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# West Wycombe Coronation Week

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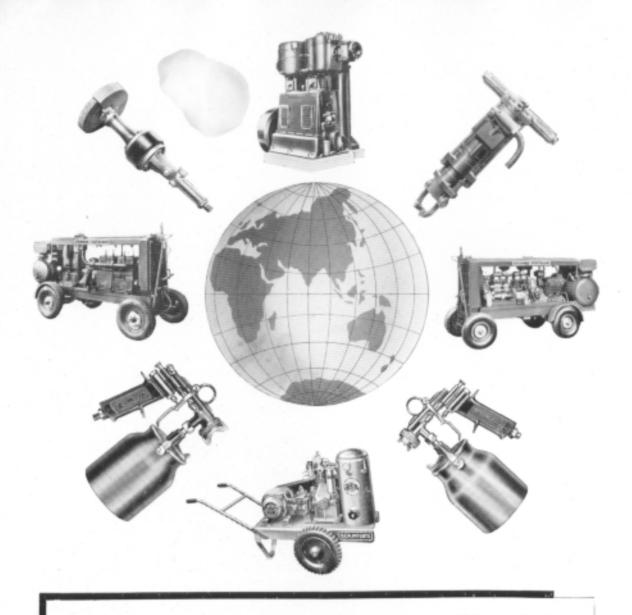
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Dear Visitor,

To celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second and the start of a New Era we have tried to present at West Wycombe a special week of festivities to bring to you the joy of this momentous event and light a spark of enthusiasm and endeavour in every heart.

At this time we hope to raise £1,000 so that with the funds collected during the last eight years we can start to build a Village Hall for West Wycombe.

Finally, we should like to wish you a very happy and enjoyable visit here.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Dashwood.



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# West Wycombe and the Hell-Fire Caves

#### HELL-FIRE CAVES

Excavated in 1750 by Sir Francis Dashwood, these caves were used by the "Brotherhood of St. Francis" (generally known as the Hell-Fire Club), a group of rakes who dressed up as Franciscan monks and held orgics and rituals of an indescribable nature.

A large Gothic forecourt marks the entrance to the winding passage which disappears deep into the bowels of the earth. It leads through the Catacombs into the Banqueting Hall, which is said to be the largest manmade chalk cave in the world. Further on, the passage divides and descends abruptly to the Cursing Well and the Inner Temple, reserved for the most intimate rites of the Club.

To wander here in the stygian blackness with a candle is indeed an unforgettable experience.

#### THE GARDENS

Visitors will delight to roam round the lake (laid out in the shape of a swan) and catch glimpses of hidden temples to the Muses, and romantic walks in the woods. The views are unsurpassed, and are a classic example of 18th century landscape gardening.

#### THE GOLDEN BALL

The Golden Ball at the top of the hill is known all over the world. It stands 100 feet from the ground; through its portholes is unfurled a remarkable vista of the countryside and on a fine day Harrow-on-the-Hill, 25 miles away, can be seen. The Ball can hold 12 people and it was here that John Wilkes, the celebrated demagogue, Sir Francis Dashwood and the Earl of Sandwich are said to have drunk punch and sung blasphemous songs.

#### THE HOUSE

The present house was built in 1745 by Sir Francis Dashwood. It is one

of the finest examples of Palladian architecture in the country, with its 300 foot double colonnade and exquisite Italian frescoes. The richly decorated ceilings and the collection of paintings, including the notable portrait of Milton recently discovered, are of considerable interest. It is today the residence of Sir John Dashwood.



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# Highway Robbery in West Wycombe.

ON Saturday, 27th June, West Wycombe will return again to the days of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when stagecoaches were the primary means of long distance transport.

The first event of the village's week of celebrations to mark the Coronation will be a stagecoach hold-up by an armed highwayman—passengers, attendants and highwayman will be dressed in eighteenth century costume.

The coach will start its journey to West Wycombe from the seventeenth century Saracen's Head Inn in Beaconsfield, nine miles away. Arriving at High Wycombe—three miles from West Wycombe village—there will be a halt of some ten minutes outside the Red Lion Hotel to refresh the horses when the passengers, driver, strapper and guard will receive drinks from an ostler.

On board the coach will be the villagers of Chelsea and their ladies who will be using this novel means of transport to complete their journey to West Wycombe for their period cricket match against the villagers of West Wycombe.

Dick Smallwood, who runs a riding school at Radnage, will play the part of Jack Shrimpton, the notorious Buckinghamshire highwayman of the eighteenth century. Dick and his sister Pat regularly hunt with the Old Berkeley Foxhounds.

## Buckinghamshire Highwaymen.

BORN at Penn, near Beaconsfield, Jack Shrimpton served an apprenticeship in London; not content, however, to serve a dull, but honest life, he turned highwayman and eventually became one of the most during robbers of the day. He stopped coaches as they toiled up Dashwood Hill and relieved the passengers of their valuables—it is said that he robbed nearly every coach between London and Oxford. Once near Stokenchurch he robbed a barrister of his horse and fifty guineas. On a trip to London he happened to meet the hangman, when the subject of a long conversation was Jack Shrimpton's prospect of becoming a customer to Jack Ketch. Whatever the hangman may have thought, Shrimpton was at last captured in London convicted of murder and robbery and executed at St. Michael's Hill on Friday, 4th September, 1713.

Another highwayman who frequented the Buckinghamshire countryside was the famous Dick Turpin. When he changed his venue from the Great North Road to Watling Street, Dick made his headquarters at the Old Swan Inn in Woughton-on-the-Green. It was at this village that he reversed each of his horse's shoes in order to elude his pursuers. Turpin's ghost is reputed to haunt an old road near the Inn on dark nights.

# Programme

Sunday, June 28th.

S. J. J. J.	274					
Saturday, June						
2.15 p.m.	MIDSUMMER REVELS (in aid of Church Funds.)  Judging of most attractive stall by the Mayoress of High Wycombe  Mrs. R. P. Clark.					
2.25 p.m.	Stage Coach Hold-up.					
2.30 p.m.	Opening of Revels by Mrs. John Hall and presentation of Purses.					
2.45 p.m.	Period Cricket Match between Villagers of Chelsea and Villagers of West Wycombe.					
	Judging of Children's Fancy Dress—Prizes for under 5, 12 and 15.  (Special Prize for the most topical)  Racing for Children and Adults.					
	Maypole Dancing by the West Wycombe Primary School					
	Maypole Dance Single Circling Folk Dance Fremad	(Winding)				
		(Unwinding)				
	Maypole Dance Double Circling Folk Dance Toast to Gustav	(Winding)				
	Maypole Dance Folk Dance Maypole Dance Folk	(Unwinding)				
4 p.m.	Teas served.					
	SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES					
4.30 p.m.	Lena Miller School of Dancing.					
5.45 p.m.	Brains Trust.					
6.30 p.m.	Scottish National Dancing by Booker G.F.S.					
7.0 p.m.	Castle Bros. Choir.					
	Sideshows. Stalls. Competitions and all the Fun of t	he Fair.				
Saturday, June	27th—Sunday, July 5th.					
2.0 p.m.	Daily tours of Hell-Fire Caves, Golden Ball, Mausoleum, House and					

Gardens of West Wycombe Park.

11 a.m. Cricket-Francis Dashwood's XI v. West Wycombe. 3.0 p.m. Coronation Play "Defender of the Faith" by the St. Cross Players. Saturday, July 4th. Coronation Horse Show and Gymkhana. 10.30 a.m. Class. 1. Children's Ponies. 10.55 a.m. Children's Ponies. Class 2. 11.10 a.m. Class 3. Pony Championship. 11,30 a.m. Riding School Class. Class 4. 12.00 noon Class 5. Best Child Rider. 12.30 p.m. Working Hunter (Open) Class 6. 1.30 p.m. Open Children's Jumping. Class 7. Parade of Prizewinners of Classes, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. 2.30 p.m. 2.45 p.m. Parade of The Old Berkeley Foxhounds by kind permission of the Master, Captain L. Cecil, M.F.H. Musical Drive by The King's Troop (The Royal Horse Artillery) 3.0 p.m. Open Jumping. 3.30 p.m. Class 8. 4.30 p.m. Class 9. Open Trotting Derby. 4.45 p.m. Class 10. Open Apple and Bucket Race. Class 11. Open Touch and Out Jumping. 5.0 p.m. 6.0 p.m. Musical Drive by The King's Troop (The Royal Horse Artillery) Class 12. Children's Bending Race. 6.30 p.m. 6.45 p.m. Class 13. Open Bending Race. Class 14. Children's Musical Sticks. 7.0 p.m. 7.15 p.m. Class 15. Open Musical Sticks. IN THE MARQUEE "Alstrom"—The World's Greatest Mentalist. Dancing in the Marquee and in the Music Temple on the Lake to Ken 8.30 p.m. Madelin. Side-Shows. Stalls. Amusements. Luncheons 11.30 a.m.—2.15 p.m. Teas 3.15 p.m.—5.15 p.m. Dinners 6.15 p.m.—8.30 p.m. Two fully licensed bars. Two snack bars (By Ubique Caterers of Little Chalfont). 10.30 p.m. Fireworks. Sunday July 5th. Special Service at St. Lawrence. The Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Oxford. 3.15 p.m.

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By special request a demonstration of TELEPATHY will be given at every show. Whilst many now claim the ability to read minds, ALSTRÖM, after twenty years study of the Occult, makes no claims but . . . , to see him is to believe!

After his last tour of the Continent, ALSTRÖM was advised to discontinue this particular psycho-philosophic act due to the great mental strain involved. This is probably your last opportunity of seeing for yourself these unusual experiments based on the hidden power of the human mind.

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#### YE LAWS OF YE GAME OF CRICKET

Ye pitching of ye first wicket is to be determined by ye cast of a piece of money.

When ye first wicket is pitched, and ye popping crease cut, which must be exactly three feet ten inches from ye wicket, ye other wicket is to be pitched directly opposite, at twentytwo yards distance, and ye other popping crease cut three feet ten inches before it.

Ye bowling creafes must be cut in a direct line from each stump.

Ye ftumps must be twenty-two inches long, and ye bail fix inches. Ye ball must weigh between five and fix ounces. When ye wickets are both pitched, and all ye creases cut, ye party that wins ye toss up may order which fide shall go in first at his option. Ye bowler must deliver ye ball with one foot behind ye crease even with ye wicket, and when he has bowled one ball or more, shall bowl ye number of four before he changes wickets, and he shall change but once in ye same innings. He may order ye player that is in at his wicket to stand on which side of it he pleases at a reasonable distance.

If he delivers ye ball with his hinder foot over ye bowling creafe, ye umpire fhall call no ball though fhe be ftruck, or ye player is bowled out, which he fhall do without being afked, and no perfon fhall have any right to afk him. If ye wicket is bowled down its out. If he ftricks or treads down, or he falls himfelf upon his wicket in ftricking (but not in over-running) its out. A ftroke or nipp over or under his ball, or upon his hands (but not arms), if ye ball be held before he touches ground, though fhe be hug'd to the body, its out.

If in ftriking both his feet are over the popping creafe, and his wicket put down, except his batt is down within, its out. If he runs out his ground to hinder a catch, its out. If a ball is nipp'd and he ftrikes her again wilfully before fhe comes to ye wicket, its out. If the players have croffed each other, he that runs for ye wicket that is put down, is out. If in running a notch, the wicket is ftruck down by a throw before his foot, hand, or batt, is over the popping creafe, or a ftump hit by ye ball, though the bail was down, its out. But if ye bail was down before, he that catches ye ball muft strike a stump out of ground, ball in hand, then its out. If ye ftriker touches or takes up ye ball before fhe is lain quite ftill, unlefs afked by ye bowler, or wicket keeper, its out. When ye ball has been in hand by one of ye keepers or stoppers, and ye player has been at home, he may go where he pleafes till ye next ball is bowled. If either of ye ftrickers is croff'd in his running ground defignedly, which defign must be determined by the umpires. N.B. Ye umpire may order the notch to be scored. When ye ball is hit up, either of ye strickers may hinder ye catch in his running ground, or if fhe's hit directly acrofs ye wicket, ye other player may place his body anywhere within ye fwing of ye batt, fo as to hinder ye bowler from catching her; but he muft neither ftrike at her, nor touch her with his hands.

If a ftriker nipps a ball up just before him, he may fall before his wicket, or pop down his bat, before fhe comes to it, to fave it.

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Ye bail hanging on one ftump, though ye ball hit ye wicket, its not out. Ye wicketkeepers shall ftand at a reasonable diftance behind ye wicket, and shall not move till ye ball is out of ye bowler's hand, and fhall not by any noise incommode ye ftriker and if his hands, knees, foot, or head, be over or before ye wicket, though ye ball hit it, it fhall not be out. Ye umpires fhall allow two minutes for each man to come in when one is out, and ten minutes between each hand. To mark ye ball that it may not be changed. They are fole judges of all outs and ins, of all fair and unfair play, of all frivolous delays, of all hurts, whether real or pretended, and are difcretionally to allow what time they think proper before ye game goes on again. In cafe of a real hurt to a striker, they are to allow another to come in, and ye perfon hurt to come in again, but are not to allow a fresh man to play on either fide on any account. They are fole judges of all hindrances, croffing ye players in running, and ftanding unfair to ftrike, and in cases of hindrances may order a notch to be scored. They are not to order any man out unlefs appealed to by any one of ye players.. Thefe laws are to ye umpires jointly. Each umpire is ye fole judge of all nips and catches, ins and outs, good or bad runs at his own wicket, and his determination shall be absolute, and he shall not be changed for another umpire without ye confent of both fides. When both umpires call play three times, 'tis at ye peril of giving ye game from them that refufe to play.

#### PERIOD CRICKET MATCH

Saturday, 27th June, 1953, at 2.45 p.m.

#### VILLAGERS OF WEST WYCOMBE:

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FRANCIS DASHWOOD	)		Squire
PETER PEARCE		 	Chippy
BILL LORD		 SI	hoemaker
TERRY WILKINS		 	Tacker
ROY HENRY			Bodger
JOHN COUSINS		Turnpik	te Keeper
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Two hundred years ago wild orgies and banquets were held by the notorious monks of Medmenham in the subterranean temples excavated by Sir Francis Dashwood.

Today, the Robing Room, Catacombs and Banqueting Hall, are open daily to the public at 2 p.m. This is a wonderful chance for you to tour these famous caves with a costumed guide.

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