



News and events

- It appears that the Covid pandemic in the United Kingdom is over. The time has come to write a history of the impact of the pandemic on Wheathampstead that can be added to the Timeline at <http://www.wheathampsteadheritage.org.uk/history-society-timeline.asp> Please contact us at whs@wheathampstead.org.uk with any contributions (photos? documents? memories?) that you can make to this history.
- **Next meeting: Wednesday 20 July** Next month's talk, **What the wind saw – short stories from the heart of Hertfordshire** will be given by Zoe Jasko, author of the book of the same title.

Jubilee is in the air!

Living as we do in the United Kingdom, we are accustomed to Royal Events, but it came as a surprise to me to learn that to date there have been only eight Royal Jubilees, viz: George III (1), Victoria (2), George V (1), and Elizabeth II (4).

Although fourteen British monarchs have actually reigned for more than twenty-five years – five for over fifty years and two for over sixty years – it was not until the reign of George III that a 'National Jubilee Celebration' was proposed. On 25th October 1809 the fiftieth anniversary of his accession was celebrated across the Kingdom with church services, processions, illuminations, fireworks, feasting and drinking. Feasts for the poor were given in cities, towns and villages. Here in Hertfordshire that dear old farmer John Carrington of Bramfield (near Tewin) wrote in his diary on that very day:

*"To Bramfield To the Jubilee Given By the parish to the poor of the parish & to all Farmers Servants & other poor men that work in the parish on Account of George the third King Entering the 50th year of his reign. Buttoks of Beef, 2 shoulders. 1 Legg mutton, 2 Necks of Mutton & Sewitt pudding and plumb Dumplings, 20 quarton loaves, 1 Bush of Carrots, 1 Bush Turnaps, 1 Bush puttatoes, & plenty Table Beer with their Dinner, and after Dinner each man and woman 1 quart of Strong Beer each & the Children 1 pint Each." **

(Note: At this period it was safer for children to drink beer than water, unless it had been boiled.)

There were few actual souvenirs made to commemorate George III's Jubilee and it was not until Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 that

the now familiar assortment of items was produced. Some years ago I acquired a mug that



was made in 1935 for George V's Silver Jubilee (see above). There is nothing particularly remarkable about it apart from the fact that it has 'WHEATHAMPSTEAD' stamped on the bottom.



I had always assumed that it was part of a batch ordered by St Helen's School to distribute to its pupils, but the School Logbook for that year makes no mention of any such purchase or distribution, so the reason for the inconspicuous stamp remains a mystery.

* (Extract from 'The Diaries of John Carrington, Farmer of Bramfield (Part 2) 1805-1810 and John Carrington, Junior, 1810-1812', to be published by the Hertfordshire Record Society later this year.)

Mike Martin