

5th May 1955

The City of Gloucester proudly shared an historic anniversary with its Sovereign, when the Queen (accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh) was warmly welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor H. Gibson.

The City was celebrating the 800th anniversary of the granting of its first Royal Charter - and the Gloucester Regiment (of which the Queen was later to speak in glowing terms) provided the Guard of Honour.

Then, in the Park, came the welcome of ~~twelve~~ ^{thirteen}-thousand ~~xx~~ schoolchildren. ~~xxxx~~ A happy occasion that will long be treasured as a more personal anniversary - for many of them were seeing their Queen for the first time. So the six-hour tour began - with a visit to the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Waggon Company...

Several types of railway coaches were inspected, and, in this one, it was "standing-room only".

The Drive to the Guildhall was made through streets, richly-decorated with bunting, and with resounding cheers to herald the Royal Progress.

Inside the building came Royal recognition for long service to the community, and the presentation of a Gold ~~Rapier~~ Paper Cutter to Her Majesty - to mark this ^{FULL-SCALE} first visit by the Reigning Sovereign for ^{TWO HUNDRED} ~~forty-six~~ years.

No tour of the city would be complete without a visit to the beautiful eleventh century Cathedral, and the Royal Visitors were, no doubt, grateful for this opportunity to see the lovely building.

A floral presentation was made to the Queen - and during her stay, she showed keen interest in the proposed restoration plans for this Norman landmark in the West Country.

The presentation ceremony at the Royal Hospital was marred by the weather. Originally planned for the courtyard - it had to be held in the Board-room.

The crowded programme included a drive to the Technical College, where a display of local industrial products - proved of particular interest to the Duke.

But all too soon - Gloucester's memorable Royal anniversary came to an end.