



Northampton
TOWN COUNCIL

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE TEA PARTY

Northampton Town Council
Celebrates Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE, 4-6PM
NORTHAMPTON GUILDHALL

A Souvenir Programme marking
Northampton's Royal History



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The Queen opening the Guildhall extension in 1992

A CONCISE HISTORY OF ROYALTY IN NORTHAMPTON

Northampton has a long standing relationship with the monarchs of England and later Britain. Over the centuries some monarchs have been great allies and benefactors of Northampton, while some have had more of a turbulent relationship with the town.

A ROYAL TOWN

In 1189, Richard I, by name Richard The Lionheart, presented Northampton with its oldest surviving town charter, in exchange for money for his crusade. However, the town's first charter, that unfortunately does not survive today, was given by Richard's predecessor, Henry II.

Richard's successor, King John, appointed one of the first recorded Mayors in England, William Tilly in 1215 and since then, the Mayoralty has been of great significance.

At this point, Northampton had begun to grow rapidly, primarily because of its central location in England, situated along trade routes.

The castle of Northampton, at periods was also a royal residence; holding parliament and church councils on many occasions. It was where the trial of Thomas Becket was held in 1164.



Northampton Castle
Image Courtesy of the Friends of Northampton Castle

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE TEA PARTY 2022

Sunday 5th June, 4-6pm
Northampton Guildhall

Hosted by
Northampton Town Council

ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

- 4:10pm Welcome & Introductions
- 4:15pm The Starlight Sisters
- 4:30pm Jubilee Speech
Mayor of Northampton, Cllr Dennis Meredith
- 4:30pm Afternoon Tea Buffet is served
- 4:50pm William Byrne Band
- 5:20pm The Starlight Sisters
- 5:40pm William Byrne Band



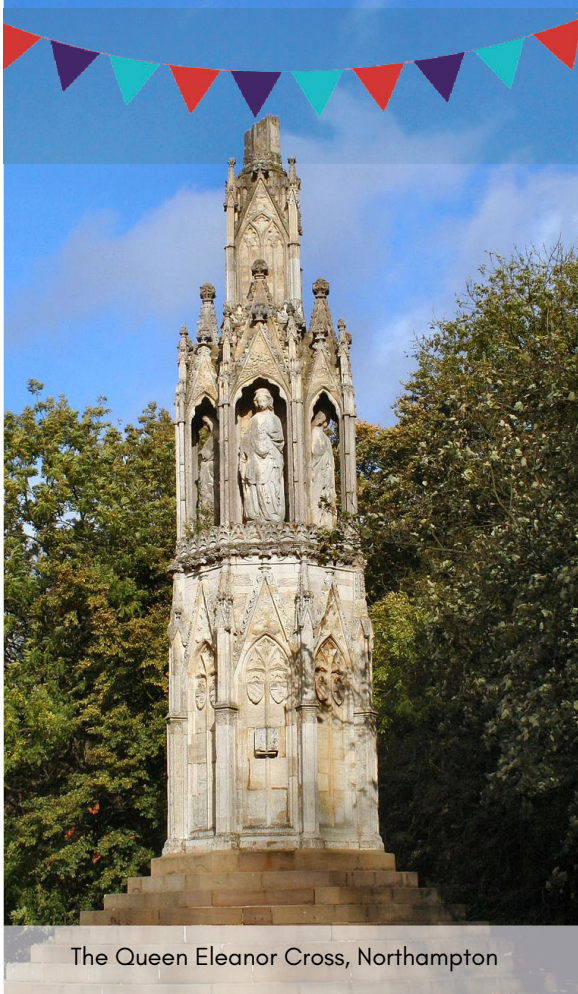
THE ELEANOR CROSS

One of Northampton's most significant royal connections lies with the Eleanor Cross. The cross marks the locations where the body of Eleanor of Castile rested on her funeral procession. In all there were twelve locations:

Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Geddington, Northampton, Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, St. Albans, Waltham, Cheapside, and the best known of all, Charing - then a little village near Westminster and nowadays named after the cross, Charing Cross.

Today only those at Geddington, Hardingstone near Northampton and Waltham Cross still remain. The tall monument that stands in London, in the forecourt of the Charing Cross railway station is a Victorian replica of the one that originally stood.

Edward I, also known as Edward Longshanks and Hammer of the Scots, was husband to Eleanor. The couple visited and stayed at Rockingham Castle on many occasions. They were inseparable and Eleanor accompanied Edward on all his expeditions. It was during a visit to meet Edward in Scotland that Eleanor fell ill, just outside Lincoln and passed away. Her body rested in Northampton for one night on the 160-mile journey to her final resting place in Westminster Abbey.



The Queen Eleanor Cross, Northampton



THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Northampton's next encounter with royalty was not so cordial. At the outbreak of the English Civil War, the town of Northampton backed Cromwell, representing parliament rather than the monarch, King Charles I. Some landowners in the countryside, however, such as the second Earl of Northampton, Spencer Compton were firmly Royalists.

The town supplied many pairs of boots for Cromwell's New Model Army and the deciding battle of the Civil War was fought at Naesby, 11 miles north of the town. The Parliamentarians defeated the Royalists and in the years that followed, Charles I was captured and executed. The demise of the monarchy in this period signified the beginning of the Commonwealth - the start of democracy that we know today.

The monarchy was restored a few years later with the crowning of King Charles II. As punishment for Northampton defying his father in the Civil War, Charles II ordered the town walls and castle to be pulled down, to prevent the town defying him in the future.

FIRE AND RESTORATION

Relations were later restored when, in 1675, a terrible inferno swept through Northampton, destroying much of the town. Charles II hurried through an Act of Parliament to give aid to Northampton, donating some lumber from his own private woods. In remembrance, the town placed a statue of the King above the rebuilt Church of All Saints. Northampton continues to celebrate Oak Apple Day to this day, an annual, historic tradition, celebrating the generosity of the Monarchy. As a show of thanks for the King's contributions, every year in May, the statue on All Saints Church is crowned by a wreath of oak leaves.



Charles II statue adorned with the oak leaf wreath, All Saints Church Northampton



ROYAL VISITS

In more recent centuries, Northampton has interacted with royalty on several occasions. Queen Victoria visited the town with her Consort Prince Albert, in 1844. The Queen arrived by train to Weedon and travelled to Northampton via horse drawn carriages. The royal procession travelled through the streets of the town, past

the crowds of Northampton residents.

The current monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, first visited in 1965 as a reigning monarch, along with her late husband the Duke of Edinburgh. She was met with cheering crowds as she drove through town. Her signature still remains in the Visitors' Book in the Mayor's Parlour of the Guildhall today.

In 1982, the Queen visited Northampton again to open the Express Lift Tower and view the Royal and Dergate which previously had not warranted its title of 'Royal' having never been given royal permission. However, following the Queen's visit in 1982, the name was finally justified.

A decade later, the Queen visited once more to open the new extension of Northampton's Guildhall, in 1992. She dined with notable locals including the Mayor, Councillors and the Bishop of Peterborough. They dined at the Guildhall and ate dishes such as Paté of Smoked Trout and Mackerel, Pot Roast Pheasant with Claret and Orange Sauce, followed by a Soufflé Grand Marnier, all finished up with tea and coffee. During this royal visit, the Queen also opened the new school site for Northampton High School. To mark the occasion the Queen planted a tree in the Cripps Courtyard.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited in 1989 as part of the 800th anniversary of the Town Charter, given to Northampton by Richard I. They opened the new extension of the Northampton Central Museum. In addition, Diana was presented with an Honorary Freedom of the Borough.



The Princess of Wales - Freedom of the Borough
Image Courtesy of John Roan Photography



The Queen opening the new extension of the Guildhall, 1992.
Image Courtesy of John Roan Photography



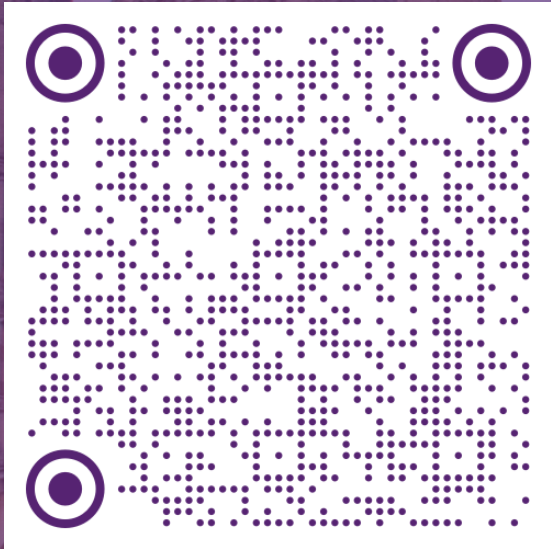
The Mayor's Parlour
Image Courtesy of Northampton Town Council

THANKS AND DEDICATIONS

Thank you for joining us to celebrate seventy years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her Platinum Jubilee year. We hope you enjoy the afternoon of entertainment, afternoon tea and a speech from the Mayor of Northampton, Cllr Dennis Meredith.

Northampton Town Council would like to thank all of those involved in the outstanding efforts shown within the community, this Jubilee year and every other year. With a specific extension of thanks to; Patrick McDonagh, author and researcher of this pamphlet and John Roan Photography, for very generously providing the pictures.





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