

One of our long standing members and Archivist, shares her childhood memories of how her family celebrated Coronation Day in Stourport, 2nd June 1953.

There are also local pictures of the town and of the official Coronation mug.

CORONATION DAY MEMORIES

by Rita M Phillips

With photos supplied by Mrs Flo Martin

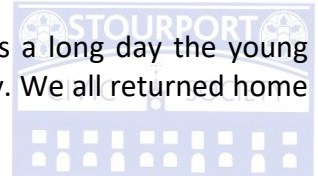
Our family, Mum, Dad, Dawn and me, and several other locals were invited to watch the ceremony at Mr and Mrs Beard's Electrical Shop in Bridge Street. Granny Cook stayed at home, 9 Tontine Buildings, as she was unable to go out at all. My Dad, Arthur, knew Howard Beard well as he only worked at Pheyseys, also in Bridge Street. We didn't have a television until a few years later, it was purchased second hand from Mr Ron Farrow, one of Dad's customers at Pheyseys. It was a TV set in a cabinet which had doors at the front which opened to watch the very small screen inside. The first time it was put on we were all sat round in the dark as the curtains had been drawn, to watch some news programme.

We were very excited when we set off along Engine Lane with a tin of sandwiches and cakes for later. The shop was on the ground floor, and it was full of electrical items. We were met by Mrs Beard and shown to the upper floor by way of a very wide stairway. There were all kinds of seats for the grown-ups, many of the children sitting and playing on the stairs. Mrs Beard provided lots of sandwiches and copious amounts of tea which we all enjoyed together with our own small tin of refreshments.

Coronation Day, outside "The Bell Hotel" in Mart Lane



Everyone had a lovely time watching the ceremony, and although it was a long day the young children behaved well, not fully understanding the significance of the day. We all returned home to tell Granny Cook all about our lovely day at Beards.



I remember having a book about the Coronation with lovely illustrations of the Golden Coach and all the horsemen and soldiers in their grand uniforms.

This was extra special because the illustrations were cut-out and could be pushed out from the pages and made to stand up and form the Coronation parade. I think this book was bought from Mrs Worrell's Paper shop in Bridge Street, opposite Beards Electrical shop. Mrs Worrell had a big black cat which was always sitting on the newspapers on the counter. This shop was later owned by Pat and Pat Dwyer for many years, retaining the name of Dwyer's until recently.

Children's party in Lichfield Street



All school children were given a Coronation mug with a picture of the Queen on.

It was produced by H M Sutherland Bone China and made in England.

