

# Have you seen The Queen?



## **CORONATION, 1953**

**Eileen Beadle** - All dressed up!



## **Ian Jennings**

I was 5 years old and our entire school walked in a long crocodile to the cinema in our little town to see the coronation on the big screen. It was the first time I had ever been to a cinema. In the afternoon we had games and races on the field. I won a pen knife with a picture of our Queen on it. I was proud and pleased. However, a couple of days later my friend and I played a game with my new pen knife as we sat at our desk. It was a stupid game - fingers spread out on the desk and the point of the knife tapping the space in between with increasing rapidity! I caught my friend's finger with the point of my knife. Blood was shed!! He went crying to the teacher, 'Please Miss, Ian cut me with his knife!' The teacher was horrified. "Where did you get that knife," she demanded.

"Miss, I won it at the Coronation Sports Day." "No you did not! No one would give a knife to a small boy like you." She confiscated it and I never saw it again. My friend was proud to show everyone the plaster on his wounded finger. I was sad that my great possession was gone forever.

## **SILVER JUBILEE, 1977**

**Mark Burr**

I stood on the Nottingham ring road (aged 11) with many other schoolchildren to wave to the Queen as she drove past in 1977 as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. I remember she had a very regal wave - more a gentle twirl of the wrist!

## **Jane Brown**

I went to Primary School in Windsor and have fond memories of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. It was also a special centenary year for Windsor so we were involved in many pageants, street parties and processions and had school visits from the Royal family- I'm not sure we got much school work done at all that year!

Every year we would also walk from our school to the Long Walk and wave at the Queen, as her carriage took her to the Ascot races. She always had a smile as she passed us children lining the road, and there was so much excitement as we waited for her arrival.



# Have you seen The Queen?

For her Jubilee we all lined the Long Walk with torches as she was driven up to the copper horse where there was a massive bonfire and an enormous hog roast! Looking back, I was very lucky as our school had lots of interaction with many of the Royal family and the beautiful St George's Chapel in the castle grounds.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Cheryl Webb

I saw the Queen when I went to Royal Ascot. She wore a lovely hat and sat next to the late Duke smiling and waving at people as her carriage went down the course which was followed by the other carriages with other members of the Royal Family.

### Jill Sands

When I was about 12 years old, I went to Windsor Horse show with a friend. Unbeknown to me a photograph appeared in the Daily Mirror of me through the window of the Queen's car. Apparently, it won an award and was entitled 'The Queen Drives By'.

I also saw her when she came to St George's Hospital which was in Hyde Park Corner at the time. I was doing a casualty experience as part of my nursing training and I remember we had to hide a flea ridden tramp for the duration of the visit. Later we sorted him out!



My third encounter was when my husband Martin was going on an expedition to Australia as part of his work. The Queen came to see the exhibits they were displaying of their plans for a multidisciplinary scientific exploration in The Kimberley. I wasn't supposed to talk to the Queen. But me being me, I said a few words and she was charming and said that it would be "far too hot for me". What a lovely lady who has been my inspiration through life.

### Kathryn Sole

When I was four years old, my parents took me on a day trip to London. We saw the Lions in Trafalgar Square, Big Ben and the River Thames. These things were very impressive, but as a four-year-old there was one thing I really wanted to see, The Muffin Man who lives in Drury Lane. So, my parents took me to Drury Lane. When we arrived, there was a huge crowd of people. My mum went up to a policeman and asked what was happening.



The policeman replied nonchalantly  
"It's just the Queen arriving for the  
Royal Variety Performance."

Unable to see much through the crowd  
I was hoisted up on my dad's shoulders  
to get a better view. A few minutes later  
the Queen arrived wearing a blue sparkly  
dress. Although I remember it being very  
exciting to see the Queen in the flesh,  
I was also a little disappointed that I didn't  
see the Muffin Man!

### **Cynthia Sterry**

I was a nurse working at Northwick Park  
Hospital, Harrow. At the official opening  
I was standing in the middle of a group  
of nurses by the doorway as a guard of  
honour, when the Queen came straight  
up to me and asked 'How do you find your  
way around this vast building?', 'With great  
difficulty m'am', I replied as I curtsied.  
I was surprised at how small the Queen  
was. When I told my husband what had  
happened, he replied "We'll have to spend  
10 bob to talk to you now!"

## **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

### **Samantha Carter**

I was devastated to lose my best friend,  
Fiona, at the age of 41 in 2003. Following  
her death, I would think of her every time  
I saw a butterfly. In 2015 I was invited to  
attend a *Buckingham Palace Garden Party*  
with my Dad who had been a Grenadier  
Guard. We were very excited as we lined  
up outside the palace gates on a warm



June afternoon. Once we were in the  
garden we sat down and listened to the  
band playing. As I looked around, I thought  
of Fiona and how much she would have  
enjoyed it. How lovely it would be to see  
a butterfly. Unfortunately, there were no  
butterflies anywhere - not on the lawn, by  
the lake or by the tea tent.

At 4pm on the dot the Queen and the  
Duke of Edinburgh came down the steps  
into the garden. I had been asked to stand  
in line to meet the Duke and as they both  
came towards me I glanced at the Queen's  
dress. It was white with pretty pink,  
blue and green flowers and ...lots of  
butterflies! A lovely moment in a  
very memorable afternoon.