



# *Queen Elizabeth II - the longest reigning monarch in British history*

*(6 February 1952 – 8 September 2022)*



Elizabeth II was Britain's longest-serving monarch who in 2022 celebrated 70 years on the throne and the only monarch most Britons have ever known. She was a symbol of her nation, its empire and its Commonwealth.

Elizabeth was born on April 21, 1926 as the first child of Prince Albert, Duke of York, and his wife, Duchess Elizabeth. She was named Elizabeth after her mother and nicknamed 'Lilibet' by her close family, based on how she first called herself. She had only one sister Princess Margaret born on August 21, 1930.



Young Elizabeth with her family

Her teenage years were overshadowed by World War II, which she and her sister mainly spent in Windsor Castle, west of London. In 1940 for the first time young Elizabeth took part in a radio broadcast 'Children's Hour' addressed to evacuated children. When she was 16 she undertook her first inspection of a military regiment during the parade in Windsor Castle. In

1944 when she was 18 she joined Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army. In 1945 she started her training as a mechanic and she undertook a driving and vehicle maintenance course at Aldershot. She was the first female of the Royal family to be an active duty member of the British Armed Forces and the first one who knew how to diagnose and repair faulty engines by herself.



Princess Elizabeth, as a 2nd Subaltern in the ATS

During her grandfather's reign George V, Elizabeth was third in line to the British throne after her uncle Edward and her father Albert. She was not expected to become a queen. When the king George V died in 1936 and her uncle succeeded as Edward VIII, she became second in line to the throne after her father Albert. However, her uncle Edward abdicated because of the marriage with Wallis Simpson, resulting in Elizabeth's father becoming a king and taking the name George VI. Elizabeth had no male siblings and it was obvious she would succeed as a queen.

## *MARRIAGE*

Elizabeth met her future husband, Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, in 1934 and 1937. When she was 21 their engagement was officially announced on July 9, 1947. Before the marriage, Philip had to renounce his Greek and Danish titles. He also converted from Greek

Orthodox to the Anglican Church, adopted the style of Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, and adopted the surname of his mother's English family. Shortly before the wedding, he was appointed Duke of Edinburgh and styled for His Royal Highness. Elizabeth and Philip were married in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947.



## *FAMILY*

Elizabeth II and Philip had 4 children. In 1948 she gave a birth to **Prince Charles**, in 1950 to **Princess Anna**, in 1960 **Prince Andrew** and 1964 **Prince Edward**.



## *CORONATION*

The ceremony of Elizabeth's II coronation took place took place in **Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953** and was conducted by Dr Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury. For the first time in history the ceremony was broadcast not only on the radio but on television as well. Millions of people around the world could watch it. St Edwards Crown was used to crown Her Majesty at the Coronation service, and The Queen wore The Imperial State Crown when she was departing from Westminster Abbey. After the coronation service there was a 7,2 kilometre procession so that the new queen could be seen.



## *ELIZABETH'S II REIGN*

Elizabeth II was the queen of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime and the head of state of 15 realms at the time of her death. She became a loved, respected and recognized person all over the world. Being a queen over 70 years, Elizabeth was perceived as a dedicated Head of the Commonwealth during times of both crisis and celebration. She knew exactly what the sense of duty was. She worked very hard. Elizabeth visited every realm and every region of the UK, returning to some many times over. She was in contact with her UK and Commonwealth ministers and representatives. She was present in these places during her many official visits which carried the most significance for those who lived there.

Her famous red boxes carried the State papers which Elizabeth was presented with every day of her working life. Her duties included agreeing to make bills into Acts of Parliament, or

laws, meeting regularly with Prime Ministers, acting as diplomat and hostess, welcoming Presidents and Prime Ministers to the UK on official visits, serving voluntarily over 500 charities, professional bodies and public service organisations and making speeches during many celebrations, etc.

She was increasingly aware of the upcoming world changes and of the modern role of monarchy. She was the witness of the world transformations of societies and technologies, world crises, conflicts and even wars.

She had to overcome a lot of national problems such as the Sues Crisis in 1957, the process of decolonisation, the Falkland's War, national strikes and demonstrations and many more as well as private problems like the fire of Windsor Castle, her children's scandals and divorces or Diana's death. These are only some examples of what the Queen Elizabeth had to face during her long reign.

Regardless of what people commented concerning her attitudes towards all the things happening around her, she stayed strong and powerful. It was the result of her upbringing and the awareness of the responsibility she had to take as the Head and the Queen of one of the most powerful countries in the world.

## ***JUBILEES***

**Queen Elizabeth II celebrated 4 jubilees during her reign.** A lot of parties and events were held throughout the Commonwealth, many coinciding with associated national and federal tours.

- **1977 - Silver Jubilee**, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Elizabeth's accession to the throne





- **2002 - Golden Jubilee**, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her accession to the throne



- **2012 - Diamond Jubilee**, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her accession to the throne



- **2022 - Platinum Jubilee**, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her accession to the throne



## *FUNERAL*

Queen Elizabeth II died on 8 September 2022 in Balmoral at the age of 96. Her funeral took place at Westminster Abbey on 19 September 2022. The service was attended by 2,000 people in total, including holders of the George Cross and Victoria Cross, representatives from the United Kingdom's faith communities, and foreign and Commonwealth heads of state and heads of government. There were representatives from 168 countries, 18 monarchs, 55 presidents and 25 prime ministers. She was also paid tribute by millions of people both from the UK and the whole world. The ceremony was broadcast on TV all over the world. Queen Elizabeth II is buried at King George VI Memorial Chapel in Windsor Castle.



## *SUMMARY*

Elizabeth II was the queen for more than seven decades. She saw a thorough transformation of society and technology not only in her country but all over the world. She is considered as a powerful monarch in the history of one of the planet's most influential nations. She was a bridge between Britain's colonial past and its future as the world was changing so fast and was totally different from the one in which she was born. However, regardless of all these changes and transformations, Queen Elizabeth will be identified and remembered for her dedication and commitment to her country and royal traditions she was faithful to. Being forced to face many personal and national problems she demonstrated a strong character and was perceived as a responsible and powerful mother, woman and queen.

## *ADDITIONAL FACTS AND PICTURES*

### *QUEEN ELIZABETH II WITH CELEBRITIES AND KNIGHTED PEOPLE*

During her 70 years on the throne Queen Elizabeth met a lot of famous people and celebrities from different countries. Among them there were presidents, prime ministers, popes, actors, actress, singers, writers, sportspeople, artists, etc. Some of them were honoured with knighthoods and damehoods by the Queen for their achievements or service to the country by toughing them with a sword. These ranks entitled recipients to use the title of *Sir* or *Dame* before their forename. These are pictures of some celebrities who met the queen.

**Marilyn Monroe**



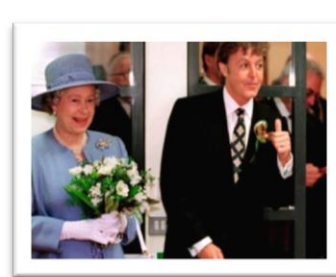
**Elizabeth Taylor**



**Frank Sinatra**



**Paul McCartney**



**Jenifer Lopez**



**Daniel Craig**





**Bette Midler**



**Helen Mirren**



**Queen Elizabeth II and Popes: John XXIII, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis**



**Queen Elizabeth II and some Presidents**





### Queen Elizabeth and knighted celebrities:

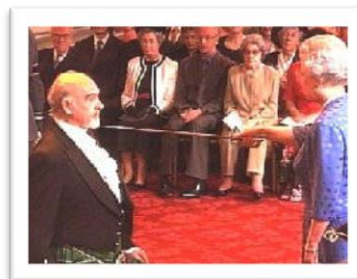
#### 1. Prime Ministers:

- Sir Winston Churchill
- Sir Anthony Eden
- Clement Attlee
- Sir Harold Wilson
- James Callaghan
- Sir Edward Heath
- Margaret Thatcher
- Sir John Major
- Sir Tony Blair



#### 2. Actors:

- Sir John Gielgud
- Sir Alec Guinness
- Sir Charlie Chaplin
- Sir Alfred Hitchcock
- Dame Judi Dench
- Dame Maggie Smith



- Sir Ian McKellen
- Sir Sean Connery
- Sir Michael Caine
- Dame Helen Mirren
- Sir Patrick Stewart
- Dame Angela Lansbury
- Dame Julie Walters



### 3. Sport

- Sir Edmund Hillary
- Sir Alf Ramsey
- Sir Roger Bannister
- Sir Alex Ferguson
- Dame Mary Peters
- Sir Steve Redgrave
- Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson
- Dame Kelly Holmes
- Sir Chris Hoy
- Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill
- Sir Mo Farah
- Sir Andy Murray
- Sir Lewis Hamilton
- Sir Jason Kenny
- Dame Laura Kenny



### 4. Music, art and literature

- Dame Barbara Hepworth
- Dame Agatha Christie
- Dame Vera Lynn
- Dame Catherine Cookson
- Sir Paul McCartney
- Sir Elton John



- Sir Tom Jones
- Sir Mick Jagger

## 5. Others

- Sir David Attenborough
- Sir Tim Berners-Lee
- Dame Vivienne Westwood
- Dame Anna Wintour
- Captain Sir Tom Moore
- Dame Mary Berry

## *OVERSEAS TRIPS*

Queen Elizabeth II was Britain's most travelled monarch. During her long reign she made a lot of overseas trips meeting not only famous heads of states, presidents, politicians but also well – known celebrities. There is a list of her overseas trips during her reign:

- 1952: Kenya
- 1953: Australia, Bermuda, Fiji, Jamaica, New Zealand, Panama, Tonga
- 1954: Libya, Malta, Sri Lanka, Uganda
- 1955: Norway
- 1956: Nigeria, Sweden
- 1957: Canada, Denmark, France, Portugal, USA
- 1958: Netherlands
- 1959: Canada
- 1961: Cyprus, Gambia, Ghana, India, Iran, Italy, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Vatican City
- 1963: Australia, Canada, Fiji, New Zealand
- 1965: Ethiopia, Sudan, West Germany
- 1966: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands



- 1967: Canada, Malta
- 1968: Brazil, Chile
- 1969: Austria
- 1970: Australia, Canada, Fiji, New Zealand, Tonga
- 1971: Canada, Turkey
- 1972: France, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Singapore, Thailand, Yugoslavia
- 1973: Australia, Canada, Fiji
- 1974: Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea
- 1975: Bermuda, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico
- 1976: Canada, Finland, Luxembourg, USA
- 1977: Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga
- 1978: Canada, West Germany
- 1979: Bahrain, Botswana, Denmark, Kuwait, Malawi, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, UAE, Zambia
- 1980: Algeria, Australia, Italy, Morocco, Switzerland, Tunisia, Vatican City
- 1981: Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Sri Lanka
- 1982: Australia, Canada, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu
- 1983: Bangladesh, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Cyprus, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Sweden, USA
- 1984: Cyprus, Jordan
- 1985: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago
- 1986: Australia, China, Nepal, New Zealand
- 1987: Canada, West Germany
- 1988: Australia, Netherlands, Spain
- 1989: Barbados, Malaysia, Singapore





- 1990: Canada, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand
- 1991: Kenya, Namibia, America, Zimbabwe
- 1992: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Malta
- 1993: Belgium, Cyprus, Hungary
- 1994: Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Finland, France, Guyana, Jamaica, Russia
- 1995: New Zealand, South Africa
- 1996: Czech, Poland, Thai
- 1997: Canada, India, Pakistan
- 1998: Belgium, Brunei, Malaysia
- 1999: Ghana, Mozambique, South Africa, South Korea
- 2000: Australia, Italy, Vatican City
- 2001: Norway
- 2002: Australia, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand
- 2003: Nigeria
- 2004: France, Germany
- 2005: Canada, Malta
- 2006: Australia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
- 2007: Belgium, Netherlands, Uganda, USA
- 2008: Slovakia, Slovenia, Türkiye
- 2009: Bermuda, Trinidad and Tobago
- 2010: Canada, Oman, United Arab Emirates
- 2011: Australia, Ireland
- 2014: France, Italy, Vatican City
- 2015: Germany, Malta



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