



DAWLISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter

November 2012

Website: www.dawlishhistory.org.uk

Dear Members,

Our next meeting will be the Christmas Social. Angela Marks will present the quiz which will probably be visual based as previously...

Food is to be arranged at the committee meeting in last week of November however if any member would like to donate something for the table could you please call Tricia on 01626 866 927.

At our last general meeting in October at the Manor, the changes proposed for next year's meetings were explained. Unfortunately another organisation wishes to use the main hall (known as Council Chamber) in Manor on a Monday afternoon, weekly. We had the option of using upstairs rooms or choosing another day to access the main hall. Members present were asked to choose which was preferred and by show of hands, meetings will now be held on a Tuesday afternoon in the hall starting in February 2013.

Derek Wain

**Our next meeting will be on
3rd December, at The Manor
House.**

**A Christmas Social
including quiz and food**

at 2.30pm

Haunted Dawlish

On 14th July 2012 "Haunted Devon" group visited "The Knole", otherwise known as Dawlish Museum – the report and follow-up visit are eagerly awaited.

This set me thinking about other "supernatural" occurrences in Dawlish. Esmeralda who haunts the Theatre is known to many residents either by reputation or other means – she has been in residence for many years. Queen Caroline of Brunswick seems reluctant to leave the area as she is said to haunt "The Rise" where she stayed. Recently I was told about a girl with long plaited hair wearing a yellow dress and playing "peek-a-boo" being seen on several occasions in Plantation Terrace.

If you know of any other unexplained visitors or residents in Dawlish please let us know and maybe another book to add to our collection may be in the offing...

Mavis Stuckey

Queen Elizabeth II Coronation

Wednesday 6th February 1952 started off as just another day at the office in Moorgate, London, but by lunch time our world had changed. At least it felt like that when we learnt that the King had died in his sleep! All the workforce were quiet, some of the women cried, all were sad. I was sad but with the ignorance of youth not quite understanding the consequences.

After work instead of going home to Sidcup in Kent, I travelled to meet a new beau, Derek, at Tottenham Court Road where we had planned to go to a cinema. I had danced with him a number of times but this was our first date and I was impressed as he played the clarinet. We were somewhat flummoxed when we discovered that all the cinemas, theatres, and most restaurants had closed in reverence to the news.

We walked around the area, found somewhere for a coffee and a roll before we decided to cut our date short and we went our different ways home. In the following days life had returned to normal for the general public so I then had three dates with Derek in three days - but he was not for me so that was the end of Derek. News for me was that I was to have my tonsils out and within ten days they were!

Tuesday 2nd June 1953 the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Not liking crowds much, possibly because I am short and wouldn't be able to see much anyway, I have never been to an open air concert or anything similar, so I did not go to London for the actual event. However, I looked forward to the second coronation of my life. I have snapshot memories of the first one in 1937 – the bunting, the happy noisy street parties, and my new shoes. (My mother had been through four coronations - of Edward VIII, George V, George VI and now Elizabeth II).

In London, as the office I worked in backed on to the Honorable Artillery grounds in Moorgate, we had front seats to the soldier's rehearsals with horses and guns on trailers in readiness for their many full-dressed official parades, so prior to June 2nd the excitement was rising!

On the great day I rose about 8.00 am (considering it was a holiday) and

all the family (my parents, brother and sister,) tramped off in our car to my married sister's house four miles away in Footscray as she had the television set. We arrived with bags packed with sandwiches, drinks (both soft and not quite so soft) and by 10.30 am were all seated around 'the box'. Apart for comfort breaks, leg stretching in the garden or making cups of tea, we watched the Coronation, oohing, ah-ing and crying, trying to identifying people and drinking the Queen's health till 6 o'clock. We then went to our local park - Sidcup Place - where there was a pageant and fireworks and much jollity, eventually getting home at 12.30 am.

Back to work on Wednesday dead tired! Some days later more excitement as we were told the Queen would visit nearby Eltham so off we went - this was the icing on our Coronation cake.

Whilst working in London there were many other occasions I saw her, in cars or carriages, driving through the city. And sixty years later, she is still doing the rounds, visiting her people on their home ground. How does she do it? Long may she reign!

Tricia Whiteaway

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The recent Diamond Jubilee celebrations made me think back to 6th February 1952. I was a civil servant working in the Company's Registration Office – a department of the Board of Trade. I actually worked in Bush House in the Aldwych. Being one of the junior members of staff I was often sent to the bakers across the road for buns to have with our coffee. On this particular day the newspaper seller, who had a pitch aside our building, had his usual billboard with the message "The King is Dead" in big black letters. I dashed back into the office to tell them the momentous news – at first my news was greeted with disbelief but very soon some senior members of staff were informed and so we were told officially. The order was given that sober clothing would be worn – black ties etc for men and grey or black dresses or skirts for females. A few weeks later we, along with members of staff from other ministries etc, joined in a service of remembrance at the Chapel of the Savoy; a very sombre and meaningful occasion.

The following year being what was heralded as a "New Elizabethan" I joined the crowd abide Buckingham Palace chanting "We want the Queen". It does not seem 60 years ago!

Mavis Stuckey

Jobs for Women

It seems that many people think that women in the 19/20th centuries were limited in their choice of employment. From the 1897 Sunlight Almanac lists 'Paying Occupations for Women' that will surprise you as it did me. But it all depended on education, ability, location and availability.

ARTISTS (ability and classes), **ART NEEDLEWORK** and **ART MISTRESSES** (for a fee of £5 at Royal School of Art Needlework, Kensington), **ACCOUNTANTS**, **AUDITORS**, **BOOK-KEEPERS** (after thorough training in book-

keeping but could NOT be Chartered Accountants), **APOTHCARY/CHEMIST/DISPENSARY** (after training), **BEE-KEEPING** (not a full time occupation), **BOOK-BINDING** (after training), **CHINA PAINTING** (as for Artists, or apply to China factories), **CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHY** (training at The Female School of Arts, Bloomsbury), **CLERKS** (shorthand, typing, book-keeping necessary for unmarried or widows for £65 pa), **TEACHING COOKERY, DAIRY WORK, DRESS-MAKING, ETC** (training for diploma or certificate), **COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER** (after training), **TEACHERS OF DEAF AND DUMB CHILDREN** (Training School for Teachers), **DENTISTS** (training at Guy's Hospital, London, or Edinburgh), **DESIGNING** (as for artists). **DRESSMAKING** (after training), **EMIGRATION** (The United British Emigration Association, London. Only Western Australia then provided free passage). **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-MISTRESS** (two years training), **FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS SANITARY INSPECTORS** (required certificate of sanitary knowledge), **GARDENING** (diploma after two years training in various counties), **GOVERNESSES** (University education), **HAIRDRESSING** (apprenticeship), **HOUSE AGENTS** (if she has business capacity), **LIBRARIANS** (jobs available in Free Libraries and good openings in America), **LAUNDRY MATRON** (plenty of jobs for this), **MEDICAL** (five years course studies costs £125 in London £105 in Edinburgh) **MIDWIFERY** (after training, and 3 months work in hospital, diploma fee £1.1s), **PLAN TRACING** (tracing the plans of engineers- suitable work for women), **PRINTING** (after 3 or 4 years training, London), **PHOTOGRAPHING, RATE-COLLECTING, REPORTING**, all suitable for women, **GPO SORTERS** (by examination and to be not less than 4ft.10in. tall without boots) and **TELEGRAPH CLERKS** (wages 10s week for 8 hour day, must resign on marriage - not forgetting they had to do Morse Code).

So yes, there were openings for a variety of interesting situations but so many jobs were only available in cities, especially in London. They have omitted the obvious situations available in smaller towns such as in Dawlish at that time - domestics (maids, cooks, nannies, char-woman, house-keepers), lodging-house-keepers, nurses, laundresses, shop-keepers of various male trades, teachers and pupil teachers, dressmakers, tailoresses, lace-makers, milliners, straw-bonnet makers, grocers, bakers, milk maids and shoe-binders and we must not forget the bathing-women.

But we did have occasional lady farmers, newspaper editor, innkeepers, carriers who 'inherited' the jobs on the death of their husbands, although we did have a post-office mistress held on her own ability.

Tricia Whiteaway