A commemorative edition of the UK's children's newspaper

First News

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"And, when peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of today, to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place."



THE YOUNG PRINCESS ELIZABETH IN A RADIO MESSAGE TO CHILDREN DURING WW2 IN 1940

REMEMBERING THE QUEEN

21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIES

THE Queen died peacefully at Balmoral on Thursday 8 September 2022.



The announcement was made as the flag lowered over Buckingham Palace at 6:30pm.

She was 96, the longest-serving monarch in British history.

The Queen's family had gathered at her Scottish estate during the day after concerns grew about her health.

Her eldest son immediately became King Charles III, at the age of 73.

He said: "The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty the Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.

"We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much-loved Mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world.

"During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which the Queen was so widely held."

Queen Elizabeth became head of state when she was just 25, after the death of her father, King George VI on 6 February 1952.

Her reign spanned 15 prime ministers from Winston Churchill, born in 1874, to Liz Truss, born 101 years later in 1975 – who was only appointed by the Queen two days before she died. It was her final duty after seven decades of service.

News of the Queen's passing was posted on the gates of Buckingham Palace by two footmen, as is the tradition for important royal announcements.



There were tears, but also cheers, at Buckingham Palace for the Queen as thousands of people gathered following the news of her death



"I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country." – her son King Charles III

Tributes poured in on the news of the Queen's death

"Queen Elizabeth II was the very spirit of Great Britain." – Prime Minister Liz Truss



"Scotland loved, respected and admired her." – Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon



"Thank you Ma'am, for everything." – Paddington Bear



"This is our country's saddest day. In the hearts of every one of us there is an ache at the passing of our Queen, a deep and personal sense of loss – far more intense, perhaps, than we expected." – former prime minister, Boris Johnson



"In a world of constant change, she was a steadying presence and a source of comfort and pride for generations of Britons, including many who have never known their country without her." – US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden



"As we mourn her loss, we should also treasure her life, our longest-serving and greatest ever monarch." – Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the Labour Party



"She was one of my favourite people in the world. I will miss her so much." – Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau



"Time and again, we were struck by her warmth, the way she put people at ease, and how she brought her considerable humour and charm to moments of great pomp and circumstance." – former US president, Barack Obama, and his wife Michelle



Pope Francis paid tribute to the Queen's "unstinting service to the good of Britain and the Commonwealth".



The Queen's important roles

Queen Elizabeth II was head of state of the United Kingdom. This means she was the leader of the country – but, in fact, the monarch does not make laws or have any political power. Britain has a constitutional monarchy, which means the UK is a state that has a king or queen but the people follow a written set of rules called a constitution. Britain is also a parliamentary democracy – the people who live here vote for a government to run the country and to make the laws. The Queen ascended the throne because of the family she was born into. But, she had an important job – she met with the prime minister every week to discuss new laws and decisions. She also hosted official visits and entertained leaders of other countries, and presided over lots of ceremonies.

Queen Elizabeth II was the head of state of many Commonwealth countries as well as the UK (see page 20). She was also the head of the armed services (the Army, Navy and Air Force) and of the Church of England. She spent a lot of time doing charity work and supported more than 600 charities and organisations. She used to travel a lot visiting her subjects in the UK and across the world. She was also mum to four children, had eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

The crown, and all these jobs, passed immediately and invisibly to her son, Charles, when she died. He is now known as His Majesty King Charles III.

A memory from our editor, Nicky Cox MBE



At *First News*, we are deeply saddened that Queen Elizabeth II has died. She has been an incredible example to children, and to us all, of service and duty. Our thoughts are with her family.

I was lucky to have met her and have a special memory that makes me smile.

As she was pinning my MBE on to me at Windsor Castle, she said: "I'm getting quite good at this, you know!" She had been doing it for decades! It was an example of the gentle humour of the Queen, which so many people have talked about. We will miss her.

And, in the words of Paddington: "Thank you, Ma'am."

King's granddaughter christened

30 May 1926

THE first-born child of George, Duke of York, younger son of King George V, and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, Duchess of York, was christened yesterday.

The new princess was born on 21 April 1926 at 2:40am at 17 Bruton Street, the private London home of her maternal grandparents. She has been named Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, after her mother, her paternal great-grandmother, Queen Alexandra, and paternal grandmother, Queen Mary. The Archbishop of Canterbury took the christening service, which was held in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace. The King's new granddaughter wore a christening gown of satin and lace, which was originally made for Queen Victoria's first child. At this time, Princess Elizabeth stands third in line of succession to the throne after Edward, Prince of Wales, and her father, the Duke of York. It is not expected that her father will become King, or that the princess herself will become Queen.



The Duke and Duchess of York with their daughter, Princess Elizabeth, asleep in her christening robe

LOOK OUT for the words in blue throughout this newspaper. They appear in the glossary on page 26.

Timeline of the Queen's life

1926	Princess Elizabeth born, 21 April
1930	Her sister, Princess Margaret, born
1936	Her uncle, Edward VIII, abdicates (gives up the throne), 11 December (see page 4). Her father becomes King George VI, 11 December, and she becomes next in line
1939	World War Two begins
1945	World War Two ends
1947	Elizabeth gets engaged to Philip, 9 July. She marries Philip in Westminster Abbey, 20 November
1948	Her first child, Prince Charles, born
1950	Her second child, Princess Anne, born
1952	Her father, King George VI, dies. She ascends throne, 7 February
1953	Her coronation at Westminster Abbey, 2 June. She becomes Head of the Commonwealth
1960	Her third child, Prince Andrew, born
1964	Her fourth child, Prince Edward, born
1977	Queen's Silver Jubilee Her first grandchild, Peter Phillips, born
2002	Her younger sister, Princess Margaret, dies Queen Mother dies Queen's Golden Jubilee
2006	Queen Elizabeth II's 80th birthday
2007	She and Prince Philip celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary
2010	Her first great-grandchild, Savannah Phillips, born
2012	Her Diamond Jubilee
2015	She becomes longest-reigning monarch in British history
2021	Duke of Edinburgh dies
2022	Her Platinum Jubilee, followed by her death on 8 September



The Queen meets members of the public on her Diamond Jubilee tour in 2012

A PRINCESS NOT BORN TO BE QUEEN

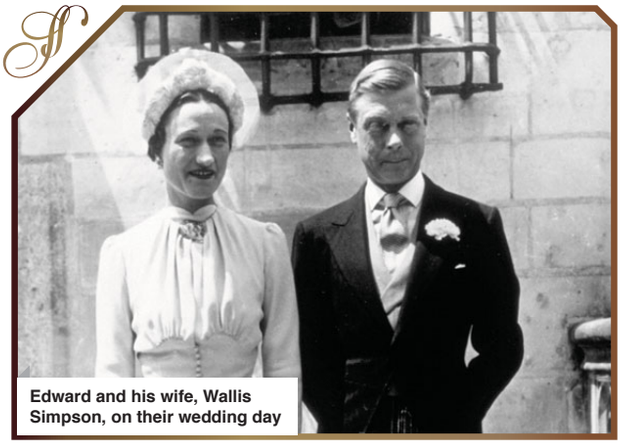
PRINCESS Elizabeth did not expect ever to be Queen, but then her uncle decided he didn't want to be King and her life changed forever.

When the Queen's grandfather, George V, died in 1936, her uncle Edward, Prince of Wales, was next in line to the throne. He fell in love with an American woman called Wallis Simpson who had divorced one husband and was about to divorce a second. In those days, it was not considered right for the king to marry someone who was not British and who had been divorced. It was a big scandal and the prime minister of the time, Stanley Baldwin, gave Edward the choice – the throne or Wallis. He chose Wallis and, after just 11 months of being king, he abdicated (gave up the throne) on 11 December 1936. He had never even been crowned. The whole country was shocked and it became known as 'the abdication crisis'. Elizabeth's father George, Duke of York, became King of England that same day – which meant that Elizabeth, now aged ten, was suddenly next in line after him.

A shy king

George was a quiet man and, as he had never expected to become King, he had no time to prepare. It was not a job he wanted and he said: "This is absolutely terrible. I never wanted this to happen." To make things worse for him, he had a stammer, which made public speaking very hard. On 12 May 1937 he was crowned King George VI in Westminster Abbey. His two daughters, Elizabeth and her sister Margaret, wore robes and coronets (small crowns). Then they stood with their father and mother on the balcony of Buckingham Palace and waved to the crowds gathered below.

George VI turned out to be a good, hard-working king, and led the country through the very difficult time of the Second World War, which started in 1939. Many people think he was one of the most successful kings that England has ever known.



Edward and his wife, Wallis Simpson, on their wedding day



King George VI

Death of our King

7 February 1952

THE nation awoke to the news yesterday morning that King George VI had died suddenly, aged 56.

He was staying at the royal residence of Sandringham House. The official announcement said: "The King, who retired to rest last night in his usual health, passed peacefully away in his sleep early this morning." The monarch, who was in the 16th year of his reign, was suffering from a lung disease.

It is expected that the accession of his daughter Princess Elizabeth, aged 25, as the new sovereign will be announced very soon. She and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, are on their way home from Kenya, where they were visiting as part of their Commonwealth tour. When she sets foot in England again it will be as Queen Elizabeth II. Her son, Prince Charles, is now heir to the throne and his sister Princess Anne is second in line.

DID YOU KNOW?

After his abdication, Edward lived abroad for the rest of his life. Elizabeth II, his niece, went to visit him just before he died.

The rules of succession

Not just anybody can become king or queen. Monarchs usually inherit the throne from their parents – this is called succession and there are strict rules that have to be followed. Up until recently, the rules stated that when a monarch died or abdicated, the position went to the oldest son, even if he had older sisters – this is called male primogeniture. If the monarch had no sons, then the eldest daughter would inherit the throne. So, even though the Queen's daughter Anne is older than her brothers Andrew and Edward, they have always been ahead of her in the line of succession. But, in 2013, the rules changed to apply to those born after 28 October 2011, that the first-born child of a monarch will become heir whether that child is a boy or girl.



Until 2011, Prince George would not have been in line for the throne if he had been born a girl

Now King Charles III is the monarch, who is next in line?

1. **The King's son Prince William**
2. **William's son Prince George**
3. **William's daughter Princess Charlotte**



A VERY SPECIAL DAY

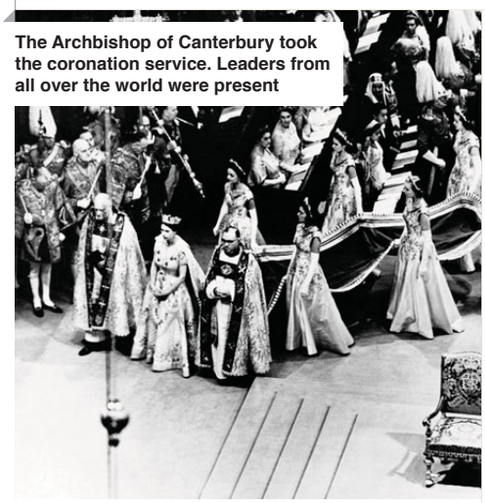
ON 2 June 1953, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey and thousands of well-wishers turned out, despite the rain!



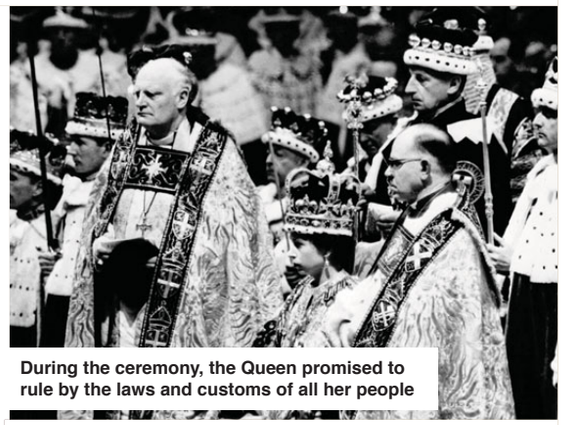
Queen Elizabeth II's royal carriage passed Buckingham Palace on the way to Westminster Abbey as crowds of people lined the streets to see her



The Queen's coronation gown, designed by Norman Hartnell, featured the emblems of the Commonwealth countries, including the Tudor rose of England, the maple leaf of Canada and the lotus flower of India



The Archbishop of Canterbury took the coronation service. Leaders from all over the world were present

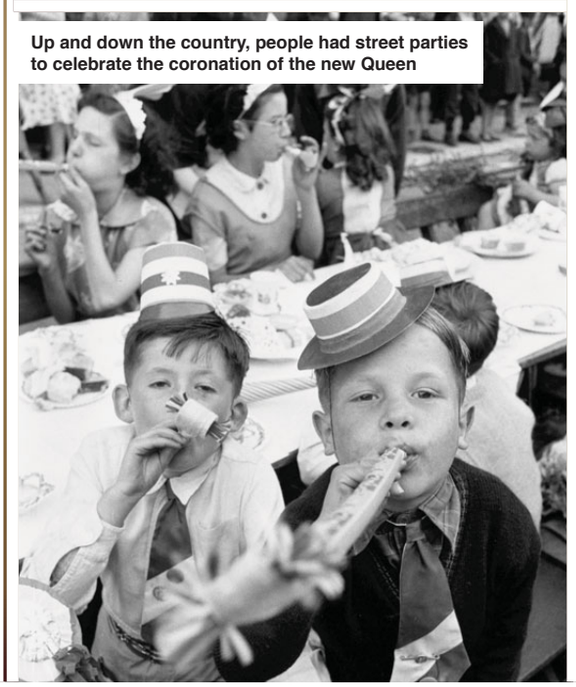


During the ceremony, the Queen promised to rule by the laws and customs of all her people



The Gold State Coach was built in 1762 and has been used at the coronation of every British monarch since George IV

Up and down the country, people had street parties to celebrate the coronation of the new Queen





Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip waved to the crowds afterwards

DID YOU KNOW?

• Elizabeth insisted that her coronation be televised, even though her advisors thought that it was "improper". Thousands of people bought their first TV set to watch the event and invited friends and neighbours round. An estimated 20 million people tuned in.

• Coronation chicken was invented by a cook at Buckingham Palace for a banquet after the coronation. Made of chicken with mayonnaise, curry powder and apricot purée, it was supposed to be a little exotic to appeal to guests from the Commonwealth countries.

THE LITTLE PRINCESS

SHE may not always have known she was going to be the Queen, but Elizabeth Windsor still had a childhood that was rather different to most children's!

Elizabeth's first home was at 145 Piccadilly, right in the centre of London and round the corner from Buckingham Palace, the home of her grandparents, King George V and Queen Mary. The King was a gruff man, but not with his little granddaughter – she called him Grandpa England and he nicknamed her Lilibet because when she was a toddler she had trouble saying her name and would say Lillie-beth. It is thought that the Queen signed cards to her close family as Lilibet! The pair adored each other and one archbishop reported seeing King George on his hands and knees while the toddler princess pulled him along by his beard! It was he who gave Elizabeth her first pony when she was around four – a little Shetland called Peggy.



Princess Elizabeth, second left, at the zoo



145 Piccadilly, the Queen's very first home

Queen in training

Elizabeth's life changed in 1936 when she was ten and her father became King. She was suddenly heir to the throne and had to prepare for the job. She studied the history of the laws of Britain, as well as the history of her own family, the monarchy. She had some lessons with her father, the King, and was instructed in religion by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Her grandmother, Queen Mary, took her to museums, concerts and exhibitions and showed her what it was like to carry out royal duties. The princess began to have some official royal duties when she was just a teenager. Aged 14, she made her first ever radio broadcast and, on her 16th birthday, she carried out her first public engagement when she inspected a regiment of soldiers. Her official duties gradually increased and she was particularly involved with organisations connected with young people, like the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

School but not school!

Elizabeth's sister, Margaret, was born in 1930. The two girls did not go to school but were educated at home by a Scottish governess called Miss Crawford ('Crawfie' for short). Elizabeth had lessons in Latin, French and art and, from the age of six, was taught to play the piano (although it is said she didn't like practising). In their free time, Elizabeth and Margaret read, made up plays and listened to the radio (there was no television back then). Crawfie would take them on outings into the 'normal' world and they would do things like visit London Zoo and travel on the London Underground.

DID YOU KNOW?

Princess Elizabeth was a very good swimmer and won an award, the Children's Challenge Shield, at London's Bath Club when she was 13.



Elizabeth as a Girl Guide

A ROYAL GIRL GUIDE

Princess Elizabeth enrolled as a Girl Guide when she was 11, and her sister Margaret became a Brownie at the same time. They belonged to a special unit called 1st Buckingham Palace Company, which was formed in 1937 and had its meeting every Wednesday in the palace. The pack had around 20 Guides and 14 Brownies who were the children of palace employees. Elizabeth became Patrol Leader of Swallow Patrol. In 1943 she joined another youth organisation called the Sea Rangers. When she ascended the throne in 1952, she became the Guiding Association's patron.



Buckingham Palace was bombed during World War 2

THE WAR SPIRIT

WHEN war broke out in Europe, Elizabeth and her family did all they could to support the country.



Victory crowds gather outside Buckingham Palace

Elizabeth was 13 when the Second World War began. Clothing and food were rationed, which meant there was a limit on what people were allowed to buy and everyone had to be careful with what they used – the royal family did this too. During the Blitz, Britain was bombed heavily by Nazi Germany. London was targeted the most and many buildings were hit, including Buckingham Palace (nine times!). Elizabeth's parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, refused to leave London because they wanted to support the people – they stayed at the palace during the day and went to Windsor Castle at night. Many children were evacuated and sent away from the cities to the country and even abroad to America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In 1940, at the height of the Blitz, Elizabeth and Margaret were moved for their safety to Windsor Castle and stayed there for most of the war years.

Doing her bit

Towards the end of the war, when she was 18, Elizabeth begged to be allowed to do National Service. This was when young men went to fight and other people, including girls of the Princess's age, did jobs that could help the country during the war. She was enlisted in the Auxiliary Territorial Service and, mixing with ordinary people for the first time, trained to be a driver, map reader and mechanic. Her rank was Second Subaltern, but she was later promoted to Junior Commander.

DID YOU KNOW?

The King and Queen were at home when Buckingham Palace was hit during the Blitz on 13 September 1940. Neither of them was injured but some of their servants were.

Undercover celebrations

The war ended in 1945 and there were huge victory celebrations. Elizabeth and Margaret were allowed to go out into the London crowds and join in. No-one recognised the royal sisters as they looked up at their parents and the prime minister, Winston Churchill, on the balcony of Buckingham Palace!

DID YOU KNOW?

During the war, the royal family refused to leave England. The Queen, Princess Elizabeth's mother, famously declared: "The children will not leave unless I do. I shall not leave unless their father does, and the King will not leave the country in any circumstances, whatever."

Royal radio debut

14 October 1940 **YESTERDAY, BBC Radio aired a special broadcast during *Children's Hour*, their programme for young listeners.**

Princess Elizabeth, just 14 years old, made her radio debut and first public speech with a wartime message for all the children of Britain and the Commonwealth, particularly those who had been evacuated for their safety to the country and abroad – see the photo on the front page of this special issue. The young princess reassured listeners that "in the end all will be well". She also told them: "When peace comes, remember, it will be for us the children of today to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place."

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S ANCESTORS

Elizabeth II was the latest in a very long line of monarchs – in fact there has been a monarch in England for more than 1,200 years.

After the Romans left in around 408AD, Britain was divided into different areas. Each one had a king or 'chieftain' who ruled in his own way. It was chaotic, with kings invading each others' areas and fighting for power! There is disagreement about who the first monarch of England actually was – but many think it was the Saxon King Offa. He reigned from AD757 to 796 and was the first ruler to be called 'King of the English'. It was kings like him and Alfred the Great (AD871-899) who began to create a central system of government so that the country was run with one set of laws. The Saxons ruled for over 300 years and then in 1066 Saxon King Harold II was killed at the Battle of Hastings and a whole new dynasty began...



King Offa

WHAT IS A DYNASTY?

Nowadays monarchs usually inherit the throne from their parents, according to the 'rules of succession' (more about this on page 4). A family that rules for a long period is called a 'dynasty' or a 'royal house'. Throughout history, dynasties have often come to an end when a rival family has tried to take over the throne – until quite recently this usually happened in battle. When the reigning king or queen was defeated, a new dynasty began. The kings and queens of England can be split into the following dynasties: Saxons, Normans, Plantagenets, Tudors, Stuarts, Hanoverians, Saxe-Gotha-Coburgs and Windsors.



William the Conqueror

The Normans

1066 - 1154

William the Conqueror beat Harold II and became the first Norman king. He ruled the country even though as a Frenchman he couldn't speak English! He gave Britain lots of new words, different foods and stone castles. It was under the Normans that the running of the country became more organised. There were five Norman monarchs but two of them, Stephen and Matilda, reigned at the same time because they both wanted the job!



Richard III

The Plantagenets

1154 - 1485

The longest-running dynasty in English history lasted well over 300 years and had 14 kings. One of these, John, was forced to sign the Magna Carta, which decreed that kings couldn't just do whatever they wanted (it is still an important document today, 800 years on). Another Plantagenet, Henry VI became king when he was just nine months old! The dynasty ended with Richard III who was the last king to die on a battlefield.



King Henry VIII

The Tudors

1485 - 1603

The Middle Ages ended during this dynasty. A more modern world began, bringing voyages around the globe, art, writing (including Shakespeare's plays) and the printing press. There were six Tudor rulers, three of whom were women: Mary I, Elizabeth I and Lady Jane Grey who only ruled for nine days. But the most famous Tudor has to be Henry VIII who established the Church of England and, of course, beheaded two of his six wives!

The Stuarts



Charles I

1603 - 1714

This period was eventful! Under James I, Guy Fawkes tried to blow up Parliament. Charles I ruled without Parliament for a lot of his reign, then he battled his own people in the Civil War and finally he was executed. After that there was no king (Parliament ruled instead), followed by a 'non-king' called Oliver Cromwell. When Charles II got the throne back he had to deal with the Plague and the Great Fire of London!

The Hanoverians

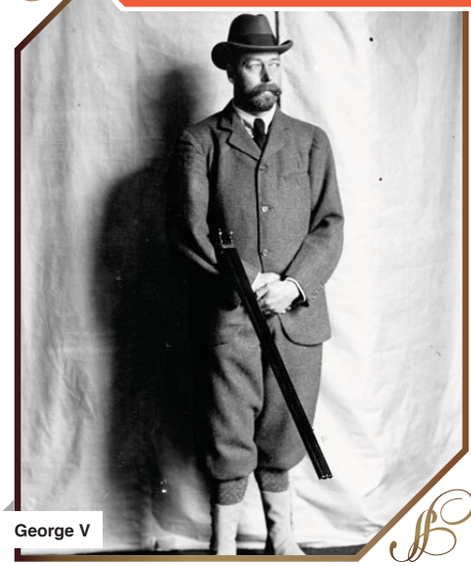


A young Queen Victoria

1714 - 1901

There were six Hanoverian monarchs, four of them called George! Among them were George II, the last king to lead an army into battle, and George III, the first king of both Britain and Ireland. The last Hanoverian was Victoria who in her 64 years as queen saw the arrival of railways, industrial machinery, photography and much more. Many comparisons are made between her and her great-great-grand-daughter Elizabeth II, especially their long reigns.

The Saxe-Coburg-Gothas



George V

1901 - 1910

There were one and half monarchs in this dynasty! The whole one was Edward VII. George V, the Queen's grandfather, started out with the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha surname, which had come from Queen Victoria's German husband, Prince Albert. However, during the First World War (1914-1918) feeling against the Germans was so strong that the King felt he had to drop the name. In 1917 he and his family changed to 'Windsor'.

The Windsors



Elizabeth II

1910 -

The current royal house was started by George V. His son Edward VIII, the Queen's uncle, took over from him but only reigned for 11 months before abdicating (turn to page 4 to find out more). This was the shortest reign since Edward V. His brother George VI then took the crown, seeing the nation through the Second World War. In 1952 his daughter Elizabeth II became the Queen, and her son is now King Charles III.

The Top Five Longest-reigning British Monarchs

Elizabeth II (1952 – 2022) – 70 years and 214 days

Victoria (1837 to 1901) – 63 years and 217 days

George III (1760-1820) – 59 years

James VI of Scotland (1567-1625) **(he was also James I of England)** – 58 years

Henry III (1216-1272) – 56 years

DID YOU KNOW?

- Elizabeth II was the 40th monarch since William the Conqueror took the crown of England.

- Plantagenet Richard III is said to have locked up his two nephews (children!) in the Tower of London and then had them killed so that he could be King.

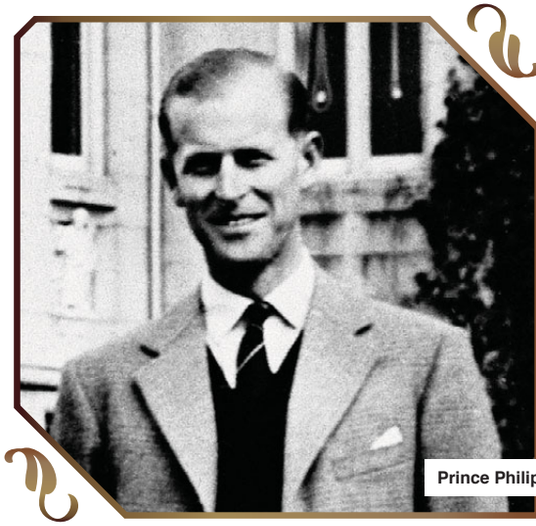
- King Charles III, Queen Elizabeth's son, will be the oldest person to be crowned in British history!

A FAIRY-TALE ROMANCE

IT was love at first sight for Elizabeth, and then she married her prince in a wedding that brought happiness to the whole country.

Princess Elizabeth was just a teenager when she first met her future husband. Prince Philip of Greece was 18 and he was her distant cousin (Queen Victoria was his great-great-grandmother too). They met when King George and Queen Elizabeth took their daughters to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, where Philip was a cadet training to be in the Navy. It is said that Elizabeth fell for him immediately and did not have eyes for anyone else from that moment on.

The pair began to exchange letters and the Prince visited the family every so often. They grew closer and Philip proposed to Elizabeth in 1946. She said yes immediately, without even asking her parents, which was very unusual for a princess at that time. King George wanted to postpone the wedding because he was worried that his daughter had fallen for the first boy she had met and he wanted her to be sure that it was the right decision. She was sure. The family kept the engagement secret until after the Princess's 21st birthday and the engagement was publicly announced on 9 July 1947.



Prince Philip

ALL ABOUT THE PRINCE

Prince Philip was born on the Greek island of Corfu. His father was Prince Andrew of Greece and his mother was Princess Alice, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria. Philip lived in France as a young child and then went to boarding school in Britain. He became a British subject and was made Duke of Edinburgh by King George just before the wedding. His family surname was Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, but he took the name of his uncle instead – Mountbatten (slightly easier to pronounce!). Once Elizabeth became Queen, he began his royal role, going on tour with her and supporting lots of charities. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has inspired thousands of young people in Britain and the Commonwealth to challenge themselves and try new things.

A happy day

21 November 1947

PRINCESS Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten married yesterday in Westminster Abbey.

The whole nation joined the couple in their happiness, a welcome relief after the sadness and hardship that the Second World War brought. Outside the abbey, tens of thousands of well-wishers gathered, in freezing temperatures, to welcome the Princess and her father, King George VI, as they arrived in a golden carriage pulled by a pair of white horses.

The Princess walked down the aisle in a stunning gown designed by royal dressmaker Norman Hartnell. She was accompanied by eight bridesmaids, while two five-year-old page boys in royal tartan kilts held her train. Her husband-to-be was dashing in his Royal Navy uniform. The ceremony was watched by 2,000 invited guests, including heads of state from many different countries, and was also broadcast to 200 million radio listeners around the world. Afterwards, the beaming bride and groom waved to cheering crowds from the balcony of Buckingham Palace.



On the balcony of Buckingham Palace



Travelling in style after the ceremony

DID YOU KNOW?

- The royal wedding cake was 2.75m (9ft) high (that's higher than the ceiling in an average house) and the bride and groom cut it with Prince Philip's sword!
- The couple had their honeymoon in Hampshire and at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, and took the Princess's corgi, Susan, with them!

WEDDING TREATS GALORE

About 10,000 telegrams of wedding congratulations were sent to Buckingham Palace, and the royal couple received more than 2,500 wedding presents from well-wishers around the world. They were given jewellery from their close relatives and also lots of useful items for the home: salt cellars from her mother, a bookcase from Queen Mary and a picnic case from Princess Margaret. Well, royals need those things too, you know!



A GOWN FIT FOR A PRINCESS

PRINCESS Elizabeth wore a stunning wedding dress with exquisite finishing touches, all with their own special royal history.



Elizabeth's wedding gown was designed by royal dressmaker Norman Hartnell. There was still wartime rationing in 1947 so the Princess had to collect enough coupons to buy the material.

The gown was woven using silk that had come from Chinese silkworms, embroidered with garlands of spring flowers and dotted with thousands of pearls.

Elizabeth's wedding ring was made from a nugget of gold from a mine in Wales. The nugget was given to the Windsors in 1923 and the gold also made the wedding rings of the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Princess Anne and Princess Diana (William and Harry's mum).

The bridal veil was held in place by a tiara of diamonds. The tiara can also be worn as a necklace and was made for Queen Mary, the Princess's grandmother, in 1919. There was panic when the tiara snapped on Elizabeth's wedding day and the royal jeweller had to be called to mend it very quickly.

The wedding bouquet was made of white orchids. It also included a sprig of myrtle from the bush grown from the original myrtle in Queen Victoria's wedding bouquet, a tradition for royal brides since that time.

The train on Princess Elizabeth's gown was 4.6m (15ft) long – that's about half the length of a double-decker bus.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Queen was the first British monarch to have celebrated a diamond wedding anniversary – she and Prince Philip had been married for 60 years in 2007.

EVERY DAY WAS A DAY OF DUTY

THE Queen was 96 when she died and had already given some of her responsibilities to her family, but here's what a typical day would have looked like at the height of her reign...



Morning: papers, people and prizes

The Queen started the day at her desk. Her first job was to read all the British newspapers so that she knew what was going on in her own country and around the world – the wars, the politics and who was the hot favourite in *Strictly*. She also read her correspondence – she got 200 to 300 letters from the public EVERY day. She didn't have the time to read every one herself but she took in a selection and instructed members of her staff on how to reply. They read all the letters and practically everyone got a response.

Then the Queen would meet with her two private secretaries to discuss her diary plans. They also brought her the 'red boxes', which were very secure (bomb-proof) cases full of papers from Government ministers and her representatives in the Commonwealth and foreign countries. She read the papers and then approved and signed any that needed her signature. This happened every day of the year, wherever she was in the world. 'Audiences' often came next. These were official meetings with important people, like ambassadors, political ministers, members of the armed forces, bishops and judges. The Queen may also have met people who had won prizes or awards for their work and sometimes at 11am she attended an 'investiture' – a ceremony where she presented awards and medals.

Afternoon: went walkabout



Meeting people

After lunch, Her Majesty went out on public engagements. She carried out around 430 of these a year, meeting people, opening events and buildings, unveiling plaques and making speeches. She tried to go to lots of different parts of the United Kingdom and to visit all kinds of places, including schools, hospitals and factories. She also went on 'walkabouts' so that she could chat to the local people. If the event was outside London, she would often travel by air in a helicopter or an RAF aircraft. She sometimes travelled overnight on the Royal Train, which is kept especially for the monarch and their family.



Planting a commemorative tree



Unveiling a plaque

Evening: met PM and watched a film

The Queen would end the afternoon meeting Government ministers. She was Queen for so long that she had more experience of governing than they did and they valued her advice. Every week on Wednesday at 6:30pm she usually had a meeting with the prime minister (PM). The conversation was top secret and no written records were ever made! At about 7:30pm the Queen read a report of what had happened in Parliament that day.

In the evening, the Queen often attended a film premiere, concert or reception, sometimes linked to a charity or organisation of which she was patron. She often hosted a banquet or official reception at Buckingham Palace, perhaps for a visiting world leader or to celebrate the work of a particular group in the community.

After all that, the Queen finally would go to bed... but even then, it was said that her light was the last one to go out at Buckingham Palace!



The Queen with former prime minister Theresa May

WORKING FOR OTHERS

The Queen was patron of more than 600 charities and organisations.

Being a patron of charities meant the Queen supported them, did work with them and helped them raise money (over £1.4bn during her reign!). They included all sorts of charities, from those that give opportunities to young people to those that work to preserve wildlife and the environment. Her involvement helped to bring the charities to the public's attention. It was one of her goals to encourage people to donate time and money to good causes, and she gave the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to those who had worked very hard for charity. The Queen also supported a lot of sporting organisations, particularly those involving horses and riding, which was a passion of hers.



The Queen at a garden party for military veterans

IT'S AN HONOUR!

Adele's got one and so has Mo Farah. But what is it?

An honour from the Queen! Twice a year she granted these awards to people for merit, service or bravery. They may have done a lot for their community or country, or achieved a very high standard in what they do. It is a public way of rewarding someone for doing something great. And they don't have to be famous songwriters, authors and athletes – awards can go to deserving people from all sections of the community, including charity workers, leaders of industry and lollipop ladies and men! There are lots of different honours, including Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE – *First News* editor Nicky Cox has one of these for services to children), Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) and Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE). Recipients of these honours were given their awards by the Queen or a senior member of the royal family at a ceremony known as an 'investiture'. Around 30 investitures are held each year, and more than 60 recipients attend each ceremony.

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to her duties in Britain, the Queen used to make many official visits abroad and travelled to more than 116 countries. In 2015, she decided to stop travelling overseas. Other members of the royal family carried out visits on her behalf.



Adele was made an MBE for her services to the music industry



Ant and Dec with their OBEs



Mo Farah was awarded a knighthood for his athletic achievements

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

THE Queen was always busy, dedicating the whole of her life to service. Take a look at some of the things that she got up to.

A LIFE OF DUTY



Walkabouts: the Queen made sure she met as many people as she could when she visited different parts of Britain



Opening buildings: she opened new hospitals and other important buildings, often by cutting a ribbon or unveiling a commemorative plaque



Caring: Elizabeth II visited a ward at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in 1952



Talking politics: she had meetings with the prime minister every week to get updates on current affairs and to give advice



Christmas broadcast: the Queen broadcast a seasonal message of hope and goodwill every year to the people of Great Britain and the Commonwealth



Remembrance Sunday service: the Queen used to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in remembrance of all those who lost their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts



Giving honours: The Queen and her family are known to give awards to people who achieve great things for Britain, like Tom Daley for services to diving, as well as in recognition of his charity work and his support of LGBT+ rights

VISITING THE COMMONWEALTH



New Zealand: Queen Elizabeth II on a tour of New Zealand in 1977, meeting Maori children in traditional dress



Singapore: the Queen enjoyed a Chinese lion dance... rather close up!



Uganda: dancers impressed the Queen with their traditional routine

MEETING AND GREETING



Important people: the Queen had meetings with world leaders, including former German Chancellor Angela Merkel...



...and South Africa's former president ,Nelson Mandela...



...Pope Francis in the Vatican City...



...oh, and occasionally bears!

THE QUEEN WORKED WITH 15 PRIME MINISTERS

When Elizabeth II became Queen in 1952, Winston Churchill was prime minister, and she appointed 14 prime ministers after him. Churchill was born in 1874 and Liz Truss was born 101 years later in 1975. Here are images of Her Majesty with all 15 leaders.



Winston Churchill – Conservative

Prime minister from 10 May 1940 – 26 July 1945 and 26 October 1951 – 5 April 1955
When he left the role in 1955, the Queen wrote Winston Churchill a letter about how she'd miss him, and how "no other prime minister would be able to hold the place of my first prime minister".



Anthony Eden – Conservative

Prime minister from 6 April 1955 – 9 January 1957
During Eden's short time as PM, it was revealed that he shared secret government documents with her.



Harold Macmillan – Conservative

Prime minister from 10 January 1957 – 18 October 1963
Macmillan was apparently nervous around the Queen at first, but grew to trust her with all of Parliament's gossip, knowing she'd keep it secret.



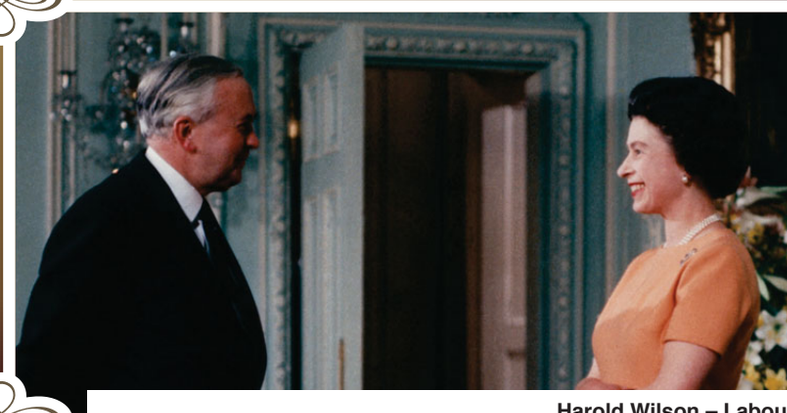
Alec Douglas-Home (second from left) – Conservative

Prime minister from 19 October 1963 – 16 October 1964
A friend of the Queen's mother, but an unpopular PM, Douglas-Home led the country for less than a year.



Edward Heath – Conservative

Prime minister from 19 June 1970 – 4 March 1974
The Queen's relationship with Edward "Ted" Heath was described as 'frosty', as Heath was said to struggle with small talk.



Harold Wilson – Labour

Prime minister from 16 October 1964 – 19 June 1970 and 4 March 1974 – 5 April 1976
Wilson became a good friend of Her Majesty and her family, and was often invited to join them at picnics, helping to clean up after the Duke of Edinburgh's barbecues.



James Callaghan – Labour

Prime minister from 5 April 1976 – 4 May 1979
Callaghan and the Queen were said to be good friends. As a former lieutenant in the Royal Navy, the Queen was said to have had 'great respect' for him.

DID YOU KNOW?

Along with 15 prime ministers, the Queen saw 14 US presidents come and go, meeting them all except Lyndon B Johnson, as she was pregnant at the time.



Margaret Thatcher – Conservative

Prime minister from 4 May 1979 – 28 November 1990
The Queen and Margaret Thatcher were born just six months apart, but came from very different backgrounds. During Thatcher's time in Downing Street, the two were said to have a 'tense' relationship, and had different personalities. The Queen was said to have quite the sense of humour, while Margaret Thatcher did not.



John Major – Conservative

Prime minister from 28 November 1990 – 2 May 1997
John Major was the first PM who was younger than the Queen, and was close with her family. He was the only politician invited to Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle in 2018.



Tony Blair – Labour

Prime minister from 2 May 1997 – 27 June 2007
Tony Blair, born in 1953, was the first prime minister to be born while the Queen was on the throne.



Gordon Brown – Labour

Prime minister from 27 June 2007 – 11 May 2010
The Queen was thought to be a fan of Mr Brown, and had been known to do impressions of the Scottish prime minister's voice!



David Cameron – Conservative

Prime minister from 11 May 2010 – 13 July 2016
Mr Cameron was distantly related to Her Majesty, as fifth cousins, twice-removed. He also went to the same school as her son, Prince Edward.



Theresa May – Conservative

Prime minister from 13 July 2016 – 24 July 2019
Theresa May and the Queen were thought to have had a good relationship, bonding over their love of the countryside.



Boris Johnson – Conservative

Prime minister from 24 July 2019 – 6 September 2022
Boris Johnson's relationship with the Queen got off to a bad start, with the former prime minister being accused of lying to the Queen to suspend Parliament. Later, their relationship appeared better, and Her Majesty allowed him to exercise in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, to get better after he had Covid-19.

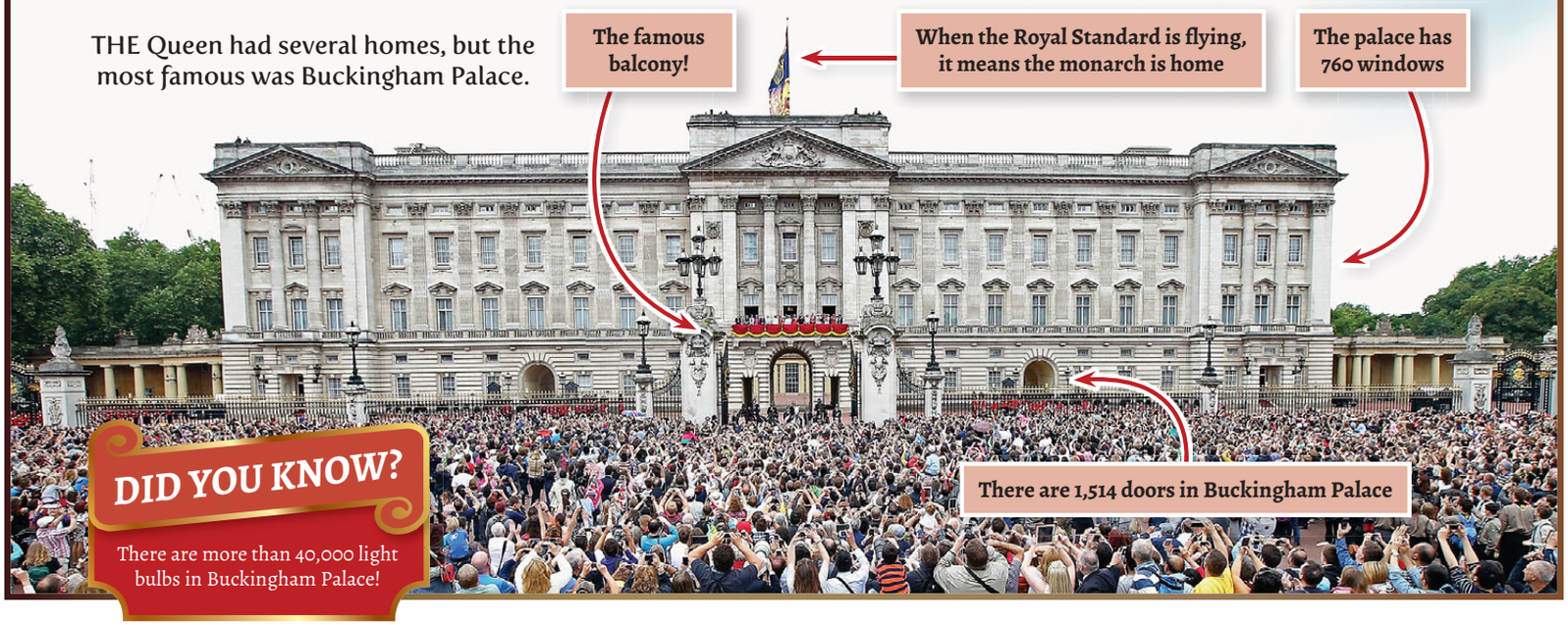


Liz Truss – Conservative

Prime minister from 6 September 2022 – present
Liz Truss was the only prime minister to be appointed at Balmoral, not Buckingham Palace. This meeting turned out to be the Queen's last duty.

THE QUEEN'S HOMES

THE Queen had several homes, but the most famous was Buckingham Palace.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 40,000 light bulbs in Buckingham Palace!

The site on which Buckingham Palace stands was originally a royal mulberry garden planted by King James I to rear silkworms. An unspectacular town house was built there, which King George III bought in 1761 and extended, making it a little grander. George IV made the house a LOT bigger after that and then Queen Victoria added her own extensions, making it into the palace we know today. Victoria was the first monarch to make Buckingham Palace her official residence.

A palace or a small town?

Buckingham Palace was Elizabeth II's official London home, but it was also her office – the headquarters from where her monarchy was run. There are 775 rooms inside but the Queen lived in only one section of one floor of one wing! The rest of the palace is taken up with 19 state rooms where royal functions are held, 52 royal and guest bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms. Buckingham Palace also has its own chapel, post office, swimming pool, tennis court, doctor's surgery, cinema, helicopter landing pad and cash machine!

The part of the palace that we mostly see is the East Front, with that famous balcony where the royal family stands to greet the public on special occasions. Under the balcony, on the huge gravel forecourt, Changing The Guard takes place – tourists can see this ceremony several times a week. But, if they want to go inside the palace to see the state rooms, they have to wait for the summer.

Homes from homes

Every year, the Queen visited her other residences too. Her favourite was Windsor Castle in Berkshire, by the River Thames. She spent most of her final years there and it is where she will be buried. It is the biggest and oldest inhabited castle in the world – the first part of it was built in 1070 by William the Conqueror. She also had a country house at Sandringham in Norfolk, as well as two residences in Scotland – the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh and Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire. She spent part of her honeymoon at Balmoral, and it is where she died.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 1992 fire at Windsor Castle caused £37 million worth of damage. To raise money for the restoration, the Queen allowed the state rooms of Buckingham Palace to be opened to the public during the summer for the first time. This has carried on ever since.

Windsor Castle ablaze

21 November 1992

THE Queen's home of Windsor Castle in Berkshire went up in flames yesterday and one of the world's greatest collections of art was under serious threat.

It is thought that the fire started in a private chapel at 11am when a curtain that was pressed against a spotlight burst into flames. The flames spread at great speed and engulfed many areas of the castle, which is more than 900 years old.

Two hundred firefighters attempted to control the flames, while the Queen and Prince Andrew joined the human chain helping to remove the many artworks – some of which are priceless – from the castle. It is already estimated that the damage will cost millions to repair. The Queen is said to be devastated.



Firefighters battle the flames

WHO LOOKED AFTER THE QUEEN?

WHEN you're the monarch of a country and have several large homes, you need people to help you... quite a few people, in fact!

Elizabeth II employed around 1,200 staff. They had a large range of roles including housekeeping, gardening, catering and replying to mail. The top job was probably the Keeper of the Privy Purse – responsible for managing the royal household's money. Another important role was the Queen's Private Secretary – this person would talk to Government and Commonwealth representatives for her. The people who spent the most time with Her Majesty were her ladies-in-waiting. They acted as her companions and assistants in public and private and did everything from replying to all the letters she received, to gathering the bouquets she was given when she was out and about.

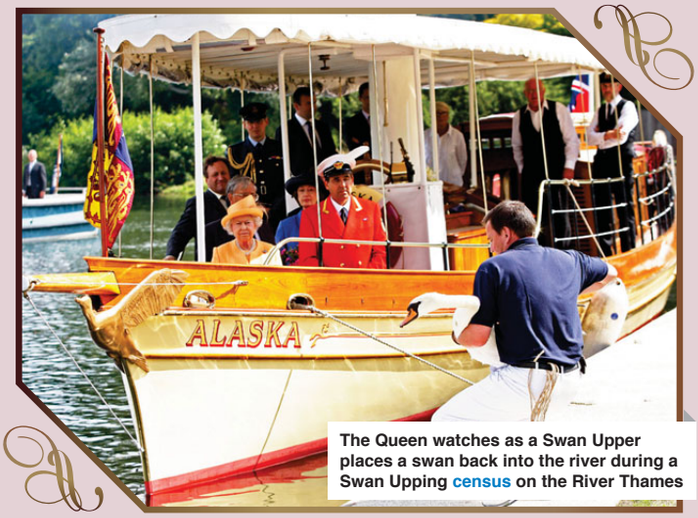
Aside from the ones you'd expect, there were some unusual royal jobs too

Queen's Piper

A soldier played the bagpipes under the Queen's window for 15 minutes every morning at 9am when she was staying at one of the royal residences!

Swan Upper

In England, wild mute swans are the property of the Crown. Every year, the Swan Uppers make a five-day journey up the River Thames to check on all the swans. This is called 'swan upping' and used to happen because swans were a delicacy eaten at banquets, but today it is for the swans' protection and to give them a health check.



The Queen watches as a Swan Upper places a swan back into the river during a Swan Upping census on the River Thames

Horological Conservators (clock carers)

There are more than 350 working clocks and watches in Buckingham Palace, and these two members of staff work full-time to wind them up every week and keep them in good working order.

Royal Footman

You used to have to be a man to do this job. Not any more, but it does help if you are around 1.75m (5ft 9in) tall and have a 91cm (36in) chest, as some of the uniforms date back to King Edward VII's reign (1901-1910) and, as they cost more than £2,000 to make, the royal household prefers to use the old ones!

Court Postmaster

The Postmaster, together with a team, handles the 1,000 pieces of post that arrive for the royal family every week (even more when there's a birth, wedding or other special occasion). The post office has an X-ray machine that is used to check all the packages to make sure they are safe. Food is always destroyed because of the threat of poisoning.



Just one of many!

Flag Sergeant

You can tell if the monarch is in or not by which flag is flying above the royal houses. When they are home, the Royal Standard is up. When they are not, it is the Union Flag. Her Flag Sergeant has the job of raising and lowering the right flag.



The Royal Standard

ELIZABETH II's REALM

AS well as being the Queen of the United Kingdom, Elizabeth II was the Head of the Commonwealth – a group of 54 countries across the world. That was quite a realm!

Back in the 19th century, Britain had a worldwide empire. An empire is a group of countries – called 'colonies' – that are ruled by one monarch or ruling power. The British Empire included India and a lot of African countries. After the Second World War, some of the colonies took back power and the British Empire didn't exist any more.

It was replaced by a different organisation of countries that still exists today and is called the Commonwealth of Nations or just the Commonwealth. It's made up of 54 nations across the world who have chosen to work together and support each other – they are called a 'family' of nations. All 54 countries of the Commonwealth have signed an agreement that states that they must hold fair and free elections and respect human rights. If a country does not follow the rules, they are suspended from the Commonwealth.

What was the Queen's role?

The Queen was the Head of the Commonwealth. She was also the Queen of 15 countries of the Commonwealth – the United Kingdom and 14 countries that used to be part of the British Empire. These are called 'Commonwealth realms'. A realm is a country ruled by a king or queen. Most of the Commonwealth realms are tiny Caribbean islands or Pacific Island states, like St Lucia and the Solomon Islands. But there were also big countries in her realm, like Australia and Canada. All in all, Elizabeth II ruled more than 130 million people. She could visit the countries of her realm but did not interfere in the running of them – she was represented by governor-generals who were from those countries. The other countries of the Commonwealth have different heads of state – 34 countries are republics (which means they do not have a monarch) and five have a different monarch.



The Commonwealth flag

What does the Commonwealth do?

The leaders of the Commonwealth nations meet every two years to discuss their work. They say their shared goals are development, democracy and peace. They run projects to protect the environment, to help poor communities and to fight racism. For example, they played an important role in opposing apartheid (the separation of white and black people) in South Africa.



Commonwealth leaders met in Australia in 2011

THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

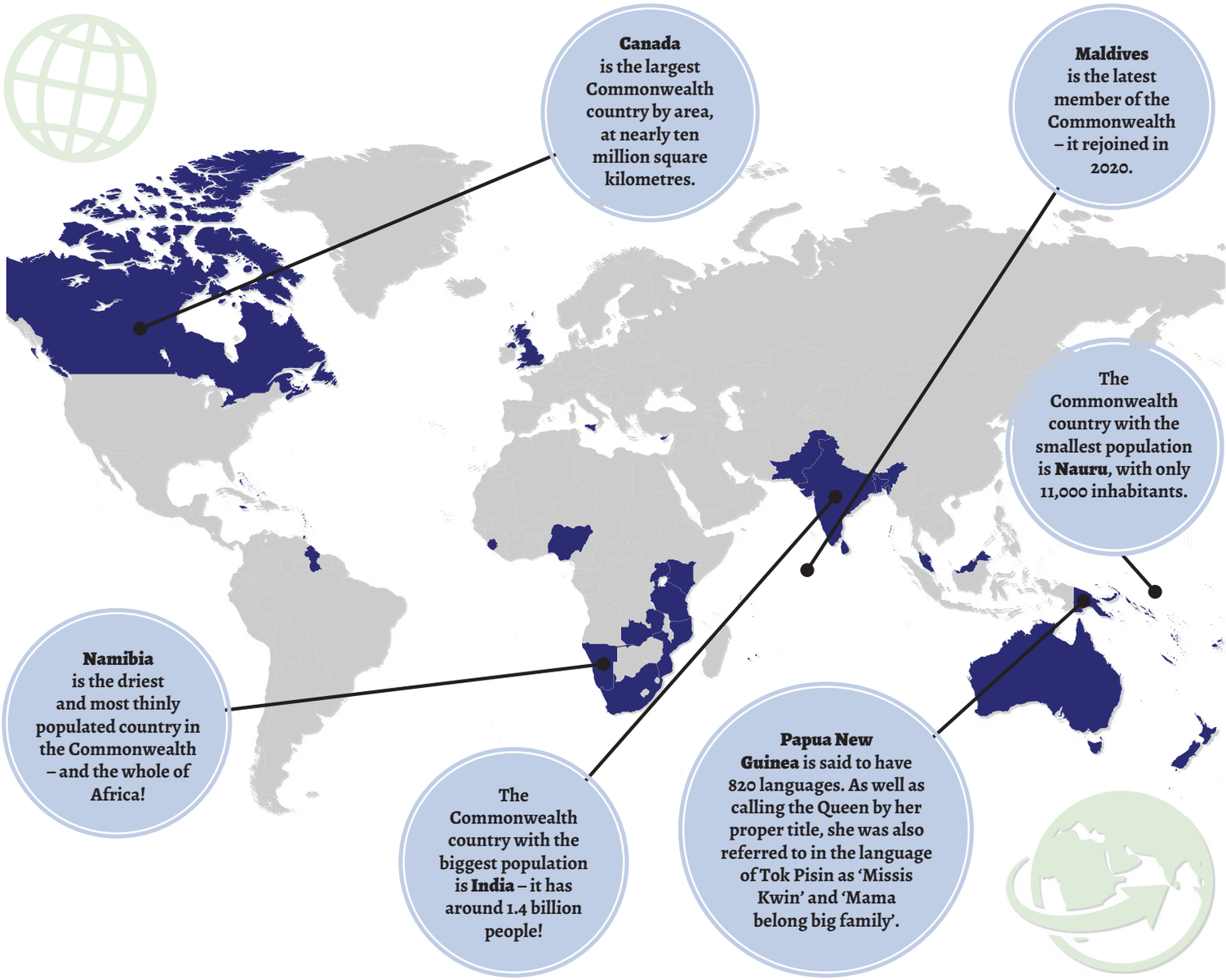


Usain Bolt at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow

Every four years, the countries of the Commonwealth compete in a big sporting event called the Commonwealth Games. The participants must be from a Commonwealth country. The first ever Games was held in Hamilton, Canada, in 1930. A baton, carrying a message from the Head of the Commonwealth – now King Charles III – travels around the world before the Games. Until now this has been known as the Queen's Baton Relay.



Diver Tom Daley



Welcome home!

16 May 1954 **Yesterday the royal family arrived home from their six-month Coronation tour of the Commonwealth.**

Crowds of thousands flocked to the banks of the River Thames to welcome Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and their two children, Prince Charles and Princess Anne, as they sailed in on the Royal Yacht Britannia. Factory hooters blasted and a huge banner reading 'Welcome home' was hung from Tower Bridge.

During the tour, which started in November 1953, the Queen and her young family covered 43,618 miles by air, sea and land. They visited Bermuda, Jamaica, Panama, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, Cocos Islands, Ceylon, Aden, Uganda, Libya, Malta and Gibraltar. For some of these countries, it was the first time that their ruling monarch had ever visited.



The Royal Yacht Britannia sails in

DID YOU KNOW?

- The countries of the Commonwealth have English as a common language.
- The Commonwealth has a combined population of 2.5 billion.
- Commonwealth Day is held on the second Monday in March every year. Lots of events take place in the member countries around the world, including a service for lots of faiths at Westminster Abbey in London.

CORGIS, DORGIS, PONIES AND... PIGEONS!

The Queen loved animals from a very young age. We all knew about those cute corgis, but one or two of her other favourite furry (and feathered) friends were rather unexpected!



Young Princess Elizabeth (left) with her mother, sister and their dogs

Ask anyone what pet they associate with the Queen and the answer would be the corgi every time. That's understandable because she owned more than 30 of them! It all started in 1933 when her father, King George VI, brought home a corgi called Dookie from a local kennel, to Princess Elizabeth's delight. Then she was given her very own corgi, Susan, on her 18th birthday in 1944. Many of the Queen's other dogs have been Susan's direct descendants.

What you might not know is that Her Majesty also introduced her very own dog breed called the dorgi! This came about when one of her corgis was mated with Pipkin, a dachshund that belonged to Princess Margaret.

When the Queen's beloved dogs died, they were buried at a pet cemetery on her Sandringham estate.



The Queen's love of corgis continued throughout her life

HER ROYAL HORSE-NESS

The Queen was given her first pony, Peggy, when she was three or four years old and that started a love of horses that was to last a lifetime. She was a keen rider and, as an owner and breeder of thoroughbreds, liked to go to horse shows and racing events to watch her own horses compete. Her horses have won lots of races, particularly at Royal Ascot. In 1957 she had four winners there in one week!



DID YOU KNOW?

Queen Elizabeth II was so involved in the world of horses that, in 2014, she was presented with a lifetime achievement award from the International Equestrian Federation.

OOH, FANCY THAT!

The Queen was also a pigeon fancier (someone who breeds pigeons). This unusual royal hobby began in 1886 when King Leopold II of Belgium gave Queen Victoria some racing pigeons. The royal family have kept the birds ever since. The royal pigeon lofts are based at Sandringham, the royal residence in Norfolk, where the royal loft manager cares for over a hundred mature pigeons and squabs (baby pigeons). Many of the birds are used for racing and they often win.

BATWOMAN RETURNS

Every autumn, when the Queen stayed at her Balmoral residence in Scotland, she is said to have enjoyed a rather unexpected pastime of bat-catching. Using a net on a long pole and with the help of a footman, she caught the bats that flew around the ceiling of Balmoral's great hall. She always let them go afterwards, of course!



DID YOU KNOW?

Birds from the royal pigeon loft were used as carrier pigeons during the First and Second World Wars. One bird even won a medal for helping to report a lost aircraft in 1940.

SO MUCH TO KNOW ABOUT THE QUEEN

AND there is still so much more to know about the Queen, including...

STAMP APPROVAL

The image of the Queen that appears on UK postage stamps now was originally created as a sculpture by the artist Arnold Machin, The stamp was issued first in June 1967 and has not changed since. It's thought that this design is the most reproduced work of art in history!



HER FISHY FAMILY

Here's a very strange old law – any sturgeon (the fish whose eggs make caviar) found in her realm were deemed to be the Queen's personal property. Other 'royal' creatures are whales, porpoises and dolphins!



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Queen Elizabeth used to send a telegram (a bit like an old-fashioned email) to every subject in the UK and the Commonwealth who reached the age of 100. More recently, they got a card with a message and a photo. The Queen sent more than 175,000 'Happy 100th' messages during her reign. She also sent cards for 105th birthdays (and every one after that) and for 60th wedding anniversaries. Obviously she couldn't do this all herself – the mammoth task fell to the Anniversaries Office at Buckingham Palace.



KEEP CALM AND CHAT!

In 1982, an intruder broke into the Queen's bedroom at Buckingham Palace. The Queen is believed to have calmly chatted to the man, Michael Fagan, for ten minutes before a footman arrived to help.

MA'AM, YOU ARE NOT UNDER ARREST!

The Queen was above the law, so civil and criminal legal proceedings could not be taken against her. What's more, she was the only person in Britain who could drive without a driving licence or a registration number on her car – and she didn't have a passport either!

YOUR MAJESTY!

You were supposed to start a conversation with the Queen by calling her 'Your Majesty', and, after that, address her as 'Ma'am' (rhyming with spam). To formally greet her, men should have performed a neck bow (from the head only), while women needed to make a small curtsy.



DID YOU KNOW?



The Queen with Daniel Craig as James Bond

The Queen's corgis are famous. Not only have they appeared in royal works of art but three of them – Monty, Willow and Holly – featured in the 2012 Olympic opening ceremony when James Bond arrived at Buckingham Palace to escort the Queen to the Games!

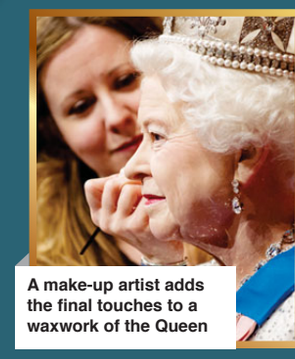


'The Queen' parachutes in!

As part of the opening ceremony for the 2012 Olympic Games, the Queen arrived at the Olympic Park by parachute. Okay, it wasn't her, it was a body double!

Former British prime minister, David Cameron, is her fifth cousin twice removed!

Queen Elizabeth II travelled more, and made more state visits, than any monarch in history. This is because travel is so much easier and quicker than it was for her ancestors.



A make-up artist adds the final touches to a waxwork of the Queen

There have been 23 mannequins of Queen Elizabeth in Madame Tussauds, the famous waxwork museum in London. The latest was added in 2012 for her Diamond Jubilee.

UNFORGETTABLE TIMES

ON the throne for 70 years, Elizabeth II brought stability to Britain through some very difficult times. She also brought a lot of splendour and some unforgettable moments.

IMPORTANT OCCASIONS



2 June 1953: a new Queen. She succeeded her father to the throne in 1952 and was crowned in great splendour the following year



25 YEARS!

Silver Jubilee: the Queen and Prince Philip travelled in the Golden State Coach during the parade to celebrate her 25 years on the throne in 1977



50 YEARS!

Golden Jubilee: To mark Elizabeth II's 50 years as Queen in 2002, there was a flypast of 27 aircraft, including the Red Arrows and Concorde…



…and she hosted a party for 12,500 guests with a rock concert in the grounds of Buckingham Palace!



60 YEARS!

Diamond Jubilee: in 2012 the Royal Barge passed the Tower of London, carrying the Queen and other members of the royal family down the Thames as part of a river pageant



The Queen travelled to Buckingham Palace in the Diamond Jubilee state carriage



70 YEARS!

The Queen and her closest family stood on the balcony of Buckingham Palace following the Platinum Pageant on 5 June 2022



A hologram of Queen Elizabeth II during her coronation was projected in the Gold State Coach in London during the Platinum Jubilee pageant

REGULAR OCCASIONS



State Opening of Parliament: Queen Elizabeth II opened the new session of Parliament in the House of Lords in a grand ceremony every year. In 2022, her son Prince Charles stepped in to do it instead



A 62-gun salute: every year, soldiers at the Tower of London fired cannons to mark the Queen's actual birthday

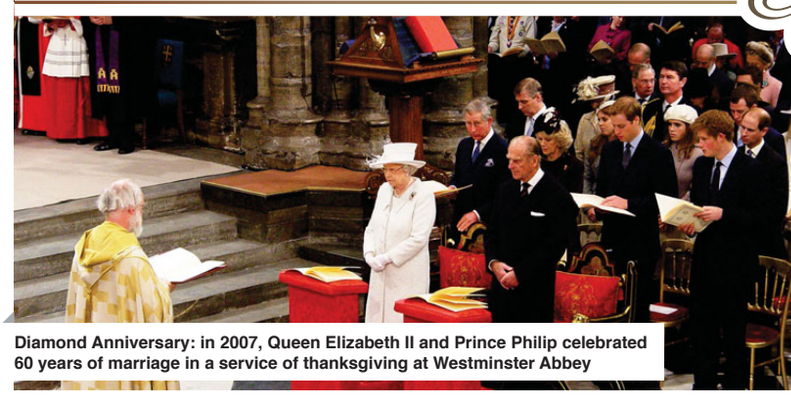
FAMILY OCCASIONS



A royal wedding: in 2011, Prince William, the Queen's grandson, married Kate Middleton as the whole world watched



Great-grandmother: the Queen welcomed another great-grandson, little Archie Mountbatten-Windsor



Diamond Anniversary: in 2007, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip celebrated 60 years of marriage in a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey



All together: on special occasions, the Queen would gather with the whole royal family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to wave to the crowds

THE QUEEN GLOSSARY

Here are explanations of the words in blue throughout the issue.

- Abdication – When a king or queen gives up the throne.
- Accession – When someone takes up an important position, like becoming the Queen
- Ambassador – A high-ranking official person who is sent to another country to represent their own country
- Armed forces – All the military forces of a country
- Ascended – To have risen or moved up
- Blitz – The bombing of Britain by the German Air Force during the Second World War
- British empire – The group of countries that Britain used to rule
- Census – Official count of a population
- Citizen – A member of a nation, or someone living in a town or city
- Commonwealth – A group of nations that are, or used to be, ruled by Britain
- Constitutional monarchy – A state that has a monarch but the monarch does not have power. Instead, a government rules the country following a constitution, which is a set of principles and rules for governing a nation
- Coronation – The religious service when a king or queen is crowned
- Discriminate – To single out a person or particular group of people, usually for their differences
- Dynasty – A series of rulers of a country from the same family
- Governess – A woman employed in a private household to teach the children
- Head of state – The chief representative of a country – it may be a king or queen or a president
- Heir – A person entitled to inherit property or a position
- Industry – The making of goods in factories
- Inherit – Receive an item, money or property from someone who has died
- Investiture – The formal ceremony where someone is given an honour or high-ranking position
- Male primogeniture – The right of the eldest son to inherit the throne
- Monarch – The ruler of a state, especially a king or queen
- Monarchy – A type of government with a monarch at the head
- National service – Compulsory service in one of the armed forces
- Presides – Oversees a meeting or public gathering - usually by an important person
- RAF – Royal Air Force
- Realm – Kingdom
- Regalia – The objects used in royal ceremonies
- Reigned – Ruled as monarch. Queen Elizabeth II reigned over the UK
- Republic – A state that has no monarch
- Parliament – The part of the government that can make or change laws
- Parliamentary democracy – The party with the greatest number of MPs in Parliament, which forms the government. MPs are voted for by people in a general election
- Patron – A person who supports a charity
- Sovereign – The ruler of a state
- Succession – When someone takes over a position from someone else, especially to become king or queen
- Trooping of the colour – A military pageant held on the monarch's official birthday

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REMEMBERING THE QUEEN

First News partners with Sky Kids on children's news show *FYI*. In this week's special episode, Remembering The Queen, we look back at her life. Children tell us their memories of the day they met the Queen and others pay tribute to her. And we get advice from an expert on how to deal with being upset about the news of the Queen's death. Watch it now by scanning this QR code or go to first.news/educationTV.



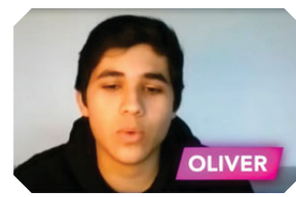


"She didn't act as if she was above us all – like a VIP. She was very humble." Sophie and Ellie

"She was really chatty and sweet and like a little nan..." Lewis



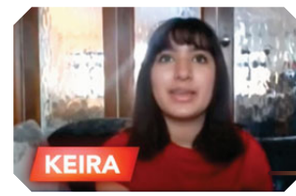




"Every year we had Christmas messages. That was always something that would bring smiles to people's faces, no matter what was going on."

"The average retirement age is 65 and she served the country for years after that, and had remained mentally and physically active to carry out her duties."





"I remember during the Olympic ceremony when they pretended the Queen had jumped out of a helicopter. Little things like that show that the Queen is going to be remembered for so many different things, so not just being the Queen and having responsibility, but also humorous points."

Please send in your memories or messages about the Queen, many of which we will publish in a future edition of First News or on FYI. Perhaps you will also have messages for King Charles III. You can upload them online at first.news/tribute



The Queen as a girl with her mother and younger sister



The Queen's coronation in 1953

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