



NEWSLETTER

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www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

NEW EXHIBITION & PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

Dacorum Borough Council and Dacorum Heritage Trust opened their photographic exhibition to commemorate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in a ceremony on Thursday 10th May. The exhibition was officially opened by Mayor Cllr. Mrs. Gillian Chapman, marking the start of many local events in celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



The Mayor of Dacorum, Councillor Mrs. Gillian Chapman declared the exhibition formally open to all. She added, "I am proud to be Mayor during such a significant year and wanted to recognise Dacorum's rich heritage by commissioning the Diamond Jubilee photographic exhibition. It is wonderful for people to be able to see their glorious borough through the ages and learn more about the links Dacorum has to The Queen." Dacorum Borough Council and Dacorum Heritage Trust have worked together to create an exhibition in Hemel Hempstead Civic Centre. Artefacts from around the borough and photographs from throughout the ages will be on display. An interactive touch screen is also available in the Reception area for people to browse facts, photographs and stories about Dacorum.

Roger Hands, Chairman of Dacorum Heritage Trust commented, "We are passionate about recording and preserving the area's history and heritage. Working as partners with Dacorum Borough Council, people of all generations will be able to enjoy this exhibition."

Members of the public are welcome to view the exhibition during Hemel Hempstead Civic Centre's opening hours; Monday to Thursday 8.45 – 17.15, and Friday 8.45 – 16.45.

*Madeleine Taggart-Smith,
Communications Officer, Dacorum
Borough Council*

Photos: Top left, from l-r Nina Glencross (Assistant Curator), Isobel Aptaker (Curator), Cllr. Andrew Williams (Leader of Dacorum Borough Council) and Cllr. Gillian Chapman (Mayor of Dacorum) from www.hemeltoday.co.uk. Bottom left, Isobel Aptaker with Bev



Walker (DHT Director).

THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

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THE DAY THE QUEEN CAME TO TOWN

The July 1952 Royal visit to the Hemel Hempstead New Town had been planned long before Princess Elizabeth became Queen. For a while, after the King died, there was a doubt that it would take place at all. Then, in April, it was announced that the Queen would indeed make her planned visit but on Sunday 20th which coincided with a visit to St. Albans Abbey.

Post war, Hemel Hempstead became one of the new 'satellite' towns for London in accordance with the Government's policy for 'the decentralisation of persons and industry from London'. Initially there was resistance and hostility to the plan locally. The New Town plan was devised by Professor Abercrombie and enlarged by Geoffrey Jellicoe for the Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation. Neighbourhoods providing new housing, each with their own identity and amenities; this would help to foster a community spirit. Initially the plan was to provide new housing for people from Acton, Wembley, Willesden and Harrow. Adeyfield was the first new area to be developed and the first four families came from each of these boroughs. Adeyfield was close to the designated



new industrial area and was centred around a shopping area called 'The Square'. Additionally there was a community centre and a public house named the New Venture to signify the fresh start for the incoming families.

The Royal visit was one of the new Queen's first public engagements and first official visit to Hertfordshire. On a hot summer Sunday her majesty arrived in the fledgling New Town to great anticipation and excitement. During the visit the Queen wore a silver grey silk taffeta coat piped with white, with a full skirt and deep collar and a matching hat. Crowds lined her whole route to get a glimpse of the Royal visitor. Extra busses were even laid on to bring people into Hemel from the neighbouring towns and villages.



The cortege of cars proceeded from Two Waters; along the Marlowes to Broadway (later renamed Queensway to commemorate this visit); then into Alexandra Road (past the fire station); onto Adeyfield Square and Bennetts End; then back to the industrial area via Homefield Road; before passing through Leverstock Green on route to St. Albans.

Last minute preparations swung into action, many residents decorated their



homes with bunting and floral displays. Even the railway bridge at the start of the Marlowes was adorned with flowers and greenery to make an impressive town entrance. Special seating had been reserved for the elderly; while the Boxmoor Silver Band entertained the crowd on a very hot day with such favourites as 'Daisy Daisy'.



On Broadway, at the entrance to Gadebridge Park a magnificent floral crown was been erected. The crown had been made by Mr and Mrs E J Pickworth of The Bury; assisted by their daughter Shirley and Mr and Mrs W H Lock. It took a week to construct and contained hundreds of wild and cultivated flowers.

The Chairman of the Development Corporation, Mr Henry W Wells, accompanied the Queen in the Royal Car during the tour of Adeyfield

and Bennetts End.

Thousands of lovely flowers were put in position a few hours before the Queen's arrival and, after the event, were retained near the shops for the summer. They gave The Square a most festive appearance. When the Royal car



arrived in The Square the Queen alighted to take part in the celebrations and a stone laying. Later this area was to be renamed as Queen's Square to commemorate the occasion. Her Majesty was welcomed to Adeyfield by the Lord Lieutenant of the County (who happened to be her uncle, The Hon. David Bowes-Lyon). He then introduced Col. Sir William Dyke Acland (High Sheriff of Hertfordshire), the Mayor and Bailiff of the Borough of Hemel Hempstead, Alderman Herbert Christopher as the head of the civil authority for the town, and finally, the be-wigged Town Clerk, Charles Kirk.

The Mayor then introduced the Bishop of St. Albans, the Rt. Rev. Michael Gresford-Jones, to assist the Queen to lay the foundation



stone of the new Church of St. Barnabas. The Queen tapped the foundation stone into place with a ceremonial silver mallet, which is still owned by Dacorum Borough Council.

About 1,500 invited guests filled the special enclosures and several thousands more joined in the service and watched as the Queen laid the foundation stone.

During the stone laying service the band of John Dickinson's (now Hemel Hempstead Band) played music for the crowd, conducted by W C Thorne.

After the stone laying the Mayor introduced the Queen to the Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation Chairman who accompanied the Her Majesty on her tour of the New Town. Before leaving The Square the Queen received a bouquet from two five-year-olds (Lorna Humphries and Lester Pritchard). Their fathers' were the two 'quasi-wardens' of the church in Adeyfield. The flowers, mainly carnations and larkspur, were picked that morning from Adeyfield gardens.



In Homefield Road, Mr Wells introduced Her Majesty to three families (Mr and Mrs Neal, Mrs Fee and Mr and Mrs Adams and their respective children). The Queen went into the Adams' house where she was shown a collection of Royal Family photos. The Queen also went into the back garden to console Mrs Adams' two youngest children who both had colds and were not feeling very pleased with life. After a tour of the house and a cup of tea the Queen was greeted by the cheers of the crowds in the street.

One young girl mid-way through changing out of her Girl Guide uniform heard that the Queen was nearby and went straight out to see for herself. Standing by the doorway as the Queen emerged; Susan Applegate was photographed in her knickers. The Daily Express said that on a very hot day 'Susan Applegate was the coolest girl in town'. With a final curtsy from Mrs Adams the Queen moved onto the next stage of her visit. Mrs Adams,

as the Brown Owl of one of the newly formed Brownie packs in Adeyfield, proudly wears her Girl Guide badge.

The Queen also met the Neal family, from Acton. Stanley Neal worked as a bricklayer for Wimpey's in Adeyfield and took up the opportunity to live here permanently. Ellen Neal told the Queen how much they liked their new surroundings. With them are their three children, John (7), Jean (13) and David (11), shaking hands.

The Ellerby family were disappointed as just three days before the Queen's arrival their five-year-old son, Dennis, contracted chicken pox, and could only stand at the window and watch.



To view the Pathé News of this day, go to <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/selected-originals-royal-occasion-aka-queen-in-1/query/11> and <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/royal-occasion/query/11> for two short films.

Based on Adeyfield Argus (1952) and a display and commemorative booklet compiled by Mike Stanyon for Adeyfield Neighbourhood Association (2002). **Photos:** DHT and Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society collections cared for by DHT.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT

We would like to thank all those folks that supported our fundraising event, and helped us raise an amazing **£425!** We had an unusual start to the quiz, waiting in the rain for over an hour for the caretaker to arrive, despite this auspicious start the majority of those expected, waited and enjoyed the evening.

DHT's seventh Quiz Night, and the second time our Company Secretary, Mark Pelopida stepped into the Quizmasters role, entertaining us and presenting the questions in his own unique way.



The scores were close, it wasn't until the last round we had an overall winning team, of (Photo, l-r) Margaret Brown, Janet and Brendon Sparks and Colin Kidd, who are mainly DHT volunteers.

The John Nichols Memorial Trophy went to tie-breaking questions between two teams. The trophy was awarded to Nina Glencross our Assistant Curator's team, together with Sue Sissons, John and Jane Lee, Kathy and Dave Ridges.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who made the event possible, including Mark Pelopida (Quizmaster), Bob Gasking (Scoreboard), Nina Glencross, Barbara Anscombe*, Margaret Brown, Sue Sissons, David* and Moira Lea* (*Berkhamsted Bowman).

Pam Gasking & Bev Walker (Organisers)

THE OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The history of the Olympic Flame, Torch and Relay draw on a tradition going back to the ancient Olympic Games in Greece. The modern Olympic Flame was reintroduced at the 1928 Amsterdam Games, and the Torch Relay was introduced at the 1936 Berlin Games, both have become an important part of the host nation's celebrations.

On Sunday 8th July, Day 51 tours the Hertfordshire New Towns. Starting in Cambridge the Torch Relay will visit Letchworth, Stevenage, Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, St. Albans, and Hemel Hempstead, ending the day in Luton.

Hemel Hempstead section starts at the junction of Greenacres and Leverstock Green Road, proceeding to: Leverstock Green Way, St. Albans Road around the 'Magic Roundabout' into Leighton Buzzard Road, then into The Marlowes, turning up Queensway and ending at the junction of Queensway and Bohemia.

For many of us it may be the only time we will see an Olympic Torch Relay, I wonder how many folks saw the 1948 event, if you have memories of the last London 'Austerity' Games we would love to hear from you.

Based on information from Dacorum Borough Council and the official London Olympics websites.

CURATOR'S CORNER

Urgent Call for Help! Can **you** spare an hour to help us 'man' our stall at one or more of the following events:

- 8th Jul - Olympic Torch Relay in Hemel Hempstead.
- 13th Aug - Olympic/Jubilee reminiscence event in Tring.
- 21st Aug - Olympic/Jubilee reminiscence event in Hemel Hempstead.
- 9th Sep - Sportspace Mencap Games in Hemel Hempstead.
- 9th Sep - Bandstand Marathon in Hemel Hempstead.

Volunteers eagerly awaited, please contact the curator to sign up for a slot on the rota. It is important that DHT has a presence at events to help publicise the heritage of our area. We can't do events without your help.

Recording History As It Happens. With many national and local events taking place in this Jubilee and Olympic year we are keen to collect photos and anecdotes from around the borough, so that in the future there will be a real sense of how these events touched all our lives.

Will you be an Olympic competitor, steward or spectator? You can help by sending us photos and stories about your Community street parties; national, town or village Jubilee celebrations; Olympic Torch Relay and Games.



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Saving Our Heritage



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**DACORUM
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