

INTRODUCTION

At a public meeting held in the Town Hall during the Autumn of 1976 a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Lord Feversham to organise and co-ordinate Helmsley's celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Meeting in the Old Schoolroom behind the Parish Church, the Jubilee Committee elected Mr. Howard Burnham to serve as Hon. Artistic Director and Mr. Bernard Lyne to act as Hon. Treasurer. A programme of events was devised, and it was proposed by Lord Feversham to produce a printed programme to be distributed free to every Helmsley Parish household. Mr. Buffoni the printer generously provided this free of charge, and the cover was designed by Mark Douthwaite, winner of a competition organised amongst local schoolchildren.

Two of the most successful events were due almost entirely to the efforts of Mr. Anthony Barker. The Jubilee Ball was the most memorable of the year, and Miss Helmsley Jubilee (Tracey Biggens) chosen at the Ball was the best bonus the Jubilee got. The spirit of the Jubilee was personified by Mr. Barker valiantly removing cow-pats from the course of the Children's Sports in driving torrential rain. His effort was vindicated when in the evening the weather improved, the sun came out, and the children enjoyed some very successful sports.

Perhaps the best event of the Jubilee was the Senior Citizen's Tea Party, organised by the Ladies Tea Sub-Committee in the Town Hall. This event was arranged at the "eleventh hour" to fill a lamentable gap in the programme. It was a great success and it saved the face of the Jubilee Committee who are most grateful to the ladies concerned.

It should be recorded here that Mr. Frank Buglass of the Jubilee Committee has produced a full cinematographic feature of the principal Jubilee events in colour and sound.

It is felt with some pride that few towns of our size enjoyed such a wide-ranging and enjoyable programme as we did in Helmsley to celebrate the twenty-five years of selfless and devoted service to the Nation by our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth.

Howard Burnham

Hon. Artistic Director