



Celebration in Bishop's Waltham

Combining 2020Vision Community
Photography Project and Bishop's
Waltham Museum's photographic
archive

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Knitted Postbox toppers for 2023

Coronation of King Charles III

Photo: Yuchun Hung



Introduction

Celebration makes everyone happy, and photographs of Bishop's Waltham document every memorable day. Whether it's a Royal event where the whole town joins in with a street party or a parade, or even just a family wedding, it brings people together for a good time. Even when social distancing is enforced because of Coronavirus, it doesn't stop people from partying. Street parties held for the celebrations have become a social occasion for residents for hundreds of years, gathering in the same space to talk, have fun and celebrate, increasing the community's cohesiveness.

1911 Lot Churcher's on Square decorated for King George V Coronation. Photo: unknown

Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria



People gathered in the streets for a street party to celebrate the anniversary of the enthronement. The photo from 1887 shows the High Street decorated with flags, swags, trees and flowers. Tables and chairs are set up all the way down the street for neighbours to eat and talk with each other as they celebrate 50 years of Queen Victoria's reign.

1887 Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria on High Street. Photo: unknown

Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935



*1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V. Fountain Cottages on Wickham Road decorated with bunting
Photo: Unknown*



*1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V. Crowd celebrating Outside the Gas Showroom (now Hylands) on High Street
Photo: Unknown*

Jubilees of Queen Elizabeth II



*1977 Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth II celebrations
on Basingwell Street.
Photo: John Bosworth*



*Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II 2022
Photo: Penny Copeland*

1902 Coronation of King Edward VII



People gathered to celebrate the coronation of a king or queen, and we are lucky that these events were captured on film. In addition to decorating the streets and buildings, parades were also held.

Despite the political overtones of the coronation, people celebrated out of anticipation for the future of the country.

1902 Coronation celebrations for King Edward VII on St. George's Square

Photo: Unknown



1902 Coronation of King Edward VII



Fire Brigade with Manual engine

Photo: Unknown



Rooke's Cycle Shop, Abbey Mill, Station Road

Photo: Unknown

Coronation Parties



*1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Street party
in Basingwell Street*

Photo: Unknown



*Big picnic for the Coronation of King Charles III on 7 May 2022
in Palace grounds*

Photo: Penny Copeland



Royal visitors - a significant event for the residents



*1865 celebrations for the Royal Visit of Prince Leopold,
junction of High Street and Bank Street
Photo: Unknown*



*1959 The Queen passing through the town
Photo: John Bosworth*



War-related celebrations

The end of the any war is a day to be remembered, with residents celebrating in their own way. The celebrations signify their joy that quiet lives will soon be restored to the public.



*1918 Armistice Day, Northbrook House Hospital, Free Street
Photo: Unknown*



*1918 Armistice Parade in the High Street
Photo: Unknown*



Victory over Japan Day 1945



*VJ Day 1945 street party in The Avenue
Photo: John Bosworth*



*VJ Day 1945 street party in The Avenue
Photo: John Bosworth*

75th Anniversary of the end of World War II, under the Pandemic in 2020



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*2020 VE Day celebrations
Photo: Malcolm Belfield*



*2020 VJ Day Socially-distanced celebrations in Malvern Close
Photo: Eileen Rainey*

Christmas In Bishop's Waltham



High Street lit up in 2020
Photo: Trish Simpson-Davis



Mr West the butcher's meat display in St George's Square – a Christmas tradition.
Late 1890s
Photo: Paul Desa

Christmas Carol Singing In Bishop's Waltham



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*1968 Christmas Carol singing
in the Square, at Austin and Wyatt
Photo: John Bosworth*



*1964 Carol singing at Bishop's Waltham Institute Hall
Photo: John Bosworth*

Traditional Celebration Days



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1962 St Georges Day Parade on Bank Street

Photo: John Bosworth



Maypole dancing, typically performed on the 1st May to celebrate Spring. c1900

Photo: Unknown

Weddings

The wedding is also a big celebration, and although not all the residents will be there, the whole environment will likely be joyful



*Wedding of Fireman Arthur Cook to Vera Champion in 1930s.
Station Road
Photo: Unknown*



*A Wedding at the Workmans Hall at Basingwell Street. Early 20thC
Photo: Unknown*



Inauguration of a new building

The inauguration of the new building was also a celebration for the town, and in the photos, people can gather in the streets to watch the procession



*1895 Opening of Hall for the Loyal Bud of Friendship Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows in the High Street
Photo: Unknown*



*1909 St Paul's Methodist Church Foundation Stone laying celebration at Basingwell Street
Photo: Unknown*