

Marking Moments

Your newsletter from the
M&S Archive

May 2022

We're looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In this issue we take a look at the Royal Family from Queen Mary's M&S visit, to the Diamond Jubilee.

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The Queen visits M&S in Redditch, 1983

THE QUEEN'S 1s. TEAPOT.

Early Visit To Oxford-St.
Bazaar.

BUYING BRITISH.

Her Most Successful
Shopping.

EARLY shoppers in Oxford-street to-day had a surprise. The Queen arrived to do some shopping—in Marks and Spencer's, the original Penny Bazaar.

The girls at the stalls were not exactly taken unawares, because the usual notice had been received from Buckingham Palace, but they were "terribly thrilled," and a "Star" reporter found them trying hard to pretend that they were, accustomed to serving Royalty.

A FEW SHILLINGS.

The Queen would not allow other shoppers to be disturbed, but she toured the store with her usual thoroughness, staying more than half an hour. Her principal purchases were:

6 handbags, 2 books (a Shakespeare and a Bible), 3 rugs, 1 doll, 2 tea sets, 1 teapot, and a hall set (brushes and mirror).

*None of the articles cost more than a few shillings, the teapot being the cheapest, at a shilling.

The Queen was particularly interested in the handbags and the china, and insisted on buying British.

A SIGNIFICANT DOLL.

"Her Majesty said it was the most successful shopping she had ever done," said Mr. Simon Marks, who conducted the tour of the store.

"She was good enough to say that everything was attractively displayed, and she was particularly pleased to hear that 97 per cent. of our goods are British, and that many goods formerly made abroad are now manufactured in this country."

The doll was a case in point. It was of the type which had previously always been made in Germany.

The shoppers in the bazaar followed the Queen round the stalls, many buying similar articles.

By the time the visit was over a large crowd had assembled, and the Queen was cheered heartily on leaving.



Queen Mary's Visit, 1932

M&S on Oxford Street had a special visitor in 1932 – Queen Mary visited the store, and stayed for more than an hour. The article above tells us that she bought, amongst other things, six handbags and three rugs! Buckingham Palace had sent prior warning that the Queen would be visiting, so the Store Manager could prepare for her arrival.



Coronation Procession passing Marble Arch Store, 1953

The coronation of Elizabeth II took place on the 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey. This photograph shows the gold state coach passing M&S in Marble Arch. The state coach was part of the coronation procession which made its way around London and ended at Westminster Abbey. Can you see the people leaning out of the windows?

CORONATION OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH
2nd JUNE 1953



To celebrate the Coronation of
Her Majesty the Queen,
the Board of Directors
have much pleasure in inviting you
to a Special Luncheon
in the Staff Dining Room
on Monday, June 1st 1953

MENU: MONDAY 1st JUNE 1953.

SPECIAL CORONATION LUNCH.

Grapefruit

Tomato Soup

Rolls

Roast Chicken

Sausage

Baked & Boiled Potatoes

Cauliflower

Carrots

Strawberries & Ice Cream

Cheese & Biscuits

Tea or Coffee

Invitation and Menu, 1953

Staff at Blackpool M&S were invited to a special coronation meal on June 1st 1953. The meal was served in the staff dining room, and consisted of five courses! Diners would have enjoyed grapefruit, followed by soup, roast chicken, strawberries then cheese and biscuits. The back of the invitation is signed by some of the people who attended.



Corporal Fred Jones.

Lining the Coronation Procession, 1953

This photograph shows Fred Jones, an M&S Warehouseman from Kidderminster. His regiment, The Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars were chosen to line the route of the coronation procession along Pall Mall. Fred describes how he and the rest of his unit woke at 4am and had a light breakfast before marching to their markers by the side of the road.



★ Elizabeth Tindle, in the sage green, 69s. 11d. St. Michael cotton dress she wore when Her Majesty The Queen came to tea. Of her dress Elizabeth said: "I felt it was equal to the occasion."

Elizabeth Meets the Queen, June 1960

In 1960 the Queen visited a new housing estate in Peterlee. M&S Sales Assistant Elizabeth Tindle had recently moved in, and was chosen to host the Queen and Prince Phillip. Elizabeth wore a new sage green M&S dress for the occasion, and served the Queen tea and St Michael biscuits!



Prince Phillip Visits an M&S Display, 1961

This photograph shows Prince Phillip visiting the M&S stand at the National Technical Training Week event. He talks to a sales assistant who gives information on the technical and scientific research work carried out at M&S. Prince Phillip stands with local dignitaries who are showing him around the exhibition.



The Queen's Visit to Guildford, 1965

In 1965 the Queen officially opened the Women's Royal Army Corps Training Centre in Guildford. The staff at the Army canteen wanted to look their best, so they headed to M&S to buy new matching outfits that looked smart and fashionable. The WRAC was founded in 1949 and disbanded in 1992.



The Queen's Knitwear, 1967

In 1969 it was reported in the Glasgow Sunday Post that 'The Queen occasionally takes a leaf out of her daughter's book and buys a twinset from Marks & Spencer'. The photo above shows similar M&S twinsets from 1967, worn with matching or coordinating skirts. More recently, the Duchess of Cambridge has been seen wearing M&S dresses.



Our welcome
to Wales'
new Prince

Prince Charles Window Display, 1969

In 1969, Prince Charles was crowned Prince of Wales in a televised ceremony held at Caernarfon Castle. To celebrate, all branches of M&S in Wales, plus Chester store, featured this window display. Prince Charles took his seat in the House of Lords in 1970, and he made his maiden speech in June 1974.



Princess Margaret Visits the M&S Design Department, 1971

In 1971, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, visited M&S Head Office and the store at Marble Arch. She is pictured here looking at a child's coat in the Design Department. The Princess was shown the staff canteen and lounge, and dropped in on a staff training session helping Sales Assistants understand the new decimal currency. She also visited the Food Laboratories where she met technologists testing the newest cream gateaux.



The Queen's Visit to Basingstoke Store, 1973

This photograph shows the Queen meeting Sales Assistants who worked at M&S in Basingstoke. The Queen was in the town to open the new AA headquarters, but she had time to call in at M&S. The Queen holds flowers that had been presented to her by a member of staff.



Prince Charles Visits Brixton store, 1982

Prince Charles paid a visit to both Brixton and Croydon branches of M&S in 1982. The stores were only given a week's notice to prepare for the visits. Even though the visit wasn't announced in the press, hundreds of people waited at the doors to catch a glimpse of the Prince. Employees at the store presented the Prince with a gift, an outfit for his new son Prince William.



Diamond Jubilee Celebration Sandwiches, 2012

2012 marked the diamond jubilee of Elizabeth II, marking the 60th anniversary of her accession on 6 February 1952. Parties were held across the country during a summer that also saw the London Olympics take place. As part of the celebrations, M&S sold a special range of sandwiches with fillings including roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, and Gala pork pie.

Have a Go... Quiz

Find the answers to these Royal Family-themed questions on the next page

1. How many grandchildren does the Queen have?
2. What country was Prince Philip born in?
3. How old was the Queen at the time of her coronation?
4. Princess Anne and Zara Tindall have both competed in the Olympics in which sport?
5. What breed of dog is the Queen famously a fan of?
6. What flower do all royal brides have in their bouquet?
7. What is the name of the Queen's Norfolk residence?
8. Where was Prince Harry deployed to during his two tours in the army?
9. Which King became the first English monarch to voluntarily abdicate the throne?
10. What was the actual first name of Queen Victoria?
11. Which Scottish castle was the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, wife of King George VI?
12. Give the date of the Queen's 'real' birthday?

Have a Go... Quiz



Answers

1. 8 – Peter, Zara, William, Harry, Beatrice, Eugenie, Louise and James
2. Greece
3. 27
4. Equestrian
5. Corgis
6. Myrtle
7. Sandringham
8. Afghanistan
9. Edward VIII
10. Alexandrina
11. Glamis Castle
12. 21st April

Have a Go... Wordsearch

Find as many of the royalty-related words below as you can. Don't forget, the words might go diagonally, or even backwards!

P	C	O	R	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	V	T	C	A
K	P	W	A	R	I	S	T	O	C	R	A	T	I	C
J	F	I	X	K	P	S	I	B	X	P	V	Y	U	B
J	X	G	C	B	S	R	O	M	Y	M	J	A	T	H
U	B	Z	J	E	A	S	I	R	P	I	A	N	P	T
B	F	I	H	W	N	H	Z	N	M	E	U	C	T	Z
Q	T	C	J	D	D	V	P	A	C	O	R	R	B	R
N	U	A	M	V	R	U	H	R	C	E	U	I	O	T
D	P	M	A	X	I	G	C	S	I	O	S	S	A	Y
H	K	E	Z	D	N	L	I	R	C	N	D	S	K	L
V	C	P	E	I	G	V	D	S	O	N	C	A	Y	E
P	F	O	K	R	H	G	F	E	I	W	D	E	Q	W
J	Y	C	R	F	A	N	L	W	A	P	N	J	U	L
Z	U	R	H	G	M	G	R	E	I	G	N	K	M	L
B	J	K	O	O	I	N	E	E	H	S	O	C	C	K

Aristocratic
 Imperial
 Coronation
 Buckingham
 Corgi
 Prince
 Princess
 Court

Peerage
 Duchess
 Viscount
 Windsor
 Sandringham
 Reign
 Crown