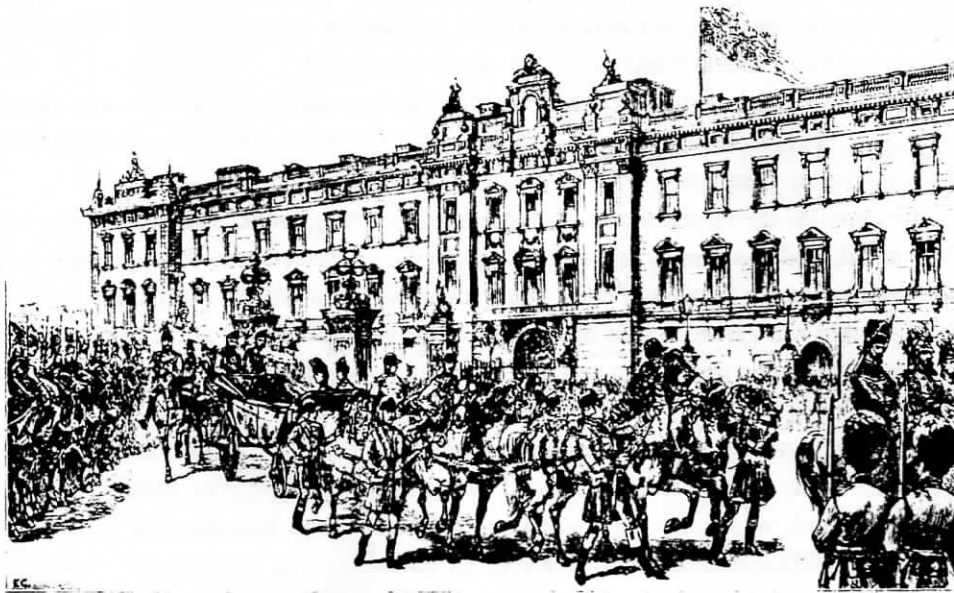


Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Her majesty Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday June 22, 1897. The Jubilee procession in London was a glittering national celebration. The population of the city was swelled by an estimated three million visitors, anxious to catch a glimpse of the Queen.

After a short service, on the steps of St. Paul's, the 78 year old Queen was driven through the capital's streets, in an open-topped carriage, drawn by eight cream coloured horses. The procession included 36 English and foreign princes, with representatives from the British armed forces, and others from the corners of the Empire. These included Chinese police from Hong Kong, turbaned Lancers from India, and Dyaks from Borneo. The city streets were decorated with flags, bunting, flowers and banners, and the festivities continued long into the night.



THE ROYAL PROCESSION LEAVING BUCKINGHAM PALACE, JUBILEE DAY,

To coincide with the capital's festivities, every major town and village in the country had planned its own celebrations. In Chipping a meeting was held on Wednesday April 14th, to consider the "best means of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee...by the inhabitants of the Township of Chipping Leagram & Little Bowland". It was agreed that subscriptions would be collected to allow a "general treat". This was to take the form of a "good tea and sports for both adults and juveniles".

The committee was made up of Messrs. Rd.Bamber, Rd.Procter, Thos.Seed, Rd.Kenyon, W.Woods, Jas. Preston, T.Marsden, W.Robinson, John Brennand, Ed.Seed, W.Walmsley, Mr.Platt, Isaac Rhodes, Mr. Dewhurst, (Fair Oak), George Kay, (Abbot Barn), M.Hoyle, John Berry, and T.Coupe. John.Y.Rideal, Treasurer, Fred Timbrell, Secretary.

The celebrations began at 12 o'clock, on June 22nd, everyone meeting in the new school yard. Here the children were presented with medals and tumblers to mark the occasion. Then the procession, headed by Chipping Brass Band, paraded through the streets to the Football Field, where the sports were held.

The Preston Guardian on the 26 July 1897 reported that, the results were as follows: "Bicycle race, two miles: 1. W.Drinkall: 2, F.Seed: 3, L.Procter. 100 yards flat race: 1, R.Procter: 2, R.Kenyon; good race. Long jump: T.Seed. High jump: Fred Timbrell. 80 yards old men's race, 60 and over: 1, John Kenyon, tailor (64): 2, J.Hoyle (77): a few inches. Tug of war, five-a-side: 1, Band team: 2, Mr. John Tweedy's team. 50 yards race for ladies: Mrs.J.Seed, Out Lane Head. Bicycle race (cushion): 1, H.Hobson: 2, T.Parkinson. 50 yards sack race: 1, J.Gornall: 2, L.Procter. 400 yards race: 1, H.Hobson: 2, R.Kenyon; a splendid race. One mile race: W.Coope".

The sports were followed by refreshments. The minutes report that tea making was to cease at 7.15, "so as to give the waiters an opportunity of joining in the festivities".