

A BROKEN LEG AND 'HEARTS OF OAK' SUNG AT TIBBERTON CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

The Coronation celebration passed off very satisfactorily on Friday 23rd June 1911. The parishes of Rudford and Highleadon joined with Tibberton the honour to the occasion. A large and representative committee had been formed, with Mr. Price as chairman, and Mr. Greenwood as secretary and treasurer.



The coronation of George V and his wife, Mary, as king and queen of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions took place at Westminster Abbey, London, on Thursday 22 June 1911.

On Thursday a service was held in the Parish Church at 11am. The special form of service was adopted, with the Coronation Ode by

Mr. C, Lee Williams. On Friday at 3.30pm Mr. Price entertained the children to tea in the British Schoolroom and gave each child a present and a Coronation mug.



Mr. Price, Sir William Wedderburn, and the Rector (Rev. R. E, Healey) in turn addressed the children. The children then marched in procession to Tibberton Court, where the remainder of the festivities took place. 'The procession was headed by the Newent Brass Band. and created much interest, decorated wands and flags being prominent.

Special songs, arranged by Mr, Greenwood, were sung by the school children in front of Tibberton Court. Next followed the planting of

an oak tree in the Court grounds by Mr, and the singing of Hearts of Oak.”

"Heart of Oak" is a historic British naval song, the official march of the Royal Navy and Commonwealth navies, with music by William Boyce and lyrics by David Garrick, first performed in 1759 to celebrate naval victories, embodying themes of bravery and strength with its famous chorus: "Heart of oak are our ships, heart of oak are our men; We always are ready, steady, boys, steady!"

After this the adults sat down to a meat tea, which had been provided in a large tent erected in a field in front of Tibberton Court, kindly lent by Mr Cave. About 360 sat down.

A 'meat tea' was a common Edwardian English term for a substantial high tea that included a meat dish.

Another item which created much interest was the May Pole dance, performed by 24 school girls from the villages.



A varied and interesting programme of sports which had been arranged was then proceeded with. The races included a Driving competition and Pony Potato Races in two classes.



The primary goal of a Potato Race is for a pony rider to pick up potatoes placed at intervals along the course (e.g., on stakes or barrels) and deposit them into a basket or bucket at a designated spot. The winner is usually the fastest rider to collect all their allocated potatoes and return to the finish line, without dropping them.

An unfortunate incident in one of the Pony races, when the ponies in second third place collided on a sharp turn with one rider falling and breaking a right leg. The correspondent reported: “Mr J. Morman was removed to the Royal Infirmary in Gloucester”.

The celebration were brought to a close with a display of fireworks and a bonfire. It was the general feeling that the celebration had been very successful, and the thanks of all were accorded to the committee and schoolteachers for their efforts.

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