A last-minute late-night phone call and email (9.30pm on Tuesday, 29th May) from the ITV Daybreak programme was made to Stewart Wardrop at the RPRA requesting a live release of pigeons at Sandringham and West Newton Primary School. The liberation was to be in celebration of the Queen's association with racing pigeons at the Royal Loft, Sandringham, Her Majesty being Patron of the RPRA.

Superb work by the East Midlands Region secretary, Dudley Holmes, arranged that several local fanciers, namely Bob Lawton (Wolferton club secretary) and Pete & Clare Garwood, along with their son, Scott (also a young fancier) attended with pigeons to release.

The morning was great fun, even though we all had to get up at 4.30am to make sure we were there for 5.45 to meet the show producers ahead of filming. The presenter Gethin Jones interviewed both Stewart and Scott with the finale being the pigeons release. So well did the pigeon liberation go down with the ITV producers that they have promised to get a longer pigeon slot on a future programme!
The club held an Open Race at the start of the season over the Easter weekend. Last week the Club presented the winner and prizewinners with their awards won. I’ve included photos of all of the major winners in this week’s notes. Result: 1st R. & A. Gore, Lagan Valley RPC £500; 2nd M. & J. Ferguson, Wheatfield £100; 3rd R. Hunter, Ballynahinch £50; 4th R. & A. Gore, Lagan Valley £25; 5th Beverly McClurkin, Ligoniel £25; 6th J. Brown, Lurgan £25, 7th and 8th J. Gregory & Sons, Colin £50.