



Tewkesbury Museum

Supporter's Newsletter

May
2023



22 Barton Street, 1911

CORONATION SPECIAL

The crowning of kings and queens is the stuff of history, and history is being made this month. Not the sort of history which affects the museum greatly nowadays, because coronations are not celebrated in the provinces in the way they once were. The museum's collection of commemorative mugs won't be much increased, because the twentieth century habit of mug distribution to school children hasn't carried forward to the twenty-first century.

We are looking at how the town celebrated some past coronations:

Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria's coronation was on 28 June 1838, and Tewkesbury celebrated it in good Georgian style, with processions, roast beef and plenty of toasts. This account is from the *Worcestershire Chronicle*:

"Among the countless multitudes who, on Thursday last, celebrated the coronation of our young and beloved Queen, few will be found who will have more occasion to look back with pleasure and satisfaction on the manner in which they displayed their loyalty, than the inhabitants of Tewkesbury. Many of the rising generation will remember the rejoicings of the day when lapse of time shall have effaced many other less important events from their memory, and the aged will assuredly never forget the gratification which the festivities must have afforded them.

The morning was ushered in by a band of minstrels, who gently broke the slumbers of the inhabitants by singing the National Anthem, the sentiments of which met a hearty response. The "ancient ringers," and "Tewkesbury merry youths," at an early hour, rang gladsome peals from the tower of our venerable Abbey Church, and at intervals during the day. The poor inhabitants of the town had been provided with tickets for butcher's meat the previous day, each ticket varying from one pound and upwards. The children of the various Sunday and Day Schools were supplied with a substantial dinner roast, beef and plum pudding, in the market, at twelve o'clock, and afterwards joined the procession, which paraded the streets in the following order:

The Superintendent and Officers of Police.
Royal and Borough Flags.
Mace Bearers.
The Mayor, Borough Magistrates, Aldermen, and Town Council.
Town Clerk, Auditors, and Assessors.
Clergy.
Gentry, Tradesmen, &c.
The Honorary and Ordinary Members the Tewkesbury Independent Englishman's Friendly Society.
The British Standard Society.
&c, &c.

The procession, which extended to a considerable distance, had a gay and animating appearance; it enfiladed the principal streets, which were thronged with spectators of the town and neighbourhood, highly pleased with the interesting scene. The procession finally halted at the Market place, where the National Anthem was sung, and after several cheers for "the Queen," the company dispersed.

The spirit of generous loyalty was admirably sustained in the evening at the Hop Pole Inn, where a public dinner took place, under the presidency C. Porter, Esq., Mayor; and at the Cross Keys Inn, a few equally loyal gentlemen partook of an excellent dinner. The committee were averse to an illumination; but several persons exhibited devices in coloured lamps.

At the termination of the procession, the members the Tewkesbury Independent Englishman's Friendly Society proceeded to the Wheat Sheaf Inn, and during the evening's enjoyment drank the healths of "The Queen," "the Dowager Queen Adelaide," " Church and State," "the Members for the Borough," "the Mayor," "J. Peel, Esq.," " Joseph Longmore, Esq., and the Honorary Members," "Mr. Dudfield," "E. Holland, Esq.," &c. &c."

A Found Trophy



The closure of M&Co included clearing out a lot of 'stuff' they'd accumulated over the years. Among the items rescued and delivered to the museum was this sculptural trophy.

It was made in the 1980s by Len Clatworthy, sculptor and driving force for the medieval fair, as a trophy for the best medieval shop window decoration. It is made of a bread board and a lot of spoons he'd scrounged from friends.

It has been used more recently as a Britain in Bloom award, and looks likely to return to that role rather than going into storage.

King Edward VII

King Edward's coronation was planned for June 26th 1902, and all the arrangements were made. This was the first coronation since 1328 and the nation planned to celebrate well. But disaster struck! Two days before the event, the King fell dangerously ill, and had to undergo

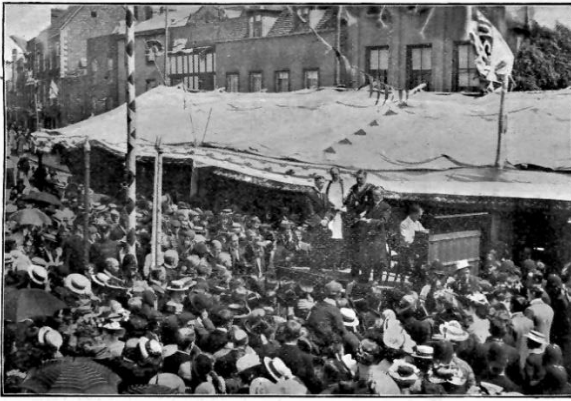
a life-risking operation to remove an abdominal cyst. His coronation was postponed until August, though he ordered that events involving perishable food must take place as planned. In Tewkesbury, there was a coronation dinner held in the street at the Cross.

The postponed coronation, held on August Bank Holiday, had lost some of its spontaneity, but nevertheless the town did their bit. This report is from the Gloucester Journal:

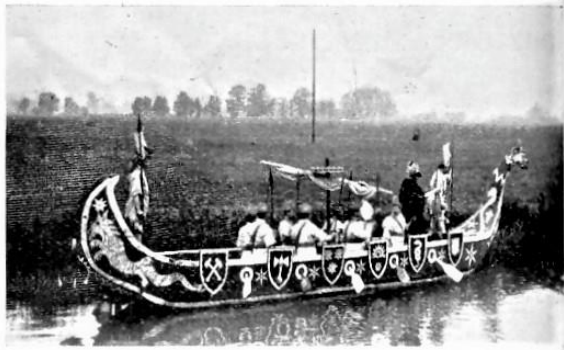
“The Coronation festivities for Tewkesbury were commenced on Friday evening when an illuminated boat procession took place. Some half dozen boats were very nicely illuminated, the whole procession looking very attractive across the water. One boat, belonging to Messrs. Collins and Godfrey was fashioned and manned to represent the old Viking boats. The procession started from near Borough Mills, and after passing both up and down the Severn returned to the starting point. A large number of people lined the banks to witness the effect.

On Saturday the town was gay with flags and streamers. The original programme was carried through with the exception of the feeding arrangements, that portion having been successfully accomplished on the 26th June. At seven a.m. the Abbey bells commenced ringing, and continued throughout the day. Soon after 11 o'clock the Corporation and officials of the Borough, with full regalia, assembled at the Town Hall, where they were joined by the representatives of the Friendly Societies. The Mayor (Councillor T. W. Moore) was absent, having been honoured with an invitation to attend the Coronation ceremony, but there was a full attendance of the Corporation and officers. The band of the Gloucestershire Volunteer Engineers, which was engaged for the day, headed the procession through the principal streets of the town before attending Divine service at the Abbey at noon. This service, which was attended by a large congregation, was that arranged and issued by the King's command, the ex-Bishop of Worcester (Dr. Perowne), the Vicar (the Rev. D. P. Wardell-Yerburgh), the Revs. E. Neale and W. Langford James participating. The band helped in the musical portion, and added much effect to the hymns. The service opened with a processional hymn, written for the occasion by Mrs. Mercier, and the other hymns were compositions by Sister Frances of the Abbey, sung to the tune "Austria." The offertory hymn, written by the Rev. D. T. Glassford, was sung to the tune of "The old hundredth." A short and appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. E. Neale, whose text was from Psalm xxi., "The King shall rejoice in Thy strength, O Lord, exceeding glad shall he be of Thy salvation." After the Blessing, pronounced by the aged ex-Bishop, the National Anthem was sung. The anthem was Mr. C. Lee Williams' "The King shall rejoice in Thy strength." At the close of the service the procession re-formed and marched to the Cross. Here the learned Recorder (Mr. Frederick Stroud) read a telegram announcing the welcome fact that the Coronation ceremony had been completed, and that the King had borne the ceremony well. The National Anthem was heartily sung, and cheers were given for the King and Queen. At the Town Hall the Corporation officials drank the health of the King. Whilst this was going on, salutes were being fired from the old Russian gun in the Pleasure Gardens, and the bells were ringing merrily. At 2.30 the school children, headed by the band, paraded the streets, and each child was given a bun before the assemblage dispersed. Later in the afternoon the Mayoress was at home to a large number of guests on the Bell bowling green, and the gathering, which was attended by the chief residents of the Borough, was a very successful one. In the evening there was a procession of decorated cycles and other vehicles, a display of fireworks, a torchlight procession, and the town was illuminated.”

The 'Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic' published a number of photographs of the coronation celebrations. Here are some of them:



This photograph shows the crowd at the Cross at the aborted June event, singing 'God Save the King'. The canvas cover for the Coronation dinner is very much in evidence.



Collins and Godfrey's Viking ship won first prize in the decorated boat competition associated with the parade of boats.



One of the decorated vehicles in the evening procession passing along Barton Street past the Tracey Arms at No 4.



This decorated vehicle, using horse power, is getting ready for the evening procession.

Getting away with murder

This item appeared in the Devizes Gazette of 22 September 1825. We've not found any more information about poor exciseman Martin or his burial in Tewkesbury.

AN AFFECTIONATE WIFE!

A few days since, at the village of Box, in Wiltshire, an exciseman named Martin shot himself at the instigation of his wife, who waited upon him in bed whilst he did it, with the wash-hand basin to catch the blood. The poor fellow was mad at the time, and could not recollect the fact further, than that he bought the powder and loaded the pistol with a small stone. His wife in a very cool and deliberate manner opened the window let out the smoke, and then shut it, she said, that he might not catch cold, before she called in her neighbours. In the course of the evening, being drunk and very noisy in the house, because Mr. Washborn, the surgeon, would not let her up and irritate the dying man, she threatened to split his skull with a candlestick. She was taken before a magistrate the following morning, by the Rev. Mr. Mullins, surrogate of Box; and upon her promising to conduct herself better in future, Mr. Washborn did not press the affair against her; but her promises were soon forgotten, for when her husband's mother sent persons to convey his corpse to Tewkesbury for internment, she would not suffer it be removed from the house until they had given her a pound note.

King George V

The coronation of King George and Queen Mary took place on 22nd June 1911. In Tewkesbury, events were spread over two days, but were somewhat affected by the weather, especially on the second day, when the planned children's picnic had to be transferred to their school rooms. The Evesham Standard's account is a lot more concise than the Register's, which is too long to reproduce:

"The Committee distributed their programme over two days, fixing the general programme for Coronation Day, and left Friday to be devoted to the children. On Thursday the Abbey bells rang out at short intervals throughout the day. A procession started from the Town Hall at 11.15 a.m. and traversed the principal streets on their way to the Abbey. where a special service was held at noon.

The procession included the Borough military band, the police, the mace bearers, the Mayor (Councillor Alfred Baker), Aldermen, and members of the Town Council, officials of the Corporation, County and Borough Magistrates, brethren of St. Georges Lodge of Freemasons., Board of Guardians, Post Office and Inland Revenue officials, members of the Independent Englishman's, the Oddfellows, the Foresters. and Conservative and Liberal Benefit Societies. "D" Company 5th Battalion Gloucester Regiment, and former members of his Majesty's forces. Church Lads Brigade (Tewkesbury Company). Boy Scouts, general inhabitants of the borough. and the Fire Brigade.

The Abbey nave was crowded by the congregation present, which numbered about 2,600 persons. The appointed form of service was used with special hymns. The officiating clergy being the Vicar (Canon Werdell-Yerburgh) and his staff (Revs E. P. Amphlett, C. W. Nixon and M. D. M. Crossman). After the service, the procession reformed, and at the Cross were formed into a well-ordered square where the Territorials fired a feu-de-joie, and the National Anthem was sung. Repeated cheers were given for the King and Queen. Before breaking up the commanding officer (Major Devereux) called from the ranks of the Territorials Sergt. Forth. and the Mayor presented him with a long service medal. This concluded the proceedings at the Cross. The procession returned to the Town Hall. where many of these who had taken part were recipients of the Mayor's hospitality.

A united service was held at Holy Trinity Church, and was well attended. At this the ministers of the three principal Nonconformist churches in the town took part. At 2 p.m. a long programme of sports was provided on a well-kept course in Barton Street. A great crowd of people attended. At the top of the High Street, Mr. Simms, landlord of the Black Bear, interested a crowd by the roasting and distribution of a fat sheep.

From 6.30 the Mayor and Mayoress held a largely-attended reception on the Bowling Green, when an entertainment was given by a number of young ladies, who are principally pupils of the High School. The visitors were hospitably entertained. At 6.30 there was a procession of cyclists in fancy dress and decorated motorcars. The closing item of the festivities programme was a bonfire and fireworks, which (by the kind permission of Mr. Guilding) took place on his farm, in full view of the town.

There was very general response to the Mayor's invitation to the inhabitants to decorate their homes, and prizes were offered for the best in three classes. Three prizes were offered, and the judges, who went round in a decorated motorcar in the evening, were Mr. Brierley (of Southwick Park), Mrs. F. W. Healing (of Oldfield House), and Miss Thoyt (of Mythe House). Their awards were: - Class 1: Mr. D. Watts 1, Mr. C. Page 2, Mr. B. Yarnall 3, Mr. Jos. Wilkes h.c., Class 2: Mr. G. P. Howell 1, Mr. H. Pope 2, Mr. Barsanti 3, Mr. H. McDonald h.c. Class 3: Mr. W. Jones 1, Mr. H. Dyer 2, Mr. H. Norman 3, Messrs Hayward and Sons h.c. The town was brightly illuminated at night.

The following address was adopted and prepared for presentation to King George V: - "To His Most Excellent Majesty the King – May it please your Majesty. We, the Mayor, Aldermen and burgesses of the ancient and Royal Borough of Tewkesbury, most respectfully desire to approach your Majesty with this expression of our loyal and heartfelt congratulations upon the occasion of your Majesty's Coronation. We earnestly pray that Almighty God may bless you and our beloved Lady the Queen, who has in the past honoured our town with her presence, and that you may be long spared to rule over a loyal and united people and that your Majesty's Empire may be blessed with prosperity and abiding peace. Given under our common seal this 19th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1911 —Alfred Baker, Mayor; H. A. Badham. Town Clerk."

Bye Laws 1852

In 1852, the Borough Council's bye laws (based a national model) were approved by the government. They say something about what concerned the authorities back then. This set are the last of the general rules about not being a nuisance. Next, we'll be on the topical bye-laws about street cleaning and refuse.

These clauses are the first five about cleanliness.

BYE LAWS

Made and ordained by the Local Board of Health of the Borough of Tewkesbury, for the regulation of Street-cleansing, removal of Refuse, and the cleansing and emptying of Water closets, Privies, and Cesspools, pursuant to the powers and provisions contained in the Public Health Act, 1848.

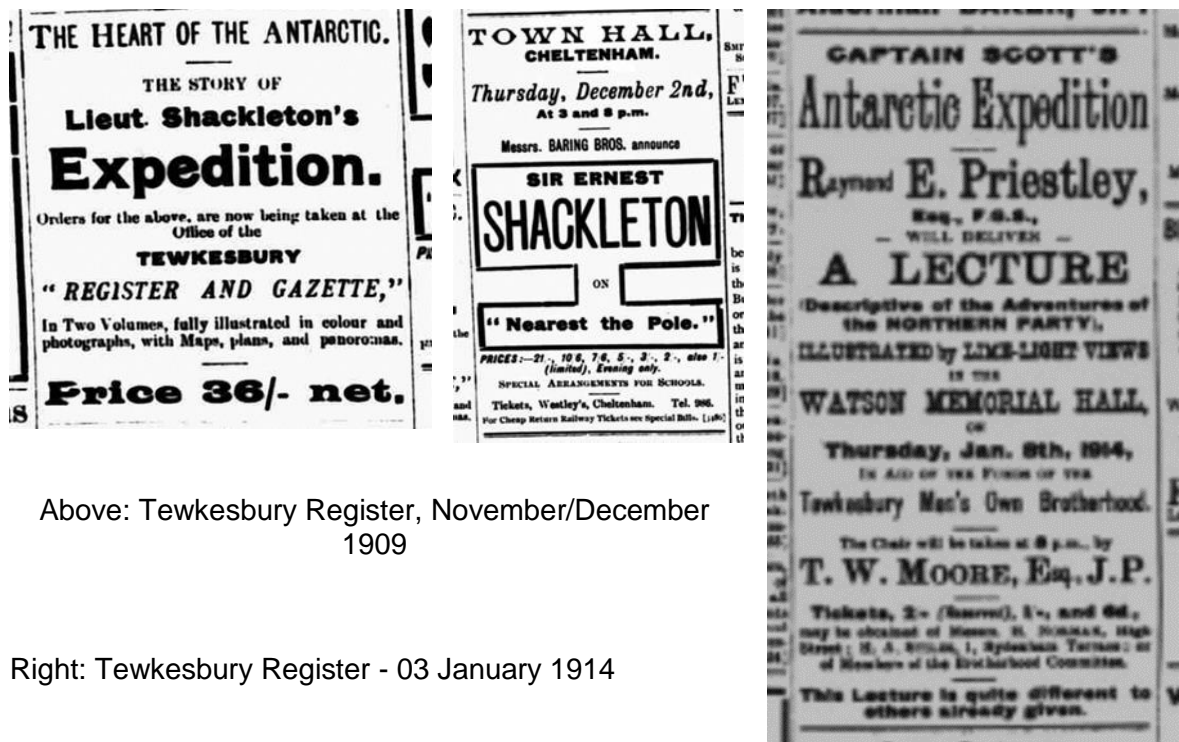
- I. - All occupiers of any premises within the District shall whitewash, wash, or otherwise cleanse and keep cleansed the interior of all premises occupied by them, so that no offensive smell shall be caused by proceed from the same
 - II. - No person shall deposit, throw, or allow to run, lodge, or accumulate upon the surface of any street, alley, court, highway, or place, or on any waste and unoccupied ground, or in any uncovered drain, ditch, watercourse, sink, pond, or other collection of water, or expose or cause to be exposed in any other matter whatever within the district, any animal or vegetable matter, skin of any animal, fish, offal, odure, blood, bones, manure, shells, broken glass, china or earthenware, dust, ashes, house refuse, waste, refuse, or runnings from any manufactory, or any other offensive or noxious matter whatever.
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III. - Provided always that no person shall be liable to a penalty for throwing or depositing any sand or ashes, in the time of frost, upon any footway, to prevent accidents; or any manure or other materials, in the time of frost, upon the course of water pipes, in order to prevent the water therein from being frozen; or any clean litter or other materials, in order to prevent noise in case of sickness.

IV. - Provided also that no person shall be liable to any penalty for throwing or depositing on any street, court, highway, alley, footway, or other public passage, any rubbish, dirt or materials used in or occasioned by the building, rebuilding, or repairing of any house or building, in cases where such person shall, to the satisfaction of the surveyor of the Local Board of Health enclose the space where such deposit is made, within a board fence at least eight feet high; and shall, where directed to do by such surveyor, lay down, with proper materials, a sufficient temporary footway for foot passengers communicating with the foot causeway at each end thereof, and fenced off from the remaining portion of the street, or thoroughfare by a good and sufficient rail; the whole enclosure and temporary footway to be so constructed as to leave sufficient room for the passage of coaches, wagons, and the ordinary traffic through the said street or thoroughfare.

V.- No person shall be entitled to claim exemption from the liabilities attached to any offence against the second bye-law, under either of the above provisos, unless such person shall cause the sand, ashes, manure, litter, rubbish, dirt, enclosing boards, temporary footways, rails and other materials enumerated in the said provisos, to be promptly and effectively removed, as soon as possible after the cessation of the cause which occasioned the deposit or erection.

SOME POLAR INTEREST



Above: Tewkesbury Register, November/December 1909

Right: Tewkesbury Register - 03 January 1914

Tewkesbury in 1540

John Leland had a commission from King Henry VIII to investigate 'England's antiquities and to diligently search all the libraries of monasteries and colleges of this realm, to the

intent that the monuments of ancient writers might be brought out of deadly darkness to lively light. Whilst he was criss-crossing the country, between 1538 and 1542, doing that he also made notes about the places he visited. Later, his journals were collated and published as 'Leland's Itinerary'. He visited Tewkesbury, and commented on what he saw:

Tewkesbury stands on the left bank of the river Avon at least a bowshot above the confluence of the Avon and the Severn.

At the north end of the town there is a large stone bridge, and a short distance above it the Avon breaks into two arms. But the bridge is so large that it spans both arms. The right arm flows into the Severn within a bowshot of the bridge, and at this point there is the town quay for ships which are called Picards. The other arm flows down beside the town and the Abbey, which it leaves on its east side, and passing close to Holme Castle enters the Severn.

Bredon is a very notable Church and Parish, with many dependent villages and hamlets, but it does not now have a market. It stands on the left bank of the Avon two and a half miles above Tewkesbury. From Cleeve a small Brook called the river Swilgate flows down and joins the Avon by its left bank at Holme Castle. It is fed by water descending from the surrounding hills, and after a sudden downpour it becomes a raging torrent.

Tewkesbury has three streets, which meet at the Market Cross. The most important is called High Street. There was no other parish church in the town apart from the west end of the Abbey church. King John, who by right of his wife was Earl of Gloucester, caused Tewkesbury Bridge to be built of stone. The person entrusted to carry out this order first made a stone bridge across the main stream of both arms of the river, north and west; but then to save time and money he built a wooden bridge of great length at the northern end across land prone to sudden inundation. The money thus saved was spent on Hanley Castle, 5 miles from Tewkesbury and a mile from Upton, which forms part of the inheritance of the earldom of Gloucester. The red earl spent much of his time here, and also at Holme, the castle of uncertain date which stood at the south west end of the Abbey. The Clares, Earls of Gloucester also lived there. Some portions of the castle remained standing within living memory, but now only ruined footings of some of the walls are visible, and the site is called Holme Hill. The Red Earl greatly troubled St Thomas of Hereford.

To pay for maintaining the bridge, King John granted all the tolls of his Wednesday and Saturday markets to the town. This arrangement still continues, but the income is diverted to private gain rather than to repairing the bridge. King Edward's brother George, Duke of Gloucester [i.e. Clarence] had an idea to divert the Avon around Tewkesbury, and so to enlarge the town.

Museum Talks

The spring talk series has now finished, with Dr Andrew Crowther's review of healthcare in Tewkesbury from the idea for a first hospital in a cottage on the Oldbury to the new hospital in Barton Road. We've had interesting variety in the five talks, and attendances have reflected that. The cake helps as well!

Our next season starts in the autumn. Only one has been confirmed so far; a Christmas Magic Lantern show on **Tuesday December 12th**.

Other People's Talks

The next Historical Society meeting on **Thursday 18th May** will be the AGM, followed by a talk. David Aldred will speak about '*Hailes Abbey - Holy Blood and Holy Monks?*'

The Civic Society have transferred to the library for their new talk series. The next is on Thursday 11th May at 7.30. The subject is 'A Royalist Highwayman – The most famous highwayman of the 17th century – with a local connection'. The speaker is Marguerite Collins.

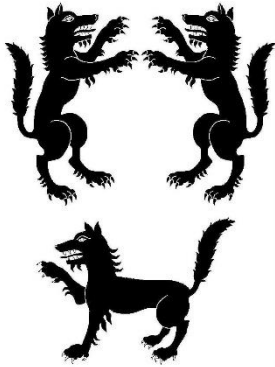
The 'AlleyCats' project have a talk about the history of alleys, with plans for the next planned alley artwork in the Library on **Tuesday 16th May** at 7.30. There will be a display of alley projects and history through the day,

From the Historical Association, Gloucestershire:

Our next talk on **Monday 15 May at 7.30pm**, 'Putting the Big Light on in the 'Dark Ages': Gloucestershire in the late Roman/early Saxon periods' given by Dr Katie Marsden, Pottery Specialist, Wessex Archaeology. The talk will be in Cheltenham, at the Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire, in the Teaching Centre, room 007.

Katie has been working on a 4th to 6th century AD site in Tewkesbury and will highlight some of the results at this talk and bring along some of the finds for us to see.

Street Banners



.May 4th was the 552nd anniversary of the battle of Tewkesbury.

May also sees the start of the street banner season. The 'choosing days' and exhibition of new work will be in the Town Hall on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Banners will start appearing on the streets on Sunday June 11th.

On **Wednesday 17th May**, the street banners will be featured in the library, with a display through the day and a talk in the evening.

Past Tewkesbury

W J Gardner's Tewkesbury guide book from 1902/3 contains a series of sixty full-page advertisements for Tewkesbury businesses, most with photographs of the premises.

THE TEWKESBURY
Coffee House Co.,
(LIMITED),
THE * CROSS, * TEWKESBURY.

— + —
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Mineral Waters, &c.

FANCY BREADS.
CHOPS AND STEAKS,
ORDINARY ON MARKET DAYS,
WELL-AIRED BEDS.
EVERY HOME COMFORT.

— x —
• Good Accommodation for Tourists and •
• Commercial Travellers. •

— + —
—VICTORIA ASSEMBLY ROOM, for Meetings and—
Large Parties.

E. DENMAN, Manager.
W. T. BOUGHTON, Secretary.

This property was part of little row which fell victim to the development of a Co-op supermarket in the late 1950s. The ground floor was ripped out, but the upper floors are still recognisable, externally, above part of the Rosado Lounge.

After a false start in 1841, the coffee tavern movement became established in Tewkesbury in 1878 in Barton Street but within months had moved to 105 Church Street. Called the Victoria Coffee Tavern it was established as a limited company with shares at £1 each. The directors were the 'great and the good' of the borough. The objective was to provide all the facilities of a tavern without the alcohol. It seemed to work, and in the early days the enterprise prospered, with shares changing hands at £3 within a few years.

In 1887 the tavern was described as consisting of 'a comfortable Bar, Dining rooms, where chops, steaks, ham &c. can be obtained at the shortest notice, a Reading Room, Smoking and Bagatelle Room. A Cannon Table and other games provided. there are four bedrooms comfortably furnished'. Coffee was 1d for a large cup, or 1d per pint to take away if you brought your own jug. It hosted a wide range of clubs and societies, from the Tewkesbury Tricycle Club to the Tewkesbury Nursing Institute and Tewkesbury Building Society. The long-time managers were James and Emma Osborne, whose son, Samuel, established Tewkesbury's first bicycle shop.

In 1918, on Armistice Day, Alderman Baker and Councillor Jones, the Mayor and his deputy, addressed the cheering crowds at the Cross from an upstairs window.

After the war, though, the world had changed and in 1920 the coffee tavern was wound up. The manager, Harry White, took the premises over and continued to run it as the Victoria Restaurant, which survived until the Co-op bought the premises and ripped out the ground floor.

Alley Strolls

The programme of fortnightly Sunday alley strolls continues, with the next walks on Sunday 14th (High Street alleys) and 28th (Barton Street alleys). They start at 2.30, from the High Street at the bottom of Warder's Alley. In June they will move to Wednesday evenings.

CONTRIBUTIONS

This newsletter is written for supporters of the Museum. It is confined to local history, the background to items in the museum collection and things which the compiler thinks are interesting. I hope you also find them interesting!

Contributions are very welcome, and will add to the range and variety of topics covered. If you have a few minutes to type up something you're researched, or even to suggest a topic which might be of general interest, please email info@teWKesburymuseum.org .
