



**Sedgley's**

**Diamond 60**

*Sixty years, sixty people,  
sixty stories about village life  
since 1952.*

1980

## Village festival marking the Queen Mother's 80th birthday

by **Geoffrey Bangham**

Over 25 years ago I was landlord of the Swan pub in Gospel End Street, Sedgley. In August 1980 I organised a street festival and parade to honour the Queen Mother on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. There were stalls in Gospel End Street, marching bands and the Sedgley Morris Men performed. If you go to Sedgley Community Centre you'll see a thank-you letter sent to me by Her Royal Highness.

When I first went to the police station for permission to close the Bull Ring they just laughed. However, I stuck at it and eventually the Chief Constable authorised it. We had photos done for the event and I dressed as Burlington Bertie, wearing evening dress with a top hat and cane.

I enjoyed my time in Sedgley, The Swan served Mitchells and Butlers beers. We had a piano bar – I find people like to come in and sing the old songs. We also had a snug with a nice fireplace - it was like a home from home. I owned a little terrier dog and he had his own seat in the pub.

People may remember my collection of military service hats, tops hats and bowlers. We always did big collections for Remembrance Day, and while I was here I also led a 'Clean Up Sedgley' campaign.

After a lifetime in the pub trade, I retired nine months ago. I'm probably best known for my time at Geoff's Piano Bar, off Tettenhall Road, which was filled with memorabilia including Toby jugs. I recreated the look at the Quarterhouse when I took over there. In my time I also ran The Giffard Arms in Victoria Street, The Alexander in Chapel Ash, and The Royal Oak in Bridgnorth Road.



**Gospel End Street was closed off and used for street stalls. A brass band and Sedgley Morris Men performed.**