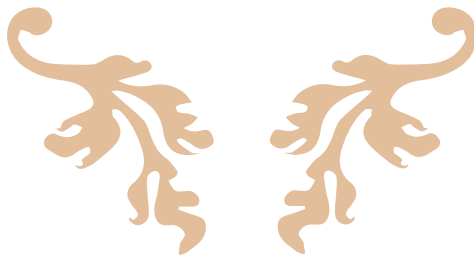


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Putting On A Progress 1578

# Pageantry, People & Places

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## POP 1578 Resource Pack

# The People of the 1578 Royal Progress

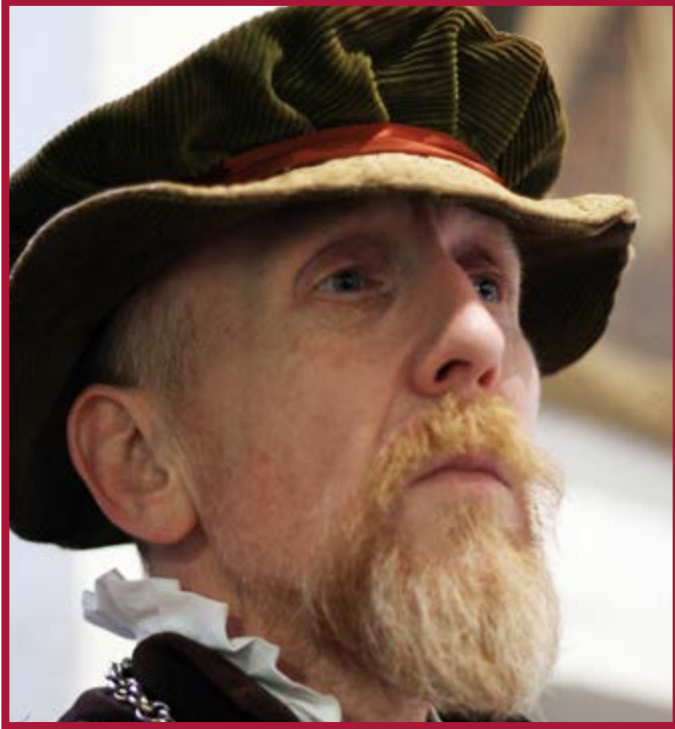


- During Mary I's reign there was a lot of tension between the sisters. Mary was a devout Catholic, whilst Elizabeth had been educated a Protestant. Elizabeth was imprisoned for nearly a year during her sister Mary's reign on suspicion of supporting Protestant rebels during the Wyatt's Rebellion.
- Elizabeth ascended to the throne at age 25 in November 1558. During her coronation she was warmly accepted by the public, particularly those of Protestant faith.
- One of her first acts as Queen was to establish an English Protestant church, of which she became Supreme Governor.
- Elizabeth endeavoured to deliver a form of Protestantism that wouldn't affront Catholics too profoundly. This was often against the advice of her Privy Council and the Church.
- Although she would keep a Protestant government throughout her reign. Elizabeth was often threatened by recusants, including several assassination attempts.
- A large threat to Elizabeth's throne was by her cousin Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary was a Catholic figurehead and Catholic plotters wanted to see Mary replace Elizabeth to restore England to its former religion. Elizabeth kept Mary in prison for roughly 19 years but after the Babington Plot of 1586, she was forced to bring Mary to trial resulting in her guilty sentence and eventual beheading.
- Catholic Spain was also a threat to England. An invasion in 1588, known as the Spanish Armada was the culmination of years of hostility. England defeated Spain and due to Elizabeth maintaining a fleet of well-equipped fighting ships.
- Elizabeth had many suitors throughout her life, but never married. She was said to be in love with her childhood friend, and member of her Privy Council, Robert Dudley. After the suspicious death of his first wife, many expected the two to be wed, however they never did, likely due to the scandal it would cause among the nobility and the disapproval shown by others within her Privy Council. Elizabeth was furious upon finding Dudley had remarried without her approval. Upon her own death a letter from Dudley was found in her nightstand marked "his last letter".
- The Elizabethan Era provided stability after the short reigns of her siblings. During her 44 year reign there was an influx in English drama, most notably the work of William Shakespeare.

## Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

- Daughter of Henry VII and Anne Boleyn, his second wife who was beheaded, annulling their marriage and declaring Elizabeth illegitimate.
- Elizabeth was well educated, by the time she was 11 she could write in English, Italian, and Latin. She was also fluent in French, Dutch, and Spanish, later learning Greek.
- Upon her younger brother, Edward VI, accession to the throne at age 9, she was taken into the household of Catherine Parr and her husband Thomas Seymour, Uncle to King Edward and Lord Protector. History indicates this was a tumultuous time for Elizabeth. After the death of Parr, Seymour was determined to marry Elizabeth to maintain raise his status within the royal family: Seymour was eventually executed for conspiracy in 1549.
- Known as the Virgin Queen, she became celebrated for her virginity as a symbol of her dedication to her country and people. She was compared to the Virgin Mary, depicted as more than an average woman. She would ultimately insist that she was married to her kingdom and its people.
- Near to the end of Elizabeth's life she was reluctant to name an heir as she was concerned this would result in her being overthrown or encouraging an uprising.
- Elizabeth was in regular contact with James VI of Scotland through his Ambassadors. James would go on to succeed her as James I, King of England & VI of Scotland.
- Overall, Elizabeth's always shrewd and, when necessary, decisive leadership brought successes during a period of great danger both at home and abroad. She died at Richmond Palace on 24 March 1603, aged 69. The date of her accession was a national holiday for two hundred years. James VI of Scotland was Elizabeth's successor and became James I of England.

# Privy Councillors



## Robert Dudley

### *Earl of Leicester (1532-88)*

**Born:** 24 June 1532, London

**Died:** 4 September 1588, Cornbury Park Estate

- Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, was an English statesman and the favourite of Elizabeth I from her accession until his death.
- Robert Dudley was the fifth son of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. John Dudley conspired to put Lady Jane Gray on the throne in 1553 which resulted in Robert being imprisoned in the Tower of London.
- Robert Dudley was a life-long friend to Elizabeth. Their paths crossed often throughout their youth.
- Dudley was tutored by Roger Ascham whom also tutored the young Queen.
- He assisted several rebellions before being appointment to Elizabeth's Privy Council and had a firm hand in the politics within Norfolk.
- Dudley became favourite to Elizabeth upon her accession. It was noted that the pair were rarely seen apart. Many rumours circulated that they were to become married upon the death of Dudley's first wife, Amy, who was found suspiciously dead after falling down a flight of stairs in 1560.
- Within the Privy Council, Dudley was appointed Master of the Horse, responsible for the organisation and upkeep of the Queen's transportation, which provided him close company with the Queen.
- In 1587, he became Lord Steward, responsible for the upkeep of the royal home, ensuring food and festivities were provide for the Queen and her council.

- Much scandal followed Dudley, usually in relation to his romantic affairs, he infuriated the Queen when she was informed he had married her first cousin once removed.
- Dudley died unexpectedly on his way to Buxton to take the healing waters in 1588. The Queen fell into a deep grief, mourning in her chamber for several days.
- Elizabeth would keep the final letter he wrote to her in her bedside treasure box until she died 15 years later.



## William Cecil, Lord Burghley

### *1<sup>st</sup> Baron Burghley (1520-98)*

**Born:** 13 September 1520, Bourne, Lincolnshire

**Died:** 4 August 1598, Westminster, London

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Burghley, was an English statesman, the chief adviser of Queen Elizabeth I, Secretary of State and Lord High Treasurer from 1572. Cecil was the son of a rich landowner, Sir Richard Cecil.
- He received an excellent education, tutored by Roger Ascham and John Cheke, who also tutored the Queen Elizabeth I.
- Cecil married Cheke's daughter Mary, with whom they had one son before Mary's death less than a year later.
- A few years later he would marry Mildred Cooke, another very intelligent woman tutored by Ascham.
- Cecil worked diligently in politics, holding several important positions prior to the ascension of Elizabeth. He was employed in the administration of the lands of Princess Elizabeth, working closely together before she even began her reign.
- Upon becoming Queen, Elizabeth relied on Cecil, making him Secretary of State in her court. He kept a tight hold on the crown finances and lead the Queen's Privy Council. He remained the most important minister for the majority of the Queen's reign.
- Burghley collapsed in 1598, perhaps from a stroke or heart attack, dying shortly afterwards at his London residence.



## Sir Francis Walsingham

**Born:** c.1532, Chislehurst, Kent

**Died:** 6 April 1590, London

- Walsingham was born into a life of gentry, he spent his early life studying at Cambridge University and travelling Europe, before beginning a career in law.
- Walsingham was a devoted Protestant, exiled from England during Mary Tudor's reign.
- When Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne, Walsingham was able to return to England.
- At one point Walsingham was an English Ambassador in Paris, helping to arrange the potential marriage between the English Queen and French nobility. But due to the King's Catholicism, this marriage never went ahead. Negotiations were also managed by Walsingham between the Queen and Francis, Duke d'Alencon, who was the Protestant youngest brother of Henry III. This marriage also never went ahead.
- Walsingham was instrumental in the collapse of the Ridolfi plot, which sought to assassinate Queen Elizabeth I and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots.
- In December 1573, Walsingham was appointed joint Secretary of State within her Privy Council. The duties of Secretary of State were not formally defined, however within this role Walsingham was to determine the agenda of Council meetings, which gave him great influence in all areas of government.
- Walsingham engaged in espionage for the government in pursuit to drive out Catholicism from England and preserve the new Elizabethan religion.
- He was largely involved in the entrapment, capture and execution of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1586.
- Walsingham created a large intelligence network across Europe and the Mediterranean, which he utilised to avoid conflict and wield power.

## Sir Christopher Hatton

**Born:** 12 December 1540, Holdenby, Northamptonshire

**Died:** 20 November 1591, Ely Place, London

- An English politician, Lord Chancellor of England and a favourite of Elizabeth I of England. He was one of the judges who found Mary, Queen of Scots guilty of treason.
- Hatton was the second son of William Hatton of Holdenby.
- He became one of the Queen's gentlemen pensioners and a gentleman of the Privy Chamber, and in July 1572 Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard.
- Due to his talented dancing and handsome looks Hatton won the Queen's affection and he spent his life and wealth trying to impress her.
- On 11 November 1577, he became Vice-Chamberlain of the royal household and was sworn into the Privy Council. That same month he was knighted.
- In June 1578, the Queen formally granted him the Bishop of Ely's house in Ely Place, Holborn, despite vigorous protests from the Bishop.
- Hatton rose in status again becoming the Queen's Lord Chancellor from 1587-1591.
- Hatton was a leading spokesman for Elizabeth in the House of Commons and was a key figure for the examination of Catholic plotters most notable at the trial of Anthony Babington in 1586.
- He was a commissioner for the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots.
- In 1591 his health declined and he passed away at Ely Place, 9 days after the Queen had visited him.

# Foreigners at Court

## Bernardino de Mendoza

*Spanish (c.1540-1604)*

- In 1560 Mendoza joined the army of Phillip II and fought for more than 15 years in the Low Countries under the command of the Duke of Alba.
- In 1576 he was appointed a member of the military order of St James, in recognition of those military achievements.
- In 1578 Phillip II sent Mendoza to London as his ambassador where he was a diplomat and also a spy who sent reports back to Spain in secret codes.
- During the 1578 Progress he was often known to gossip at court in London and write disparaging letters about the reputation of Elizabeth's court during the journey.
- Mendoza was implicated in the Throckmorton Plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth.
- He was expelled in 1584 after being found guilty of plotting against Elizabeth and disturbing the realm of England.



## Alexander Seton, Lord Dunfermline

*Scottish (1555-1622)*

- Seton was born into a Roman Catholic family in East Lothian, Scotland.
- After the Scottish Reformation in 1560 his family remained Roman Catholic and supported Mary Queen of Scots.
- Although Catholic, Seton was understood to conform outwardly to Protestantism.
- Seton joined the 1578 Progress on July 25th to engage in talks with the Privy Council.
- After Mary was exiled in England, Seton continued to support her claim to the Scottish throne.
- Seton had a long political career, he served as Lord President of the Scottish Court of Session from 1598 to 1604, Lord Chancellor of Scotland from 1604 to 1622 and as a Lord High Commissioner to the Parliament of Scotland.



## Michael de Castelnau, Sieur de la Mauvissiere

*French (1520-1592)*

- Throughout his life Castelnau spent time in Scotland, France and England.
- After King Francis II death in 1560 he accompanied the king's widow, Mary, Queen of Scots, to England and stayed with her for a year where he unsuccessfully tried to bring Mary and Elizabeth together.
- He became Elizabeth's French ambassador for a second time in 1572 where he stayed in position for 10 years.
- He promoted the marriage between Elizabeth and Duc D' Alencon to strengthen the alliance the two countries.



# Other People



## Francois, Duc D'Alençon French (1555-1584)

- Alençon was the youngest son of King Henry II of France and Catherine de' Medici.
- When he was 8 he was scarred by smallpox which left scars on his face and a slightly deformed spine.
- In 1574, following the death of his brother Charles IX of France and the accession of his other brother Henry III of France, he became heir to the throne.
- In 1576 he was made Duke of Anjou, Touraine, and Berry.
- Alençon was some 20 years younger than Elizabeth, Walsingham also stated he was ugly and void of good humour. But in 1579 marriage was negotiated.
- Even though Queen Elizabeth seemed truly fond of her 'frog', she would never commit to the marriage.



## Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587)

- Mary, Queen of Scots was born on 8th December 1542 at Linlithgow Palace and became Queen of Scots when she was 6 days old.
- In 1543, when she was just 6 months old, Henry VIII proposed a marriage between his only son Edward and Mary, when she reached the age of 10, enabling a union between Scotland and England.
- In the eyes of many Catholics, Queen Elizabeth was illegitimate and Mary was the rightful Queen of England, as the senior surviving legitimate descendant of Henry VII through her grandmother, Margaret Tudor.
- In 1548 Mary married the French Dauphin to help form a Catholic alliance against Protestant England, however in 1561 the Dauphin died and Mary returned to Scotland.
- In 1565 Mary married her English born, half cousin, Henry, Lord Darnley. Darnley proved to be a drunkard and Mary ended up ruling Scotland alone.
- Darnley was jealous of Mary's secretary David Riccio, as well as many others. Darnley, with a group of allies, murdered Riccio in front of Mary's eyes.
- Revenge for Riccio's death came in 1567 with the suspected murder of Darnley in an explosion.
- Mary went on to marry James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell (who was suspected of killing Darnley).
- Twenty-six Scottish peers, known as the Confederate Lords, turned against Mary and Bothwell as they did not approve of her marriage. Bothwell was given safe passage but Mary was imprisoned in Leven Castle.



## Thomas Churchyard (1523-1604)

- Thomas Churchyard was born in Shrewsbury and was the son of a farmer.
- After a good education, he entered the household of the Earl of Surrey, Henry Howard, where he learned about art and poetry from his patron. This education led him to write many poetry books during his life.
- In 1541 he became a soldier and spent the next 30 years on various campaigns.
- In 1574 he was employed to devise the pageant for Queen Elizabeth I in Bristol and then again in 1578 for her Progress in Norwich.
- He wrote an account of the 1578 Progress entertainment called 'The Queenes Majesties Entertaynement in Suffolke and Norfolke'.



## Edmund Freke *Bishop of Norwich (1516-1591)*

- Freke was born in Essex, and educated at Cambridge.
- In 1565 he was appointed Canon of the Sixth Stall at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, a position he held until 1572.
- He was Dean of Salisbury and Dean of Rochester from 1571 to 1572 when he became Bishop of Rochester and was simultaneously Archdeacon of Canterbury.
- In 1575, he became Bishop of Norwich.
- The Privy Council felt Freake was disinclined to act against recusants whilst coming down heavily on Puritanism, a more extreme faction of Protestantism.
- In 1584, he became Bishop of Worcester.



# Itinerary of the 1578 Progress: Pageantry, Places and Privy Council meetings

## Suffolk

### Kedington

**Date:** Friday 1st August, 1578

**Duration:** 1 night

**House:** Gilden Hall

**Host:** Sir Thomas Barnardiston of Kedington

**Family Details:** The Barnardistons were a well-established, wealthy, Protestant family local to Kedington. Their parlour windows, were decorated with heraldic shields and badges proclaiming their ancestry and family connections. Educated by Sir John Cheke, Thomas was sent to Geneva for safety during Mary I reign. QE knighted Thomas during the 1578 Progress at Bury St Edmunds. Sir Thomas Barnardiston was interred in a magnificent tomb in his local church.

**Religion:** Protestant

**Status:** Justice of the Peace. Received a knighthood during QE's visit in 1578

**Events:** Nothing Known

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### Cavendish

**Date:** Saturday 2nd August, 1578

**Duration:** Dinner only

**House:** Colte Hall

**Host:** George Colte

**Family Details:** Colte had recently inherited his father's estate making him incredibly wealthy. QE knighted George on her visit, before departing.

**Religion:** Conformist

**Status:** Justice of the Peace. Received a knighthood during QE's visit in 1578

**Events:** Nothing Known



# Long Melford

**Date:** Saturday 2nd August, 1578

**Duration:** 3 nights

**House:** Melford Hall

**Host:** Sir William Cordell

**Family Details:** Sir William was local man who had made his fortune as a lawyer and rose to eminence through the reins of four sovereigns. Under Mary I he became Solicitor General and Speaker of the House of Commons, then the Master of the Rolls in 1557. He was knighted in 1558. Cordell had 4 children who all died in childhood, so he had no direct heir to inherit the great house.

**Religion:** Protestant

**Status:** Sir William was Master of the Rolls.

**Events:** Cordell was said to have set a high standard for Suffolk hospitality, entertaining members of the court and QE, offering many gifts and performances. He presented QE with two golden cups enamelled with diamonds and emeralds. A banqueting house was erected. This is where QE and her chosen guests would enjoy a dessert course of fruit and confectionaries, and was likely constructed outside using either a tented pavilion, or branches and flowers from around the garden and grounds.

On Sunday 3rd August, QE gave two important audiences. Firstly, to the French Ambassador, Monsieur de Bacqueville, who spent a long time with her. Secondly, she had an audience with the Scottish Ambassador, Lord Dunfermline, whom she presented with a gold chain. As feared by Walsingham, QE was displeased with King James of Scotland's overtures, apparently telling Hatton it was against her heart to entertain them as ambassadors. Privy Council met- to instruct the Lord Mayor of London to exempt the Warden of her Majesties Mint from all other appointments.

On Monday 4th August, QE would ask Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, to dance and entertain the French party at Melford Hall, which he twice refused. Spanish Ambassador Mendoza reported the incident as gossip at court in London and also that QE decided that the plates of gold and silver used thus far on the progress were not impressive enough for her guests. Privy Council met to order an inquiry into the disappearance of goods on a Danish ship off the Welsh Coast, as well as the auditing of the books of the recently deceased Keeper of the Ordinance. In this meeting they also authorised payment to municipals officers who had escorted a prisoner from Dover. QE and her court left Melford early on the morning of Tuesday 5th August, continuing their journey further into Suffolk.

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# Lawshall

**Date:** Tuesday 5th August, 1578

**Duration:** For Dinner Only

**House:** Lawshall Hall

**Host:** Henry Drury

**Family Details:** The Drurys were a very important family in Suffolk and over the years several members of the family had distinguished connections with the Royal Family. It is possible that these connections brought about the visit of Queen Elizabeth I to Lawshall in 1578.

**Religion:** Catholic

**Status:** Local landowner

**Events:** For the small village of Lawshall, this would have indeed been a day to remember. Recorded in the Lawshall parish register 'It is to be remembered that the Queen's highnesse, in her progresse, ....dined at Lawshall Hall, to the great rejoycing of ye said Parish, and the Country thereabouts'. However Drury was to run into trouble. After he entertained and fed QE and her entourage at lunch, QE asked that he pledge his loyalty to the throne, denounce his faith, and acknowledge the crown as the spiritual head of the church. Drury would have certainly pledged his life to defend QE, but would not renounce his church, and was arrested on the spot. Henry was imprisoned for six months, and was in prison off and on for the next three years.

# Bury St Edmunds

**Date:** Tuesday 5th August, 1578

**Duration:** 4 nights

**House:** Place House, The Old Abby

**Host:** Thomas Badby

**Family Details:** Badby was a rich man. Uncle to Sir Robert Jermyn of Rushbrooke and religious opponent of Thomas Andrews, whose house Lord Leicester and Lord Burghley stayed at whilst QE was at Place House.

**Religion:** Puritan

**Status:** Justice of the Peace

**Events:** On Wednesday 6th the Privy Council met in Bury, with the absence of Lord Leicester and Lord Warwick. The other 6 council members dealt with minor matters such as; meeting with secretary of the where they expressed QE's support of the export of white cloth; and instructed the release of a French prisoner from the Fleet prison. In the evening, QE and her Council were joined by Lord North.

On Thursday 7th Lord Leicester wrote to Walsingham about the troubled they were facing with QE. She had been reluctant to engage in only the most urgent of matters. She had a cold and frequent pains in her face.

On Friday 8th Lord Burghley wrote to Walsingham that QE had sent a letter to him expressing her displeasure in Walsingham for not carrying out her instructions to contact the Duc d' Alençon regarding further marriage negotiations. Burghley had also gathered enough insight to comment on the religious standing of Bury St. Edmunds. He observed the people of Bury were "very sound" aside from the influence of "the brainsick heresy of the papistical Family of Love".

The progress halted in Bury for longer than expected, the Council used this time to write copiously, over a dozen letters were sent abroad during their stay. QE knighted several Suffolk gentleman and given gifts to some of her Ladies.

During her stay in Bury, QE visited Hawstead Hall, home of Sir William Drury, a Protestant and cousin of Catholic Henry Drury of Lawshall. Sir William Drury was known by QE as he was married to one of her Ladies of the Bedchamber who had recently given birth to their first child. Whilst at Hawstead Hall QE was well-fed and entertained and even took the opportunity to go hunting on the 2,000 acre deer park. Also according to local tradition, QE dropped a silver handled fan into the moat at Hawstead.

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# Euston

**Date:** Saturday 9th August, 1578

**Duration:** 2 nights

**House:** Rookward's Manor House

**Host:** Edward Rookwood

**Family Details:** Land owning Suffolk family of Catholics and Conservatives who were part of local politics.

**Religion:** Catholic

**Events:** On Sunday 10th August QE greeted Rookwood thanking him for the use of his home. Moments later, Lord Chamberlain Sussex summoned Rookwood, berated him for his Catholicism, and demanded he leave the court, effectively kicking him out of his own house! Later that day during a search for a piece of missing plate, a member of the court found a statue of the Virgin Mary, a condemning piece of evidence against Rookwood. The statue was brought to QE who was enjoying watching some local country dancing. She ordered the statue to be burnt immediately, which locals undertook as she watched contently. Rookwood was later interrogated by the council in Norwich in the presence of the Bishop regarding his recusancy.

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# Norfolk

## Kenninghall

**Date:** Monday, 11th August, 1578

**Duration:** 3 nights

**House:** Kenninghall Palace

**Host:** Philip Howard, Earl of Surrey

**Family Details:** The Howard family were one of the foremost recusant families in England due to their continued adherence to Catholicism. Philip Howard, was the son of Thomas Howard, a token Protestant who had been executed for high treason just six years prior to QE visiting Norfolk after plotting to marry Mary, Queen of Scots. When the marriage negotiations came to nothing, Thomas became involved in a plot to remove QE from the throne and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots. After this the family honours were stripped and the crown had taken an inventory of Kenninghall's riches. Not until the 1578 was the great palace reopened, probably with some of the original Howard contents still in place. Philip had not lived at Kenninghall having been moved to Audley End after its closure. In 1578 Kenninghall reopened for QE to visit along with Audley End and Surrey House in Norwich where QE would be entertained later in the progress. Philip thoroughly entertained QE, spending £10,000 and plummeting himself into debt.

**Religion:** Baptized as a Catholic, raised as a Protestant. Married to a Catholic wife and seemingly converted to Catholicism.

**Status:** Earl of Surrey and Earl of Arundel

**Events:** On 11th August the Privy Council met shortly after they arrived, the Sheriff of Pembroke had come swiftly after a summons was issued at Standon, although he was made to wait for his hearing in Norwich.

On 12th August in the second Privy Council meeting of the stay QE showed support towards James of Scotland, ordering her troops to defend the northern border, but also to offer help to James with any "disobedient servants". In this meeting they also took care of monetary and postal matters.

11-13th August Throughout the stay QE enjoyed sumptuous feasts and entertainment at the palace whilst in the vast park a 'Standing House' had been erected from which the royal party could shoot deer. From here Philip may have made his gift to QE, a precious jewel.

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## Pulham St Mary Magdalen

**Date:** Thursday 14th August, 1578

**Duration:** Lunch Only

**House:** Not known

**Host:** Not known

**Events:** It is unclear when, but during their travel between Kenninghall and Bracon Ash, the QE would have stopped to eat and it is recorded that she was presented with a gift from the small town of Pulham St Mary Magdalen. She was gifted a plate of gold, recorded to be worth £11.

# Bracon Ash

**Date:** Wednesday 14th August, 1578

**Duration:** 2 nights

**House:** Mergate Hall

**Host:** Thomas Townsend

**Family Details:** The Townsends of Raynham, were an important family in Norfolk. Thomas and his wife were both inclined to the old religion, however after a scolding from Bishop Pankhurst, predecessor of Bishop Freake, Thomas began to show signs of conforming, however his wife was much more stubborn.

**Religion:** Catholic/ conformist

**Status:** Justice of the Peace

**Events:** Few details- possibly refreshment and change of clothes and a rest before entering Norwich the next day.

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# Harford Bridge

**Date:** Saturday 16th August, 1578

**Duration:** Short, welcoming QE to Norwich

**Host:** Mayor of Norwich and Edward Downes, Lord of the Manor of Earham. Joined by a large procession of noble gentlemen, wealthy citizens, handsome young men, the mayor and 24 aldermen, the Recorder, the Sheriff and former Sheriffs.

**Events:** At Harford Bridge QE made her first official appearance in Norwich! She was greeted by a huge uproar of cheers from the public. Once the noise had died down, the Mayor greeted Her Majesty with a speech in Latin, and presented the sword of the city, and a silver cup containing £100 in gold. QE gave a speech of thanks, in which she stated she hadn't come to Norwich for gifts as she had been abundantly endowed by God. Nevertheless, she ordered the contents of the cup be counted, ensuring there was indeed £100. Edward Downes, Lord of the Manor of Earham, appeared to deliver a set of verses in archaic English. He then presented the QE with a pair of gold spurs.

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# Norwich

**Date:** Saturday 16th August, 1578

**House:** Bishop's Palace, Norwich Cathedral

**Host:** Bishop of Norwich and Mayor of Norwich

**Events:** Saturday 16th August- Pageantry, speeches and music were performed throughout Norwich from St Stephen's Gate, into the Market Place, passed St Andrew's Hall, possibly down Queen's Street, through the Erpingham Gate towards Norwich Cathedral, where a Te Deum was sung in honour of their special guest. QE was presented with a casket lined with crimson velvet containing £20 in gold. *(More information <https://pop1578.com/norwich/>)*

Sunday 17th August- Day of Rest. Lord Burghley, studied and occasionally amended a list prepared by his officers giving the names of 324 Norfolk gentleman with the location of their houses.

Monday 18th August- the weather was bad and QE stayed indoors. There was business for her to attend to including at least some of the items on the agenda of the Privy Council which met with all eight regular members attending. They discussed affairs in the Low Countries and the continuing serious situation in Scotland. QE was concerned about the dangerous state of affairs and the safety of young King James VI. QE promised armed support for the Scottish king if he should need it.

On Monday evening before supper Churchyard put on a dramatic display to tempt QE to come out. Under the Privy Council room window a covered coach arrived with cut-outs of birds, sprites and clouds attached so that they quivered, and had built on it a gilt and jewelled tower topped with white feathers. It was drawn by painted and winged horses driven by a magnificently dressed coachman. Upon the coach rode Mercury, Messenger of the Gods. A trumpeter called out to QE. Mercury jumped down from the coach, danced and delivered a speech.

Tuesday 19th August- With the weather improved QE rode out of the city through St Benet's Gate in the early morning to hunt and enjoy dinner at Lady Jerningham's 1000 acre Deer Park at Costessey. Before reaching Costessey QE encountered the first of Thomas Churchyard's major shows. He had assembled his actors and all their props into coaches and set out for the open ground outside Saint Benet's Gate, they were followed by a large crowd of common people. The show involved the actors performing poems as figures of classical mythology; Venus and Cupid and allegories such as Chastity, Modesty and Temperance in conflict with Wantonness and Riot in a complex plot.

On her return from Costessey within the city walls, possibly at Black Friars, the minister of the Dutch church representing immigrant workers, presented the QE with yet another cup, worth £50. Lord Leicester and Lord Burghley did not accompany QE to Costessey. Instead they visited Great Yarmouth. The town had been expecting Kiwi herself and even preparations had been made for her arrival. However the QE did not come possibly because of the plague.

**Guests:** Nicholas Angennes, Sieur de Rambouillet, a special ambassador sent from the King of France to QE.

Wednesday 20th August- QE and the French envoys crossed the River Wensum in decorated barges then dined at Surrey House just across the river from Bishopsgate. This was the Earl of Surrey's house, and QE was given 'a most rare and delicate dinner banquet'. On QE's return to the Bishop's Palace she walked past the Great Hospital where at the door stood Stephen Limbert, Master of the grammar school, ready with a speech. QE was very impressed by the speech in Latin, and pulling of her glove she offered Limbert her hand to kiss.

The Privy Council met. Among the business was a report received on the commissioners responsible for the government of London. Evidence of witchcraft have been found in the city, the report was accompanied by three wax images. The Council instructed the Lord Mayor and the Lord Bishop that William Cordell, Master of the Rolls and others would use 'secret means' to locate the people involved.

Thursday 21st August- QE requested what other pastimes Churchyard had prepared for her. Churchyard made an elaborate and ingenious preparation for he knew which way QE would walk. He took over an area 20 yards square in which he had a great cave in the ground dug out and covered it with a green canvas. The canvas could be opened and closed by means of cords running through rings. In this 'cave' he stationed musicians and 12 water nymphs wearing long robes made of white silk and covered with rushes. They carried bunches of bulrushes and wore wreaths of ivy and moss over their golden wigs which covered their shoulders and reached down to their waists. Four of the nymphs would pop up out of the underground cave and in turn deliver a rhyming speech. They would all disappear back underground and the canvas would be drawn over the hole and music would start coming secretly and strangely out of the Earth. Finally all 12 nymphs would emerge and perform a dance with timbrels, tambourine like instruments trimmed with bells and other jangling things that made such a confused noise the hearers were amazed and thought they were new found toys. However, just when QE was due to arrive a thunderstorm broke out and the players ran for cover! Everything was wasted, and the costumes ruined as the actors had to be cut out of them!

However in the evening QE finally got what she requested as she watched a masque in her Privy Chamber. Written by Henry Goldingham this was yet another performance from Gods and Goddesses introduced by Mercury. They were accompanied by five musicians as pairs of classical figures, Jupiter and Juno, Mars and Venus, Apollo and Paris and Neptune and Diana accompanied by torchbearers and finally Cupid. Each arrived in front of QE delivered a speech and presented QE with a gift. You can watch a re-enactment of this here.

Friday 22nd August- the final day of the QE's visit to Norwich. In the morning QE performed her last official Norwich duty, the knighting of five Norfolk gentleman in the Great Hall of the Bishops Palace; Nicholas Bacon of redgrave, William Paston of Paston, Ralph Shelton of Shelton, Thomas Knyvett of Ashwellthorpe and Edward Clere of Blicking.

After dining QE set off towards Kimberly Hall, her next lodging. Great crowds once again came out to wave goodbye and schoolmaster Limbert delivered another Latin speech as QE departed from the Bishop's Palace. At St Gile's Gate a group of musicians accompanied a speech by Bernard Garter who with Thomas Churchyard had written much of the pageantry and speeches during the Norwich visit. Passing vast crowds of well-wishers QE rode towards Earlham Bridge where the River Yare marked the city boundary. Before leaving Norwich for good QE turned and said 'I have laid up in my breast such goodwill as I shall never forget Norwich' and then it is said that she shook her riding crop in the air and with tears in her eyes shouted 'Farewell Norwich!'

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## Kimberley

**Date:** Friday 22nd -Saturday 23rd August, 1578

**Duration:** 2 nights

**House:** Kimberly Tower

**Host:** Sir Roger Wodehouse - Magistrate and MP (knighted on Progress)

**Religion:** Conformist

**Events:** Here QE knighted 2 more gentleman Henry Wodehouse of Waxham, no relation to Roger, and Thomas Gordy from Claxton, who would become a Judge of the QE Bench.

# Woodrising

**Date:** Sunday 24th -Monday 25th August 1578

**Duration:** 2 nights

**House:** Woodrising Hall

**Host:** Lord and Lady Paget (Lady Paget was the widow of Sir Richard Southwell)

**Family Details:** The Southwells had been an important Norfolk family. The brothers Richard and Robert Southwell having held high office during the reign of Henry VIII. But when QE ascended the throne the Southwell's were suspected of loyalty to the old faith and lost their place at court, in society and in politics, both nationally and in their county. Robert Southwell, Lady Paget's son by Sir Richard was an infant at the time of QE visit in 1578.

**Religion:** Catholic

**Status:** Comparative obscurity after a period of banishments due to recusancy of forbears.

**Events:** Privy Council met. They had in the days previous dealt with the Recusancy hearings in Norwich whilst QE travelled onwards. Six men on Friday 22nd and 3 more on Saturday 23rd. At Woodrising Hall the remaining recusants were heard, making 16 in total. Of these two were jailed in Norwich, including Mr Rookward of Euston Hall. Seven were to go under house arrest in Norwich and fined until such time they conformed. Just two men submitted themselves to conform.

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# Breckles

**Date:** Tuesday 26th August 1578

**Duration:** Dinner only

**House:** Breckles Hall

**Host:** Francis Wodehouse

**Family Details:** Francis Woodhouse, was second cousin to Roger of Kimberly. Francis second wife Eleanor, was a known recusant. The royal party would probably have had little to do with them during the brief visit.

**Religion:** Protestant and later in life became Catholic

**Status:** Local Administration

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# Thetford

**Date:** Tuesday 26th August, 1578

**Duration:** 2 nights

**House:** Place House, The Old Nunnery

**Host:** Sir Edward Clere

**Family Details:** Edward was the son of John Clere and Anne Tyrrell. He was a member of an old Norfolk family and distantly related to QE through her great-grandfather William Boleyn. Clere was a landowner and very wealthy man, his main home being Blickling Hall. He had been knighted during the 1578 progress.

**Religion:** Puritanism

**Status:** MP, Magistrate, and Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk

**Events:** As QE granted Thetford the Charter of Incorporation 1574, the Corporation was eager to show QE Thetford at its best. The members of the Corporation wore new scarlet robes and a gilt cup to give to QE as a gift. QE held a meeting of the Privy Council at Place House, where the members heard several Thetford Corporation cases, such as William Dyer, Mayor in 1576 who was accused of fraud during his year as coroner in 1577 the Privy Council ordered that "for the better and more quiet government" of the town, he should be deprived of his current status as Burgess. There were also heard some minor, local disputes. One being between two troublesome Thetford personalities. John Palfrey had called Mr Medcalfe 'Knave and stinckinge knave'. Palfrey was brought before the Mayor who had him thrown in prison. The festivities during the short stay were lavish and they royal party were 'worthily feasted'.

# Hengrave

**Date:** Wednesday 27th August- Saturday 29th August, 1578

**Duration:** 3 nights

**House:** Hengrave Hall

**Host:** Sir Thomas Kytson

**Family Details:** Kytson was the son of a rich London merchant who had amassed a fortune through trading in cloth with the Low Countries. This wealth had raised the family up the social scale, so that when Thomas inherited Hengrave Hall in Suffolk and other estates, he was able to live in considerable style.

**Religion:** Faithful Catholic background, however had outwardly conformed after the fall of the 4th Duke of Norfolk.

**Status:** Landowner

**Events:** Hospitality at Hengrave was generous and elaborate. Churchyard said the 'fayre and banquets' far exceeded those than at a number of other places on the progress. Churchyard also oversaw a show featuring fairies which was not of his own devising, but he commented that it might as well have be his! During the entertainment QE was presented with 'a rich jewel', a gift from her host. There was also plenty of music which QE would've enjoyed.

The Privy Council were kept very busy. The Catholic threat was still taking up a large part of their concern. Several names from a list of 34 were interviewed for their suspected recusancy. Nine was sentenced; Henry Drury of Bury Saint Edmunds, Michael Hare of Bruisyard, Roger Martin of Melford, John Daniel of Acton, Edmund Bedingfeld of Denham, Henry Everard of Linstead, and Edward Sulliard. Only one man agreed to conform.

QE was regretting offering any practical help to the Dutch. On the 29th of August she wrote a long letter to the Ambassador in the Low County setting out conditions under which she might feel able to help them with money, or to encourage the Duc d' Alençon to marry her and so assist them indirectly. Several members of the Privy Council remained frustrated by QE's lack of direct action. Many letters were written by the council members, men of authority and QE.

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