

Welcome to your Almshouse News

The 1950s

Wit & Wisdom

Upcoming  
Events

Page Turners

**Celebrating the Jubilee  
& Reliving the '50s**

Residents'  
Memories of  
the 1950s

Fun & Games

Poetry Corner



## Contents

### News & Events

Welcome & Farewell 2

Chapel Schedule 2

Letter from Mike 3

The 1950s 4-17

### Regulars

Recipe 17

Upcoming Events 18-19

Past Events 20-22

On This Day 19,21

Wit & Wisdom 21

Local News 23

The Autobiography Group 24

Page Turners 25

Answers Page 26

Fun & Games 27

Poetry Corner 28

## Welcome to our New Resident:

We offer a warm welcome to our new resident who has recently joined our community: **Robert Kitching**.

## Chapel Schedule: June 2022

<b>Sunday, 5th June</b> <i>Pentecost</i>	<b>10.30am Eucharist</b> <b>5pm Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Sunday, 12th June</b> <i>The Most Holy Trinity</i>	<b>10.30am Eucharist with hymns</b>
<b>Sunday, 19th June</b> <i>Corpus Christi</i> <i>Sunday</i>	<b>10.30am Eucharist</b> <b>5pm Evening Prayer and Benediction</b>
<b>Sunday, 26th June</b> <i>Second Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>10.30am Eucharist with hymns</b>
<b>Sunday, 3rd July</b>	<b>4pm Thanksgiving Service followed by refreshments</b>

## Competition Winners

Thank you to everyone who submitted competition entries for May's anagram and wordsearch. Picked at random, the winners this month are:

**Gurdip Lota** - Anagrams

**Doreen Colbert** - Wordsearch

### Congratulations!

Answers from last month's competitions are on page 26.

### Credits:

**Editorial Committee:** Juliet Ames-Lewis, Lorraine Bradley, Debbie Flaherty, Chantal Richards & Mike Townsin.

**Design & Photography:** Chantal Richards & Nigel Barker.

## Contribute to our Next Issue

If you would like to contribute an article for the next issue, the deadline is:

Friday 17th June 2022

Give the article to your Scheme Manager, or email to [c.richards@richmondcharities.org.uk](mailto:c.richards@richmondcharities.org.uk)  
As a guide on word count, a one page article is ideally 340 words.



This magazine is recyclable.

## Letter from Mike Townsin



Dear All

Casting an inquisitive eye over the Birthdays Today column in my copy of *The Times* on May 5th, I came

across the following: “Teddie Beverley, singer, the Beverley Sisters, *I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus* (No 6 in the singles chart in 1953),95”.

I don't know if Queen Elizabeth, only a year older than Teddie, was aware of the Sisters' achievement amid all the excitement of having recently become the monarch, or even if, like my mum, she was a fan, certainly these were life changing times for both young ladies.

Which brings us to the celebration of Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee marking her 70th year on the throne since becoming Queen on 6th February 1952, the only British Monarch to achieve this.

To humbly mark the occasion, we are dedicating this month's edition of the magazine to all things '50s, as well as our 1950s themed Platinum Jubilee party on 1st June.

The Beverley Sisters were pretty “square” – the opposite of “with it”, to use two bits of 50s teenagers' slang – compared to the artists evoked in Gerry Wilson's 1950s Rock n' Roll hall of fame on page 16, just one of the retrospectives from that decade that we commissioned.



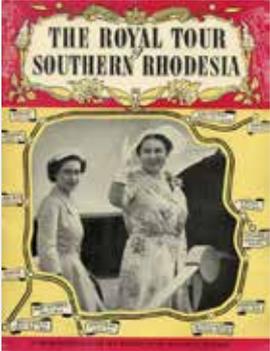
In a piece on the 1951 Festival of Britain on page 14, we can see, among other ancient photos, King George touring the exhibition with his wife Queen Elizabeth; just as the Festival was billed as a “tonic for the nation” to raise the spirits of a country still in the grip of austerity and rationing after World War 2, so the opening of the Elizabeth Line, was recently headlined in *The Times* as ....” a bold declaration of optimism and civic endeavour”, which the Queen recently attended, just as her father did seventy years ago.

“Plus ca change plus c'est la meme chose” ....

Enjoy the Jubilee weekend!

Mike

## Residents' memories of the 1950s



**by Melanie Stapelkamp**

"In July 1953 the Queen Mother and the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret arrived for a tour of Southern

Rhodesia. I was three and still can remember standing with my mum and my sister waving our Union Jack flags at the procession which came right past our block of flats in Bulawayo.

They also visited The Leopard Rock hotel which is where my mum and dad had their honeymoon.

In 1947, before I was born, the two Princesses visited the Victoria falls (one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World) and travelled on a steam train which is still running today and I see regularly when I visit one of my sons who lives nearby in the Hwange National Park".



**by Doreen Colbert**

"I remember rationing and how lucky our family was because my dad had the best allotments in the area so our family always ate

well. I do remember though stealing a nice mouthful of cheese from the local shop and eating it because cheese was rationed!"

**by Margaret Payler**

"On the day of The Coronation I was working as a nurse at Kingston Hospital and was able to watch this memorable event on the TV screen on the ward".

**Michael Hobbs**

What games and toys did you have in the 50s?

"Board games, cowboys and indian outfit and table top blow football"

**Vivienne Perkins**

Where did you go on holiday?

"Stayed with family all around the country"

**Maureen Tidman**

Your favourite music of the 50s?

"Elvis ....loved him and his voice"

**Jackie Wheaton**

Did you have a TV/radio?

"Yes, we had both"



### from Alf & Beryl Read

"We watched the Coronation on the TV in my family home. We were the only ones to have a television so everyone in the

street gathered outside our house and watched it through the window!"



### by Joy Sayles

"I was married on September 16th 1950 at Rochester Baptist Church which is in Crow Lane, quite near the house which Charles Dickens chose

as Satis House in Great Expectations.

My husband and I went on honeymoon to a little village in North Devon called Monkleigh. I had spent a very happy time during the war on a farm as an evacuee, from 1940 – 1942!

On our return Ken and I lived in Reading where I was employed as an Almona Clerk at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The NHS was fairly new and as time went on more and more patients were being referred for various surgical items so I became the Surgical Appliance Clerk until I left in September 1958 to await the birth of our first daughter.

We moved to Richmond in August 1959 when Ken became Head Groundsman at Old Deer Park in Kew Road. We lived with our daughters next to Kew Gardens until we moved in 1990 to Michel's Almshouses".



### We Are Survivors

Submitted by  
Lena Warboys

(For those born before 1940...)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes... And before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought fast food was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized rain coat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us "time sharing" meant togetherness, a "chip" was a piece of fried potato, "hard wear" meant nuts and bolts, and "software" wasn't a word.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today... But by the grace of God... We have survived!

## The Coronation



by **Claire Sanecka**

The Queen is celebrating an unprecedented milestone for a British monarch, as she marks her Platinum Jubilee. And the UK is getting an extra bank holiday to honour the occasion, creating a welcome four-day weekend in June.



However, the 70th anniversary of Elizabeth II becoming Queen actually fell in February, the month in which her father died, automatically passing the monarchy to her, aged 25. Elizabeth's coronation did not take place until the following year, in 1953.

The King had been battling ill health and failed to recover from a lung operation. His body was discovered by a valet at 7.30am. At 10.45am, it was announced "that the King, who retired to rest last night in his usual health, passed peacefully away in his sleep early this morning". His death, aged 56, came while the then Princess Elizabeth was in Kenya with Prince Philip. The King lay in state at Westminster Hall before his funeral which was held on 15th February 1952 at St George's Chapel, Windsor, where he is buried.

After a period of mourning on 2nd June, 1953, the day of the Coronation, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were driven from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey in a Gold State Coach which was pulled by eight grey gelding horses: Cunningham, Tovey, Noah, Tedder, Eisenhower, Snow White, Tipperary and McCreery.

The service began at 11.15 am and lasted almost three hours.

It was divided into six parts: the recognition, the oath, the anointing, the investiture (which includes the crowning), the enthronement and the homage.

For the past 900 years, the Coronation ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, London. The service is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has had this duty almost consistently since the Norman Conquest in 1066.



## 9 Tips For Taking Care Of Your Husband

Over the past 60 years, the relationship dynamic between men and women has changed drastically.

And while many are still fighting for equality, a look back at what married life was like in the 1950s shows just how far we have come.



A few years ago this extract from a 1950s Home Economics Book took the internet by storm, with thousands unsure whether to be shocked or amused by the cringeworthy marriage advice offered to women at the time. You can make your own mind up!

- **Have dinner ready.** Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal ready on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospect of a good meal is part of the warm welcome needed.
- **Prepare yourself.** Take fifteen minutes to rest so that you are refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your makeup, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift.
- **Clear away the clutter.** Make one last trip through the main part of the house. Gather up the books, toys, and newspapers. Dust the tables so that they appear clean. Your husband will feel that he has reached his haven of rest and order. Doing this for him will give you a lift also.
- **Prepare the children.** Take a few minutes to wash their faces and hands. Comb their hair and change their clothes if it is necessary to make them look presentable to him. They are "God's Creatures" and your husband would like to see them playing their part.
- **Minimize all noise.** At the time of his arrival, eliminate all the noises of the washer, dryer, dishwasher, and vacuum. You've had plenty of time to do these things during the day. Don't do them now. Encourage your children to be quiet. Be happy to see your husband. Greet him with a warm smile.
- **Do not greet your husband with problems or complaints.** Don't complain when he is late for dinner. Count this as minor when compared to what he had to go through today.
- **Make him comfortable.** Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest that he lie down for a few minutes in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft, soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.
- **Listen to him.** You may have a dozen things to tell him but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him speak first.
- **Make the evening his.** He is special! Never complain that he does not take you out to dinner or to other pleasant entertainment. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure, his need to unwind and relax. Remember that you relaxed all day waiting for his return. Now it's his turn to enjoy what you enjoyed. Try to make his home a place of peace and order, a place where your husband can relax in body and spirit.

## Fashion in the 1950s



by **Linda Prendergast**

Fashion in the 1950s saw a clear gender divide.

While men's fashion moved

towards a more casual day-to-day style, women's fashion prioritised elegance, formality and perfectly matched accessories. Novel prints and colours also marked a playfulness in fashion for both men and women.



Fashion is rarely contained neatly in one decade, and the popular look that dominated womenswear in the 1950s actually emerged in the late 1940s. When Christian Dior's "New Look" appeared in 1947, it became an instant success and the nipped-in waist and full-skirted silhouette remained the leading style



until the mid-1950s. As the decade progressed, the dominant silhouette became progressively straighter and slimmer, and as fashion began to look to the new "teenager" for inspiration, the elegance and formality of the early part of the decade began to lessen.

As the 1950s began the initial resistance to the extravagance of the New Look had died down and the silhouette was entrenched in both women's day

wear and evening wear. Dior himself continued to produce designs that followed the feminine line even while incorporating new elements. Even as the silhouette evolved, its core style was seen in evening gowns, day dresses and separates.

Although womenswear in the 1950s prided formality, men's fashion moved towards an informality it had not yet seen before. Though young women wore tight sweaters and sought clothes that suited their age, it was young men who really started the so-called "youth culture" of the 1950s. Since the rise of the suit in the 18th century, men's fashion had seen little dramatic change until the rise of the Teddy Boys in Britain and the rebellious youths who looked to Hollywood stars Marlon Brando and James Dean in the 1950s. In the years after World War II, tailors on Savile Row in London introduced a slim cut suit with a velvet-collar that was referred to as the New Edwardian.



In the early 1950s young working-class men began to adopt and adapt the style for their

own purposes. Nicknamed "Teddy Boys" (Teddy being a nickname of Edward), these young men wore extremely narrow trousers, velvet-collared jackets and greased their hair back into quiffs.



### My Memories Of The 1950s



by Ann Ellington

The 1950s were, to me, an amazing time: I was 18 and had just started drama

school and was loving every moment.

The Queen's Coronation came when I was an unworldly, insecure teenager, and my father had arranged that Mother and I could view the Queen's Parade from the balcony of his office building which was on Park Lane. What a very exciting day! I was looking around trying to take in the noise, the excitement of the people jostling about on Park Lane when I saw the gold coach with the now Queen Elizabeth and Phillip sitting inside. There were soldiers marching in scarlet and red suits and many different coaches with other Royals and Royals from the Commonwealth. But I became more interested in The Stars on the hotel balcony of The Dorchester, next door. I could see many famous names but I definitely saw Alan Ladd (the American Western star) and Stanley Baker (the famous English actor). So I plucked up courage and asked my Mum and Dad if I could go up and ask for their autographs and to my surprise they said yes! So with my pen and programme in hand I walked through the swing doors of the hotel and as I stepped in my popper necklace popped all over the floor. I was so embarrassed. A young page boy rushed towards me, dustpan and brush in hand,

and swept them all up and held his hand out to me, while I was apologising to him – so I shook it! How was I to know that he expected a tip? Oops!

I went to the Reception Desk and asked "where is Alan Ladd's suite please?" They looked at each other, and said "Oh I expect you are looking for Stanley Baker?" "Yes, of course" I replied, trying to not look too embarrassed. "Room 209 second floor" he said. I found Room 209. I rang the buzzer with trepidation – the door opened and there was Alan Ladd (OMG). My first thought was how short he was, as he said "Hi you must be looking for Stanley – he is in the next room over there". I slowly went towards the door which was half open – there among many others was Stanley Baker. I was trying to look cool and calm, which I was not! So I went over to him and said "Mr Baker could you possibly give me your autograph?" "Hi sweetie" he said "of course". He duly signed my programme – smiled and returned to the others he was having a conversation with. I left feeling a bit flat but I got Alan Ladd's autograph on the way out, so I was a happy bunny.

At the end of drama school (3 years) I went in to Repertory for a year before I met the man that was to become my husband and would give me two wonderful children. But that is just the beginning of another part of my life story in the 50s. The eleven years from 1950 – 1961 were the most fulfilling and rewarding years of my life – but that's another story ....

## Rationing in the 1950s



by **Leslie Cook**

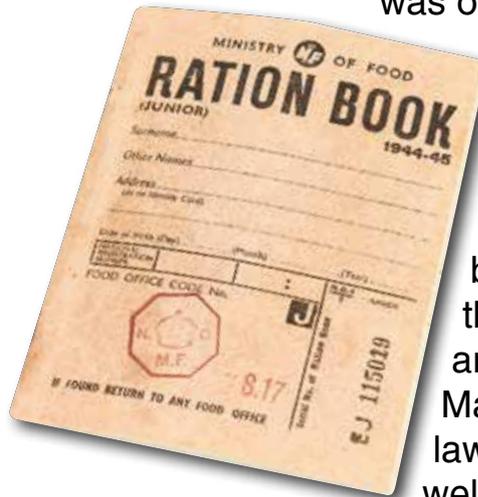
Bacon/ham 4oz Butter 2oz  
Cheese 2oz Eggs 1  
Chops 2 Lard 4 oz

No, not the beginning of a recipe but what was an adult's weekly allowance at the height of rationing, plus 8oz of sugar, 4oz of tea, 1lb of meat and 8 oz of sweets per month. These were minimum levels, increased for children, manual workers and some other categories. It was necessary to register separately at the butchers and the bakers and so on (no supermarkets then). Shortages of supplies sometimes meant queueing for ages at times. In fact if there was a queue, people were inclined to join it, not knowing what they were queueing for but sensing that there must be something at the end of it! I well remember queueing for about two hours, at the age of nine, for oranges – only to be told very tersely when I reached the counter: "We don't serve children." There was an uproar from the queue: "You serve the kiddie... He's been queueing same as us... That's not fair...". Just a few of the very loud remarks yelled at the shopkeeper. Reader, I got served.

Rationing was introduced by the Government in 1940 and it was not until the early 1950s that most commodities came "off ration". Meat was the last item to be de-rationed and food rationing ended completely on 4th July 1954.

Bread rationing was introduced in 1946 (9oz per day), prompting Winston Churchill to state that the Food Minister's announcement was "one of the gravest I have ever heard in the time of peace." It came off rationing in the early 1950s. Sweet rationing did not end until 1953.

As for fruit and vegetables, home-grown was of course



readily available, as a child how I missed oranges and bananas (and the Aeros and KitKats). Many a smart lawn and many well-kept public gardens were

transformed into vegetable plots.

How all this deprivation must have affected us (and I just don't mean figure-wise!). There is an over abundance of everything today. Yes, but a new form of rationing has now arrived for those families unable to cope with the increase in the cost of living. Never have food parcels been so prevalent. But that's a different story. Rationing made most of us who lived through those times resilient to subsequent crises, from the Cold War to the recent Pandemic.

So rationing in the 1950s was no picnic. Six years after the end of the war in a country still weary from aerial bombardment and the emotional strain

of having loved ones away in conflict in foreign countries. A ray of sunshine shone in 1951 on the Festival of Britain, a morale booster showing the best of British manufacturing and with abundant entertainment diversions, dancing to top bands of the



time and many restaurants displaying ingenuity sourcing their dishes.



And then the greatest beam of light. The Coronation on 2nd June 1953 of our current monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. Rejoicing, street parties galore - where did all that food, apart from jam sandwiches come from...

... And then another reason for celebration: the end of all rationing on 4th July the following year! Three hearty cheers!

## The 50s... The Golden Years of Movie Making

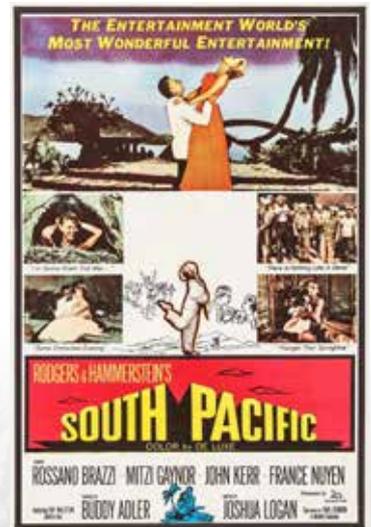


by Jenny Ruff

The second world war was over and families were re-united (though sadly some not). It was a special treat for everyone to go to "the pictures". These were the golden years of big blockbuster movies such as *Ben Hur*, *The Ten Commandments*, *Singing in the Rain*, *Moby Dick* and many more. Top stars were John Wayne, Marlon Brando, Gary Cooper, James Stewart and female stars such as Marilyn Monroe, Brigitte Bardot and the beautifully elegant Grace Kelly to name a few.

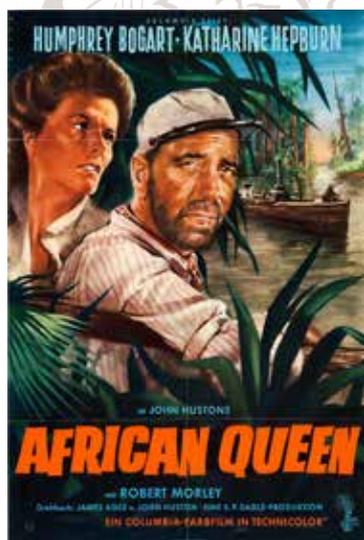
A film I loved and is often shown on television was the highest grossing film of 1958 - the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific* starring Rosano Brazzi and Mitzi Gaynor with wonderful music and songs

such as "Some enchanted evening" and "I'm gonna wash that man right outta my hair". I had always dreamed of seeing the South Pacific Islands and in my travel career I was lucky enough to do so, but



## ALMSHOUSE NEWS - The 1950s

was quickly brought down to earth to find out that the film was actually shot in Hawaii which I had visited previously not knowing this. Watch this film and I guarantee you'll be in your armchair twitching your fingers to Bloody Mary singing "Happy Talk" for ages afterwards!



Another blockbuster favourite often shown on TV is the Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn film "The African Queen" (1951). Rose (KH) is a British missionary in East Africa in 1914 rescued

from the German army after her brother was killed by Charlie Allnut (HB) and his dilapidated steamboat called The African Queen. There is war, intrigue and many adventures along the way before being captured by the Germans as spies and sent to be executed. Charlie asks the German Captain to marry them and he agrees - when lo and behold the boat plunges down the rapids and they escape. Phew hairy stuff! Nearer to home than East Africa the final few scenes were actually shot on the small Duke of Northumberland River in Isleworth which I walked along every morning going to work.

From South Pacific to Isleworth...A world apart but both very happy memories for me!

## TV in the 1950s



by Debbie Flaherty

The 1950s brought the arrival of television in the UK and at that time it was considered a luxury item.

However, by 1960 almost three quarters of the population had one.

In the mid-fifties, the emphasis was on news, current affairs, and history. Some of these programmes included:

**Panorama** – which is still going strong today.

**Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?** A quiz programme for archaeological experts.

**Leisure & Pleasure, Family Affairs, About the Home.** The fifties equivalent of daytime television for women (presumably all the men were at work).

Sports events included:

University Boat Race, Wimbledon Tennis, Test Match Cricket, The FA Cup.

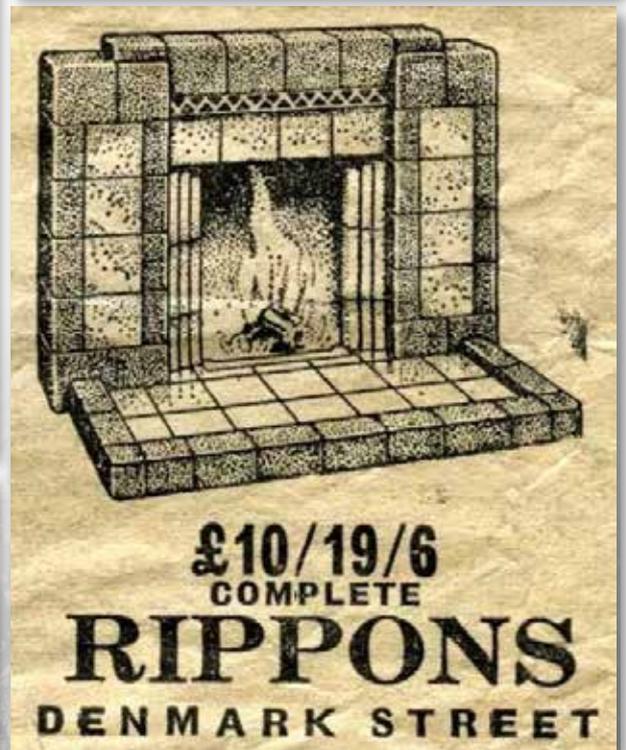
Other popular programmes included: *Emergency Ward 10, I love Lucy, Double your Money and Dixon of Dock Green.*

There was a period between 6pm and 7pm when no TV was broadcast. This was used to trick young children into thinking TV had finished for the evening so that they would head off to bed without complaining!



# How Times Have Changed!

## Ads from the 1950s.



## The Festival of Britain



by Mike Townsin

In May 1951 the name of Police Constable Frederick Hicks entered the history books, as he ascended the 300 foot Skylon, centrepiece of the Festival of Britain, to remove a scarf tied to the pinnacle by student prankster Philip Gurdon of the University of London's Birkbeck College.

This event, widely reported in the tabloid



press, preceded, by a few weeks, the opening of the exhibition by HM King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

The festival was conceived by the then Labour Government for a couple of reasons: to mark the 1851 Great Exhibition centennial, but more importantly to be a “tonic to the nation” following the privations of WW2, and to raise the spirits of the country by showcasing the inventiveness and genius of British scientists, technologists, designers, artists.

But unlike its Victorian predecessor it was not a World Fair; instead it was entirely

focussed on British achievements. Funded chiefly by the Government, it had a budget of £12 million – £376 million in today's money.

There was also a hidden agenda: the Labour government was losing support, so the unspoken goal was to influence the electorate by giving it the feeling of a successful recovery from the war.

Though the “floating” Skylon, an unusual



cigar shaped object supported by cables, was an abiding

symbol of the exhibition, it was scrapped (literally) in 1952 on the orders of Winston Churchill who saw it as a symbol of the previous Labour administration; in fact Churchill had opposed the whole project which he described as “three dimensional socialist propaganda”. This view was publicly endorsed at the time by the (only recently deceased) Richmond luminary and national treasure, Michael Frayn.

In fact the festival was a great success, and the British public flocked to London, not to mention several spin-off festivals across the UK: there were 10 million paid admissions to the six main exhibitions on the South Bank over the five summer months it ran. By contrast, the Millenium Dome exhibition which cost £789 million (£1.4 billion today) attracted half that number of visitors over its twelve month run, and was judged a failure by the press.

# From Coronation day until now – swings and roundabouts in the NHS



by Dr Alex Hall

On Coronation day in 1953, hospital life was very much as portrayed in the film Doctor In The House,

which starred Dirk Bogarde as Simon Sparrow and James Robertson Justice, the redoubtable consultant surgeon of “the bleeding time” fame. And to be seen by your GP, all one had to do was to turn up at your doctor’s surgery and wait your time (or if too unwell to attend the surgery, request a home visit which would be granted without question!).



In reality, we all know the difficulties in getting a GP appointment now. However, the advances in medical treatment in the past 70 years have been truly astounding. If one had a heart attack in the 1950s or 60s all that was available was complete bedrest for 2 weeks and

the hope that you would pull through and not die. Now, following a heart attack, you may be given clot-busting drugs, a stent or two, a coronary artery bypass operation or even a heart transplant!

Asthma was also a very serious condition prior to the arrival of Ventolin in 1969. Before then it was treated with adrenaline or aminophylline – an injection that could kill the patient if injected too rapidly. Although it can still be serious, asthma treatment has been transformed by Ventolin and Becotide inhalers.

Many previously untreatable cancers can now be cured. Lymphomas and almost all leukaemias were fatal conditions – not so now. Treatment of diabetes and many other chronic conditions are enormously improved.

Antibiotics were very few in number – M&B, penicillin and tetracycline. There are now numerous antibiotics to choose from; however bacterial resistance to these drugs is, unfortunately becoming very prevalent.

Joint replacement was unknown in the 1950s and gall bladder removal left one with an 8 inch scar – now two or three very small puncture scars after “key hole surgery”. Anaesthetics are enormously safer than the very explosive ether anaesthesia of the 50s. All hospitals smelled of ether!

How well I remember my first patient to reach the age of 90 in the 1970s – in the 50s most people died before the age of 80, and many before 70 – a revolution indeed.

### “Rock 'n Roll”

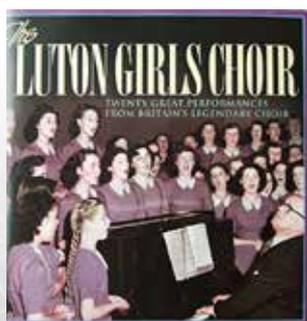


(and what I did with the  
“Luton Girls’ Choir”)

by **Gerry Wilson**

A sale of shellac records purchased on a whim from a local music store was my first awakening to what in America was then characterised as crossover race artists. My youthful curiosity had been drawn to the descriptive epithets attached to the label names of the singers: Little Richard, Fats Domino and Chuck Berry.

Recording artists such as these were unknown on the family radiogram and my constant playing of the trove raised a parental concern for my mental well-being. Needle time for my 78 rpm’s was curtailed to Saturday afternoons when the house was empty and my sister was out of earshot from the racy exhortations complicit in the lyrics. Therefore, in a fit of pique and as any fair-minded juvenile delinquent would do, I banished a favourite of Dad’s – the “*Dream of Olwen*” sung by the Luton Girls’ choir – to the dark recess at the bottom of the leatherette settee, never again to ride the waltzing revolutions of a Garrard turntable.



The 50s are regarded as the “Rock 'n

Roll” decade but the early years of that period saw a collective of musical styles ranging from novelty songs to small vocal groups and post war crooners.

Featured band singers such as Peggy Lee, Patsy Cline and Doris Day established solo platforms whilst in Britain we had our own Alma Cogan, Ruby Murray and Julie London.

Nat King Cole was a rare person of colour on the American hit parade, but cover versions of race records were very common such as “*Fever*” and “*Cottage for Sale*” and most lamentable, Pat Boone’s insipid attempt at the Little Richard classic “*Tutti Frutti*”.

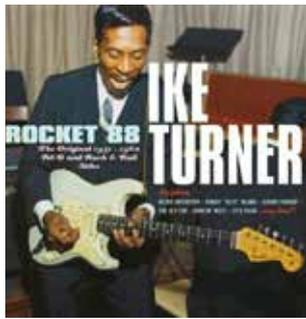
Perry Como sent the nation to anodyne sleep whilst Johnny Ray cried like a baby, Michael Holiday told the story of his life and Frankie Vaughn complained about a non-compliant green door.

Bearded intellectuals with knitted jumpers and briar pipes found a constrained excitement in “Trad Jazz” which had been tempered from Southern Dixie style musicians such as Bunk Johnson and Sidney Bechet. The British purveyors of this alchemy were the three “Bs”: Barber, Bilk and Ball.

For working class “wannabees” there was the three-chord joy of “Skiffle,” with tea chest, wash board and acoustic guitar or banjo. The pre-eminent exponent of this genre was Lonnie Donegan whose “*Rock Island Line*” was to be a spring board to the British Blues of the 60s.

By the middle of the decade white American teenagers, with money to spend and a rebellious nature, found expression to their frustrations in a sanitised version of Rhythm and Blues called Rock 'n Roll tagged by the DJ Alan Freed.

Credence is given to the first invocation of this style as being "*Rocket 88*" by the Ike Turner band but in truth it is just a jump blues with a boogie shuffle.



Bill Haley and the Comets triumphed with "*Rock Around the Clock*" and the follow up "*See You Later Alligator*" became a parting affectation by school children and adults alike.

The propellant that accelerated Rock 'n Roll into the mainstream came with the arrival of Elvis Presley whose raucous style and swivel hips allied to great songs from Leiber and Stoller sent out shock waves that alarmed parents but thrilled their teenage offspring. In Britain, home grown talent such as Tommy Steel, Marty Wilde and Cliff Richard fashioned themselves after their transatlantic cousins with equal excitement and hysteria.

The notion that rock and roll was just a passing irritation was swept aside as new talent emerged: Buddy Holly, Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and many others giving truth to the maxim that with "Rock 'n Roll" you never grow old!

## Coronation Chicken



### Ingredients

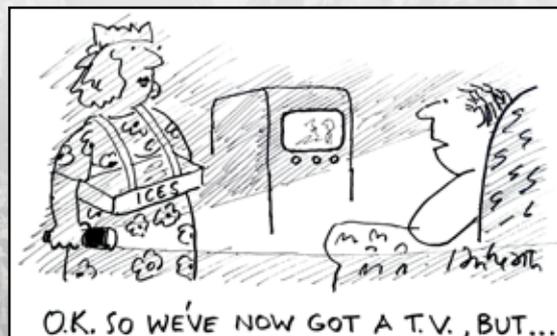
- 6 tbsp mayonnaise
- 2 -3 tsp mild curry powder to taste
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tbsp mango chutney
- 1-3 tbsp sultanas, or to taste
- 500g shredded chicken or leftover chicken.

### Method

**Step 1** – Mix mayonnaise, curry powder, cinnamon, chutney and sultanas together and season with salt and pepper.

**Step 2** – Add the chicken and stir to coat. Stir in 2 tbsp of water to loosen if required. Season and serve as desired.

Delicious with a jacket potato, in a sandwich or with a seasonal salad.



## Market Place

### Exercise machine for sale.

If you are interested please contact Alf and Beryl Read directly for information and price.  
Tel: 020 8940 1737



During the 50s less than 1 in 10 households had a phone.

## Film Club: Cheese and Wine Film Night

Thursday 16th June at 6.00pm  
(Film starts 6.30pm)



"I don't believe it!".  
"The Duke" is still not available to rent in the UK. But not to worry, we'll be showing "Death on the Nile" instead. This is the Kenneth Branagh version (2022). The cinematography is

gorgeous and will help you recapture your Nile cruise memories or perhaps entice you to book one to experience one for yourself (without the murders, of course).

Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot's vacation aboard a glamorous river steamer turns into a terrifying search for a murderer when a picture-perfect couple's idyllic honeymoon is tragically cut short. Set against an epic landscape of sweeping Egyptian desert vistas and the majestic Giza pyramids, this tale of unbridled passion and incapacitating jealousy features a cosmopolitan group of impeccably dressed travellers, and enough wicked twists and turns to leave audiences guessing until the final, shocking denouement.

All are welcome and remember there is no charge. Just turn up.  
We'd love to see you.

## We're off to Bognor Regis



by Linda Prendergast

Tuesday 26th July

**Don't forget to book your seat on the bus.**

Places are limited so make sure you let your Scheme Manager know before Monday 4th July.



Remember you can also bring a carer and a friend.

We will set off from Hickey's at 9.00am and then make our way to the other pick up points at Wakefield Road bus station and Lebanon Court in Twickenham.

The bus will leave Bognor Regis at 4.00pm for the return journey.

## Quiz Night



by Norman Bramfitt

On Thursday 5th May it was time for the bi-annual quiz which is run so brilliantly and efficiently by Eve & Steve. Once again, the wine and snacks were generously supplied by The Richmond Charities.

I was in the team on a table which consisted of Ron, Mary, Jackie, Sylvia and me. From the very start it was nip and tuck between table 7 and 8 with each member of our team coming up with answers at crucial times to keep us hanging on their coats tails. Going into the final round we were trailing by 2 points, but had saved our joker (double points) for this round. Fortunately for us we had a good round which meant we ended up as the winners. Winning was the icing on the cake and capped a wonderful evening of fun and entertainment. We all look forward to another quiz later in the year.

Thanks from us all to Eve & Steve.

On this Day:  
5th June 1956

Elvis Presley goes on television to promote his new single "Hound Dog", scandalising Middle America with his "suggestive hip movements"

On this Day:

2nd July 1953 The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster. The ceremony was televised; this helped to sell over 1 million TV licences that year.

## Out And About Group

### Trip to The London Museum of Docklands

Once again, we "Out and Abouts" set off and boarded the fast train to Waterloo. We made our way to the Jubilee Line. This is quite a step if your walking isn't great. The tube sped through the tunnel but its screeching was almost overpowering at times. Not the most pleasant of journeys.

We exited the station, and found ourselves bewildered in a canyon of vast tall buildings. Still, the Museum was only seven minutes away. What, by helicopter? Reminded me of the times when a seaside landlady described her B&B as being only a five-minute walk to the beach? Well, perhaps the map designer was one of her grandchildren. There were lots of information boards in the square all saying "You are Here" but a notable absence of clear direction signs to the Museum. Anyway, we managed to agree on a route and set off on what was far more than the elusive seven-minute route.



By the time we reached the museum we were famished but luckily there was a

Wetherspoons almost adjacent to the museum. It was quite a nice and spacious pub with the usual menu. Before we left, we decided on a departure time and the return route. We find it best to avoid the rush hour on the return journeys.

Believe it or not we finally entered the museum. The staff were very friendly and offered us advice on how we might make the most of our visit. As there was so much to see one had to make choices. We took the lift to the top floor and began to view some of the following Galleries:

- 1600 – 1800 Trade Expansion
- 1840 – 1880 First Port of Empire
- 1600 – 2022 London Sugar and Slavery
- 1800 – 1840 City - River
- 1840 – 1850 Sailortown
- 1880 – 1939 Warehouse of the world
- 1939 – 1945 Docklands at War
- 1945 – 2022 New Port - New City



Our return route was by Docklands Light Railway (DLR) to Stratford. It was a bit of a walk from the DLR station to the Overground station but once on the train it only took an hour to get to Richmond.

With a London Freedom Pass this wonderful day out was free of charge. Oh, the joys of being an "Out and About".



Perhaps you might consider making a visit yourself. If so, which is the better route: Main line and Jubilee or Overground and DLR? I would suggest Overground/DLR. However, whichever route you choose you'll get there eventually.

**Directions:** Richmond Overground to Stratford DLR to West India Quay London Museum of Docklands (500 metres) On exiting the DLR look for this building.

On this Day:  
4th May 1951

The Festival of Britain  
opened.

## Wit and Wisdom



curated by **Mike Townsin**

"Whatever you do, stamp out abuses, and love those who love you".

*Voltaire*

"Children begin by loving their parents; after a time they judge them; rarely, if ever, do they forgive them".

*Oscar Wilde*

"I don't believe in astrology; I'm a Sagittarius and we're sceptical".

*Arthur C. Clarke*

"The way to ensure summer in England is to have it framed and glazed in a comfortable room".

*Horace Walpole*

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans".

*John Lennon from song Beautiful Boy*

"I could go on stage and make a pizza and they'd still come to see me".

*Frank Sinatra*

"Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do".

*Jean-Paul Sartre*

"A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small parcel"

*John Ruskin*

"People who like Trump have room temperature IQs and no education"

*David Crosby, US folk-rock legend*

"I think aging is an extraordinary process whereby you become the person you should have been"

*David Bowie*

# Friends & Neighbours Outing To Chartwell



by **Leslie Cook**

Still enjoying our escape from the Covid bubble, a group of us joined the latest Friends &

Neighbours outing. We were pleased to board our familiar minibus, to be driven by our ever-trusty driver, Brian, and off we went to Westerham in Kent. Our destination was Chartwell, the family home for forty-two years, 1922-1964, of Sir Winston Churchill, a man whose public life needs no explanation to our generation.

We see him as a great war-time leader, with his bulldog face and trademark cigar. But a visit to Chartwell exposes so many different sides to his character. He was a devoted family man with a deep love of gardens. The house is surrounded by landscapes which he designed. It was surprising to learn that he was exceptionally keen on butterflies and built a special house for them. Black swans adorn one of the lakes. But back to the house.

Chartwell is where he brought up his young family, wrote his many works and entertained a host of the most important. The house does not have the grandeur of a stately home but is a typical country mansion, dating back to the fifteenth

century in origin. A tour of the house starts in the sitting room, where an adjoining terrace perfectly shows off why the Churchills loved Chartwell so much – the stunning views out to the Weald of Kent. Next is the Drawing Room, light and airy and looking out over the garden. A card table remains set out with the game of bezique, a favourite of the great



man. And then the Library, a place of peace and quiet to which he could retreat. On its own the Visitors Book, bearing the names of an incredible number of the

famous in all walks of life, from Charlie Chaplin to the Queen. Other rooms follow, each with a fascinating story to tell. A selection of the gifts presented to our war-time Prime Minister is on display in the Museum Room, the most imposing of which are the massive cut glass and gem-studded silver fruit bowls given by Josef Stalin.

So much to see, so much to linger over. Must see all the paintings in the studio. But as usual time said No! Back to the minibus, some of us laden with plants and pots and others with irresistible purchases from the well-stocked shop. And many of us were still smiling to know that the successor to a marmalade cat named “Jock”, given to Churchill on his 88th birthday and present on his death bed, was there to eye each visitor with what looked like a grin.

## Ham Open Gardens

Ham Open Gardens returns once every two years, residents have a unique opportunity to go behind the garden wall of a selection of the most beautiful private gardens in Ham.



For more info: [www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2022/ham\\_open\\_gardens\\_returns](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/ham_open_gardens_returns)

## Twickenham Riverside's Mary Wallace Theatre



Following their epic production of Henry IV, a further conflict is currently in rehearsal at Twickenham

Riverside's Mary Wallace Theatre. For more info: [www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2022/carnage\\_at\\_mary\\_wallace\\_theatre](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/carnage_at_mary_wallace_theatre)

## Kew the Music

Kew the Music returns for 2022. With iconic names in a spectacular setting, Kew the Music is back this July with an amazing line up.



For more info: [www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2022/kew\\_the\\_music\\_returns\\_for\\_2022](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/kew_the_music_returns_for_2022)

## Art history events announced

The Old Town Hall in Richmond will host an extensive programme of art history talks and events throughout the summer months.



For more info: [www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2022/summer\\_art\\_history\\_events\\_announced](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/summer_art_history_events_announced)

## Kew's Avenue Club



Kew's Avenue Club – the daytime social club based at Kew Community Centre for people in their 50s and

beyond – is bringing back its lunchtime food offering. [www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2022/kew\\_club\\_relaunches\\_weekday\\_lunches](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/kew_club_relaunches_weekday_lunches)

## Watercolour Painting Course

In the beautiful setting of JMW Turner's country retreat in Twickenham, join award winning artist Tim Wright for a five-session summer watercolour painting course. For more info: [www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2022/turners\\_house\\_painting\\_course](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/turners_house_painting_course)



## Volunteer for VisitRichmond



Would you like to help promote the delights of our borough to visitors who arrive at Richmond

Station? For more info: [www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2022/volunteer\\_for\\_visitrichmond](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/volunteer_for_visitrichmond)

## The Autobiography Group - run by Stuart Lee



by **Stuart Lee**

This round of the Autobiography group is coming to an end, with participants having explored and written about many varied aspects of their lives.



*"My First Home – the Kitchen"*

by **Susan Shaper.**

I remember the kitchen in my first home. A mansion flat, built in the 1930's in a place called Ealing Village, which was conceived as a residence for film stars working at nearby Ealing Studios. Gardens and lots of open space to play and ride bikes, a tennis court, clubhouse and an open-air swimming pool, a lovely place to grow up in the 1950s.

The kitchen itself was quite small and utilitarian. Deco style wooden cabinets, a walk-in larder with a double stable door, a small put-up table attached to the lower half, where my younger brother and I would sometimes have tea or lunch in the school holidays, sitting on little stools. My mother's pride and joy was a cream coloured Frigidaire fridge. Very American, very much the thing.

I remember our cheerful milkman, coming to the back door, dressed in a peaked cap and white coat, uniform from the United Dairies on Ealing Common.

I used to like looking out the window,

down below, to see his horse waiting patiently for him, munching oats in his nose bag.

My mother was a very good cook, self-taught and adventurous. We used to have proper spaghetti, which came in long blue paper packets, served with home made Italian meatballs and sauce. Very unusual in those days. Roast chicken was a treat, which we had on Friday nights or for Sunday lunch and my mother's chicken soup was something to remember – fragrant and golden, delicate and delicious.

Sometimes for Dad, she'd make a proper steak and kidney pud in a pudding bowl, with a paper top and string tied round.

Another favourite was baked green peppers or marrow stuffed with a delicious mixture of minced beef and rice. After a while we asked if she could leave out the veg and just give us the stuffing, which was so yummy. My brother and I nicknamed it "Lassie" – after one of the first dog food commercials on TV.

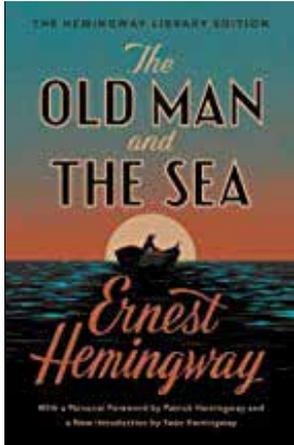
"Lassie – full of Meaty Goodness!" We thought it looked like it. It didn't really.

Needless to say, it didn't take us long to enjoy teasing our mother, when we were out shopping with her, by saying in a loud voice –

"Mummy, please can we have Lassie again this evening for supper? We love it so!"

Still makes me smile when I think of it today.

## Page Turners



by Mike Townsin

*The Old Man and the Sea.*

by Ernest Hemingway

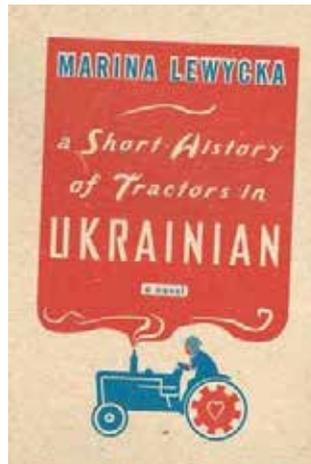
A novella. Written: 1951. Published: 1952. Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Fiction: 1953.

Its author awarded the Nobel Prize for his contribution to literature, including this book: 1954. It was the last one published in his lifetime.

It tells the story of Santiago, an ageing Cuban fisherman who, having gone eighty-four days without catching a fish, finds himself battling a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Despite this he expresses compassion for the fish, referring to him as a brother. He finally catches the marlin only to lose it to a shark attack before he can get back to shore.

Why should you read it? Because it's a heart-wrenching narrative about life, mortality, friendship, pride, religion, youth, age, love. The sea is a symbol for the whole of nature. Above all it's a tale about perseverance: "A man can be destroyed but not defeated".

It is also a story for our times, as we emerge resilient from a life threatening, life changing pandemic.



by Serge Lourie

*A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*

by Marina Lewycka

I loved this book when it was published in 2005. It is implausible but

charming. It sold a million copies and won several awards.

The first paragraph sets the scene beautifully. "Two years after my mother died, my father (Nikolai) fell in love with a glamorous blonde Ukrainian divorcée. He was eighty-four and she was thirty-six. She exploded into our lives like a fluffy pink grenade, churning up the murky water, bringing to the surface a sludge of sloughed-off memories..."

The narrator and her sister then spend 325 pages freeing Nikolai from a greedy and unsuitable younger wife very amusingly as well as revealing family secrets and dealing with the plight of refugees in wartime and thereafter.

If, like disgraced MP, Neil Parrish, you like tractors, this is not the book for you as they are only a device to show that Nikolai had been a distinguished engineer when younger.



# The 1950s Quiz

by Norman Bramfitt

Answers in next month's issue

Question	Answer
1 What was the name of the Archbishop of Canterbury who crowned Queen Elizabeth II in 1953?	
2 What was Elvis Presley's first UK number one hit in 1956?	
3 Which human organ was the first ever to be transplanted in 1954?	
4 Which film won 2 Oscars in 1959?	
5 Which fashion designer created the famous 1950s collection named "The New Look"?	
6 Which tragic event took place on 6th February 1958?	
7 In which film did Marilyn Monroe play the character "Sugar Cane"?	
8 In 1950, what card became the first credit card?	
9 Who was Elizabeth Taylor married to from 1952-1957?	
10 In 1959, which two states became the 49th and 50th States of America?	
11 Which singer had a UK number one hit with "Cumberland Gap"?	
12 Robert Menzies was Prime Minister of which country throughout the fifties?	
13 Which toy was invented in 1958 when Arthur K Melin and Richard Knerr took a simple old fashioned idea and turned it into a 1950s fad?	
14 What was the biggest selling record of the 1950s?	
15 Which actor played George Dixon in all 423 episodes of "Dixon of Dock Green"?	

**Your chance to win a £10 M&S Voucher!** Give this whole page to your Scheme Manager, or place in the suggestion box before **FRIDAY 17th June 2022.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Poetry Corner by Nigel Davis



Let's have a jubilee poem for this jubilee issue. This one by Pam Ayres captures the spirit, I think. It was actually written for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and focuses on her coronation in 1953, rather than when she ascended to the throne in 1952. But who cares? I have abridged the poem a little bit and changed the word to "seventy" in the penultimate line – sorry, Pam!

### A poem for the Jubilee by Pam Ayres

Dad took me to our local pub in 1953,  
 They had a television set, the first I'd ever see,  
 To watch a Coronation! I knew it sounded grand,  
 Although at six years old, the word was hard to understand.  
 But little kids like me, and others all around the world,  
 We saw the magic crown; we saw magnificence unfurled,  
 A brand new Queen created, the emergence and the birth,  
 And the Abbey seemed a place between the Heavens and the Earth.  
 Certain pictures linger when considering the reign,  
 Hauntingly in black and white, a platform and a train,  
 The saddest thing I ever saw, more sharp than any other,  
 Prince Charles. The little boy who had to shake hands with his mother.  
 I will stand up and be counted; I am for the monarchy,  
 And if they make mistakes, well they are frail like you and me,  
 I would not choose a president to posture and to preen,  
 Live in a republic? I would rather have the Queen.  
 I wish our Queen a genuinely joyful Jubilee,  
 Secure in the affection of the mute majority,  
 I hope she hears our voices as we thank her now as one, Seventy years  
 a Queen.  
 A job immaculately done.