

# Marking Moments

## Notes for Carers

May 2022

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

### **From the Archive...**

#### Queen Mary's visit to Oxford Street store, 1932

This newspaper article describes the Queen's visit to Marks & Spencer in 1932. Other customers were surprised when she arrived, though the Store Manager had been warned of her arrival. Queen Mary stayed for more than an hour and made many purchases. A member of staff had the clever idea to put signs on items she'd bought saying 'As purchased by HRH Queen Mary'. The photograph of Queen Mary was taken around 1925. Mary of Teck was Queen of the United Kingdom from 6 May 1910 until 29 January 1936 as the wife of King George V.

Have you ever been shopping on Oxford Street in London?

Were you or your parents born when Mary of Teck was Queen?

#### Coronation Procession, June 1953

The photograph shows the golden state coach passing the Marks & Spencer store in Marble Arch. The coach had been used at the coronation of every British monarch since George IV in 1821. Participants in the coronation procession included members of the Royal Household, the Lord Mayor of London, Prime Ministers of Commonwealth countries, church representatives and standard bearers. The procession went along Whitehall, Oxford Street, Regent Street, The Mall and Northumberland Avenue on the way to Westminster Abbey. M&S in Marble Arch was decorated with flags, swags and banners. Members of staff can be seen at the windows and balconies, trying to get a glimpse of the procession.

Did you watch the coronation on television?

Have you visited London?

## Coronation Meal Invitation and Menu, 1953

M&S employees across the country celebrated the Coronation in 1952. In Blackpool store, the catering staff arranged a special five-course meal for their colleagues. This menu and invitation is held in the M&S Archive, and on the back it has signatures of people who attended. Meat rationing was still in place in 1953 (it lasted until the following year), but employees didn't need to use their ration books in the staff canteen, so to have chicken and sausage would have been quite a treat!

What's your favourite celebration meal?

Do you remember food rationing? Or clothes rationing?

## Lining the Coronation Procession, 1953

The route of the coronation procession was lined with soldiers, sailors, airmen and women from across the world. As well as all the military personnel, an estimated three million people stood hoping to catch a glimpse of the new monarch as she made her way to and from Buckingham Palace in the golden state coach. Fred Jones from M&S in Kidderminster was selected to represent his regiment in the procession. On the morning of the coronation they woke at 4am, had a final inspection and marched from Olympia to Pall Mall. On their route they passed bands playing and cheering crowds, before taking their place and waiting for the procession.

Have you or any members of your family served in the military?

4am is very early! Do you enjoy a lie-in, or are you an early riser?

## Elizabeth meets the Queen, 1960

M&S Sales Assistant Elizabeth Tindle had recently moved into a new house in Peterlee – a new town still under construction. Elizabeth's home was one of seven new houses designed by artist Victor Passmore and architect Grenfell Baines. The Queen visited the North-East of England and was shown Elizabeth's home as an example of this innovative style of architecture. Elizabeth said 'Her Majesty stayed for 15 minutes, I gave her a cup of tea without sugar, and she took a St Michael morning coffee biscuit... the Queen asked me a lot about my new washing machine'. Elizabeth wore a new M&S dress that she had bought for 69s/11d.

What would you wear to meet the Queen?

What's your favourite biscuit? Would you share them with the Queen?

## Prince Phillip Visits an M&S Display, 1961

Under a banner reading 'Over 75 years of service to the public', the Duke of Edinburgh asks Sales Assistant Elizabeth Williams about her work at M&S. The Duke was visiting the M&S stand at Bingley Hall in Birmingham during the National Technical Training Week. The display explained the process of producing garments, including photos of the Cloth Buying Department, the Design Department and a typical factory. In 1961 M&S employed over 230 Technical Services staff including scientists, technologists and technicians.

Have you ever met a member of the royal family?

Have you done any training? Perhaps for a new job?

## The Queen's Visit to Guildford, 1965

The Women's Royal Army Corps Training Centre was officially opened by the Queen in 1965. Here she meets the canteen staff, who are all dressed in St Michael clothes. When they heard the Queen would be visiting, the cooks headed to M&S to buy new matching outfits. The Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) was formed in 1949, as the women's branch of the British Army. Its members undertook a variety of important roles until 1992, when its remaining personnel were integrated into the Adjutant General's Corps.

What uniforms have you had to wear? Perhaps for work or even in the Scouts or Brownies?

## The Queen's Knitwear, 1967

A 1969 report in a Glasgow newspaper suggested that the Queen had bought knitwear, more specifically a twinset, from Marks & Spencer. The photo shows twinsets from 1967, possibly similar to the one purchased by the Queen! The garments shown in the photograph include a lambswool twinset for 79s/11d, and a Courtelle jumper with matching cardigan for 25s/11d and 32s/6d.

Do you have a favourite shop?

What is your favourite item of clothing?

## Prince of Wales Window Display, 1969

Although Prince Charles had been created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester in 1958, he wasn't crowned until 1<sup>st</sup> July 1969. The Investiture of the Prince of Wales was broadcast on the BBC in one of the biggest and most complex outside broadcasts since the Coronation. This window display was created to celebrate the occasion, and was featured in all ten Welsh stores, as well as Chester. M&S window displays have been used to celebrate various events including King George VI's Silver Jubilee in 1935, and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

Did you watch the investiture of Prince Charles?

Have you visited Wales? Or Chester?

## Princess Margaret Visits the M&S Design Department, 1971

This photograph shows Princess Margaret visiting the Design Department. On the left is Hans Schneider, head of the department. The Princess spent a morning at M&S, visiting the store at Marble Arch later in the day. Whilst at Head Office she was shown the Food Laboratories where technologists were testing cream gateaux, though she remarked 'Too many calories for me!'. The Princess ended her day by having lunch with the Chairman. Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden was the younger daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and the only sibling of Queen Elizabeth II.

What is your favourite type of cake?

What do you think of the child's coat that the Princess is looking at?

## The Queen Visits Basingstoke, 1973

The Queen visited the town to open the new AA headquarters and to visit a local technical college, but she made time to visit M&S. Whilst chatting to the Sales Assistants she told them how much she liked Marks & Spencer. Although there had been an M&S in Basingstoke since 1934, the store visited by the Queen was opened in 1970.

What do you think these Sales Assistants are talking to the Queen about?

## Prince Charles Visits Brixton store, 1982

In 1982 Prince Charles wanted to visit businesses that had a good record for staff working conditions. He was invited by the M&S Chairman to visit two stores, Brixton and Croydon. At Brixton he spoke to customers and staff working in the store, even chatting to one sales assistant whilst she was having her feet looked at by the in-store chiropodist! The top photograph shows the Prince sharing a joke with the store manager. The bottom photograph shows the Prince being presented with a gift – an outfit for his son Prince William, who had been born just a few weeks earlier.

Do you remember the birth of Prince William?

What do you think would be a good gift for a newborn Prince today?

## Jubilee Celebration Sandwiches, 2012

2012 was a busy year in the UK – as well as watching the Summer Olympics, people celebrated the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The only diamond jubilee celebration for any of Elizabeth's predecessors was in 1897, for the 60th anniversary of the accession of Queen Victoria. For her own diamond jubilee, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh toured the United Kingdom and other members of the royal family toured the rest of the Commonwealth as the monarch's representatives. To help people enjoy street parties and picnics, M&S sold a range of jubilee-inspired sandwiches with fillings including roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, and gala pie with egg.

What's your favourite sandwich? Would you like to try a pork pie sandwich?

Have you ever been to a street party?

## **Have a Go...**

### Royal Family Quiz

The quiz could be used individually or with a group. You could plan a small prize for the person who gets the most correct answers, or encourage participants to work in groups.

### Wordsearch

You'll need: pens or pencils

Print out a copy for each of your participants. Ask them to find the royalty-related words in the list. Some words go diagonally, and some might go backwards!