

# —EIR— COUNTRY LIFE

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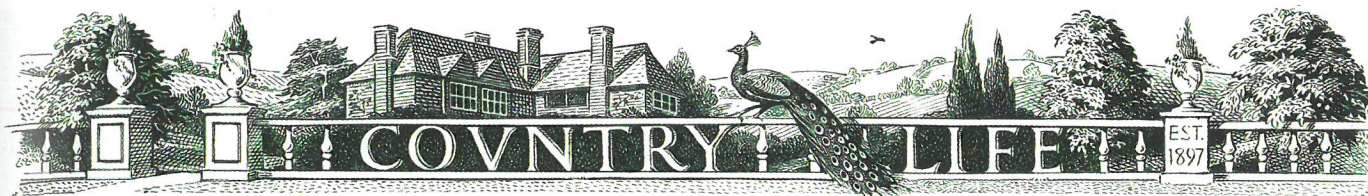


# Her Majesty The Queen



1926–2022





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# Honouring a life of service

**I** DECLARE before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong.' So pledged Princess Elizabeth in a speech to mark her 21st birthday, broadcast by the BBC from Cape Town on April 21, 1947.

When making this pledge of service, she could not have imagined the full magnitude of the commitment she was making, which she would hold to for the next 75 years. Yet the outpouring of grief that has followed her death is rooted in the fact that she kept her word so faithfully for so long.

Her accession to the throne as Elizabeth II came unexpectedly, less than five years later, and ushered in a reign that would span seven decades of tumultuous political, social and economic change. In the course of it, she invited no fewer than 15 British Prime Ministers to form 27 governments and travelled farther and further afield than any of her predecessors.

She died the longest-lived and longest-reigning monarch in British history, Queen of the United Kingdom, Head of State in 15 independent nations and Leader of a Commonwealth comprising 56 countries and 32 small states around the world. For a figure of such authority, she commanded, and still commands—to a quite exceptional degree—admiration, affection and respect.

The monarchy is an institution, but the Queen served so long that she became less a figure in that role than a personification of it. In all her public actions, she strove to live above the political fray, a figure independent of the democratic process and

yet intrinsic to it. We do not need to be told about her dignity and sense of duty because we saw them embodied on the public stage, even at moments of personal and family difficulty. At the same time, her humanity and humour won strong affection from people in every walk of life and from around the world. In private, she was particularly sustained by her Christian faith and her 73-year marriage to Prince Philip.

There are relatively few people alive today who remember a time before Elizabeth II came to the throne. Her presence in an uncertain world has offered a sense of continuity, stability and reassurance that will be greatly missed. There can be no doubt that in the death of this much-loved monarch we have witnessed the passing of an age.

We grieve for her with the nation and the Commonwealth, but we also celebrate the huge importance to us all of that long, noble and faithfully observed pledge of service.

The Queen is dead.  
Long live The King.

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# ElR

‘I declare before you  
all that my whole life,  
whether it be long or  
short, shall be devoted  
to your service and the  
service of our great  
Imperial family to  
which we all belong’

After 75 years of devoted service, 70 of them  
on the throne, Princess Elizabeth's words on her  
21st birthday could not ring more true



## Elizabeth II: A Celebration





# Elizabeth the Steadfast

Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-serving monarch, embodied the traditional values of duty, fidelity and constancy throughout her glorious reign, yet always managed to move with the times. Matthew Dennison pays tribute



**T**HE sovereign who safeguarded the dignity of the Crown through a period of unprecedented social change, including the iconoclasm of the 1960s and the trivialising invasiveness of the celebrity culture that dominated the second half of her reign, Elizabeth II will be remembered for her unwavering fidelity to timeless concepts of royalty absorbed during her childhood from her parents and grandparents, for unflagging devotion to duty and for the constancy that earned her the title 'Elizabeth the Steadfast'.

'She looks a Queen and obviously believes in her right to be one. Her bearing is both simple and majestic—no actress could possibly match it,' wrote the politician and historian John Grigg at the time of the Silver Jubilee. In a cynical age, Elizabeth II preserved aspects of sovereignty's ancient

mystique—the likeable, often glittering embodiment of monarchy—albeit acknowledging popular pressure for greater accessibility. 'We do not want the Queen to be one of us,' wrote the women's editor of the *Reading Evening Post* in February 1991, 'but we do want her to be with us.'

Over time, Elizabeth II developed an instinctive understanding of this precarious distinction. Through more than seven decades on the throne, she balanced the requirement of accessibility with distance, the white-gloved hand smilingly extended in greeting, and skilfully she balanced her formal role as head of state with that of head of the nation, encouraging, applauding and inspiring wide-ranging initiatives that, above all, promoted community wellbeing, pride in the nation and the continuing evolution of a tolerant, compassionate, unified society. From the landmark 1969 fly-on-the-wall documentary film *Royal Family*, she →

*Facing page: HM Queen Elizabeth II, 1998, by Andrew Festing, marking her support of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Above: The Queen received a warm welcome in Melbourne, Australia, in 2011*



# Elizabeth II: A Celebration

emerged, in the words of one television critic, as 'a warm, friendly person, with a thoroughly engaging sense of humour'. However, behind the dry wit and dazzling smile was an inner steel shaped in part by her deep Christian faith that increasingly defined her public rhetoric. Widely loved, even venerated by the time of her death, she achieved a degree of moral authority unrivalled by other statesmen or world leaders; as early as 1972, a television commentator told viewers that 'in a line stretching back over a thousand years, no monarch has been more loved and no monarch more esteemed'. In 2017, a Vatican official described her as the world's 'last Christian monarch'.

Never fashionable, by nature cautious, equable and conservative, from early in her reign Elizabeth II made a virtue of consistency. From the 1960s, she was acclaimed as a still point in the vortex of progress: unchanging and dependable, hers would become a benign and reassuring presence in British life. At the heart of her annual Christmas broadcasts were straightforward and unfadish homilies, for example that 'matters of the spirit are more important and more lasting than simple material development'.

**'Widely loved, she achieved a degree of moral authority unrivalled by other world leaders'**

Nevertheless, she oversaw a process of significant—and historic—evolution in the contract between Crown and people. She admitted television access to every aspect of her public life, beginning with her Coronation in 1953; in 1970, she introduced the royal walkabout that, for the first time in centuries, enabled informal conversations between monarch and subjects; in 1993, after fire destroyed areas of Windsor Castle, she opened Buckingham Palace to paying tourists.

The Royal Family embraced social media and the digital age. Into her 10th decade, faithful to her belief that she had to be seen to be believed, she criss-crossed the kingdom, visiting towns and villages, large and small communities, her subjects of many races, ethnicities and faiths. In doing so, she helped maintain the monarchy's ubiquity in national life, as well as humanising the →



*Above: Greeting Peter Phillips, son of Princess Anne, in 1977. Facing page: The one-month-old Princess Elizabeth in 1926, with her mother, then the Duchess of York*

## What happened in the year the Queen was born?

**January 26** John Logie Baird demonstrates a mechanical television system in London

**March 7** First transatlantic phonecall

**May 3–12** General Strike

**August 3** Traffic lights installed on Piccadilly Circus

**August 5** *Don Juan*, the first 'talkie' film, is screened

**August 6** American swimmer Gertrude Ederle becomes the first woman to swim the English Channel from France to England in 14½ hours

**August 7** The first British Grand Prix is held at the Brooklands circuit in Surrey

**August 23** Rudolph Valentino dies

**October 14** *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A. A. Milne is published

**December 7** Formation of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

**December 7** The gas refrigerator is patented

**December 8** Agatha Christie disappears for 10 days

**December 25** Hirohito becomes Emperor of Japan







## Elizabeth II: A Celebration







ancient institution she embodied for so long. As a spectator at the wedding of one of her children told reporters: 'She's it, really, isn't she, I mean, she's the Realm.'

## Strong foundations

Elizabeth II was not born to be Queen. The eldest daughter of the second son of George V and Queen Mary, Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary of York was 10, when, in December 1936, she learned from a footman in her father's London house at 145 Piccadilly that her uncle, Edward VIII, had abdicated. This placed her father on the throne as George VI, a role he accepted reluctantly, and made her heiress presumptive.

At a similar moment, her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria had uttered a statement of resolve: 'I will be good.' Quieter and less extrovert than her redoubtable forebear, the then Princess Elizabeth made no comment beyond a straightforward 'Yes, some day' in response to her sister Margaret's question of whether the news meant that Elizabeth would eventually be Queen.

More conscientious, more self-sacrificing and more modest than Victoria, Elizabeth spent the remainder of her life determined to be as good as she possibly could be in a role she had not sought or expected, but never struggled to escape. Her mother described her as 'such an unselfish and

thoughtful angel'. This combination of personal humility, acquiescence and seriousness about her royal calling shaped her behaviour throughout her reign and played an important part in her public success. She followed the example of her father and her grandfather in embracing eminence without pride, an approach central to the monarchy's survival in the 20th century.

Princess Elizabeth's formal education was confined to schoolroom lessons with a governess, Marion Crawford, known as 'Crawfie', who delighted in teaching history and literature, but, by her own admission, struggled with maths; from the age of 13, Princess Elizabeth received lessons in constitutional history from the vice provost of Eton College, Henry Marten, who also ingrained a habit of thoughtful appraisal of both sides of an argument.

At the time and since, the lightness of aspects of this academic programme, which was frequently interrupted by her doting parents, provoked disdain. Nevertheless, Elizabeth acquired useful skills: an ability to read quickly and carefully, fluency in French and a deep love of British history. Journalist and family friend Lady Cynthia Asquith pointed to an equally important feature of the Queen's upbringing: 'From the time that the possibility of her future position dawned on her, she was taught →

*Facing page top: In Scotland with the Duke of Edinburgh and their first four grandchildren in 1987 (from left): Prince William, Peter Phillips, Prince Harry and Zara Phillips.*

*Facing page bottom: Watching the polo at Smith's Lawn, Windsor. Above: The picture of happiness: with Prince Philip, young Charles and baby Anne in 1951*



# Elizabeth II: A Celebration



to prepare for it in every way, especially by self-control.'

From her parents, Elizabeth absorbed a love of family life and the country: dogs, ponies, racing, fishing, shooting and stalking; the wide open spaces of the Sandringham estate in Norfolk, farmed by her father and the peaceful beauty of the Highlands at Balmoral, where she died. From her parents also, she absorbed the Christian faith that sustained her for the rest of her life.

Her formidable grandmother, Queen Mary, also exerted a notably lasting influence. For George V's consort, royalty was a sacred calling: assiduously, she nurtured in her eldest granddaughter an appreciation of her royal heritage. From Queen Mary, as well as her parents, Elizabeth II learned those virtues that underpinned her understanding of what constitutional historians have called the 'welfare monarchy', chief among them service and duty. In a 21st-birthday broadcast, she dedicated her 'whole life, whether it be long or short' to public service.

From her mother, the Queen, she learned that such service could also be a pleasure: 'I survive by enjoying myself every moment of the day,' she reportedly commented.



**Top: The Queen (third from left) attends the wedding of her younger sister, Princess Margaret, to Antony Armstrong-Jones in May 1960. Above: The Duchess of York arriving at the Royal Tournament at Olympia in 1935, with Margaret (left) and Elizabeth. Facing page top: The family gathers on the balcony of Buckingham Palace for Princess Anne's wedding to Capt Mark Phillips in 1973. Facing page bottom: Balmoral holidays: helping Prince Charles with a camera (left) and hauling a diminutive Anne in through a window**

## Becoming Queen

Elizabeth fell in love at the age of 13, on a visit to the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. Her emotions never faltered and, eight years later, on November 20, 1947, she married the former Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, by then naturalised as a British subject with a distinguished record of wartime service as Lt Philip Mountbatten. Within a year, Elizabeth gave birth to an heir to the throne: in a break from family tradition, he was called him Charles. Elizabeth's reputation for doing her duty was already a given: 'I knew she'd do it! She'd never let us down,' responded her father's press secretary to news of the birth of a son.

Three more children followed: Anne, afterwards the Princess Royal, in 1950; Andrew, later Duke of York, in 1960, and Edward, Earl of Wessex, in 1964.

Elizabeth II's Coronation on June 2, 1953, a day of cold, continuous rain, represented a second marriage for the 27 year old: a binding union with the nation. Viscountess Pakenham remembered the moving spectacle of 'the young Queen, so calm, grave... and so palpably serious and intent'. For the Queen herself, the experience of the lengthy service, with its act of lifelong consecration, →







## Elizabeth II: A Celebration

was transformative: a herald close to King Edward's Chair at the moment of the Queen's anointing noted 'the sense of spiritual exaltation that radiated from her'.

Many years later, her cousin Margaret Rhodes reflected: 'It was an incredible thing to envisage a whole life ahead of you, where you know what you are going to be doing every day of the week for months ahead and where spontaneity goes out of the window.' Elizabeth II shared neither her father's nervousness nor her uncle's impatience with her inescapable destiny. A loving family bolstered her. 'I have my husband to support me. He shares all my ideals,' she told listeners to her Coronation broadcast.

### Serving her people

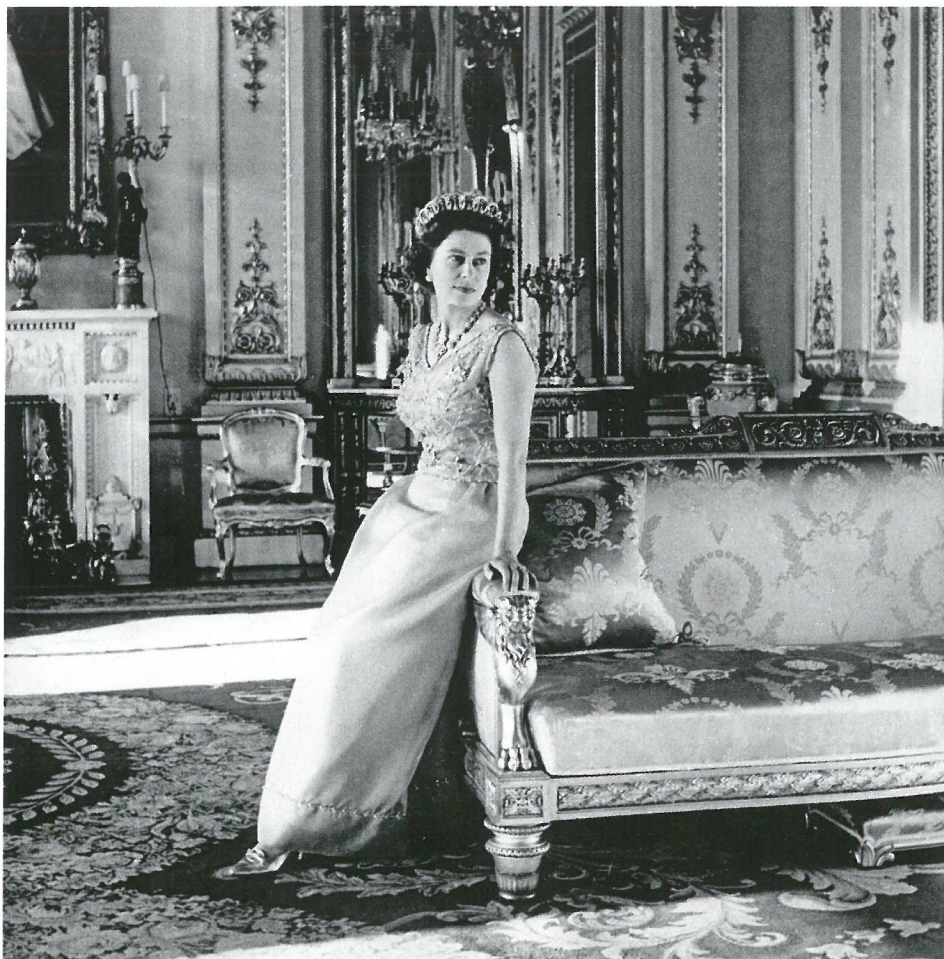
The Queen inherited tatters of Empire and a new voluntary organisation of former Imperial territories, the Commonwealth. The nurturing and promotion of the Commonwealth, beginning with her epic 173-day Coronation tour that was the first circumnavigation of the globe by any reigning monarch, became a key feature of her reign, inspired in part by her conviction that 'the most important contact between nations is usually contact between peoples'.

‘The young Queen [was] so calm, grave... and so palpably serious and intent’

By the time of her death, membership of the Commonwealth had increased to 56 nations, including two countries—Rwanda and Mozambique—without a British colonial past: a population in excess of 2.4 billion.

The decision by Commonwealth leaders that The Prince of Wales should succeed his mother in the non-hereditary role of Head of the Commonwealth was partly a tribute to the Queen's exemplary record. More than once, she had employed diplomacy, charm, a sincere and overriding interest in the lives of Commonwealth nations, even careful flirtation, to steer an organisation that was intermittently riven by deep divisions towards consensus. After one such occasion, at Lusaka in Zambia, in 1979, Zambia's president Kenneth Kaunda acclaimed her as 'a great person... a leader among leaders'.

The Queen exercised the same tact in her relationships with her 15 prime ministers. Despite rumours of tensions in a handful →



*Above: Serene beauty: Queen Elizabeth photographed by Cecil Beaton in 1968.*

*Left: Attending the Kenema Royal Show in Sierra Leone, 1961. Facing page: He could always make her smile: the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen share their amusement as a ceremonial review at Windsor Castle is interrupted by a swam of bees*







Elizabeth II: A Celebration







of those relationships, most persistently in connection to her first female prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, her political views remained private, part of a broader policy of avoiding contention at all times. 'The very fact of living a decent and upright life is in itself a positive factor in maintaining civilised standards,' the Queen stated. 'Civilised standards' included the politeness to respect others' views without giving offence.

Tensions were also rumoured at intervals in her relationships with her children, especially her eldest son, The Prince of Wales. On her state visit to Denmark in 1957, the Queen admitted to a scientist she met that she missed her children 'when I'm away for long'. She was, of course, often away, and there were times when duty apparently made more insistent demands on her attention than family life.

**‘Outpourings of public affection on an unprecedented scale were thanks to her “selfless dedication”’**

### Universal affection

A mistaken view emerged of the Queen as a cold mother: many blamed her for the divorces of her three elder children in the difficult decade of the 1990s, in which the ‘*annus horribilis*’ of 1992 saw the separation of The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Windsor Castle fire and demands for alterations in the royal tax position. It was perhaps a reflection of the Queen’s overwhelming success in her public role that prompted criticism of her private record.

Overwhelmingly, however, the Queen inspired praise. Her Silver, Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilees prompted outpourings of public affection on an unprecedented scale. The reason was simple: in the words of the once-republican Master of the Queen’s Music Peter Maxwell Davies, her ‘selfless dedication and example’.

‘What she’s interested in,’ stated a prime-ministerial aide once, ‘are things going on as they are, tolerance, good manners, Christian behaviour, doing the right thing.’ As so often, it was the viewpoint of the silent majority, who repaid her efforts with the love and unstinting admiration she unquestionably deserved.

Matthew Dennison is the author of *‘The Queen’* (Apollo) →



# Family milestones through the years

From happy childhood to busy motherhood, the Queen's life was full of love, laughter—and some tears

### 1920s

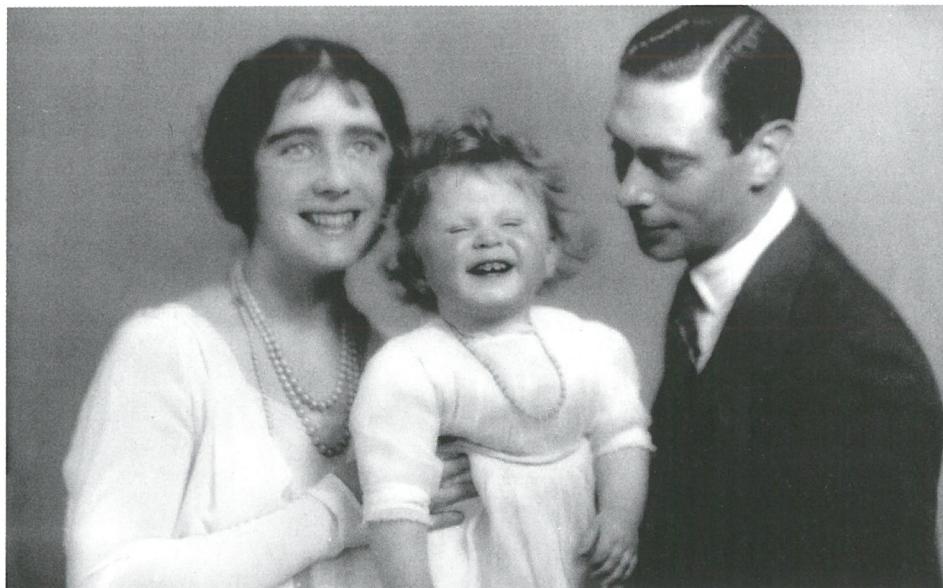
- Winston Churchill described 'an air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant' when Elizabeth was only 2½
- In 1929, she appeared on the cover of *Time*, which reported that the Duchess of York's preference for the colour yellow for her daughter's clothes and the decoration of her nursery had set a trend across America

### 1930s

- George V ('Grandpa England') dies on January 20, 1936. Unable to face ruling without Wallis Simpson by his side, Elizabeth's uncle, Edward VIII, submits his abdication on December 10, before broadcasting his decision to the nation the following day
- The first Pembroke Welsh corgi, Dookie, arrives at Royal Lodge in the summer of 1933, bred by Miss Evans of Rozavel Kennels in Reigate. He was later joined by Jane
- On her fourth birthday, Elizabeth receives a pony from her grandfather. In 1932, the people of Wales build Y Bwthyn Bach (the Little House) for her—it still stands in the Windsor grounds
- In early 1933, a new governess arrives: Marion Crawford ('Crawfie'). She remains until her own wedding in 1947, shortly before Elizabeth's

### 1940s

- In 1942, her father shows her the royal racehorses in training. After patting the King's Derby runner, Big Game, Elizabeth doesn't wash her hands for the rest of the day. A horse of her own comes in the form of a wedding present from the Aga Khan and her racing colours of purple body, scarlet



sleeves and black velvet cap—the same as her father's—are registered in 1949

- April 25, 1942: Princess Elizabeth signs up for war service
- August 25, 1942: Prince George, Duke of Kent, Princess Elizabeth's uncle, is killed in a flying accident over Morven in Scotland at the age of 39
- November 1943: the *Daily Mail* reports that Elizabeth had hunted with the Garth Foxhounds and the Duke of Beaufort's Hounds 'in accord with the general policy of making her life as "normal" as possible'
- In 1947, she attends her first Opening of Parliament

### 1950s

- August 15, 1950: Princess Anne born
- March 24, 1953: Queen Mary dies
- November 1953: the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh embark on a 43,618-mile tour of the Commonwealth that lasts until May 11 the following year
- October 1955: Princess Margaret ends her relationship with Group Capt Peter Townsend
- February 1957: the Queen endows the Duke of Edinburgh with the style and title of Prince
- December 25, 1957: the first Christmas Message is broadcast on television for the first time (it was live)
- 1958: Prince Charles goes to school

### 1960s

- The birth of Prince Andrew represents the first child born in a 'family on the throne' since Princess Beatrice in 1857
- A photograph taken by Prof John Hedgecoe at Buckingham Palace on June 22, 1966,

*Above: Sheer joy of living: baby Elizabeth with her parents, the Duke and Duchess of York. Facing page: The Queen in 1954 with Prince Charles and Princess Anne*

serves as a model for sculptor Arnold Machin. It has now been reproduced more than 200 billion times on currency and stamps

- Princess Margaret (1960) and Princess Alexandra (1963) are married at Westminster Abbey
- In 1960, it is announced that descendants of the Queen who did not bear the title HRH and females who might marry would henceforth carry the name Mountbatten-Windsor
- The State Opening of Parliament is televised for the first time in 1966
- The Duke and Duchess of Windsor attend the unveiling of a plaque honouring Queen Mary in 1967
- In 1969, an all-party commission of MPs is set up to look into the Civil List allowance—its report comes in 1971

### 1970s

- In 1970, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Capt Cook's voyage, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand and Australia. Three months later, Fiji and Tonga declare their independence
- From 1970, Prince Charles and Princess Anne have increasing public roles
- In 1970, the Queen unveils the second portrait of her by Annigoni
- That year, the Queen grants a Royal Charter to the Jockey Club, the first governing body of any sport to be accorded such an honour



## Elizabeth II: A Celebration





- The committee reviewing the Civil List reports in 1971 and increases the Queen's allowance from \$475,000 to \$980,000 per year (it hadn't been reviewed since her accession). There is no allowance for her personal use. In 1975, it's raised to \$1.4 million
- The Duke of Windsor dies on May 28, 1972—the Duchess stays at Buckingham Palace for the funeral. Prince William of Gloucester, the Queen's cousin, is killed in a flying accident
- The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrate their silver wedding anniversary in 1972. At a lunch to mark the occasion, the Queen says: 'I think that everybody will concede that, on this of all days, I should begin my speech "My husband and I"'
- On November 14, 1973, Princess Anne marries Capt Mark Phillips in Westminster Abbey—the first time a member of the Royal Family has married a commoner (it's also the birthday of Prince Charles and the Archbishop of Canterbury)
- In 1974, a kidnap attempt of Princess Anne is foiled. The Queen's uncle, the Duke of Gloucester dies that year
- In 1976, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon announce their marriage is over—they divorce in 1978
- In her Silver Jubilee year, the Queen travels 56,000 miles around the South Pacific and to 36 counties in Britain. Her Jubilee Appeal to 'help young people help others' raises \$16 million

## 1980s

- In 1980, more than two million people line the streets of London to see the Queen Mother pass on her way to a service to celebrate her 80th birthday
- On May 15, 1981, the Queen again becomes a grandmother, when Princess Anne gives birth to Zara
- In 1982, Prince Andrew takes part in the Falklands War
- On July 9, 1982, the Queen awakes to find Michael Fagan in her bedroom
- The Waleses' second son, Henry (Harry), is born on September 15, 1984
- In 1986, Prince Andrew marries Sarah Ferguson—a 'breath of fresh air'—in Westminster Abbey and becomes The Duke of York
- That year, the Duchess of Windsor dies and is buried with her husband at Frogmore,
- Also in 1986, the Queen becomes the first British monarch to visit China—crowds welcome 'the English country female King'
- Princess Beatrice is born on August 8, 1988
- The Princess Royal and Capt Mark Phillips separate in late August 1989



Facing page: Princess Elizabeth at Y Bwthyn Bach (The Little House), given to her by the Welsh people, at Windsor. Above: An 80th-birthday portrait by Jane Bown in 2006

## 1990s

- Princess Eugenie is born on March 23, 1990
- On a state visit to the US in 1991, the Queen becomes the first British monarch to address Congress
- The end of 1992 brings some good news as The Princess Royal marries Commander Tim Laurence in Scotland
- In 1994, The Prince of Wales appears in a frank—and ill-advised—television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby, in which he admits adultery
- In October that year, the Queen becomes the first reigning British monarch to set foot on Russian soil
- The Duke and Duchess of York are divorced in May 1996
- When on holiday in Mustique in 1998, Princess Margaret suffers a stroke
- In 1997, extension work begins on The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace, tripling its size
- Prince Edward marries in St George's Chapel, Windsor (June 19, 1999)

## 2000s

- It was an eventful time in 2000: Princess Margaret celebrated her 70th birthday, The Princess Royal her 50th, Prince William his 18th and, on August 4, the Queen Mother her 100th—she's one of 12 centenarians to get a card from the Queen, but hers was the only one signed 'Lilibet'
- As part of her Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002, the Queen dines at 10, Downing Street with the five living former Prime Ministers who had served under her: Tony Blair, John Major, Margaret Thatcher, James Callaghan and Edward Heath

- Lady Louise Windsor is born on November 8, 2003
- Prince William graduates from St Andrews University on June 23, 2005

## 2010s

- Prince William marries Catherine Middleton in Westminster Abbey on April 29, 2011, and is created Duke of Cambridge
- The Queen's first great-grandchild, Savannah, the daughter of Peter Phillips, is born on December 29, 2010
- The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have three children: Prince George is born on July 22, 2013, Princess Charlotte on May 2, 2015, and Prince Louis on April 23, 2018
- In 2015, changes are made to the order of succession to give female children an equal right to come to the throne
- On May 19, 2018, Prince Harry becomes Duke of Sussex and marries Meghan Markle and, on October 12, Princess Eugenie marries Jack Brooksbank. On May 6, 2019, the Sussexes welcome a son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, and, on June 4, 2021, a daughter, Lilibet Diana
- On January 31, 2019, the Queen surpasses Eleanor of Aquitaine to become the longest-reigning female ruler. Eleanor (1122–1204) was Queen Consort of France and England and Duchess of Aquitaine for 66 years and 358 days

## 2020s

- Princess Beatrice marries Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi on July 17, 2020
- Prince Philip dies on April 9, 2021
- Elizabeth II celebrates her Platinum Jubilee in June, 2022, with a four-day national holiday



# How the world changed

How history unfolded during the reign of Elizabeth II

**1952** Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing conquer Everest; Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap* opens; the first hydrogen bomb is tested

**1953** Stalin dies; the Korean War ends; Tito takes control of Yugoslavia; Winston Churchill wins the Nobel Prize for Literature

**1954** Rationing ends; Roger Bannister runs the four-minute mile; myxomatosis decimates the UK rabbit population; Mau Mau uprising

**1955** Warsaw Pact signed; first commercial television

**1956** Suez Crisis; Khrushchev visits Britain

**1957** The EEC established; Castro leads Cuban revolution; the USSR launches *Sputnik 1* and *2*, the latter bearing Laika the dog; women admitted to the House of Lords as life peeresses

**1958** The Munich air disaster kills eight of the 'Busby Babes' footballers; the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, visits Britain; the Queen inaugurates direct dialling

**1959** Alaska and Hawaii become the 49th and 50th American states; Nixon and Khrushchev have the 'Kitchen Debate'; the Dalai Lama flees Tibet; *Ben Hur* wins 11 academy awards

**1960** National Service ends; Frances Chichester sails the Atlantic solo; Somalia, Ghana and Cyprus become independent republics and Nigeria gains independence; first Paralympic Games, in Rome

**1961** John F. Kennedy is sworn in as the youngest US president; Yuri Gagarin is the first man in space; Nureyev defects; the Berlin Wall is erected; South Africa leaves the Commonwealth; Tanganyika declares independence; the contraceptive pill goes on sale



**1962** The Cuban Missile crisis; Nelson Mandela imprisoned; Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Uganda become independent; the UK winter of the 'Big Freeze'

**1963** John F. Kennedy is assassinated; Martin Luther King delivers his 'I have a dream' speech; John Profumo resigns from the government; Britain, the US and USSR sign a nuclear test-ban agreement; Kenya and Nigeria become Commonwealth republics and Malaysia becomes a new nation; the Great Train Robbery

**1964** Malta becomes an independent republic; Nyasaland, renamed Malawi, gains independence; Tanganyika and Zanzibar become Tanzania and Kenya becomes a republic; capital punishment ends in Britain

**1965** Churchill dies; Rhodesia becomes independent; Singapore secedes from the Federation of Malaysia

**1966** England wins the World Cup; the Aberfan tragedy; Chairman Mao launches the cultural revolution and publishes his *Little Red Book*; Mrs Gandhi becomes Prime Minister of India

**1967** BBC2 transmits in colour; Donald Campbell is killed aboard his speedboat *Bluebird* on Coniston Water in the Lake District; the Six-Day War; Uganda becomes a republic and South Yemen a People's Democratic Republic

**1968** Vietnam War; Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinated; Enoch Powell's 'rivers of blood' speech; Post Office introduces first-class post; Aswan Dam completed

**1969** Neil Armstrong and 'Buzz' Aldrin set foot on the Moon; RMS *Queen Elizabeth II* enters service; Robin Knox-Johnston is the first person to sail the world solo; Charles de Gaulle resigns; the Booker Prize established

**1970** The vote is given to 18 year olds; Ian Smith declares a republic in Rhodesia; the US invades Cambodia; The Beatles split

**1971** Decimal currency introduced; Idi Amin seizes power in Uganda; Greenpeace is founded





*Facing page:* Wearing the beaded Flowers of the Fields of France dress by Norman Hartnell on an official visit to France in April 1957, with then French President René Coty. *Above:* The Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen meet Pope John Paul II in Rome in 1960

**1972** Bloody Sunday, with 14 civilians killed in the Bogside, Derry; the pound is devalued and a freeze on wages and prices is imposed; 11 Israeli hostages killed by terrorists at the Munich Olympics; *Apollo 16* lands on the moon

**1973** Britain, Denmark and the Republic of Ireland formally join the EEC; VAT comes into force; Watergate hearings begin; commercial radio broadcasts begin; Vietnam peace agreement signed in Paris; Greece proclaims itself a republic

**1974** The IRA bombs pubs in Guildford and Birmingham, plus Oxford Street; miners' strike, three-day week and power cuts; no clear majority in February election prompts a second one in October; collapse of power-sharing agreement in Northern Ireland; Nixon resigns; Greece abolishes monarchy

**1975** Margaret Thatcher becomes first female leader of a political party; Sex Discrimination Act and Equal Pay Act; Britain votes yes to staying in the EEC; Dutch elm disease takes hold; Spain restores monarchy after death of Franco

**1976** Cod wars end; *Concorde* starts commercial flights and space-shuttle tests begin; the US celebrates 200 years of independence; Apple Computers founded; Britain bakes in a hot, dry summer

**1977** Virginia Wade wins the Wimbledon Ladies' Singles; Lucinda Prior-Palmer wins Badminton and the European Championships on George; Red Rum wins a third Grand National; unemployment reaches one million; the Regent's Park mosque opens

**1978** House of Commons proceedings are broadcast live on radio; Louise Brown, the first 'test-tube baby' is born; major winter strikes

**1979** Margaret Thatcher leads the Conservatives to victory; Lord Mountbatten is assassinated by the IRA; the Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran; the Shah is exiled; Amin is deposed; the spacecraft *Voyager I* observes Jupiter's rings; England wins the Ashes 5-1

**1980** Iranian embassy hostages freed by SAS; Princess Beatrix crowned Queen of the Netherlands after her mother's abdication; Rhodesia becomes the Republic of Zimbabwe; John Lennon assassinated

**1981** The 'Gang of Four' leave Labour to set up the SDP; Toxteth and Brixton riots; Ronald Reagan becomes US President; Pope John Paul II is attacked; Sadat is assassinated

**1982** Falklands War; Channel 4 starts; Mary Rose is raised; IRA bombs Hyde Park; Pope visits Britain



# Elizabeth II: A Celebration



*Left: New Year fireworks explode over the Elizabeth Tower, home of Big Ben, which was renamed in the Queen's honour for her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Above: Helen Mirren in the title role of *The Queen*, directed by Stephen Frears*

**1983** Seatbelts are made compulsory; IRA bombs Harrods; Motorola introduces mobile phone; Lester Piggott wins ninth Derby riding Teenoso

**1984** Brighton bombing; miner's strike; Indira Gandhi assassinated; famine in Ethiopia; AIDS virus identified

**1985** Live Aid; ordination of women approved; miners concede defeat; multiple deaths at Bradford City and Heysel, Belgium, football stadiums; state of emergency declared in South Africa

**1986** British Gas privatised; Greater London Council abolished; Chernobyl; space shuttle *Challenger* explodes; Swedish PM Olof Palme assassinated; Gary Lineker wins Golden Boot award at the World Cup

**1987** The Great Storm; Black Monday; the King's Cross fire; Terry Waite kidnapped; MS *Herald of Free Enterprise* disaster; Enniskillen bombing; Lester Piggott jailed for tax evasion

**1988** Lockerbie plane crash; Clapham Junction rail crash; Piper Alpha oil rig catches fire

**1989** Berlin Wall collapses; the Cold War ends; tanks are sent in to crush protestors in Tiananmen Square; Hillsborough and *Marchioness* disasters; Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution

**1990** Margaret Thatcher ousted; East and West Germany unified; Nelson Mandela released; Mikhail Gorbachev awarded Nobel Peace Prize; Lech Walesa elected president of Poland

**1991** John McCarthy and Terry Waite released; Operation Desert Storm liberates Kuwait; Gorbachev resigns and USSR becomes a commonwealth of republics; Slovenia and Croatia declare independence from Yugoslavia

**1992** Worst UK drought for 200 years; Betty Boothroyd is first female Speaker; Croatia and Slovenia are recognised as independent and Bosnia-Herzegovina declares independence

**1993** The single market comes into force; John Major and Albert Reynolds sign peace agreement; Mandela shares Nobel Peace prize with President R. W. de Klerk; Grand National false start

**1994** Channel Tunnel opens; Tony Blair elected Labour leader after the death of John Smith; IRA ceasefire agreed; National Lottery launched; first women priests ordained; Mandela sworn in as president of South Africa

**1995** Ceasefire in Balkans brokered; Israeli prime minister Rabin is assassinated

**1996** BSE hits British cattle; Shakespeare's Globe completed; Dolly the sheep cloned; first GM products sold in Britain

**1997** Labour landslide; Hong Kong hand-over; the first 'Harry Potter' book published by Bloomsbury; the Countryside Rally in Hyde Park; Grand National bomb scare

**1998** Good Friday peace agreement; hereditary peers lose right to sit in House of Lords

**1999** The Euro is introduced; President Clinton acquitted in impeachment trial; the Millennium Stadium opens in Cardiff; *The Gruffalo* published

**2000** Tate Modern and the wobbly Millennium Bridge open; Ken Livingstone is the first elected London Mayor; Countryside and Rights of Way Act gives partial Right to Roam



**2001** The 9/11 bombing of the Twin Towers; foot-and-mouth disease shuts down the countryside; Enron scandal; iPad and Wikipedia are launched; the US invades Afghanistan

**2002** The EU votes to add 10 new countries; Commonwealth Games in Manchester

**2003** Some 500,000 go on the Countryside March; one million march against the Iraq conflict; Saddam Hussein deposed; *Concorde's* last flight; Yugoslavia dismantled; the first Twenty20 matches; England wins the Rugby World Cup

**2004** Tsunami devastates the Indian Ocean and kills thousands on Boxing Day; Facebook and Google launched

**2005** London wins the Olympic Games; London transport is bombed; Hurricane Katrina hits the US; the IRA ends armed campaign; the Civil Partnership Act is passed; Ellen MacArthur breaks the world record for the fastest single-handed circumnavigation of the globe

**2006** Alexander Litvinenko murdered in London; £53 million stolen in Securitas depot robbery; whale discovered in Thames; Daniel Craig makes debut as James Bond

**2007** Apple releases the iPhone; Helen Mirren wins Oscar for *The Queen*; Prince William opens new Wembley Stadium

**2008** Barack Obama elected US President; Benazir Bhutto assassinated; Castro steps down; Lewis Hamilton is youngest Formula 1 world champion; Large Hadron Collider is inaugurated;

**2009** Hilary Mantel wins the Booker Prize for *Wolf Hall*; swine flu; Bitcoin Network created; Usain Bolt sets world record in World Athletics Championships

**2010** General Election leads to a hung parliament—a coalition results; Caroline Lucas becomes the first Green MP; David Cameron apologises for Bloody Sunday; earthquake in Haiti; Cadbury taken over by Kraft Foods; volcanic ash from Iceland causes travel chaos

**2011** Arab Spring; Osama Bin Laden found and killed; Mark Todd comes out of retirement to win Badminton Horse Trials



When the streets of London turned gold: cyclist Sir Chris Hoy, one of many triumphant British athletes at the Olympics in 2012, celebrates winning the Men's Keirin

**2012** London stages hugely successful Olympic Games; Bradley Wiggins wins the Tour de France

**2013** Andy Murray wins Wimbledon; same-sex marriage is legalised in England and Wales; the world's first lab-grown burger; the General Synod votes in favour of women bishops

**2014** Scotland votes to stay part of the UK; ebola crisis; Malaysian Airways flight disappears; Somerset Levels flooded; Commonwealth Games in Glasgow

**2015** Attack on Charlie Hebdo offices; NASA finds water on Mars; the first Woman's Boat Race; Paris Agreement on climate change

**2016** Britain votes to leave the EU; Donald Trump elected US President; the Rio Olympic Games are Britain's most successful with 130 medals; the first series of *The Crown* is aired

**2017** Martin McGuinness resigns; DUP shores up Government; bombing of Manchester Arena; Grenfell Tower fire; Lake District becomes UNESCO World Heritage Site

**2018** Salisbury poisonings; Theresa May apologises for Windrush controversy; first statue of a female in Parliament Square, Millicent Fawcett; Harry Kane wins the Golden Boot at the World Cup

**2019** Boris Johnson wins an 80-seat majority; the Booker Prize is split; Greggs launches meat-free sausage rolls; the Women's Fifa World Cup is the most watched British television broadcast

**2020** The world stops for the coronavirus pandemic; Britain finally leaves the EU; Joe Biden elected US President with the first female vice-president, Kamala Harris

**2021** Coronavirus vaccine programme; Rachael Blackmore is the first woman to win the Grand National; England reaches the World Cup final; the 2020 Olympics take place a year late in Tokyo, Japan. Team GB secure 65 medals: 22 gold, 21 silver and 22 bronze

**2022** The Lionesses win the Women's World Cup; Liz Truss becomes Prime Minister →

‘What she’s interested in is doing the right thing’



## Elizabeth II: A Celebration







### Head of the family, head of the nation

From her earliest days, family was of paramount importance to the Queen. The happy home life she enjoyed meant she wanted to impart similar security to her own children and, in the Duke of Edinburgh, she found the most constant and steadfast companion with whom to do so. Their marriage was source of strength and comfort during difficult times, especially when her children's relationships ran into trouble. She greeted her first grandchild, Savannah Phillips, in 2010, and her 12th, Sienna Mapelli Mozzi, in 2021. The year before, an official photograph of Elizabeth II with The Prince of Wales, The Duke of Cambridge and Prince George emphasised the security of her dynasty.



## Elizabeth II: A Celebration







### Happy and glorious

It was at Balmoral in Scotland, on her annual summer holiday, that the Queen could enjoy her most private time with her family, hosting picnics, meeting the latest additions to her Highland-pony stud and attending the Braemar Gathering (*pictured*). In public, the world's most photographed woman usually kept a serene countenance, but her sense of humour and delight in life was frequently and joyously on show, when appearing with James Bond at the London Olympics, cheering on her racehorses at Royal Ascot or, in more recent times, talking on Zoom with representatives of countries, committes and charities, bringing a touch of lightness to a dark time for the world.



## Elizabeth II: A Celebration







### Woman of the people

The flag-waving crowds who flocked to The Mall to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee on June 4, 2002, symbolised the enduring love the people of Britain and the Commonwealth, not to mention many other countries unconnected with the UK, bore for the Queen. Her unwavering loyalty to her subjects, her unflinching acceptance of her duty to them, won their love in return and she was always sensible of the need to be visible. The cheers she received as she appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, on this and many other occasions, could be heard across the capital and resonated far beyond.



## Elizabeth II: A Celebration



We will never see her like again: the nation thanks you for your many years of unstinting service, Ma'am. God Save The Queen!





Remember the good times, for there were many: the Queen takes tea with Paddington Bear to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee

## COUNTRY LIFE

Her Majesty Elizabeth II



1926-2022

Her Majesty The Queen  
at her Coronation  
(Camera Press/Cecil Beaton)

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