

THE BREW 'US BUGLE & BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE HERALD

BRINGING YOUR PAST UP TO DATE Issue 55 September 2022

LADYWOOD
HISTORY
GROUP



FOUR PAGE ROYAL SOUVENIR

WHEN THE QUEEN CAME TO BIRMINGHAM

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THE BREW'US BUGLE ISSUE 55

This edition of The Brew 'us Bugle, mainly a celebration of Birmingham's successful Commonwealth Games, was signed off for printing in the middle of last week. The following day came the sad news of the passing of H M The Queen Elizabeth II. In consequence of this we are grateful to our designers/printers at LG Davies for holding back the printing to enable us to reflect on the passing of our Sovereign. We are able to include a four-page wrap around supplement about The Queen and report on how the city has reacted to the end of an era and ushered in the reign of King Charles III. You will remember for the rest of your life exactly where you were, and what you were doing, when you heard the announcement. It will be etched in your memory forever and we hope this supplement will be kept by readers to show future generations.

The page one pictures show the Queen on the day she opened the ICC, all in pink at a naming ceremony for the metro in 2015 and at her Jubilee tour in 1977. (pic: Alan Bartlam)



Even longer queues formed at The Hall of Memory.



Early on Saturday queues formed at Birmingham Cathedral to sign a Book of Condolence.

Within minutes of the death being announced electronic billboards featured pictures of The Queen – for many the first indication for passers-by in the street of the sad news.

Colmore Row ten minutes after the news was announced and next day a strangely quiet Ladywood Middleway.

The launch event of Birmingham Heritage Week was just about to start as the sad news came in and attendees bowed their heads in a period of silence, amongst them were Josie Wall (Jewellery Quarter Development Trust) and Doug and Pauline Wilkes (JQ Research Trust www.jqrt.org).



The Lord Mayor was amongst the first to lay a wreath on behalf of the citizens of Birmingham in the grounds of St Philip's Cathedral.

WHEN THE QUEEN CAME TO THE ICC

In June 1991 The Queen officially opened the International Convention Centre by unveiling a huge plaque, seen on page 1, and the lady pictured with her is Cllr Pat Sever.

She was chair of the City Council's ICC Committee and recalls: 'It was a glorious day for Birmingham and such a special day for my family. My husband, John Sever (a former Ladywood MP) and I were presented to the Queen and our four-year old daughter, Julia gave the Queen a posse. I recall the Queen was very gracious and smiled a lot! She gave a lot of pleasure to local Ladywood residents, and some were from the tower blocks next to the Convention Centre and were also presented to the Queen. I remember local schoolchildren singing for the Queen and I hope that everyone present on the day enjoyed the occasion as much as I did.'

Schoolboy, Darren Cannan who took the unveiling picture for tntnews.co.uk, also has fond memories: 'I felt privileged to be part of it and it was the kick start of the redevelopment of the city. I've got great memories of the size of the crowd and of being able to get in front of everyone because we were filming. I got really close to the Queen which was another privilege. Even today when I walk past the ICC I get a feeling of pride by knowing that I've had a smart small part to play in its history by filming and recording the development of the ICC and of being there on that great day over 30 years ago.'



Lord Mayor Cllr Bill Turner with The Queen (Pic: Gary Turner collection)



The Queen meets local residents Ede Ockford and Jean Brown

THE CORONATION



Huge street parties were held all over the city to celebrate the Coronation in June 1953. These two pictures were taken in St Mark's Street, Ladywood. A party and street games were followed by drinks for the adults.

Kath Quinlan, holding a couple of bottles of pop (?) poses by a portrait of The Queen.



Workers at Bulpitt & Sons which manufactured kettles etc celebrated the Coronation in style. (Pic: Terry Gorse)



GOD SAVE THE KING!



People gathered in Centenary Square on Sunday 11 September 2022 as the Lord Mayor, Councillor Maureen Cornish, proclaimed the new sovereign. The crowd, estimated to be around 3,000 then joined in with a rendition of 'God Save the King'.

Afterwards in an exclusive interview with Ladywood History Group's website, TNT News (www.tntnews.co.uk) she spoke of her feelings as she presided over the momentous event.

'It is a unique historic occasion, and it has been an honour for me today but not easy. I felt it almost like a personal loss and having talked to local people they too feel a strong personal sense of loss towards our Queen, but the majority of people, in fact probably all of them, are very confident King Charles will move forward with a very similar plan to the one the Queen left us. She has left us with a wonderful legacy.'

'There was a good turnout of people today, as there was when I was at the Cathedral and at the Peace Gardens, in fact wherever

I have been people have showed warmth and dignity with their respects and they were very proud, very proud of having the Queen as sovereign.'

'Although we knew it was something that probably wasn't far away, her death still came as quite a shock, and everyone is still trying to get their heads around it whilst at the same time moving on to the next stage. I believe Prince Charles will be a good king.'



THE LAST TIME THERE WAS A PROCLAMATION ...

Following the death of King George, his daughter, Princess Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen in February 1952. An estimated 13,000 people flocked to Victoria Square to witness the occasion.

The Birmingham Mail noted: 'The Lord Mayor of Birmingham Alderman R C Yates read the proclamation from a platform in Victoria Square half an hour afternoon today and as his words died away on the keen stiff wind the Union Jack on the high flagpole above the Council House rose from half-mast to flutter in the breeze. After the ceremony, when the Lord Mayor called for three cheers for the Queen, a mighty shout went up from the crowd, the Service contingent leading with their berets and caps waving. Parties of schoolchildren watched wide eyed on such a great occasion, their disposition to chatter stilled by the solemnity of the event.'



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