

The Gossip

HORNTON

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ROYAL DATE FOR HORNTON COUPLE

On Thursday 20th July Lesley and John, from The Barn, in Hornton, travelled to London to meet the Queen. They had been invited to the Queen's Garden Party in recognition of their work for services to education in Warwickshire. The invitation came as a complete surprise since Lesley and John had no prior knowledge at all.

The Story is now taken up by Lesley and John.....

"We set off on the 20th July and drove to London. We had a car park pass that enabled us to park in the Mall - right outside the palace gates. We crossed over the road, after posing for a photograph, and entered through the centre gates. We walked along the red carpet and into the Palace via the main door (frequented by Bill Clinton and others!) what an experience.

As we entered the garden, at the rear of the Palace, we saw the tea set out for guests and the Royal enclosure. We mingled with many people, including David Trimble, as we had tea. The Royal party included the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Princess Royal and the Queen Mother. We were in the "line" along which the Queen proceeded. She was smaller than we envisaged but both elegant and charming.

After the Royal tea we spent some time walking around the grounds. We sat in the famous Rose garden, frequented by Diana, Princess of Wales, and saw the tennis courts, recently the scene of a Borg v McEnroe match. It appeared to both of us that we were almost players in an episode of "Brideshead Revisited" - older readers may remember the programme.

We returned to Hornton at 10.30 p.m. after a truly memorable day. The new outfits and especially "the hat" were crumpled but our spirits were high. Our wish would be that other Hornton residents may have the same opportunity."

Some background details about Lesley and John:-

Lesley King is currently a Headteacher in Warwickshire. She had been Head of Aylesford School (students 11 - 18 years old) for the past 12 years - a school now at the peak of its success. Recently she was moved to a school in the far north of Warwickshire (an 86 mile round trip from Hornton but she has no intention of moving from our village) - Nicholas Chamberlaine School in Bedworth - a school that had failed its Ofsted inspection. She has decided to remain as Head and endeavour to move the school forward. The task would daunt many people - but not Lesley.

John Sullivan is Warwickshire's Principal Education Social Worker and spends his time managing a team that supports youngsters who are disadvantaged and experiencing difficulties. He works increasingly to improve the quality of life for such youngsters.

The Royal date for the Hornton couple was fully deserved. It is pleasing to see residents in our village being acknowledged in such a public way.



**HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO
OUR QUEEN MOTHER**



We have our own Queen Mum living in Hornton: one small tortoiseshell female cat called Ophelia was born 1st July 1980 (is this a record?)

Happy Birthday Ma'am!

Virginia Britton



**Grand Exhibition
of Hornton Memorabilia
in the Methodist Church
from Saturday 12 August for
three weekends**



**Village Street Party and
unveiling of the Millennium
Village Seat
Sunday 13 August at 4 p.m.
on the Village Green**

*Bring your own picnic (including
cups, plates, etc)
Tea & squash will be provided*

**Surprise presentation to every
child from Hornton**

BUSKERS

**SCAVENGER
HUNT**