

Effingham Celebrations – the Diamond Jubilee of 1897

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER and SUSAN MORRIS

The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in June 1897 was celebrated to great acclaim throughout Britain and the Empire. This article looks at the way it was celebrated in Effingham and in nearby towns and villages.

Introduction

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebration took place on Tuesday 22 June. The Queen was taken in her carriage from Buckingham Palace to a thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral before processing in a magnificent Empire Pageant through the streets of London.

The procession went from St Paul's firstly to the Lord Mayor's residence at Mansion House, then went across the Thames through Southwark and returned via Westminster Bridge, then along the Houses of Parliament and eventually back to the palace.

The grandeur and scale of this spectacle were almost beyond comprehension. Along the route were hundreds of thousands of spectators, on every pavement and in every window amidst numerous decorations, flags and bunting. Flanked by lines of guardsmen and constabulary, the procession itself was made up of dignitaries, troops and bands from all over the Empire. Mark Twain, who was watching, wrote that:

'For varied and beautiful uniforms and unceasing surprises in the way of new and unexpected splendors [sic], it much surpassed any pageant that I have ever seen'.



Figure 1 Queen Victoria's carriage in the procession.

The Effingham celebration

While all this was going on in London, local celebrations were being held up and down the country. At present we have rather little material relating to Effingham's celebration in 1897 of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, but enough survives to prove that the village did put a lot of effort into it and had a most enjoyable time.

Preparations for the event apparently began only about a month before the Jubilee. At their ordinary meeting held on 19 May 1897 Effingham Parish Council appointed a number of committees to organise the celebration 'in a fit and proper manner'. The Council's complete original record of this is given in Appendix I.

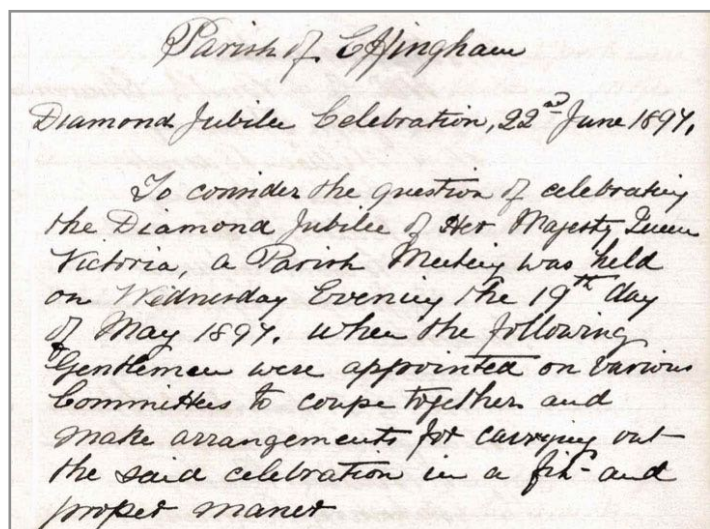


Figure 2 The Parish Council appoints organizing committees.

The record in the Parish Council's Minutes of the Committees set up for the Effingham celebration and of what they decided is transcribed below:

Finance and General Committee

Mr F. Muir Chairman

“ Uriah Loxley

“ Samuel Brown

“ George Bristol

“ Alfred Alderman

“ James West

“ William Richards

“ Frank Edwards

“ Arthur Dilley

Refreshment

Mr A. J. Killick Chairman

“ C. E. Lambert

“ Edward Jefferies

“ William Butcher

“ Oscar Hamlin

“ Andrew Bonsey

“ Frank Hills

“ [blank – Jestyn] Griffith [Griffiths?]

Sports Committee

Mr J. G. Bristol Chairman

“ John Ottaway

“ William Barnett

“ Ernest Loxley

“ Walter Macneil

“ Frank Edwards

“ Joseph Tyrrell

Fireworks Committee

Mr C. E. Lambert Chairman

“ John Ottaway

“ William Butcher

“ Henry Booker

“ Daniel Tyrrell

“ Walter Macneil

The Committees met and arranged accordingly, & issued a Notice inviting all Parishioners to meet on Tuesday June 22nd at 1.30 o'clock in Mr Brown's home field, which was kindly lent for the occasion, when various sports and entertainments would be provided. Subscriptions were invited from everybody and the response admirable, over £68 being subscribed sums varying from £10 to 3d.

Meanwhile the local school (then called the National School but today St Lawrence Primary School) was also getting ready, as shown in Figure 3 by an extract from the school's Log Book in which the head teacher Mr Jestyn Griffiths recorded that on 4 June he 'began teaching the children a new and special Jubilee Hymn'. What the words of this hymn were we do not know but we can be sure they were suitably stirring and patriotic.

1897 (June.)
 June 14th (Friday). Attendance very poor again
 this week, even worse than last, the
 average being only 60.8. This is partly
 accounted for by Tuesday being a
 very wet day, and consequently no
 less than 39 children were absent
 all day. Work going on briskly in
 all subjects but especially so in
 drawing. Began teaching the children
 a new and Special 'Jubilee Hymn'.

Figure 3 School Log Book entry in which teaching of the 'Special Jubilee Hymn' is noted.

An account of Effingham's celebration on 22 June from a local newspaper [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 26 June 1897] is shown in Figure 4.

EFFINGHAM.

The parishioners of Effingham thoroughly entered into the general rejoicings on Tuesday. A committee of 30, who were divided into various sub-committees, were appointed to undertake the arrangements, and with Mr. Francis Muir, the chairman of the Parish Council, at their head, everything passed off most satisfactorily. Shortly after one in the afternoon there was a large assemblage of the inhabitants, old and young, in Mr. Brown's field opposite the Prince Blucher, where sports were held and prizes awarded to the successful competitors. At four o'clock tea was provided for the children, numbering about 120, who were regaled to their hearts' content with sandwiches, cake, bread and butter, and jam, etc., and subsequently shared in a distribution of oranges. The general inhabitants of the parish, numbering upwards of 300, then sat down to an excellent meat tea, which they evidently greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Games, amusements, and dancing followed, to music contributed by the Byfleet Brass Band, the day's festivities concluding with the letting off of fireworks and the lighting of a bonfire on Standard Hill. A sum of between £60 and £70 had been subscribed to meet the expenses.

Figure 4 Effingham residents' celebratory activities in Mr Brown's field.

Following the celebration the Chairman of the Parish Council, now Mr Charles Edward Lambert of Effingham House (having succeeded from Frank Muir), reported 'generally on the success' of the event: and stated that an account of it would be entered into the Minutes:

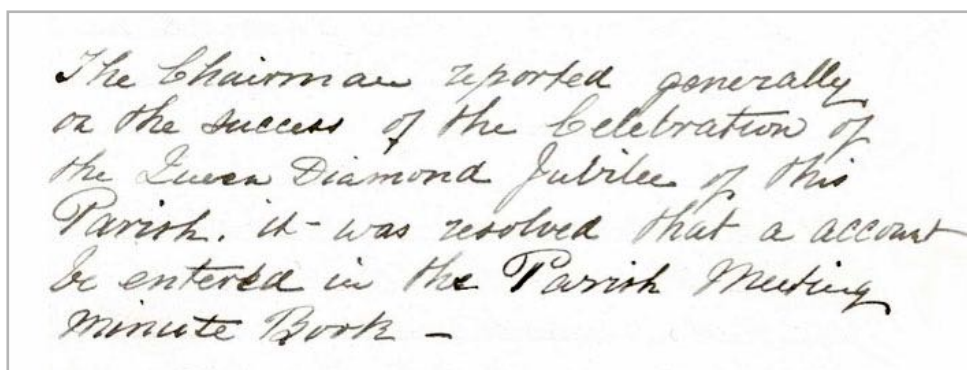


Figure 5 The Parish Council resolves to record in its Minutes how the celebrations went.

Below is a transcript of the Parish Council's account.

On the 22nd of June the Parishioners duly assembled to the number of about 400. Swings and cocoanut [sic] shies were provided, and music was contributed at frequent intervals by the Byfleet Brass Band. Sports were organised for the youths and children, prizes being provided in the shape of Jubilee medals & money.

At 4 o'clock the children were entertained to tea in Mr Brown's barn, after which every child was presented with a Jubilee mug by Mr F. Muir. From 5 o'clock to 7 the Adult Parishioners were served with a substantial meal in the barn, after which dancing and games were indulged in until [sic] dark.

Shortly after dark a display of fireworks was given under the direction of Mr C. E. Lambert, and at 10 o'clock a torchlight procession was formed, and headed by the Byfleet Band marched up the Guildford Road to Standard Hill where a large bonfire had been erected which was fired to the strains of God Save the Queen and after giving three cheers for Her Majesty the gathering gradually dispersed.

The best thanks of the Parish are due to Mr. Brown for his generosity in lending his field and barn for the occasion, & it was a subject of deep regret to everybody that he himself was prevented from being present by the illness which unhappily soon afterwards had a fatal termination.

Thanks are also due to the following Ladies who voluntarily worked very hard at preparing & serving the various meals –

Mrs Killick, Mrs West, Hamlin Payne Reeves Richer Tyrrell

Bixley Dench Barnett Sen. Miss Smith.

And many thanks was [sic] due to the Misses Lambert for the decorations, and assistance, also to Miss Lightfoot, Mrs Lightfoot and Mrs Loxley.

And to the Gentlemen who served on the Committees and who have the satisfaction of knowing that their arrangements met with absolutely universal approval.

The celebration as a whole was entirely satisfactory, both as a display of loyalty to our Gracious Queen and as an entertainment which will dwell in the memories of all who were present. There was no hitch in the proceedings & nothing whatever occurred to mar the sense of enjoyment and good fellowship which prevailed.

One notably sad observation in this account was that Mr Samuel Brown, the farmer at the Manor Farm (today's 'Browns') who had made available his field (extending between Browns Lane and The Street), had become ill and indisposed before the event. He died soon after, on 11 July, and was buried at St Lawrence Church on 14 July. His entry in the burial register is unusual in that his interment was noted as certified under the Burial Laws Amendment Act 1880 and not officiated by the Vicar Rev Bayly; it may be that Samuel had been a nonconformist or that Bayly had had some other reason to decline officiating.

The Parish Council's record ended with a summary of the subscriptions raised for the event, totalling £72-5s-9d, and details of how that exact amount was spent. A transcript of this summary is shown below:

<u>Statement of Accounts</u>					
<u>Dr. [Drawn]</u>	£. S. D.			£. S. D.	£. S. D.
Prizes	2-13-0		By Subscription		
Swings & Tent	2-17-6		Mr C. E. Lambert	10-0-0	
Byfleet Band	10-0-0		" F. Muir	10-0-0	
Refreshments for Band	1-1-4		" J. A. Ross	10-0-0	
Medals	1-7-0		" C. Czarnikow	10-0-0	
Flags & Sticks	1-0-0	18-8-10	Miss Teesdale	3-0-0	
Fireworks	15-10-9		Adml. Maxse	2-2-0	
Faggots for Bonfire	1-10-0		Wm. Schwabe	1-0-0	
			Mr Alderman	1-12-6	
			List (19)		
		17-0-9	" Dilleys (62)	5-9-0	
Printing	0-4-6		" Edwards (32)	2-14-3	
Rubber stamp	0-4-6		" Loxleys (5)	7-11-0	
Policeman	0-5-0		" Wests (4)	2-0-0	
Watchman	3-0		" Bristols (10)	2-5-6	
		0-17-0	" Richards (4)	0-16-0	
Conisbee bill	8-19-3				68-10-3
West "	4-16-8		Takings at swings	1-3-0	
Coopers "	3-7-8				1-3-0
Richards "	3-4-2				69-13-3
Tiddyments	13-0-0		Mr C. E. Lambert	1-6-3	
Butter Labour etc	1-16-5		½ deficit		
Paid to invalids	0-15-0		" F. Muir do.	1-6-3	
		35-19-2			2-12-6
Total		<u>£72-5-9</u>			<u>£72-5-9</u>

After the celebration was over Mr Griffiths noted in the school's Log Book that the children had been slow to return in the days following:

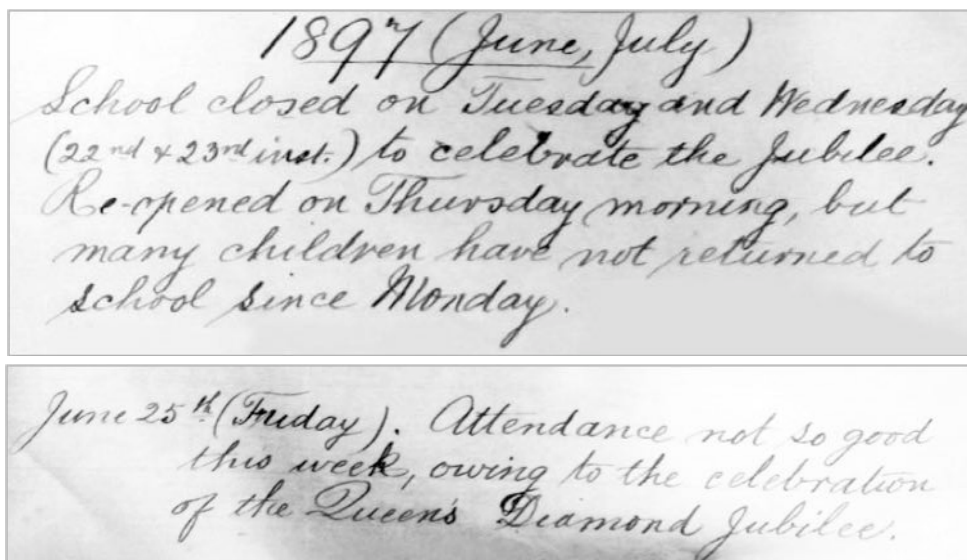


Figure 6 The school's headmaster notes the absenteeism following the celebration.

Other local celebrations

The Surrey newspapers gave extensive coverage to the occasion, detailing the proceedings in many individual towns and villages. Most of their articles appeared on the following Saturday, 26 June. Below are examples for a few places near Effingham. All have been transcribed owing to the poor legibility of the original newspapers.

RANMORE.

The opportunity afforded by Lord Ashcombe to the labourers on the estate and the parishioners of St Barnabas to share in the rejoicings of the day was appreciated to the full. These assembled at Denbies at 2.30pm [?] and were welcomed by the Hon Helen Cubitt who was the only member of the family present. Lord and Lady Ashcombe were, however, not unmindful of what was taking place at their charming Surrey home and in the course of the day telegraphed noting [?] that they had safely returned from the proceedings at their town residence At nine o'clock there was a display of fireworks followed by the lighting of a bonfire.

[*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 26 June 1897]

EAST HORSLEY.

Jubilee Day was celebrated on Tuesday in the park at Horsley Towers, lent by Captain the Hon, L. F. King-Noel, who also gave a substantial dinner to adult people of the parish, the tenants, and workmen, the children being catered for by Mr. Morgan, of the Duke of Wellington Hotel. A vote of thanks to Captain the Hon. L. F. King-Noel and Lady Edith King-Noel was passed. Commemoration medals were given to one and all by Lady Edith King-Noel. Sports were held, Lady Edith King-Noel distributing the prizes, and dancing, a torchlight procession, and a bonfire followed.

[*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 26 June 1897]

WEST CLANDON.

THE JUBILEE. – West Clandon celebrated the Queen's Jubilee on Tuesday in a very hearty manner. All the school children, the old persons living in the village, of both sexes, and the mothers with their babies, who are often unable to leave their little ones at home, were entertained by the Earl and Countess of Onslow, Clandon Park and grounds were thrown open, and a medal in commemoration of the day was presented to every child. On the north side of Merrow Downs a bonfire, 530 feet above sea level, was lighted in the evening, accompanied with discharges of rockets and fire balloons. A holiday was given to the whole of the labourers on the Clandon estate, who also received their day's wages.

[*Surrey Times and County Express*, 26 June 1897]

GREAT & LITTLE BOOKHAM.

A United Celebration.

These villages joined hands on Tuesday in celebrating the Jubilee, and by the kindness of Mr W. Keswick, the High Sheriff, they assembled in Eastwick Park, amidst the beauties of which their festivities were carried out. Tea was served to the children, after which 230 adults were provided with a meat tea. In the evening dancing was indulged in, and at 10 o'clock a huge bonfire was lighted on the high ground adjoining Marlow Pit. Mr W. C. Vellender made an efficient secretary to the Jubilee committee.

[*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 26 June 1897]

COBHAM.

Cobham has never presented a gayer or more joyful appearance that it did on Tuesday. The streets were profusely decorated with festoons of flags and banners bearing suitable inscriptions, and nearly every house and cottage showed its loyalty by displaying something in honour of the occasion. The executive committee to whose untiring efforts the success of the day was in a great measure due, consisted of the Rev T. J. Edwards ... [and others]. There was also a ladies committee consisting of Mrs T. J. Bennett ... [and others]. The day's proceedings began with a dinner at 12.30, in the ... meadow, free to people over 60 years of age. About 700 sat down to the good old English fare of meat loaf, mutton and plum pudding. At the conclusion of the dinner, Mr C. H. Combe, who was cordially received, submitted in a few appropriate words the toast of Her Majesty the Queen, which was received with tremendous applause. At 1.45 a procession of school children took place, all the girls carrying maypoles, while several of the boys bore banners. Headed by the Cobham Brass Band, the procession made its way down to the Anyards road to the cricket field, where a tea was subsequently provided for them. The sports on the afternoon were a great success and, despite the many counter-attractions, there was a record gathering as compared with the annual Whit Monday meeting, there being considerably over 2,000 people present. The officials of the sports gave every satisfaction ...

[*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 26 June 1897]

COBHAM.

The Jubilee Festivities.

On Sunday a church parade was held by the various benefit societies and others in the neighbourhood. The members mustered at the White Lion Hotel at 2.30, and, headed by the Cobham Brass Band (who came out for the first time in their new uniforms), they paraded the principal part of the parish. The Foresters had two banners and the Oddfellows one. There was one very old banner in the procession, which used to belong to the 'Old George' Benefit Society, dated 1798, which was lent by Mr E. Ledger. The Esher and Byfleet Fire Brigade joined in the procession. The service at the church was conducted by the Rev E. J. Wilson. Collections made *en route* and at the church, for the Cobham Nurse Fund, amounted to nearly £15.

The village was very gay with bunting on Tuesday, some of the places looking very smart indeed. Amongst these were 'The Tartar', Mr Lynn's, Mr Cook's, Leigh Hill House, Mr Woodbury's, Mr Gammon's, and the Home of Rest. The decorative work on the last four was done by Mr H. Boston. The festivities were inaugurated with an excellent dinner, to which over 600 sat down. This was provided in a large tent in the Cobham Village C.C. ground. At 1.45 a procession of over 600 children took place from the Schools to Mr Finn's meadow. Cobham Brass Band led the way. The procession had a charming effect, and each child carrying a maypole. Mrs Jervis Edwards and Mrs E. J. Wilson had the management of the maypole dance. A tea was provided for the children in a large tent in Mr Finn's field, at 4 o'clock, the adults having their tea at five. Performances were given by musical clowns, and a punch and judy show, etc. During the afternoon, various sports were held under A.A.A. laws. The several events were all well contested, and caused great enthusiasm among the large number of spectators. Mrs Edwards presented the prizes. The results will be found below. At 9.15, there was a pyrotechnic display, the set pieces, 'The Crown' and 'The Queen, God bless her,' being uncommonly good. The crowd cheered lustily when these were alight. The fireworks were in charge of Mr H. W. Price and Mr H. Gregory. It was estimated that on the hill there were about 3,000 spectators who all joined in a hearty rendering of the National Anthem.

[*The Surrey Times*, 26 June 1897]

There were, of course, much more elaborate and spectacular celebrations in the larger towns near Effingham, especially at Guildford and Dorking. The accounts in the newspapers of these are too lengthy to be set out here but we can show a few photographs.



Figure 7 Two rather poor photographs showing the bunting and banners in Guildford High Street.



Figure 8 A much better photograph showing the procession in Dorking High Street.

The Surrey Times had this to say in its issue of 25 June 1897:

'If you do a thing at all, do it well', was evidently the motto adopted by Dorkingites. Of all the towns in Surrey, Dorking can lay claim to have drawn up the most complete programme ... The inhabitants were provided with a whole week's amusement, commencing with a church parade and ending with a rose show. It was probably the biggest venture the town has ever made, and certainly it was an unqualified success. For thoroughness, the Jubilee Committee had few rivals in the county, and every credit is due to them for Tuesday's day of happiness.

None of this could compare with the magnificence of the arrangements in London, especially the royal procession. Perhaps one or two of Effingham's residents went to London to view this spectacle, and may even have witnessed Victoria's arrival at St Paul's.



Figure 9 Arrival of Queen Victoria outside St Paul's Cathedral.



Figure 10 Queen Victoria photographed in about 1880.



Figure 11 A screen shot from a video of six and a half minutes duration which combines movie clips from various stages of Victoria's procession through London;
<http://youtu.be/HxohzRe9D6w>

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: “Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee Service, 22 June 1897” (detail) by Andrew Carrick Gow; public domain

Figures 2, 5: from the Minute Books of Effingham Parish Council; public domain

Figures 3, 6: from the Log Book (1862-1923) by kind permission of St Lawrence School, Effingham

Figure 4: by kind permission of Reach plc / Mirrormix

Figures 7, 8: unattributed images found online

Figure 9: “Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee Service, 22 June 1897” by Andrew Carrick Gow; public domain

Figure 10: from the Royal Archives

Figure 11: Youtube compilation of clips uploaded by R W Paul (<http://youtu.be/HxohzRe9D6w>)

APPENDIX I

Account of Effingham's Celebration in the Minutes of Effingham Parish Council

Parish of Effingham

Diamond Jubilee Celebration, 22nd June 1897,

To consider the question of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, a Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday Evening the 19th day of May 1897, when the following Gentlemen were appointed on various Committees to coope together and make arrangements for carrying out the said celebration in a fit and proper manner

Finance and General Committee

Mr. L. Muir Chairman

" Uriah Loxley

" Samuel Brown

" George Bristol

" Alfred Alderman

" James West

" William Richards

" Frank Edwards

" Arthur Dilly

Refreshment -

Mr. A. J. Killick Chairman

" C. E. Lambert

" Edward Jeffries

" William Butchers

" ~~Edward~~ Hablin

" Andrew Bonner

" Frank Hills

" Griffiths

Sports Committee

Mr. J. J. Smith Chairman

" John Haway

" William Barnett,

" Ernest Loxley

" Walter Mac-niel

" Frank Edwards

" Joseph Tyrrell -

Fireworks

Committee

Mr. C. E. Lambert Chairman

" John Haway

" William Butcher

" Henry Porter

" Daniel Tyrrell

" Walter Mac-niel -

The Committee met & arranged accordingly, & issued a Notice inviting all Parishioners to meet on Tuesday June 22 - at 1.30 o'clock in Mr. Brown's home field, which was kindly lent for the occasion, when various sports and entertainments would be provided, Subscriptions were invited from everybody and the response admirable, over £68 - being subscribed sums varying from £10 to 6/-

On the 22nd of June the Parishioners duly assembled to the number of about 400. Swings & coconut trees were provided, and music was contributed at frequent intervals

by the Byfleet Brass Band, Sports were organised for the youths & children, prizes being provided in the shape of Jubilee medals & money.

At 4 o'clock the children were entertained to tea in Mr Brown barn, after which every child was presented with a Jubilee mug by Mr F. Muir -

From 5 o'clock to 9, the adult parishioners were served with a substantial meal in the barn, after which dancing & games were indulged in until dark -

Shortly after dusk a display of fireworks was given under the direction of Mr C. E. Lambert, and at 10 o'clock a torchlight-procession was formed, and headed by the Byfleet-Band marched up the Guildford Road to Standrell Hill where a large bonfire had been erected which was fired to the strains of God Save the Queen and after giving three cheers for Her Majesty the gathering gradually dispersed -

The best thanks of the Parish are due to Mr Brown for his generosity in lending his field and barn for the occasion, & it was a subject of deep regret to everybody that he himself was prevented from being present by the illness which unhappily soon afterwards had a fatal termination.

Thanks are also due to the following ladies who voluntarily worked very hard at preparing & serving the various meals -

Mr Killick, Mr West, Hamilton Payne
 Reeves Richer Tyrrell Bixley Dench
 Burnett, Sen - Miss Smith.

And many thanks was due to
 the Misses Lambert for the decorations,
 and assistance, also to Miss Lightfoot
 Mr Lightfoot and Mr Loseley -

And to the Gentlemen who served
 on the Committees & who have the
 satisfaction of knowing that their
 arrangements met with absolutely
 universal approval.

The celebration as a whole
 was entirely satisfactory, both as a
 display of loyalty to our Gracious Queen
 & as an entertainment - which will
 dwell in the memories of all who were
 present. There was no hitch in the
 proceedings & nothing whatever occurred
 to mar the sense of enjoyment and
 good fellowship which prevailed -

Statement of Accounts

<u>Dr.</u>	<u>£ - S. D.</u>	<u>£ S. d., £ S. d.</u>
Prizes	2-13-0	By Subscription
Sung & Tent	2-17-6	W. G. E. Lambert 10-0-0
Byfleet Band	10-0-0	" F. Muir 10-0-0
Refreshments for Band	1-1-4	" J. A. Ross 10-0-0
Medals	1-7-0	" L. G. Jarnickow 10-0-0
Flags & Sticks	1-0-0	Mrs. Tisdale 8-0-0
	18-8-10	Adal. Maxie 2-2-0
Fireworks	15-10-9	M ^{rs} . Schwabe 1-0-0
Faggots for Bonfire	1-10-0	M ^{rs} . Alderman 1-12-6
	17-0-9	" Dilley's (62) 5-9-0
Printing	0-4-6	" Edwards (32) 2-14-3
Rubber Stamp -	0-4-6	" Loxley (3) 7-11-0
Policeman	0-5-0	" West (4) 2-0-0
Watchman	3-0-0	" Brinkley (10) 2-5-6
	4-17-0	" Richards (4) 4-16-0
Conisbee bill	8-19-3	
West "	4-16-8	68-10-3
Coopers "	3-7-8	
Richards "	3-4-2	1-3-0
Fiddymants	13-0-0	69-13-3
Butter Labour etc	1-16-5	W. G. E. Lambert 1-6-3
Paid to invalids	0-15-0	" F. Muir 1-6-3
	35-19-2	2-12-6
Total	£72-5-9	£72-5-9

C. E. Lambirth
Chairman