

Memories of the Silver Jubilee in 1977

In 2022 Moira Dye & June Betts remember Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee on Tuesday 7th July 1977

Back in 1977 Moira Dye and Barbara Chipperfield, were Brown Owl and Assistant of the Brownies. June Betts and Pam Harvey ran a youth club, along with Mr. W. Brown running the Scouts and Cubs; and probably Daphne Hardiment was with the Guides, and all the groups were based at the Reepham Associated Youth Services Hall, known as R.A.Y.S. Hall, on Dereham Road. This building is now a private house but was originally a chapel for Primitive Methodists and later, from the mid-1930s, Reepham Fire Station.

Moira says *" I think I remember most of what happened for the Jubilee. At the start we had a small committee made up of the youth leaders and a few members of other groups. We decided to raise money to buy all the Reepham children up to school leaving age, even babies, a Silver Jubilee Crown coin, to be collected from Mrs. Betts who lived on the Market Place in those days. The children had to sign or finger print, or even footprint, in a book so we could make sure all Reepham children had each received a coin."*

The Youth leaders had spent at least three years fund raising to buy the ex-fire station by holding jumble-sales on a table outside June's house, every Saturday morning, for at least 35 weeks of each year. So we did some more sales and bought the crowns from Barclays Bank. It also took a long time to make a list of all the children.

Moira continues, *"On the day the children were at the Schools for a sports day, while tables were all being set on the Market Place for a street party-- then all changed as it started to rain ! "*

Most of the tables were from the Town Hall, heavy wooden ones that were used on Friday nights when the Reepham footballers ran Bingo sessions for the local community, raising funds for the football club. *"So the decision was made to go into the Town Hall. Well, that was a panic, but we actually managed it before the children all arrived for tea. People arrived with cake tins or dishes with cloth covers; inside were sandwiches with Shiphams meat or salmon paste, egg, tomato, cheese, home cooked ham and even jam sandwiches. There were sausage rolls, buns, jam tarts and 'Hedgehogs' – (small pieces of cheese and pineapple on cocktail sticks stuck in half an apple or orange body). Then jelly and blancmange and gallons of squash. A great day for all !"*

"In the evening we had a BBQ back on the Market Place set up by Brian Dawes, Mr. Vertigan and other helpers". Brian Dawes was one of the first people in Reepham who had a microwave oven and he made sure the sausages were already well cooked inside so they just needed to be browned and smoked.

Moira declared *" It was one of the most successful days we have had in Reepham. The next day was back to normal. Mrs. Betts and myself went to clean up the Town Hall. Oh WHAT A MESS ! what had been jelly and ice cream, bread and sandwiches was all over the floor and tables. Thank goodness it was bin day! We did it and left the hall sparkling clean but declaring we would NOT offer to help to manage future Jubilee celebrations."*

Moira Dye & June Betts

(There was a photograph taken on the front steps of the Town Hall of many of the Children who attended. I have the photo and coin book somewhere. When I find it, I will give it to Reepham Archive.)

Image of the children on the Town Hall steps GB/REE/2207161034

Elizabeth II Jubilee Coin Album GB/REE/2207161108