

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, 1887

Cannon Colmore's Log Book (1877-1892) features pages cut out from the *Parish Magazine*. In April 1887 an article discusses how Moseley might commemorate the fifty years Queen Victoria had reigned.¹ It begins by reminding readers that only three previous monarchs had 'held the Sceptre for a period of fifty years', Henry III, 1216-1272 (56 years), Edward III, 1327-1377 (50 years) and George III 1760-1820 (60 years). 'When her eventful life has ended', the writer says, 'may the glowing words of the poet thus record her memorable reign':

May children of her children say,
She wrought her people lasting good;
Her court was pure, Her life serene,
God gave her peace, her land reposed,
Thousand claims to reverence closed
In her as Mother, Wife, and Queen.

The article then outlines plans for the proposed celebrations in Moseley. These include a Special Service with an augmented choir on the Evening of Monday 20th at the Parish Church at 8.00 p.m. with this service repeated on Sunday 26th, a dinner provided for working men and women and a Treat 'on a more elaborate scale than usual in Moseley Hall grounds for children of our school'. A Circular had been drawn up for circulation, the signatures showing 'that a united effort will be made to mark the day in a fitting and worthy manner'.

The Circular:

Jubilee Feast for Moseley

Dear Sir or Madam,

Feeling that Moseley should be not behindhand in commemorating the great National event of the Queen's Jubilee, we propose with your kind cooperation to celebrate the same by providing a dinner for the working men and women and a tea accompanied by games and sports, for the children.

As the extent of the festivities, which should be on a liberal scale, will depend upon the amount placed at our disposal we shall be obliged if you will fill up the annexed form with the sum you are willing to contribute, and give it with your donation, if convenient, to the bearer, who is authorised by us to receive the same.

It is estimated that the number to be entertained will be about 200 adults and 400 children, and that the cost will be about £100.

Richard Cadbury, John Cartland, J. Cattell, Joseph Chamberlain, W.H. Colmore, Isaac Ford, Thomas Hayden, W.G. Hills, J.C. Holder, James Keates, T.C.S. Kynnersley, John Leverett, G.F. Lyndon, S. Mason, Joseph Newey, John Padmore, James Smith, Francis Willmot

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A report on the day appeared later in the *Parish Magazine*:²

The Queen's Jubilee: Festivities in the Park
(From our Special Correspondent)

June 21 was ushered in by the ringing of joyous peals on the church bells repeated at intervals throughout the day.

Instead of a public dinner to the poor every cottager was provided with a liberal supply of beef and plum pudding for consumption in the family circle. Then at 3 p.m. the school children to the number of 400 assembled at the National Schools, and having each received a Jubilee Medal, marched in procession to the upper lodge of Moseley Hall Grounds (kindly lent for the occasion by Mr R. Cadbury) and thence to the front of the Hall, where the festivities were loyally commenced by the singing of the National anthem to the accompaniment of a string band, which played suitable selections throughout the afternoon. Tea followed served from a large marquee, while the children reclined in semi-circles on the grass, and feasted to their hearts' content.

Meantime the parents and other parishioners, to all of whom the invitation was extended, streamed into the grounds and had refreshments handed to them.

Then the amusements began. Groups were formed by members of the games committee, and running races, sack races, and egg and spoon races ensued, suitable prizes being offered for competition, while toys and little presents were freely distributed to all the children alike.

Paperballoon of grotesque design were soon soaring high up in the sky to the intense delight of the youngsters, who evinced keen interest in the aeronautic adventures of an inflated elephant, and later on of a colossal policeman. Next a greasy pole became the magnet of the multitude which thronged round to witness the efforts of a few sturdy, but as the event proved unpractised competitors. Their repeated failures elicited roars of laughter and in the end no one was entitled to the prize proposed, to wit, a leg of mutton.

A splendid display of fireworks concluded the festivities of the day, a day of historical interest as well as of universal feasting and merrymaking. Queen's weather prevailed, and it was the brightest day of an unusually bright and glorious June.

Shortly after the celebrations an account of receipts and expenditure was published in the *Parish Magazine*:³

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**Account of Receipts and Expenditure for festivities at Moseley in Commemoration of
Queen's Jubilee June 21st 1887**

Received by subscription: £141 3s 6d

Expenditure:

	£	s	d
Laurance (meat 663 lbs)	22	2	0
Woollaston (162 puddings, cake etc)	18	11	1
Luker (cake etc)	8	17	1
Fireworks	16	10	0
Harris (printing)	1	4	0
Hire of chairs and repairs to same	5	19	6
Hire of crockery	2	19	6
Oranges and Cocoanuts	4	10	0
Toys	14	1	6
Medals (5 gross)	2	11	3
Hadley (grocery)	3	0	10
Band	4	3	0
Milk	0	12	0
Police	0	15	0
Bell Ringers	3	3	0
Tents	6	6	0
Commission for collecting Subscriptions	6	6	6
Cheque Book	0	2	6
Sundries	2	8	6
Balance in Hand	17	0	3
	141	3	6

Examined and found correct
J. HATTON JONES



Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, 1887



Queen Victoria, Golden Jubilee Gold Medallion

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897

Queen Victoria lived on to enjoy her Diamond Jubilee ten years later in 1897. The *Moseley Society Journal* described the celebrations.⁴ £250 was spent on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. 600 National Schools children, St Mary's Day and Sunday Schools and Oxford Road Sunday School marched in procession to the village green. There were festoons and bunting on shops near the green and church. The National anthem was sung on the green, after which the procession reformed and went to a large meadow at Moor Green belonging to Mr Richard Cadbury for sporting activities and a meal whilst the elderly ate their meal at home. The interior of Moseley Hall Convalescent Home for Children was decorated with flags for the inmates and 'two fine trees were planted in the gardens by youngest and eldest child' and the national anthem was sung. 'Special tea was supplied by the ladies and Amusement Committee and Mrs Heaven gave each child a medal. Coloured fires were lit and balloons sent up in the evening and each child was given a toy'. There was enough money left to pay for the water trough and fountain on the village green and to help Moseley's Working Men's Club obtain premises of their own.⁵



Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897



Janet Berry

2022

⁴ *Moseley Society Journal*, the Birmingham Midland Institute, and the Library of Birmingham Archives; Hewston, Norman, *A History of Moseley Village*, Vol 1 (Stroud: Amberley Publishing plc, 2009), pp.39-40.

⁵ Fairn, A, *A History of Moseley* (Halesowen: Sunderland Print Ltd,1973), p.60.