

**Photographs from David Kindred's collection showing the Fore Street Facelift preparations and the queen's visit in 1961.**



1. Nos. 13 to 17 Fore Street are across the road: from the entrance to the Co-operative Educational Centre at the left, we see Rapid Radio Service and the building which today bears the 'Meremayd' wooden sign at the right. The men here are mounting hanging baskets and bunting on purpose-built iron supports on the southernmost Martin & Newby, Ironmongers & Electricians building. Note the Kellogg's Corn Flakes boxes used to store the bunting. A woman pauses with her dog to observe proceedings. Traffic is heavy here, as ever.



2. No. 2 Fore Street. In 1961, the much-signed Martin & Newby building which still stands today (converted into accommodation with some shops) was separated from its siblings by a newsagent's shop – you can see the news board at left. The single storey linking building at this time is part of Martin & Newby: an ideal place to put a large planter of geraniums and lobelia which takes two men and two ladders to install. Many former customers will recall entering Martin & Newby via the Tacket Street door into the electrical department and walking through the tools (the former Bulls Head public house), household, hardware and paints departments in the linked shops down Fore Street; clearly this wouldn't have been possible in 1961.

See photograph 18 for the full view of Martin & Newby as the Queen's motorcade passes.



3. At the left, three workers attend to the cement pointing on the 1903 building which was once Sneezum's premises, but today a restaurant. Martin & Newby is in the left background and the road leads up into Upper Orwell Street. Across the road, 19-23 Fore Street is scaffolded during its refurbishment. The (presumably empty) M.A. Bone shop to the right shows the 'before' state. A three-wheeled vehicle and two cyclists approach the scene. In 1961, ladders in roadways clearly didn't require safety cones and barriers.



4. Hanging baskets go up outside the Smyth Bros. shops on the east side of the road, one of which became today's Fore Street Post Office. The Baths and junction with Salthouse Street are in the background.



5. The bunting and flowering plants are in place, but there's still just time to do some last minute painting of shop frontages. Let's hope that that corgi doesn't brush up against the wet paint. These painters are working opposite the Wheatsheaf Inn.



6. More last minute painting just a little further down Fore Street. The hand-made signs say it all. The Wheatsheaf Inn is in the centre of the photograph. Described as a rather more subdued sister to The Ancient House in Buttermarket, this fine building (Listed Grade II\*) is today used as offices. H. O. Cox Car Sales Ltd. shop is at the left, with part of the shop taking up the southern ground floor of The Wheatsheaf – something of a surprise to those who know the building today. Clearly the shop windows were dismantled and The Wheatsheaf's ground floor restored. Today Cox Motorcycles business is run from the same building having an entrance at the side, while the street frontage is a restaurant. Everything looks spruced up in this view.



7. This is the section of Fore Street which is today isolated by the Star Lane cut-through, built in 1984. It would cross between the wall of the Tolly Cobbold bottling plant (Tollemache and Cobbold breweries amalgamated in 1956) and the building swathed in scaffolding and tarpaulin across the road. The Smyths shop (one of a number here) with the two gables is the former Bull and Dog public house; today it is Fore Street Post Office. The 'Cor Visser House' stands opposite. The scaffolding in the foreground has some measure of protection from the passing traffic at this particularly narrow part of the road: a makeshift barrier of oil drums and scaffold poles. One assumes that it enables pedestrians to pass by in the roadway without being mowed down.



8. A later view of this part of the street, but from further south. All the buildings look smarter, hanging baskets and planters are in place and we are pre-bunting at this time. The Wheatsheaf Inn is visible in the distance. Weston's shop is the last shop on the row on the eastern side of Fore Street before the Angel Lane junction. The Ipswich Society's *Fore Street Improvement Scheme 1961* film (stills of which can be found on this website) reveals that there was a billboard advertising the *Sunday Telegraph* with 'trellis' surround just out of shot to the right. This was the site of The Lion & Lamb Inn, across Angel Lane from The Angel.

School children cluster in their uniforms around the corner – perhaps they have just been swimming at the nearby Fore Street Baths.





9. Probably taken at the same time as Photograph 8. With the angled facade of Fore Street Baths in the centre and Angel Lane leading off to the left, we see two shops. R.C.S. has a hanging sign over the entrance: 'Tape & Disc', so is a record shop. Next is Weston's shop. The reconfiguration of these buildings into today's nos. 57 to 67 was caused by the cutting through of the Star Lane eastern gyratory road in 1984. The timber framed building which once stood north of here was dismantled to make way for the new junction and the timbers reconstructed on this site, then reclad as modern offices; the new building extends further south to include the area covered by the posts and chains (once the site of the Lion & Lamb Inn, which stood across Angel Lane from the Angel Inn).

A similar process took place with the widening of Waterworks Street as part of the same traffic scheme. While plans were being made to truncate the Ragged Boys School by pushing back the facade, a nearby former merchant's house was spotted and was dismantled, stored then moved to the lower end of Silent Street as 'The Merchant's House' in 1990, as part of the development of the Social Security offices between Silent Street and St Nicholas Street.





10. The same view post-facelift. The buildings are spruced up and bunting, hanging baskets and window boxes abound. As the bicyclists and motor cyclist navigate round the ladder, shoppers and passers-by are as plentiful as the vehicles. The R.C.S. shop window at the extreme left features a floral 'ER' in its royal-themed window display. An antiques shop stands opposite.



11. The photographer stood in Angel Lane to take this view. The Lion & Lamb Inn once stood where the billboard is at the immediate right; The Angel Inn stood where the car is parked at the left. Just past the car is the narrow entrance of St Clement's Church Lane and beyond it Fore Street Baths with its Deco circular window. Across the junction we see H. Wells pork butcher's shop ('Phone. 53024') with Salhouse Street to its left. To its right yet another Smyth Bros. builder's merchant shop can be seen.

There are hints here that this is the morning of Friday 21 July 1961, the day of the Queen's visit to Ipswich to open the Civic College. Two women and two children, all smartly turned out, stand expectantly by the Baths entrance and a man stands opposite. Perhaps this is the last of the traffic before the roads were closed off for the Royal retinue.



12. A little further down and across the road the photographer stood outside Smyth's shop with the jettied overhang of the Wells timber-framed building clearly visible at the right. The jaws of Salthouse Street can be seen with a 'Keep Left' bollard in the centre of the road. Next is the 1950s(?) Lloyd's Bank branch (today's Briarbank Brewery) with a large 'Worthington's beer billboard on the wall. A second billboard advertising cigarettes is attached to the side of one of our oldest and most famous buildings: this wing of the Isaac Lord merchant's house was built c. 1480.

The fenestration of the building opposite is quite impressive and black-and-white striped painting of the trolley-bus pole indicates that it supports traffic lights with a street lamp above the cables. More work continues on the next building.



13. The south side of the east-west part of Fore Street showing a row of buildings, most of which still stand. The exception is the Meaux maltings with its cooling vents in the left background. Working from there to the right we have the wall of Mellonie & Goulder's coalyard, Fore Snax café (nos. 90-92), Neptune Antiques (no. 86), Adnams off-licence (no. 84). The Isaac Lord merchant house stands to the right of this photograph. The nearest building is resplendent with window-boxes hanging baskets and frilly bunting; there is even a planter on top of the brick gatepost.

The traffic is a reminder that this has been a major route for drivers for decades – and still is today, although one-way. Trolley-bus street furniture supports a 'roof' of cables over the road. This photograph was taken from outside no. 95 Fore Street: in 1961 this was T. E. Conder, Leather Merchants – this building still stands.



14. The photographer stood outside Barnard Bros. animal feed shop on the corner of the cluster of buildings we know today as Sorrell Horse Mews to take this fascinating shot. The car is in Grimwade Street; further to the right across Grimwade Street was the Salvation Army hostel (replaced by the current building in the 1980s).

In 1961 the Fore Street Post Office was here, on the Wet Dock side of the east-west section of Fore Street, its accompanying pillar-box is sited further to the right. Abutting the Post Office is part of the Friary Meux maltings with its huge gable and ventilated windows; other Meux buildings stood to the left of this photograph. The attractive Mellonie & Goulder coal offices are at the right.

The single window-box on the Post Office suggests that this is the early stages of decorating this part of Fore Street. On Friday 21 July 1961, the royal retinue would turn left out of the Civic College entrance, travelling down Grimwade Street and turn left here into Fore Street, so these buildings would have been fully decorated for the big day. Even the Social Settlement building on the photographer's side of Fore Street, but further towards Duke Street, was 'taken care of' during the Facelift, even though the Queen wouldn't have passed by the site. It was demolished.



15. The big day has arrived and enthusiastic people crowd behind the walls and gates of the Tolly Cobbold bottling plant. H.O. Cox's shop is at the far right. It is assumed that temporary steps and platforms with chairs have been erected on the 'business side' to enable so many people to view the royal progress down Fore Street. The temporary pole supports for the bunting can clearly be seen here. A red ensign flag hangs behind the befrocked women with the push-chair.

The Star Lane one-way system was cut through here in 1984, but the Cox building survives today.



16. Excitement mounts. A group of primary school children in their smartest clothes sits on the low wall in front of the Orwell Service Station – drivers were still stopping here for petrol in the 1980s (Mann Egerton's showroom and works on Majors Corner also ran a filling station on the Woodbridge Road side). Both businesses are long gone. In the yard we see a Morris Minor and a VW camper van. Some of the children are waving their Union Jacks for the photographer.

The side wall of the Salvation Army hostel takes up most of the background here. Minerva Court, an apartment block, at no. 101 Fore Street now occupies this site.





The Ipswich Society Photograph © David Kindred

17. Here at last... The lack of security measures is a surprise to us in the 21st century. As the Queen's purple Rolls Royce glides towards the photographer, people step out into the road to get a better view. We are in the same part of Fore Street as that shown in photograph 4. At the right is the wall of the Tolly Cobbold bottling plant and numbers 42 and 44 Fore Street, the latter know as 'the Cor Visser house'. Both had shops at ground level in 1961. Today, Out of Time Records occupies number 46 further down. Only one person is distracted from the Queen by the presence of the photographer.



18. The last image in this sequence is the full-on royal visit experience. Barriers hold back the crowd on Orwell Place, people spill out of the upper windows of the corner Martin & Newby (once the Bulls Head pub). Lots of waving and cheering takes place while the Queen in her lemon yellow hat and coat is visible in the back of her car. The photographer on Friday 21 July 1961, presumably on a small step-ladder, is positioned on the corner of Eagle Street and Upper Orwell Street – today a café is here, but it was once the Shoulder of Mutton public house, one of four on this crossroads.