

From the Archives

With the historic occasion of King Charles III's coronation approaching this Saturday, let us look at the festivities held at Meriden in 1937 for the coronation of George VI and his wife, Elizabeth, as king and queen of the United Kingdom.



1931 coronation
souvenir booklet

King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II's father, was crowned on 11 May 1937. The event was cause for much celebration at Meriden. Wallis Hall was decorated with red, white and blue flowers and a special service was held.

After the service, Meriden's Principal, Miss Overy, planted two golden cypress trees, which were gifts from the staff, to mark the occasion.

The day of the coronation was a public holiday, and a celebration tea was held for the boarders where they listened to a wireless broadcast of the service being held in Westminster Abbey.



Miss Overy planting cypress trees to
commemorate the coronation

Meriden's archives contain a number of items of memorabilia from around the time of the coronation, including a coronation souvenir booklet featuring the new King, his Queen and their two daughters, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, pictured above.

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