

QUEEN IN WALLINGFORD AND ABINGDON

The Queen visits Abingdon in Berkshire, a town with thirteen centuries of history, which was famous long before King Alfred fought the Danes; a thriving agricultural centre, and also a popular Thames-side resort. Her Majesty is welcomed to Abingdon by the Mayor, Councillor C.G. Stow.

The Main purpose of the Royal visit is the reopening of the restored County Hall, which was built by Indigo Jones in 1677.

The Queen sees treasures of Abingdon's past at the Museum, where she signs the visitors' book.

The County Hall has many royal associations, notably with Charles the Second. Outside the building, Her Majesty unveils a plaque to commemorate its restoration.

The formal ceremony over, Abingdon's morris dancers celebrate the Queen's visit with a traditional performance in the streets of the ancient borough.

And now the Queen watches another Abingdon custom - the celebrated "bun throwing". Crowds jump to catch the buns which are thrown from the roof of the County Hall by alderman and other civic leaders.

It's just four centuries since Queen Mary granted a royal charter to Abingdon. And they're still celebrating.

The Queen's next call is at Wallingford - an even older town, whose story goes back to pre-Roman times. Though its population is today only about 4,000, it was once the principal town of Berkshire, and received its royal charter 800 years ago, from King Henry the Second.

The Queen is received at the Town Hall by the Mayor of Wallingford, Councillor James Johnstone.

The Royal visit to Berkshire ends with an inspection of the Queen's Flight at R.A.F. Station, Benson, where the men who are responsible for the speed and safety of so many of the Royal Family's journey's cheer the Queen on her way.