

West Dean Village History Trail

THE CORONATION TREE

No 27

This lovely pink-flowered horse chestnut tree was planted by the village to commemorate the Coronation of King George the Sixth on 12th May 1937.

West Dean in those days certainly did not stint their celebrations of special occasions. In addition to the planting of the tree a full programme of events took place on Coronation Day. The day started at 10.00am with a united service at the church conducted by Canon Dale, the Archdeacon of Sarum, which was well attended. At 1.00pm a cricket match began between the Hants and Wilts parts of the village. Hants won by one run.

Two servings of a meat tea took place in King George's Hall at 4.30 pm and 5.30pm. On entering all the children were handed a Coronation mug given by the Archdeacon. The redecorated hall, courtesy of Mrs Singer and Mr Grant Singer of Norman Court, was much admired by all.



THE COVER OF THE
CAVALCADE
MAGAZINE OF 15TH
MAY 1937 WITH KING
GEORGE THE SIXTH'S
FAVOURITE PORTRAIT
OF HIMSELF

From 6pm to 8pm sports for children and adults were enjoyed by participants and spectators. These included races for various ages of boys and girls, egg and spoon races, thread-needle races, three-legged races, cycle races and sack races for men over 50 and ladies over 40.

Virtually all of the village were in the hall to listen to the King's speech at 8pm. This was followed by Mrs Dale presenting the prizes won in the sports and bouquets for the children. The day continued with a social evening until the celebrations ended with the singing of the national anthem.