

PRINCESS ELIZABETH VISITS THE MIDLANDS

Lilleshall Hall, near Newport, Shropshire, is now a national recreation centre, its beautiful grounds devoted to the training of part-time coaches and to young people who fancy a sports training holiday. Though why anyone should want to do this for a holiday is a bit of a mystery.

Reminding sports lovers assembled for the opening that the centre was a gift of the people of South Africa Princess Elizabeth continued:

"I now have much pleasure in declaring the Lilleshall National Recreation Centre open."

With accommodation for 100 residents and facilities for all kinds of sport, Lilleshall will depend for its running on the support it gets - and that ought to be plenty! The Central Council of Physical Recreation, of which the King is patron - has done a grand job.

At Worcester when the Princess visited the Cathedral, a hundred-thousand people lined the streets, and there was a Guard of Honour of ex-servicemen.

During a visit to the Worcester Royal Porcelain Works, to mark its bi-centenary, the Princess saw craftsmen at work maintaining the world-wide fame of the company. Nothing has yet been made to match the hand-craftsmen's work on this delicate craft.

At Edmond, Princess Elizabeth opened the new students quarters at the Harper Adams College and met some of the other inhabitants!

On to Birmingham for a six hours' visit. Here she is admiring the beautiful handicraft at the Women's Festival Exhibition.

In crowded Victoria Square the newly-cast bronze statue of the last and greatest Queen to rule our land was ready for the Princess to unveil.

When the Princess pulled the cord a beautiful statue of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, was revealed.

There was a big crowd of excited youngsters at Villa Park when the Princess arrived to see a demonstration of physical recreation.

Two-thousand-five-hundred athletes took part.

The younger ones represented 150 schools and got on with the job like veterans.

At the Civic Centre, Birmingham provided something unusual for a Royal duty ... a veteran cars race. To mark the occasion the Midland section of the Veteran Car Club gave the Princess a set of clockwork vehicles for Prince Charles. Pity they couldn't spare one of these!

At a signal from the Princess, 100 veteran cars roar into action, flat out for Coventry ... and heaven help Lady Godiva if she was out riding.

Did we say 100 roared into action? Well, say 99, anyway!

Well done, Birmingham, for providing a light interlude in the Princess' busy programme and at the same time reminding us that they know how to build good cars in the Midlands.