

A Letter from Australia



Sam Vella

The Coronation Of Queen Elizabeth II 2nd June 1953, as I remember it 60 years ago

I, Sam Vella was born in Mellieħa Malta in 1938. I was almost 15 years old when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned as Queen. I remember it as if it has happened yesterday, that the Imperial Band Club of Mellieħa celebrated the Queen's Coronation in a big way. They took part in the celebration by building a float, designed by two of Mellieħa's best artists, the late George Fenech and the late Anthony Fenech together with many volunteers. I used to go and watch them assembling the float.

The float consisted of two Big Lions, a tall Column, with a Crown on top of it, together with other decorations as shown in this photo. The Imperial Band took part as well, dressed in elegant white uniforms with gold laces. That was the Band's uniform in those days.

I went to Valetta on that day of the Coronation to watch the celebrations. As I could remember, 52 band clubs from all over Malta and Gozo participated in the celebrations.

I was watching near the ruins of The Royal Opera House, when the Imperial Band dressed in elegant white uniform came around the corner and the big crowd applauded them in a big way. I still vividly recall that someone said '*look at this band, they are dressed like the Duke of Edinburgh*'.

For this special occasion, a National Competition was held for the best float and for the best band and our band, The Imperial Band of Mellieħa placed second.

I hope that you enjoyed reading this letter, as I enjoyed sharing it with you.

Yours Faithfully

Sam Vella
Sydney Australia.

