

Reading Mercury 26 June 1897

CHINNOR

JUBILEE DAY. - The great day has come and gone, a day that the national memory will perhaps pass down the generations as the day of the century. This little loyal village contributed its quota to the universal festivities. Scarcely was there a cottage that did not put out its sign of welcome to the beloved Empress Monarch. At the entrance to the parish church on Sunday the motto inscribed was "Give thanks for England's Queen." Within the church special reference was made in prayer and praise to the celebrations. In the Congregational Schoolroom an afternoon's service was devoted to the study of incidents in and character of the life of her Majesty. On Monday Capt. Mansell gave a feast to those parishioners residing on the hills, thus giving them a chance of joining the central demonstration held next day in the Rectory grounds. These were thrown open, with a tea, to the parish by the Rev. E. J. Howman. Farmers in the village were not behind in providing their workers and families with an ample repast. The children were present in full muster, and entered joyously into sports and frolics, which Mr. G. Jones managed with excellent tact. A large and useful variety of prizes were distributed to the winners of contests, also to Sunday Church Scholars whose annual treat was joined to this event. Musical enlivenment was added by the Ickford Brass Band. At 9.30 the volunteer brigade of 50 torchlight bearers at the lower end of the village started, and as the procession went towards and up the hill the effect from below was very picturesque, the whole village coming out to view the spectacle. Rocket signals were sent up at 9.55, and promptly at 10 the bonfire was lit and accompanied by the fun of a big crowd, crackled until midnight. The sight was indeed a memorable one from this splendid vantage ground. Along the 40 miles' horizon lay a long purple cloud forming an ideal background to the circle of answering fires. Altogether the villages have risen to the occasion with a loyalty of which the country may be proud.

Bucks Herald 25 June 1887

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The weather was simply magnificent on Tuesday, when the Jubilee was celebrated in this village. Proceedings for the day commenced by the National School children assembling in the schoolroom, and marching in procession to the Church, where a service of thanksgiving was held. Several special hymns were sung, the first being the National Anthem, most heartily sung by the entire congregation. Service being over by 10.30, the ceremony of planting a memorial shrub opposite the western door of the church was performed by Miss Howman, the Rector, and Messrs. W. Newell and D. R. Ling, church wardens, assisted, for memory's sake, by two very young children, Florence Heybourn and James Witney. Operations in the field commenced by a cricket match between married and single, the latter being victorious, and Mr. Chris Croxford gaining the prize—a bat for the highest score. The usual games were taken up with much zest, suitable groups of sexes and ages being allotted to "captainesses" and captains. James Seymour distinguished himself in the obstacle race, Charles Parker in the high jumping, and Ebenezer Southam in flat racing. The tug of war was a severe contest between married and single men, ending in victory for the married. Tea was first served to the school children, every one of whom had a mug presented to them as well as a token similar in shape to the Victoria Cross. The

utmost harmony prevailed throughout the day. Before the company left the field for the scene of the torchlight procession and bonfire, a verse of the National Hymn was sung. The torchlight procession was most effective, and the bonfire on the top of Chinnor-mill was very grand. A very large company assembled on the top of the hill, and the views gained from it of similar displays for over twenty miles round was very beautiful. The display of rockets was also very fine. Mr. Thomas White, of the Manor Farm, deserves the thanks of the entire Committee for the unstinted pains taken in preparing the bonfire, which so splendidly closed the proceedings of one of the brightest and happiest days this pretty village has ever seen. The Chinnor Band played a good selection of music during the day in capital style.