a part to his liking. Sadie Piggott played the part of the cook with rich humour, and Jane Bebbington was equally successful as Emily, the maid.

### DELIGHTFUL LOVERS.

Kath Andrew, a charming Eileen Singleton, and John Wycherley as John Marsh, were delightful lovers. B. Lloyd-Williams, as Mr. Marsh, and Jim Parsonage, as Inspector Heath, completed the cast.

Behind the scenes George Peters (stage manager), George Doughy (assistant stage manager), Harold Davies (electrician), Arthur Hewitt (stage carpenter), Dot Bailey and Theresa Steele (wardrobe mistresses), Jack and Miriam Pateerson (make up), and Minne Peberdy (prompter), did their work efficiently.



# Malpas Amateur Theatre Club

**WORM'S EYE VIEW** is a play by R F Delderfield. It is set in a family home during World War II. Their bitter landlady is not pleased by five fighters from the Royal Air Force who are staying there and she re-directs unjustly her frustrations against the family.

**1952**



Malpas Theatre Club in "The Man  
from Toronto"



1953

**THE MAN FROM TORONTO** is a British romantic comedy. After an inheritance is left to them if they marry, an Englishwoman and a Canadian must meet for the first time to investigate the other - with comedic results.



# The Alport School

**During the 1950s the Headteacher of the Malpas Alport Endowed School, which at the time of the Coronation was still an 'all-age' school (pupils of 7-14 years of age), was Herbert Yates. He was a very enterprising and imaginative teacher. One of his great interests was the making of musical instruments from a variety of unconventional materials. Groups of pupils performing on these instruments gave many concerts and even broadcast on BBC regional radio and television. The newspaper cutting from the Daily Dispatch, which was a Manchester newspaper, was kindly provided by Ian Lawrence.**



The second part of the show was a musical play in rhyme by children of Class 3—the old story, "The Sleeping Beauty," in five scenes, original music and production by Mr. Yates. Parts were taken by Ian Lawrence (the King), Margaret Goff (Queen), Carol Steel (Princess), Raymond Taylor (Prince), Brian Probin (Lord Chamberlain), Sheila Probin (Fairy Queen), and Rita Kohlar as the Wicked Fairy. Others taking part were Freda Passey, Hylma Crump, Sheila Davies, Kathleen James, Mildred Taylor, Sylvia Dodd, Florence Jones, Evelyn Jones, Michael Chesters, Leslie Gillott, and Michael Taberner. The scenery, which was signed by 13-year-old Tommy Uttley and painted by him with the assistance of other boys, deserved praise. Messrs. G. M. Jones and Philip Steel (stage managers), Miss C. L. Hughes, E. E. Jones, Messrs. L. J. Lloyd and E. J. Hales (stewards), Mrs. M. Perberdy (wardrobe mistress), Mr. R. Harrison (lighting), Misses Marjorie Ball, E. E. Jones and G. Ball (make-up) worked hard behind the scenes.

1953



The finale of "The Sleeping Beauty."



# MALPAS

## ALPORT MUSICIANS GET READY

The Alport school, which has been entering Chester Musical Festival each year since 1935 (apart from the war years when no festival was held) is this year breaking new ground by entering a complete instrumental project showing the stages of musical training followed normally in the school.

This briefly consists of rhythm training with the youngest group (age 7-8) through the percussion band, a xylophone combination of about 20 players (age 8-9) which demonstrates training in rhythm, melody and pitch, followed by a group of children aged 10-11 playing unison melodies on bamboo pipes.

Then in the senior section the work is represented by older scholars playing more difficult xylophone numbers, and concludes by a band of eight or nine players playing treble, alto, tenor and bass bamboo pipes in four-part music.

With the exception of the percussion band instruments used by the twenty players of the youngest group, the instruments are all school made. The small xylophones have been made quite recently by boys and girls of class 4 (aged 8-9) who are playing them.

The project is under the direction of the headmaster, Mr. H. C. Yates.



1953



School 'slickers' make music with six-inch nails and old bottles

# THEY CAN HIT A TUNE OUT OF ANYTHING

DISPATCH REPORTER

**SPIKE JONES** and his City Slickers have nothing on Mr. Herbert Yates, the headmaster, and his pupils at Alport School, Malpas, Cheshire. They play anything from a six-inch nail to a piece of firewood.

Take Leslie Gillott. He's eleven. He plays "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes" on a row of beer bottles.

Mr. Yates was making his own music before Spike Jones's City Slickers came to town.

His father made him a plywood fiddle. He made another out of a toffee tin. And since then he's played on everything, including the kitchen sink. Now his pupils do the same.

Sheila Davies, aged 10, hammers out "Three Blind Mice" on a string of six-inch nails. Rita Kollar, who is 11, ripples "The Old Mill Stream" on a row of water pipes.

Edna Darlington, aged 13, and Margaret Lloyd, aged 14, play "Black-Eyed Susy" on a wooden xylophone. Mr. Yates can give you anything from "Daisy" to "Any Old Iron" on pieces of an old bicycle frame.

Then there's eleven-year-old

Raymond Taylor, who plays the bicycle pump, and Frances Breton, aged 13, who makes music on a row of twigs. She can play firewood and slates, too.

Tom Uttley, aged 13, plays "Now is the Hour" on a saw.

There's a wind section of 20 or 25 bamboo pipers; a xylophone made from an air-raid shelter saw which you play with shoe stretchers. But the pride of the orchestra is a plywood cello with a door-stop base.

### Latest idea

Mr. Yates's latest idea is a full classroom band equipped with school-made wooden xylophones. The pupils are making these after lessons.

Already teams of pupils have played at Chester music festivals.

"It gives the children an exceptionally good musical sense," says Mr. Yates.

### Grannie was



Tuning a home-made three ply 'cello seems to be a serious matter with eight-year-old Marjorie Hitchenor at Alport Mixed School, Malpas. But the musical part of it is just fun to her twin sister, Margaret. Right: A serenade on a banjo made from plywood for Kay Peters from Ian Lawrence.



Duet for bottles and six-inch nails. Leslie Gillott contributes the tune on glass, while Dorothy Finchett holds the nails for an obbligato from Sheila Davies.



**FROM ACCESSION  
TO CORONATION**





His late Majesty King George the Sixth. A "Chronicle" photograph taken as the King was leaving Chester General Station on December 5th, 1950, when he visited the Royal Dragoons as Colonel-in-Chief.

King George VI succeeded to the throne on December 11<sup>th</sup> 1936. He died from a coronary thrombosis on February 6<sup>th</sup> 1952 and was succeeded by his daughter, our present Queen Elizabeth.

**THE NEW QUEEN  
ACCOMPANIED BY PRINCE  
PHILIP VISITED NORTH  
WALES IN JULY 1953**





**MALPAS AND THE CORONATION:** The general feeling that Malpas should do something on a big scale to celebrate the Coronation was expressed at a meeting of Malpas Parish Council on Tuesday, when it was decided that the Council should take the lead, as they did in 1937, and call a public meeting, inviting representatives of all local bodies to discuss what form the activities should take (Chester Chronicle September 6<sup>th</sup> 1952).

**MALPAS GOES AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR CORONATION: A public meeting convened by Malpas Parish Council at the Jubilee Hall on Thursday last week to consider Coronation festivities in Malpas next year, made three decisions. It was unanimously agreed that festivities should take place in Malpas to commemorate the Coronation; that the Parish Council should not be the controlling body; and that a general controlling committee should only be formed after it had been ascertained whether outlying parishes were prepared to join in the Malpas proposals or not (Chester Chronicle September 27<sup>th</sup> 1952).**



TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

J. L. VINCENT,

PRINCIPAL RATING AND  
FINANCIAL OFFICER.

TELEPHONE: CHESTER 24117  
(2 LINES)

WESTMINSTER BUILDINGS,

NEWGATE STREET,

CHESTER.

YOUR REF.

OUR REF.

V/N/197

4th March, 1953.

Dear Sir,

Coronation Festivities

In reply to your letter dated the 28th February, 1953 I have to inform you that so far as I am aware it is the intention of the County Council to make a 2/- grant in respect of all children on the registers of Primary and Secondary Schools.



COMMEMORATIVE CORONATION MUGS OR BEAKERS WERE PRESENTED TO SCHOOLCHILDREN IN MOST COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THIS SHOWS THE DELIVERY NOTE FOR SAMPLES SUPPLIED TO MALPAS CORONATION FESTIVITIES COMMITTEE AND THE ACTUAL BEAKER PRESENTED TO IAN LAWRENCE. HE WAS A PUPIL AT THE MALPAS ALPORT SCHOOL.

6x-38

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DATE: 3/2/1953  
*M. Loos Malpas Coronation Festivities Committee*

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PLEASE RECEIVE: *Official Design*  
*One Coronation Mug*  
*One Coronation Beaker*  
*Our prices for*  
*600 (for immediate orders)*  
*Handled Mugs @ 1/6d.*  
*Unhandled Beakers @ 1/5d.*  
RECEIVED BY: *Please note that these are the Official Design. J.L.*





**It might seem surprising, in present times when local newspapers include many photographs of local events (which helps to boost their sales!), that there are so few pictures of local Coronation celebrations in 1953. In those days most photographs were taken by staff photographers employed by the newspapers. They would not have been able to cover all of the enormous number of Coronation celebration events – and probably also wanted time off to take part in celebrations in their own communities.**

**MALPAS – THE CARNIVAL:** In glorious weather the Malpas Carnival was held on Saturday, when the procession formed up at Sunnyside, proceeded up Church Street and High Street to St Joseph's College, down Springfield Avenue and up to the Rectory Lawn, where the Queen, Miss Elsie Darlington, was crowned by Mrs Hepher, who presented her with a souvenir necklace. The Queen's train-bearers were Wendy Cocker, Kathleen Evans, Trevor Gillott and Fred Huxley, and her ladies-in-waiting were Thelma Passey, Sheila Probin, Margaret Lloyd, Gillian Lightfoot, Edna Darlington and Maureen Barlow. Sceptre bearer, Tom Uttley, and Sword bearer Bobby Bradley. The Crown bearer was Lawrence Pridding and the Herald Roy Wynne (Chester Chronicle June 13<sup>th</sup> 1953).





## **CORONATION DAY** began with a midnight celebration

of Holy Communion, with hymns, at which there was a large congregation. Mr. Yates was the organist. The Rector also officiated at three other early services, and the bell-ringers rang a peal.

Four television sets had been installed in the Jubilee Hall and Parish Hall, and all day long these places were packed with silent viewers.

A sumptuous tea was provided for all children in the School dining hall, and each was presented with a souvenir cup and chocolate. The older people—women over sixty-five years and men over seventy—received a cup and saucer. Sports for the "under-eights"—the other sports will be held to-morrow (Saturday)—were organised by Miss Ida Jones, headmistress of the Infants' School, assisted by the Misses M. Ball, Muriel Wilson, J. Bickley, and K. M. Shenton, but the event was marred by the weather.

After the broadcast by Her Majesty, a gigantic bonfire, prepared under the supervision of the Rector and Mr. T. Crawford, was lit in the Rectory Terrace. Dancing followed in the Jubilee Hall, and free refreshments, hot sausages on rolls, sandwiches, cakes, tea and beer were served in the Parish Hall to hundreds of men, women, and children.

The Coronation Committee consisted of: Mr. H. Bussey, chairman; Mr. H. C. Yates, vice-chairman; Mr. F. N. Craddock, treasurer; Mr. J. C. Peberdy, secretary; Mr. J. Davies, Col. Grubb, Rev. Wm. Walker, Father Puts, Messrs. John Evans, Herbert Lewis, P. Robinson, O. Williams, T. Crawford, R. Ince, Mrs. Hopher, Miss I. M. E. Jones, Mrs. Gillott, Mrs. Peberdy, Mrs. J. K. Roberts, and Mrs. Ben White. The Women's Institute and the School canteen staff assisted with the tea.



**TWO MEN WHO DID MUCH FOR MALPAS DURING THEIR LIFETIMES WERE NORMAN CRADDOCK (LEFT) AND JACK PEBERDY (RIGHT). THEY WERE TREASURER AND SECRETARY RESPECTIVELY OF THE MALPAS CORONATION FESTIVITIES COMMITTEE. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FAMILIES OF BOTH OF THEM FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO SEE THE RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEE. TWO EXTRACTS FROM THOSE RECORDS ARE SHOWN IN THE FINAL SLIDE.**





STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.  
Malpas Coronation Festivities - 17th Sept. 1953

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>Whist Drives.</u>		<u>Hire of Halls.</u>	
29.10.52	11:19: 6	25. 2.53	1:17: 6
5.12.52	14: 6: 4	5.12.52	2:10: -
20. 5.53	3:11: -	7. 9.53.	3: 6
	29:16:10	6. 6.53	1: 5: -
		5:16 : -	
<u>Donations</u>		<u>Sec. Expenses</u>	
R.A.F. Assn.	5: -: -	Stationary.	1:12: 7
Mrs B. White	15: -	"	1: 9: 7
Miss Fernival	5:15: -	Postage.	1: 2: 5
		4: 4 : 7	
<u>Concerts</u>		<u>Printing &amp; Adverts</u>	
Mrs Brown's	20:10: -	Whitchurch Herald	12: -
One Wild Cat.	20: -: -	J.W. Bailey.	7: 1: -
Alport School	12:11: 7		7:13 : -
	53: 1: 7		
<u>R.D.C. Grant.</u>		<u>Treas. Expenses</u>	
	19: 2: 9	Postages	2
		Cheques	4:10
		5 : -	
<u>Draws</u>		<u>Carnival Expenses</u>	
Mrs Shenton	8: -: -	T. Crawford.	34:17:10
Mr H. Lewis.	36:12: -	Walgate & Leake	4: 3: -
	44:12: 1		39: - : 10
<u>Collecting Boxes</u>		<u>Sale of Work.</u>	
	1: 1: 2		45: 7 : 2
<u>Sale of Work</u>		<u>Sports.</u>	
	14:8: 3: 1	Mrs Jones.	10: -
		10 : -	
Credit from Rev. Heph:r.	1: 3: -	<u>Souvenirs</u>	
		Hamilton.	30: 7: 6
		Roberts.	
		(W.H. Smith)	2:14: 6
		Bussey.	41:13: 2
		74:15 : 2	
		<u>Electrical</u>	
		Pinnington.	35: -: -
		Davies.	1:10: -
		36:10: -	
		<u>Refreshments</u>	
		Bickley	8:19:10
		Bebington.	4 : 3: 4
		Salt & Co.,	18: 2:10
		Bradbury.	8:11: 2
		39:17 : 2	
		<u>Bonfire.</u>	
		Corbett.	10: -: -
		10: - : -	
		<u>Sundries</u>	
			6: - :10
		Bank Charges.	18: -
		<u>Balance in hand</u>	31:17 : 9
	<u>302:15: 6</u>		<u>302:15 : 6</u>

**FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE  
CORONATION FESTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

**THIS IS THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE FINAL REPORT TO THE  
CORONATION FESTIVITIES COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 1953.  
PERHAPS IT SAYS IT ALL!**

For our final celebration, the clouds relented, cleared away, and the sun shone on a most colourful scene. On behalf of the Committee a Procession and Carnival was organised by the Carnival Committee. The Procession was one of the best supported ever in Malpas and provided plenty of interest as it wended its way through the streets to the Rectory Lawn. A very varied programme of events was watched by a very large crowd and while the emphasis was once again on the children, everyone, young and old, had a thoroughly enjoyable time. This was crowned by a Whist Drive and Open Air Dance. A Malpas man, with years of experience of organising events has put it on record that there never has been such an Open Air Dance. He estimates that at one time there were over 300 people taking part. The flood-lit lawn on a beautiful summer evening, aided by the cup that cheers, a 'hot' Dance Band and an M.C. who showed enthusiasm as well as efficiency, all joined together to make the last event of the week perhaps the best of the week. In the words of two O.A.P. on their way home late on the Saturday night - "Never were such celebrations seen in Malpas, thank you very much".