

FIRST DAY



ROYAL ASCOT
2010

Official Programme

£3.00

Uniting Two Societies

Sited on the Grandstand Admission lawns by the entrance to the Royal Enclosure Garden, this exquisite and unique sculpture, the concept and design of racehorse owner, W J (Bill) Gredley, comprises two sets of gates and a collection of statues, including representations of the young Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

The black gates are thought to have been made by apprentices and staff of Harland and Wolff before the war (note the bomb damage), whilst the white Ascot gates were commissioned and designed by the Ascot Authority in the 1950s and marked the entrance to the old Winners' Enclosure before the redevelopment of the racecourse began in 2004.

Bill Gredley commissioned three British artists: Mark Richards F.R.B.S. to sculpt H.M. The Queen and His Royal Highness

The Duke of Edinburgh; James Butler M.B.E., R.A. the Ascot racegoers and Anthony Stones F.R.B.S. the workforce, whilst the gates were substantially restored by Anglia Fabrications (James Nicholas).

Everyone will have their own interpretations of the piece, which will be at Ascot until after the 2010 Royal Meeting, but as Bill Gredley himself says: "Perhaps the most powerful concept that the sculpture evokes is the image of the many and varied people who have passed through the Ascot gates during the Queen's reign, including royalty, presidents, soldiers and sailors, and through the Harland and Wolff gates during the same period – such as labourers, carpenters, shipwrights and welders. All walks of life are represented here in one place coming forward to meet the Queen and Prince Philip at Ascot."

