

Preparations for the Queen's Visit
Extracts from the Norwich Proceedings Book,
Document 1
The Guildhall June-July 1578

20 June 1578

This day it is agreed that it shall be lawful for **any citizen** or inhabitant to procure any **mason, carpenter, joiner, reeder [thatcher], painter,** and others of such like occupation, out of any place in the country, and **to work here in the City with the citizens** and inhabitants for **the repairing and beautifying of the houses** here between this and the last day of August next. And they to work without prejudice or forfeiture, notwithstanding any law heretofore made in this City. And that **all citizens** and inhabitants that shall have in commandment to store **restore and to cast plaster their houses** towards the street side, and shall not do it between this and the last day of July next ensuing, shall suffer **pain of imprisonment,** and to undergo such **fine and penalty** as Master Mayor and certain of the justices shall set upon them. And that tilers, plasterers, or any other of what occupation soever they be, may without prejudice do anything for the setting forth or **beautifying of any houses towards the street side.**

24 June 1578

And that order be taken among the lime-burners that they sell not their lime so near but that there may be always reserved sufficient [lime] to serve the necessity of the City and the citizens.

The Arrival of Queen Elizabeth in the City of Norwich
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,
Document 2
The Guildhall August 1578

Then **Her Majesty drew near the Gates of the City called St Stephen's Gate**, which with the walls there were both gallantly and strongly repaired. **The gate itself was thus enriched and beautified.** First the portcullis was new made both timber and iron, then the outward side of the gate was thus beautified. The Queen's arms were most richly and beautifully set forth in the chief front of the gate. On the one side thereof, but somewhat lower, was placed the scutcheon of St George, or St George his cross; on the other side, the arms of the City, and directly under the Queen's Majesty's arms was placed the falcon, her Highness' badge in due form, and under the same were written these words: *God and the Queen we serve*. The inner side of the gate was thus beautified. On the right side was gorgeously set forth the red rose, signifying the House of York, on the left side, the white rose, representing the House of Lancaster. **In the midst was the white and red rose united**, expressing the union, under the which was placed by descent, the arms of the Queen, and under that were written these two verses:

DIVISION kindled strife,

Blessed UNION quenched the flame:

Thence sprang our noble PHOENIX dear,

The peerless prince of FAME.

And besides that, at this gate, the **Waits of the City were placed with loud music**, who cheerfully and melodiously welcomed Her Majesty into the City. And then passed she forward, through St Stephen's Street, where the first pageant was placed in [the] form following.

The Gift-Giving Masque for Queen Elizabeth
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,
Document 3
The Guildhall August 1578

Immediately after the beginning of the oration, Her Majesty called to her the French Ambassadors, whereof there were three, and divers [several] English lords, and willed them to harken [listen] – and she herself was very attentive, even until the end thereof. And the oration ended, after she had given great thanks therefore to Master Lymbert, she said to him, ‘it is the best that ever I heard, you shall have my hand,’ and pulled off her glove, and gave him her hand to kiss. Which before [her] kneeling on his knee, he arose and kissed, and then she departed to the Court [at Norwich Cathedral], without any other show that night, but that she sent back to know his name.

The next night, being Thursday, there was an excellent princely masque brought before her after supper, by Master Goldingham, in the Privy Chamber [at the Bishop’s Palace]. It was of gods and goddesses, both strangely and richly apparelled.

The first that entered was
MERCURY.

Then two torch-bearers more.

Then JUPITER and JUNO.

Then two torch-bearers more.

Then MARS and VENUS.

Then two torch-bearers more.

Then APOLLO and PALLAS.

Then two torch-bearers.

Then NEPTUNE and DIANA.

And last cometh CUPID, and

concludeth the matter.

Thomas Churchyard's Fairy Farewell Show for Queen Elizabeth
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,
Document 4
The Guildhall August 1578

On the Friday, I chose a ground, by the which the Queen must pass, enclosing my company in the corner of a field, being defenced with high and thick bushes, and there some parts I made, which the boys might miss because the time was short for the learning of those parts. But I, being resolved to do somewhat **might make the Queen** laugh, appointed that seven boys of twelve should pass through a hedge from the place of our abode, and deliver seven speeches, which follow in the next leaf. And these boys, you must understand, were dressed like **nymphs of the water**, and were to play by a device and degrees **the Fairies, and to dance** like the Fairies. Their attire, and coming so strangely out, I know made the Queen's Highness smile and laugh withal. And I, hearing this good hope, being apparelled like a water sprite, began to sound a timbrel. And the rest with me, all the twelve nymphs together, sounded timbrels likewise. And although I had no great hearting yet as I durst [dared], **I lead the young foolish Fairies a dance**, which boldness of mine bred no disgrace, and, as I heard said, was well taken. The Queen, upon our retiring [returning] in, hastened to Her Highness' lodging which was seven miles off. And at that present, **when the show ended, it was past 5 of the clock.**

**Thomas Churchyard's printed account of the entertainments
prepared for Queen Elizabeth in Norwich Extracts from the Norwich
Assembly Proceedings Book, Document 5**

The Guildhall August 1578

To the Reader

To write of the receiving of Her Highness into Norfolk in every point, as matter may move me, would contain a great time, in making a just rehearsal thereof.

The Norfolk gentlemen, hearing how dutifully their neighbours had received the Prince, prepared in like sort to show themselves dutiful. And so, in most gallantest manner, assembled and set forward with five and twenty hundred horsemen, whereof, were six hundred gentlemen, so bravely attired and mounted, as indeed was worthy the noting, which goodly company waited on their Sherriff a long season. But in good sooth as I have heard credibly spoken, **the banquets and feasts** began here afresh, and all kind of triumphs that might be devised, were put in practice and proof. The Earl of Surrey did show most sumptuous cheer, in whose park were speeches well set out, and a special device much commended. And the rest, as a number of gentlemen whose names I have not, were no whit behind to the uttermost of their abilities, in all that might be done and devised.

But when the **Queen's Majesty came to Norwich**, the substance of the whole triumph and feasting, was in a manner there new to begin, for order was taken there, **that every day, for six days together**, a show of some strange device should be seen.

Preparations for the Queen's Visit
Extracts from the Norwich Proceedings Book,

Document I

The Guildhall June-July 1578

20 June 1578

This day it is agreed that it shall be lawful for any citizen or inhabitant to procure any mason, carpenter, joiner, reeder, painter, and others of such like occupation, out of any place in the country, and to work here in the City with the citizens and inhabitants for the repairing and beautifying of the houses here between this and the last day of August next. And they to work without prejudice or forfeiture, notwithstanding any law heretofore made in this City. And that all citizens and inhabitants that shall have in commandment to store restore and to cast plaster their houses towards the street side, and shall not do it between this and the last day of July next ensuing, shall suffer pain of imprisonment, and to undergo such fine and penalty as Master Mayor and certain of the justices shall set upon them. And that tilers, plasterers, or any other of what occupation soever they be, may without prejudice do anything for the setting forth or beautifying of any houses towards the street side.

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The Arrival of Queen Elizabeth in the City of Norwich
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,
Document 2, The Guildhall August 1578

Then Her Majesty drew near the Gates of the City called St Stephen's Gate, which with the walls there were both gallantly and strongly repaired. **The gate itself was thus enriched and beautified.** First the portcullis was new made both timber and iron, then the outward side of the gate was thus beautified. The Queen's arms were most richly and beautifully set forth in the chief front of the gate. On the one side thereof, but somewhat lower, was placed the scutcheon of St George, or St George his cross; on the other side, the arms of the City, and directly under the Queen's Majesty's arms was placed the falcon, her Highness' badge in due form, and under the same were written these words: *God and the Queen we serve.* The inner side of the gate was thus beautified. On the right side was gorgeously set forth the red rose, signifying the House of York, on the left side, the white rose, representing the House of Lancaster. **In the midst was the white and red rose united,** expressing the union, under the which was placed by descent, the arms of the Queen, and under that were written these two verses:

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Thence sprang our noble PHOENIX dear,

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The Gift-Giving Masque for Queen Elizabeth
Extracts from the Norwich Assembly Proceedings Book,

Document 3

The Guildhall August 1578

Immediately after the beginning of the oration, Her Majesty called to her the French Ambassadors, whereof there were three, and divers [several] English lords, and willed them to harken [listen] - and she herself was very attentive, even until the end thereof. And the oration ended, after she had given great thanks therefore to Master Lymbert, she said to him, 'it is the best that ever I heard, you shall have my hand,' and pulled off her glove, and gave him her hand to kiss. Which before [her] kneeling on his knee, he arose and kissed, and then she departed to the Court [at Norwich Cathedral], without any other show that night, but that she sent back to know his name. The next night, being Thursday, there was an excellent princely masque brought before her after supper, by Master Goldingham, in the Privy Chamber [at the Bishop's Palace]. It was of gods and goddesses, both strangely and richly apparelled.

The first that entered was

MERCURY.

Then two torch-bearers more.

Then JUPITER and JUNO.

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Thomas Churchyard's Fairy Farewell Show for Queen Elizabeth

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The Guildhall August 1578

On the Friday, I chose a ground, by the which the Queen must pass, enclosing my company in the corner of a field, being defenced with high and thick bushes, and there some parts I made, which the boys might miss because the time was short for the learning of those parts. But I, being resolved to do somewhat might make the Queen laugh, appointed that seven boys of twelve should pass through a hedge from the place of our abode, and deliver seven speeches, which follow in the next leaf.

And these boys, you must understand, were dressed like nymphs of the water, and were to play by a device and degrees the Fairies, and to dance like the Fairies. Their attire, and coming so strangely out, I know made the Queen's Highness smile and laugh withal. And I, hearing this good hope, being apparelled like a water sprite, began to sound a timbrel. And the rest with me, all the twelve nymphs together, sounded timbrels likewise. And although I had no great hearting yet as I durst [dared], I lead the young foolish Fairies a dance, which boldness of mine bred no disgrace, and, as I heard said, was well taken. The Queen, upon our retiring [returning] in, hastened to Her Highness' lodging which was seven miles off. And at that present, when the show ended, it was past 5 of the clock.

Thomas Churchyard's printed account of the entertainments prepared for
Queen Elizabeth in Norwich Extracts from the Norwich Assembly

Proceedings Book, Document 5

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The Norfolk gentlemen, hearing how dutifully their neighbours had received the
Prince, prepared in like sort to show themselves dutiful. And so, in most
gallantest manner, assembled and set forward with five and twenty hundred
horsemen, whereof, were six hundred gentlemen, so bravely attired and
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But when the Queen's Majesty came to Norwich, the substance of the whole
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