

Report on Langcliffe's Coronation Day Festivities (from the Craven Herald 14.5.1937.)

Langcliffe was a village of decorated arched structures of wood covered with evergreens., and with red, white and blue devices and electric fairy lights. Nearly every house in the village was "en fete". The scene was unusually impressive when the fairy lights were switched on in the evening. The Garden of Remembrance and the Memorial were beautifully illuminated, as was the Big Tree on the Green.

The day's festivities began with a procession from the Village Green to the Big Tree. At the head were Mr. J. Peel (Chairman of the Coronation Committee) Mr. H.H. Bland (hon. sec.) and Mr. G. Newhouse (hon. treasurer) and the Langcliffe Band conducted by Mr. A.C. Hocking. At the Tree a united service was conducted by the Rev. A.L. Bryan (Chaplain at Giggleswick School) and the Rev G. W. Harrison (of Settle), and Miss Brownrigg accompanied the singing of hymns. Prior to the service a wreath was laid on the War Memorial by Mr. T. Monk.

After the service the procession re-formed and proceeded to Langcliffe Paper Mill, via New Street, Ellwood, Ribble Bank and Willow Wood, returning to the Village Green for the judging for the fancy dresses. The judges, Mr. J. Ingham, Mr. & Mrs. G.B. Fox, and Miss R. Gyte, made their awards as follows, the prizes being presented by Mrs O. Pumphrey:-

Nursery Rhymes: (Children to 6 years):

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. M. Parker (Mary, Mary, quite contrary). | 2. R. Whaites (Little Miss Muffet) |
| 3. D. Venn, (Jack). | 4. P. Marklew (Jill). |
| | 5. B. Whaites (Little Bo Peep). |

General :- (Children to 6 years) :

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. J. Bland (Robin Hood) | 2. Doris Thistlethwaite (Hot Water Bottle). |
| 3. D. Soanes (Cowboy) | 4. G. Harrison (Red Indian) |
| | 5. B. Marklew (Carnival) |

Comic (7-10 years)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. W. Whaites (Football) | 2. L. Clark (Pierrot) | 3. C. Venn (Mephistopheles) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|

Original (7-10 years)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. R. Whaites (Maclean's Tooth Powder) | 2. E. Parrington (Eat More Fruit) |
| 3. P. Craven (Gypsy) | |

Fancy (7 - 10 years)

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. M. Nixon (King for a Day) | 2. M. Marchbank (Rosette) | 3. L. Ovington (Coronation) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|

Original (11 -14 years)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A. Hocking & J. Towler (Pirates) | 2. M. Ovington (Safety First) | 3. E. Clark (HP Sauce) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|

Comic (11-14 years)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A. Thistlethwaite (Land of the Free) | 2. J. Middleton (Pierrot) | 3. M. Lambert (Clown) |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|

Fancy (11 - 14 years)

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. O. Whaites (Eve) | 2. A. Clark (Willow Pattern) | 3. R. Venn (Coronation) |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|

Events in George V's Reign (11-14 years)

- | |
|------------------------|
| 1. J. Venn (Wireless). |
|------------------------|

ADULTS Comic

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Miss D. Cutriss (Scarecrow) | 2. Mr. W. Marshall (Speed Limit) |
| 3. Miss I. Brown & Miss E. Ovington (Bride and Bridegroom) | |

Original

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Miss E. Jackson (Ovaltine) | 2. Miss N. Hunt (Maclean's) | 3. Miss M. James (OK Sauce) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Fancy

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Miss W. West and Miss I. Hocking (King and Queen) | 2. Mr. R. Marsden and Miss D. West (Tyrolean Peasants) | 3. Miss A. Yates (Shamrock) |
|--|--|-----------------------------|

Events during George V's Reign

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. W. Venn (Votes for Women) | 2. Miss P. Bullock (Nineteen) |
| 3. Mrs. Graham (Victorian Lady) | |

Decorated Pram 1. Mrs. A. Fox

Decorated Bicycle 1. Mr. W. Syers & Mr. F. James (The ship - Queen Mary)

2. Miss D. Hunt (H.M.S. George VI) 3. Mr. W. Ward (Coronation)

Tea was provided free for all residents of the township, adults having tea in the Provided School and children in the Langcliffe Institute.

MEDALS AND COINS

As the children entered the Institute they were presented with Coronation mugs by Mrs. J. Ingham, kindly given by Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. G.G. Dawson of Langcliffe Hall. Mr. J. Ingham also presented each child with a new threepenny-piece, and Mr. and Mrs. G.D. Fox presented them with a Coronation medal. Tea was served by the members of the Ladies Tea Committee and friends.

Sports were held after tea on the Village Green - the officials being: announcer - Mr. W. Johnson; starter - Mr. E. Soanes; handicappers - Mr. R. Monk & Mr. J. W. Thistlethwaite; judges - Mr. J. Ingham and Mr. G.B. Fox. Mr. O. Pumphrey presented the prizes.

At 8. pm. the villagers assembled on the Green to hear the broadcast of the King's speech through an arrangement by Mr. Bowen. A firework display followed, the set pieces and the rockets having been kindly given by Mr. O. Pumphrey.

The proceedings closed with dancing in the Village Institute, music being supplied by the Sylvians Dance Band, of Settle.

Selections of music were played throughout the afternoon and evening by the Langcliffe Band.

On Thursday afternoon another tea was provided for the children.

The members of the Committee responsible for all these festivities were:-

Mesdames N. Blades, L.M. Bland, W. Bradley, T. Bullock, A. Hocking, J. Jackman, G. Hurst, G. Mortimer, R. McGill, R. Middleton, G. Newhouse, O. Pumphrey, W. Redfern, R.J. Sutton, J.W. Thistlethwaite, W. Venn, T. Yates.

Misses B. Blades, P. Bullock G. Moreland

Messrs. M. Bowen, T.A. Gibson, J. Jackman, H. James, M. Johnson, J. Marklew, H. McClelland, H. Mercer, R. Middleton, R. Monk, W. Redfern, E. Soanes, J.W. Thistlethwaite, J. Tomlinson, R. West and the Rev. H. Edwards with the chairman Mr. J. Peel, Mr. H.H. Bland (secretary) and Mr. G. Newhouse (treasurer)

SPOONS

On Friday morning at the Langcliffe Provided School, Mr. John Ingham of Langcliffe Place, presented to each child attending the school a Coronation souvenir spoon, given by the West Riding County Council. Mr. Ingham also gave a short address.

Report on Langcliffe's Coronation Day Festivities
(from the Craven Herald 14.5.1937.)



↑ MARY JOHN
LANGCLIFFE CHILDREN in fancy dress underneath the village arch, a feature of the decorations in the village to mark the Coronation. C. H. 14.5.37.

C. H. 14.5.37.
LANGCLIFFE
PRESENTATION OF SPOONS.
On Friday morning at the Langcliffe Provided School, Mr. John Ingham, of Langcliffe Place, presented to each child attending the school a Coronation souvenir spoon, given by the West Riding County Council. Mr. Ingham also gave a short address.

Langcliffe School Entertainments

Although from September 1936 there were Parents' Days when the school was carrying on an ordinary day's work, there were also special entertainments for parents, often following the annual Christmas Party for the scholars.

The school was decorated with holly and a Christmas tree with lights, and sometimes there was an exhibition of sewing, paintings or craft work done by the pupils. There were party games for a while, and then the teachers and senior pupils served the party tea, which usually included mince pies some of which contained a threepenny bit made of real silver. Mr. J. Ingham presented everyone with an orange, and sometimes also a present or some money.

After tea the parents arrived, and every pupil was involved in the entertainment. There were songs and carols, percussion band playing by the Infants, and a nativity play, "The Christmas Rose". Both Junior and Senior classes put on plays. In 1935 the Seniors did "The Peace Egg", an amusing mummies' play in doggerel verse about George and the Dragon, the next year it was a version of Dickens' "Christmas Carol", and in 1937 they performed a play based on a local legend called "Robin Hood's Mill" which was written by one of the boys. By that time, the girls had made backcloth-curtains which could be hooked onto a framework which the boys had made in Woodwork lessons, and which were hauled up on pulleys to form the back of the "stage" (on the level in the Hall). They had also made front-curtains which could be drawn back and forward between the audience and the stage. So there was a dramatic ending to the play as the Mill and the Miller, accompanied by flashes of lightning (flood-lights switched off and on) and thunder (a tin tray shaken vigorously behind the backcloth curtains) sank down into the depths (the Miller crouched lower and lower behind a steadily-rising piece of cloth, painted to look like rocks!) and the villagers expressed horror and consternation as the front-curtain was slowly pulled across!

The school had done a good deal of work in making puppets and several short puppet plays were staged in a proper Punch and Judy show frame. There was also a play with a pantomime-horse which was very funny, and got a lot of applause. Another year they did an exhibition of somersaults and cartwheels and balancing, one pupil following another at high speed, which took a lot of practising to get it without gaps! Another year they performed part of "The Merchant of Venice" in which Jackie Harrison (I think) acted splendidly as Shylock.

I found the programme for the 1946 Concert, and have also found a photograph of the Senior boys and girls most of whom played the parts in the play called "Riders to the Sea". The photograph includes:-

Pat Ashurst, Geoffrey Craven, John Fox, Eva Jackman, Peggy Marklew, Dennis McLernon, Frank Middleton, Edgar Moore, Leonard Redfern, Jean Robinson, Monica Robinson, Jean Segger, John Worthington, Mary Worthington.

At the end, everyone, visitors and pupils, made a big circle in the Hall and together lit their own imaginary rocket, stood back, watched it go off into the air, said "Oooh!" and "Aahh!" at the coloured stars, clapped their hands and shouted "Bang!" and then gave a great cheer. This became the customary ending of the Entertainment Evening at the School for many years!



Making puppets - and a
puppet-play practice behind.

Senior classroom. Note gas-lighting.

Probably 1937

(These were the new table-top desks
and chairs.)

Langcliffe School Entertainments

CHILDREN'S BREAKING-UP PARTY. C.H. 29.12.36.

Thursday week was the occasion of the Langcliffe schoolchildren's breaking-up party which, in accordance with the children's wish, took the form of a "Jacob's join." An excellent repast was served by the school staff and senior scholars.

The children had decorated the room with holly and a Christmas tree was illuminated with fairy lights. A present was given to each scholar, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Ingham gave each child an orange.

After tea the evening passed in carol singing, short plays and songs by senior scholars, and recitations and nursery rhymes by the junior scholars.

Master Dennis Newhouse proposed a vote of thanks to the staff and the motion, seconded by Miss Elizabeth Jackson, was heartily carried. The parents thanks to the staff was voiced by Mr. H. James. Mr. H. Bland (headmaster) responded.

C.H. SCHOOL CHILDREN ENTERTAIN PARENTS. 31.12.37.

A happy time was spent by the parents of the schoolchildren when they were entertained as guests of the Provided School, Langcliffe, on December 22nd. The occasion was "breaking-up" party.

The proceedings began with tea for the children, prepared by the staff and senior scholars.

Various departments of the school contributed to a capital programme. The senior scholars gave an enjoyable play, "Stainforth's Robin Hood's Mill." They also rendered some delightful "puppet" plays, and a "horse play" was very much appreciated.

The junior department's contribution consisted of two plays—"Sir Huon Bordeaux" and "Red Riding Hood," and the infants presented a Nativity play from the "Legend of the Christmas Rose." Carols were also sung.

During the evening, each child was presented with a threepenny piece, and at the close Mr. and Mrs. Ingham distributed oranges.

Mr. and Mrs. Bland, Miss Brennand and Miss M. Graham were responsible for the general arrangements.

At the close, thanks were accorded Mr. and Mrs. Ingham, Miss Graham, Miss Brennand and parents by Mr. Bland.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S HAPPY GATHERINGS.

An enjoyable time was spent by the parents of the Langcliffe Council school children when they were entertained by the scholars in the Provided School, Langcliffe, on Friday evening.

Various departments of the school each did their part. The junior department took part in two plays, commencing with "Sing a Song a Sixpence," followed by dances and another play "The Fairy Prisoners." The infants department's item comprised rhythmic dances, followed by a shortened version of the play "A Christmas Carol," by the senior scholars. The remainder of the evening was spent in carol singing.

An exhibition of crafts work done by the children was also staged.

The annual "breaking up" party was held at the school on Tuesday, when the proceedings began with tea for the children, prepared by the staff and senior scholars. A happy time was spent in the singing of carols and dancing. Games and various competitions were greatly appreciated by the children, and during the evening Miss Mary Redmayne, dressed as "Santa Claus," presented each child with a small present, and at the close Mr. and Mrs. Ingham handed to each child an orange.

Mr. and Mrs. Bland, Miss Brennand and Miss M. Graham were responsible for the organisation of the proceedings each evening. They were assisted by children not otherwise engaged.

At the conclusion of the entertainment a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ingham was proposed by Mr. Bland.

Many parents attended the entertainment.

Langcliffe C.H. 7.7.44.

CHILDREN'S CONCERT.—A colourful presentation, "War-time Cavalcade," in which over 70 children of Langcliffe Council School took part, was staged on Friday evening at the Langcliffe Institute. Five scenes depicting Britain at peace and war, opened with "Peacetime on the village green." The second scene, "War," was followed by "The Spirit of Britain," "Tommy on the Sea," and the finale, "Salute the Soldier." The concert, produced by Mr. H. H. Bland (headmaster) and staff of the school, was attended by a large and appreciative audience. Mrs. Harrison supplied the piano accompaniments, and the lighting effects were in the hands of Mr. Longmire. A vote of thanks to the producers, children, and others taking part was expressed by Mr. H. James (chairman of the Institute Committee), and the proceeds, amounting to £20, were donated to the Institute funds.

Langcliffe C.H. 12.5.44.

AMBITIOUS EFFORT.—An ambitious target of £4,000 is set by Langcliffe's "Salute the Soldier" Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. George Newhouse. An enjoyable concert, in the Institute on Saturday by the Girl Guides was arranged by Miss Bessie Cardus (captain) and Mrs. McClelland for the "Free Gift" Fund. On Monday Mr. D. F. Peacock (Clerk to the Settle Rural District Council) made the initial marking of the indicator at £162, followed by a "social" in the Institute, organised by the "Salute the Soldier" Committee; £300, on Tuesday, was registered by a Langcliffe schoolgirl, Doreen Fox, and a great attraction was a children's concert in the School, arranged by the Headmaster (Mr. H. H. Bland) and the school staff; a whist drive in the Institute on Wednesday was preceded by the marking of the indicator by Mr. J. W. Thistlethwaite at £650, and similar duties by Mr. John Peel; on Thursday, were followed by a sale and "social."

CRAVEN HERALD 25.12.36.

Robin Hood's Mill.

(a play written by Langcliffe school children.)

(adapted from the Yorks. Post & Leed's Mercury reports, 4.10. and 6.10. 1938)

The little play, which lasted about a quarter of an hour, is based on a local legend. On the way from Stackhouse to Stainforth there was a field with a mysterious hollow from which strange rumblings came.

The legend said that once upon a time there was a Mill on this spot and it was a hive of industry. Its owner was making plenty of money, when suddenly the spirit of avarice took possession of him and he resolved to work the Mill everyday, including Sunday, the day of rest. To punish him for his greediness the Powers That Be removed him and his Mill from the sunlight and sent them into the bowels of the earth. The strange rumblings from underground showed that the Miller had to continue his work, deep down in the darkness, as a punishment for his sins.

In the first scene we listen to two hikers who are talking about the legend of the mill. The words are taken out of their mouths and we are straightway transported back to the days when the Mill was working above ground.

We see the busy owner. Then comes his dreadful decision, made in a moment of greed, to work the Mill on Sundays. The villagers gossip about it in the street and all are shocked and warn him against such evil ways. Something is bound to happen.

And something does ! On the very first Sunday that the Miller is working his Mill, the sun turns blood red. Gradually it goes darker and darker. To add to the terror there are loud crashes of thunder. The villagers watch, horrified, as Mill and Miller slowly sink out of sight. On the morrow, Robin Hood's Mill and its owner have completely disappeared. Where it was, is now a mere hollow in the ground, with rumblings coming out of it !

Justice had been done, and the wise old inhabitants nod their heads in agreement !

The play ends peacefully with another discussion between the two hikers.