



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

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

1977

Roses for the Queen

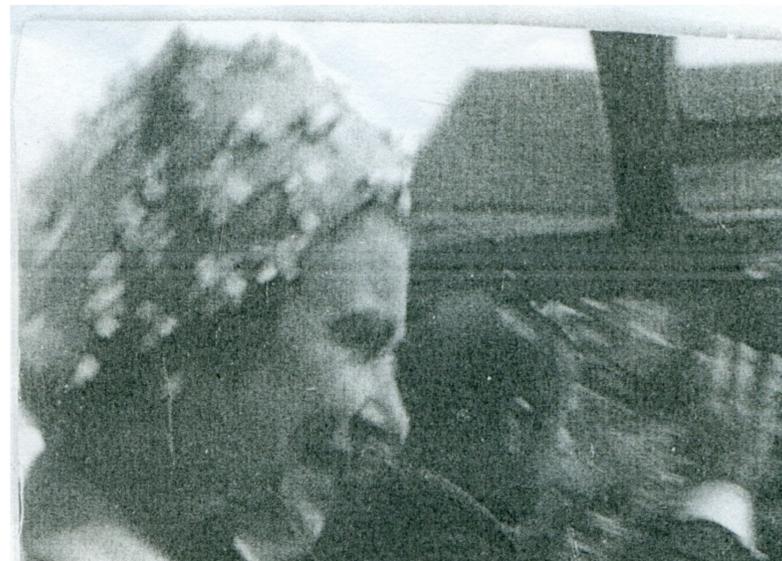
by Kerry Ball

It was a busy morning at the home of my mum and dad, Vera and Arthur Ball. They woke the children up early and had us decorating the outside of the house, front and back. We put flags and bunting everywhere – the Queen was coming to town! Inspired by Mum's enthusiasm, we were all buzzing with excitement, like on Christmas morning.

I looked up the hill on Kent Street, Upper Gornal as cheers went up. "Quick, quick," said Mum to all us kids, "She's coming down the hill. She's here! She's here!" The car came slowly down and I held out the big bouquet of roses – to my amazement the Rolls Royce limousine pulled to a halt right by us.

I walked over to the car with mum as the window slowly rolled down, then mum and I curtseyed to the Queen! I said "These are for you," and she replied: "Thank you, they're beautiful." I glanced at Prince Philip who smiled, and I passed the flowers through the window to the Queen. Then I said "May I take a photo?" and she said "Yes". I stood back and clicked with my little camera. I'd like to share this moment that my parents made possible – they always made sure we had plenty of happy moments in our lives. The family party afterwards was non-stop and a great day for all of us, especially me and my mum.

The roses I gave the Queen were from Mum's garden but the bushes were originally from my nan's garden (Alice Prosser of Sedgley). Today they're planted at my house. I call them the 'generation rose' and still pick them on special occasions.



Kerry's photo of the Queen passing through Kent Street, Upper Gornal.



The Express and Star article about Kerry's meeting with the Queen in 1977.