

# THE COLDRIDGE CALENDAR

EDITOR: John W Smith, Rockfield, Coldridge, EX17 6AX: Email: [biggles1047@gmail.com](mailto:biggles1047@gmail.com)

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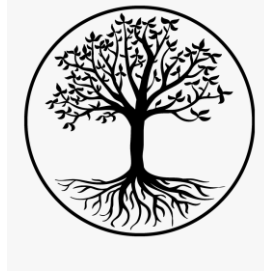


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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Thanks to all who have contributed items for this issue. I hope that everyone will join in and enjoy our parish celebrations of The King's Coronation. Lots happening here. Fantastic! God Save The King!

**Please Note the deadline for items for the JUNE issue will be Sunday, 21st MAY. Please may I have all your copy, in WORD format, no later than this date.** Thank you;

**John W Smith (Editor)**

**Email: [biggles1047@gmail.com](mailto:biggles1047@gmail.com)**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO:**

**VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE..at**

[www.middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge](http://www.middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge)  
and, also, our Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/groups/coldridge](http://www.facebook.com/groups/coldridge)

**DIARY OF EVENTS FOR MAY:**

**TAI CHI: CLASSES RUN BETWEEN 5.00pm and 6.30pm EVERY MONDAY IN THE HALL**

**Monday, 1st**  
2.30pm to 4.00pm: **CHURCH CAFÉ**

**Wednesday, 3rd**  
2.30pm: HALL: **"SUNSHINE SINGING"**

**Thursday, 4th**  
ALL DAY: HALL: **LOCAL ELECTIONS**

**Friday, 5th**  
7.00 for 7.30pm: HALL **FILM: 'Living' (12) Bar and Social Night**

**Saturday, 6th:** **CORONATION DAY**  
10.00: HALL: **Live Screening of The Coronation of King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla**

2.00pm: HALL **Coronation BBQ & Bar**

**Sunday, 7th**  
11.00am: CHURCH **SHORT SERVICE**  
1.00pm: SQUARE: **THE BIG LUNCH**

**Wednesday, 10th**  
2.00pm: HALL **QUILTING**

**Thursday, 11th**  
2.15pm: GREEN: **MOBILE LIBRARY**  
7.00pm: HALL: **ADULT TABLE TENNIS**

**Friday, 12th:**  
7.00pm: HALL **THE COLDRIDGE ARMS**

**Sunday, 14th**  
10.30am: CHURCH: **MORNING PRAYER**

**Monday, 15th**  
7.00pm: **GREEN** **GARDENING CLUB**

**Wednesday, 17th**  
2.30pm: HALL **SUNSHINE SINGING**

**Thursday, 18th**  
7.30pm: HALL **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Sunday, 21st**  
10.30am: CHURCH: **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Thursday 25th**  
10.00am-3.30pm: HALL **COLDRIDGE CAFÉ AND St MATTHEW'S CHURCH TOURS**  
7.00pm: HALL: **ADULT TABLE TENNIS**



**COLDRIDGE CELEBRATES THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES 3rd AND QUEEN CAMILLA**

**Saturday May 6th 2023**

The Village Hall will be open from 10:00. The procession starts at 10:20; the service runs from 11:00 to 13:00; the return procession will take about 35 minutes; the

working Royals will appear on the balcony and the official celebrations finish with a 6-minute flypast at 14:15

All of you are welcome and there will no charge.

The bar will be open and will be serving tea and coffee alongside its normal range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

There will be a **BBQ following the Coronation**, with prices set just to cover the costs of the food. All are welcome and the bar will remain open.

**Sunday May 7th THE BIG LUNCH**

There will be a service at **11:00 in St Matthew's church** lasting about 30 minutes to which you are all invited.

**The Big Lunch** will be held in The Square starting at 13:00 with an introduction from Andrew Green, The Chair of the Parish Council. You are all invited to bring food to share with others. Tea and coffee will be available from the village hall.

**Commemorative coins** will be issued, at about 13:30, to the children whose parents have ordered them. Following that coins can be collected by those who have ordered and paid for them in advance with **Keyth Richardson**.

[coldridgepcclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:coldridgepcclerk@btinternet.com)

**LOCAL ELECTIONS:**

On **May 4th** there will be elections for all seven seats on Coldridge Parish Council, together with District Council Elections.

Please note that, for the first time, you will need to take **Photo ID** with you to the Polling Station (in the Village Hall).

**pp. Keyth Richardson, Clerk to Coldridge Parish Council**

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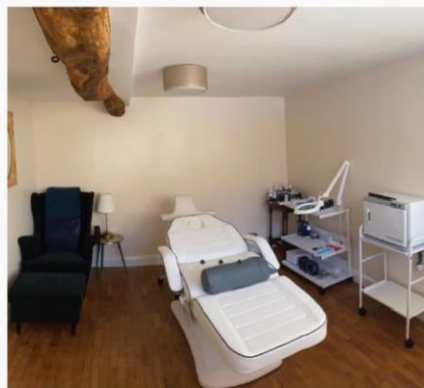
(ON THE VILLAGE GREEN)

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## GARDENING CLUB:

Please Note: Our next meeting is on **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May: Meet at 7.00pm on the Village Green**. This meeting will be our annual, if slightly earlier-than-usual, visit to 4 of our members' gardens, finishing with our usual Fine Wine & Nibbles at Rockfield. A bit of an experiment doing it this early in the year, but with all that is going on, it is the only time we can fit it in. Suggest you wrap up warm!  
**John Smith**

Coldridge Village Hall Social Group  
Presents

# SOCIAL NIGHT

Friday 5th May  
Coldridge Village Hall

Free Entry - All are welcome  
Doors Open 7 pm, Main Event from 7:30pm  
Bar Refreshments and ice creams available

**This month's Feature title clue:**  
*Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a council bureaucrat's life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short, ...and so begins a search for meaning.*  
"L\_v\_ng" (6)  
Release 2022



Coldridge Village Hall Social Group Presents

# The Coldridge Arms

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
7 - 11pm

Coldridge Village Hall,  
EX17 6AX

Bar Refreshments  
& Snacks Available

All are welcome

Pop-in anytime on the night for a drink and friendly chat



## A 'CORONATION TALE' FROM 1953

### AN OX FEAST FOR ENFORD

By E.J. 'Jack' Smith



**From:**  
**The Farmer's Weekly Coronation Souvenir Issue of 15th May 1953.**

**NOTES:** *Jack Smith was my father. He was born in rural Wiltshire in 1912, to a farming family. At the time of the Queen's Coronation in 1953, he was News Editor of the **Farmer's Weekly**. He joined the paper in 1935, served in India and Burma during WW2, returning to the **FW** (as Major Jack Smith) in 1946. At the time of his death in 1971, he was Deputy Editor and an Executive Director of Agricultural Press Ltd.*

*My thanks to the current Editor of the **FW** for granting permission to re-publish this 70-year-old story:*

*(Note: Enford is a real village in Wiltshire, close to Father's birthplace in the Vale of Pewsey, and his Coronation Tale can still be found on the Enford parish website).*  
**John W Smith**

**In the first few minutes of Coronation Day**, a fire will be lit in a field in the village of Enford, one of those friendly villages of low-walled, thatched cottages clustered around an old church which line the Wiltshire Avon, where it winds, among willow clumps and deep water meadows, between the cold uplands of Salisbury Plain.

The fire will be for the roasting of the village ox — the centre point of the festive part of the village celebrations and the occasion for more discussion, speculation and banter than has been known in Enford for many a year. Enford, like hundreds of other West Country villages, is sparing nothing for its Coronation Day.

### **The Roasting**

For months, the 700 people of Enford have talked of little else. Will "they folk awver the hill" be the first to be dragged headlong into the Avon? Will the OX, as some wisecracks assert, end up more like a foot-and-mouth casualty, in the fire, than as prime beef done to a turn? Will the "Swan" the inn whose sign straddles the road like a monster gibbet, have enough beer? Most questions like these are asked in fun.

Each villager who has a hand in the

preparations — and there are many who have — is out to make it a memorable festival, the best on the Plain. On the Saturday, the ox will have been brought from the Ministry slaughterhouse at Pewsey, a fine young Devon steer which, in being fed against the sacrifice, has been as much a matter of public interest and concern as would be a Smithfield champion, if such were ever raised in the parish. The beast is the gift of a local farmer who, like many others who have contributed handsomely towards Enford's rejoicings, prefers to remain anonymous. No farmer ever presented a beast before a bigger, or more critical or more exacting grading panel.

"Pretty ox - about seven hunderweight, I should zay," says a beef husbandry expert in the "Swan".

"Reckon he'll be barely a mossel enough vor all of we", says another.

"I zee'd en," says a third, "and he's got a nice finish. Not like that old gristle and binder-twine you have come Sundays".

The smallest details of the village preparation are matters of the keenest personal interest. Everybody, in some way or another, is helping. Mr. Eric Sargent, who farms 1,100 acres on the Plain (and shares about as much again in rough grazings, precariously, with the military), is chairman of the village committee; there has never, he says, been any occasion for worry about the preparations. For the Coronation festivities, only one collection was needed to bring in all the money wanted. Not a penny has to be drawn from the rates. No need here for elaborate direction; no need for a precise minute book or a guarantee of funds at the bank. No need for imposed hey-nony or organised attempts to recapture a spirit of "Merrie England". For here is a true Merrie England of the people's own making, coming spontaneously from the good heart and the community spirit of the villagers. When bricks were wanted for the wall of the ox-roast, Fred Phiillimore, landlord of the "Swan" (who was known to plough a good acre a day with a swinghead horse plough on the stiff Plain clay before he became an innkeeper) had only to put up a notice outside the inn — "500 BRICKS WANTED - LEAVE THEM HERE" — to get enough and to spare. One man, having no old bricks to give, went out. and bought some for the pile.

Baden Powell, the blacksmith, fashioned the "needles" and iron for the roast, and Bill Benger, the builder, produced a fine fir pole which, tinned, will form the spit. Jack Dreweatt, the coal merchant, undertook all the transport, and Jack Howcutt, the

bricklayer, built the wall.

In this way, every item in the programme, down to the last detail, has been looked after. Enford has even been able to dispense with the services of a professional ox-roaster, thanks to Mr. Ernest Allen, the schoolmaster, who hails from a village in Yorkshire where ox-roasting is an ancient custom.

Mr Allen's photographs and sketches and some extensive researches he has made for the occasion have enabled the three "chefs" — Mr. Allen himself, Mr. Crook, the farmer at Combe Farm, and Mr. Phillimore, the innkeeper — to school themselves thoroughly in the art.

A pin of ale, which seems a very adequate refreshment and recompense for the three cooks, will be set on a trestle hard by the roasting ox. All comers can see the cooking, but when the beast is declared done, the field will be closed to the "foreigners". Then to the feast — a real old Wiltshire-style spread of roast beef, bread, pickles and cheese, and free drink, all in the most ample measure, for the old people; a no less solid meal, also based on beef from the ox, for the children, and ox-sandwiches in abundance for the rest of Enford's 700.

#### **Village Transformed**

This is not the only feast, for even as the fire for the ox is being lit, after midnight, a grand bout of eating and drinking at the "Swan" will barely have finished. Here there will have been a board of ham and tongue, cold meats and pickles — and an undertaking by one and all to "make things a bit lively before eleven".

Overnight, the village will have been transformed with decorations of a scale and splendour which Enford has never seen before. Garlands and flags and streamers and flowers will

blossom from the dun-coloured cottages (there is a prize for the best of them) and will be carried even to the roadside. The church, where there is to be a special Coronation service, is to be floodlit. Where the main road cuts through Enford, between high banks, there will be poles carrying banners and streamers, and tubs of flowers are to be set into the banks. Even the bus shelter is to be decorated.

The children are to give an Elizabethan pageant, locally written, devised and produced, which will include Sir Walter Raleigh at his courtesies with the cloak, and a substantial portion of *Midsummer Night's Dream* (which comes prettily, and with some Elizabethan ripeness from the children's pure, broad Wiltshire speech).

Some of the performers will be on horseback. There will be folk dancing and ordinary dancing and sports and games and

contests of many kinds. There will be some odd capers, too. During the afternoon, the villagers will assemble on the bridge over the river, near the church, to see the special events which have been promised there, and for which the bridge forms a fine grandstand.

These events are the particular care of Baden Powell the blacksmith, who is not only as prepared for anything as was his famous namesake but is also a specialist in the more bizarre forms of water sport. Pillow fights in the middle of the river will be among these high jinks — what spectacle, in the phrase of the immortal Kai Lung, could be more "gravity-removing"? A no less agreeable diversion will be a series of tug-of-war contests across the river; a local sport which, while providing fun for the spectators, is also taken very seriously by the combatants. The river here is about 20 feet wide, and at this time of year between two and three feet deep. But the villagers will tell you that it will be deeper on the day, thanks to an opportune and quite inexplicable irregularity which is expected to occur in the sluices downstream, the dictates of the River Board notwithstanding.

#### **The Fiery Plain**

For this event, there are four teams in training.

There will be pewter tankards, bearing a medallion of the Queen, for the winners, and spoons for the runners up. At night the Plain will blaze and echo with a gigantic firework display — yet another gift from an anonymous donor. And up on the Down, where for mile upon mile the grassland and corn stretch unbroken by house or hedge or tree, another fire will be lit.

Down in the village, merriment will be going on as the flames leap in answer to those, of other beacons fired on the hilltops above scores of other villages and hamlets. Beyond the Plain, ringed with fire, there will be a chain of beacons on the Marlborough Downs; farther away, those of the Mendips and the Quantocks, and on the tors of Devon and Cornwall. The day will not be over for Enford until the fire at last flickers down, leaving the Plain again to the peewit and the lark, and casting once more into the shadow the great burial ground of the of the unknown man who — who knows? — may have fired his own beacon here thousands of years ago. **EJS**

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

I hope that you enjoyed this tale from 70 years ago. I do wonder what happened here, in Coldridge, on the same day back in 1953. Can anyone tell me, please? I can always add your memories to the next

issue! Wouldn't it be lovely if a similar tale, or tales, emanated from our own Parish Celebrations at this Coronation? **JWS**

#### **NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:**

Please let me have any useful, useable and, above all, interesting photos of our Coldridge Coronation Celebrations.

I am sure that John Dike would also be very interested in any photographic record of this event, for his Coldridge History documents. **JWS**

#### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place, in the Village Hall, on **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.**

There will be progress reports from all of our parish groups and organisations, so it really should be of interest to everyone.

You will also be able to hear from your newly-elected Parish Council and pick up on lots of things which are planned or being worked on for our community, going forward.

Please come along...everyone is welcome.

**ED.**

