

Royal Collection Summer Podcast 2010

Welcome to the Royal Collection podcast, I'm Rachel Salaman.

Every summer visitors to the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace are presented with a special exhibition. This year that exhibition is about the spectacle and variety of the royal calendar.

In this podcast I'll be meeting some of the people who play a part in the ceremonial events and royal receptions, both front of house...

Processing down the aisle with the other Heralds leading the Royal Family, I always remember the hairs on the back of my neck tingling. It was such a special event and you really felt that you were part of history.

...and behind the scenes.

The Queen approves the menus, and before the last Garden Party The Queen always visits the garden to come and thank all the staff that are involved.

And later in the podcast I'll hear about a summer first in Edinburgh, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Assistant Curator, Deborah Clarke, tells me about a new tour of Holyrood Abbey in the grounds of the Palace.

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But first, *The Queen's Year*, the special exhibition for the summer opening of Buckingham Palace.

Every year The Queen undertakes hundreds of duties as Head of State, Head of the Commonwealth, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Head of the British Armed Forces, and Patron of around 600 charities.

This exhibition reflects the remarkable variety of her role and allows visitors to see close-up some of the country's historic ceremonial costumes and objects that are rarely on display.

So why was *The Queen's year* chosen as the theme for this year's special exhibition? Here's curator, Kathryn Jones.

One of the reasons we chose it was we thought that people were really interested in what The Queen does each year, and obviously in this country people are aware of the spectacular ceremonies that she's involved in, like Trooping the Colour, State Opening of Parliament, and Garter Day, but there

are other private aspects to what she does which are not necessarily in the public eye, and we wanted to show some of those as well to give an idea of the variety of her role and the sort of work she undertakes each day.

So what should people know about The Queen's Year?

The Queen carries out over 400 engagements each year. One of the nice things about doing this exhibition in Buckingham Palace is, of course, it's a working Palace, and many of the events, like receptions and audiences and, of course, the Garden Parties, take place here. Each year she has over 40,000 guests at the Garden Parties in Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. Since she became Queen she's conferred over 400,000 honours, which I think is an astonishing fact, and a huge number of recipients are invited to the Palace every year. In a way it's an exhibition of what goes on in the Palace as much as The Queen's working life.

So what will people see in this exhibition?

Well there's a huge range of things, so a number of The Queen's dresses and, of course, her ceremonial robes, and associated with those robes, uniforms of people who work very closely in those ceremonies, so the Heralds and the Yeoman of the Guard for example. And then we have a number of her working items, so items from her desk that she uses during Privy Council meetings and gifts she's been presented with during the reign, particularly recently on state visits and during her regional visits. And then a few things that really reflect perhaps her personal interest in horses, so a number of trophies that she's won, both at Royal Windsor Horse Show and at Royal Ascot.

The Queen's love of horses is reflected in Trooping the Colour, she always used to ride her favourite mare, Burmese, and even now, even though she doesn't ride any more, when she returns to the Palace after the ceremony she's driven in a carriage and she always feeds the horses herself before she goes up onto the balcony to receive the final salute. Of course, a lot of these exhibits are backed up with both photographs of The Queen, because she's photographed in every aspect of her life these days, and of course film footage, some of it early, dating back to early days for her reign, and some more recent, and we wanted to reflect that. We have a montage of her Christmas broadcasts, because of course she's made a broadcast every year of her reign, and since 1957 those have been on television. Last year her Christmas broadcast was watched by 8.1 million people.

Where will the exhibition be located in the Palace?

The exhibition's actually spread over two rooms. We have part of it in the Ball Supper Room, and then when people go into the Ballroom they'll see both pieces related to Investitures, which of course take place in the Ballroom, and also an area reflecting the State Opening of Parliament, which took place quite recently so we hope that it will be in people's minds.

You mentioned the many regional visits that The Queen makes every year and the gifts that she receives during those visits, can you talk about a couple of the more unusual gifts that she's received?

Yes. She's given a huge range of things, and often they reflect the place that she's visited in some aspect. Indeed, this year she was actually given a tube sign which says Buckingham Palace, and there's a wonderful photograph of her receiving it and she looks absolutely delighted.

What are some of your own personal highlights from the exhibition?

The State Opening of Parliament is a spectacular event and we have some wonderful pieces. For example, we have the Mace which is carried in front of The Queen, and its silver gilt made in about 1660 for Charles II and it's still used today, and usually two of those are carried in front of The Queen when she processes into the House of Lords. And also the Cap of Maintenance, which is this ancient symbol of royalty, and of course The Queen's robe, which is spectacular; it's over 18 feet long, the train, made of velvet and lined with ermine and then with this amazing gold embroidery, and it takes four Pages to carry it normally. And then we have perhaps more modern things like hats that The Queen's worn to Royal Ascot, and we've got a whole range of hats dating right back to the 1960s and then one from this year, so it gives you a real idea of changing fashion and things that The Queen's enjoyed wearing.

We have some of her more personal things, like a dress that she wore to the Ghillies Ball which takes place in Balmoral each year; this was a dress designed by Norman Hartnell. I think one of the things people might be quite interested to see is the Maundy Money; each year just before Easter there's a special service held and The Queen presents this money to people who've done good service in their church or community, and it's quite interesting to see these coins close-to because they haven't really changed since Tudor times or even earlier. They are actually legal tender, and I think people might be surprised to realise that, but they represent one, two, three and four pence each.

This year's Summer Exhibition casts light on several ceremonial bodies that play an eye-catching role in The Queen's year. These include the Yeoman of the Guard with their scarlet doublets, the High Constables of Holyroodhouse, and the Royal Company of Archers.

They also include the College of Arms, or Herald's College. This consists of members of the Royal Household who are appointed by The Queen to be her Officers of Arms in Ordinary, with special responsibility for armorial, genealogical and ceremonial matters.

To find out what that means, I've come to meet Norfolk Herald of Arms Extraordinary, David Rankin-Hunt. David, what is a Herald?

Collectively the Heralds, or Officers of Arms, form part of the College of Arms, which was established way back in 1484. During that period the Heralds were responsible for proclaiming and organising, I suppose, the jousting tournaments, as well, of course, as assigning Coats of Arms to the leading families of the day. And I suppose it was this early experience of marshalling and introducing contestants at tournaments that led quite naturally to them taking responsibility for the organisation of State Ceremonial.

What's a typical day for a Herald?

It's mainly Heraldic work, designing Coats of Arms, and undertaking genealogical research.

How are Heralds involved in the key events of the royal calendar, like the Garter Day and the State Opening of Parliament?

Well certain specific Heralds have a role. For instance, the Garter Service, one of the Heralds is Secretary of the Order of the Garter, so he's very much involved in organising the event. The remaining Heralds, our role on the day is principally ceremonial, we lead the Royal Procession into St. George's Chapel.

Now your uniform will be on display as part of the Summer Exhibition, could you describe it?

Well the well-known part of the uniform, of course, is the tabard. It's a representation of the Royal Arms. It has four quarterings, which include two quarters of the Lions of England, a quarter showing the Harp of Ireland, and the fourth quarter has the Lion Rampant of Scotland. We actually wear what is called a coatee under the tabard, which is a very thick and heavy scarlet uniform, rather similar to a Guards Officer's tunic. It's covered in gold thread, and we also wear black knee breeches, black stockings, buckle shoes, and just to finish it off a Court Sword. It's quite difficult to put on, and whenever we go on duty we always have somebody who helps us get into it, because it's almost impossible to put on yourself. In very hot weather it's most uncomfortable, but it's all part of the duty.

What's it like to be a part of these ceremonial occasions?

Well it's enormous fun, and even though I've been doing it for 16 years I still enjoy them very much. They're very grand occasions. The one occasion that I remember best of all was perhaps The Queen's Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's, and I always remember processing down the aisle with the other Heralds leading the Royal Family, I always remember the hairs on the back of my neck tingling. It was such a special event and you really felt that you were part of history.

An enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that all the events in The Queen's calendar run smoothly, whether it's

planning a Garden Party or mounting the State Opening of Parliament, every detail must be considered, every potential problem anticipated.

Some of this organisation is done by the Master of the Household and his department. To find out more, I've come to Buckingham Palace to see Edward Griffiths, Deputy Master of the Household. Edward, what does the Master of the Household's department do?

The Master of the Household's department looks after all of the entertaining that The Queen hosts. The department includes all of the kitchens, the housekeeping, the service staff and the reception staff, including also all of the portering and the back of house staff.

What's your busiest time of year?

Well the present time is very busy, during the summer. We've just done the Garter Ceremony, followed by a week of Ascot, and now we're into the Garden Party season, which takes us up until the end of July.

Talk me through what goes on behind the scenes for a Garden Party?

Well a Garden Party holds generally between 7,500 to 8,000 guests, and we provide a tea during the afternoon, which is supplied in the tents. The Palace has the help of a caterer for these events, but it doesn't alter the fact that we have a huge amount of planning which starts many months in advance in the provision of tea in the garden, where we have to set up not only the tents but temporary kitchens, and we look very closely as to the style of the menu and how appropriate that will be to the many people that will attend.

So what do people get for tea at a Garden Party, and how is it presented?

The tea is presented on a buffet. The tea consists of a selection of sandwiches, there's a very good selection of small pastries, not forgetting a fruit cake, and there is, of course, a selection of tea, iced coffee and apple juice.

What's The Queen's involvement in the Garden Parties?

Well her main involvement is obviously the greeting of guests and the ceremonial side. The Queen approves the menus, and before the last Garden Party The Queen always visits the garden to come and thank all the staff that are involved. This includes the First Aid staff, the Girl Guides or Scouts who are helping to guide the bands, and the staff involved in the tentage.

To a lot of people the jobs in the Master of the Household department sound very unusual and exciting, is that how the staff see their jobs?

We certainly have jobs or things that we do that are very unique within the Royal Household, but I'd like to think that, for many people, the jobs that they do in so many ways compare to very many jobs elsewhere in business and industry, and I think what's really important from our point of view is that we try to achieve excellence in everything that we do, and it's very important for us, certainly from the image of what The Queen represents in the country, we are here to provide the most excellent support that we can for The Queen.

And now to Scotland and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. This summer, for the first time, visitors can take a guided tour of the ruins of Holyrood Abbey, which lie in the grounds of the Palace. I've come to see Deborah Clarke, Assistant Curator at the Palace, to find out more about the tours and the Abbey itself. Deborah, when and why was the Abbey founded?

Well the Abbey was founded in 1128 by King David I of Scotland, and he was out hunting near Edinburgh Castle in wonderful hunting ground and he was confronted by an angry stag. David put his hands out to save himself and discovered that he was holding a cross between the stag's antlers and he was saved. He took this to be a sign that he should make a religious foundation on the site, and he called the abbey that he founded Holyrood, or Holy Cross, after the sign of the cross.

So what's the Abbey's relationship with the Palace?

Well the Palace is built right next door to the Abbey, and this developed out of the Abbey because the Kings of Scotland used to come and stay in the Abbey, they liked the hunting ground nearby and the hospitality they received, until James IV decided he wished to build his own Palace, which developed out of these royal lodgings. So consequently the Palace is right beside the Abbey, and in fact in the 17th century it took over one of the towers of the West Front.

Can you tell us a bit about the history of the Abbey, how it's changed over the years?

When the Abbey was first built it was quite a small church, but its needs and requirements changed, and a much larger church was built in the 13th century around the smaller church. There's only a small doorway that still exists from the earliest church, the rest of the Abbey was built in stages, and you can see the change in style in the nave of the Abbey. The earliest part, the lower part, you can see Romanesque arches, and as the Abbey gets higher the style changes to the Gothic style with pointed arches.

So what's left of the Abbey today, what can people see?

Well sadly the Abbey has undergone a lot of damage over the years. In the 1540s it suffered attacks from English troops, there were attacks due to the Reformation, and after the dissolution of the monasteries the Abbey was abandoned by the Augustinian Canons that lived there. In the 17th century it was attacked again after James II and VII was deposed, and in the 18th century finally the roof fell in. The Abbey was left as a picturesque ruin associated with the romantic story of Mary Queen of Scots, who had lived in the Palace. It attracted many artists, poets, composers and other tourists to visit, and in fact Mendelssohn was inspired to compose his Scottish Symphony after visiting Holyrood Abbey. All that remains of the Abbey today is the nave, but there's a very impressive West Front which dominates the view down the Canongate in Edinburgh. Inside the nave shows its impressive Gothic architecture, with pillars and windows and arcading and tracery.

Has a tour of the Abbey ever been available before?

A tour of the Abbey is available as part of a tour of the Palace by an audio guide, but this is the first time that visitors will be able to take a guided tour of the Abbey with one of our Palace guides.

What does the tour consist of?

The tour consists of a look round the nave and the architecture of the nave, descriptions of the different types of architecture, and a walk round the foundations of the outlying areas.

What are the highlights?

Well one of the things that people will see when they step into the nave are some coffins, coffins that the Abbots and the Canons were buried in, and of course there's the Royal Vault which Queen Victoria set up to bring together the bones of some of those buried in the Abbey.

Assistant Curator, Deborah Clarke.

Tours of Holyrood Abbey are part of a visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. They run from the 18th of July to the 30th of September 2010, and they take place on the hour, every hour, from 10 until 5, except midday, lasting around 30 minutes.

The exhibition *The Queen's Year* is part of a visit to the Summer Opening of the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace, from the 27th of July to the 1st of October 2010. You can buy tickets online, by phone, and in person. Details are on the website, www.royalcollection.org.uk.

If you buy a special Royal Day Out ticket, you can visit the State Rooms, The Queen's Gallery and the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, and with all tickets bought directly from the Royal Collection you can return

free of charge for a year. On the day of your first visit all you have to do is sign and print your name on the reverse of your ticket, ask a member of staff to stamp and validate the ticket, and then retain this ticket for future visits.

Thanks for listening, goodbye.

Picture Captions, in order of appearance

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Exterior of Buckingham Palace

The Grand Staircase, Buckingham Palace, photographer Derry Moore

The Queen in Newcastle, November 2009 [Ian Jones Photography](#)

Heralds at Garter Day, Windsor Castle

Heralds at Garter Day, Windsor Castle

A buffet at a Garden Party, Buckingham Palace

The Queen at a Garden Party, Buckingham Palace

Exterior of the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Holyrood Abbey

A view inside Holyrood Abbey

A view inside Holyrood Abbey

The Queen and members of the Royal Family on the balcony at Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen visiting RAF Cranwell, May 2009 [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen on Commonwealth Day, March 2007 [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen visiting a school in Leicester, January 2009 [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Royal Procession at the State Opening of Parliament [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen meeting actor Daniel Craig at the Royal Film Performance of Casino Royale, November 2006 [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen laying her poppy wreath at the Cenotaph, Remembrance Sunday [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen's Speech at the State Opening of Parliament [Ian Jones Photography](#)

Trooping the Colour [Ian Jones Photography](#)

Garter Day, Windsor Castle

The Queen at Buckingham Palace during the presentation of Credentials [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen at the Chelsea Flower Show, May 2006 [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Ballroom at Buckingham Palace set for a State Banquet, photographer Simon Roberton

The Throne Room, Buckingham Palace, photographer Derry Moore

A Garden Party at Buckingham Palace [Ian Jones Photography](#)

The Queen at a Fashion Reception at Buckingham Palace

Evening dress of by Norman Hartnell, worn during the State Visit to the Netherlands, March 1958

The Queen at Garter Day, Windsor Castle [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Uniform of a State Trumpeter
 The Queen's Privy Council desk
 Ceramic dish presented to The Queen by the President of South Africa, February 2010
 The Queen with Her Majesty's jockey at Royal Ascot [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Trophy won at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, 1982 © Reserved/ The Royal Collection
 The Queen's vase trophy, won in 1979 © Reserved/ The Royal Collection
 The Queen's tunic worn at Trooping the Colour until 1986
 The Queen's saddle used at Trooping the Colour
 The Queen and members of the Royal Family on the balcony at Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 The Queen meeting Lady Gaga at the Royal Variety Performance, December 2009 [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Her Majesty The Queen at her desk in Buckingham Palace, c.1968 © Reserved/The Royal Collection. Photographer: Joan Williams
 The 2008 Christmas Broadcast from the Music Room, Buckingham Palace [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 The Ballroom at Buckingham Palace
 The State Opening of Parliament
 The Queen visiting Llandudno and meeting Wallace the barn owl from the North Wales Bird Trust, April 2010 [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Model of Wallace, Gromit and Morph presented to The Queen at Aardman Animations in 1996 © Reserved/ Royal Collection
 Pair of model cars from visit to Jaguar, Castle Bromwich, 1998
 The Queen receiving a Buckingham Palace underground sign from TFL workers at Aldgate Station, February 2010 [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Mace carried before The Queen during the State Opening of Parliament, c.1660
 Cap of Maintenance carried before The Queen during the State Opening of Parliament
 The State Opening of Parliament [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Crownless hat of pink silk flowers and green silk leaves, worn by The Queen to Royal Ascot, 1968
 White straw hat by Philip Somerville, trimmed with blue lace a blue silk band, worn to Royal Ascot, 2009
 Dark lavender hat trimmed with silk velvet flowers, worn by The Queen to Royal Ascot, 2008
 Evening dress of cream duchesse satin by Norman Hartnell and worn by The Queen to the Ghillies Ball at Balmoral Castle, 1971
 The Queen attending the Maundy Service at Guildford Cathedral, April 2006 [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Historic Maundy coins, dating from the reign of George III [Crown](#) ©, [photograph: The Royal Collection](#)
 Yeoman of the Guard at Garter Day, Windsor Castle
 Yeoman of the Guard at a Garden Party, Buckingham Palace
 High Constables at the Palace of Holyroodhouse © [Media Operations](#)
 The Queen and the Royal Company of Archers at the Palace of Holyroodhouse © [Media Operations](#)

Heralds at Garter Day, Windsor Castle
 The Queen and Heralds at the State Opening of Parliament
 Heralds processing to St George's Chapel on Garter Day
 A joust with Heralds in attendance, c.1560 © [The College of Arms](#)
 Badges with corresponding arms and crests from a late 15th century manuscript © [The College of Arms](#)
 Heralds riding in procession to the Westminster Tournament, 1511 © [The College of Arms](#)
 Slinger Coat of Arms © [The College of Arms](#)
 Grocott Coat of Arms © [The College of Arms](#)
 The State Opening of Parliament [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Heralds at Garter Day processing before the Garter Knights, Windsor Castle
 Heralds at Garter Day
 Close-up of Heralds at Garter Day
 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leaving St George's Chapel on Garter Day [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 Heralds in procession at Garter Day
 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the West Terrace, Buckingham Palace at the start of a Garden Party
 State Opening of Parliament [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 The table in prepared for a State Banquet at Windsor Castle
 The Queen greets guests at a reception of Lord-Lieutenants, Buckingham Palace, May 2010
 Food is prepared in the royal kitchens
 The table in prepared for a State Banquet at Windsor Castle
 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the steps of St George's Chapel following the Garter Service, Windsor Castle [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Royal Ascot [Ian Jones Photography](#)
 The Queen meeting guests at a Garden Party, Buckingham Palace, 22 June 2010
 A Garden Party at Buckingham Palace
 Staff preparing the buffet at a Garden Party, Buckingham Palace
 The buffet at a Garden Party, Buckingham Palace
 Cakes and pastries from the Garden Party buffet, Buckingham Palace
 The Queen meeting a guest at a Garden Party, Buckingham Palace, 22 June 2010
 The RAF band at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace
 A member of staff prepares the buffet service in the Buckingham Palace Ballroom ahead of a State banquet
 Food is prepared for a reception
 The table in prepared for a State Banquet at Windsor Castle
 The Queen and President of South Africa at a State Banquet, Buckingham Palace, February 2010
 Exterior of the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Holyrood Abbey
 Exterior of the Abbey
 King David I
 The symbol of Holyroodhouse; the stag's head with a cross between its antlers
 The interior of the Chapel Royal, showing the furnishings created for James VII and II in 1687. Engraving after Jan Wyck.

Long view of the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Holyrood Abbey

Exterior of the Palace of Holyroodhouse

Exterior of the Abbey from the Palace gardens

W.M. Bryce, *The Chapel Royal in 1750 before the roof fell*

Exterior of Holyrood Abbey

View into the nave of the Abbey

Exterior of Holyrood Abbey and Arthur's Seat

View into the nave of the Abbey

David Roberts, *Ruins of Holyrood Abbey*, 1823

Ernst Rietschel, *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*, c.1849

Exterior of Holyrood Abbey at the Palace at dusk

View into the nave of the Abbey

The Palace of Holyroodhouse and the Abbey from the gardens