

# Coronation Celebrations

On Tuesday 2 June 1953 Queen Elizabeth II was crowned at Westminster Abbey. Celebrations were held across the Borough over the Coronation weekend.

In Portrush the British Legion organised a united church service, where 930 children received Coronation medals, beakers, and books from Council staff. Ballywillan Drama Group held a coronation revue, and youth organisations paraded. 250 people participated in a fancy-dress carnival, and at 11pm a bonfire was lit on Ramore Hill.

In Portstewart 750 souvenir beakers were given out after a united children's service. 600 children competed in sports at The Warren, followed by a fancy-dress parade. At 11pm a torch was carried from the Town Hall to light a bonfire, but strong winds blew the flame out! Over 300 children watched films in the cinema and ate Morelli's ice cream.

In Ballymoney there was a united church service, followed by sports competitions. Over 2,000 children received a commemorative Coronation pencil. Other celebrations included a military band concert and a bonfire at the Showgrounds. 2,000 people gathered at The Diamond to dance until 2am.

Coleraine Council provided four miles of bunting to decorate the town. Miss Coleraine 1953, June Smyth, led the fancy-dress parade from Castlerock Road to the Showgrounds. Best dressed street competition results were announced, and over 1,000 children received Coronation mugs containing sweets.

Armo children attended a sports afternoon, fancy-dress parade, and bonfire, receiving a Coronation mug.

In Castlerock a church service was followed by a children's fancy-dress parade and sports. A choir sang patriotic songs around a bonfire.

After a united church service in Bushmills, schoolchildren were led by pipe and flute bands to Dundarave for sports, and a bonfire on Ailsa Hill. Jane Laverty, a postwoman at Priestland Sub-Post Office, was awarded a British Empire Medal in the Coronation Honours List. She had completed almost 50 years service in the Post Office.

In Limavady there were no official Coronation celebrations, however the Orange Lodge organised a band parade, children's fancy dress, and sports at the Showgrounds, attended by 600 children.



Postcard of the crowning.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

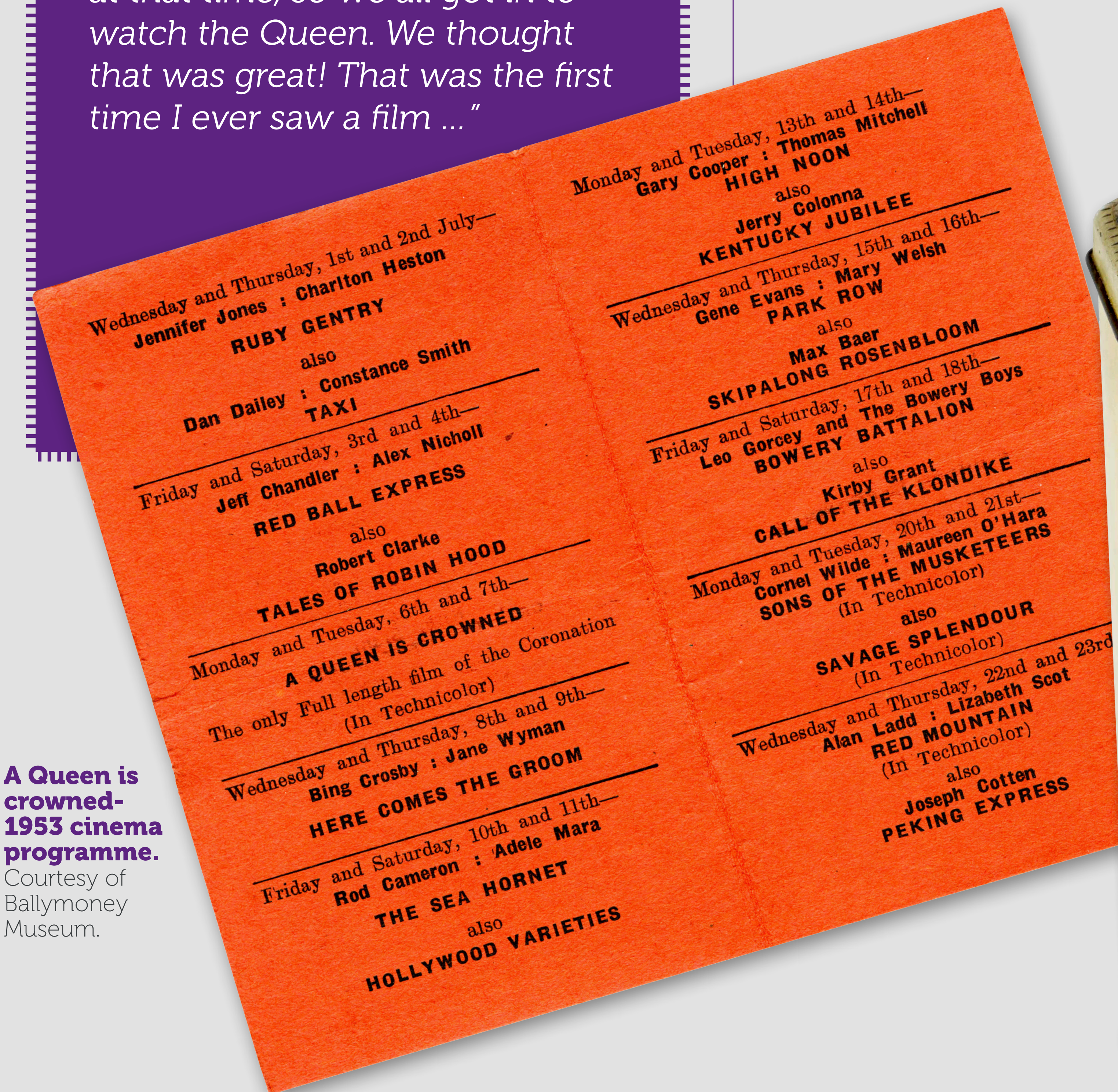


Belfast News-Letter Coronation Supplement, June 1953.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



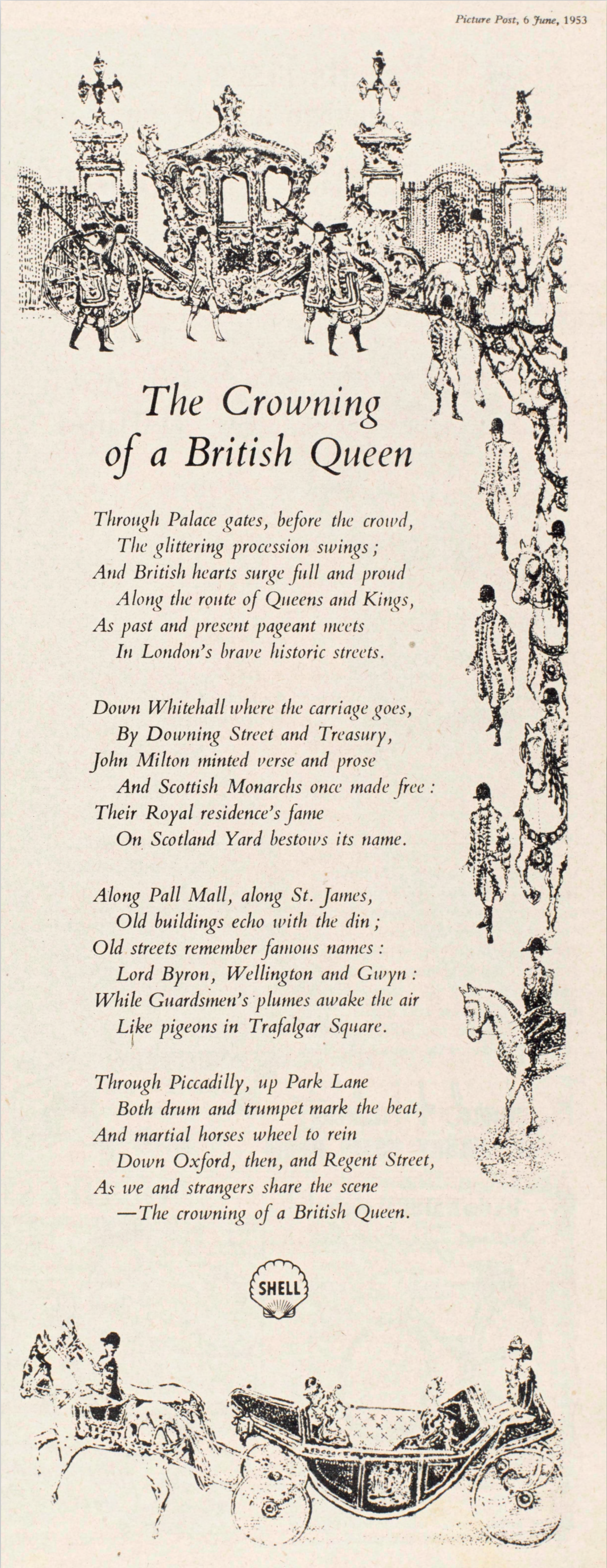
Souvenir tin of the Queen's coronation 2nd June 1953.  
Courtesy of Limavady Museum.

Margaret Huey "I remember the bus coming to take us to the cinema here in Ballymoney to see the film of the Coronation ... and there were a lot of school children in the picture house at that time, so we all got in to watch the Queen. We thought that was great! That was the first time I ever saw a film ..."



A Queen is crowned-1953 cinema programme.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

The Crowning of a British Queen poem taken from Picture Post, special Coronation souvenir magazine 6th June 1953.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



Residents on Circular Road, Coleraine on Coronation Day June 1953.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



# Coronation Tour of Ballymoney



The Queen at Ballymoney railway station.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh flew into Aldergrove on 1 July 1953, and were met by Lord Wakehurst, Governor of Northern Ireland. On 2 July 5,000 ex-service personnel paraded for the Queen at Balmoral showgrounds. Portrush's William Knox, Chairman of the British Legion Northern Ireland, was presented to Her Majesty.

On 3 July the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh travelled by train from Lisburn, stopping in Ballymena, Ballymoney and Coleraine before continuing to Derry/Londonderry. The train arrived in Ballymoney at 12.37pm for 15 minutes. A platform in the goods-yard was decorated with bunting and flowers. Crowds had camped out overnight, and squeezed into the yard. The R.A.F. regional band paraded down Seymour Street, followed by a squadron of the North Irish Horse.

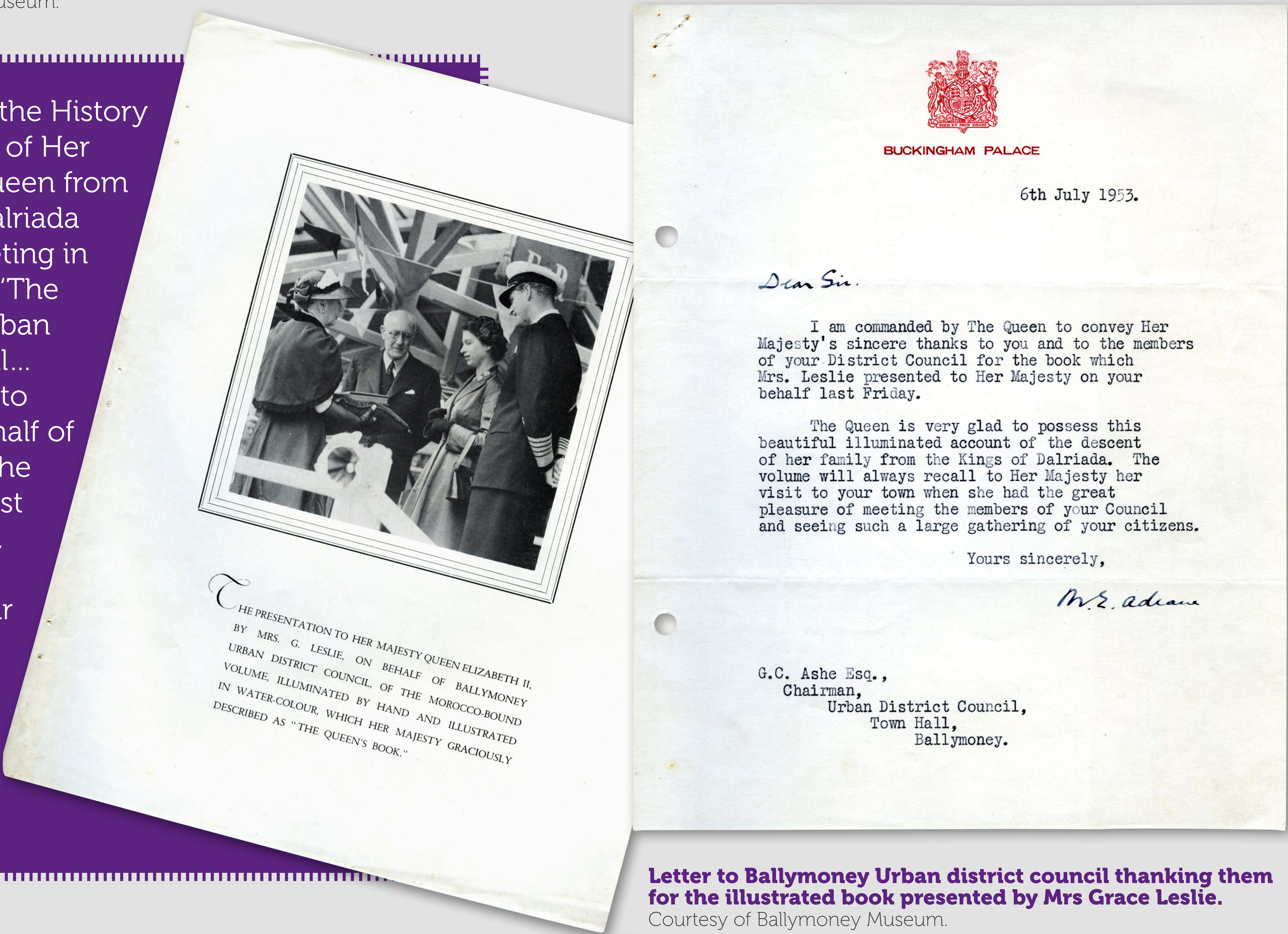
Mrs Grace Leslie presented the Queen with a book entitled 'History of the Descent of Her Majesty the Queen from the Kings of Dalriada', with the Royal family tree and illustrations of Rathlin, Dunseverick Castle and Ballymoney old church tower.

Locals recounted conversations with the Royals, Mr W Baird was asked about working in a milk factory, and Mr Harrison and Mr Owens were asked about their war service. Lord Wakehurst sent a letter to Town Clerk William Hanna saying;

'thanks to all who worked so hard to make the visit ...to Ballymoney the great success that it was.... The Queen and his Royal Highness were delighted to have had the opportunity of meeting so many people of this part of the county.' Coleraine Chronicle, 11/07/53

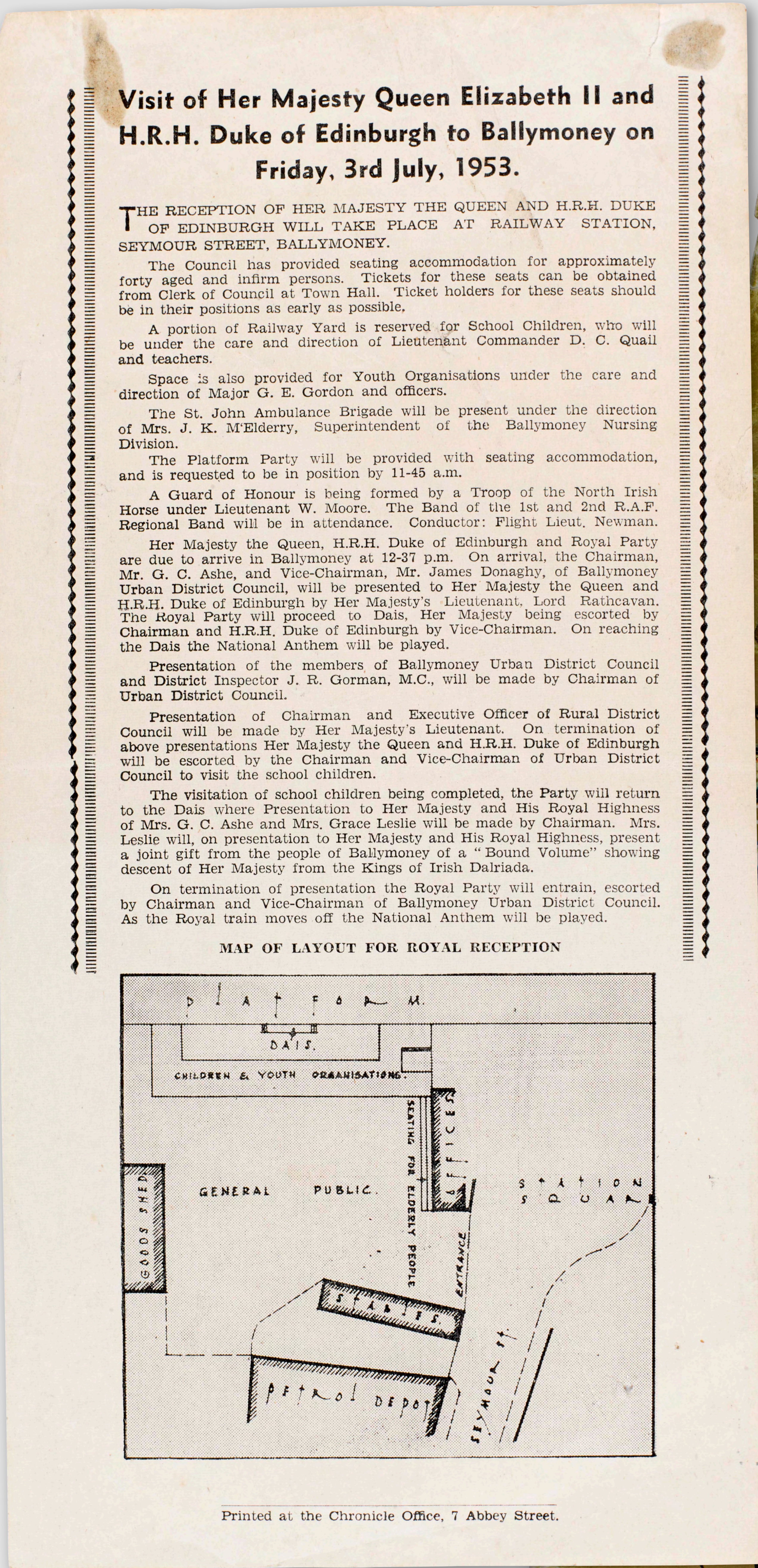
Inside page of the History of the Descent of Her Majesty the Queen from the Kings of Dalriada book. The greeting in the book read, 'The Ballymoney Urban District Council... desire humbly to convey, on behalf of the people of the town, their most loyal greetings, and earnest hopes that Your Majesty may enjoy a long and happy reign.'

Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



Letter to Ballymoney Urban district council thanking them for the illustrated book presented by Mrs Grace Leslie.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

Ballymoney Coronation Celebrations, Programme of events.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



Picture Post magazine Coronation Special, 6 June 1953.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.





# Coronation Tour of Coleraine

When the Royal train arrived in Coleraine at 1.05pm, the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were greeted with a Royal salute from the local Territorial Army regiment. Sir Dudley McCorkell, Vice-Lieutenant of County Londonderry, presented members of Coleraine Council.

The Council only invited disabled ex-servicemen, as other former service personnel had paraded for the Queen at Balmoral. Some Council officials were annoyed there were no reserved places at the station for residents of streets that had been decorated for the Coronation.

Mayoress Mrs Christie presented the Queen with a hand embroidered Ulster linen teacloth with a shamrock design, and the Duke with Ulster linen handkerchiefs.

After the visit Mayor Christie received a letter from Buckingham Palace stating;

*'I am commanded by the Queen to thank you and the members of Coleraine Borough Council very warmly for the tea-cloth which Mrs Christie presented to Her Majesty on your behalf last Friday. The Queen much enjoyed her visit to Coleraine and was delighted to see so many of your people of all ages assembled there to meet her. Your beautiful cloth will be a reminder to Her Majesty of this brief but happy occasion.'*

Coleraine Chronicle, 11/07/53.

While speaking with disabled ex-servicemen, Her Majesty noticed Robert Quigg's Victoria Cross. Robert proudly told the Queen and Duke he had served with the 12th Irish Rifles (Ulster Division) at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

**Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh speaking to ex-servicemen Robert Quigg V.C. and Danny Hill.**  
Courtesy Leonard Quigg



The goods-yard at Coleraine station accommodated 1,500 schoolchildren and 6,000 members of the public.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



The crowds were so large some locals climbed telegraph poles to try and catch a glimpse of the Royals.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



**Royal visit to Coleraine, time-table of events.**  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

TIME-TABLE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, May 27 and 28

7-30 p.m.—TOWN HALL: "Glorious Heritage."

FRIDAY, May 29

2-4 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Presentation of Souvenirs to Children under School Age.  
(N.B.—Distributed only on Production of Child's Ration Book).

4-5 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Presentation of "Coronation 10/-" to Old Age and Blind Pensioners.  
(N.B.—Distributed only on Production of Pension Book issued by National Assistance Board and paid on Fridays).

SATURDAY, May 30

6 p.m.—Coronation Accordion Band: Dedication of Instruments.

SUNDAY, May 31

Special Church Services.

MONDAY, June 1

6-30 p.m.—AERO CLUB: Tennis Tournament.

7 p.m.—AERO CLUB: Tennis Exhibition.

8 p.m.—AERO CLUB: Sea Cadets Display.

9 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Aero Club Dance.

CORONATION DAY

10 a.m.—Religious Service under auspices of Coleraine Ministers' Council, THE DIAMOND, followed by PUBLIC MEETING OF TOWNS-PEOPLE to Pass Message of Loyal Congratulations to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Coronation Day—Continued.

6-30 p.m.—Procession and Fancy Dress Parade, Castlerock Road to Show Grounds, followed by Prize Distribution and Broadcasts by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Prime Minister.

10-45 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Lighting of Boy Scouts Beacon Torches.

WEDNESDAY, June 3

11 a.m.—Cinema Show for School Parties (Kindly contributed by the Managements of Coleraine Picture Palace and The Palladium Cinema).

6-30 p.m.—HANOVER GARDENS: Band Concert.

7-30 p.m.—THE DIAMOND: Round Table Treasure Hunt.

7-30 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Whist Drive (Boys' Brigade Silver Band).

THURSDAY, June 4

3 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Old Folks' Party.

6-15 p.m.—Regatta.

7 p.m.—MacFARLANE'S, CHURCH ST.: Canine Show.

7-30 p.m.—Water Gala.

10 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Bann Rowing Club Dance.

FRIDAY, June 5

7 p.m.—SHOW GROUNDS: Football Club v. Rugby Club.

10 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Cricket Club Dance.

SATURDAY, June 6

6-30 p.m.—LONG COMMONS CAR PARK: Coleraine and District Motor Club Driveability Test.

8 p.m.—TOWN HALL: Bann Rowing Club Dance.



# Coronation Tour of Downhill



The Royal train.  
Courtesy of the Alex Blair Collection, Ballymoney Museum.



Train driver Joseph Shiels being presented to the Queen in 1953.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



Pearlie Taggart of Coleraire presenting a bouquet to the Queen at Brooke Park.  
Courtesy of Coleraire Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The Royal train stopped for lunch near Downhill station, where the train tracks run alongside the beach. Chef George Kuhn prepared prawns in aspic, mutton with redcurrant jelly, new potatoes and peas. For dessert there were strawberries and cream, and cheese and biscuits.

The train driver Joseph Shiels, was originally from Ballymoney, and his family had a long history of railway service. The Queen thanked him 'for a very nice journey and a good run all the way.' Coleraire Chronicle, 11/07/53

When the train reached Ballykelly a tractor drove alongside the train with a group of men waving two flags. On arrival at Lisahally docks the Queen and Duke continued their journey on board HMS Rocket, up Lough Foyle to the Guildhall. Lord Lieutenant Sir Basil McFarland boarded to greet the Royals, and two guards of honour were formed by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. Around 3,000 people, including 1,000 members of youth organisations attended a garden party in Brooke Park in Derry/Londonderry.

### Tractor team raced the Royal train!

**MOBILE WELCOME  
FROM FARM MEN**

IN a field just beyond Ballykelly a group of men with two flags rode alongside the Royal train on a tractor.

As the train passed the aerodrome the Queen saw an R.A.F. guard of honour standing at the 'Present arms' position.

Once the Royal party had boarded H.M.S. Rocket at Lisahally the destroyer passed swiftly up the river to Derry City.

As the Queen made her way to the upper bridge on the Rocket the members of the crew who were ashore, with typical naval promptitude, rolled up the red carpet and stowed it aboard ship.

**DUKE'S INTEREST**

The Duke, meanwhile, had been taken to see the new secret anti-submarine devices which the Rocket took to America to show to United States Navy experts last year.

Her Majesty was shown the Rocket's mascot—a replica of Stephenson's original steam engine, after which the ship is named. It is mounted on the main mast.

One of the most inspiring moments of a momentous three-day visit to Ulster came when the huge crowd outside the Guildhall at Derry joined with one heart and voice in the singing of the National Anthem, led by the band of the Royal Marines.

All joined with fervour in the words: "God save the Queen, send her victorious."

An English newspaper correspondent who has been covering the Coronation tour observed:

"Never have I heard the National Anthem sung with such real sincerity. It was massed unrehearsed—singing that impressed me—the real voice of Ulster."

### They went to the park to see the Queen

OVER 12,600 Ulster school-children waited three hours on Thursday afternoon for a glimpse of the Queen on her six-minute drive through Ormeau Park.

Perhaps the most sincere cheering came from a group of 41 children from Greenisland Orthopaedic Hospital school. These pupils, whose ages ranged from five to 15, were brought in cars provided by members of Toc H.

The Voluntary Educational Entertainment Welfare Organisation, formed by members who offer the use of their cars, supplied 12 cars to bring 48 children to the park.

The park was closed to the general public but along with the shouting youngsters were savings workers representatives, members of women's institutes and families of Service men.

Responsible for the organisation was Mr. A. V. Haslett, Chief Education Welfare Officer, assisted by Mr. Sam Cleland, foreman of Ormeau Park.

Two first-aid units of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society were stationed at opposite ends of the park. In charge was Mrs. J. Stevenson, Superintendent of E. Belfast division.

**HE CLIMBED FLAG  
POLE AT QUEEN'S**

It was a member of the rescue section of the Civil Defence Corps who captured the attention of the crowds at Queen's University on Thursday while they waited for the Queen to arrive.

In shirt sleeves he climbed up a flag pole on the top of the main building to release a caught rope to which it was intended to attach the Royal Standard.

The attempt was unsuccessful and the Royal Standard was flown from the Sir William Whitla Hall.

Queen's visit from Lisburn to Lisahally, train time-table, 3rd July 1953.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.





# 1977 Silver Jubilee Commemorations

The Queen celebrated her 25th anniversary Silver Jubilee in 1977, with a tour of the UK and Commonwealth. Commemorative mugs and pens sold out everywhere, causing a shortage of souvenirs.

Millburn Community Association organised a children's fancy dress competition. The Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland held a music and drama evening at Riverside Theatre, with President, the Duchess of Abercorn, in attendance.

In Portstewart street parties were held in Castleton Park, and in the Warren, along with a yacht race from Portballintrae. 2,000 people attended a firework display in Portrush. Ballymoney Borough Council hosted a fancy-dress parade from the Town Hall to the Cricket Park, and a 7-mile race around the town. Ballymoney and District Angling Club held an angling competition on the River Bush, and Mayor Mollie Holmes gave out Jubilee gifts to the children at Knockahollet Primary School.



**Dunluce Castle participated in the BBC's 'Fires of Friendship' bonfires across the UK, with 150 schoolchildren singing.**  
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Coleraine hosted the Mayor's Show with 34 floats travelling from Killowen to the Showgrounds, where a fancy-dress parade and 'It's a knock-out' competition were held. Mayor John White said, 'Let us at all times take pride in this trim little Borough' and the Jubilee was 'a joyous moment in a joyous year'

Northern Constitution 11/06/77.

Jubilee church services took place across the Borough, such as Garvagh and Portrush. At Ballycastle Presbyterian Church Reverend Brown said, 'We remember with gratitude today all that the Queen has succeeded in doing to cement our nation together, not least in the difficult times through which we are passing.' Coleraine Chronicle 11/06/77

Trees were planted opposite Bushmills Presbyterian Church, then decorated floats led by Dunluce Pipe Band paraded through Bushmills. Limavady Central Primary School pupils made a life-sized model of the Queen with a carriage.



**Children from Kylemore Road, Coleraine at Jubilee Celebrations.**  
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

**Queen's Silver Jubilee magazine.**  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.

**Knockahollet PS children with Mayor Mollie Holmes.**  
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.





# Silver Jubilee tour 1977



Around 500 people gathered at the cliff edge of Ramore Head to watch Royal Yacht Britannia sail past to anchor in West Bay, Portrush.

Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution.

The Royal Yacht Britannia sailed into Belfast Lough on Wednesday 10 August with crowds lining the seafront. Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan, founders of the Peace Movement, spoke with the Queen on board, 'about the courage of the people of Northern Ireland.' Belfast Telegraph 11/08/77

Overnight Britannia sailed up the Causeway Coast, with 30,000 people watching from shore.

The Royals flew to the New University of Ulster by helicopter, as the Provisional IRA threatened to 'make it a visit to remember' Belfast Telegraph 02/06/12. An explosive device was found on campus but no damage was caused and the visit went ahead.

University Chancellor, the Duke of Abercorn, gave the Queen and Duke a tour of the Octagon, where they met Gail Morrow of Portballintrae, a newly qualified teacher, and teaching student Eleanor Mairs of Coleraine. In the library the Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque, and viewed the Henry Davis collection of rare books and printed works.

At lunch the Queen received a Tyrone crystal fruit bowl, glasses and decanters. Ulster Television broadcast Her Majesty's speech live, calling for an end to violence, as 'there is no place here for old fears and attitudes born of history, no place for blame for what is past...I have sensed a common bond and a shared hope for the future.' Belfast Telegraph 11/08/77

In the afternoon the Royals toured displays of academic and leisure activities from the education boards, such as the Disabled Riders Association's pony riding, and judo and trampolining displays. Ballymoney Secondary School and Dunluce School sang for the Queen at a garden party attended by 2,000 guests.

Her Majesty the Queen delivering a message to the people of Northern Ireland following a luncheon at the New University of Ulster Coleraine, during her two-day Silver Jubilee visit to the Province, on August 10 and 11, 1977. Derry and Antrim Yearbook 1978.

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh viewing the Henry Davis collection of rare books and printed works.

Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive

Jean Craig of Macosquin baked the Jubilee heart shaped pink and white cake, and created the flower arrangements.

Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Queen's Silver Jubilee medal.

Courtesy of Limavady Museum.

Queens  
Silver  
Jubilee  
1977



# Golden Jubilee tour of 2002

To celebrate 50 years on the throne the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited Northern Ireland from 13 to 15 May. The Royals attended a garden party at Loughry Agricultural College in Cookstown, where Coleraine College Steel Band entertained 1,200 guests. Band director Sandra Mailey spoke to Prince Philip, *'at length about the group and how our pans (drums) were made.'* Coleraine Times 22/05/02

Representatives from Causeway Coast and Glens attended a garden party. Ballymoney Mayor Bill Kennedy introduced charity activists Maura Gillen and Pat Crossley, Anne Smyth of Carnary Community Association, Declan Donnelly of ARENA network, and James Leslie. Moyle District Council Chairman Randal McDonnell introduced Stanley Jamieson, Rosaleen Donnelly, Alice Roebuck, and Mr & Mrs Leacock. Mrs Georgie Shiels of Kilrea spoke with the Queen about Scotland, and husband Bertie discussed his RAF career with the Duke.

Jubilee events included an exhibition on the Queen's previous visits, sports at Rugby Avenue playing fields, and in Coleraine town centre street theatre and Montello Jazz band. Harpur's Hill Primary School opened a Jubilee garden, with music from boyband UpFront. Coleraine Council agreed a commemorative stained-glass window for the Town Hall.

Portrush raft race celebrations involved junior 'Stars in our Eyes', fireworks, and skydiving by Wild Geese Centre, Garvagh. The Jubilee air show held a Battle of Britain memorial flight with a Spitfire, Hawker Hurricane, and Dakota, and the Irish Air Corps Search and Rescue re-enacted an air sea rescue.

At Ballymoney's Riverside Park Mayor Bill Kennedy attended a Jubilee service. However, local press received complaints many Ballymoney councillors did not attend. In Limavady a thanksgiving service and parade of floats was organised by local Orange Lodges.



**Harpur's Hill Primary School children Jubilee assembly.**  
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.



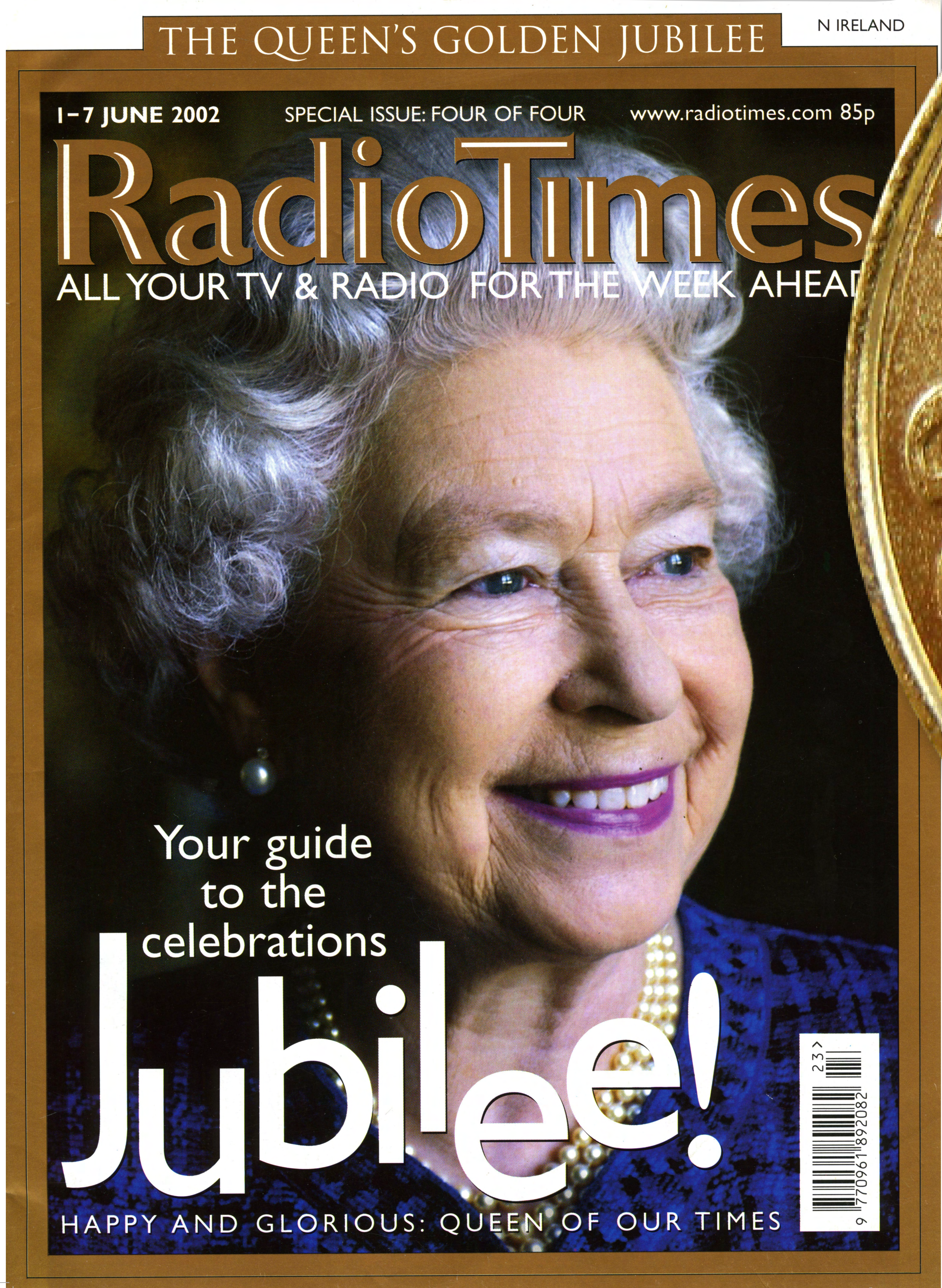
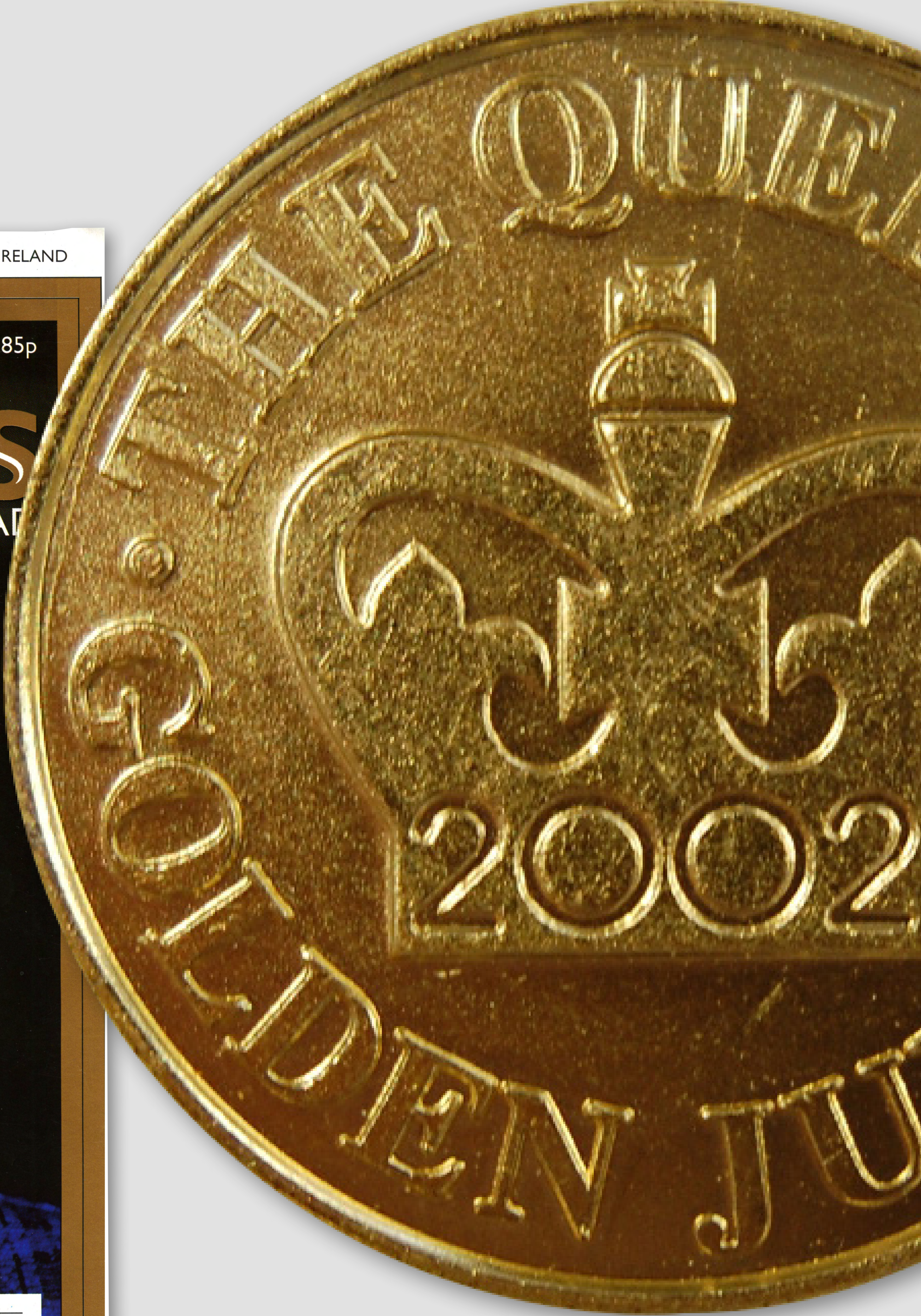
**Children in fancy dress from the Playhouse Activity Centre Playgroup, Rope Walk, Coleraine.**  
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Ruth Blair speaking of her parent's meeting the Queen at a garden party 14 May 2002.

"It was actually the day of their golden wedding anniversary. They were invited to a garden party down at Loughry College. Mum was on the executive committee of the W.I. and she was asked to present the flowers to the Queen at the end of her visit. So, it was a great privilege for her and a great story to tell."

**The Queen's Golden Jubilee edition of Radio Times for Northern Ireland.**  
On loan to Coleraine Museum.

**The Queen's Golden Jubilee coin given by Ballymoney Borough Council.**  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.





# 2007 visit to University of Ulster, Coleraine

The Queen and Duke returned to the University of Ulster Coleraine campus for the 30th anniversary of the official opening. Her Majesty was greeted by Lord Lieutenant Denis Desmond, First Minister Ian Paisley and Secretary of State Peter Hain, along with 2,000 guests from the community and voluntary sector.

When the Royals met Borough Mayor William King the Duke enquired about the salmon symbol on the Mayor's chain, so the Mayor explained the tradition of salmon fishing on the Bann. The Duke spoke with Pat Wilkinson of Coleraine about her wheelchair, and Leslie and Betty Cole of the Riding for the Disabled Association. Music was provided by the band of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

Dr Tom Stark, retired economics lecturer, commented it was very different to the 1977 visit, when cars were not permitted on campus and staff were bussed in.

Mervyn McKay from the Media Studies department spoke of the Queen's 1977 visit to open the University, *'For days before she arrived, there were two security men on each corridor because of the troubles. They had to bring in trees and shrubbery especially to shield the helicopter at the hockey square because the trees hadn't grown high enough.'* Coleraine Chronicle 06/06/07

Reverend John Coulter of Ballysally Presbyterian Church said the Royals *'asked about our work on an urban regeneration project and they seemed very interested to hear about the community of Ballysally and our involvement in the community.'* Coleraine Chronicle 06/06/07

The Mayor commented *'It is a great way to celebrate the University that has provided so much for the community through employment and a place of study for the vast numbers of students in attendance.'* Coleraine Chronicle 06/06/07



Invitation to Mr Leslie Cole & Mrs Betty Cole to a Garden Party at University of Ulster, Coleraine on Friday 1st June 2007.

Courtesy of Leslie Cole.

Royal Garden Party article, The Ulster Graduate, Issue 27 Autumn 2007

## ROYAL GARDEN PARTY AT COLERAINE

**Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Coleraine campus in June to attend a Garden Party hosted by The Right Honourable Peter Hain MP, the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.**

Arriving at the University, Her Majesty and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh were greeted by Lord Lieutenant Denis Desmond, First Minister Ian Paisley and Secretary of State Peter Hain, along with 2,000 guests from the community and voluntary sector.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the official opening of the University, the Vice-Chancellor accepted an invitation from the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to the Garden Party.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Coleraine campus in June to attend a Garden Party hosted by The Right Honourable Peter Hain MP, the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

This was Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh's first visit to the Coleraine campus since 1977.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "This visit by Her Majesty is a great honour for the University. She took a great interest in how the campus has developed since her last visit."

The theme of the garden party was 'The Community and Voluntary Sector' and the event was attended by leading figures from public life, including First Minister The Right Honourable Dr Ian Paisley MP, Lord Lieutenant Denis Desmond, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Right Honourable Peter Hain MP.

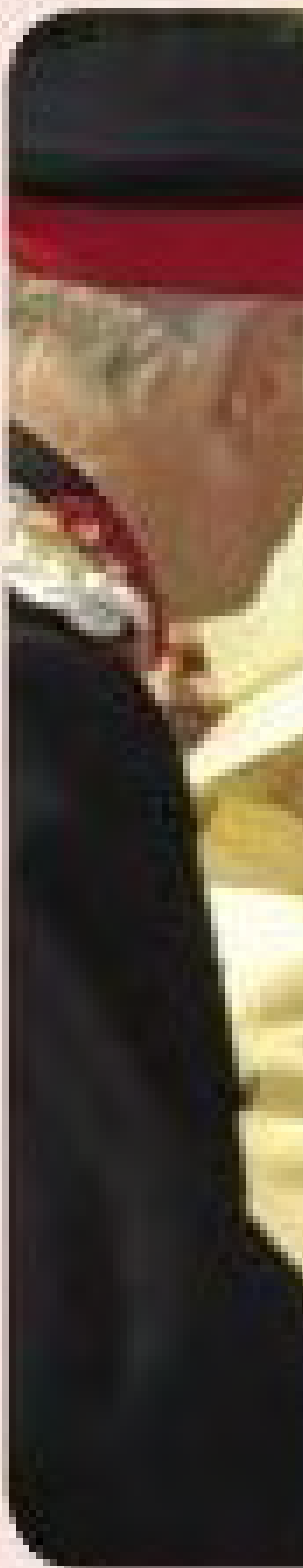
LA,

no

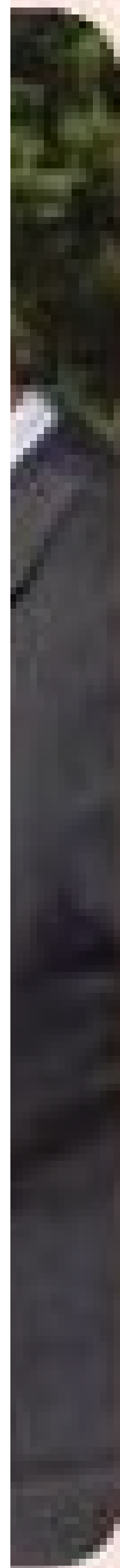
e

ccess  
sical  
ard  
best

the  
d



Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh at the Garden Party.





# 2014 Visit to Coleraine



Crowds of spectators waiting to get a glimpse of the Queen during her 2014 visit to Coleraine.  
Courtesy Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

The Queen's 21st visit to Northern Ireland was from 23 to 25 June 2014. It began at Hillsborough Castle, where Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness had a private audience with Her Majesty, his third meeting with the Queen. He commented, *'Everyone needs to do more of this. There is an onus on all political leaders to take big steps to move the process of reconciliation forward.'* Belfast Telegraph 24/06/14

The Antiques Roadshow was filming at Hillsborough Castle, so the Royals met experts from the TV series and saw items from the Castle's collections being assessed. These included a bronze sculpture of a horse and jockey, thought to be 1863 Derby winner Macaroni.

The following day Martin McGuinness accompanied the Queen and Duke on a tour of the Crumlin Road Gaol, with the Royals also visiting St George's Market, the Game of Thrones set, and Belfast City Hall.

The Queen and Duke travelled to Coleraine to take part in a service commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and those who lost their lives. Royal British Legion members from across the island of Ireland were in attendance, and Macosquin Women's Institute dressed in period costume and interacted with the crowd.



The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at a service at Coleraine Town Hall commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and those who lost their lives.  
Courtesy Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

The Queen laid a wreath on the Cenotaph to commemorate service personnel who died during the First World War, then walked around The Diamond to meet the crowd. Afterwards there was a civic reception in the Town Hall to acknowledge the contribution of the Royal British Legion to improving the wellbeing of veterans and their families.

Breeze Galbraith, Chair of Coleraine RBL Women's Section presents the Queen with a wreath for the Cenotaph.

Courtesy Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's signature on the Coleraine Town Hall visitor's book.  
Courtesy Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.





# 2016 Visit to Causeway Coast and Glens

On 27 August 2016 the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh arrived for a two-day visit. The Royals flew by helicopter to the Giant's Causeway to tour the visitor centre, accompanied by Lord Lieutenant Joan Christie. Grace Higgins from Ballycastle Integrated Primary School presented the Queen with flowers, and Chloe Walker from the Irish Society Primary School in Coleraine offered the Queen an engraved wooden bowl. Kiana Walker and Josh Bryant gave the Duke an engraved basalt stone, and Josh described the Duke as 'really jokey and friendly.' Belfast Telegraph 29/06/16

Afterwards Royals boarded a steam train at Coleraine to recreate their 1953 coronation tour journey. At Bellarena the Queen officially opened two new station platforms.



The Queen signing the visitor book at Royal Portrush Golf Club, where the Queen and Duke had lunch.  
Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

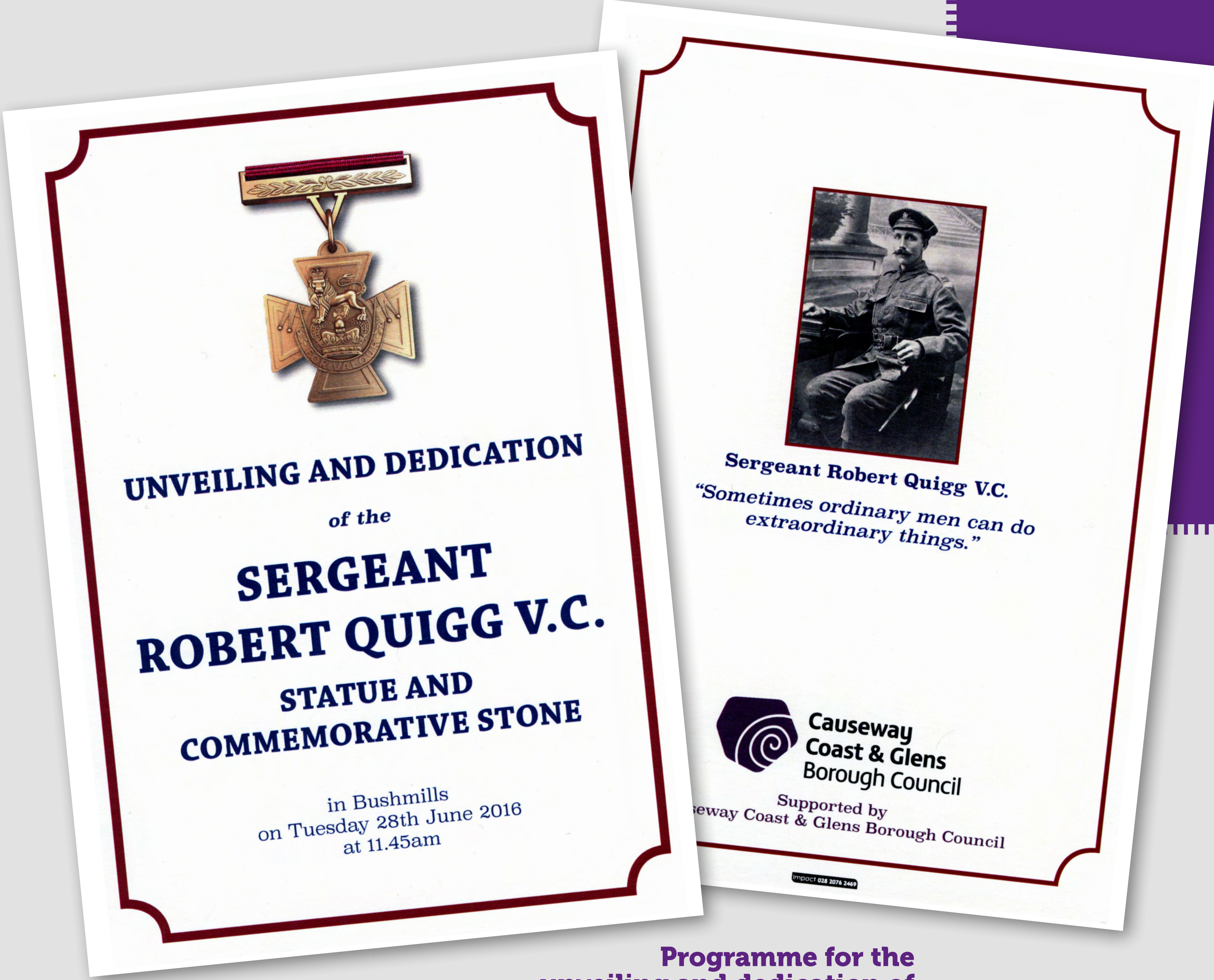
In Bushmills the Queen unveiled a statue of Robert Quigg, awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme Robert ventured into no-man's land seven times searching for his wounded commanding officer, Sir Harry McNaughton. Although he couldn't find Sir Harry, Robert brought back seven wounded men, who would not otherwise have survived. Sculptor David Annand designed the statue, with Robert looking towards Bushmills War Memorial.

Great-nephew Leonard Quigg spearheaded the fundraising campaign, saying 'Robert went out into no-man's land under heavy enemy fire in a desperate attempt to rescue his young master. He went out not once but several times but unfortunately he never found him.' Belfast Telegraph 29/06/16

The statue's plinth consists of seven bronze hexagons resembling Giant's Causeway stones, representing the seven soldiers Robert saved.

Councillor Mervyn Storey commented 'The town now has a lasting memorial to one of its finest sons and to have the Queen here to unveil the statue really is the icing on the cake.' Belfast Telegraph 29/06/16

Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



Programme for the unveiling and dedication of the Sergeant Robert Quigg V.C. Statue and Commemorative stone in Bushmills on Tuesday 28th June 2016.  
Courtesy of Leonard Quigg.

The Royals travelling on a steam train to Bellarena, recreating the Queen's 1953 Coronation tour journey.  
Courtesy of Translink.





# Visiting during the Troubles



The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited Belfast on July 4 1966 to open the £2million Queen Elizabeth Bridge. Governor Lord Erskine accompanied the Queen, and a bouquet was presented by Trevor Newman, an apprentice joiner with Charles Brand & Son, builders of the bridge.

**Image Left:**

The Queen opening the Queen Elizabeth Bridge in Belfast in 1966. Courtesy of the Alex Blair collection, Ballymoney Museum.

**Image Below:**

The Royal procession as the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit Belfast in 1966.

Courtesy of the Alex Blair collection, Ballymoney Museum.



**Crowds gather to see the Queen as she visits Belfast in 1966.**

Courtesy of the Alex Blair collection, Ballymoney Museum.



On the route from City Hall to Hillsborough, an eye witness reported a woman throwing a beer bottle at the Royal car in Donegall Square South, despite a heightened police presence. Iris Carruthers, aged 44 of Salford was arrested, and detained in hospital due to paranoid schizophrenia. Iris commented 'if I wanted to have attacked the Queen personally, I would have chosen the bridge when she was opening the Elizabeth bridge, where she was exposed to proper view.' Belfast Telegraph, 05/07/66

Shortly afterwards, a brick was thrown from a building under construction in Great Victoria Street, and hit the radiator of the Queen's car, denting the bonnet. The concrete breeze block was thrown by John Morgan, aged 17, an apprentice heating engineer working on the new Chamber of Commerce House. He was charged under the 1842 Treason Act 'with intent to injure or alarm Her Majesty, or to break or injure the public peace' Belfast Telegraph, 05/07/66. At his trial in September 1966, he was found

guilty and received a sentence of four years imprisonment.

On her return to London the Queen sent a telegram to Lord Erskine, saying; 'I hope that with the growth of mutual respect and understanding between all people in the Province, Northern Ireland will enjoy a prosperous future.' Coleraine Chronicle 09/07/66

**Thank you says the Queen, newspaper article.**

Courtesy of the Alex Blair collection, Ballymoney Museum.

## Thank you, SAYS the Queen

**A**FTER the Queen had left Aldergrove Airport this message was radioed from the aircraft to Government House:

"On leaving Northern Ireland I want to express to you and the Government and the people my sincere thanks for the warm welcome which I and my husband have received during our visit.

"I was impressed by the way in which economic difficulties are being overcome, and I hope that with the growth of mutual respect and understanding between all people in the province, Northern Ireland will enjoy a prosperous future."

The Governor sent a message of thanks to the Queen for her message.



Always, that radiant smile . . .

**REPORTING : ROBERT BRADY AND JOHN LEY. PICTURES : ROBERT RENTON**

**I**N spite of the rain, large crowds turned out to cheer when the Queen and Prince Philip drove from Government House to Lisburn yesterday.

Police tightened their security arrangements along the royal route. Officers were instructed to keep roof tops and high buildings on the route under careful watch.

The Queen was wearing a coat of pale blue silk, faintly overchecked with pale gold and a matching hat.

After Lisburn the Queen met one of the world's leading theatrical figures, producer Sir Tyrone Guthrie, who is Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast.

Sir Tyrone, whose home is across the border in Co. Monaghan, was presented by the Governor, Lord

Erskine, when the Queen opened new playing fields for the university at Upper Malone.

By this time rain was falling and the Queen was sheltered by an umbrella.

From the playing fields the Queen was driven to the university itself to open the £300,000 social sciences building. Then she lunched with the university senate.

Despite the rain every crossroads on her route to Aldergrove Airport boasted its corps of flag - waving Loyalists.

And as the Queen flew back to London the Queen Mother was making preparations for her visit to Northern Ireland today, tomorrow and Friday.

During her stay at the Baronscourt, Co. Tyrone, home of the Duke of Abercorn, she will visit the 1st Battalion Queen's Dragoon Guards at Lisanelly Camp, Omagh. She is colonel-in-chief of the regiment.



# Historic Visit to Ireland 2011

From 17 to 20 May 2011, the Queen made the first state visit of a British monarch to the Republic. The visit was said to mark 'normalisation of British-Irish relations since the end of the Troubles.' Belfast Telegraph 17/05/11 At Áras an Uachtaráin, the Irish President's official residence, the Queen planted a commemorative tree, with the Peace Bell rung by Danny Rea of Jordanstown School and Leah Ennis of Dublin.

The Queen and Irish President Mary McAleese visited the Garden of Remembrance, dedicated to those who lost their lives for Irish freedom. They placed wreaths on the Children of Lir sculpture, the Queen bowing her head. Roads were closed to cars, and pedestrians were searched, so the streets were quiet in contrast to the usual crowds.



The Queen laying a wreath in the Garden of Remembrance.

Courtesy of Anwar Hussein / Alamy Stock Photo

Mary McAleese said, 'Your visit is a formal recognition of what has, for many years, been a reality – that Ireland and Britain are neighbours, equals, colleagues and friends.' Belfast Telegraph 19/05/11



The Queen making an historic speech at Dublin Castle.

REUTERS / Alamy stock photo

The Queen on her visit to Croke Park.

Courtesy of Julien Behal/PA Wire



At a visit to Croke Park the Queen was met by GAA President Christy Cooney, who spoke of their support for the peace process. At the War Memorial Garden in Islandbridge the Queen laid a poppy wreath honouring the 50,000 Irish soldiers who died during World War One.

At the Rock of Cashel Mayor Michael Browne shook Her Majesty's hand, the first time a Sinn Féin member officially greeted a British monarch. The Queen then continued to Cork to visit the English Market, and at the last-minute met some of the crowd.

Buckingham Palace commented about the visit, 'whatever our hopes and expectations before the visit, they have been transcended. There's no doubt at all about the significance of the visit.' Belfast Telegraph 21/05/11