

200 MAGAZINE

#11

MAY 1823 / 2023

BYRON SIGNS UP FOR GREEK CAUSE

The poet has joined the London group campaigning for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Could he now join the fight?

O'CONNELL LAUNCHES NEW IRISH CAMPAIGN

Daniel O'Connell wants Catholics in Ireland to be allowed to become MPs. Could his new group become a mass membership body?

RENEWED FEARS OVER GEORGE IV'S HEALTH

The King is still confined to his bed at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton after a severe gout attack. He is said to only be talking to his doctors.



MUSÉE CARNAVALET | CC0 1.0 UNIVERSAL (CC0 1.0) PUBLIC DOMAIN

French troops face only limited Spanish resistance as they target Madrid to oust the country's liberal government. See page 5

This is an artists' impression of the moment that a teenage drummer-boy let French troops through the gates of the town of Logroño, 80 miles south of Bilbao, adjoining the Basque Country, on 18 April 1823.

This the last edition of 200. Sadly it has not been possible to build a solid base of readers, and time and financial pressures have become unsustainable. Thank you to everyone who has read and supported the magazine in the last year.

NEWS FROM 1823 ON WHITE PAGES
COMMENT FROM 2023 ON BLUE PAGES

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Duel averted after Canning accuses Brougham of lying

Foreign Secretary accused of ● “monstrous truckling” and “tergiversation”

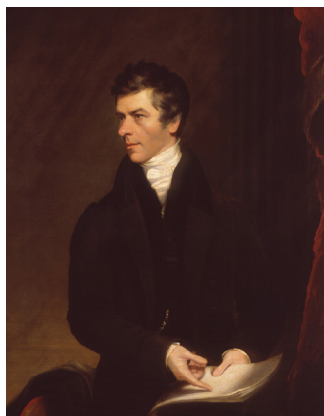
In some of the most extraordinary scenes in years, proceedings in the House of Commons came to a halt for almost an hour after the Foreign Secretary, George Canning, accused the senior Whig MP, Henry Brougham, of lying. But fears that the two men might take part in a duel came to nothing when both backed down.

Henry Brougham, in the course of a strenuous attack on Mr Canning, a previous supporter of Catholic rights, accused him of effectively abandoning his principles in order to hold office in an anti-Catholic administration.

It was, Mr Brougham said “the most incredible specimen of monstrous truckling, for the purpose of obtaining office, that the whole history of political tergiversation could furnish”.

The Foreign Secretary interrupted to say that what had been said was not true, effectively accusing Mr Brougham of being a liar.

The Speaker, Charles Manners-Sutton, broke the stunned silence by asking Mr Canning to retract his statement, which he called “a complete violation” of the rules of Parliament.



HENRY BROUGHAM IN AN 1821 PORTRAIT BY JAMES LONSDALE

It took four more interventions by the Speaker before order was resumed, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Frederick Robinson, and the former Whig leader, George Tierney, trying to defuse the row between the two men. There were even calls for them to be detained, amid fears that one might challenge the other to a duel.

Eventually Mr Brougham, without withdrawing his comments, said enough for the Foreign Secretary to say that “he would think no more of it,” if not actually take back what he had said.

It may not be surprising that these two men should have almost come to blows, with a duel even in prospect. In 1809 Mr Canning was shot in the thigh but survived a duel with a fellow minister, Lord Castlereagh, in an internal Whitehall row.

Just three days before the debate on petitions against full political rights for Catholics, Mr Brougham, one of the most pugnacious opposition politicians, had accused George Canning of being duped by the French in the build-up to their invasion of Spain. He said that he had never known a minister to “cut a worse figure” than the Foreign Secretary.

In first reaction to the row, *The Times* appears to have questioned whether Mr Canning had “a reputation worth quarrelling about”.

MPs vote against Commons reform

Whig calls for significant reform of the House of Commons and how MPs are elected have been rejected, but with the biggest vote for change in almost 40 years.

Rising Whig star Lord John Russell (pictured) said just 17,000 voters chose the majority of English MPs. He called for 100 seats to be switched from often corrupt boroughs to heavily-populated counties and industrial towns.



GEORGIOS KOLLIDAS/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

Economist David Ricardo (Whig, Portarlington) backed the use of secret ballots rather than public voting. He said the people would “act wisely and prudently” instead of picking demagogues and “disturbers of the public peace”.

The proposal was defeated by 280-169, but with the support of some non-Whigs including William Wilberforce.

‘Blot’ of flogging should be removed from the law - Whig MP

Whipping has been described by an Opposition MP as “the last relic of a barbarous system of punishments” and a “blot” which it was high time to get rid of.

Henry Grey Bennett (Whig, Shrewsbury), a leading figure in the party’s advanced (progressive) wing, was seeking permission to introduce a bill abolishing punishment by whipping, backed also by Radical MPs. But it was defeated by 70-37.

Flogging, said Mr Bennett, neither acted as an example to deter others, nor reformed the offender. Revealing that almost 7,000 people had been whipped in the last seven years, he said it was “a disgrace to the age in which we live”.

Radical John Cam Hobhouse (Westminster) said flogging was degrading and men punished in this way “lost all self respect”. The ban on women being flogged should be extended to men.



HENRY GREY BENNETT MP

But Home Secretary, Robert Peel, told MPs that abolishing whipping for minor offences would be “a dangerous experiment”. He said solitary confinement was a much more rigorous punishment, more likely to break the spirit than moderate whipping.

Opposition politicians are likely to continue moves to ban flogging in the armed forces. Another Radical MP, Sir Francis Burdett has called it atrocious and unmanly.

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Fears grow over health of gout-ridden King George

King George is said to have suffered a relapse after some signs of a recovery from [gout](#). Bulletins from the King's doctors reporting a fever, along with limited information from [Carlton House](#), have stoked fears his condition may be serious.

The King's indisposition has left him again bed-ridden at the [Royal Pavilion](#) in Brighton. He had previously been forced to cancel a "drawing room" reception and plans for visits to the theatre in London. Some insiders close to the court are said to fear the King may not survive the year.

The Tory MP and commentator [John Wilson Croker](#) has told friends that the King is "much weakened" by [his attacks of gout](#). George IV's younger brother, William, is now also suffering from the condition, though the Duke of Clarence is otherwise in good health, walks often and has a modest appetite. ●

King George has been diagnosed with [erysipelas](#) of the foot, which can particularly affect those with a history of obesity and excessive alcohol intake. Affected skin can become painful, swollen, firm, dark in colour, and blisters may form.



THE BIRTHDAY HOAX - OR THE GOUT AT COURT, 23 APRIL 1823. PEOPLE CONVERGING ON THE VENUE FOR GEORGE IV'S CANCELLED 'DRAWING ROOM' ARE MET BY A FIRE-BREATHING 'GOUT' MONSTER; IN THIS WILLIAM HEATH CARTOON. THE NOTICE JUST LEFT OF CENTRE THROWS DOUBT ON THE REASON FOR THE CANCELLATION.

WELLCOME COLLECTION | PUBLIC DOMAIN

Rioting in Stirling over grave theft

Troops had to be called in to bring an end to rioting in Stirling and save two men accused of body-snatching from being lynched.

The men, Daniel Mitchell and the town's grave-digger, James McNab, had appeared in court on charges of violating the grave of a Stirling woman who died last November. But both were freed after it was revealed that a third indicted man, medical student John Forrest, had fled the country. He had paid Mitchell and McNab ● four guineas (£4.20) for the corpse for research.

[After word of the two men's release from custody spread through the town](#), crowds of people hostile to the so-called 'resurrection men' gathered and besieged their homes, knocking McNab to the ground and badly beating Mitchell.

The Scotsman says Mitchell had to take refuge in nearby homes as crowds broke windows and shouted "There's the villain - hand him over to us and we'll tear his liver out."



RESURRECTIONISTS AT WORK, FROM THE CHRONICLES OF CRIME (1887)

Troops were summoned and shots fired before the men were taken into custody for their own safety. Several soldiers were hurt. Five were later disciplined for shooting without orders from a magistrate or their commanding officer.

New railway can carry passengers

The new "railway" linking Stockton, Darlington and the collieries of Co. Durham will be allowed to carry paying members of the public and use "locomotive" engines to pull the carriages carrying them and freight.

[Revised legislation](#) giving the Stockton and Darlington Railway Company authorisation to convey passengers and use these mechanical engines has now received the royal assent from King George.

It is almost exactly one year since first rails were laid in Stockton and construction got underway on what is now being heralded as the first public rail service in the world.

The original plan was to use horses to draw coal carts on metal rails to the River Tees.

The railway's chief engineer, [George Stephenson](#), is behind the drive to use moveable engines to haul passengers and cargo on the 25 mile route. He has spent the last six weeks in Westminster lobbying politicians to pass the amended Act.



George Stephenson, appointed in January last year, has worked on transporting coal at Killingworth pit near Newcastle and designed a colliery railway at [Hetton](#) in Durham. That service opened later in 1822.

The decision to back moving engines is seen as a big vote of confidence in Mr Stephenson.

Irish Catholics to step up fight for political rights

A new group set up by political activist and barrister [Daniel O'Connell](#) is to spearhead the campaign for Catholic emancipation - removing the restrictions which stop Catholics becoming MPs and holding other public offices.

The [Catholic Association](#) was established at a meeting at Dempsey's Tavern in Dublin, with fifty wealthier and professional Catholics paying a ● guinea each (£1.05) to become founder members.

The new group says it plans to send a delegation to London to meet the King to advance its case. This would capitalise on the warmer relations after [George IV's visit in 1821](#), the first time a British or English monarch has visited Ireland in peace-time.

Before leaving Ireland, King George was presented with a laurel crown by a kneeling Daniel O'Connell. The King shook Mr O'Connell's hand and spoke briefly to the de facto leader of Ireland's Catholics.

The second key change has been the appointment as lord-lieutenant (viceroys) in Dublin of [Marquess Wellesley](#), older brother of the Waterloo hero, the Duke of Wellington. The marquess is viewed as more sympathetic to the Catholic cause and reform.

In February, Mr O'Connell successfully mobilised Catholic tenants to vote for a pro-emancipation Protestant in the Co. Dublin by-election.



DANIEL O'CONNELL

This was seen as a groundbreaking use of Catholic tenant voters, rebelling against the Tory candidate favoured by their landlords. It clearly inspired Mr O'Connell to expand his campaigning to cover all Ireland. He will now consider how to involve the Irish peasantry, perhaps with a nominal membership fee.

Owen plans 'subversive' says church

The Welsh businessman and social reformer [Robert Owen](#)'s vision of creating new communities to tackle poverty and unemployment in Ireland have been rejected by Catholic clergy as utopian, subversive, irreligious, and unnatural.

Clergy voiced their hostility at meetings in Dublin at the end of Mr Owen's six-month fact-finding tour of Ireland, including areas hit by famine last year. At these, he laid out plans for [model villages](#) that could accommodate between 800 and 1,200 people.

These are similar to that providing housing for mill workers at [Robert Owen's New Lanark](#) development in Scotland. He has pioneered reforms to working conditions in factories, an emphasis on cooperation, and free education from infancy to adulthood.



ROBERT OWEN

Canning takes sting out of anti-slavery drive

Tory ministers appear to have [out-manoeuvred the new group](#) campaigning for the abolition of slavery across the British Empire in a lengthy debate at Westminster.

The [debate](#) saw the official change of leadership of anti-slavery MPs, with the veteran [William Wilberforce](#) being replaced by the Dorset Independent MP, [Thomas Fowell Buxton](#). He told the Commons that slavery was a crime that "originated in robbery" and was "an outrage upon every principle of justice and every tenet of religion".

But hopes that MPs would adopt a resolution calling slavery "repugnant" and seeking its gradual abolition throughout British colonies were dashed when the Foreign Secretary, George Canning, put an [alternative plan](#) before MPs.

Mr Canning focused on improving the lives of enslaved people in the Caribbean islands to prepare them for eventual emancipation - but only when consistent with the safety of the colonies and the interests of private property and slave-owners. Mr Buxton is said to be sceptical as to when it will ever be "safe" to free Britain's slaves.



THIS IS A NEW IMAGE OF SLAVE LIFE IN THE COLONY OF [ANTIGUA](#) IN THE WEST INDIES BY BRITISH ARTIST WILLIAM CLARK, WHO WAS INVITED TO VISIT BY PLANTERS. HIS [TEN VIEWS](#), [NEWLY PUBLISHED](#), SHOW PRODUCTION OF SUGAR CANE. BUT [NONE OF THE EVERYDAY HARDSHIPS OR VIOLENCE OF SLAVERY IS THERE](#).

Spain latest: French troops reach Madrid

French forces are reported to have just entered Madrid, in their mission to restore Spain's autocratic monarch, Ferdinand VII, to full control.

The army, claimed by the French to be 100,000 strong, is only seven weeks into its special military operation, but has enjoyed marked successes, taking a series of northern towns and cities. One of the first to be captured, in late April, was Logroño, 100 miles from the French border.

The overall commander, the [Duke of Angoulême](#), was set on taking Madrid, in the operation to bring to an end the rule of Spain's military-backed liberal and democratic government.



KING FERDINAND VII IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO CADIZ ON SPAIN'S SOUTH COAST, 375 MILES FROM MADRID, BY THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

Out-numbered Spanish troops retreated within the city in the La Rioja area, only to see a teenage French drummer climb over the walls of Logroño and open its gate from the inside. House-to-house combat ensued and 200 Spanish troops were captured.

French forces, driving towards Barcelona, took the Catalan coastal town of Palamós, inland from Girona, without a shot being fired.

One of the most significant French victories came when the II Corps, led by General Gabriel Molitor, seized Zaragoza in Aragon, three weeks into the invasion. Reports speak of general joy when French troops arrived.

Tory ministers win Spain censure votes

The Government has easily fended off Opposition censures of its handling of the Spanish crisis in votes in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

In the [Upper House](#), the Whig leader, [Earl Grey](#) said he would have told the French that their cause was unjust, and that their success would be injurious to this country. He believed that the threat of British involvement on Spain's side might have averted war.

In the [House of Commons](#), the Foreign Secretary, George Canning, said Britain was not interested in Spain's "experiments" with democracy, just in averting war. How many evils, he said, were compressed into that three-letter word. It was right that every expedient should have been used to avert a conflict.

Ministers have defended their official policy of neutrality, but it is no secret that they hope for a Spanish victory. That is said to have caused "a devil of a sensation" in European capitals supporting France.



Southwark's Radical MP, [Sir Robert Wilson](#) (above), has left for Spain to fight on their side against what he has called "tyrants, fanatics and bigots".

Byron backs fight for Greek freedom

The poet, Lord Byron, has agreed to become a member of the [London Greek Committee](#), which is pushing for political and financial support for the fight for independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Founded in January, the group numbers many friends, associates and even rivals of the romantic poet among its leaders. But Byron's backing is a PR coup for the committee and the Greek cause in Britain.

[George, Lord Byron](#) left Britain in 1816, in debt and separated from his wife, and has not returned. He now lives in the Italian city of Genoa.



Lord Byron (pictured) met Greek leaders last month. He has sent medical supplies and gunpowder to their forces and there is speculation that he could go to Greece later this summer to become [directly involved](#).

Mexican emperor flees country

Former Emperor Agustín I has left Mexico only 18 months after leading his army into Mexico City in triumph after securing independence from Spain.

Now plain [Agustín Iturbide](#) again, he boarded the British vessels, *Rawlins*, with his family for what is expected to be exile in Italy, with Britain as another option if the Spanish authorities raise objections to his presence on the continent.

Observers believe that a revitalised King Ferdinand in Madrid, if French forces topple the country's government, may have plans for the reconquest of its former colony in central America.

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Today artificial intelligence is the innovation scaring people. In recent years, there has been concern that items as varied as computers and self-service supermarket checkouts are threatening jobs.

But 200 years ago new technology was potentially a life or death matter, with families knowing that new equipment could mean unemployment, no pay and no food. In the 1810s, the [Luddites](#) destroyed textile machinery. In rural areas, machine-breaking in the East of England in the early 1820s was followed by the [Swing Riots](#) in 1830 and 1831.

This year history students from [Sheffield Hallam University](#) were given the task of producing articles for an external partner to reach a wider audience. This is their work.

How technology = fear in early 19th century

In the present day, the term 'Luddite' has become a [common phrase](#) to call someone who is opposed to technological innovation. However, this phrase originates from a group of radicals in [Nottingham](#) in the years [1811-1816](#).

This idea of Luddism then spread around the country to places such as Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Lancashire.

These were a group of workers in the textiles industry protesting the implementation of new technology in workshops which was taking away their jobs, also protesting the lack of wages they were receiving. These workers were traditionally viewed as the elite of the working class who saw themselves as having privileged positions which were being taken away.

BY DANIEL
BARRATT AND
KATE AYRE

What the Luddites were most known for was the breaking of machines where they would sneak into workshops and mills, usually under the cover of dark and wearing face coverings or face paint to mask their identity. Often, they would cross-dress as a way of protesting about women working on these machines. However, breaking and stealing were not the only forms of protest the Luddites undertook. They also sent threatening letters to employers over the use of machines, and the homes of local government officials were set on fire if they were not sympathetic. This caused riots to spring up across the regions affected by the breaking of machines.

The breaking of machines was particularly well suited to the Luddites due to the semi-urbanised nature of their environment, meaning that they could escape quickly into the surrounding countryside.

The effect of the Luddites caused the government to become stricter with the ways that they dealt with machine breaking and damage caused by the riots.

Groups of people were

hired by factory owners

to look after the factories at night and report back with any suspicions or information about potential riots. Along with this,

posters were published to reward individuals who gave information on riots which had occurred.

The Luddites invented an imaginary figure who was used as the face of the movement to ensure that it would be harder for the government to catch those who had broken machinery, who then took on numerous titles such as General, Captain or King Ludd.

Not only this but when letters were written to the factory owners about the change that was wanted and the consequences which would happen if action was not taken, they were signed by General Ludd to be the spokesperson for all. It was common that if an individual organised riots in different districts, they would adopt titles such as 'General' or 'Captain'.



SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS (FROM L) DANIEL BARRATT, SCOTT BRANDUM, KATE AYRE. SCARLETT HIRST IS NOT PICTURED.



"THE LEADER OF THE LUDDITES" (1812), AN AGITATOR IN WOMAN'S CLOTHES IN FRONT OF A BURNING BUILDING WITH A CROWD WAVING KNIVES AND GUNS. Sources: "Frame breaking" Caledonian Mercury, 28 Oct 1816; "Riots at Nottingham" Hampshire Chronicle, 17 Feb. 1812.

How rural machine-breakers swung into action

The post-Napoleonic era was a period of vast instability across Europe with a series of uprisings, riots and revolutions occurring in various countries, including Britain.

By late 1830 there were fires rising across the country, causing chaos amongst the authorities, all while thousands of threatening letters were being sent to local farmers ominously signed "Swing".

The Swing Riots were a brief period of history which took place over the [years of 1830 and 1831](#) in which predominantly [southern farm workers began breaking agricultural machines](#), burning crops and assaulting church tithe collectors.

The overall damage caused by the Swing Riots would have cost the equivalent of tens, if not hundreds, of millions of pounds; for example an attack in Lancashire was reported to have cost over £30,000, roughly the equal of £2.7 million today.



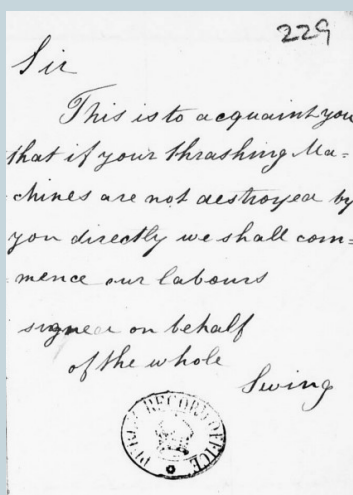
AN ORIGINAL PORTRAIT OF CAPTAIN SWING, AN 1830 CARTOON OF A FIGURE MADE FROM ARSON MATERIALS AND EMITTING FLAMES. THE BODY IS A CORN-STACK, THE HEAD A SHEAF OF CORN, WITH FLAMING 'FIRE BALLS' FOR EYES. THE ARMS ARE OF BURNING LIQUID AND "PORTABLE" GAS.

BY SCOTT BRANDUM AND SCARLETT HIRST

Riots and machine breaking previously occurred in [East Anglia in 1816 and 1822](#), however they became [more widespread due to low wages and higher unemployment](#), with at least 1,500 Swing-related events which shocked the country.

The governmental response to the riots was poor with their efforts being stretched extremely thin, with Home Office files from the period being flooded with letters requesting aid be sent to their localities.

These local authorities would attempt to keep control with one of the most prevalent methods being the swearing in of special constables where the local leadership would gather a group of men to maintain order and arrest suspected rioters.



A THREATENING LETTER FROM "CAPTAIN SWING" TO MR BIDDLE, A FARMER AT HIGH WYCOMBE IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IN 1830, WARNING HIM THAT IF HE DID NOT DESTROY HIS OWN THRESHING MACHINES, "WE SHALL COMMENCE OUR LABOURS". IMAGE: THE [NATIONAL ARCHIVES](#), KEW

There were also special commissions formed to prosecute those they caught who were often hanged or [transported](#).

Like the Luddites, authorities looked for a singular Captain Swing coordinating the riots, with suspects ranging from a preacher distributing pamphlets from his cart, to a Norfolk weaver, however it is likely that there was no singular Captain Swing with one depiction portraying Swing as a flaming scarecrow of pitch and hay. This raises the question: what compelled so many people across the country to take up arms?

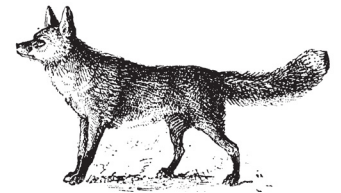
There were myriad reasons for the rise of Swing, however one of the most relevant to the modern day was the loss of jobs to automation. Labour-saving machines were becoming commonplace, slashing the wages and availability of work in rural communities and leading to chronic underemployment. Such was the contempt for these machines that there is a letter to the Home Office from Holt, [Norfolk](#), stating threshing machines would not be protected by the special constables being raised there.

Swing lost its momentum throughout 1831 and hundreds of thousands of workers began to move into the new industrial cities causing agricultural labourers to dramatically shrink in numbers. By 1851 most Britons lived in urban areas, leaving the Swing Riots a memory, occasionally re-emerging in popular culture.

Sources:

Home Office HO/52 files, *The National Archives*; *Leicester Chronicle*, *State of the Country*, 24/12/1830; *Western Times*, *Incendiaries*, 4/12/1830; John E. Archer, *Social Unrest and Popular Protest in England, 1780-1840*, Cambridge University Press, (Cambridge, 2000) pp. 15-23; Carl J. Griffin *'The Violent Captain Swing?'* *Past & Present*, Volume 209, Issue 1, November 2010, Pages 149-180

OLD FOX'S JOURNAL



Did he, or didn't he? Did [Ludwig van Beethoven](#) really attend a concert by 11-year-old [Franz Liszt](#) in Vienna last month to give his endorsement to the rising star from Hungary?

Liszt has been in the city since last year, being taught by [Carl Czerny](#) and Antonio Salieri. He made his first public [performance there in December](#) and followed this up by [playing in the Hofburg Palace](#) in April.

Legend already has it that Beethoven attended and bestowed the '[Weihekuss](#)', a kiss of consecration, on Liszt. [Other sources](#) are saying he did not, but that the [maestro and child prodigy did meet](#) before the concert.



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN AND [SIR WALTER SCOTT](#) (BELOW). HIS NEW 'WAVERLEY' NOVEL, [QUENTIN DURWARD](#), IS JUST PUBLISHED.



The coronation two centuries ago with drama and expense aplenty

It has been called the most outrageous and scandalous crowning ceremony in British history. The [coronation of George IV in 1821](#) was hugely expensive at more than £230,000 ● with a lavish feast, yet was almost over-shadowed by his estranged wife, [Queen Caroline, being refused entry to Westminster Abbey](#).

Visitors to George IV's [Royal Pavilion](#) in Brighton can contrast Charles III's coronation with that in 1821 at a [walk-through exhibition](#) open until 10 September.

George IV's robes alone cost over £24,000. No other British monarch before or after dared display such extravagance and the [ceremonial banquet](#) was never repeated.

On the ground floor of the Royal Pavilion, pictures, costumes, documents and objects hark back to George's spectacular coronation.



KING GEORGE IS FOLLOWED IN THE PROCESSION BY EIGHT OLDEST SONS OF PEERS AND THE MASTER OF THE ROBES. ON THE GROUND ARE FLOWERS THROWN BY THE KING'S [HERB WOMAN AND HER SIX MAIDS](#), ORIGINALLY IN CORONATIONS TO WARD OFF DISEASE. THE GOWN (R) IS THE ONE WORN IN 1821 BY SARAH ANN WALKER.



© BRIGHTON & HOVE MUSEUMS

The exhibition focuses not just on the King and his wife, but on the less celebrated. Sarah Ann Walker, 17, was an attendant to the King's herb woman, scattering flowers along the route. Her silk gauze gown is on show. Painter [Benjamin Haydon was present](#) and said the grace of the flower girls, slow movement and white dresses were "indescribably touching".

Art historian [Dr Alexandra Loske](#) is the exhibition's curator. She says that the former Prince Regent had been waiting for this day all his life.

"He knew from his very early childhood that he would one day be King. The character, tastes, and spending habits he displayed throughout his life meant that the ostentatious spectacle came as no surprise to anyone."

"It is all perfectly in keeping with George's lifestyle and self-image. He wanted his big day in the limelight. There was the added fact of having recently defeated Napoleon, and one of his aims was to outdo [Napoleon's coronation](#). It was pure spectacle, an expression of personal and political power, and there were few things or people who reined George in."

Travel back to the 1820s this summer

This landscape (right) may look idyllic in 2023; two centuries ago a cottage very much like this would have been home for the family of a skilled craftsman, working from home.

The [cottage](#) is a recreation of the "lost" home of renowned Georgian quilter Joseph Hedley, at [Beamish, The Living Museum of the North](#), in Co. Durham. Hedley was [murdered in 1826](#), in a crime that shocked the nation.

The [Beamish cottage](#) features stones from his original home, including flagstones where he stood 200 years ago. Its remains were uncovered during an archaeological dig by Beamish staff and members of the local community.

RIGHT: THE QUILTER'S COTTAGE AT BEAMISH. OTHER ATTRACTIONS FROM THE RE-CREATED VILLAGE OF [POCKERLEY IN THE 1820S](#) INCLUDE THE 'NEW HOUSE' - THE HOME OF THE TENANT FARMER - AND THE 'OLD HOUSE', WHICH DATES BACK TO AT LEAST THE 1440S.

The exhibit, which tells the story of quilt-making and the growth of cottage industries in the early 1800s, was [recreated](#) by museum staff. Beamish's [1820s Pockerley](#) attraction also features a garden with authentic Georgian herbs and vegetables, a wagonway, St Helen's Church (above right), and a landscape that can take you right back to the 1820s, with dry stone walls, oak fences and traditional animals..



BEAMISH, THE LIVING MUSEUM OF THE NORTH

Other 1820s-related visitor attractions include:

● [Mount Stewart](#), in Co. Down. the family home of [Lord Castlereagh](#), the Foreign Secretary who committed suicide in 1822.

● [Seaton Delaval Hall](#) in Northumberland, ravaged by fire in 1822 but restored in a £4.7m [regeneration project](#) completed in 2022.

● The British Museum's [Egyptian hieroglyphs exhibition](#) marking the 200th anniversary of the decoding of the Rosetta Stone is on tour, at [Ferens Art Gallery](#) in Hull until 18 June, then the [Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum](#), Co. Antrim, and [Torquay Museum](#) in Devon.

● The [Old Operating Theatre Museum](#) in London, where a storage area was converted for women's surgery in 1822.