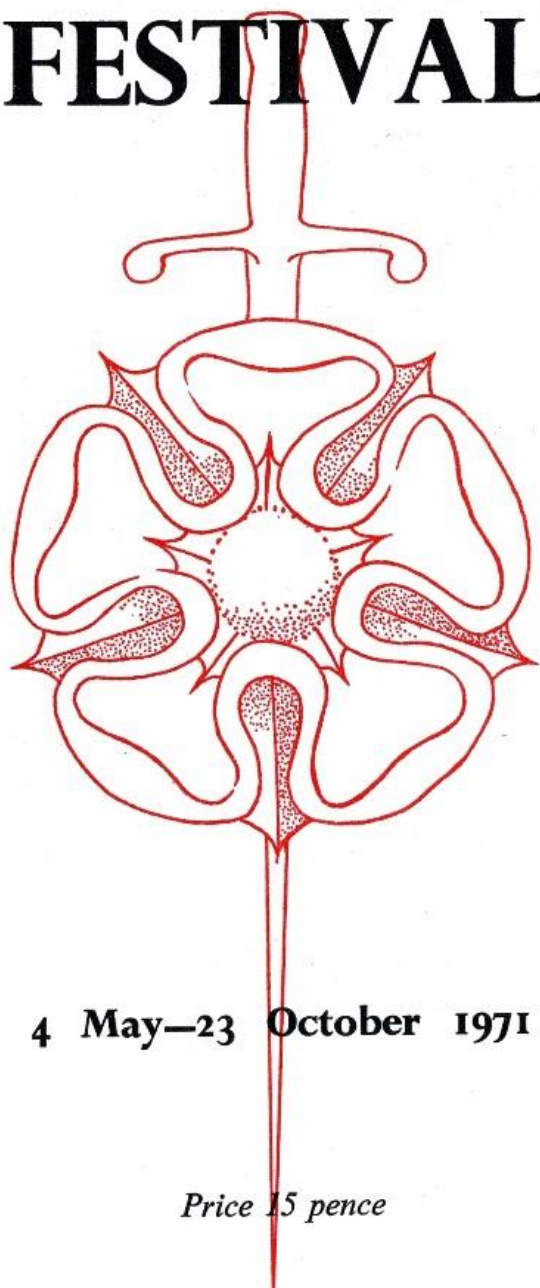


TEWKESBURY FESTIVAL



4 May—23 October 1971

Price 15 pence

Tewkesbury Festival 1971

Patron: His Grace The Duke of Beaufort, K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O.

Chairman of the Festival Committee: G. S. Brown, M.A.

Members of the Festival Committee:

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Chairmen of Committees:

Son et Lumière

Music

Drama

Sports

Flowers and Decorations

Exhibitions

Special Attractions

Procession

Religion and Lectures

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Michael Peterson

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Report on the Festival

by G. S. Brown, Esq., M.A.
Chairman of the Festival Committee

Discussion of the importance of the year 1771 in Tewkesbury's history had begun in 1968 or even earlier. The Borough Council considered various proposals for celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury on 4th May, 1471; the Parochial Church Council were convinced by then that the Abbey was originally consecrated on 23rd October, 1121 (and not on 23rd October, 1123, as local historians had said), and they wished to mark the 850th Anniversary of that wonderful event with special services. The extension of the motorway M5 southwards from Strensham, due to be opened in the summer of 1970, provided the stimulus needed for the town to make an extraordinary effort in 1971. Many of the townspeople were anxious that Tewkesbury should not become a backwater when most of the road traffic was diverted from the A38. They recalled the town's slow decline after stage coach traffic ceased, following the building of the railway in the 19th century. All wished to see a flourishing town which could provide its inhabitants with the amenities of a civilised community—an attractive town which tourists would want to visit. To achieve these related aims it was realised that publicity over and above the ordinary run of advertising was needed; something must be done to put Tewkesbury "on the map" once more.

And so a Public Meeting was called in February 1969 by the then Mayor, Councillor J. R. Griffiths. The Borough Council's proposals for a six-months long Festival organised in collaboration with the Abbey Authorities were explained; the Town Clerk, Mr. K. E. S. Smale, outlined his scheme for a number of Committees each dealing with one particular Festival activity and all controlled by a central co-ordinating Committee, composed of equal numbers of representatives from the Borough Council and the Parochial Church Council. The proposals received general approval and a Chairman was elected. During the months that followed activity committees were called together and Chairmen appointed; each committee worked hard to produce a programme of events. But although it was most desirable to begin preparations for the Festival so long before it was to take place, this had disadvantages. The public naturally wanted to know what was to be included in the programme, but the organisers could only produce a provisional list of events. The enthusiasm which had marked the opening meetings waned. The provisional programme was criticised by some as being over ambitious and by others as being too parochial; some wished more money to be spent, others prophesied financial disaster. But the organisers defended their plans and gradually the public confidence was regained. The turning point probably came when it was announced in January 1971 that Her Majesty the Queen was to visit the town to distribute the Royal Maundy at a service in the Abbey on 8th April. The Queen's visit was not, of course, part of the Festival but it roused Tewkesburians and inspired them with a true Festival spirit so that they went forward encouraged to do well during the months that followed. The list of outstanding events mentioned below with the briefest of comments cannot convey adequately the spirit of enthusiasm that pervaded every activity. It is true that not every venture was successful financially, but all satisfied one essential requirement of any Festival event worth its salt—that is that those taking part and those watching, enjoyed themselves. And so many Tewkesburians *did* take an active part; one visiting journalist estimated that 2,000 local people had contributed to the Festival in some active way—and that out of a population of just over 8,000!

The Son et Lumière performance was regarded from the outset as the backbone of the Festival; it cost £14,000 to present but since it was seen by 24,000 people it made a small profit. The production was widely acclaimed; many of the audience returned to see it a second, third or even a fourth time, finding something new to appreciate on each successive visit.

Music: Some excellent music was presented in the Abbey and in general public support was good. The outstanding events included the Tewkesbury & District Choral Society's performance, conducted by the composer, of Tony Hewitt-Jones' specially commissioned work *The Battle of Tewkesbury*, which received a standing ovation; the English Consort of Viols, and the Early Music Consort, who in separate concerts filled the Abbey with almost heavenly sounds; Flor Peeters' organ recital; the recital by the Choral Scholars of King's College Cambridge which packed the Abbey to capacity; the concert given by Musica Deo Sacra and Evelyn Rothwell's oboe recital; the concerts by the BBC Training Orchestra and by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; the concert of music for voices and brass given in conjunction with the Three Choirs Festival; the Medieval and Renaissance dances; the performances of Antony Hopkins' Opera *Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Saint*, conducted by the composer; a most rewarding enterprise this, following the most detailed, careful and unselfish co-operation between members of a very large cast and an enthusiastic band of off stage helpers. Outside the Abbey on the Son et Lumière site a number of band concerts, beginning with the Band of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and reaching a climax with the Band of the Grenadier Guards, gave a great deal of pleasure. In the Watson Hall the Intimate Opera Company, the London Opera Players and the Cotswold Savoyards delighted their respective audiences.

Drama: There were some first rate productions, but unfortunately all of these did not receive the support they deserved. We will remember particularly Stratford Theatreground's anthology of Love Poems, as well as the Barrow Poets, the Bredon's Norton Drama Group's production of Douglas Jackson's play *The Battle of Tewkesbury* and the hilarious musical mime *Town Crier*. the Hill Players' production of *The Elizabethans* an anthology arranged by John Moore, and of the musical *And So To Bed*. The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's imaginative production of *Love's Labour's Lost* suffered from lack of support, but all who saw it were entranced. The High School's episodic production *The Women of Tewkesbury* developed an excellent idea, and Obey's *Noah* performed by Elmbury School and the Grammar School was a brave effort. More lighthearted entertainment was provided by the Tewkesbury Amateur Dramatic Society's production of *Maria Marten* and the Manor Players' most amusing *Revue 71*.

Exhibitions: The opening exhibition of Tewkesbury and Gloucestershire History in Records was a fascinating display including the fine Ghent manuscript, lent by Bruges University, depicting the Battle of Tewkesbury; the British Legion excelled themselves in their Great War Exhibition and in The Military History of the Borough; there was a fine model of the Battle of Tewkesbury which remains on show in the Museum. The Museum itself was re-organised and attracted a record number of visitors; the Fitzhamon Art Centre housed a series of exhibitions of paintings by local artists and of photographs of old—and new—Tewkesbury. There were some fine photographs and a Schools' Art Exhibition also on show at the Town Hall; the Townswomen's Guild arranged an exhibition of Home Arts and Crafts. In the Abbey an exhibition entitled "No Man is an Island", arranged by the Benedictine Community at Ampleforth and showing the place of the monk in the world today, attracted a great deal of interest.

Sport: What a wonderful arena the Borough Council has given us at the Vineyards. We saw a performance worthy of it when the Tewkesbury team defeated Hereford in the first round of the BBC "It's a Knock-Out" competition. What an exciting afternoon that was! The team-members deserve the highest praise for their performance in the next round in Rotterdam, where the team finished second out of six. The next highlight in the sports programme was the Roses Match, when a large crowd watched Lancashire reverse the 1471 decision with the last ball of the last over. We must again thank Sir George Dowty for sponsoring this match; without his help we just could not have arranged it. Then we had Six-a-Side Soccer, Seven-a-Side Rugger, Canoe racing and a Table Tennis Tournament as well as all-in Wrestling.

Special Attractions: There were so many of these that it is impossible to mention them all. The Festival Dinners, with the Duke of Beaufort presiding both at the beginning and after the end of the Festival, must surely take pride of place, equalled perhaps by the Festival Ball in that wonderful marquee when we danced to Acker Bilk. And yet maybe the Pageant Procession should really head the list—the streets lined five or six deep, a procession which took half-an-hour to pass, the variety of costumes and ideas developed by those taking part, and the fireworks afterwards. Yes, I think the Procession really did put Tewkesbury in Festival mood, so that we took the Steam Fair and Organ Festival in our stride; we packed the Watson Hall for the week of Special Films; the presentation of the Freedom of the Borough to C.V.D. Ashchurch became a most brilliant spectacle; we flocked to Ashchurch to see the Modern Army Display; the Riverboat Discotheques were well supported; the Youth Jamboree in June and the Torchlight Procession in November were such joyous occasions in spite of the disastrous weather in which they were held; several fetes during the summer made record profits and the Medieval Banquets at the Abbey Mill will continue as a permanent entertainment.

Flowers and Decorations: The streets were made gay by the banners which were displayed throughout the whole Festival, as well as by the flags of the nations at the Gloucester Road Car Park. We had a Spring Show of flowers in the Watson Hall by the Floral Society and the Chrysanthemum Society's show in the Abbey Hall in September, but all would agree that the Festival of Flowers in the Abbey at the beginning of July, opened by the Duchess of Beaufort, was the most memorable. There were innumerable displays depicting episodes in the history of the town and of the Abbey, which will never be forgotten by those who saw them.

Abbey Services: During the course of the Festival a number of notable services were held. Among other preachers, we listened to the former Archbishop of Wales, the Bishops of Coventry, Gloucester, Hereford, London, Peterborough, Worcester, Lancaster, Taunton and Tewkesbury; Bishops Carpenter, Charles-Edwards, McKie, Partridge; the Deans of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester; the Archdeacon of York, the Abbot of Nashdom, the Honorary Precentor of Westminster Cathedral and the Warden of St. Michael's College, Tenbury. For a week in August the services were sung by a most talented group, Musica Deo Sacra. The importance of the Abbey and all that it stands for in our life today, as well as in the past, was not forgotten.

Lectures: A most notable series of lectures was arranged by the Vicar. Every aspect of the Abbey was dealt with—its history, its architecture, its decoration, its organs, its benefactors, the life of the monks who used it before the Reformation. Given by a most distinguished panel, the lectures were thoroughly enjoyed by all who heard them.

Evangelical Crusade: During three weeks in August the evangelist Dick Saunders conducted a Crusade in the town following months of preparation involving over 300 local people. Services were held nightly in a wonderful marquee which was erected in Breakingstone Meadow. More than 26,000 people attended the services and there can be no doubt that the Crusade was most successful.

Finances: There were those who, before the Festival began, prophesied a disastrous loss. "Whoever heard of a Festival that made a profit?" they said. We now have to admit that we have not made a profit, but the loss is so small that, when we remember the world-wide publicity which the town has received and the fun and interest which the townspeople have had, we can say that it was worth it—well worth it.

The cost of the programme of attractions was roughly covered by the receipts and by contributions of sponsors. The profit on the sales of souvenirs—the total receipts for these were £32,000—went a long way towards covering the cost of publicity and administration.

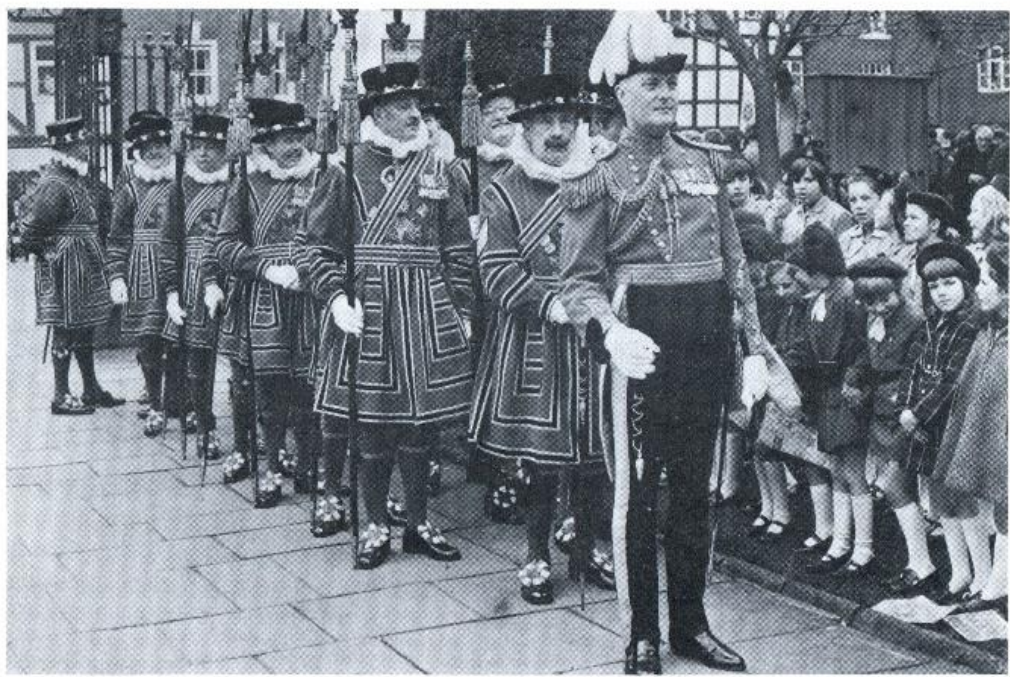
What were the souvenirs? The Tewkesbury Goblet was available in silver or in gold; it was designed by Peter Harwood and was much sought after. The Spode Plate was most attractive; plates are now in the collections at Buckingham Palace, at Badminton, at 10 Downing Street, as well as in many humbler homes. The Wilkinson Sword Company produced a Battle Sword, a Town Sword which was rather smaller, and a Poignard. All these weapons have stainless steel blades, etched with designs of historic buildings in Tewkesbury or of historic figures from The Wars of the Roses. Many of these souvenirs were sold. Philatelists were delighted with the Souvenir Covers which were produced to mark the anniversaries which the Festival commemorated.

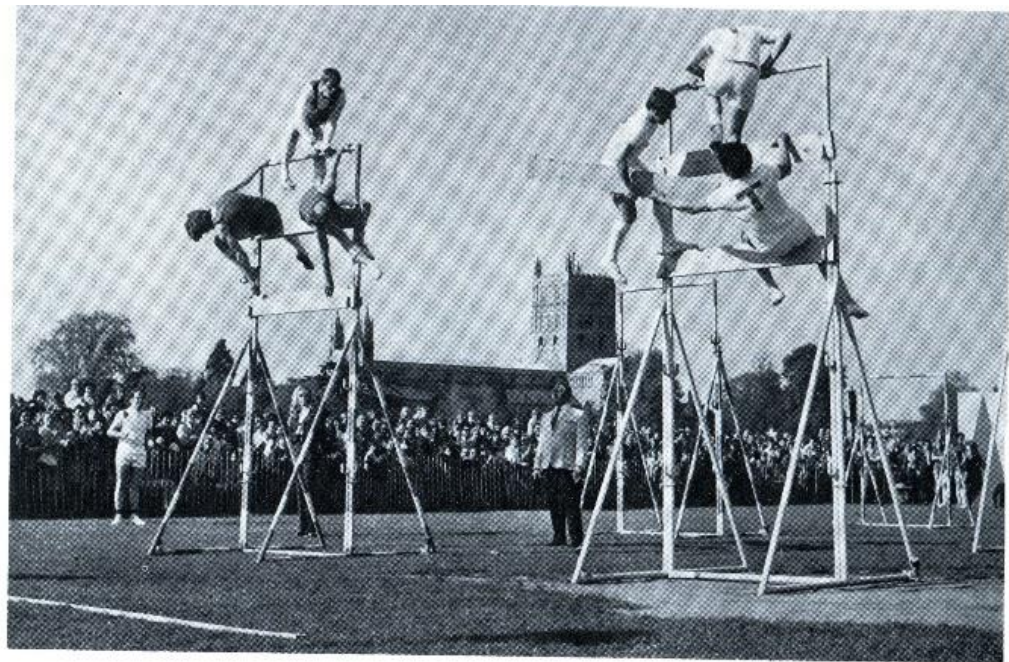
And we must not forget the Tewkesbury Mustard which is made by a London firm, La Favorite, according to an old recipe. This is becoming widely popular and is likely to become established permanently.

One result of the Festival, which we must all hope will be a permanent one, is the improved appearance of so many buildings in the town; outstanding undoubtedly are the Church Street Cottages (for whose restoration—among other things—the British Tourist Authority awarded a "Britain 70" plaque to the town), the Crescent with the new 'bus shelter and Information Office, and the Lion Gates. Many former residents returning to the town for some Festival event have commented most favourably on the cheerful effect of these and other improvements. They have given a new civic pride to Tewkesburians, so that the Prime Minister could be received with complete confidence when he visited the town on 24th July. Mr. Heath was entertained to a Civic lunch by the Mayor after he had toured the town and been shown over the Abbey, where he tried his hand on the organ. When did a Prime Minister in office last visit the town? That Mr. Heath was moved to do so in 1971 is some measure of the success of the Festival.



*Distribution of the Royal Maundy:
The arrival of Her Majesty the Queen
The Yeomen of the Guard*





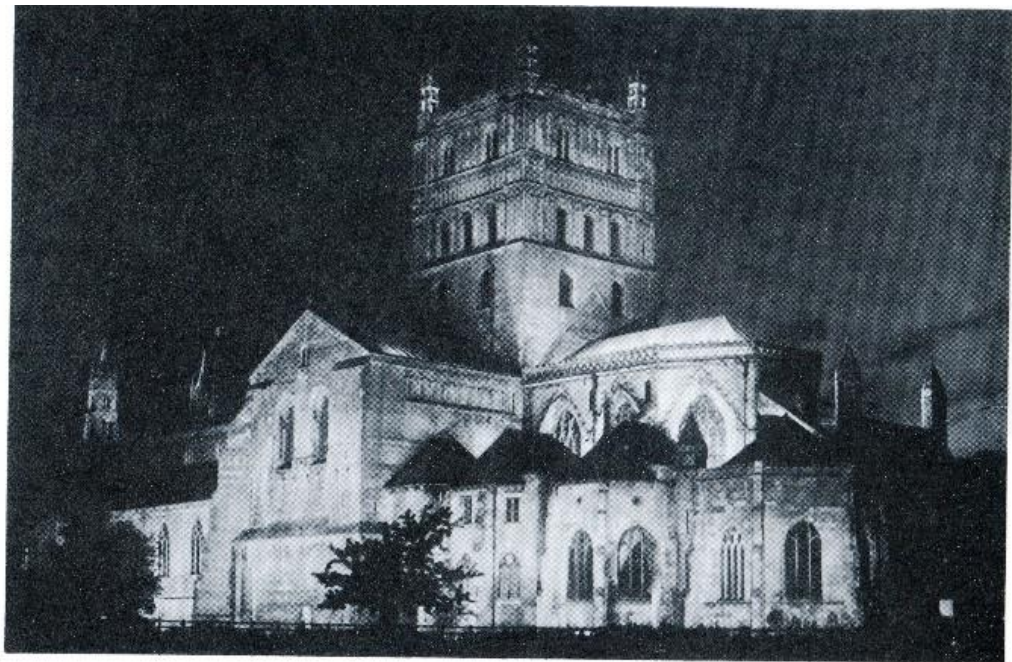
*B.B.C. "It's a Knockout". Tewkesbury v. Hereford
County Cricket: Yorkshire v. Lancashire*





Festival Ball: A section of the Grand Marquee on the Abbey Lawn
A section of the Pageant Procession

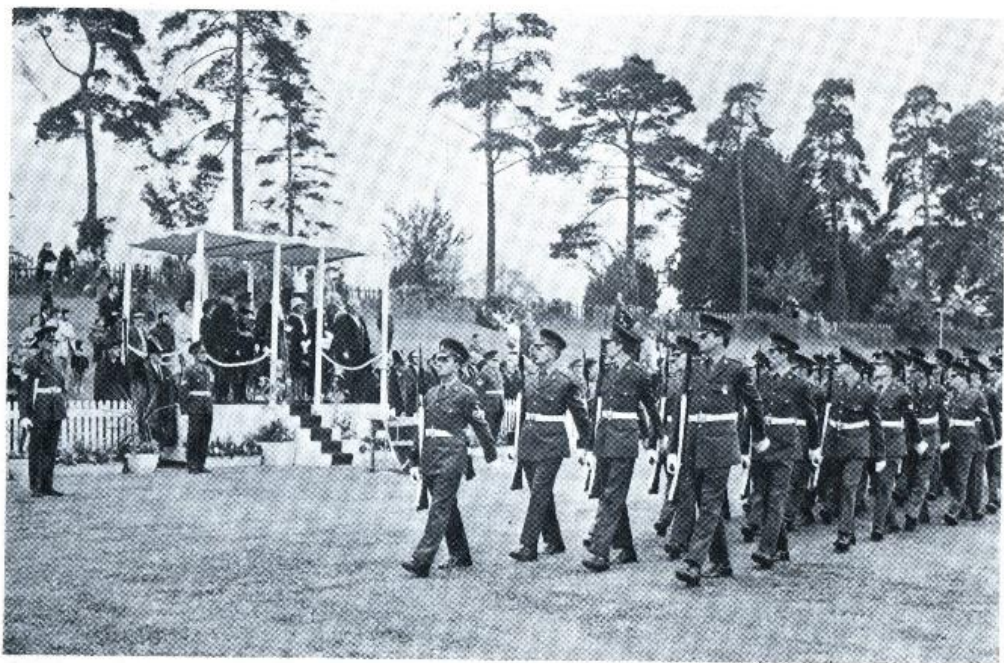




Son et Lumière

Her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort opening the Festival of Flowers





*The Freedom of the Borough Ceremony: Central Vehicle Depot R.A.O.C. Ashchurch
Scale Model of the Battle of Tewkesbury*





The visit of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Heath.

The Dinner at the end of the Festival: The Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. L. A. Webber), Sir George and Lady Dowty and Mr. Johnny Morris, guest speaker



Festival Diary

MAY

- 1 **Exhibition** in the Fitzhamon Art Centre up to 15 May; Tewkesbury and Gloucestershire History in Records, arranged by the County Records Office. The Exhibition also included the Ghent Manuscript.
- 2 **BBC "It's a Knock-Out"**, Tewkesbury beat Hereford and qualified for the six-team International Contest at Rotterdam, where they gained second place.
- 3 **Exhibition** until 22 May: "The Great War", arranged by the British Legion.
- 4 **Solemn Requiem** in the Abbey to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury.
- 4 **Battle of Tewkesbury Model** on display in the Museum throughout the Summer.
- 4 **Festival Dinner** at Gupshill Manor, attended by the Festival Patron, the Duke of Beaufort.
- 5 **Cotswold Savoyards** at the Watson Hall in a concert performance of *Pirates of Penzance*.
- 6 **Festival Fashion Show** at the Watson Hall, arranged by local fashion houses.
- 7 **Festival Ball** in a large Marquee in the Abbey Grounds, with Acker Bilk and his Paramount Orchestra; a gay and colourful event attended by over 700.
- 7 **Medieval Banquets** in the Abbey Mill every Friday and Saturday throughout the Festival.
- 8 **The Order of St. John of Jerusalem** meeting in the Watson Hall and service in the Abbey, followed by march-past.
- 8 **Pageant Procession**: medieval costumes and tableaux in a mile-long procession through the town, dispersing in the Pageant Meadow where there was entertainment, funfair and a fireworks display, followed by a Dance in the Marquee on the Abbey Lawn.
- 9 **Civic Service** in the Abbey. Preacher: The Archdeacon of York.
- 10 **The Cotswold Players** presented three evening performances of *The Hostage* by Brendan Behan.
- 11 **Lectures**. The first of six weekly lectures on "Archaeology and Modern Land Development" arranged by the University of Bristol.
- 14 **Floral Displays** by the Tewkesbury Floral Society, a three-day show in the Watson Hall.
- 15 **Choral Concert** in the Abbey. The Tewkesbury Choral Society with the Choristers of Tewkesbury Abbey in the first performance of *The Battle of Tewkesbury* by Tony Hewitt-Jones.
- 17 **Harry Corbett** with Sooty, at the Watson Hall for six performances.
- 20 **Lecture** in the Abbey House. "Norman Architecture at Tewkesbury Abbey" by Dr. Peter Kidson.
- 20 **Exhibition** held in the Fitzhamon Art Centre up to 5th June: Paintings by Members of the Tewkesbury Society of Arts.
- 22 **Birmingham Diocesan Choral Festival** in the Abbey.
- 22 **Exhibition** held in the Town Hall up to 5th June: Prints by the Tewkesbury Camera Club.
- 23 **Folk Concerts** held in the Watson Hall every Sunday evening until the end of July.
- 26 **English Consort of Viols** in a programme of 16th and 17th century music in the Abbey.
- 27 **"Maria Marten"**. Three evening performances presented by Tewkesbury A.D.S. in the Watson Hall.
- 29 **Schools Athletics Meeting** on the Vineyards.
- 29 **Organ Recital** in the Abbey by the Belgian organist, Flor Peeters.
- 29 **Round Table Riverboat Discotheque**.
- 31 **Sylurian Morris Dancers** in the Crescent.
- 31 **Tewkesbury Abbey Fête**, opened by Noele Gordon.

JUNE

- 3 **Lecture** in Abbey House. "Tewkesbury Abbey, the Mausoleum of the Despencers" by Mr. Richard K. Morris.
- 4 **The Barrow Poets**, an evening of poetry and music in the Watson Hall.
- 5 **Freedom of the Borough** presented to Central Vehicle Depot, Ashchurch.
- 6 **Soccer Six-a-Side** on the Vineyards.
- 7 **Milk Race**—the start of the stage from Tewkesbury to Porthcawl.
- 9 **Water Board Open Day** at Mythe Works.
- 9 **School Drama**. Elmbury School and Tewkesbury Grammar School presented three performances in the Abbey of *Noah* by André Obey.
- 10 **Riverboat Discotheque**.
- 10 **Exhibition** held in the Fitzhamon Art Centre up to 26th June. "Military History of the Borough".
- 12 **Youth Orchestra**. A Concert in the Abbey by the Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra.
- 16 **Early Music Consort** in the Abbey in a programme of popular music of Five Centuries.
- 17 **The Manor Players** presented three performances of *Revue 71* in the Watson Hall.
- 19 **Youth Jamboree**. Over 50 uniformed Youth organisations camped over the weekend on the Severn Ham.
- 19 **Musica Vera** in the Abbey, the programme including Haydn's Nelson Mass.
- 22 **Stratford Theatreground** presented *Pleasure and Repentance*, an anthology.
- 24 **Lecture** in Abbey House. "The Roof Bosses of the Abbey" by Dr. Michael Q. Smith.
- 24 **Riverboat Discotheque**.
- 30 **Recital** in the Abbey by the Choral Scholars of King's College, Cambridge.

JULY

- 1 **Son et Lumière**. The first of 75 performances in the Abbey Grounds, attracting a total attendance of over 24,000. The script, depicting the history of the past 850 years, was written by Jack White, the principal narrator John Neville, music under the direction of Michael Peterson, and the production directed by Christopher Ede.
- 2 **Festival of Flowers** in the Abbey, representing the two anniversaries, with a special tableau on the Consecration. The Festival was opened the previous evening by the Duchess of Beaufort.
- 3 **Modern Army Show** at Ashchurch. Arena Events and Static Displays, sponsored by the Central Vehicle Depot, R.A.O.C.
- 3 **Folk Dance Festival**. The English Folk Dance and Song Society presented Displays on the Abbey Lawn, and in the evening held a dance at the Swan Hotel.
- 4 **Canoeing**. The Gloucester Club arranged a display of Canoeing on the River Severn, followed by a Long Distance Race.
- 4 **Band Concerts**. The Band of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars played for the first of a series of concerts held every Sunday afternoon in the Abbey Grounds, finishing with a concert on 19th September by the Band of the Grenadier Guards.
- 6 **Waiters and Waitresses Race**. A colourful event with waitresses in medieval costume.
- 6 **Bristol Old Vic Theatre School** presented four performances of their end of term play *Love's Labour's Lost*, at the Watson Hall.
- 7 **Tewkesbury High School** gave three performances in the Abbey of a new play *Women of Tewkesbury*.
- 8 **Swimming Gala**, held in the new indoor Baths.
- 8 **Riverboat Discotheque**.

- 15 **Lecture** at Abbey House: "Was Tewkesbury Abbey Frescoed? Some 12th Century Parallels", by Dr. David Talbot Rice.
- 15 **Steam Fair and Organ Festival** held for four days on Breakingstone Meadow. An attractive display of old fairground organs and fun fair, attracting an attendance of over 20,000.
- 16 **Caravan Rallies.** Two rallies held for three days—the Motor Caravan Club on the Severn Ham, and the Gloucester and Hereford Club on the Pageant Meadow.
- 19 **Street Theatre.** The Welfare State Street Theatre, a Yorkshire company, gave several performances daily for three days in various parts of the town.
- 21 **County Cricket.** A battle of the Roses—Yorkshire v. Lancashire, played according to Gillette Cup rules. An exciting match with a win for Lancashire on the very last ball of the last over.
- 21 **Cotswold Savoyards** presented in the Watson Hall a further concert of selections from Gilbert and Sullivan Operas.
- 22 **Summer Road Show.** Dr. Strangebrew's Summer Road Show was held on the Breakingstone Meadow, presented by the Welfare State Company, including music, theatre, jazz group, steel band, jesters, and Action/Space inflatable structures.
- 22 **Riverboat Discotheque.**
- 23 **Intimate Opera.** The British Intimate Opera Company presented three entertaining operas at the Watson Hall: *Thomas and Sally* by Arne, *Music Master* by Pergolesi, and *The Telephone* by Menotti.
- 24 **Prime Minister.** Visit of The Rt. Hon. Edward Heath, who played the organ in the Abbey, inspected the restored 15th century Merchants' Houses, and was entertained to lunch by the Mayor (Councillor L. A. Webber) and a Civic Party at the Royal Hop Pole Hotel.
- 25 **Donkey Derby.** An attractive event held on the Breakingstone Meadow, organised by Ashchurch British Legion.
- 31 **Church Crusade** held daily on Breakingstone Meadow up to 22nd August, sponsored by the Evangelical Churches of Tewkesbury and District. Evangelist: The Reverend Dick Saunders.

AUGUST

- 2 **Week of Films.** Outstanding films presented nightly at the Watson Hall: *Becket*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Cleopatra*, *Nevada Smith*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *Blow Up*, with children's cartoons in the afternoons.
- 5 **Lecture** in Abbey House: "Henry of Blois, Bishop of Worcester—a 12th-Century Patron", by Mr. John Beckwith.
- 5 **Corby Theatre Workshop** presented in the Abbey Grounds two plays from the Chester cycle of miracle plays—*Noah's Flood* and *The Shepherds*.
- 5 **Musica Deo Sacra.** Liturgical Music of the 16th to 20th centuries. Sung Eucharist daily at 11 a.m. in the Abbey up to 11th August, with Choral Evensong on the Sunday evening, and a special concert on the evening of the 11th.
- 12 **Riverboat Discotheque.**
- 14 **Wrestling.** A professional tournament including a tag match was arranged in association with Dale Martin Promotions, and held in front of the Son et Lumière covered stand.
- 15 **Jalopy Racing** was promoted by the Bredon Hill Jalopy Club at Red House Farm, Coombe Hill.
- 15 **Benedictine Exhibition** in the Abbey up to 2nd September. "No Man is an Island".
- 18 **Oboe and Piano Recital** in the Abbey by Evelyn Rothwell and Valda Aveling.
- 19 **BBC Radio One Club**, held in the Watson Hall during lunch hour.

- 19 **Lecture in the Abbey:** "The Medieval Monastic Life at Tewkesbury", by the Reverend Canon J. C. Dickinson.
- 20 **Brian Barnes One Man Theatre:** *The Pickwickians at Manor Farm*, held in the Watson Hall.
- 20 **Exhibition** at the Fitzhamon Art Centre until 4th September. An open exhibition of Flower Paintings arranged by the Tewkesbury Society of Arts.
- 20 **Acker Bilk.** A Dance was held in the Ashchurch Garrison Theatre with Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band, supported by The Bacardis.
- 21 **Riverboat Discotheque** arranged by Tewkesbury Round Table.
- 22 **Disaster Squad.** John Dare Promotions presented on the Severn Ham the internationally famous car crash and spectacular stunt show.
- 25 **Music of the Two Elizabeths.** A concert held in the Abbey Grounds on a lovely Summer day, arranged in association with the Three Choirs Festival. The Purcell Consort of Voices and the London Gabrieli Brass Ensemble.
- 26 **Riverboat Discotheque.**
- 29 **Open Angling Contest** on the Severn, organised by the Tewkesbury Popular Angling Association.
- 30 **Fire Brigade Fête** held in the Abbey Grounds.

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **Dowty Open Day.** Dowty Ashchurch Exhibition and Open Day, including Horticultural Show and Gymkhana.
- 7 **Drama.** Bredon's Norton Drama Group presented a new play *The Battle of Tewkesbury* and *Town Crier* a musical mime—five performances in the Watson Hall.
- 9 **Lecture** in Abbey House—"The Gage Gates and 18th-Century Ironwork", by Mr. A. V. Knight.
- 9 **Riverboat Discotheque.**
- 11 **Exhibition** to the 25th September in the Fitzhamon Art Centre. "Tewkesbury: Pictures and Portraits", arranged by the Tewkesbury Civic Society.
- 15 **London Opera Players** presented *The Barber of Seville* (Rossini) in the Watson Hall.
- 17 **Flower Show** arranged by the Tewkesbury and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society for two days in the Abbey Hall.
- 18 **Table Tennis.** An all-day event with National and County players, arranged at Ashchurch Camp by the Cheltenham Table Tennis Club.
- 19 **Military Band.** A concert given by the Band of the Grenadier Guards on the site of Son et Lumière and enjoyed by 900 people.
- 22 **BBC Training Orchestra** and BBC West of England Chorus in the Abbey, the programme including *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, Ravel; *Flos campi* suite, Vaughan Williams (viola, Harry Danks); *Symphony No. 6 in D*, Dvorak. The conductor was Meredith Davies.
- 23 **Champagne Fashion Show** arranged by local fashion houses and held in the Watson Hall.
- 23 **Lecture** in Abbey House: "Tewkesbury Abbey in the 18th and 19th Centuries", by the Reverend Canon Basil F. L. Clarke.
- 23 **Riverboat Discotheque.**
- 24 **BBC "Any Questions"** in the Watson Hall, with Jacky Gillott, Lord Mancroft, the Rt. Hon. Richard Marsh, David Franklin and David Jacobs (Chairman).
- 25 **Diocesan Choral Festival** in the Abbey.
- 25 **Hospital Fête** held in the Tewkesbury Hospital Grounds.
- 26 **Rugby Seven-a-Side** held on the Vineyards. Won by the Gloucester team, sixteen teams competing.

OCTOBER

- 2 **Nonsuch** presented a programme of Medieval and Renaissance Dances in the Abbey, with contemporary comment in prose, verse and song; the music was by Ars Nova.
- 5 **The Elizabethans**. A dramatic anthology presented on two nights in the Watson Hall; a living scrap-book of Elizabethan poetry and prose, music and songs, by John Moore.
- 6 **Rugby**. An Army XV v. a Tewkesbury Invitation XV at the Vineyards.
- 7 **Lecture** in Abbey House by Mr. Cecil Clutton, on "The Tewkesbury Abbey Organs in the context of British Historic Organs".
- 8 **Tewkesbury Mop Fair** (and 9th).
- 9 **Open Day** at Redac Software Limited and L. & H. Engineering Limited.
- 12 **Antony Hopkins' Opera**, *Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Saint*—five performances in the Abbey, conducted by the Composer. A very fine production in which 130 leading singers in the district and senior students from the schools of Tewkesbury took part.
- 12 **Exhibition** of Home Arts and Crafts (to 16th October) in the Congregational Hall, organised by the Tewkesbury (Evening) Townswomen's Guild.
- 15 **Exhibition** (to 22nd October). An exhibition of Schools Art, held in the Town Hall.
- 19 **BBC Invitation Concert** in the Abbey. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Louis Fremaux. The programme included Prelude to Lohengrin, Wagner; Beethoven Violin Concerto (soloist, Raymond Cohen); Symphony Mathis der Maler, Hindemith.
- 19 **The Hill Players** gave five entertaining performances in the Watson Hall of *And So To Bed*, a musical based on Samuel Pepys' Diary.
- 23 **850th Anniversary** of the Consecration of the Abbey. Solemn Eucharist and Evensong in the Abbey.
- 24 **Civic Service** in the Abbey, when the preacher was the Right Rev. Glyn Simon, formerly Archbishop of Wales.

Post-Festival Events:

NOVEMBER

- 6 **Festival Wine and Cheese Party** at the Bell Hotel.
- 20 **Torchlight Procession**, Bonfire, and Funfair in the Station Yard.

DECEMBER

- 13 **Festival Dinner** in the Watson Hall to celebrate the success of the Festival, attended—as at the dinner to open the Festival—by His Grace The Duke of Beaufort, Patron of the Festival. The Guest Speaker was Mr. Johnny Morris, broadcaster.

Hymn

*Written by The Rev. Canon Richard L. Hussey especially for the
Civic Service on Sunday, 24th October, 1971, to mark the
850th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Abbey.*

LORD, accept the prayer and praises
From this Abbey day by day;
Strong the tower that speaks to all men
Of the Lord, our Strength and Stay.
May we celebrate devoutly
This our seventeenth jubilee,
Singing with a thankful gladness.
Raising heart and voice to thee.

As these mighty pillars, make us
Firmly based on faith in thee;
As these noble arches link them,
Bind us all in unity.
Overhead the fretted vaulting
Symbol is of heaven above;
By this beauty hearts are lifted,
Fired with faith and hope and love.

Many come to view this building:
As on outward things they look,
Give them grace to read the message
Written here as in a book -
"God is beauty, truth and goodness";
Him we worship as is meet;
Holiness the only beauty
We can offer at his feet.

On the roof above his chantry,
Figure of the Kneeling Knight
Gazes with a rapt devotion
On the altar of delight;
So may we have loving fervour
For the holy Bread and Wine,
Heavenly Food for earthly journey,
Blessed Sacrament divine.

So we thank thee for inspiring
Man to raise this glorious shrine.
Help us by our gifts and labours
To preserve it, house divine,
And to use this hallowed dwelling,
To make ready for thy call
To the city with no temple
Where thyself art all in all.

Richard L. Hussey

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