

**Debenham Celebrates  
The Royal Wedding**



**Prince Charles  
and  
Lady Diana Spencer**



**29th July 1981**



20p



*Silver Jubilee Sign*

## FOREWORD

I feel very honoured to have been asked to write the foreword to this commemorative booklet, because Debenham plays such an important part in our lives, and Lady Tollemache and I are proud to feel part of the community. We are very sorry that since we are lucky enough to have been asked to St. Paul's Cathedral, we cannot join with you to help celebrate such a happy occasion.

The Prince and the Princess of Wales have a great and genuine love of East Anglia and of its towns and villages and countryside, and so it must give each and everyone of us here enormous pleasure to wish them both a happy and long life together.

↑  
Tollemache.



46, High Street,  
Debenham,  
Stowmarket,  
Suffolk,  
IP14 6QW.

25th. May 1981.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,  
Buckingham Palace,  
London.

Sir,

The village of Debenham in the County of Suffolk sends loyal greetings and offers its sincerest congratulations and humble good wishes on the forthcoming occasion of your marriage with the Lady Diana Spencer.

We wish you to know that this village community will celebrate with you on that felicitous day and that our thoughts will be with you throughout its hours.

May both of you enjoy long life, good health and abundant happiness.

We remain your faithful and obedient servants,

*E.G.N. Alcock*

E.G.N. Alcock,  
Chairman - Royal Wedding Committee,  
on behalf of the village of Debenham.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

5th June, 1981

*Dear Mr Alcock,*

The Prince of Wales has asked me to write and thank you all for your letter.

His Royal Highness and the Lady Diana were delighted to receive your message of congratulations and have asked me to send you their very sincere thanks.

*Yours sincerely,  
Jill Kirby.*



*The Village of Debenham in the County of Suffolk  
Celebrates the Marriage of  
H.R.H. The Prince of Wales with The Lady Diana Spencer  
on Wednesday, 29th July, 1981*

**PROGRAMME**

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion -  
St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church

Then on the Playing Field of Sir Robert Hitcham's School:-

4.00 p.m. Football Tournaments:-

4.00 - 4.30 p.m. (15 minutes each way) 6 - 11 years of age.

4.40 - 5.10 p.m. (15 minutes each way) 12 - 16 years of age.

5.20 - 5.50 p.m. (15 minutes each way) 17 - 30 years of age.

6.00 - 6.30 p.m. (15 minutes each way) 31 years of age and above.

4.00 p.m. Sports for children and other entertainments.

4.45 p.m. A Tea Party (Children 3 - 11 years of age).

5.30 p.m. Brownies Country Dancing Display.

5.45 p.m. Boys Brigade Display.

6.00 p.m. Punch and Judy Show.

6.00 p.m. The Gislingham Silver Band playing for your pleasure and entertainment.

7.00 p.m. A break - during which festivities will transfer to the main street of the village, in the approximate area of the Post Office.

7.45 p.m. The Church Bells will be rung.

8.00 p.m. Formal opening ceremony for the evening's entertainment:-  
Royal Homage, Opening Address, Presentation of prizes for best decorated properties and childrens' painting competition.

8.20 - 9.00 p.m.  
The Gislingham Silver Band playing for your pleasure.

8.20 p.m. The Royal Wedding Pram Race - theme: "The Royal Couple".  
(Entrants assemble Cross Green at 8.15 p.m.)

8.20 - 10.30 p.m.  
Live music for dancing to and listening to.

10.30 p.m. John Warren plays the Organ for Community Singing -  
song sheets will be issued.

10.50 p.m. Royal Rocket Salute.



## AN EIGHTY YEAR OLD REMEMBERED BACK TO THE 1911 CELEBRATIONS

Looking forward with pleasure to the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, and approaching 81 years, my wife and I like to talk of times remembered, sometimes grave, sometimes amusing. Our earliest Royal remembrance I think is the death of Edward VII and Coronation of George V. I well remember the gloom cast over the village and I wonder how the news reached county villages, with no phones and no radio, etc. Some shops nailed a piece of 6" black painted board down the front windows for mourning. The Village Band played suitable music on the evening of the funeral.

The Coronation of George V was celebrated in the village and I remember a tea was provided for the children and we were presented with a mug and medal, which we still have.

There were then one or two quiet years until war was declared in August, 1914. I had started as an apprentice at the Saddler's shop on the hill where my boss, a very patriotic old gentleman, was appointed recruiting officer. I have, somewhere, a photograph of the shop plastered up with recruiting posters and the well-known Lord Kitchener "Your Country Needs You!"

Although we had four terrible years of war, there were some amusing interludes, one I shall always remember; we had not enough musicians to form a full band, so we made up a Bugle Band, to head the LDV or "Dad's Army" parades, proceeding up Grace Church Street led by a very excited cyclist coming down the street (W. Chas. Fairweather). When we had sorted ourselves out, Sgt. Last took Charles to task and very severely told him: "Do you know you were on the wrong side of the road?" Charles replied, "Well, tha's the side I allus dew come."

The end of the 1914-18 war brought great celebration and times changed in the village, with the return of the men who had moved abroad and seen life and were not content to settle down to the old way of life.

We look back on the days of 1d. postage, the horse mail cart leaving at 8.00 p.m. and returning from Stowmarket at 6.00 a.m., farm wages 12/- per week, losing all wet weather, old people 70 and over 5/- weekly pension, we still grumble at some things, but what a lot we still have to be thankful for in our old age.



Children at Sir Robert  
Hittham School send  
greetings for today and  
tomorrow.

How nice it will be when it is wedding time.

*Nicholas Barnes (Age 5)*

It will be good when Prince Charles gets married.

*Keith Jaynes (Age 5)*

I hope you have a lovely time being a King and a Queen.

*Sarah Segasby (Age 5)*

I hope you have a lovely wedding and I hope you live very happily ever after.

*Nicola Ridge (Age 6)*

I hope Charlie and Diana have a lovely year of happiness.

*Daniel Connors (Age 8)*

I hope the Lady Diana and Prince Charles will live longer than me.

*Richard (Age 8)*

I hope that Prince Charles and Lady Diana can stay in England for the rest of their lives and I hope that they can see to the money.

*Malcolm (Age 8)*

I hope that Prince Charles and Lady Diana will have a lovely life together in the Royal Palace.

*Julia Claire List (Age 8)*

Dear Charles and Diana,

Hope you like the cake, my uncle is in the Navy and has told me all about the cake they are making, he told me about all the ingredients.

*Clare Smith (Age 8)*



I hope that Prince Charles will take Lady Diana out to nice places like Wales and the Lake District.

*Daren Smith (Age 8)*

I wish that they do not have an argument.

*Sean Cross (Age 9)*

I wish Prince Charles some day to win a horse race.

*Michael Keeble (Age 9)*

I wish Prince Charles and Lady Diana happiness on their Marriage and all through their life.

*Hazel Adams (Age 9)*

I wish that Prince Charles and Lady Diana have lots of cheers, and strawberry wedding cake to eat.

*Peter Corner (Age 9)*

We wish you Prince Charles and Lady Diana A Happy Wedding Day and A lovely Honey Moon.

*Lorien Stoyell (Age 10)*

Happy wedding for today. I hope you are well on the day and I will give you my congratulations on the day Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

*Joanne Locke (Age 11)*



