

“WHEN THE PARADE PASSES BY”

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When I was researching the history of Pratts Bottom I was fortunate to be able to scan photographs from various family albums. The black and white photographs in this article were provided by Freda Campbell, Oliver Hulf and his sisters, Imogen and Cordelia.

Some of the parades were organised by the village school, whilst others were an integral part of village life like the May Fete (The May Queen and her Entourage).

1935



This parade, in 1935, was to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary.



The parade marched from the school, in Hookwood Road, along Rushmore Hill towards the village green.

The Coronation Fancy Dress Parade in 1953

Memories of the Parade

by Imogen Kesteven

At the Coronation Fancy Dress Parade in June 1953, all the children in the village dressed up and assembled into a procession. We all collected in Broke Farm Drive. It was very exciting! Our grandparents came down from London and there were so many people everywhere. I was very envious of the girl dressed up as Britannia as she sat on a chair on a wheeled platform. Her father, owner of The Limes Cafe, pushed her along!

There was a band at the front of the procession (I don't think it was a very big band) and off we went. The procession went past the village shops; the traffic had to wait, and then left into Rushmore Hill and slowly up to the village green where we were judged. I would have been 11 and half years old. It was a bit of a let-down after that. Later I learnt that the committee had been overwhelmed with the turn out and there were more people than they had expected. They hadn't got enough prizes! I was given a sweet wrapped in paper fixed by an elastic band, what a prize! A woman I didn't know pushed it into my hand.

There were other years when we went to the Village Fetes. I remember Mr Hook roasting a lamb and selling the meat in rolls. The W.I. had various functions, too and I always enjoyed that side of village life. Everyone was friendly, even if they didn't know you very well.



The Pratts Bottom Fancy Dress Parade in June 1953. Britannia sat on a chair on a wheeled platform. The procession started at Broke Farm Drive.



The Pratts Bottom Fancy Dress Parade-June 1953

(1) From left to right: Robin as Young Raleigh, Cordelia as Cherry Ripe, Imogen as a Gipsy Fortune Teller and Oliver as a Space Scout, 1st Saturn. Grandma Wyatt can be seen on the left of the photograph.

(2) Anthony Smith, Margaret Keeble (scarf) Mrs Dears (Norsted Lane) Suzanne Baker (Rice Krispies) Robin Hulf (with boat), Imogen, Cordelia (Cherry Ripe), Oliver (Spaceman) Richard Wyatt.

The Fancy Dress Parade in 1956



The parade commenced their journey in Broke Farm Drive.



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