



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

1992

I was Lady Penelope for a day!

by Anna Jones

In 1992 my dad Martin Jones was Promotions Officer at Wolverhampton Art Galleries and Museums. He occasionally used my little brother Robert and me as amusing 'props' for publicity photos, notably during French Week when I was dressed up as a French mademoiselle with striped jersey and beret, waving a tricolour. I still feature to this day as a four-year-old child in the end panel of the 'Wolverhampton' mural on the passenger footbridge at Wolverhampton High Level Station.

Together with the Civic photographer Dave Finchett, Dad spent almost a year getting together a 'blockbuster' exhibition about the career of Gerry Anderson, the creator of the 1960s puppet series Thunderbirds. He contacted numerous collectors around the country who owned Thunderbirds memorabilia - some had the original moulds of the Thunderbirds characters, some the sets, and others had scaled-down models of the vehicles used in the series.

Early in the planning, Dad travelled with Gallery staff down to meet Gerry Anderson at his mansion in Hertfordshire where he had lunch with Gerry and his wife and discussed the layout of the exhibition. Gerry Anderson came to open the show in July 1992.

Lady Penelope's famous vehicle, FAB 1, was owned by a collector in Preston and it took pride of place in the West Room at the Gallery at the exhibition, which was called 'Thunderbirds are Go! The Worlds of Gerry Anderson'. The show attracted 84,000 visitors over 10 weeks in summer 1992.

The car was a futuristic version of a Rolls Royce, painted in Pink, and was 1/8th the size of a real Rolls. For the photo I had to dress up as a 'lady' with a wide brimmed hat as worn by Lady Penelope in the series and my brother Rob dressed up as her chauffeur Parker!



A three-year-old Anna Jones was pictured by the Express and Star sitting on the bonnet of the pink Rolls Royce 'Fab1'



The 1992 Thunderbirds exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery attracted 80,000 visitors over 10 weeks—still the most successful show in the Gallery's history.