

Queen Elizabeth II on the 53rd anniversary of her accession

A 'passer-by' takes notice!

53 years a monarch: Queen celebrates with us



TOP: West Newton Sunday School prize winners with their gifts from The Queen. (05/02/233)
ABOVE: The Queen chats with the crowd and receives presents. (05/02/224)
Pictures: ALAN MILLER

THE Queen marked the 53rd anniversary of her accession to the throne on Sunday by attending morning service at the church of St Peter and St Paul at West Newton on the Sandringham Estate.

She was accompanied along the church path by the Rector of the Sandringham Group of parishes, the Rev Jonathan Riviere.

During the service The Queen presented book prizes to 20 children aged between five and 15 from the Sunday School. The children performed a Russian play about Epiphany called Papa Patov.

The Queen looked relaxed and happy as she walked the 200 yards from church to the village hall where she had provided lunch for the children and their parents.

Dorothy Cornwell, from Broughton, in Cambridgeshire, gave The Queen a basket of flowers, extending her good wishes on the 53rd anniversary of her accession to the throne.

The Queen replied: "Thank you very much. How kind."

Veronica Bailey, from Cambridge, joined the 150-strong crowd. "The Queen has never put a foot out of place. When she took the oath on Coronation Day, she said she would serve her country. She has. And I admire her for it," she said.

John Harris, from Heacham said: "I can remember clearly the day The King died. It doesn't seem

like 53 years. I think The Queen has done wonderfully well. I am particularly pleased to be here today."

The Queen stopped and spoke to Sheila Clark, from Glasgow and Alan Morton from Edinburgh.

She had met the couple the day before outside Wolferton Station.

Sheila said: "We were outside the station taking pictures when The Queen drove up in her Land Rover. She stopped the vehicle, opened the door and began chatting to us."

"She talked about the weather and asked us what we were doing. She remarked how attractive the station was. John told her he had a jigsaw of the Scottish Parliament which he was going to give her."

"The Queen laughed at that, but I know she likes jigsaws. It was almost like chatting to your next-door neighbour."

On Sunday Alan kept his word and gave The Queen the jigsaw.

In the village hall children sang a song for The Queen and presented her with flowers.

After The Queen and Duke had driven back to Sandringham House the children gathered on the steps of the hall to show off their prizes.

Roswyn Hakesley-Brown, from Wolverhampton, said: "The Queen was charming and relaxed, spoke to a lot of people and appeared to be enjoying her celebration of 53 years on the throne."

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