



By courtesy of A. Drake Sadler, Bedford

THIRTY-NINTH

ELSTOW MAY FESTIVAL

—===== 1963 =====

THURSDAY, 2nd MAY, at 3 p.m. only

1963 MAY QUEEN - LYNDIA PIBWORTH

Programme Sixpence



Lynda Pibworth
May Queen, 1963

Camera Portraits by F. Jewell-Harrison, A.I.B.P.

Lynne Sharp
May Queen, 1962



“Deep and crisp and even”

Well, it wasn't deep, or even, and it was crisp only at night, but the snow (and ice) certainly lay round about on the 18th of January. That was the day we chose Lynda Pibworth to be this year's May Queen, and we are sure we have chosen another excellent Queen.

We chose Lynda, as we always choose our Queens, because she has in the fullest measure the qualities we look for in a May Queen. It was not until a good deal later that we found that she has an extra qualification so far unique. HER MOTHER IS A FORMER MAY QUEEN. We are delighted that this has happened, and the more so since, as I have just said, we chose Lynda before we knew that her mother once had this high honour. It is an interesting coincidence, too, that Mrs. Pibworth was crowned on the 2nd of May, and, if the weather allows, Lynda's crowning also falls on the 2nd of May.

I began by saying that the May Queen was chosen on the 18th of January. But the organisation side of the May Festival begins before January. In October or November the British Travel and Holidays Association write asking for the date of the following year's Festival, and for some particulars of it, for inclusion in their handbooks. Early? To us, yes, but these handbooks have to be prepared in good time, to be sent to many overseas countries.

So this year, once again, we are indeed happy to welcome those who are seeing our Festival as part of their holiday, and I invite them to make themselves known to me *after* the Festival.

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It is now some years since the origins of our Festival were referred to, and there may be some who do not know about it.

Maypoles were once popular all over the country, of course, but in April, 1644, there was passed an "Ordinance of the two Houses of Parliament, for taking down all and singular May-poles." After the Restoration, as one book puts it, "they were everywhere revived", but gradually many of them "vanished". Not everywhere, though, and Elstow was one of the places where the maypole continued, for the School record has a number of entries like the one for 3rd May, 1875, which says that school began early in the afternoon "to allow children to go at 3.30 to the Annual Maypole." Annual, you will notice. But about the end of the nineteenth century the celebration does seem to have lapsed. The present form of the celebration dates from 1925, when the then Head Master, Mr. R. A. J. Wadsworth, started the series that has gone on ever since. It retains much of its general pattern year by year, but in detail, as recorded in last year's programme, it is never the same two years running. This year is no exception. We have several dances either not done here before, or not done for some years past. There are other differences, too, which the discerning among our regular visitors may care to look for.

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Many people ask about the May Queen's speech. Do I write it for her? The answer is emphatically "No." Each year, certainly in my time here, the May Queen writes her own speech. She then brings it for me to see, and I check it, making as little alteration as I can. Usually I do not change more than two or three words, and those changes are generally made with a view to making the speech easier to say out loud. The Queen's speech is, as it should be, her very own. It is what *she* wants to say, in the words that come naturally to her. She does not even see the speeches of previous Queens.

I cannot end these notes without recording our thanks to all our many friends who have helped in all sorts of ways, to make our Festival the happy and colourful event that it is, and that we want it to continue to be.

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PLEASE NOTE.—While we are happy to allow photographs to be taken, we would ask photographers to avoid as far as they possibly can interrupting either the view of the spectators, or the performance. The children have been instructed that no part of the ceremony can be repeated for the benefit of photographers.

Incidentally, a good view of the crowning can be had from the side; I see it excellently from my place by the coach.

R. C. SMITH,
Head Master,
County Primary School,
Elstow, Bedford.

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It may be of interest to record the country dances that we have given in the past few years. Pretty well all the repetitions shown (except Sellenger's Round and Brighton Camp) are repetitions of tunes only—the dances were different. But it is the variety that shows up in this record.

1959	1960	1961	1962
Rufty Tufty	Pop goes the Weasel	Haste to the Wedding	The Butterfly
Circassian Circle	Black Nag	Ribbon Dance	Elstow Eight
Flowers of Edinburgh	Jenny Pluck Pears	Thady' You Gander	The Mary and
If all the world were	Christchurch Bells	Hunt the Squirrel	Dorothy
paper	Newcastle	Galopede	Dargason
Cumberland Long	We won't go home till	We won't go home till	Lucky Seven
Eight	morning	morning	We won't go home till
Sellenger's Round	Sellenger's Round	Sellenger's Round	morning
Brighton Camp	Brighton Camp	Brighton Camp	The Old Mole
			Brighton Camp

WET WEATHER

If the Festival were to be entirely rained off we should try again on the following Thursday at the same time. But we should not be put off easily. *Provided the ground were in reasonable condition*, a decision about postponement would be delayed as long as possible.

MAY QUEEN: LYND A PIBWORTH, of Elstow

Trainbearers:

JANET COOPER

ROBERT STANTON

Maids of Honour:

LYNDA HUGHES

MARGARET SMITH

(Chief Maid of Honour)

JEAN STANTON

ELIZABETH LAMBERT

CAROLINE WARD

ELIZABETH SMITH

The Queen's Jesters:

BRIAN BARTRAM (Chief Jester)

DAVID PERKINS

JOHN STACEY

Crown Bearer:

MARTYN LINCOLN

Ribbon Holders:

JANET BARRINGTON

RODNEY ALLEN

CHRISTINE COOPER

GEOFFREY COOPER

TERESA CRAVEN

ANDREW KNOX

DAWN CURTIS

MARTIN NORMAN

JENNIFER DAWSON

ALAN RICHES

IRENE DUGGAN

STEPHEN ROBINSON

SALLY GEORGE

RAYMOND SOUTHAM

VIVIEN LEE

MARK STACEY

PROGRAMME

MAY FESTIVAL · 1963

1. THE QUEEN'S PROCESSION TO ELSTOW GREEN.
2. THE CROWNING OF THE QUEEN BY LYNNE SHARP, 1962 QUEEN.
3. THE MAY QUEEN'S SPEECH.
4. ERECTING THE MAYPOLE.
5. MAYPOLE AND COUNTRY DANCES.
6. INTERLUDE—THE HEAD MASTER.
7. COLLECTION.
8. MAYPOLE AND COUNTRY DANCES.
9. TABLEAU.
10. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.
11. REMOVAL OF THE MAYPOLE.
12. RETURN PROCESSION TO THE SCHOOL.

We expect to use these Country Dances: *Picking up Sticks, Cumberland Square Eight, Lucky Seven, Speed the Plough, Cumberland Long Eight, Hunt the Squirrel, Brighton Camp, Sellenger's Round.*



Elstow Moot Hall

The Moot Hall which stands on Elstow Green was formerly a market-house in connection with the fair. John Bunyan knew the Moot Hall as a boy, and probably in after years thought of Elstow fair when he came to describe Vanity Fair in *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The Moot Hall is run by the County Council as a 17th century centre in association with John Bunyan. Here are shown furniture and other exhibits of his day, both from the simple homes of the humble and the stately rooms of the well-to-do. Two doors of the old County Gaol at Bedford are reminders of Bunyan's two terms of imprisonment; and there is a considerable collection of early editions of his works. The building is open daily except Mondays.

The special exhibition for the summer of 1963 is not (as is usual) devoted to the 17th century, but celebrates the jubilee of the County Record Office. Some of the best of its many thousand documents are on show, and with them many objects lent by old county families, such as miniatures, clothes and china. The exhibition is called *Bedfordshire and England*.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Organiser and Chairman:

MR. R. C. SMITH (Headmaster)

MRS. D. M. EVELEIGH, MRS. D. E. HUCKLE, MISS L. B. JEFFS, MRS. M. MINISTER.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge with gratitude our special obligations to: THE PARENTS, THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY CONSTABULARY, MISS J. GODBER, REV. PETER HARTLEY, M.A., MR. F. JEWELL-HARRISON, MR. J. FOUNTAIN, MR. E. PLATT, B.A., MR. G. F. RANDALL, M.A., MISS D. FOX AND HELPERS, THE SCHOOL CARETAKING STAFF AND MR. W. G. BAILEY.

BROADCASTING ARRANGEMENTS

ROBINSON AND GREEN

All proceeds to Festival expenses and Festival Reserve Fund with any residue to Elstow School Fund.

LIST OF MAY QUEENS, 1925-1962

1925	LAURA CAVES	1938	KATHLEEN GOODE	1951	JACQUELINE MAYCOCK
1926	MABEL CROUCH	1939	ENA HEATHFIELD	1952	GRETA GILSON
1927	DORIS BARTRAM	1940	MARY TROWBRIDGE	1953	MAUREEN IZZARD
1928	OLIVE DEVONSHIRE	1941	IRENE BROWN	1954	GLENYS DANIELS
1929	AUDREY BIRD	1942	JOAN MOBBS	1955	JOYCE NORMAN
1930	JOYCE WEEKS	1943	MARION NICHOLLS	1956	CHRISTINE LOWE
1931	CONNIE MILLARD	1944	LILIAN BAKER	1957	JANET COOPER
1932	VERA BAXTER	1945	IRIS VANN	1958	JENNIFER CARDING
1933	JOAN HACKETT	1946	JUNE THOMPSON	1959	JANET HOUSDEN
1934	DORIS CURNOW	1947	RITA JUDD	1960	ANN HINDSON
1935	PHYLLIS IZZARD	1948	JEAN WEBB	1961	VICTORIA LAMBERT
1936	BETTY CROUCH	1949	MARY ROACH	1962	LYNNE SHARP
1937	MAISIE GOODSHIP	1950	DIANA SKELTON		