

# When the Queen came

Written by Vicky McFarland, Tale Time

Illustrated by Kirah Gamble

Dear Children,

The Queen came to see all the people here a long time ago when she was very young and because she liked visiting us she came back to see us another 4 times, even though she lives in a magical Castle far away in England.

Once she came on a train  
Once she came in a helicopter  
Once she came by car  
And once she came in a beautiful boat

But she cannot be here all the time and she is very very old.

One day I got a message from the Queen and she told me I was to do a lot of important things for Her here where we live.

I meet a lot of people for Her. Maybe I will meet you someday!

I think the Queen would love this book. I hope you do too.

**Written by Mrs Alison Millar Lord-Lieutenant County Londonderry**

# When the Queen came

Written by **Vicky McFarland, Tale Time**  
Illustrated by **Kirah Gamble**



**Causeway  
Coast & Glens**  
Borough Council





One day, when wee Annie was visiting with her Granny for afternoon tea, she found a box. Inside was a very old paper crown.

Annie put the crown on her head and ran into the kitchen where her Granny was making up a tray of tea, sandwiches and cake. “Look at me, Granny! Do I look like the Queen?”

Annie’s Granny laughed. “You’re as pretty as the Queen.”

Annie scrunched up her nose and followed her Granny into the living room. “The Queen’s not pretty, Granny. The Queen’s old.”

“She wasn’t always old, you know.” Annie’s Granny placed the tray on a little table between two armchairs then sat down in one of the chairs with an ‘ooff’. “Once she was young. She was pretty as a pearl. She sparkled like a jewel.”

Kirah Gambel





Annie sat down in the armchair opposite and crossed her arms.  
“No, Granny. I don’t think that’s right.”

“Oh, it is right, dear. Trust me. I met her.”

Annie’s eyes grew to the size of saucers. “You met the Queen?!”

“I did.”

“In England? In her castle?”





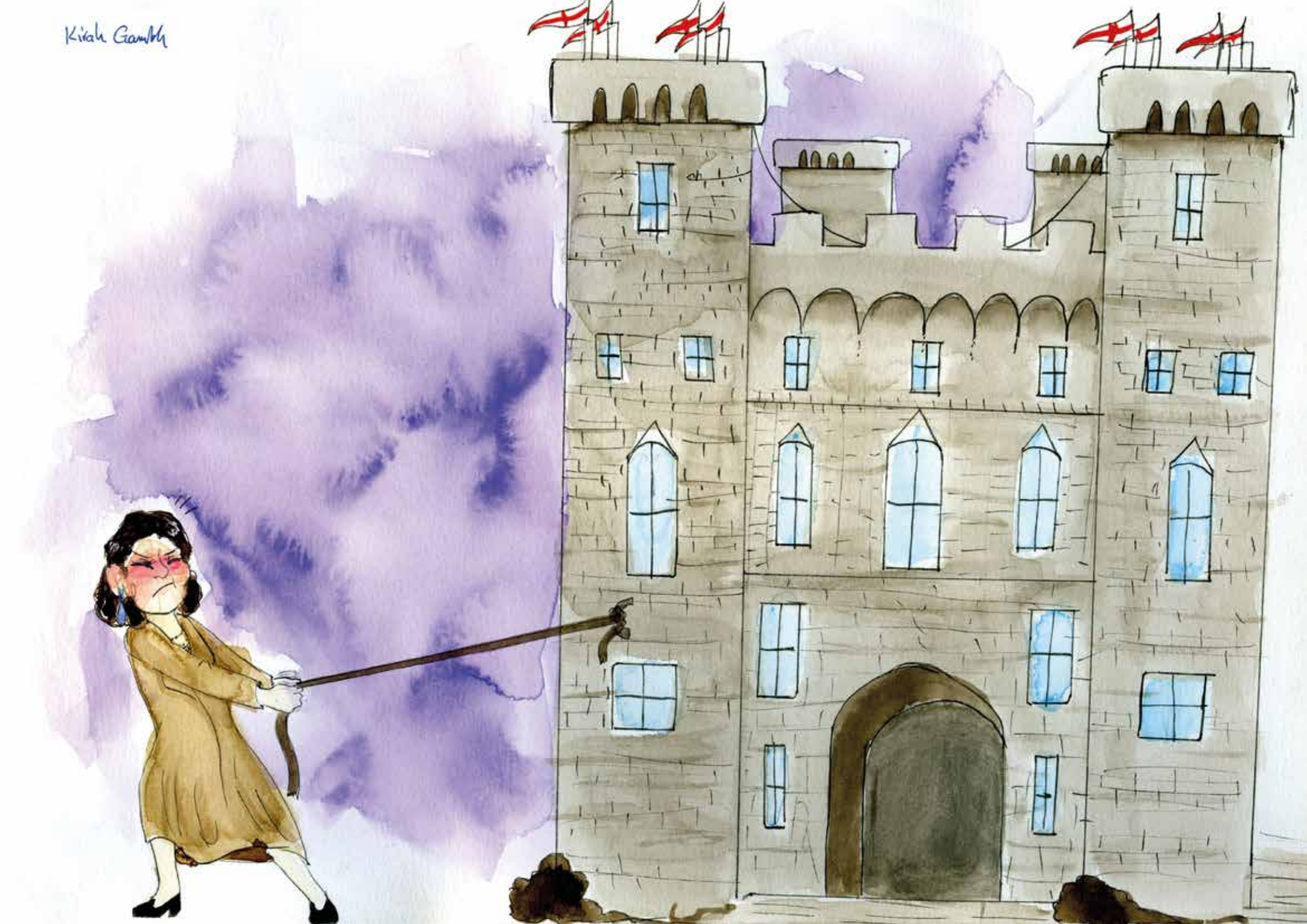
“No, not in England. I met her when she came here,” Annie’s Granny chuckled as she leaned over to pick up the teapot. “She didn’t bring her castle with her.”

“The Queen came here?”

“That’s right, in 1953. When I was just a little girl, like you,” Annie’s Granny smiled at her. “It was very exciting. I have a picture somewhere...”

Annie’s Granny put down the teapot, stood up and went to the cabinet where she kept all her photos.

Kirah Gambly





Annie was thinking about the Queen coming to Northern Ireland.  
“Did she bring her dogs?” Annie knew the Queen loved her dogs.

“No,” Annie’s Granny opened an old photograph album. “She didn’t  
bring her dogs.”

Kirah Gamboli





“Oh...” Annie thought about what else she knew about the Queen.  
“Did she bring her horse?”

“No, she didn’t bring her horse.”

“Oh...”

Annie’s Granny came back to the table with the photograph album.





“Who did she bring then?”

“She brought her husband, Prince Philip.” Annie’s Granny showed her a very crusty old picture of the Queen and Prince Philip.

Annie looked at the picture. “Did Prince Philip sell boats?”

“I don’t think so!” Annie’s Granny chuckled. “Why would you say that?”

“Because he’s wearing a sailor’s hat...”

“So he is...”





“They must have come by boat.” Annie decided.

“No, in 1953 they came on the train. Driven by a Ballymoney man,  
Joseph Shiels.”

“In 1977 they came on a Yacht and sailed up the Causeway Coast.”





Annie picked up a sandwich. "What did the Queen eat?"

"I'm not sure," said Annie's Granny.

"I think she ate sandwiches," Annie said.

Kirah Gambali





“Probably,” Annie’s Granny picked up her own sandwich. “There was a big party for them.”

Annie chewed her sandwich for a moment. “Was spiderman there?”  
Annie had been at a party that spiderman came to. It was really fun.

“No...”

“Oh.”

Kirah Gambli





“But people did dress up in fancy dress.” Annie loved fancy dress.

“Was there a clown?”

“I’m not sure. Maybe.”

“I think there was,” said Annie and fell quiet as she finished her sandwich. “Do you think the Queen had a nice time here, Granny?”

Kirah Gamble





Annie's Granny poured herself a cup of tea. "I think she did."

"That's good," said Annie, fixing the paper crown that was still on her head. "I'm glad she had a nice time."

Annie's Granny picked up her teacup.

"Granny, now you're like the Queen too."

"How do you mean, dear?"

"The Queen loves to drink tea and so do you."

Annie's Granny smiled and sipped her tea.

Kirah Gamble









'When the Queen came' explores the time Queen Elizabeth II visited Ballymoney, Coleraine and Downhill on her coronation tour of Northern Ireland in 1953. The story is based on questions asked by nursery aged children from Ballymoney Nursery School and Eglinton Community Preschool to residents of Cramsie Court in Ballymoney on the Queen's visit in 1953 as part of an intergenerational project funded by Northern Ireland Museums Council.

On 3 July the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh travelled by Royal train from Lisburn, stopping in Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Downhill before continuing to Derry/Londonderry. The train arrived in Ballymoney to a platform in the goods-yard decorated with bunting and flowers, filled with crowds of school children and locals. Mrs Grace Leslie presented the Queen with a book entitled 'History of the Descent of Her Majesty the Queen from the Kings of Dalriada', with the Royal family tree and illustrations. The Royal train then arrived in Coleraine where the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were greeted with a Royal salute from the local Territorial Army regiment. Mayoress Mrs Christie presented the Queen with a hand embroidered Ulster linen teacloth with a shamrock design, and the Duke with Ulster linen handkerchiefs. Finally, the Royal train stopped for lunch near Downhill station, where the train tracks run alongside the beach. The train driver Joseph Shiels, who was originally from Ballymoney, was thanked by the Queen 'for a very nice journey and a good run all the way.'

