

# VILLAGE ECHOES

## VE Day Celebrations in Goudhurst

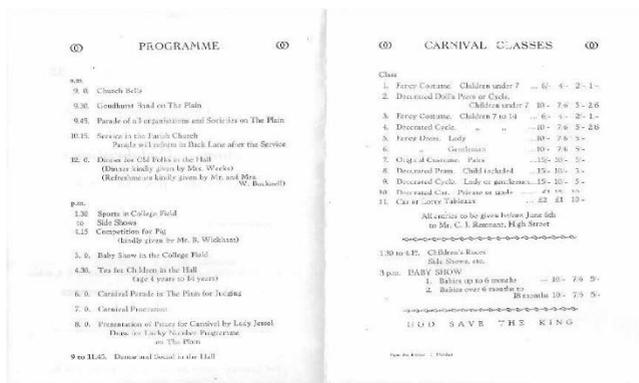
8th May 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day. In Goudhurst, VE Day was celebrated on Saturday 8th June 1946 when the annual carnival was dedicated to “Goudhurst Victory Celebrations”.



As always, on such occasions, a committee was set up and a full day’s programme of events was arranged. Chairman of the committee was Mr William Burfield, the village butcher. The programme followed much the same itinerary as previous village celebrations had done and the timing of events was very precise.

The day began at 9am with the ringing of the bells at St Mary’s Church. This was followed at 9.30am with music from the Goudhurst Brass Band on The Plain. Next, at 9.45am, came the Parade of all organisations and societies in the village who made their way to St Mary’s Church for a service at 10.15am.

At 12 midday a dinner for ‘Old Folks’ was served in the Parish Hall. The dinner was given by Mrs Weeks of Weeks’ bakery and the refreshments were given by Mr & Mrs Bucknell of the Vine Inn.



In the afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.15pm there were children’s races in the College Field, side shows, a competition to win a pig (given by Mr B Wickham), and a baby show. Prizes

of 10/-, 7/6 and 5/- were awarded to the three bonniest babies aged up to 6 months and three aged 6 months to 18 months. At 4.30pm it was time for tea, for the children aged 4 to 14 years, in the Parish Hall. The main event of the day was the carnival parade. All entrants gathered on The Plain at 6pm for judging. There were 11 classes of entry; fancy costume (under 7yrs), decorated doll's pram or cycle (under 7yrs), fancy costume (7-14yrs), decorated cycle (7-14yrs), fancy dress (lady), fancy dress (gentleman), original costumes (Pairs), decorated pram (child included), decorated cycle (lady or gentleman), decorated car (private or trade), and finally car or lorry tableaux.

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes of varied sums of money were awarded to all classes, with an extra 4th prize for the children's classes. After judging, the entrants processed around the village and returned to The Plain for presentation of the prizes by Lady Jessel. Each programme was printed with a 'lucky number' and a prize was awarded for the winning number.

The busy day was rounded off with a dance and social in the Parish Hall from 9pm until 11.45pm.

Local History Society

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