



VENTNOR & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wroxall Coronation Parade June 2nd 1953



The picture depicts the fancy dress parade that took place in Wroxall village on the day of Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation. It was the kind of event that took place in communities up and down the land. In nearby Whitwell, the fancy dress procession was led by the Ventnor Jazz Band, while in Bonchurch a similar procession wended its way through the village to The Maples.

In Wroxall, according to the *Isle of Wight Mercury's* reporter, the procession began in the Square, led by the Upper Ventnor Children's Jazz Band, and made its way to a field off Appuldurcombe Road. There the judges of the fancy dress competitors were regarded as having had a very difficult task. Among the child prize-winners were a shepherd, a yeoman, a pirate and a Scots boy. Adults competed as well, with prizes won by a clown and a Chelsea Pensioner, among others. The clown provided much amusement for onlookers. Entrants to the competition who were not winners each received 6d, a princely sum at the time.

In the field, there were sports contests, side-shows and refreshments. Alongside the familiar hundred-yard sprint and the high jump, the sports included an egg and spoon race, a comic cycle race, tilting-the-bucket, a sack race, an obstacle race, a bolster fight and the inevitable tug of war.

That Tuesday evening, a dance was organised for adults in the Church Hall and on the following day, Wednesday 3rd, a tea was organised in the Primary School and in the Church Hall for all the village children. The Village's old folk also had a treat in store: on June 18th, they were scheduled for a coach trip with tea laid on.

If anybody recognises themselves in the picture, or can provide names for some of the faces, please contact the Heritage Centre, or else post something on the Centre's Facebook group. A large print of the photo can be seen on display in the Heritage Centre which is currently open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week, 10.00-1.00.

Ventnor & District Local History Society: Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor Heritage Centre



Ventnor & District Local History Society is a registered charity, working to preserve and record the history of our area and make it available to the public in the Ventnor Heritage Centre.
The Society and Heritage Centre are run and managed by volunteers.

www.ventnorheritage.org.uk / telephone 855407

[Ventnor & District Heritage Facebook Group](#)

