



# QUEEN & COMMONWEALTH

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90 GLORIOUS YEARS



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Edited by Robert Jobson



QUEEN

& COMMONWEALTH

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90 GLORIOUS YEARS





The Queen and Nelson Mandela,  
President of South Africa, driving  
through London in a carriage on  
9 July 1996.



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Published for the Royal Commonwealth Society by Henley Media Group



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip  
on tour in Tuvalu, 1982.







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# FOREWORD

## CLAIRE WHITAKER OBE

Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society

*Claire Whitaker OBE was elected as Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society in 2013 having previously served as a Council member and Deputy Trustee. She is also a Trustee of The Caine Prize for African Writing and of the Magna Carta Trust, as well as an international mentor for the British Council. Claire is a Director of Serious, the award winning live music producers who create and curate over 600 events annually in the UK and internationally. She is passionate about enabling wide and diverse audiences to experience music, arts and culture.*

It is my great pleasure as Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society to commemorate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth with the publication of 'Queen & Commonwealth: 90 Glorious Years'.

### Our devoted Queen

Throughout her reign Her Majesty has been consistent in her support of the Commonwealth. In 1965 in her very first Commonwealth Day Message the Queen referred to the vast new opportunities and possibilities for the modern Commonwealth and the need to understand and engage with its many peoples stating:

“Let it therefore be our resolve to seek out every chance to get to know more about the people of the other Commonwealth countries, and to meet them when we can, so that we may have the warmth of fellow-feeling and the vision to work together for the good of the world in the years to come.”

Her Majesty has very much sought to uphold this aim. Over the last 64 years she has visited all but two of the 53 member states. She has seen the association grow from eight states to a voluntary association of 53 independent equal sovereign states encompassing 2.2 billion citizens, of which 60% are under the age of 30. The Commonwealth now includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries spanning all regions. The Charter of the Commonwealth, signed by Her Majesty on Commonwealth Day 2013 brings together the values and aspirations which unite the modern Commonwealth - democracy, human rights and the rule of law. No-one has made a greater contribution to the Commonwealth over the decades than the Queen who has been unwavering in her devotion to this Commonwealth family of nations.

### Reinvigorating the Commonwealth

In recent times, I have seen the Royal Commonwealth Society grow in ambition of ideas, in reputation for delivery and in its convening power across our international networks. Her Majesty has been a key part of this success. As Patron of the Society



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY





**Above:** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II attends the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey, 2016.

she has been instrumental in her support of a number of our programmes including The Queen's Young Leaders programme of which the Royal Commonwealth Society is a partner, The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition - the Society's flagship programme, and The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy launched at the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta.

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy aims to create a coherent and vibrant network of forest conservation initiatives that, individually and collectively, demonstrate the capacity of the Commonwealth to act together on the issue of forest conservation and to benefit from shared knowledge and experience. The programme will mark Her Majesty's service and dedication to the Commonwealth, creating a legacy of preserving natural forest and indigenous vegetation that will benefit future generations. It is through programmes such as this that the Commonwealth can truly add value and act as a global force for good in the world.

Last year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, themed 'Adding Global Value', saw a refreshed Business Forum, the first Women's Forum and the election of a new and first female Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Scotland - significant steps in the reinvigoration of the association.


The Royal Commonwealth Society has coordinated, for over 50 years, the Commonwealth Service - the UK's largest multi-faith event to celebrate Commonwealth Day. This year the Society was delighted to open Her Majesty's 90th birthday celebrations with the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey. The broadcasting of the Commonwealth Service live on BBC One and its live-streaming on the internet was hugely welcomed and allowed so many more to experience this truly celebratory event. With its theme of inclusivity, the service was inspiringly opened by Sara Ezabe Malliue, one from this year's cohort of Queen's Young Leaders, who spoke of the racism she had encountered as a young Muslim woman. The former UN Secretary-General, Ghanaian Kofi Annan, endorsed the importance of our group of 53 countries saying "very few countries can tackle the challenges we have today on their own, we have to work across borders and with other countries; it is such an interdependent world that we have no choice, and the Commonwealth brings countries, and the citizens of these countries together which is extremely important."

In the words of the Nigerian author, Ben Okri, engraved on one of the pillars of the Commonwealth Memorial Gates in London, "our future is greater than our past". The Royal Commonwealth Society is committed to turning this aspiration into a contemporary reality.

On behalf of the Royal Commonwealth Society I would like to express my best wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her 90th birthday.





A portrait of Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, smiling. He is wearing a blue pinstripe suit, a white shirt, and a blue tie with a white floral pattern. A white carnation is pinned to his lapel. The background is a blurred green landscape.

«As we celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, she, like all of us, can reflect on a life that has inspired and encouraged millions of people in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world. In many ways, it's a life that has defined our age.»

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales





## CAYMAN ISLANDS

# *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Celebration*





# *Shore to shore sharing a past of mutual respect and patriotism*

*The people of the Cayman Islands extend heartfelt felicitations to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her 90th birthday.*

*As a British Overseas Territory, we share in the joy of this special celebration being marked by millions throughout the world.*

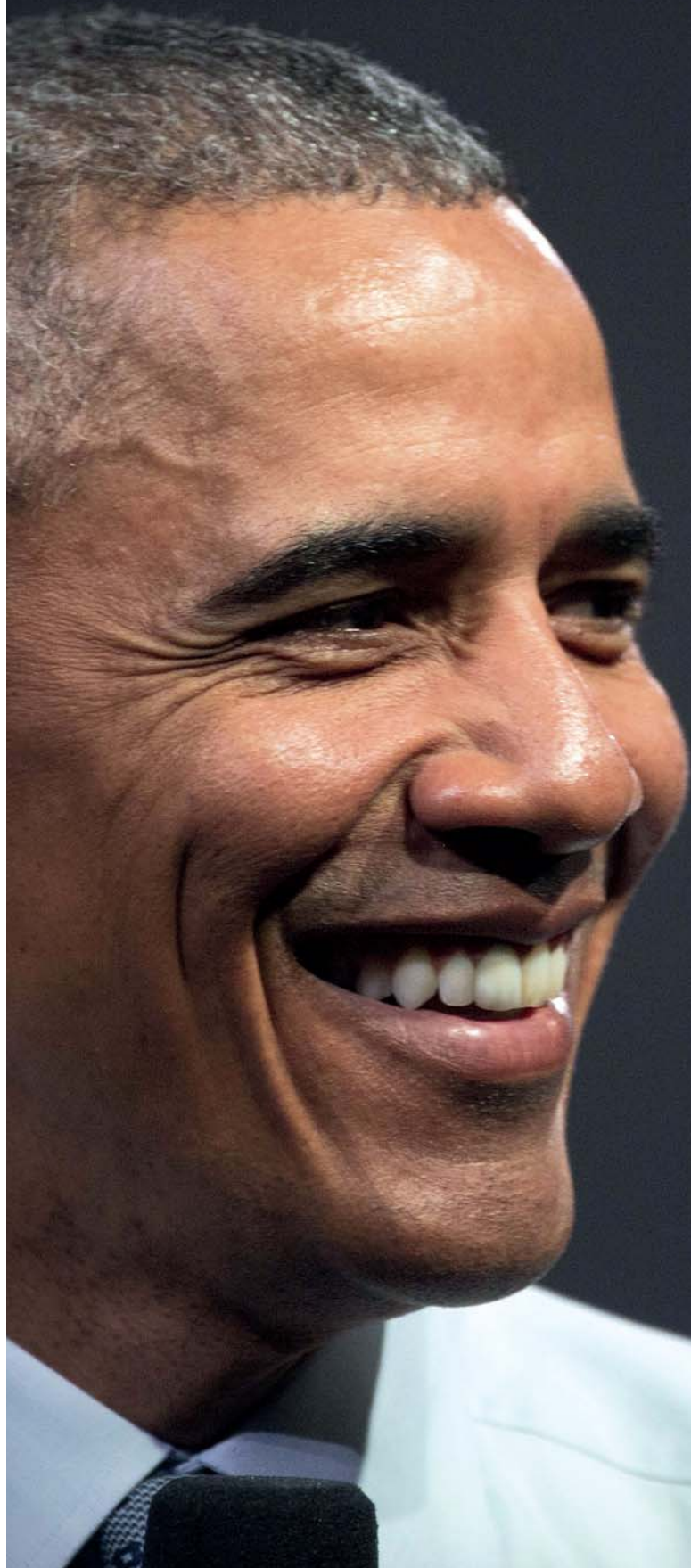
*From our stunning white sand beaches lapped by the beautiful blue Caribbean Sea, we pay tribute to Her Majesty's long and stable reign serving us with diligence and dignity.*

*Head of the 53 nations of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth symbolises the cultural unity that we pride in our own beloved Isles, where there are residents from more than 130 nations.*

*Thanks to this blessed spirit of harmony we continue to thrive on the global stage of finance and tourism, and offer a royal welcome to all our visitors.*







« We often speak of the deep and enduring partnership between our two countries. It is indeed a special relationship. And Her Majesty has been a vital part of what keeps our relationship so special.

The United States is extremely grateful for her steady and energetic leadership and we look forward to Her Majesty's continued service in the years to come. Happy birthday, your Majesty. »

Barack Obama, President of the  
United States of America





# PREFACE

## ROBERT JOBSON

Editor

*Robert Jobson is one of Britain's leading royal commentators, dubbed the 'Godfather of Royal Reporting' by The Wall Street Journal. He is Royal Editor of the London Evening Standard and regularly appears on television as a royal expert in the UK and overseas. A best-selling author and award-winning correspondent, he has been at the forefront of royal reporting for a quarter of a century.*

I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to edit this official commemorative 90th birthday publication for the Royal Commonwealth Society. The fact that Her Majesty is patron of this education charity, established in 1868 to promote international understanding across the Commonwealth, makes it even more special.

For me, this milestone gives us too the chance not only to praise Her Majesty personally but to celebrate one of her finest achievements, being the Head of the Commonwealth. For in every day of service she has made good the vow made on her 21st birthday to serve the Commonwealth throughout her life, "whether it be long or short". She has given unstinting service and a unifying personality, in her role as Queen and Head of the Commonwealth – a living embodiment of the Commonwealth's historical roots, as well as its newness.

When anyone talks of Her Majesty's legacy, her role as Head of the Commonwealth must rank highly. Her life and work, after all, has been inextricably linked to the development of the modern Commonwealth. It came into being just three years before Elizabeth's coronation. Since succeeding her father, George VI, as its head she has devoted much of her reign and self to its development, helping to nurture this unique institution, visiting all but two of the member countries.

She has shown unwavering dedication to all that the Commonwealth represents and is therefore inseparable from the evolution of the organisation and what it is today. At the heart of this is her fascination and commitment to the people of the Commonwealth and the associations and communities of shared interest and experience that bring us together, including the Royal Commonwealth Society.

«I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to edit this official commemorative 90th birthday publication for the Royal Commonwealth Society.»





**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II meets well-wishers in Windsor on her 90th birthday, 21 April 2016.



# THE ROYAL CELEBRATIONS

*“This is, ladies and gentlemen, a very special occasion and the beacon Her Majesty is about to light will also represent, as it lights other beacons across the nation, the love and affection in which [she is] held throughout this country and the Commonwealth.”*

HRH The Prince of Wales at the beacon lighting ceremony at Windsor Castle on 21 April 2016 to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday

## Beacons for the future

With a few heartfelt and carefully chosen words, the Prince of Wales spoke for the nation as he paid a touching tribute to his mother on her 90th birthday. Like a lot of monarchs, Her Majesty has two birthdays – an official celebration in June, and her actual birthday on 21 April, which is usually a private affair. This year, however, Her Majesty – accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall – was joined by crowds of well-wishers in the shadow of Windsor Castle, to light the first of 1,000 beacons in her honour. Her eldest son and heir wished our first-ever nonagenarian monarch the “most special and happiest of birthdays”. He spoke too of the love and affection for her throughout the country and the Commonwealth. He could not have put it better.

Then, after drawing a laugh from the crowd by calling her ‘Mummy’ – his affectionate



### Left:

The Prince of Wales hands the torch to Queen Elizabeth II to light the first of 1,000 beacons to celebrate Her Majesty’s 90th birthday. Windsor Castle, 21 April 2016.

“Holding on to the roof of the specially adapted open-top Range Rover, the Queen, resplendent in a lime green coat and matching flower-adorned hat, stood upright and proud.”

introduction for the Sovereign during the royal celebrations – Prince Charles added significantly, “and long may she reign over us.” It was a sentiment shared by all those who heard it there and live on television.

He then called for three cheers and the enthusiastic crowd duly obliged. With that, the prince handed the torch to the Queen and invited her to light the principal beacon on a six-metre pole at the start of the Long Walk. After the lighting was over, Her Majesty, Prince Charles, Prince Philip and the Duchess of Cornwall were driven back to the castle for her birthday party of 60 special guests, including 28 members of the Royal Family.

### A joyous day

It had been a long and joyous day for the Queen. Earlier she had driven through the streets of Windsor with the Duke of Edinburgh at her side, waving and smiling to thousands who had turned out to cheer her. Holding on to the roof of the specially adapted open-top Range Rover, the Queen, resplendent in a lime green coat and matching flower-adorned hat, stood upright and proud.

Earlier the crowds, who stood a dozen deep, sang ‘Happy Birthday’ and handed her flowers and presents as the Queen and the Duke and Edinburgh walked from her castle to the Guildhall. It was only a short distance

but it took her half an hour to complete, as she diligently thanked them all for their gifts. At one stage, Prince Philip lifted Ethan Lynch, aged 4, who had been waiting with his mother in the crowd for four hours with a bunch of flowers, over a barrier so that he could personally hand the bouquet to the Queen. It was a lovely touch.

### A summer of celebration

The events in Windsor were just the first of a number of opportunities to mark this historic moment. On the evenings of 12–15 May there was a 90-minute long pageant at Home Park in Windsor Castle. The extravaganza included 900 horses and more than 1,500 riders and performers highlighting Her Majesty’s love of horses, her dedication to the Commonwealth and international affairs and her deep involvement with the Navy, Army and Air Force.

In June, there is a weekend of national celebration planned to mark Her Majesty’s official birthday and, unofficially, the Duke of Edinburgh’s 95th birthday. On 10 June a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul’s Cathedral will be held. The congregation will be made up of invited guests only, but the service will be televised. It may be the Duke of Edinburgh’s 95th birthday, but he has said he does not want any public celebration of the date for him.

On 11 June Trooping the Colour takes place, the official annual celebration of the Queen’s birthday. Prince George and Princess Charlotte are expected to join the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family on the famous Buckingham Palace balcony. On the Queen’s Birthday Parade, she will as usual inspect soldiers from the Household Division on Horse Guards Parade behind Whitehall. The event will be broadcast live by the BBC.

Finally, on 12 June the people have another chance to join in the birthday celebrations. The Patron’s Lunch is the climax of the





Queen's birthday celebrations. The Mall in London will be transformed into a giant street party for 10,000 guests eating a picnic lunch and being entertained by street performers and circus acts.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will take part in the event from a specially built platform on the Queen Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace. The Queen wanted to celebrate with the 600-plus charities and organisations of which she is patron and 9,000 of the 10,000 tickets are being made available to those organisations. The Palace hope this will be just one of

many, many street parties that will take place up and down the country and around the Commonwealth to mark the occasion.

And after all, there is much to celebrate. Like many, I had been looking forward to raising a glass to our Queen, Elizabeth II, to mark her landmark birthday. It was a privilege to witness the historic day in Windsor from close quarters. For Her Majesty's milestone birthday gives us all the opportunity to reflect on her long and illustrious reign and to give thanks too to this amazing person whose steadfastness and commitment to duty and service is a living example to us all.

**Above:**  
Queen Elizabeth II  
celebrating her 90th  
birthday in Windsor, 21  
April 2016.



# MESSAGE FROM THE RT HON PATRICIA SCOTLAND QC

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations

*Patricia Scotland QC took office as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations on 1st April 2016. She is the first woman to hold the post of Secretary-General. Born in Dominica, she moved to the UK at an early age and has had a dynamic career in law, public service and politics. She has served in many ministerial positions within the UK Government, most notably as the Attorney General for England and Wales.*

## A dedicated life

When in 1947 Princess Elizabeth celebrated her twenty-first birthday in South Africa she made a broadcast dedicating her life ‘whether it be long or short’ to the service of the Commonwealth. We now know with what grace and duty that vow has been fulfilled, and that the life has been long and devoted to serving the peoples of the Commonwealth and the high ideals which draw us together as a worldwide family.

Less than five years later in 1952, and at the age of only 25, she succeeded her much loved father King George VI as Head of the Commonwealth. Early in her reign Her Majesty said of the Commonwealth: “It is an entirely new conception, built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace”. Then there were only eight independent Commonwealth member states, today there are 53, embracing a third of the world’s population. In all of them, citizens are gathering in happy thanksgiving to mark this very special occasion – the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth.

This personal milestone for the Queen draws us together in joy and celebration, just as Her Majesty’s lifetime of tireless service - expressing a deep sense of duty and purpose - has provided a sense of continuity and stability as the Commonwealth family has grown and evolved. She embodies both the Commonwealth’s historical roots and its flowering. As Her Majesty observed during her Silver Jubilee in 1977, her role as Head of the Commonwealth represents “the transformation of the Crown from an emblem of dominion into a symbol of free and voluntary association. In all history this has no precedent”.

## An emblem of unity

It is a truly remarkable record that so diverse a family of nations, steadily growing in scope and stature, should for nearly 65 years have had one person as the emblem of its unity. By bringing continuity and a sense of family to our richly diverse Commonwealth, the Queen has encouraged us to embrace







**Left:**

Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, signs the Commonwealth Charter at a reception at Marlborough House on Commonwealth Day 2013.

positive change and fresh thinking, and to build together for the future. Her Majesty has offered wise counsel and a sympathetic ear to generations of Commonwealth leaders. She has given unwavering dedication to the values and goals of the Commonwealth, and to all that it represents.

These values and principles are now brought together in the Commonwealth Charter, which was signed by the Queen on Commonwealth Day 2013 and opens with the words “We the people of the Commonwealth”. Our sense of kinship and affinity, and of belonging together, arise from our shared language, common law, and the similarity of our institutions and systems of government. They are continually strengthened at every level by the ties Her Majesty has done so much to nurture and sustain.

**With thanks to Her Majesty**

In wishing Her Majesty a very happy birthday we thank her for the many ways in which, with the unstinting and constant support of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, she continues so actively to bring life and meaning to the Commonwealth through her belief, example and leadership. Long may her moral authority and personal grace be the unifying focus of our richly diverse Commonwealth family of which she is both Head and heart.

“Long may her moral authority and personal grace be the unifying focus of our richly diverse Commonwealth family of which she is both Head and heart.”





The Queen makes her first  
televised Christmas Day broadcast,  
December 1957.





# MESSAGE FROM THE HON DR JOSEPH MUSCAT

Prime Minister of Malta and Commonwealth Chair-in-Office

*Dr Joseph Muscat took office as Prime Minister of Malta in March 2013. He has been active in politics since 1994 and successfully contested the first European Parliamentary elections in Malta in 2004. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Outstanding Young Person of the Year and in 2008 he was elected as the Leader of the Labour Party and was Leader of Opposition until 2013.*

It is my honour and pleasure in my role as Prime Minister of one of the Commonwealth countries, to offer my congratulations to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the auspicious occasion of her 90th birthday, coinciding with the start of her 65th year as Head of the Commonwealth. Ensuring the unity of the Commonwealth and reaffirming the core beliefs of the Commonwealth Charter have been an enduring passion for Her Majesty. With 53 very different countries around the world, the Commonwealth has become a family, whose members support and protect each other, and share many common traits, values and goals.

## **A mutual fondness**

Malta is not only a Commonwealth country, it is also the only foreign country where Her Majesty actually resided; she and her husband came to live in Malta in 1949, the same year in which the Commonwealth was founded. The Queen has often remarked that she remembers Malta with fondness, having spent her early married life here while Prince Philip served in the Royal Navy. This fondness was and still is reciprocated by the people of Malta, both before and after Malta became a republic and a member of the Commonwealth.

When India declared its wish to become a republic, and yet not depart the Commonwealth, a phenomenon was created. Who would have thought that Britain's former colonies could unite in a voluntary and free association, working together to combat global warming, human rights abuses, underdevelopment and much more? And who would have thought that from just seven nations, it would grow to be a union of 53 members of great diversity?

## **A Queen of unity, stability and sensitivity**

The able stewardship of the Queen, a role she has held for more than 60 years, must be given its credit – she symbolises and embodies enduring stability and values. When taking the reins of the Commonwealth in hand in 1952, she said “The Commonwealth bears no resemblance to the empires of the past. It is an entirely new conception built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty, and the desire for freedom and peace” – and her actions throughout the years give weight to her words.





These words were echoed in 2012 during the Queen's Christmas Day message – which is significantly delivered as Head of the Commonwealth rather than as Head of State. As Her Majesty stated, the Commonwealth is “like any family, there can be differences of opinion. But however strongly they are expressed, they are held within the common bond of friendship and shared experiences.”

The Commonwealth might not even exist in its present form without the Queen. Her Majesty is the glue that holds it together, and she has proven time and time again her sensitivity to the views of Commonwealth countries, even when her role as Head of the Commonwealth clashes with her role as a constitutional monarch. History shows us a series of wise personal interventions in foreign affairs – without undermining her role as British monarch.

The Commonwealth has bound its cause to this formidable Queen, who has devoted her entire life to its very essence and significance. Indeed, as Queen Elizabeth rightly states “I feel enormously proud of what the Commonwealth has achieved, and all of it within my lifetime”. I am sure that all Commonwealth nations reciprocate this feeling, and are proud to be part of the Queen's vision and hard work.

The Queen's service and dedication as Head of the Commonwealth is well-known. I can personally attest to it, having had the pleasure to host Her Majesty in Malta for the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Her presence was the guiding light for all.

**Above:**

Queen Elizabeth II joins Joseph Muscat at the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, 27 November 2015.

“History shows us a series of wise personal interventions in foreign affairs – without undermining her role as British monarch.”



# MESSAGE FROM THE RT HON DAVID CAMERON

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

*The Rt Hon David Cameron has served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom since 2010, as leader of the Conservative Party since 2005 and a Member of Parliament since 2001. Before he became an MP, he was Special Adviser to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and then to the Home Secretary. He then worked in corporate communications for seven years before standing for election in 2001.*

As two billion people across the Commonwealth join together to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, I want to pay tribute to the inspirational service of our longest-ever reigning monarch.

## **An extraordinary life of service**

Her Majesty the Queen - our Queen - has lived a life of service that began long before her accession to the throne. In 1940, just 14 years old, the then Princess Elizabeth made her first BBC radio broadcast to bring comfort and hope to the children who had been evacuated from Britain's cities during the war. At 18 she became the first female member of the Royal Family to join the armed forces, joining the women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, training as a driver and a mechanic. At just 21 she made that exquisite and defining broadcast from Cape Town in which she uttered those famous words, dedicating her life to the service of the Commonwealth saying: *"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service."*

Never has such an extraordinary promise been so profoundly fulfilled. If you think of the vital landmark in completing the United Kingdom's journey to democracy when everyone over 21 was finally given the vote in 1928, then it means that Her Majesty has presided over two thirds of the UK's history as a full democracy. In that time she has met a quarter of all the American Presidents since Independence, provided counsel to 12 British Prime Ministers and worked with over 150 Prime Ministers across the Commonwealth.

«Throughout it all, as the sands of culture shift and the tides of politics ebb and flow Her Majesty has been steadfast – a rock of strength for our Commonwealth and on many occasions for the whole world.»





In 90 years, Her Majesty has lived through some extraordinary times in our world. From the Second World War, when her parents, the King and Queen were nearly killed as bombs dropped on Buckingham Palace, to the rations with which she bought the material for her wedding dress. From presenting the World Cup to England at Wembley in 1966, to man landing on the moon three years later. From the end of the Cold War, to peace in Northern Ireland. Throughout it all, as the sands of culture shift and the tides of politics ebb and flow Her Majesty has been steadfast – a rock of strength for our Commonwealth and on many occasions for the whole world.

### A modern monarch

As her grandson, Prince William has said: *“Time and again, quietly and modestly, The Queen has shown us all that we can confidently embrace the future without compromising the things that are important.”*

As Her Majesty said in her first televised Christmas broadcast of 1957, it is necessary to hold fast to “ageless ideals” and “fundamental principles”, and this requires what she described as *“a special kind of courage which makes us stand up for everything we know is right, everything that is true and honest”*.

### Above:

Prince Philip, Samantha Cameron, Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister David Cameron outside 10 Downing Street, for a luncheon to celebrate Prince Philip’s 90th birthday. 21 June 2011.

“When people meet the Queen they talk about it for the rest of their lives.”

In this modern Elizabethan era, Her Majesty has led a gentle evolution of our monarchy.

From that first televised Christmas day message to the opening up of the royal palaces and inventing the royal walkabout, she has brought the monarchy closer to the people while also retaining its dignity.

### **A source of unity and strength**

As I saw again at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta last year, Her Majesty has made an extraordinary contribution to the future of our Commonwealth, growing it from eight members in 1952 to 53 today, helping to build this unique family of nations that spans every continent, all the main religions, a quarter of the members of the United Nations and nearly a third of the world's population.

Back in 1953 while on a six month tour of the Commonwealth, she described the way it is “*built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace.*” These qualities continue to unite our Commonwealth nations today and Her Majesty has been a source of unity and strength at the heart of this special partnership of our countries and people.

Through it all, Her Majesty has carried herself with the most extraordinary grace and humility. When people meet the Queen they talk about it for the rest of their lives. She understands that and she shows a genuine interest in all she meets. They can really see that she cares.

### **With support from her Royal Family**

As we saw in her delightful birthday portraits, family has always been at the heart of Her Majesty's long life. As she lit the first in a chain of a thousand beacons for her 90th birthday, she was joined, as ever, by her family – including her son the Prince of Wales and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh who has stood by her side throughout her extraordinary reign. They have both served the United Kingdom and the whole Commonwealth with an unshakeable sense of duty. And their work – including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and The Prince's Trust – has inspired millions of people around the world.

We are uniquely blessed. Her Majesty's service is extraordinary and it is a joy for us all to celebrate, cherish and honour it. I know the whole Commonwealth will want to join with me in sending our very best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen as we celebrate this special landmark in her life of service.





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**Above:** Princess Elizabeth of York, photographed by Marcus Adams in March 1927. Inscribed by Queen Mary 'Baby Elizabeth, 1927'.



# PRINCESS ELIZABETH – THE EARLY YEARS

*‘I can make my solemn act of dedication with a whole Empire listening. I should like to make that dedication now. It is very simple. 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.’*

Princess Elizabeth on her 21st birthday, 21 April 1947 Cape Town, South Africa

## A royal birth

Hot coffee and sandwiches were sent out to reporters waiting in a huddle in the dark, wet street. The weather had been foul for a week, and the pervading mood in London was one of gloom. Great Britain was in the midst of serious industrial unrest, with the threat of a general strike uppermost in peoples’ minds. But inside 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, there was nothing but undiluted joy. For at 2.40am on 21 April 1926, Elizabeth, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York, came into the world. The Duchess had been painfully in labour for several hours, and the surgeon Sir Henry Stratton took the decision to perform a caesarian section. Everything went well.

The baby girl stood third in line of succession to the throne, after her uncle Edward, Prince of Wales, and her father, the Duke of York.

However at the time it was not expected that her father would become King, or that she would ever become Queen. News of the birth was kept private for an hour or two, to allow the King and Queen to be told first. At 4am, George V and Queen Mary were woken at Windsor Castle and given the happy news. That afternoon they drove to London to see the baby. “A little darling with a lovely complexion and pretty fair hair,” the Queen later wrote in her diary.

“At 2.40am on 21 April 1926, Elizabeth, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York, came into the world.”



**Above:**

Family group photograph following the Christening of Princess Elizabeth of York, 29 May 1926. Pictured from left to right are Lady Elphinstone; Arthur, Duke of Connaught; Queen Mary and King George V (paternal grandparents); the Duchess of York holding Princess Elizabeth; the Duke of York; the Countess and Earl of Strathmore; and Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles.

The little princess was christened in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace eight months later by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Cosmo Lang. The gold, lily-shaped font was brought from St George's Chapel, Windsor, and the water for the baptism came from the River Jordan in Palestine. The royal child was named Elizabeth Alexandra Mary: Elizabeth after her mother, while her two middle names were those of her paternal great-grandmother, Queen Alexandra, and paternal grandmother, Queen Mary. The King and Queen were among her godparents.

**'Lilibet' – a favourite with 'Grandpa England'**

A month later, on the King's orders, her parents embarked on a six-month tour of several colonies and dominions, including New Zealand and Australia, leaving their baby in the care of the unflappable, no-nonsense nanny Mrs Clara Knight, affectionately known as 'Allah'. With her parents away, the little princess often

brightened the afternoons of her grandparents. George V, a stern father by all accounts to his own five children, was transformed into a besotted grandfather for his little 'Lilibet' – the nickname she had given herself as she could not pronounce Elizabeth properly.

The Princess's early years were blissfully happy, spent in the top floor nursery at 145 Piccadilly, the London house taken by her parents on their return from their overseas visits. There she would play ensconced with Allah and her assistant Margaret 'Bobo' MacDonald. The King adored Elizabeth and often asked for her to be brought to the palace so that they could play. When they weren't together he would telephone the nursery and then focus on the window with a pair of binoculars to see his beloved granddaughter waving back at him.

When the King was taken seriously ill, Elizabeth was taken to stay with him in Bognor to help make his convalescence bearable. When she was four the Yorks



“If Margaret had been a boy, Elizabeth’s importance would have waned. In fact it brought the family her father dubbed ‘we four’ into sharper focus.”

were offered the house ‘Royal Lodge’ in Windsor Great Park as a retreat; and ‘Grandpa England’ – as she called him – gave her a Shetland pony that kindled her lifelong passion for horses. The following year most of her contemporaries were attending school for the first time, but Elizabeth never went to school. She was taught to read by her mother. Elizabeth’s was an existence surrounded by adults. In the summer of 1930 that all changed.

### Margaret Rose

The Yorks’ second daughter was born on 21 August 1930, at Glamis Castle, the Scottish home of her mother. Her parents were so sure the child would be a boy that they had no girls’ names ready. They settled on Margaret Rose and Elizabeth announced she would call her sister ‘Bud’. When asked why, Elizabeth responded, ‘Well, she’s not a rose yet, is she? She’s only a bud.’

If Margaret had been a boy, Elizabeth’s importance would have waned. In fact it brought the family her father dubbed ‘we four’ into sharper focus. The King’s illness had aged him significantly, and his heir, the dashing Prince of Wales – now 36 – showed no sign of settling down with a suitable bride and starting a family of his own. If he had done so, their offspring would take precedence in the succession to the throne.

The Yorks’ domestic bliss, ordered and family-focused, was in complete contrast to the rather louche private lives of the other three royal princes. For the King, the Yorks were the future. He had little time for his other sons.

The Prince of Wales’s infatuation with twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson caused a serious rift between the monarch and his immediate heir. Elizabeth and Margaret could avoid the growing tensions within the family, and could not predict how the situation would one day impact on their young lives. To them,

### Below:

Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret riding a rocking horse at St Paul’s Walden Bury, August 1932.



“On 10 December Elizabeth learned the truth. Her father went to see his brother, who told him of his intention to abdicate.”

David – as the Prince of Wales was known to the family – was their golden-haired favourite uncle: charming, mischievous, and above all fun. They would spend hours miming the characters in A A Milne’s *Winnie the Pooh*. The two girls adored him.

### The Year of the Three Kings

For their father, Bertie, the situation was intolerable. His private world and that of his family was about to change for ever in 1936, which was to become known as ‘The Year of the Three Kings’. In January King George V died at Sandringham, to be succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII. Before his death he told the Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, prophetically as it turned out, “After I am dead, the boy will ruin himself in twelve months.” His last words were, “How is the Empire?” Within weeks of his state funeral the old King’s prophecy was coming true, as his son’s reign began to unravel. Tension was mounting. The Duke of York did his best to carry out royal duties, but he was hampered by a pronounced stammer, immortalised in the award-winning film *The King’s Speech*.

It was clear that Princess Elizabeth knew a family and public drama was unfolding – but wasn’t sure exactly what. In answer to one of her little sister’s incessant questions Elizabeth, just ten years old, answered, “I think Uncle David wants to marry Mrs Baldwin, and Mr Baldwin doesn’t like it.” As preparations were going ahead for the King’s coronation Elizabeth’s father had a sense of

foreboding, even if the story of the Simpson affair had conveniently, up to this point, been kept out of the British newspapers.

### The abdication

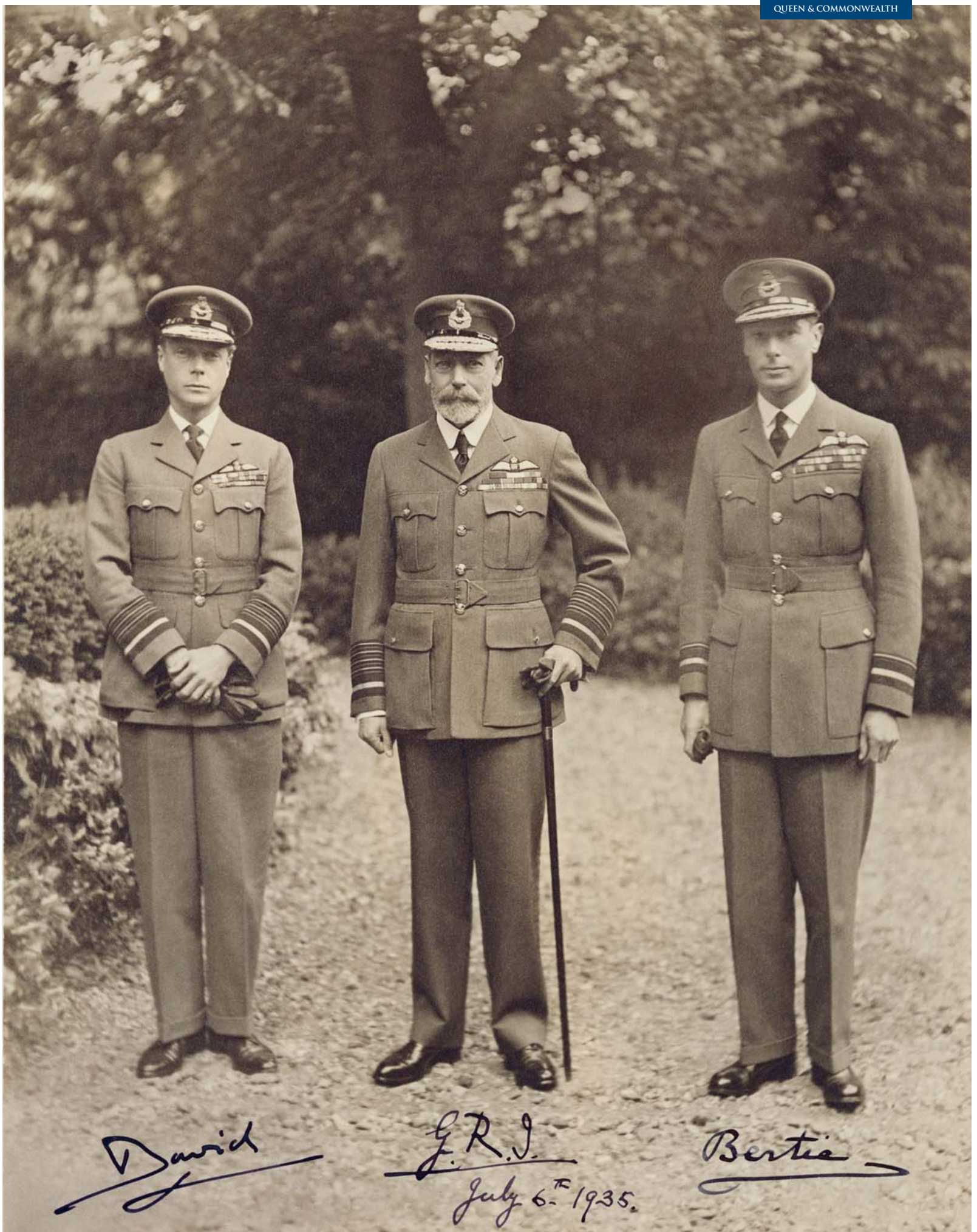
In November 1936, Edward called Baldwin and sought Cabinet approval for him to marry Wallis Simpson, the twice-divorced American. It was now a constitutional issue. There was no going back now, either for King or Government, and something had to give. Within weeks it did. On 10 December Elizabeth learned the truth. Her father went to see his brother, who told him of his intention to abdicate. Bertie, never born or raised to take the top job, was devastated. He wrote in his diary, “I went to see Queen Mary and when I told her what had happened I broke down and I sobbed like a child.”

When he arrived home he told his wife, who in turn went to the nursery and broke the news to her eldest daughter. From the moment that her father became King, Elizabeth was the Heir Presumptive. Margaret asked her, “Does that mean that you will have to be the next Queen?” Elizabeth considered for a moment and replied, “Yes, some day.” Margaret replied, “Poor you.”

### The dawning relationship with Philip

It was at the wedding in 1934 of Prince Philip’s cousin, Princess Marina of Greece, to the Duke of Kent, Princess Elizabeth’s uncle, that the future Queen first met her dashing third cousin. In 1936, Greece had voted to reinstate its monarchy, but Philip’s father, Andrea, resisted pressure to push his son into Greek military service. Instead, Philip remained at Gordonstoun, the school in Scotland where he would later send his own sons, and began to prepare for training for a career in Britain’s Royal Navy on the advice of his uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten. Five years after her first encounter with Philip, Princess Elizabeth met him again,





**Above:** Edward, Prince of Wales, King George V and George Duke of York at the RAF Review, Mildenhall Aerodrome, 6 July 1935.





**Above:** Queen Elizabeth with Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, 9 April 1940. Princess Elizabeth was nearly 14 and Princess Margaret nine.





this time on a visit to Dartmouth Naval College aboard the royal yacht.

The young princesses were assigned the dashing naval cadet Philip Mountbatten to look after them. Elizabeth, just 13 years old, was immediately smitten. He took her off to play croquet and to the tennis courts to have “some real fun jumping over the nets”. The future Queen found the boy’s Viking good looks and free spirit appealing. The next day Philip and fellow cadets joined the royal party for tea. Her father the King had hardly noticed him – until it was time for them to depart. As the royal party sailed off, a few cadets took charge of a number of small craft and set off in pursuit of the royal yacht.

The princess watched Philip through her binoculars. The King eventually spotted him and remarked, “The young fool. He must go back!” His boldness, not to mention his good looks, made a lasting impression on the young princess. He was not a fool in her mind.

### A naval career

War with Hitler’s Nazi Germany was declared, and in 1940, a few months after Elizabeth and Philip’s meeting, he was sent to sea. As a citizen of Greece, he was initially deployed as a ‘neutral foreigner’, serving on naval escort and convoy

### Above:

Prince Philip of Greece at Gordonstoun School, c.1938.

“Philip was commended for his operation of searchlights during a 1941 night battle near Cape Matapan, where the British destroyed much of the Italian fleet. He was later awarded the Greek War Cross of Valour.”



**Above:**

Princess Elizabeth, with Margaret by her side, recording her first broadcast, aired on 13 October 1940.

**Below:**

Princess Elizabeth trains as an A.T.S. Officer, April 1945.

missions. After Italy invaded Greece in 1940 the young officer was assigned to *Valiant*, a battleship that would soon see action in the Mediterranean. Philip was commended for his operation of searchlights during a 1941 night battle near Cape Matapan, where the British destroyed much of the Italian fleet. He was later awarded the Greek War Cross of Valour. He was mentioned in dispatches, and took part in the Allied landings on Sicily.

After various postings and promotions, Philip earned the rank of First Lieutenant of HMS *Whelp* in 1944, a destroyer that went on to see action in the Pacific as part of a British Fleet involved with joint operations with the US Navy, including the landings at Iwo Jima. He was at Tokyo Bay when the Japanese surrendered.

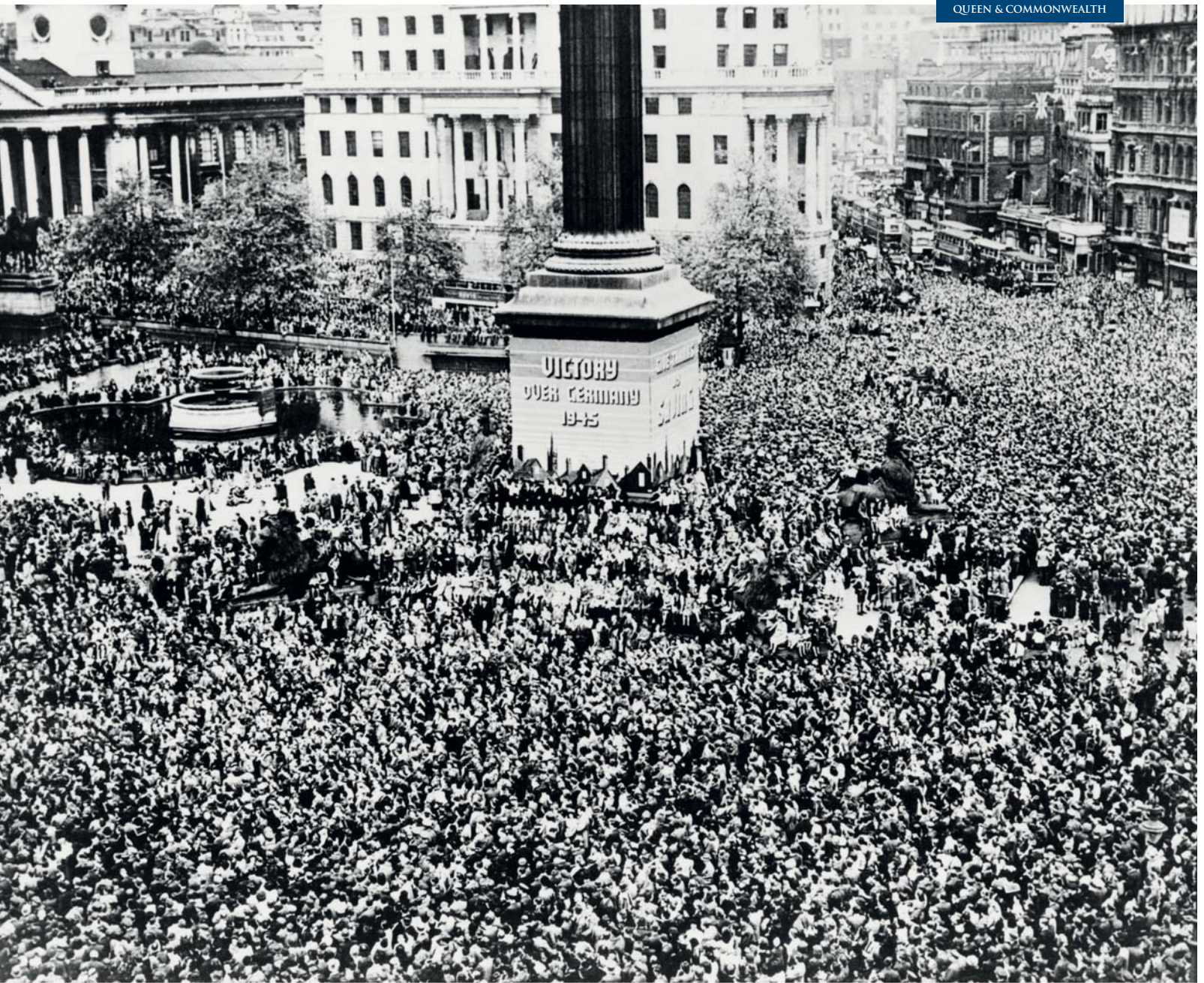
**Sisters at war**

Meanwhile, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were evacuated to Windsor Castle for their own safety, while the King and Queen quickly dismissed defeatist talk of them leaving the country. On the King's orders, no member of the Royal Family would leave their post, because it would send out completely the wrong message to their nervous people. Elizabeth was keen to do her bit for the war effort, too. In 1945 she won permission from her father to become a driver in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the women's branch of the British Army. She became known as No 230873 Second Subaltern Elizabeth Windsor.

With Margaret at her side, she also worked to boost morale, and on 13 October 1940 made







**Above:**  
V-E Day celebrations  
in Trafalgar Square,  
London, May 7, 1945.

her first public broadcast to the children of the Commonwealth, many of them living away from home, and those who had been evacuated to the USA, Canada and elsewhere.

“On the King’s orders, no member of the Royal Family would leave their post, because it would send out completely the wrong message.”

She famously said, “I can truthfully say to you all that we children at home are full of cheerfulness and courage. We are trying to do all we can to help our gallant sailors, soldiers and airmen, and we are trying, too, to bear our own share of the danger and sadness of war. We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace. 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.”

When victory in Europe was eventually declared on ‘V E Day’, Elizabeth was ready to celebrate. In her ATS uniform, she stepped





**Above:**  
Princess Elizabeth  
and Lieutenant Philip  
Mountbatten at  
Buckingham Palace,  
10 July 1947, when they  
formally announced  
their engagement.

onto Buckingham Palace balcony along with the King as vast crowds surged up the Mall. Afterwards, along with a group of officers, the two princesses slipped away and mingled on foot with the crowds to celebrate peace, dancing the conga through the Ritz and linking arms with revellers. She was, for one day at least, a face in the crowd, and joined people outside the palace, shouting, 'We want the King.'

### A fine romance

In 1944 Philip lost his father, Andrea, who had found himself trapped in Vichy France at the beginning of the Second World War, while his son fought on the side of the British. They were unable to see or even correspond with one another. Andrea died in the Metropole Hotel, Monte Carlo, of heart failure and arterial sclerosis just as the war was ending.

After the war was over, Prince Philip remained in the Far East with his destroyer *Whelp* to collect and bring home prisoners of war, arriving back in Portsmouth on 17 January 1946. By now he had rekindled a friendship with Princess Elizabeth that soon blossomed into a public romance. Philip stayed in the UK, where he taught petty officers and attended the Naval Staff College in Greenwich. A series of unexciting home postings had left him restless and disillusioned after the buzz of action. In a letter to Elizabeth, he admitted he was "still not accustomed to the idea of peace, rather fed up with everything and feeling that there was not much to look

“The formal announcement of their engagement was delayed until after Elizabeth had reached the age of 21 and returned from a royal tour of South Africa.”



forward to and rather grudgingly accepting the idea of going on in the peacetime Navy.”

His home postings did at least allow for more frequent trips to London, and Marion Crawford, Princess Elizabeth’s former governess, described seeing Philip’s black, green-upholstered MG sports car roaring into the forecourt of Buckingham Palace and the Prince getting out “hatless” and “always in a hurry to see Lilibet”. According to ‘Crawfie’, Elizabeth began to take more trouble with her appearance, and to play the tune ‘People will say we’re in love’ from the musical *Oklahoma*.

In London, Philip would stay either with his grandmother, Princess Victoria, at Kensington Palace or on a camp bed at the home of his uncle, ‘Dickie’ Mountbatten. In visitors’ books at the time, he declared himself “of no fixed abode”. The Mountbattens’ butler, John Dean, who later became Prince Philip’s valet, was struck by the fact that the prince’s civilian wardrobe was “scantier than that of many a bank clerk”, and that often all he brought with him was a razor. When he had gone to bed, Dean would wash and iron his shirt and darn his socks. “He was very easy to look after and never asked for things like that to be done for him, but I liked him so much that I did it anyway.” Dean noticed that when he unpacked Philip’s weekend bag, there was always a photograph of Princess Elizabeth in a battered leather frame.

When news of the royal romance reached the press it was Elizabeth’s first experience of a new kind of public interest. Her personal life had become public property. When she arrived at engagements, people in the crowd would shout, “Where’s Philip?” Philip had proposed in secret in 1946 – on his knees in the Balmoral heather, wearing a borrowed pair of plus fours – although the formal announcement of their engagement was delayed until after Elizabeth had reached the age of 21 and returned from a royal tour of South Africa.



### A life devoted to duty

The tour of South Africa was a hugely significant trip for the princess; and one on which she made one of her most important speeches. They were words that would resonate though her reign. From Cape Town on her 21st birthday Elizabeth delivered a radio broadcast

**Above:**  
Princess Elizabeth delivering her memorable 21st birthday radio broadcast in Cape Town, South Africa.

in which she dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth. She said, “I welcome the opportunity to speak to all the peoples of the British Commonwealth and Empire, wherever they live, whatever race they come from, and whatever language they speak.”

She continued, “As I speak to you today from Cape Town I am six thousand miles from the country where I was born. But I am certainly not six thousand miles from home ... That is the great privilege belonging to our place in the world-wide Commonwealth – that there are homes ready to welcome us in every continent of the earth. Before I am much older I hope I shall come to know many of them.” And in an often quoted statement, she added, “I can make my solemn act of dedication with a whole Empire listening. I should like to make that dedication now. It is very simple. 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. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.” With those powerful words Elizabeth had publicly declared the dutiful code by which she would live her life.

Philip by now had become a naturalised British subject and adopted the Mountbatten surname; years later in 1963, his casual denial of his Greek nationality brought an angry response from the Parliament of his birth. It came during a visit

to Australia. After a boy asked him if he was Greek, he replied, “No, I was born in Greece but I am not Greek.” Shortly before the wedding he was created Duke of Edinburgh.

### The wedding of the century

After Elizabeth returned to the UK, a court circular was issued from Buckingham Palace in July 1947 announcing the engagement of the couple. “The King has gladly given his consent,” read the statement. The next day they made their first public appearance as a royal couple, at a garden party. Lord Beaverbrook’s *Daily Express* trumpeted: “Today the British people, turning aside from the anxieties of a time of troubles, find hope as well as joy in the royal romance.”

The royal marriage took place in Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947 – a wonderful public occasion, providing colour and excitement desperately needed in the gloomy post-war period. Two thousand guests were invited and 200 million people around the world listened to the ceremony on the radio. The King was deeply moved. He wrote to his daughter, “I was so proud of you and thrilled at having you so close to me on our long walk in Westminster Abbey, but when I handed your hand to the Archbishop I felt that I had lost something very precious.” The couple honeymooned at Mountbatten’s home in Hampshire and Birkhall on the Balmoral estate. On their return they moved into Buckingham Palace, as a temporary residence until their marital home, Clarence House, was ready.

“The royal marriage took place in Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947. Two thousand guests were invited and 200 million people around the world listened to the ceremony on the radio.”





**Above:** The official portrait of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Duke Of Edinburgh, after their wedding ceremony.

«In November 1948, six days before Elizabeth and Philip's first wedding anniversary, her heir Prince Charles was born.»

**Below:**

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip with Prince Charles and Princess Anne, London, England, 1951.

**A young family**

In November 1948, six days before Elizabeth and Philip's first wedding anniversary, her heir Prince Charles was born. Philip was playing squash at the time with his close friend Mike

Parker. On hearing the news he dashed back to the palace, picking up on the way the champagne and carnations. A huge crowd gathered at the palace gates to celebrate, and the water fountains in Trafalgar Square were dyed blue in honour of the new arrival.



Prince Philip was posted to Malta, and Elizabeth decided to divide her time between her husband in the sun and her baby back home in Clarence House. Promoted to Lieutenant Commander, Philip was given command of the frigate HMS *Magpie* the following September. It was a period that he described as among the happiest days of his sailor life, as well as being the closest he and his young bride came to living an ordinary married life. They entertained themselves with picnics and swimming expeditions, and Elizabeth behaved just like any other young officer's wife – shopping, going for coffee mornings, and visiting the hairdresser. When she was six months pregnant with her second child, she returned home for good. Princess Anne was born in August 1950. Malta clearly had a special place in their hearts, for it was where they chose to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary 60 years later.

Royal duty soon intervened, though. In the autumn of 1951, the King's declining health meant that Elizabeth and Philip had to step in for her parents on a royal tour of Canada and USA. Philip's naval career was at the core of the man. By 1952, Prince Philip had been promoted to Commander and his naval career was blossoming. However fate would dictate a different path for this young naval officer and his wife.





**Above:** Princess Elizabeth is greeted by Louis Stehen St Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, at a reception in Rideeau Hall, Ottawa, Canada 1951.





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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

# WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR MAJESTY ON YOUR 90TH BIRTHDAY AND 65TH YEAR AS HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I am delighted to offer this message on the celebration of your 90th birthday and 65th year as Head of the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Government, the people of the Republic of Zambia and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Majesty on this joyous occasion.

My Government values the longstanding bonds of friendship that exist between Zambia and the United Kingdom, and which continue to grow from strength to strength both at bilateral and multilateral levels, through our increasingly aligned interests.

Your Majesty, your remarkable leadership as the Head of the Commonwealth continues to inspire us. I am confident that under your leadership, Your Majesty the cooperation that continue to exist among member states will be strengthened further.

As Your Majesty marks this special day, please accept, my best wishes for your continued personal good health and continued prosperity for the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.



Edgar Chagwa Lungu  
PRESIDENT  
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



## MESSAGE FROM KOFI ANNAN

Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation

*Kofi Annan is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and was the Secretary-General of the United Nations between 1997 and 2006. He founded the Kofi Annan foundation in 2007 to mobilise political will to overcome threats to peace, development and human rights.*

The Commonwealth has a unique place and role within the international community. It harnesses the creative energy, traditions and values of more than two billion people around the world. It strongly promotes democracy, good governance, human rights and sustainable development.

These represent the interdependent pillars of any fair and healthy society as there can be no peace without inclusive development and no development without peace. And no society can long remain prosperous without the rule of law and respect for human rights.

As well as building and strengthening invaluable links between member countries and their citizens, it also provides practical support from election monitoring to promoting trade and security co-operation. Education, at school and at university level, is a further area where the rewards of closer ties and cooperation, are ours to seize.

Today, the Commonwealth stands as a confident, modern, multicultural and proudly inclusive organisation.

### **An Inclusive Commonwealth**

This year's Commonwealth theme is 'An Inclusive Commonwealth'. Let me dwell on the word inclusive for a moment because it has a central place in the Commonwealth's founding document. This puts the people at its heart and declares that plurality and diversity are its greatest strength. It also means that we must constantly strive to ensure that no child, woman or man is excluded or left behind.

These are enduring principles that not only bind us together as citizens of the Commonwealth but are absolutely critical for our collective ambitions for our

«Today, the Commonwealth stands as a confident, modern, multicultural and proudly inclusive organisation.»





“I would like to express my best wishes to Her Majesty, and her family, in the year in which she celebrates her 90th birthday.”



world. It has never been more important for the Commonwealth to stress the bonds of human compassion and solidarity that unite us across the divides of race and religion, gender and geography.

The Commonwealth is made up of more than one billion young people who provide our greatest hope for the future. We must trust and nurture them in the timeless values of the Commonwealth. We should be confident that, if we provide them the opportunity, they will continue to build on what has been achieved.

### **Her Majesty's steadfast devotion**

No individual has made a greater contribution to these achievements than Her Majesty the Queen. She has shown an unwavering and steadfast devotion to this grand project. We are greatly honoured and deeply grateful for her extraordinary commitment to its people. I would like to express my best wishes to Her Majesty, and her family, in the year in which she celebrates her 90th birthday.

We can go forward in the confidence that history has shown how much more we can achieve together.

**Website:** [kofiannanfoundation.org](http://kofiannanfoundation.org)

### **Above:**

The Queen invests Kofi Annan, with Insignia of an Honorary GCMG, at Buckingham Palace on 24 October 2007.





Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip  
at Mende Modei Village,  
Eastern Province, Sierra Leone,  
November 1961.







# THE PEARL OF AFRICA



On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Uganda and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to Her Majesty, members of the Royal family and the people of the United Kingdom warm greetings and congratulations on the occasion of Her Majesty's 90th birthday and her 65th year as Head of the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty has been a pillar of strength, inspiration and unity, not only for the people of the United Kingdom, but for the Commonwealth and the world as a whole. Uganda appreciates Her Majesty's efforts in championing Commonwealth values including democracy, protection of human rights, poverty eradication, women empowerment, social development and environment protection.

I take this opportunity to reiterate my commitment and that of the Government of the Republic of Uganda to continue working with Her Majesty and Her Majesty's Government in strengthening

further, the close and historic relations that exist between our two peoples.

I extend to Her Majesty and members of the Royal family, best wishes for many years of continued good health, success and prosperity.

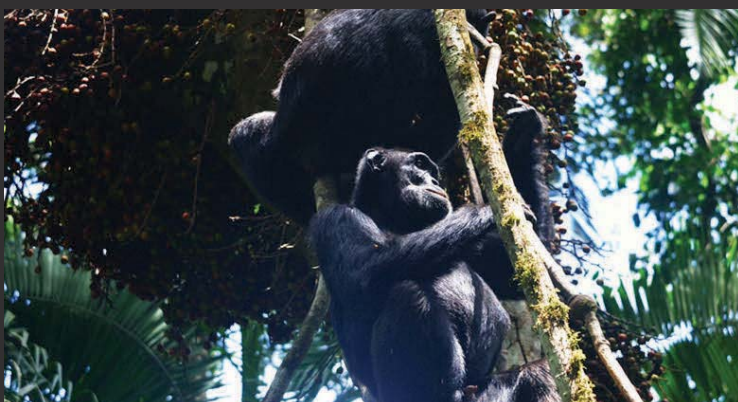
*Yoweri Museveni*

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni  
President of the Republic of Uganda





TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
AND HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
DURING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Memories of Her Majesty's visits to Uganda in 1952, 1954 and 2007

1952



1954



2007



2007



"UGANDA IS FROM END TO END  
A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WHERE  
STAPLE FOOD OF THE PEOPLE  
GROWS ALMOST WITHOUT  
LABOUR. DOES IT NOT SOUND  
LIKE A PARADISE ON EARTH? IT  
IS THE PEARL OF AFRICA"

Sir Winston Churchill

[www.visituganda.com](http://www.visituganda.com)





**"For the first time in the history of the world, a young girl climbed into a tree one day a Princess and, after having what she described as her most thrilling experience, she climbed down from the tree next day a Queen."**

*Treetops Hunter Escort, Jim Corbett, in the visitors' log book*

Aberdare Safari Hotels, the owners and managers of Treetops Lodge in Kenya, congratulate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on celebrating the key milestones of

her 90th birthday, entering her 65th year as Head of the Commonwealth and of becoming the longest reigning Monarch of the United Kingdom.

As the world famously knows, when it was announced on 6th February 1952 that King George VI had passed away in his sleep, Princess Elizabeth and the







Duke of Edinburgh were guests that night at the game-viewing Treetops Lodge.

**As such, when the Princess descended from Treetops the next day it was as Her Majesty the Queen.**

The first treehouse game-viewing lodge in Kenya, Treetops was built by **Major Eric and Lady Bettie Shebrooke Walker** on a Mugumu (Sacred Fig) Tree and opened with two bedrooms on 6th November 1932.

Treetops' birth was inspired by the desire to shoot wildlife with cameras instead of with guns. Her Majesty's visit therefore provided support for this change to safari culture. The policy of a "guaranteed animal sighting or your drinks money back" justified the room rate of £10 per person which, at that time, was quoted as, "probably the most expensive hotel in the world."

Treetops is adjoined to the **Outspan Hotel**, a country hotel 20kms away in Nyeri town. Similarly built by Major Walker five years before Treetops, Outspan proudly hosts the Paxtu Cottage, which proved the last home of **Lord Baden-Powell**, founder of the Scout movement who, after his death in January 8th 1941, was buried in Nyeri. Today "Paxtu" is a protected monument and museum dedicated to his life and the Scout movement.

By the time soon-to-be Queen first visited Treetops in 1952 a third bedroom had been built. That night was also the first time that floodlights were used to create artificial moonlight. As was recorded by the Treetops Hunter Escort, Jim Corbett, the animals seen included 90 elephants, groups of up to eight rhino throughout the night, as well as waterbuck. Wildlife still easily observed today at Treetops and throughout the

diverse Aberdare National Park, which covers over 750 square kilometers, include the black rhino, leopards and the colobus monkey, while rare sightings are possible of the ever elusive bongo antelope.

HM the Queen and HRH Prince Phillip returned to Treetops some 30 years later on 13th November 1983, by which time the Lodge had grown to 40 Bedrooms. During her second visit Her Majesty remarked on the noticeable "retreat of the forest" which was being caused by elephants, whose natural migratory routes had been interrupted by the installation of electric fences to manage man's contact with the wildlife. Queen Elizabeth planted a tree and inspired Treetops and the Kenya Wildlife Service to initiate the **"Return the Bush"** programme. The vision was to rehabilitate the 152km<sup>2</sup> Salient within the National Park and is still in progress today. In this respect, all visitors to Treetops are invited to plant a tree in the Lodge surroundings.

Other Royal guests over time have included the Queen Mother in 1959 and Prince Edward in 2002. This special history with Her Majesty has significantly and positively enhanced the reputations of both the Republic of Kenya and Treetops as a unique safari destination for tourists from all over the world. Other world leaders to have visited Treetops include Haile Selassie, as Emperor of Ethiopia in 1964, accompanied by Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the Kenyan Prime Minister at the time. Willy Brandt, the German Chancellor, also visited in 1971, as has Kenneth Kaunda when President of Zambia.

During the period between Queen Elizabeth's visits, other notable elements of Treetops' history have included its closure in July 1954 due to security concerns created by the freedom fighters of the Mau Mau Uprising. Treetops was eventually burnt to the ground later that year, but was rebuilt and open again by July 1957 in a chestnut tree on the opposite side of the same water hole, featuring seven bedrooms and also now including

modern washing facilities.

In 2012, Treetops joined the rest of the world in celebrating HM the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**. Having completed a major refurbishment in the April, Treetops opened a "Jubilee Forest" in May and, on June 4th, joined in the Queen's Jubilee Beacons with a symbolic lighting at the Lodge, where the guest of honour was the British High Commissioner, accompanied by the Managing Director of the Kenya Tourism Board.

**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II continues to be a great inspiration to Treetops and to Kenya and we look forward to her continued long reign.**



Treetops today has maintained its unique and historical character. We continue to offer superior dining and game-viewing from our 36 en-suite bedrooms, lounge, dining room and animal hides. Our guests are also kept fully engaged by the other activities available within the Lodge and the Aberdare National Park, which include game drives, nature walks, bird spotting, trout fishing and horse riding.

For more information on Treetops, please contact us:  
**info@aberadresafarihotels.com**

**www.treetops.co.ke**

**f Treetops Lodge, Aberdares**

**@TreetopsLodgeKE**

**James Waibochi**

*Chairman, Aberdare Safari Hotels*



**Above:** HM Queen Elizabeth II on her Coronation day at Westminster Abbey.



# A NEW QUEEN

*“My father and grandfather before him worked all their lives to unite our peoples ever more closely, and to maintain [the Commonwealth] ideals which were so near to their hearts. I shall strive to carry on their work.”*

Queen Elizabeth II, Christmas Day 1953.

## A royal farewell

The crowd gave the King a sympathetic cheer as he stood in the bitter cold to wave goodbye as his beloved daughter left for Africa. Frail and wan, he responded to his loyal supporters with a customary wave of acknowledgement. He then turned and told Margaret ‘Bobo’ MacDonald, Elizabeth’s loyal assistant, “Look after the princess for me.” She later admitted that she had never seen him so upset. The King’s deteriorating health had meant that Elizabeth – now a mother of two with Prince Charles, three, and Princess Anne, one – had had to act as understudy for her father more and more, carrying out overseas visits on his behalf. Six days after they had said goodbye, in the early hours of 6 February 1952, George VI died in his sleep of thrombosis at his Sandringham estate in Norfolk.

Buckingham Palace officials held up the announcement of the monarch’s passing for three hours while they desperately attempted to contact Elizabeth. Oblivious, the royal couple had just returned from Treetops hotel and observation tower to Sagana fishing Lodge in Kenya. They could not be reached. A telegram sent to Government House

“The King’s deteriorating health had meant that Elizabeth – now a mother of two with Prince Charles, three, and Princess Anne, one – had had to act as understudy for her father more and more.”

in Nairobi could not be decoded because the keys to the safe holding the codebook were unavailable. Meanwhile, ‘Operation Hyde Park Corner’ – the code name for arrangements for the death of the King – was now well under way. But Elizabeth still did not know that she was already Queen.

## Grief of a Prime Minister

At 10 Downing Street, Prime Minister Winston Churchill had been informed of the King’s death. When his staff tried to

“On the morning of 8 February, Elizabeth presided over her first Privy Council meeting. It was there, with her assembled ministers standing as they always do, that she read out her Declaration of Sovereignty.”

console him, saying he would get on well with the new Queen, Churchill replied that he barely knew her and she was ‘only a child’. The widowed Queen Elizabeth set out her thoughts in a letter to Queen Mary, in which she worried about the burden that would fall on the 25-year-old Elizabeth. “My darling Mama, what can I say to you – I know that you loved Bertie dearly, and he was my whole life, and one can only be deeply thankful for the utterly happy years we had together. He was so wonderfully thoughtful and loving, and I don’t believe he ever thought of himself at all ... I cannot bear to think of Lilibet, so young to bear such a burden – I do feel for you so darling Mama – to lose two dear sons, and Bertie still so young and so precious – it is almost more than one can bear – your very loving Elizabeth.”

Finally, at lunchtime, the editor of the *East African Standard* managed to contact Elizabeth’s private secretary, Martin Charteris, by telephone to ask if reports of the King’s death were true. A stunned Charteris contacted Sagana Lodge, where he spoke directly to Prince Philip. Philip knew that his first duty was to his wife, and steeled himself to break the news to her. He invited her for a walk in the gardens; and at 2.45pm Elizabeth finally learned that she was now Queen. Her stoicism and sense of duty to the people of her country carried her through. She discussed practicalities, such as how they were to get back home, and organised letters of apology for cancelling the royal tour. She was composed, a master of her fate.

### A lifetime of duty begins

Under considerable strain the couple boarded the plane with none of the usual pomp and took off at once. Elizabeth’s black clothes had to be flown to join her plane from Mombasa. Inside the cabin her mask slipped, and she left her seat for a while to cry alone. She knew she had to prepare herself for her first public appearance as Sovereign. After the long flight she was met at the airport on the afternoon of 7 February by Britain’s elder statesman Churchill, together with Clement Atlee, now Leader of the Opposition, and Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary. When the aircraft door opened, her uncle the Duke of Gloucester was followed by the late King’s private secretary Sir Alan ‘Tommy’ Lascelles up the steps and inside. Within minutes the new Sovereign was ready. She descended the steps alone, her husband Prince Philip waiting at the top as she carried out her first duty as Queen.

The new Queen did not go straight to Sandringham to comfort her mother and view her father’s body. The ceremonial functions connected with the Accession meant she was needed in the capital. On the morning of 8 February, Elizabeth presided over her first Privy Council meeting. It was there, with her assembled ministers standing as they always do, that she read out her Declaration of Sovereignty. She got through it without faltering, despite having to mention her father several times. Her father had been totally unprepared for kingship and leading his country through war had taken a considerable toll on him and his health. Yet





with a determined resolve he had found the courage to meet the challenge and his people loved him for it. He had done everything in his power to prepare Elizabeth for her future role. Now her lifetime of duty and public service would begin in earnest.

### **The Coronation – a tonic for the country**

The Crowning of Elizabeth II was a pivotal and historic moment destined to raise the people out of the malaise of the postwar period. It was hoped the spectacular event

### **Above:**

The Queen in the Gold State Coach passes through huge crowds on her return from Westminster Abbey on her Coronation day.

«It was hoped the spectacular event would help change the mood and kick-start Britain, bolstering growth and prosperity.»



would help change the mood and kick-start Britain, bolstering growth and prosperity. But this new Elizabethan Britain was still reeling from the financial and social fall-out of the Second World War, broke, with its cities flattened by Nazi bombing raids.

**Below:**

HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh waving to the crowds from the balcony of Buckingham Palace following her Coronation Ceremony.

The new Queen was just what the war-weary British and wider Commonwealth needed. Beautiful, youthful and glamorous, with her dashing prince on her arm, she was like a fairy tale come true. The public around the world were gripped by the story and the spectacle.

After months of preparation, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953. For the first time, the ceremony and the huge public celebrations were broadcast on television across the UK, the Commonwealth and the rest of the world. It had not all gone smoothly. There was a shortage of professional coachmen to help transport dignitaries to Westminster Abbey in horse drawn carriages. Businessmen and country squires offered their services and on the day they dressed up as Buckingham Palace servants for the role. There was an acute shortage of horses, too, for the mounted escort of the Household Cavalry.





Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands saved the day by presenting them with a number of mounts as a token of thanks for the Royal Family's help during the war.

## Head of the Commonwealth

The new Commonwealth, so precious to the Queen, was woven into the imagery of the day: along with the home nations' rose, leek, shamrock and thistle, the emblems of other states of the Commonwealth were embroidered into the silk of the Queen's coronation dress – the wattle of Australia, the maple leaf of Canada, and other images from South Africa to Trinidad and Tobago. A stickler for detail, Her Majesty – still only 26 – ensured no one was missed out. More than 8,000 guests attended her Coronation.

The position of Head of the Commonwealth had not been enshrined in the constitution. In fact it had been India's first Head of Government, Jawaharlal Nehru, who had clarified the position. When he had dispatched a telegraph of condolence to Elizabeth on her father's death he had also, without any consultation, welcomed her as Head of the Commonwealth. The rest of the countries followed India's example.

Commonwealth High Commissioners to London of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, India, Pakistan, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) were appointed members of the Coronation Commission, with the Duke of Edinburgh as Chairman to help arrange the event alongside the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl Marshal of England. At the 1952 Commonwealth Economic Conference in London it was agreed that individual member countries could for the first time exercise independence from Britain by adopting different titles for their new monarch specific to their nations. In the UK she was officially known as Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Her Other

Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith. Other Commonwealth countries took the opportunity to make up their own; so in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, Ceylon and South Africa she was known as Queen of their respective nations individually. Commonwealth governments regarded this as a major triumph. She was also named Queen of several more newly independent former colonies that had become members of the 'British' Commonwealth.

### Above:

The Queen's Coronation dress was designed by Sir Norman Hartnell. Made of white satin, the embroidery design incorporates national and Commonwealth emblems in seed pearls, crystals, coloured silks and gold and silver thread.





**Above:**

Her Majesty with her Prime Ministers at the 1953 Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

The Commonwealth was at the forefront of Elizabeth's thoughts in her first year as Sovereign. She said: "We belong, you and I, to a far larger family. We belong, all of us, to the British Commonwealth and Empire, that immense union of nations, with their homes in all four corners of the earth. Like our own

families, it can be a great power for good – a force that I believe can be an immeasurable benefit to all humanity. My father and grandfather before him worked all their lives to unite our peoples ever more closely, and to maintain its ideals which were so near to their hearts. I shall strive to carry on their work."

«We belong, you and I, to a far larger family. We belong, all of us, to the British Commonwealth and Empire, that immense union of nations, with their homes in all four corners of the earth. Like our own families, it can be a great power for good.»



## A nation's yearning for new life

Despite her personal popularity, some of her subjects were less convinced about the new Commonwealth. They wanted change, and to be a new nation – not one harping back to perceived glories of an imperial past. For those people, the Commonwealth appeared a poor apology for the loss of the British Empire.

The Queen was determined to calm any fears in her second Christmas Day broadcast as Sovereign. Setting out her royal manifesto, she gave the clearest insight into her aspirations for her reign, saying, “Some people have expressed the hope that my reign may mark the new Elizabethan age. Frankly, I do not myself feel at all like my great Tudor forebear, who did not have either a husband or children, who ruled as a despot and was never able to leave her native shores.

“But there is at least one very significant resemblance between her age and mine. For her kingdom, small though it may have been and poor by comparison with her European neighbours, was yet great in spirit and well endowed with men who were ready to encompass the earth. Now this great Commonwealth – of which I am so proud to be the head, and of which that ancient kingdom forms a part – though rich in material resources, is richer still in the enterprise and courage of its peoples,” she said.

## An audience of millions

When she took the Coronation Oath binding her to serve the people and maintain the laws of God, 20 million people watched around the world, many crowded round the television sets of neighbours as the broadcast was translated into 44 languages. They watched enthralled as Her Majesty swore to God in her Coronation Oath to govern her various peoples across the world ‘according to their respective laws and customs’, and to ‘cause law and justice, in mercy, to be executed’ in all her judgments.

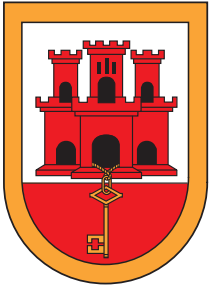


Then came four more pledges, to maintain: the laws of God; the Protestant faith; the settlement of the Church of England; and the rights and privileges of its clergy. All these she affirmed on a copy of the Bible, ‘the most valuable thing that this world affords’.

We do not know how nervous the Queen felt upon taking such solemn oaths or upon receiving the homage of those assembled at Westminster Abbey – and, symbolically, of the nation. On that Coronation day in 1953, the Queen assumed not a role to be played, but a responsibility to be discharged. She has done so, and has ever since remained faithful to the promises she made.

### Above:

HM Queen Elizabeth II broadcasting her first Christmas Message live on the radio from her study at Sandringham, Norfolk.



# HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II QUEEN OF GIBRALTAR

**“The Rock is famous in its history for three things: for its inviolable strength as a fortress, for the loyalty of its people and for the important strategic part it has played on so many different occasions.”**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Gibraltar, 10th May 1954

The People of Gibraltar are dedicated to the values and aspirations of the Commonwealth, a wide family of nations with the same language, the same culture and the same political traditions. The British Overseas Territory celebrates Commonwealth Day as a national holiday every year and our Commonwealth Park, situated at the heart of town and open to the whole community, serves as a permanent reminder of the values and aspirations of the Commonwealth.

These core principles – democracy, human rights and the rule of law – that unite the Commonwealth are embodied in Her Majesty the Queen, whose 90th Birthday



**The Royal Party arrive at the Victoria Stadium**



**Her Majesty is greeted by The Hon Joshua Hassan**

we celebrate. Much has changed since Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, embarked on her first tour of the Commonwealth, when Gibraltar was her final port of call at the end of a long 50,000 mile lap lasting six months. At 10am on Monday 10th May 1954 the Queen descended the steps of the Britannia and was presented with the Keys of the Fortress.

Traces of Her Majesty's historic visit are still present in everyday life on the Rock; Queensway - one of Gibraltar's main coastal roads - was named early in the Queen's brief stay, the Victoria Stadium where her Majesty was warmly welcomed by jubilant crowds has recently been refurbished with modern, first-class sporting facilities housed in the Elizabeth II Annex, and the Queen's Lookout is, to this day, one of the Rock's primary tourist spots for spectacular views over the City and the Bay.





**National Day celebrations in Grand Casemates Square, 10th September 2015**

Of course, no visit to Gibraltar would be complete without a tour of the Upper Rock and a meeting with its most celebrated inhabitants, the Barbary Macaques. Her Majesty and her family, armed with bags of monkey nuts, spent an hour feeding and interacting with the 17 members of the Queen's Gate Pack. As soon as the Queen offered one of them a nut, another snatched the whole bag from her hand. Her Majesty laughingly asked the Duke, "Did you see the dirty look that one gave me," as the first macaque glared up at her.

Today, the feeding of macaques by tourists is strictly forbidden and the animals are fed a natural diet by the Government's Ape Management team. Indeed, Gibraltar has changed in many ways since Her Majesty's visit in 1954. Even the view of the skyline from Queen's Lookout is vastly different. Queensway now boasts a luxury marina and a modern, bustling financial district is home to some of the world's most recognised financial services and online gaming brands. If she were to stand at her lookout today, the Queen would have an extraordinary view of the largest bunkering port in the Western Mediterranean.

But Gibraltar's loyalty to Britain and the Crown transcends the decades. In a 2002 referendum to establish the public's attitudes to the possibility of Gibraltar's sovereignty being shared by Britain and Spain, over 98% of voters rejected the concept. Gibraltar had once again voted overwhelmingly to stay British. The idea of joint sovereignty has since been abandoned, and the UK Government is committed to respect and defend the will of the Gibraltarians.

The 10th September is Gibraltar's National Day; a celebration of the identity of the Gibraltarians who have demonstrated their loyalty to Britain and their Queen for over 300 years. During the 2015 celebrations in Casemates Square Gibraltar's youngest ever Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo, conveyed the 'best wishes' of the longest-serving Monarch of Britain and the Overseas Territories to a jubilant crowd of her faithful subjects.

Her Majesty Elizabeth II is Queen of Gibraltar in every respect. Her commitment and sense of duty to all the people of Her Realms has always been held in the highest regard on her Rock.

**The People of Gibraltar send their warmest congratulations and wish their Queen a happy and peaceful 90th Birthday.**

**“This small Rock may be the smallest of Your Majesty's possessions but in the loyalty of its inhabitants to the British Crown it is second to none.”**

Chief Member of the Legislative Council, The Hon Joshua Hassan, addressed Her Majesty at a luncheon held at the Convent, May 1954.





**Above:** The Queen's arrival at Suva Wharf, Fiji, during her 1953-1954 Commonwealth Tour.



# THROUGH THE DECADES

*“I want to show that the Crown is not merely an abstract symbol of our unity, but a personal bond between you and me.”*

Queen Elizabeth II, broadcasting from New Zealand for Christmas 1953.

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## THE 1950s – NEW ELIZABETHANS

### The 1953-1954 Commonwealth Tour

It was the chance for the Queen to stamp her personality on the new Commonwealth – a bold diplomatic mission that would change her global subjects’ perception of it forever. Within five months of her coronation Elizabeth and Philip set out upon the most ambitious Royal Tour ever seen, flying to Bermuda after being given a great send off by large crowds from London Airport in the Stratocruiser *Canopus*. Between November 1953 and May 1954, the royal couple visited 13 countries in the West Indies, Australasia, Asia, and Africa, covering more than 40,000 miles by land, air and sea. Many of the countries had never before seen their ruling monarch.

Arriving in Bermuda after making a detour to avoid a storm, they drove through cheering crowds to St George and Hamilton, and then attended a garden party before flying to Jamaica. There the Queen addressed a

joint session of the legislative assembly in Kingston, thanking Jamaica and the rest of the West Indies for their welcome. They left on the liner *Gothic*, newly refurbished as a temporary royal yacht, escorted by HMS *Sheffield*, and began their passage through the Panama Canal. They enjoyed a banquet in Panama City before leaving Balboa for the Pacific crossing. En route, the yacht crossed the equator and Prince Philip took part in the ‘crossing the line’ ceremony, and loved throwing novices into the pool.

### Queen Salote’s royal feast

As they sailed into Fijian waters, they received a warm ritual welcome of dancing. Chiefs went aboard to present the Queen with a necklace made of whale teeth, formally giving them permission to come ashore. Once on land, the Queen sampled the traditional drink kava in a coconut shell, and was the guest of honour at a ball escorted by 200 torch-bearers.



**Above:**

HM Queen Elizabeth and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh attend a Maori Reception, New Zealand, 1953-54.

The Queen and the Duke left Suva by flying boat for Tonga, and were warmly welcomed by Queen Salote and later thousands of enthusiastic Tongans. Queen Salote, who had won British hearts by cheerfully waving from an open carriage in the Coronation Day rain, did her best to impress the Head of the Commonwealth with a huge luncheon feast that included 2,000 pigs, chickens, lobsters and yams, all washed down with coconut milk.

### Christmas in New Zealand

The royal couple then rejoined the *Gothic* and sailed to New Zealand, arriving on 23 December for a month-long stay. They docked in Auckland, where huge crowds turned out to greet their Queen. It was the first ever visit by a monarch to the distant dominion, and the first time too that Elizabeth had spent Christmas away from Britain and her children. From there, she delivered her annual broadcast live on a midsummer's night. The Queen spoke

of how deeply impressed she was with the achievement and the opportunity that the modern Commonwealth presented, built on friendship, loyalty, and the desire for freedom and peace. She said that her first tour as Queen was important, because she was beginning a journey, "to see as much as possible of the people and countries of the Commonwealth. At the same time, I want to show that the Crown is not merely an abstract symbol of our unity, but a personal bond between you and me."

During the trip, the royal couple visited 46 towns and cities in New Zealand and attended 110 separate events on both islands. At Waitangi they were greeted by representatives of the Maori people and their chiefs, who repeated pledges of allegiance given to Queen Victoria on the same spot. At another Maori ceremony at Rotorua they were made paramount chiefs. It was said that three out of every four New Zealanders saw her. In Invercargill, at the tip of New Zealand's South Island, the Queen broadcast



a message of thanks to New Zealand and to its 'great and united people'. As they left the country bound for Australia aboard *Gothic*, the Queen appeared visibly moved.

### Hospitality and loyalty in Australia

They arrived at Sydney and were given a tumultuous welcome by hundreds of boats, large and small, in the harbour; and by over a million people as they drove through the city to Government House. The Queen opened the State Parliament and spoke of the great kindness shown to her and her husband. They would spend February and March in Australia travelling so widely across the country that three-quarters of the Australian population were said to have seen the Queen at least once during the tour.

One highlight was the surf carnival at Bondi Beach, while in the federal capital

Canberra, the Queen opened a session of Parliament dressed in her Coronation robes. In Melbourne, 17,000 children welcomed her to the cricket ground. They visited the Kalgoorlie goldfields, and fruit and wine growing centres. They left Australia on *Gothic*, from which the Queen broadcast a farewell message, thanking the people for their 'welcome, hospitality and loyalty'.

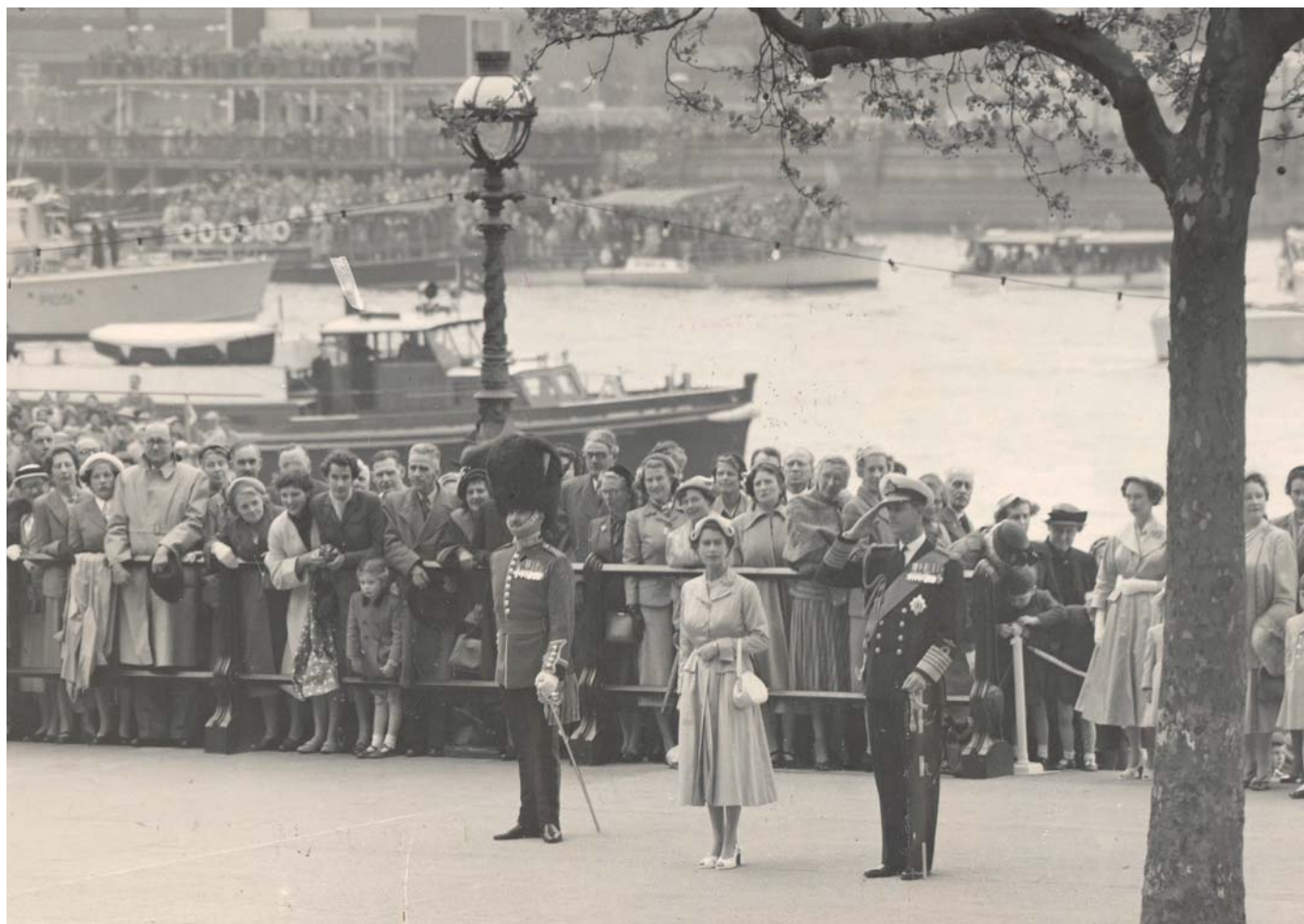
### The return journey

Their return journey included Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Aden, Uganda and Malta. At Tobruk on the North African coast, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were reunited with their two children Charles and Anne, who had travelled there on the new royal yacht *Britannia*. The family had spent six months apart. The Queen later joked, "They were extremely polite. I don't think they knew who we were at all!"

#### Below:

The Queen is greeted by General Sir George Erskine, Commander-in-Chief of East Africa, Uganda, 1954.





**Above:**

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip return to London after their Commonwealth Tour, 15 May 1954.

**Welcome home**

After a detour via Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight to pick up the Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, the yacht returned to London. From the banks of the Thames,

thousands cheered the triumphant return of the young monarch and her family, while ships sounded their sirens and factory hooters blared. A huge red and white banner hung from Tower Bridge bearing the words, 'Welcome home'. When Britannia was safely

« It had been the longest ever Commonwealth tour, lasting a marathon six months – a tour that would cement Her Majesty's position as symbolic leader of much of the free world. »



moored, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret joined the royal party on board before the yacht set sail again on its final leg up the River Thames to Westminster. As they left, there was a 41-gun salute from the Tower of London. Climbing into three carriages, the Royal Family continued on to Buckingham Palace, through streets thronged with cheering, flag-waving people.

Within ten minutes of arriving home, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with their two children, appeared on the balcony. It wasn't enough for the public. After four appearances from the Queen, with the last just before 11pm, the crowd was only persuaded to leave once the palace floodlights were turned off. Their Queen was home and her reign as British monarch and Head of the Commonwealth family of nations could begin in earnest. It had been the longest ever Commonwealth tour, lasting a marathon six months – a tour that would cement Her Majesty's position as symbolic leader of much of the free world.

### Churchill resigns

Winston Churchill had been a rock to the Queen. The elder statesman was a link to the past, to her father's reign. April 1955 witnessed Churchill's final, emotional audience as Prime Minister with his Queen. She had wanted to make the elder statesman a duke, but Churchill, the nephew of a duke himself and born in one of the most splendid ducal residences in England, Blenheim Palace, had let it be known through his private secretary that he would refuse. He had made it clear that he wanted to leave the world with the same name he was born with. Churchill's retirement was an end of an era for the young Queen, another link with her parents and the past now gone. When Elizabeth asked him to name his successor, he said that he preferred to leave that to her. It was not a difficult call, and she summoned Anthony Eden as the new Prime Minister.

“Winston Churchill had been a rock to the Queen. The elder statesman was a link to the past, to her father's reign.”

### Princess Margaret

The decade also tested the Queen's personal diplomatic skills with a family crisis over her sister's love for a divorced courtier, with all its echoes of the 1936 abdication crisis. The Princess first met Battle of Britain fighter pilot Group Captain Peter Townsend when she was still a teenager and he, twice her age, was married with two children. He later separated from his wife. Dashing Townsend was equerry to the King; and after George VI's death in February 1952, Comptroller of the Queen Mother's household, a trusted and discreet courtier. A sharp newspaper reporter covering the Queen's coronation in June 1953 noticed the Princess flick a piece of fluff off Group Captain Townsend's jacket. It was enough to start rumours of a relationship that was to become front-page news.

In reality Princess Margaret and Peter Townsend already had plans to marry, but her sister the new Queen had asked them to wait a year. Under the Royal Marriages Act of 1772, Margaret needed her elder sister's permission to marry before the age of 25. After that, she needed Parliament's approval. When news of the proposed marriage was leaked in the press it became headline news. Group Captain Townsend was sent to Brussels for two years as air attaché at the British Embassy. The Princess turned 25 in August 1955 but Parliament had already made clear it would not consent to her marriage. She was left with only two options: renounce all her royal rights and privileges and become Mrs Peter Townsend, or give up all ideas of the marriage.

In 1955, after much soul-searching, Princess Margaret called off her plans to marry Townsend. In a statement she said: "I have been aware that, subject to my renouncing my rights of succession, it might have been possible for me to contract a civil marriage. However, mindful of the Church's teaching that Christian marriage is indissoluble, and conscious of my duty to the Commonwealth, I have resolved to put these considerations before any others." She continued: "I have reached this decision entirely alone, and in doing so I have been strengthened by the unfailing support and devotion of Group Captain Townsend."

Princess Margaret's decision not to wed was welcomed by the Church of England and Commonwealth leaders. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, said: "What a wonderful person the Holy Spirit is." The newspapers felt that she had been bullied by the Establishment to put duty before love. In

1960 she married the photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones, later the Earl of Snowdon, and the couple had two children. In 1978 Margaret became the first royal to divorce since Henry VIII.

### A busy decade of travel

The 1950s were busy for the Queen in terms of foreign travel. Her Majesty made state visits to Libya (1954), Norway (1955) and Sweden (1956), followed by several in 1957 including Portugal, France and Denmark; and an acclaimed trip to the United States. She also made 16 Commonwealth visits from 1952-1959, including to Nigeria in 1956. At the end of 1957 Elizabeth delivered her first televised Christmas message broadcast from Sandringham – something that has since become a fixture in many people's Christmas Day celebrations and her own truly personal message to her people.

#### Below:

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh at a reception in New York, America, October 1957.







**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II on her Royal Tour to Nigeria in 1956. She stands at entrance to the House of Representatives in Lagos.



**“WE CONGRATULATE  
QUEEN ELIZABETH II ON  
HER 90TH BIRTHDAY  
AND RECOGNISE  
HER MAJESTY’S  
TREMENDOUS  
DEDICATION AS HEAD OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH.”**



ENERGIA LIMITED was incorporated in 2001 as an independent and indigenous exploration and production company to showcase the technical expertise and project management skills of the leading oil and gas service and technology companies in Nigeria, and to begin fulfilling the dream of creating a fully domestic industry for the future.

## **GAS COMMERCIALISATION**

To this end, ENERGIA operates a gas plant, with its partners Xenergi, which produces 25 million standard cubic feet of gas per day, whilst eliminating flaring. Working alongside investors, an independent power plant is also under construction to increase the local electricity supply.

## **MODULAR REFINERY**

As part of a ‘Strategic Development Growth Plan’, a refinery plant capable of handling 10,000 barrels per stream day is under design by ENERGIA. The plant will be situated close to the existing crude oil processing station and be modular in design, in order that capacity can be increased to 30-50,000 bpsd in the future.

## **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Through its innovative ‘Community Development Programme’, ENERGIA cedes 4% of its turnover to the local communities for sustainable and human capacity development projects.

Managed through a Registered Trust, under two Boards and within a Company and Community Parliamentary System, over \$10million of support has been provided across various projects and programmes, including:

**\* Scholarships \* Youth Entrepreneurships \* Internal Road Networks \* Health Centres, Markets and Community Electrification \* Sustainable Water Supplies \* School Infrastructure \* Women Empowerment \* Remedial Schools \* Community Security \* The promotion of Indigenous Capacity through local contractor support \***



## THE 1960s – THE SECOND DECADE

The Royal Family grew again in 1960 with the addition of a third child, Prince Andrew. He was the first royal baby born to a reigning monarch since the birth of Queen Victoria's youngest child, Princess Beatrice, in 1857. His birth also saw the resolution of one bone of contention between the Queen and her husband, when she signed off on a change to the Royal Family's surname. Philip had earlier complained, "I'm the only man in the country not allowed to give his name to his children." Her Majesty relented and decreed from that moment the family name should be changed to Mountbatten-Windsor. Andrew's brother Prince Edward was born four years later in March, and the Royal Family was complete.

Times were changing and Prince Philip, a natural moderniser, grasped the opportunities with both hands. He was the first member of the Royal Family to give an interview on television in 1961, and used it to warn about the state of Britain's technical skills and how we were lagging behind the rest of Europe. It has remained an important issue throughout his life.

### Overseas apathy

The Commonwealth Realm's palace advisers were growing increasingly concerned about a growing apathy towards the institution of monarchy. After the success of the Queen's first Commonwealth tour – which reached fever pitch on the Australian leg of the trip – many felt the links between Britain and its former colonies were assured. In 1954, a million people had lined the streets of Sydney to greet the royal couple. However when the Queen returned to Australia in 1963 on a less formal tour than before, the love affair had cooled. Outspoken critics said the British Government's drive to



get closer to its European neighbours in the European Economic Community was at the expense of its old Commonwealth ties. Support for the monarchy had shrunk and there were growing calls for Australia and New Zealand to become independent republics. The Queen and her advisers needed to respond.

The Queen was open to suggestions, and was persuaded by her press secretary

### Above:

The Queen and Prince Andrew beside Prince Edward in a cradle, Buckingham Palace, 1964.

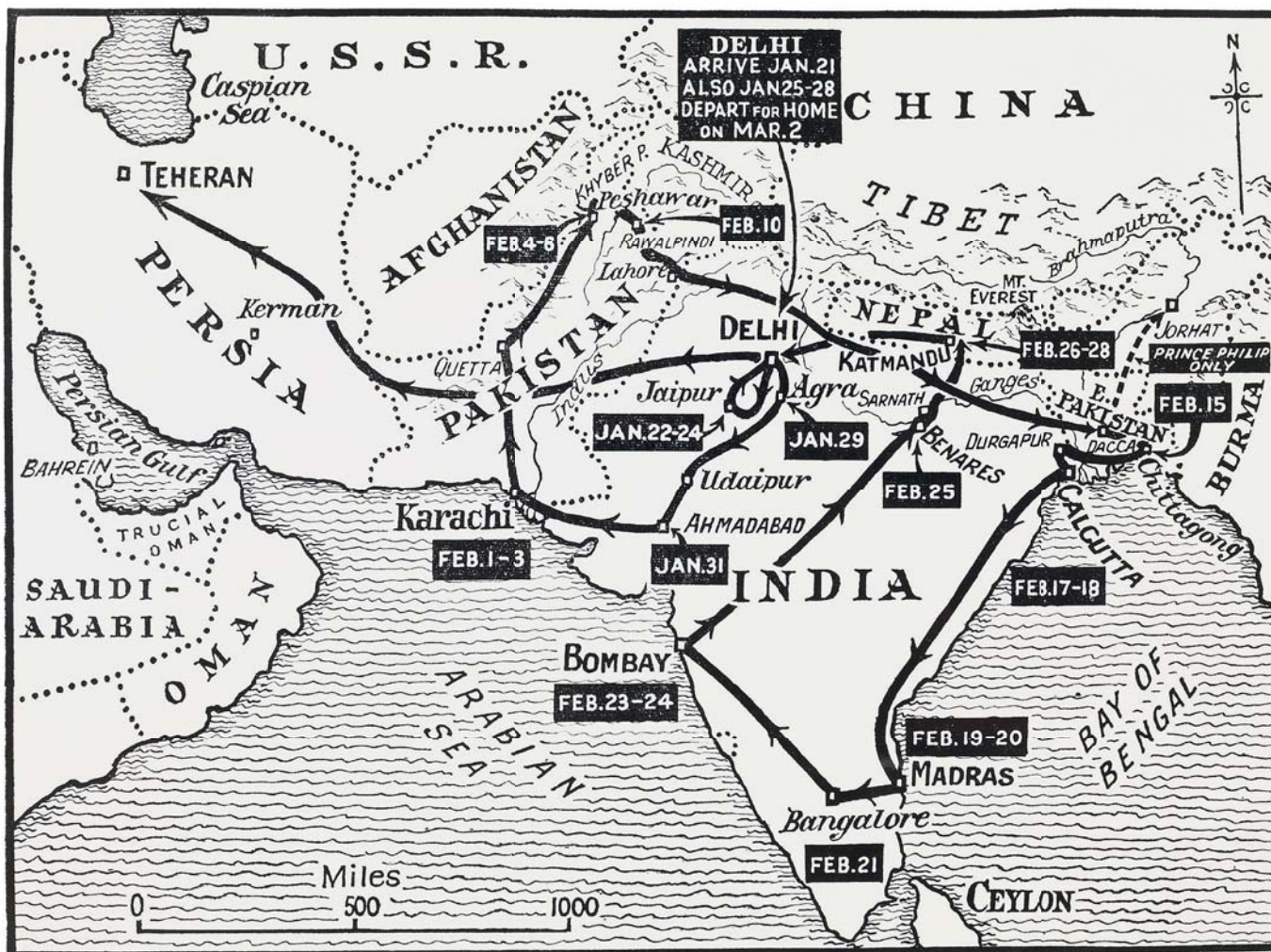
William Heseltine (later her only ever Australian Private Secretary) to take a new approach to public relations. Cameras were allowed into the palace for the first time, thus letting 'daylight in on magic' – something the great Victorian writer Walter Bagehot had warned against when writing about the Queen's forebear Victoria. It culminated with cameras coming in to film the Royal Family behind the scenes in private. In 1969, the first TV programme about the Royal Family was produced and broadcast to over 23 million people, giving the world a peek inside the family's daily life. Unfortunately, it is locked away in a vault at the BBC, never to be aired since.

### Clocking up the miles

Travel for the Queen in this decade began with state visits to Nepal and Vatican City in 1961, and ended 12 visits later in Austria in 1968. Commonwealth visits kicked off with Cyprus in 1961. From there she included Commonwealth countries ranging from Canada to Ghana, undertaking a total of 28 visits. Perhaps, the highlight was when the Queen toured West Berlin in May 1965 at the height of the Cold War – the first visit to Germany by a British monarch in more than half a century. She made a speech to a vast crowd in which she referred to her own German ancestry and praised the links between Britain and West Berlin, making headlines around the world.

#### Below:

Map of The Queen and Prince Philip's route on their Royal Tour to India, Pakistan, Nepal and Iran in 1961.







**Top:** The Queen addressing a crowd at Ramlila Ground, New Delhi, during her visit to India, 28 January 1961.

**Above left:** HM Queen Elizabeth II with Ashanti tribesmen in Ghana, 22 November 1961.

**Above right:** The Queen during her tour of Africa with Shadrach Tubman, President of Liberia, 1961.



“Her Majesty’s subtle diplomatic skills were demonstrated in the role she played in helping Rhodesia become the independent republic of Zimbabwe.”

### Meeting the African leaders

On her first overseas tours, the Queen made it her mission to get to know the leaders of the African member states. Like her, these heads of government were generally quite young at the time, so in a sense politically and personally they grew up together. In some cases, the Queen’s relationship with these key African leaders has become quite close, based on mutual trust and respect. For many years she clearly enjoyed the company of politicians such as Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia,

Dr Hastings Banda of Malawi, Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and Dr Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, among others. They and many other African leaders saw Her Majesty as a matriarchal figure and the new Commonwealth she led as a family. They also saw her as a protector of their Commonwealth ideals.

Her Majesty’s subtle diplomatic skills were demonstrated in the role she played in helping Rhodesia become the independent republic of Zimbabwe. In 1965, the country’s Prime Minister, Ian Smith, bluntly refused the black population the vote, even though they made up about 95 per cent of the population. The Queen wrote a warm letter to Mr Smith, which was made public, in which she made clear that he could not claim loyalty to the monarchy and the Commonwealth, and at the same time defend white supremacy rule and reject the voice of the majority black electorate. It read, “I should be glad if you would accept my good wishes and convey them to all my peoples in your country, whose welfare and happiness I have very closely at heart.” It may have been a friendly letter, but her message spoke volumes.

#### Below:

The Queen attends the Commonwealth Prime Ministers’ Conference, June 1965.





## The Death of Churchill

The 1960s witnessed two other hugely significant moments. The first was the death and state funeral of the Queen's first Prime Minister and Britain's wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill, who passed away in 1965 at the age of 90. The Queen sent a message of condolence to his widow Lady Churchill: "The whole world is the poorer by the loss of his many-sided genius, while the survival of this country and the sister nations of the Commonwealth, in the face of the greatest danger that has ever threatened them, will be a perpetual memorial to his leadership, his vision, and his indomitable courage." It was heartfelt.

## The investiture of the Prince of Wales

As the decade drew to a close Her Majesty installed her 20-year-old son Prince Charles as the Prince of Wales. The investiture took place on 1st July 1969 at Caernarfon Castle in front of 4,000 guests inside the medieval walls. It was a splendid event of pomp and pageantry.

A TV audience of 500 million tuned in worldwide, with 19 million watching in the UK as a nervous-looking young Prince Charles swore to be the Queen's 'liege man of life and limb' during the ceremony.

The Queen had created her eldest son Prince of Wales when he was nine years old. She had let it be known that the Investiture would be held when The Prince would fully understand its significance. The Prince was invested with the Insignia of his Principality and Earldom of



Chester: a sword, coronet, mantle, gold ring and gold rod. His formal response was: "I, Charles, Prince of Wales, do become your liege man of life and limb and of earthly worship and faith and truth I will bear unto you to live and die against all manner of folks."

**Above:** Prince Charles kneels in front of HM Queen Elizabeth II during the investiture ceremony, 1 July, 1969.

«A TV audience of 500 million tuned in worldwide, with 19 million watching in the UK as a nervous-looking young Prince Charles swore to be the Queen's 'liege man of life and limb' during the ceremony.»





**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II made her first ever 'walkabout' in Wellington, New Zealand on her 1970 tour.



## THE 1970s – THE JUBILEE YEARS

### Going walkabout

When the Queen returned to Australia and New Zealand in 1970, her new team of advisers were determined that this tour would not be as disappointing as the last. They came up with an idea of closer interaction between the Queen and the crowds that had turned out to see her – something she had advocated for years, but which had been vetoed for security concerns. The new plan meant that she would step out of the car before an appointment to meet and greet people in the crowd, many of whom had waited hours for a glimpse of her – ‘going walkabout’, as it was dubbed. Seeing her close up, talking to individuals, created tremendous excitement.

When children started appearing in the crowd with posies to present to the Queen, the royal household knew the idea had caught on. Although ‘walkabout’ was an Australian term, the first time she tried this was in Wellington in New Zealand on the 1970 tour. The public were thrilled that the Queen wanted to meet them before her engagements with the dignitaries and officials. It has become a standard feature for the Queen and all members of the Royal Family on subsequent foreign visits.

Australia and New Zealand’s relationship with Britain has always been strong. Their economies were closely tied to the UK. However, after the Second World War, both countries began to develop a belief in their own identity. Their respective governments forged closer links with countries in their regions; and the relaxation in immigration policies accelerated this change in relationship with the UK and the Crown.

### Australian constitutional crisis

The Queen was still popular, but by the time she had returned to Australia in 1973, republicanism was very much on the agenda. In 1975, there was an incident that was to send republican support rocketing. Australia’s Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, was then at a crossroads – his scandal-hit government was under pressure, engulfed by economic problems. A constitutional crisis ensued after Liberal opponent Malcolm Fraser blocked Whitlam’s plans for reforms in Australia’s Senate.

Without consulting the Queen and breaking 75 years of political convention, the Governor-General, John Kerr, dismissed the Prime Minister and invited the leader of the opposition, Fraser, to form a caretaker government until the elections could be held. Although Kerr was the Queen’s representative in Australia, he alone took this decision. The Australian public was outraged, furious that

“Australia and New Zealand’s relationship with Britain has always been strong. Their economies were closely tied to the UK. However, after the Second World War, both countries began to develop a belief in their own identity.”

their national and political independence could be threatened by what was seen as a ceremonial figurehead from a bygone colonial age.

It ballooned into a full-scale constitutional crisis, as Whitlam appealed to the Queen for help, dragging her into the political storm, knowing her hands were tied. Constitutionally she could not interfere with the Governor-General's tenure except on the advice of the Australian Prime Minister. Although the Queen was not in any way involved in the decision to sack Whitlam, her Governor-General had acted with her authority. Reforming Australians were infuriated and this episode fanned the flames of republican feeling for decades.

**Below:**

The Queen declares the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal open.

**Twenty-five state visits**

This decade holds the record for sheer mileage. Commonwealth visits reached 54 during the 1970s, including the 1976 Summer Olympics in Canada. A total of 25 state visits took place, from Turkey in 1971 to Zambia in 1979. The Queen made her first tour of South East Asia in 1971, and included state visits to Singapore and Malaysia. The Queen, Prince Philip and Princess Anne sailed aboard the royal yacht *Britannia* to Kuala Lumpur, and then progressed to the states of Sarawak and Sabah, where they were greeted by members of the formerly fearsome, head-hunting Murat tribe, standing guard with six-foot blowpipes. On the same royal tour, the Queen made her first trip to the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam







**HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

**QUEEN AND HEAD OF STATE**

**THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

The People and Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea thank Her Majesty for being our Queen and Head of State. Our nation sends greetings and warm wishes on Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with prayers for God's continued love, blessings and protection.

Her Majesty holds a very special place in our people's hearts. Represented by the Governor-General, for over 40 years, she has been a uniting force in our country of more than 800 cultures and languages. Papua New Guinea is the most ethnically diverse country in the world. As such, the current Commonwealth theme of "An Inclusive Commonwealth" resonates with our diverse nation. Inclusiveness which promises equity of access and of freedom will be progressed at home to unite the country and take it forward as well as to bond with other member states of the Commonwealth.

Key policies driving this aspiration in Papua New Guinea include free education for all of our children, universal access to basic healthcare, and the accelerated building of infrastructure particularly roads, electricity and telecommunication to reach the majority of rural-based population.

The people of Papua New Guinea thank Her Majesty for committed leadership of the Commonwealth and for her dedication to its peoples.



**HON. PETER O'NEILL CMG MP**  
Prime Minister







**Above:** The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and Princess Anne on tour in Papua New Guinea in 1974.



– located on the northern tip of the island of Borneo – and a British protectorate from 1888. It gained its independence on 1 January 1984, and joined the Commonwealth the same year. In 1974, together with Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, the Queen attended the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand in January. The tour included a visit to Australia, the British Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

### Personal satisfaction

Back home the 1970s was a happy one for the Queen personally. In 1972, Her Majesty and Prince Philip celebrated 25 years of marriage. The following year saw her daughter, Princess Anne, then 23, wed fellow equestrian Captain Mark Phillips at Westminster Abbey in November. Hundreds of thousands turned out on the streets to cheer the couple and an estimated 500 million television viewers around the world tuned in to watch the ceremony.



### The Silver Jubilee

In 1977, the Queen's Silver Jubilee – 25 years on the throne – was marked with celebrations at every level throughout the country and Commonwealth. There were some mutterings among the public about cost, but when the moment came to party the historic anniversary aroused strong feelings of loyalty among the people.

On June 7, around one million people lined the streets to watch the Queen and the Royal Family on their way to St Paul's Cathedral

for a special service. The Queen, dressed in pink and accompanied by Prince Philip, led the procession in the golden state coach. Despite the rain, thousands camped out overnight to try to get a better view of the procession as it made its way down the Mall and through Trafalgar Square, Fleet Street and Ludgate Hill.

Inside the cathedral, 2,700 carefully selected guests, including politicians and other heads of state, joined in the ceremony. It began with

#### Above:

HM Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on their Silver Wedding Anniversary in 1973.

“In 1977, the Queen's Silver Jubilee – 25 years on the throne – was marked with celebrations at every level throughout the country and Commonwealth.”



**Above:** HM Queen Elizabeth II on her Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years on the throne, wearing a long cloak and the Imperial State Crown.



Ralph Vaughan Williams's arrangement of the hymn 'All people that on earth do dwell', which was also played at the Queen's coronation in 1953. Up and down the country and across the Commonwealth, millions took the day off work, and celebrated with their own street parties.

During her speech at lunch afterwards, the Queen said movingly, "When I was 21, I pledged my life to the service of our people and asked for God's help to make good that vow. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgment, I do not regret nor retract one word of it." It would also be a memorable year for Her Majesty, as she became a grandmother for the first time upon the arrival of Peter Phillips, the first child of Princess Anne and Mark Phillips.

### Margaret Thatcher and Zimbabwe

With the Queen as monarch and Margaret Thatcher becoming the first female prime minister in British history in 1979, the two most important positions in the country were now occupied by women. But Her Majesty's relationship with Mrs Thatcher was reportedly, but privately, strained. In 1979, the Queen had a rather public disagreement with her Prime Minister about her attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Zambia's capital, Lusaka.

At the time, nationalist guerillas were fighting the white-minority government of what was then Rhodesia for greater voting and political power for black Africans. Some of these guerillas had based themselves in Zambia, where the Rhodesian government was trying to bomb them out of existence. As a result, Mrs Thatcher announced to the press that, for security reasons, the Queen should not attend the meeting. There had been no prior consultation. Within 24 hours, Buckingham Palace issued its own statement, saying that the Queen had 'every intention' of going. The Queen had never been to Zambia and felt its President, Kenneth Kaunda, needed her support.

“The Queen still didn't change her plans and was greeted by huge, cheering crowds in Lusaka. During the summit, she played an important conciliatory role, resulting in Britain agreeing to new Rhodesian elections under a new constitution.”

Shortly before the Queen was due to arrive, a bomb exploded near Kaunda's offices. The Queen still didn't change her plans and was greeted by huge, cheering crowds in Lusaka. During the summit, she played an important conciliatory role, resulting in Britain agreeing to new Rhodesian elections under a new constitution. Kenneth Kaunda said afterwards, "At the Lusaka meeting in 1979, she played a very vital role. The Queen is an outstanding diplomat; that's how she gets things done." The former Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath 'Sonny' Ramphal agreed: "The Rhodesia issue threatened to tear the Commonwealth apart. At a crucial time, the Queen demonstrated her stabilising influence. She was diplomatically brilliant."

Zimbabwe was suspended from the Commonwealth in 2002 because of vote-rigging and human rights abuses. The following year, Robert Mugabe decided to withdraw from the association altogether. At the time, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said the suspension of Zimbabwe was a victory for Commonwealth values, but added that "There will always be a place for a democratic Zimbabwe in the Commonwealth."

## THE 1980s – THE CHARLES AND DIANA YEARS

### The wedding of the century

It was billed the ‘wedding of the century’ by an enthusiastic press. So when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, spoke of fairy tales, the fanciful image caught the public mood. As he presided over the wedding at St Paul’s Cathedral of the Queen’s direct heir, Prince Charles, and the young and beautiful Lady Diana Spencer, he said prophetically, “Here is the stuff of which fairy tales are made ... but fairy tales usually end at this point with the simple phrase: ‘They lived happily ever after’. This may be because fairy stories regard marriage as an anticlimax after the romance of courtship.”

Britons enjoyed a national holiday to mark the occasion and watched as Lady Diana, dressed in an ivory silk taffeta and antique lace gown designed by Elizabeth and David Emanuel, made the three-and-a-half minute walk up the red-carpeted aisle, her 25ft train flowing behind her.

On a hot summer’s day outside, thousands held street parties, happily celebrating. Trestle tables groaned with squash and sandwiches. In the countryside, oxen were roasted on spits and fireworks let off. John Betjeman, the Poet Laureate, in his celebratory poem, fancied that blackbirds in city churchyards hailed the dawn of the wedding day.

A 600,000-strong crowd went onto the streets of capital London to catch a glimpse of the couple as they made their way to the cathedral to exchange their vows. Around 750 million more people viewed it on television all over the world, making it the most watched programme ever broadcast.

It was a momentous year for Her Majesty and a great start to the decade.

### A growing family

The Queen’s first granddaughter was born in 1981 when Princess Anne gave birth to her daughter Zara. Like her brother Peter, Zara did not have a royal title. Their parents were said to have refused offers of titles. In 1982, the following year, Prince William was born, the next in direct line to the throne; and Her Majesty would see her son Prince Andrew pilot a helicopter during the Falklands conflict.

The Queen’s third grandson Prince Harry was born to the couple in 1984. The summer of 1986 saw yet another royal wedding when Prince Andrew, Duke of York, married commoner Sarah Ferguson. The Queen would welcome her second granddaughter when the Duchess of York gave birth to Princess Beatrice in 1988.

### International relations

It proved another busy travel decade too, with 23 state visits, including the United States. The Commonwealth visits totalled 42, ranging from Australia to Malaysia. In October 1980, the Pope welcomed the Queen, who was dressed in a long black gown in line with protocol, to Vatican City. This visit to the Vatican was seen as a big step

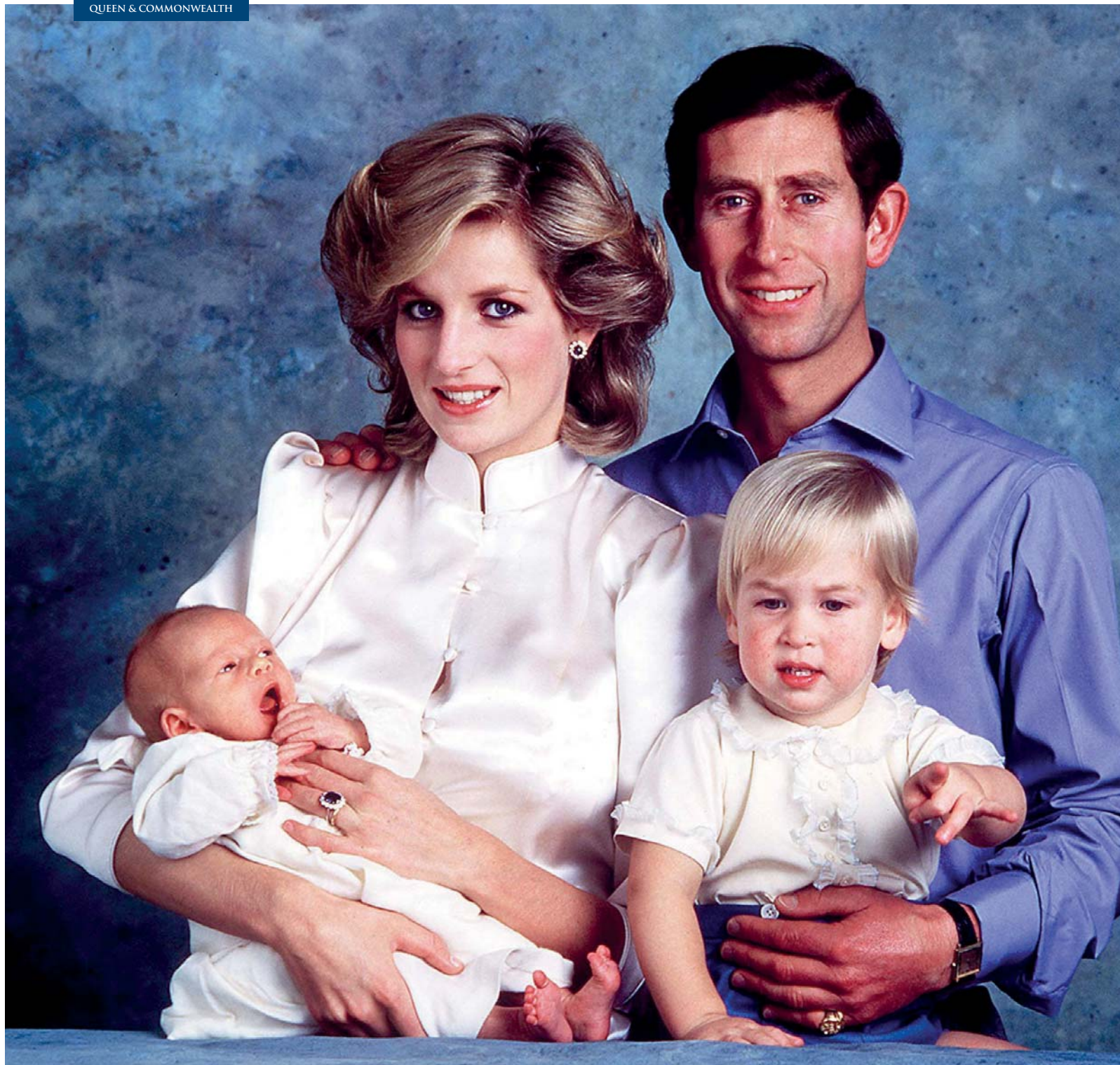
“It was billed the ‘wedding of the century’ by an enthusiastic press.”





**Above:** Prince Charles and Princess Diana leaving St Paul's Cathedral on their wedding day, 29 July 1981.



**Right:**

Prince Charles and Princess Diana with Princes William and Harry, 1984.

“On a hot summer’s day outside, thousands held street parties, happily celebrating. Trestle tables groaned with squash and sandwiches. In the countryside, oxen were roasted on spits and fireworks let off.”





**Left:**  
Queen Elizabeth II  
welcomes Pope John  
Paul II to Buckingham  
Palace, March 1982.

towards strengthening relations between the Church of England and the Roman Catholics. Two years later, the Queen returned the compliment, welcoming John Paul II at Buckingham Palace, the first Pope to come to Britain for 450 years.

While in Australia and New Zealand the talk of republicanism rumbled on and there has been talk of ousting the monarchy, in another of her South Pacific realms, Fiji, the Queen did the unthinkable and abdicated. In 1987, when she was Queen of Fiji, there were two military coups. After the second coup, the Queen knew the situation could go on no longer. She said it was time to accept that Fiji was now a republic, and sadly an undemocratic one, and told her representative, the Governor-General, to resign. With a stroke of a pen, Fiji was a realm

no longer. The Commonwealth suspended Fiji that same year, but the island was readmitted 10 years later when democracy was restored. However, its membership was broken once again in 2000 for 18 months.

In another first, in October 1986, the Queen became the first British monarch to visit China. It was seen as a hugely significant and successful diplomatic mission. However, the tour was nearly upset by the media's focus on Prince Philip's infamous comment that British students might become 'slitty-eyed' if they stayed in China much longer. While the British press went into overdrive, the Queen's hosts were unmoved. Years later, a Prince Philip dismissed the incident, saying, "What's more, the Chinese weren't worried about it, so why should anyone else?"

## THE 1990s – TROUBLED TIMES

The new decade began positively enough with the Queen welcoming her sixth grandchild into the world with the birth of Princess Eugenie of York. But the 1990s were to prove one of the most testing of Her Majesty's long and illustrious reign. The year 1992 in particular was trying for the Queen as her children's marriages unravelled and their separations played out in the pages of an unforgiving tabloid press.

The year ended with Windsor Castle severely damaged by fire, threatening one of the world's greatest collections of art. The Queen and her second son the Duke of York helped to rescue priceless works from the royal residence, as fire brigades from

five counties fought the flames. It took 250 firefighters 15 hours and 1.5 million gallons of water to put the blaze out. One hundred rooms were damaged in the fire, which started by a spotlight shining on a curtain.

An intense public debate was sparked about whether the taxpayer should foot the bill for repairs, as the British Government and not the Royal Family owned the castle.

But the Queen agreed to meet 70 per cent of the costs, and opened Buckingham Palace to the public to generate extra funds. The £40m restoration took five years and was completed in November 1997.

**Above:**

Windsor Castle on fire,  
20 November 1992.





### An 'annus horribilis'

It was no wonder that the Queen came to dub 1992 as an 'annus horribilis', a clear contrast to the wonderful years in history that have become known as 'annus mirabilis'. In a speech Her Majesty delivered to mark the 40th anniversary of her accession at the Guildhall she acknowledged that some of the criticism levelled at her family and the institution should be heard. Magnanimously, the Queen conceded, "No institution – city, monarchy, whatever – should expect to be free from the scrutiny of those who give it their loyalty and support, not to mention those who don't."

Sadly, more troubles followed. The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, just a year after her

divorce from Prince Charles, would see Her Majesty show the world a side the public never witnessed. The Queen's first instinct was to take the teenage princes to Balmoral to keep them out of the way of the press and the public. Then she had to face public criticism for stand-offishness, and bravely adopted a different attitude, moving herself from the margin to the very centre of the unfolding drama. In her heartfelt speech to the country, everyone saw a grandmother showing her concern, love and protection of her two grandsons who had tragically just lost their mother in a car crash in Paris. "I, for one," the Queen said in her live broadcast, "believe that there are lessons to be drawn from [Diana's] life and from the extraordinary and moving reaction to her



**Left:**  
Queen Elizabeth II speaking to the nation about the death of Princess Diana on the day before her funeral, 5 September 1997.

“In the first address to the US Congress by a British monarch, she celebrated the cooperation and unity between the two countries.”

death.” It showed Her Majesty’s grasp of the magnitude of the situation. She had to act and she did so decisively and proved as good as her word. It was a watershed moment.

#### A retirement and a wedding

In 1997, the Queen said an emotional goodbye to her much-loved royal yacht HMY *Britannia*. At the decommissioning ceremony at the end of the yacht’s 44-year service, the Queen wept for the first time in public. *Britannia* held a special place in the Queen’s heart since the day she christened it with a bottle of Empire wine on the Clyde, back in April 1953. Some of the happiest times of her life had been spent on board.

But 1997 was not filled entirely with sadness as Her Majesty and Prince Philip celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary and their youngest child, Prince Edward, wed Sophie Rhys-Jones. The Queen also launched the first British Monarchy website that year, as the traditional Royal Family began to involve themselves in modern technology, jumping into the world of cyberspace.

#### State and Commonwealth visits

Namibia, South Africa, Poland and South Korea were part of the 22 state visits in this decade. As for Commonwealth visits, there were a total of 28, counting the overnight stop in Kenya.

Her Majesty sealed the special relationship with the USA on a visit in 1991. In the first address to the US Congress by a British monarch, she celebrated the cooperation and unity between the two countries, saying, “Some people believe that power grows from the barrel of a gun. So it can, but history shows that it never grows well, or for very long. Force, in the end, is sterile. We have gone a better way: our societies rest on mutual agreement, on contract and on consensus.”

#### The Queen and Nelson Mandela

That year, the Queen also met Nelson Mandela for the first time, when he was representing the African National Congress as an observer of the Commonwealth Conference in Zambia. In 1991, Mr Mandela, who had recently been freed from prison, appeared at the Commonwealth summit ahead of the traditional banquet for government heads. The Queen immediately broke precedent and invited him to join them at the banquet. South Africa’s first non-racial elections were held on April 1994, resulting in the election of Nelson Mandela as President.

One of Nelson Mandela’s first acts as President was to return South Africa to the

“The friendship between Mr Mandela and the Queen was an enduring one. He famously referred to Her Majesty as ‘my friend Elizabeth’.”



Commonwealth of Nations. In 1961, during the apartheid era, the country had decided to leave the organisation when it was decided that racial equality was a condition of membership. The friendship between Mr Mandela and the Queen was an enduring one. He famously referred to Her Majesty as ‘my friend Elizabeth’. She returned the compliment and, in correspondence between the two, she signed off, ‘your sincere friend, Elizabeth’. He gave her a hand-painted silk scarf to mark South Africa’s return to the Commonwealth after the apartheid years, something that she still cherishes today.

Three years later the Nobel Peace Prize winner became his country’s first black President and South Africa was readmitted to the Commonwealth. The two would meet many times again – including during his state visit to the UK in 1996 when he stayed at Buckingham Palace. Among the honours the Queen has bestowed upon Mr Mandela is the Order of Merit, a special award for great achievement.

When he died in 2013 the Queen led tributes to the great man. Speaking of his legacy she said, “He worked tirelessly for the good of his country, and his legacy is the peaceful South Africa we see today.” She said she remembered him ‘with great warmth’.

### A visit to Russia

The Queen also visited Russia for the first time in 1994, the first British monarch to have set foot on their soil. (In 1908, Edward VII got as far as sailing into Russian waters for lunch with the Tsar.) She toured Moscow and St Petersburg and, at the Kremlin, exchanged gifts with President Boris Yeltsin – he gave her unseen photographs of her Tsarist relatives murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1917. They discussed problems of corruption and violence facing the new Russia, and she listened as he told her how difficult it would be to establish decent government. Her visit was one of the key episodes in relations between post-



Soviet Russia and the UK, and was aimed at strengthening economic, political and cultural ties between the two countries. President Yeltsin regarded the Queen’s visit as a sign of recognition of his democratic achievements by the western democratic states.

**Above:**  
Queen Elizabeth and Nelson Mandela during her South African tour in 1995.

**Right:**

Queen Elizabeth II visits Raj Ghat, the site of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation, India, 1997.



### A trying tour to India

The Queen and Prince Philip returned to India again in 1997, her first major tour of the country since the 1961 visit. The trip marked the 50th anniversary of India's independence, but there was no grand reconciliation between the country and its former colonial master. Instead, the Queen was overshadowed by her then Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, who had accompanied her on the trip, but was lambasted in the press for saying that the UK could mediate between India and Pakistan in the row over Kashmir. Suddenly, the press headlines were of a 'new British imperialism'.

One part of the tour did go extremely well – the visit to Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. I was an accredited royal correspondent on that visit

and watched as the Queen laid a wreath at the spot in April 1919 where a platoon of British soldiers opened fire into a crowd, killing 379 people and injuring 1100. It was one of the worst atrocities in the history of British India.

That bloodbath led Gandhi to initiate the civil disobedience campaign, giving impetus to India's independence movement that proved so important in precipitating the end of British rule. The wreath-laying was a gesture intended to acknowledge the excesses of a shared history, and to build on this reconciliation. The ruling Sikh party in Punjab, the Akali Dal, was delighted to have the Queen visit the holiest of their shrines, the Golden Temple. Not for the first time, the monarch had smoothed over potential hostility.





**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II attends a State Banquet during her tour of India, 1997.





# MESSAGE FROM WING COMMANDER MARTIN HIGGINS

Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows

*Wing Commander Martin Higgins is Officer Commanding of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team. In this role, Martin is responsible for the squadron's flying, engineering, administrative and safety matters and he ensures that the Red Arrows operate in a safe and effective manner, during both practice and displays. Martin joined the Royal Air Force in 1993. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and has completed operational tours in Iraq and the Falkland Islands. He was first selected to be a Red Arrows pilot in 2004.*

On behalf of the pilots, engineers and support staff of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, I wish to extend my warmest wishes to Her Majesty on the occasion of her 90th birthday. For the past 52 years, it has been the team's utmost privilege to represent Her Majesty in 56 countries, ranging from Goa, India in 2005 to Sydney, Australia in 1996 for the Australia Day celebrations. Given kind weather conditions, it will be the team's honour to join the Service's celebration of Her Majesty's birthday as part of the flypast parade over Buckingham Palace in June.

## A British favourite

The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team (RAFAT), the Red Arrows, have a privileged place with the British public since their formation in 1964. This affection has been much vocalised, notably in February 2012, a 'Top-50 British Loves' list ranked the Red Arrows alongside Her Majesty The Queen, Wimbledon, James Bond and Shakespeare. Formally, the RAFAT exists to showcase the excellence of the Royal Air Force, both in the air and on the ground, and to represent the UK at home and overseas. This is done with a demonstration of speed, agility and precision, through close formation display flying.

## The beginning of brilliance

In 1964 Flight Lieutenant Lee Jones became the first Red Arrows team leader of a seven-ship formation of Gnat aircraft based at RAF Fairford. The Air Officer Commanding at the time gave Flight Lieutenant Jones the clear direction that remains the Red Arrows mission today: *'Impress the knowledgeable, thrill the ignorant and scare no one'*.

Four years later, the team increased to a nine-aircraft display and the Diamond 9 formation became the Red Arrows' trademark logo. The Gnat, which had flown 1,292 displays, was replaced by the BAE Systems Hawk for the 1980 display season, a modified version of the Royal Air Force's fast jet and weapons trainer. At the same time, Her Majesty approved the team's insignia and motto, 'Eclat', meaning 'brilliance'.







**Above:** The Red Arrows fly along the Mall in front of Buckingham Palace, London during the birthday celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen in 2009.



#### Above:

The Red Arrows flying in synchronised formation in 2015.

### International ambassadors

To date, the RAFAT has displayed around the Commonwealth and beyond: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, UK, United States and Zimbabwe. The list is likely to increase this year with an exciting engagement opportunity in China.

The Australia Day celebrations in 1996 stand out as an exceptional experience due to the sheer volume of those who viewed the display – approximately 1.2 million people watched the 22-minute display.

On behalf of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and the UK public, it is the team's role to conduct ambassadorial duties around the world and to promote the best of British. Flying a noteworthy example of superb British engineering, the Hawk TMk1 aircraft, the team hopes to inspire the next generation of untapped talent, both in the UK and abroad.

### Inspiring our youth

At home, the Red Arrows fully supports the Royal Air Force's drive to encourage youth excellence in the STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and maths. At the Red Arrows' base at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, the team hosts an annual STEM event. Its aim is to capture the imagination of up to 300 local children by showing them exciting new technologies and developing their innovation skills. The

“For the past 52 years, it has been the team's utmost privilege to represent Her Majesty in 56 countries.”





day concludes with a Red Arrows flying display to demonstrate that, given world-leading training and a persistent pursuit of perfection, ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things through strong teamwork.

Closely connected to this endeavour is the Jon Egging Trust which has the full support of the Service and the Red Arrows. Flight Lieutenant Jon Egging was a team pilot for the 2011 season. The trust provides opportunities for disadvantaged children across the UK to take part in teamwork and personal development activities to enable them to unlock their true potential. The results are incredible – quiet and withdrawn characters are developing into engaging and charismatic young people.

### In support of charity

The team is actively involved in maintaining its close relationship with the Service's two main charities: the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF) and the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA). Both charities provide invaluable support to serving personnel, veterans and their families, some of whom face challenging circumstances. Red Arrows personnel support local and national charities on the ground and in the air; as an example the team visit sick children in Great Ormond Street Hospital each year and attend fundraising events.

### Unforgettable moments

Over the last 52 years, a small group of Royal Air Force personnel have had the privileged opportunity to represent Her Majesty and Her Armed Forces on an international scale. In doing so, the team has been in the presence of international royalty, government and industry leaders, and throngs of families who make the effort to watch the display over the summer months. The history of the team is dotted with unforgettable moments including the flypast with Concorde to mark Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, the flypast over the Olympic Park to open the 2012 Games in London and an aerobatic display near Staten Island, New York in 2010.

For the future, the Red Arrows endeavour to be worthy of the motto 'Eclat' by emulating Her Majesty's inspirational British brand that will continue to be the envy of the world.

### Above:

The Red Arrows are global ambassadors for the UK – emphasised by the team's flowing Union flag tailfin on its aircraft.



**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II, in Tweedbank, Scotland, on the day she became Britain's longest reigning monarch, 9 September 2015.



# OUR 21ST CENTURY QUEEN

*“With experience, dignity and quiet authority she has guided and united our nation and the Commonwealth over six varied decades.”*

The Rt Hon David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, speaking on Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, 6 February 2012

## The longest reign

Elizabeth II, like all of us, has endured good times and bad in her 90 years. But throughout, she has been a beacon of stability and selflessness in the way she has conducted herself in her public life. As the Queen she has steered the institution of monarchy from a time of imperial power into a multicultural, multimedia age, from the uncertainty of the end of Empire to the new burgeoning Commonwealth.

To millions of people she is known simply as the Queen. She has travelled more than any other British monarch and lived longer and reigned longer than any of her predecessors. She surpassed Queen Victoria's record as the

longest reigning British monarch in 2015. When the moment to mark that record came she did so with her customary modesty and dignity. She ruled out any staged major celebration; for Her Majesty, once her speech was over it was business as usual.

## Truly humbling

Dressed in turquoise with her trusty black handbag at her side at an engagement in the Scottish borders, the monarch, then 89 years old, addressed the crowd: “Prince Philip and I are very grateful for the warmth of your welcome on this occasion. Many have also kindly noted another significance attached to today, although it is not one to which I have ever aspired. Inevitably, a long life can pass by

“As the Queen she has steered the institution of monarchy from a time of imperial power into a multicultural, multimedia age.”



**Above:**

Celebrating the Queen Mother's 100th birthday at Buckingham Palace, 4 August 2000.

many milestones. My own is no exception. But I thank you all and the many others at home and overseas for your touching messages of great kindness. So now to the business in hand."

The historic milestone was reached a few hours later at 17:30 (British Summer Time). At that precise moment Elizabeth II had reigned for 23,226 days, 16 hours and about 30 minutes. The British Prime Minister, David Cameron, described her service as monarch as 'truly humbling'.

Many people have only ever known the Queen as their monarch. She has acted as a figure of continuity as the country has modernised itself. She has served, with the Duke of Edinburgh at her side, through almost half the 20th century and into the new millennium, witnessing new technological advances and a succession of British governments of different political persuasions – and major changes in the way her subjects live their lives.

The Queen welcomed in the new century at the Millennium Dome in east London with a chorus of 'Auld Lang Syne', alongside the Prime Minister of the time, Tony Blair, and his wife Cherie. But it would prove a difficult start to the new century for the monarch. The nation celebrated Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother becoming a centenarian in the summer of 2000, making her the first member of the Royal Family to reach her 100th birthday.

### Golden Jubilee

The Queen had to cope with a double loss in March 2002. First, her beloved sister Princess Margaret died after a period of ill-health six weeks earlier; and then her mother died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 101. The two women had been a tremendous source of strength to the Queen, part of her private support system, the ultimate discreet confidantes. Now they were gone.



It was a terrible way to start the Queen's Golden Jubilee year; but afterwards the sadness turned to joy with a warm outpouring of genuine affection for the monarch. In June 2002 millions took to the streets and crowded into the Mall to catch a glimpse of the Royal Family. The Queen also toured Britain and the Commonwealth throughout the year. During the summer, two concerts, one pop and one classical, were held at Buckingham Palace, and televised around the world. The enduring image will be of the rock group Queen's lead guitarist, Brian May, playing 'God Save the Queen' from the palace rooftop.

Her Majesty once again paid tribute to her husband during her speech to mark her Golden Jubilee at the Guildhall. "I take this opportunity to mention the strength I draw from my own family," she said. "The Duke of Edinburgh has made an invaluable contribution to my life over these past 50 years."

## Royal milestones

In April 2005, the Prince of Wales finally married his long-term love Camilla Parker Bowles. It was a small private civil wedding at Windsor's Guildhall, witnessed by Prince William and Camilla's eldest son Tom Parker Bowles. Afterwards the couple returned to Windsor Castle for a service of blessing at St George's Chapel, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams. Around 800 of the couple's close family and loyal friends attended, including of course the Queen and Prince Philip. The Queen was host for a reception in Windsor Castle's state apartments, and guests said she made a speech in which she described how proud she was of Prince Charles and that she wished the couple well.

In November 2007 the Queen and Prince Philip marked their Diamond wedding anniversary. In private and in public the

### Below:

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip celebrate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee in the Mall, London, 4 June 2002.







**Above:**  
Golden Jubilee  
celebrations in London,  
4 June 2002.

Duke has been her compass and confidant. A few weeks later she passed another milestone in her reign, beating her great-great grandmother Queen Victoria's record of 81 years and 243 days to become the oldest monarch in the history of the nation. In turn, Prince Philip became Britain's longest-serving royal consort in April 2009, beating the record of 57 years and 70 days set by Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III.

#### **A global audience for the royal wedding**

Prince William and Catherine Middleton married in 2011 when around a million

well-wishers lined the London streets, and around 34 million viewers tuned in to watch the ceremony throughout the UK, joined by a further 25 million in the USA. It was estimated that in total more than a billion people watched the royal wedding coverage globally. It was the crowning moment of the first grand act in the theatre of royalty this century – pomp and pageantry at its finest, a resplendent symbol of national pride. The crowd cheered as RAF planes flew past. That evening, the pair returned to the palace for a dinner and dance, which continued into the early hours.

Later the same year, the Queen became the first British monarch to visit the Republic of Ireland. During the historic visit she made a reconciliatory speech that was received with considerable gratitude in Ireland after the troubles between the two countries. She said, "To all those who have suffered as a consequence of our troubled past, I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy. With the benefit of historical hindsight, we can all see things which we would wish had been done

« In June 2002 millions took to the streets and crowded into the Mall to catch a glimpse of the Royal Family. »





**Above:** Official Portrait of the wedding of HRH The Duke of Cambridge Prince William with his bride Catherine Middleton, 29 April 2011.





**Above:**

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee balcony appearance at Buckingham Palace, 5 June 2012. The Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

differently or not at all.” The Queen was not able to use the word ‘sorry’ for what Britain did during the Irish War of Independence, but she came as close to it as she could.

### The Diamond Jubilee

For more than six decades our Queen has quietly but surely guided a modern monarchy, making it fit to take on the challenges of a new century. The Diamond Jubilee was a chance for her people to look back as well as forward. People turned out in millions to mark Her Majesty’s remarkable role as head of state in 16 Commonwealth realms, including the UK, as well as Head of the Commonwealth. As well as the weekend celebrations in June that marked the Diamond Jubilee, the Queen toured England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Her immediate family represented her too on high-profile overseas tours throughout the Commonwealth.

In freak freezing conditions the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Thames river pageant reached its end as a world record-beating 1,000-strong flotilla passed under Tower Bridge. The *Belfry* carrying the Royal Jubilee Bells was the first vessel through, followed by the million-pound row barge *Gloriana*, led by Olympic gold medallists Sir Matthew Pinsent and Sir Steve Redgrave, rowing with 16 others.

### A salute to 60 years of service

A 41-gun salute was fired from the Tower of London to celebrate the Queen’s 60 years on the throne while thousands of people cheered. The bascules of Tower Bridge opened for the arrival of the royal barge, *The Spirit of Chartwell*, as the Queen and Prince Philip sailed under it, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. Next the Royal Family prepared to take their places on HMS *President* to



watch the rest of the seven-mile-long flotilla making its way down the Thames. Just after 2pm more than a thousand vessels set off in wave after wave of tugs, steamers, pleasure cruisers, dragon boats and kayaks, with the Queen travelling at its heart. Taking its part in the pageant was a squadron of small boats, each one representing a member state of the Commonwealth, and the Jubilant Commonwealth Choir was among the musical performers.

Unfortunately the Duke of Edinburgh was taken ill after the pageant and had to miss much of the planned Jubilee celebrations. He had stood on the deck of the royal barge for the duration, refusing to sit in one of the rather grotesque gilded thrones provided. Of course, as he did not sit, neither did the Queen. Despite this, he had seemed as though he was having the time of his life; resplendent in his Royal Navy uniform, he appeared on top form.

The Duke's illness meant that when the Queen climbed the steps of St Paul's Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving she was without her partner of 64 years at her side. Instead, he was recovering in hospital a few miles away from a bladder infection. For once, she appeared a little uncertain. As she slowly progressed on 5 June – followed by her immediate family – that abiding air of implacable confidence seemed to escape her. It was an image that potentially had profound implications for the Royal Family.

### Lifelong dedication

It had been a testing weekend of national holiday for her people, complete with pomp, pageantry and tumultuous celebration. But it had clearly taken its toll on the monarch.

Characteristically uncomplainingly she carried on. Outside, the loyal flag-waving well-wishers kept on coming. Inside, senior members of the government, the opposition

“Four days of Diamond Jubilee events eventually culminated in an appearance by the Queen on the Buckingham Palace balcony in front of huge, cheering crowds.”

and representatives from around the UK and the Commonwealth heard Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, praise Her Majesty's ‘lifelong dedication’.

Four days of Diamond Jubilee events eventually culminated in an appearance by the Queen on the Buckingham Palace balcony in front of huge, cheering crowds. There was also a fly-past by World War II aircraft, and the Royal Air Force Red Arrows capped it off perfectly.

As the party rolled on, news emerged that, on the advice of his doctors, the Duke would have to miss the Jubilee concert, organised by ‘Take That’ singer Gary Barlow, and had even gone to hospital. Fortunately, on cue, Prince Charles stepped up to the mark and left his mother visibly moved by his kind, warm and sometimes emotional speech in praise of her at the close of concert.

### ‘Mummy’

The Prince's opening word – “Mummy”, followed by a pause – earned him rapturous cheers from the crowd. She beamed back, looking every inch the diamond Queen when she arrived on stage, adorned with Swarovski crystals, in a stunning cocktail dress of gold lamé, designed by Angela Kelly, under a dark cape, with sweeping trimmings of antique gold lace over a deep olive



**Above:**

Prince Charles addresses his mother at the Diamond Jubilee Concert at Buckingham Palace, 4 June 2012. Celebrities included Cheryl Cole, Sir Tom Jones, Sir Paul McCartney and Sir Elton John.

background. Mother and son, accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall, had minutes earlier made their way down to the stage encircling the Queen Victoria Memorial to a standing ovation. Celebrities including Kylie Minogue and Cheryl Cole jostled to stand as close to the royal party as possible. There was no jostling by the ‘pop knights’, Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Tom Jones and Sir Elton John, who had all been guaranteed prime positions close to the monarch.

Charles warmed his audience up by making a joke about the terrible weather for Sunday’s river pageant: “If I may say so, thank God it turned out fine!” But it was when he made a poignant reference to the Duke of Edinburgh, in hospital just a few miles away, that Her Majesty’s stiff upper lip for once appeared to weaken, if only for a moment. The Prince of Wales continued, “Your Majesty, millions, we are told, dream

of having tea with you. Quite a lot nearly had a picnic with you in the garden of Buckingham Palace. The only sad thing about this evening is that my father could not be here with us because, unfortunately, he was taken unwell. But, ladies and gentlemen, if we shout loud enough he might just hear us in hospital and get better.”

**A unique and special event**

Spontaneous cheers and applause followed. The Prince spoke for everyone when he added, “Your Majesty, a Diamond Jubilee is a unique and special event. Some of us have had the joy of celebrating three Jubilees with you. And I have the medals to prove it. And we are now celebrating the life and service of a very special person over the last 60 years. I was three when my grandfather George VI died and suddenly, unexpectedly, you and my father’s lives



were irrevocably changed when you were only 25. So as a nation this is our opportunity to thank you and my father for always being there for us. For inspiring us with your selfless duty and service, and for making us proud to be British.” Turning to his mother, he paid tribute to ‘the life and service of a very special person’.

It was a brilliant performance. That gloss, that had so pleased the cheering masses, won all the plaudits in the newspapers the next day. In the palace corridors of power, however, the absence of the Duke of Edinburgh – the oldest spouse of a reigning British monarch – and his ill health the next day had focused minds. The Duke is certainly blessed with a remarkably robust constitution. No chances are taken with his health. It was abundantly clear to everyone, including the Queen herself, that it was no longer reasonable to expect him to keep up the same pace as he approaches his century.

It will not be an easy transition, but, in the course of celebrating what a magnificent service these two remarkable people have given to their country, it had become obvious to everyone that it was time to allow them to step back, if only slightly. Even Philip had said publicly in a BBC interview that he had “done his bit”. That said, he bluntly refuses to let his wife down and is notoriously reluctant to cut down on his busy schedule of private engagements. Indeed, in the following months there was no real evidence that he might have cut back as he suggested he would.

### Changing of the guard

Another hospitalisation for Philip – and the Queen’s concern about his workload – have accelerated behind-the-scenes plans for a subtle handing over of some responsibility to Prince Charles. Together with his wife – the now fully accepted Duchess of Cornwall – his brothers Andrew and Edward, and the next generation

“As a nation this is our opportunity to thank you and my father for always being there for us. For inspiring us with your selfless duty and service, and for making us proud to be British.”

of William, Kate and Harry, he began to ease the pressure on the Queen and her dutiful husband by taking on more of the royal duties.

The younger generation had already acquitted themselves well during the London Olympics of 2012, when they appeared in Team GB T-shirts to shout encouragement to our athletes. Prince Harry, too, has a key role to play since he retired from his Army career. On his successful Jubilee visits to Jamaica and Brazil in 2012, followed by an equally positive USA tour in 2013 and a last spell on active duty in Australia as a Digger, as well as an official visit to New Zealand, he has proved his diplomatic credentials. They also confirmed his star quality as a roving royal.

### The next generation

In July the Queen and the Royal Family celebrated the arrival of Prince George, at the Lindo Wing of St Mary’s Hospital, London. Official notification of the prince’s birth was announced on an easel at Buckingham Palace. The following day the waiting crowds and the world’s press saw their first glimpse of the new prince outside the hospital. Prince William joked: “He’s got her looks, thankfully,” while Kate replied: “No, no, I’m not sure about that.”

The Queen visited Kensington Palace to meet her great-grandchild and direct heir. In



**Above:**

Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth II attend a dinner at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta, 27 November 2015.

October, Prince George's christening brought together four generations of royals for the first time since 1894. The Queen and three future kings – Prince Charles, Prince William and Prince George – were photographed together after the intimate ceremony. Three-month-old George sat contentedly in his proud father's arms wearing the magnificent replica of the 172-year-old Honiton lace and white satin christening gown.

In 2015 there was another addition to the family. The Duchess of Cambridge gave birth to a baby girl, Princess Charlotte, who is currently fourth in line for the throne.

**Handing over for CHOGM**

Another significant milestone came in 2013 when the Queen announced she would miss her first Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) for over 40 years in November, and ask Prince Charles to represent her instead. Coming just weeks

after the Queen was herself taken to hospital suffering from gastroenteritis, it showed Her Majesty's determination to manage her workload appropriately. Her decision to send Prince Charles to Sri Lanka and represent her at the high-level meeting was also a decisive act of a canny Sovereign. From now on, Charles, supported by Camilla, would be expected to step in whenever the Queen needed him to represent her on future long-haul trips.

In a stroke, she had given the Prince of Wales – our longest-serving and best-prepared heir to the throne in history – the chance to show us his strengths on the world stage. He was an undoubted success and since then he has accompanied Her Majesty to CHOGM meetings.

It seemed that not only had the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, when she had taken centre stage, been a crowning moment, but also it might perhaps have been her final great public display of pomp and pageantry.





**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip and the Duchess of Cornwall talk to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince George at the christening of Princess Charlotte, 5 July 2015.





**Above:**  
Prince Charles represents the Queen at the 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Sri Lanka. Pictured here at the Opening Ceremony in Colombo, 5 November 2013.

She remains remarkably physically and mentally fit for a woman of her age. She rides her horses regularly, loves walking and reading. But it was time, it seemed, to give the next generation their chance, and, for Prince Charles, there was no better place to showcase his skills than at the Commonwealth meeting.

### Great distinction

In November 2015 in Malta for CHOGM the Queen delivered a strong speech in which she thanked the Prince of Wales for his support and 'great distinction'. Her carefully chosen words of praise were the clearest hint that Prince Charles could take over the role that she has held for more than 60 years.

It was part of a discreet campaign to ensure that Prince Charles, Prince William – and eventually Prince George – will inherit her role as Head of the Commonwealth.

Contrary to popular belief, the position does not extend to her successors. Technically, it is up to the leaders of all Commonwealth countries to decide who will replace her as Head. But in Malta, Her

Majesty made her position crystal clear. She said, "I feel enormously proud of what the Commonwealth has achieved, and all of it within my lifetime. For more than six decades of being head of the Commonwealth, a responsibility I have cherished, I have had the fortune of the constancy of the Duke of Edinburgh. To that, and to his many other Commonwealth associations, Prince Philip has brought boundless energy and commitment, for which I am indebted. Nor could I wish to have been better supported and represented in the Commonwealth than by the Prince of Wales, who continues to give so much to it with great distinction."

The Queen is passionate about the Commonwealth and she regards it as one of the great successes of her reign. It is not an organisation on a mission – as Her Majesty has said. Instead, it offers its 2.1 billion people the unique opportunity to work together to achieve solutions to a wide range of problems. It is, she is proud to say, a major force for change. With a combination of quiet modesty, wisdom and experience, she has been central to holding the association together and taking it forward in her long life and reign.





*Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth, I extend my most sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of your 90th Birthday and wish you many more years of joy and prosperity to follow.*

*"God Save The Queen"*

King of the British Curry, Oli Khan  
Senior Vice President of the BCA



Oli Khan is an internationally recognised chef and entrepreneur.

Oli's versatility is legendary and has won him numerous major awards both for his cooking, where he is recognised for his highly creative recipes and impeccable food hygiene ratings, and for his work in the community.

The magic of Oli's cooking lies in spicing things up in distinct and ingenious ways.

*"I love to cook 'fusion food'. I am passionate about cooking British curry and love giving any food a fusion twist."*

From his position as one of the leading personalities of the Asian community in the United Kingdom, Oli is passionate about his social obligations to the underprivileged here and in Bangladesh and is devoted to charitable and philanthropic works.

.....

*"I hope to inspire the youth of today, so that we have a bright and delicious future waiting for the British curry industry."*

.....

As Senior Vice President of the Bangladesh Caterers Association UK, Oli introduced the BCA Chef of the Year Awards in 2011, which continues to see over 1,200 distinguished guests gather annually to celebrate the success of the British curry industry and recognise the best chefs and curry restaurants in the country.



## MESSAGE FROM LOUISE MARTIN CBE

President of the Commonwealth Games Federation

*Louise Martin CBE has had a long and ongoing association with the Commonwealth Sports Movement as an Athlete, Team Manager, Administrator and Honorary Secretary. Her leadership role in bringing the most recent Games to Glasgow during the bid process was crucial, and she was Vice-Chair of the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee. In 2003 Louise was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to the Commonwealth Games.*

I am honoured to have this opportunity to congratulate the patron of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on her 90th birthday and 65-year reign as Head of the Commonwealth.

Every four years, the people of the Commonwealth look on with pride, hope and expectation as their nations' sporting champions prepare to shine. The Commonwealth Games are a place where memories are made, records are broken and lasting friendships are forged. Yet despite the sporting highlights, the Games do not begin with athletes getting into the starting blocks or players preparing to take to the field. Instead, it is Her Majesty who sets the wheels of this unique Commonwealth celebration in motion; placing her message to the Commonwealth inside a baton that is destined to travel across continents.

### The Queen's Baton Relay

A message from the monarch has been read at every Games since 1930, when the inaugural British Empire Games were held in Hamilton, Canada. By 1958, a new tradition had begun: The Queen's Baton Relay. This memorable occasion saw the Queen place her message into a specially-designed silver-gilt baton, which a relay of runners then carried to Cardiff for the Duke of Edinburgh to read aloud at the Opening Ceremony. It is a symbolic tradition that engages, unites and inspires the broader Commonwealth, and the Queen is the pivotal figure at the heart of the journey.

Both the significance and the physical journey of The Queen's Baton Relay have grown ever since that first adventure, and today it visits 71 nations and territories, covering more than 100,000 miles, before the baton is returned to Her Majesty at the opening ceremony of the Games. This moment is always a highlight of the event, symbolising the breadth, diversity and humanity of the Commonwealth. Great Britain's Olympic and Commonwealth Gold Medallist Sir Chris Hoy was the final baton-bearer in Glasgow. For the Manchester Games, this honour was bestowed to footballer David Beckham and charity campaigner Kirsty Howard.

For the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, the Queen's Baton Relay will take on a further dimension, visiting Commonwealth walkways in many nations and territories. Her Majesty gave permission for the creation of these walkways and from London to the Gold Coast, 100 walkways are destined to be built. It is







**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II places her message in the silver-gilt baton at the start of The Queen's Baton Relay for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.





**Above:**

The Queen is presented with Scottish heather at the opening ceremony of the 20th Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, 23 July 2014.

envisaged that they will inspire people to become more active and learn more about the diversity of the Commonwealth.

From its starting point at Buckingham Palace to the many unique destinations it visits en-route, The Queen's Baton Relay represents a rallying call to the athletes. It extends an invitation to the communities of the Commonwealth to celebrate together. It reminds people from every part of the Commonwealth that our diverse family shares values of humanity, equality and destiny. It also reinforces our shared love of sport and recognises the power of sport to transcend barriers and bring us together.

### Glasgow 2014

At the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Queen's message wished the athletes success, saying: *"Your accomplishments over the coming days will encourage us all to strengthen the bonds that unite us... Together, you all play a part in strengthening our friendships in this modern and vibrant association of nations."*

Beyond officially declaring the Games open, the Queen's support for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games was felt in many ways. Her Majesty was keen to go behind the scenes at the sporting venues, meeting not just athletes from across the Commonwealth but also the volunteers and officials who give their time, energy and enthusiasm, making a huge contribution to the success of the Games.

Her visit to the athlete's village was much-anticipated and something that will be long-remembered by those athletes who had the chance to meet Her Majesty. These meetings with the Queen generate happiness, excitement and also some unexpected surprises. Two Australian Commonwealth Games hockey players



“Her support for the Games has been steadfast, and her vision has given the Commonwealth Games movement real impetus and focus.”

were amazed when the Queen appeared smiling in the background of their ‘selfie’. This most royal of photo-bombs quickly went viral, and people around the world got to share in the happiness of the moment.

### A force for good

Her Majesty’s unwavering support for the ‘friendly games’ has coincided with decades of unforgettable sporting achievements and the Queen’s recognition of the power of sport as a force for good is well-known. As the Games have evolved to encompass a wider variety of sports, an integrated para-sports programme and participation by athletes from more nations and territories, the Queen and her family’s enduring support has helped encourage both athletes and everyday citizens throughout the Commonwealth to aspire to greater things.

Her Majesty has said: *“in a world more concerned with argument and disagreement and violence, the Commonwealth Games stands out as a demonstration of the better side of human nature.”* The Queen herself has led the way, upholding the values and energy of a group of nations that share historical ties and which have emerged unified through contemporary and universal principles of humanity.

In signing the revised Commonwealth Charter in 2013, The Queen affirmed the commitment of member states to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth. This commitment to development and renewal in the wider Commonwealth is reflected in the transformation of the Commonwealth Games movement, which is actively working to bring together athletes and citizens to build peaceful, sustainable and prosperous communities through sport.

The association between the Queen and the Commonwealth Games is powerful and enduring. As Patron of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Queen provides strong leadership. She has long been a unifying force for the nations of the Commonwealth – and it is always an honour and pleasure to welcome her to the Games and support Commonwealth athletes giving their best and inspiring young people on the level playing field of sport. Her support for the Games has been steadfast, and her vision has given the Commonwealth Games movement real impetus and focus. The Games will continue to evolve, inspired by Her Majesty’s love and commitment to sport and her people.

**Website: [thecgf.com](http://thecgf.com)**



**Above:** Prince Charles on walkabout in Australia during his Diamond Jubilee Tour, November 2012.



# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL COMMONWEALTH TEAM

*“She’ll want to hand over knowing she’s done everything she possibly could to help, and that she’s got no regrets and no unfinished business; that she’s done everything she can for the country and that she’s not let anyone down — she minds an awful lot about that.”*

HRH Prince William talking about the Queen in 2011

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## Head of the Commonwealth

The Royal family’s future long-term involvement with the Commonwealth in an official capacity is a delicate subject and one open to debate by member states. It is not clear at this moment whether Her Majesty’s eldest son and heir to the British throne, the Prince of Wales – a devoted supporter of the Commonwealth – will follow tradition and succeed his mother, or whether someone outside the British monarchy will be chosen as the organisation’s preferred figurehead. However, in 2015 at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, Her Majesty gave a clear endorsement of Prince Charles when she thanked him for

his support and ‘great distinction’ in her address. In the powerful speech she also said she ‘cherished’ her time as leader of the Commonwealth – a role she has held for 64 years – and she also praised the Duke of Edinburgh for his ‘boundless energy and commitment’.

Many leading Commonwealth figures believe the monarchy helps to give the Commonwealth star quality, particularly now that the hugely popular Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry are actively representing the Queen on tours to Commonwealth countries. As it stands the role of Head of the Commonwealth is not one enshrined in law, nor is it



**Above:**

Camilla Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip before the Commonwealth Heads of Government dinner in Malta, 27 November 2015.

in the Coronation Oath. Her Majesty's appointment to the position evolved within hours of her ascension when Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India, dispatched a telegraph offering his condolences over the King's death. In it he also welcomed the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth, replacing her father. Back then there were just a handful of Commonwealth countries; many of the nations that would later join were still

under direct control of the UK government. The rest of the Commonwealth at the time followed Nehru's lead and Her Majesty succeeded George VI.

**A larger family**

Since she assumed the role of Head, the Commonwealth has been a central focus of Her Majesty's long reign. During her first Christmas broadcast the Queen made clear the Commonwealth's profound importance to her. She said, "We belong, you and I, to a far larger family. We belong, all of us, to the British Commonwealth and Empire, that immense union of nations, with their homes in all four corners of the earth. Like our own families, it can be a great power for good – a force that I believe can be an immeasurable benefit to all humanity. My father and grandfather before him worked all their lives

«The role of Head of the Commonwealth is not one enshrined in law, nor is it in the Coronation Oath.»





to unite our peoples ever more closely, and to maintain its ideals which were so near to their hearts. I shall strive to carry on their work.”

It is an area of the Queen’s work in which her influence has actually increased, giving her more extended pleasure than any other aspect of her duty. She has made the role her own and it now includes a number of symbolic functions, including meeting with Commonwealth leaders individually or at larger formal functions. Her overseas visits have spanned most Commonwealth countries, where she meets the public as well as the leaders. The role involves her delivering a Commonwealth Day broadcast and she is present at other Commonwealth Day events, including the multi-faith Service, which is traditionally held at Westminster Abbey, and the Commonwealth Secretary-General’s reception.

Under her stewardship today the Commonwealth, which will be 70 years old in 2019, has grown into a voluntary association of 53 independent countries spanning six continents from Africa to Asia, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and the South Pacific. Around two billion people live in the Commonwealth – about 30 per cent of the global population – and half of these people are aged 25 years or under. Member states promote democracy – indeed Fiji was suspended from the Commonwealth in September 2009 for failing to commit to elections the following year.

### The support team

The Commonwealth believes that the best democracies are achieved through partnerships of governments, business and civil society. Other common goals are peace,

### Above:

The Queen is joined by members of the Royal Family at the Commonwealth Service in Westminster Abbey, London, Britain, 14 March 2016.

freedom, security and sustainable development – not just economic, but environmental and social too – while fostering international cooperation and trade links all over the world. The Commonwealth Games are perhaps the best-known example of how the institution can unite a host of nations and encourage them to work together.

Some argue that one of the central reasons for the success of this family of nations has been the role of the Queen herself. Whatever the future holds, the Commonwealth owes a huge debt to her. It has been her life's mission to build it beyond a collection of former colonies into an 'immense union of nations' with their homes set in all the four corners of the earth. The Queen, as she prepares to serve in her tenth decade, acknowledges that her husband, children and grandchildren play a hugely important role in supporting her work as Head of the Commonwealth. Prince Charles has already represented her at CHOGM in Sri Lanka, and over time the more taxing appointments, particularly the long-haul foreign visits, are being taken over by the younger generations of the family.

### A pragmatic approach

There is a quiet, irrational belief among us all that the Queen will just go on and on indefinitely. But both she and her devoted consort are realists, pragmatic about their advancing years and aware they will inevitably have to slow down and do fewer

duties. Prince Philip talked publicly about his desire to take a step back from public life. In a BBC interview to mark his 90th birthday he said, "I reckon I've done my bit, I want to enjoy myself for a bit now. Yes, I'm just sort of winding down." At the time of his 95th birthday in June 2016, he is still carrying out more than 250 official engagements and many more private ones.

Her Majesty's advancing years mean her immediate family – her support team – will play an increasingly important global role in the future. When I asked the Duke of York in an interview at Buckingham Palace whether he thought it would be better if the Queen retired, he smiled and replied, "But that's the nature of monarchy. It's as simple as that. I don't think it's even a thought." He remains a key member of that support team.

### The Diamond Jubilee Tour

During her Diamond Jubilee year senior members of the Royal Family visited all 15 of the Commonwealth Realms (where the Queen is still Head of State), as well as major Commonwealth countries, Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories, while she and Prince Philip focused on visits around the UK. Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge toured Singapore, Malaysia, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu; the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were warmly welcomed in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Papua New Guinea. Prince Harry took on his first major tours representing his monarch and proved a popular success in Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas. The Duke of York visited India, while the Princess Royal toured Mozambique and Zambia. The Earl and Countess of Wessex journeyed to the Caribbean, visiting Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, with an extra visit to Gibraltar.

«Her Majesty's advancing years mean her immediate family – her support team – will play an increasingly important global role in the future.»





**Top:** Prince Harry visits St Bernadette's Resource Centre for the Blind in Lesotho, February 2013.

**Above left:** Princess Anne at The King's Royal Hussars Tercentenary Parade in Tidworth, Britain, July 2015.

**Above right:** Prince Andrew lands in Nagaland, North Eastern India as part of the Diamond Jubilee Tour, 1 May 2012.





**Above:**  
Prince Edward and  
Sophie Countess of  
Wessex on walkabout  
in Gibraltar as part of  
the Diamond Jubilee  
Tour, 11 June 2012.

### Prince William wins friends

Prince William, who has a job as an air ambulance pilot, is taking on more public duties as he prepares for his role as a future king, while at the same time providing greater support for his grandmother. In January 2010, he took an important step in his apprenticeship as future monarch, carrying out his first solo foreign tour in an official capacity as the Queen's representative. The tour to New Zealand and Australia was considered very successful, and Prince William proved popular with both the public and the press. He spent three days in New Zealand, opening the newly built Supreme Court building in the capital city Wellington, playing rugby at the country's famous Eden Park, and was feted as a chief by the Maori people. He flew on to Australia for two days, where he was warmly welcomed in Sydney and Melbourne, met Aboriginal people and heard stories about the bushfires.

As Prince William put it, "For the grandchildren, it's a bit difficult for us to say 'take it easy' when she's so much older than us, and has done so much more. We do hint at taking some things off her, but she won't have anything of it. She's so dedicated and really determined to finish everything she started."

Prince William was back again the following year on a last-minute trip to meet victims of Australian floods and New Zealand's earthquake and mining disasters. The Queen was very pleased with his performance on the trip. "The Queen sent me the most wonderful

“The tour to New Zealand and Australia was considered very successful, and Prince William proved popular with both the public and the press.”





letter saying ‘Congratulations’ and ‘Well done, you did well down there’, which meant a lot to me,” said the Prince. “It’s funny, but when you get a letter from her or a bit of praise, it goes a long, long way, more so than anyone else saying ‘well done’ to you. It’s mainly because there’s such gravitas behind those words.”

### The William and Kate factor

There is no doubt that the emergence of the newlywed glamorous Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the world stage may have revived the monarchy’s future in the Commonwealth. They are young, elegant and charming, and their popularity across the globe has injected a new appeal into the ageing monarchy. This was exemplified when the young royal couple went on their first Commonwealth tour together, to Canada in 2011. If the Duchess was nervous, she did not show it. She may have been new to her role, but she took to the job of roving royal ambassador as if it was second nature. Catherine proved the picture-perfect princess and did not put a foot wrong while

accompanying her husband on their first joint tour. The excitement was palpable. As the royal couple crisscrossed the nation, Canadians turned out on the streets in their thousands and appeared happy to continue their love affair with royalty, despite opinion polls giving a contrary view.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were a great hit when they visited Malaysia, Singapore, the Solomon Islands and the tiny island of Tuvalu for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. In Kuala Lumpur, the Duchess notched another first – she delivered her first overseas speech with aplomb at Hospice Malaysia. During it, she stressed the importance of palliative care in transforming the lives of sick children. But perhaps their biggest popular success came after the birth of their first child, Prince George, when they took him with them on tour to New Zealand and Australia.

The fleeting but significant appearances of Prince George in New Zealand and Australia proved a huge hit. The cute photographs of him

### Above:

Prince William and Catherine Duchess of Cambridge in Yellowknife, Canada, 5 July 2011, on their first Commonwealth tour together.





**Above:**

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge with Prince George at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia, 20 April 2014.

playing with other babies at a parent support group held at the Governor General's residence in Wellington, and later at Sydney's Taronga Zoo, captured all the headlines. Oblivious to his fame little George was even dubbed 'The Republican Slayer' on national television. Only time will tell whether this popularity will be enough to maintain the British Royal Family's current role in the Commonwealth.

Whatever the future holds, the commitment of the Queen and the Royal Family to the Commonwealth – past, present and future – can be in no doubt. Although it is rooted deep in our history, the Commonwealth, with the help and support of the royal team led by Prince Charles and his children, is managing to prove that it is ideally suited to the 21st century too.

«Whatever the future holds, the commitment of the Queen and the Royal Family to the Commonwealth – past, present and future – can be in no doubt.»



# MESSAGE FROM THE ROYAL WARRANT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION



The Royal Warrant Holders Association, on behalf of all Royal Warrant holders, wishes Her Majesty the Queen a very happy 90th Birthday.

The Association represents individuals and companies holding Royal Warrants of Appointment. These are a mark of recognition, granted to those who supply goods or services to the households of HM the Queen, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh or HRH the Prince of Wales.

Royal Warrant holders are proud to supply the royal household and members of the Royal Family and, having been granted a Royal Warrant, to be able to display the Royal Arms in connection with their businesses, products and services.

## The history of Royal Warrants

The history of the granting of Royal Warrants of Appointment to tradesmen supplying the Royal Court can be traced back to medieval times. It was however in the reign of Elizabeth I that the practice of granting Royal Warrants as we know it today was established.

A number of Warrant holders have held Royal Warrants to successive British monarchs for centuries and these include some iconic British family companies including wine merchants Berry Brothers & Rudd (first appointed in 1761), perfumers Floris (first appointed in 1820) and the world's oldest brush makers G B Kent, established in 1777 and a Royal Warrant holder since the 1820s.

The reign of Queen Victoria saw over 2,000 Royal Warrants granted. Again, some of these well-known companies are still holders of Royal Warrants as they continue to trade with the royal household including Fortnum & Mason, Twinning Tea and Schweppes Tonic.

The Association was formed in 1840 and is incorporated by Royal Charter. Its main objective is to ensure the continued existence of the Royal Warrant as a treasured and respected institution. The Association advises Warrant holders on everything to do with their Royal Warrants and the correct use of the royal arms. It also helps to administer applications for new Royal Warrants and changes to, and reviews of, existing ones.

*The Royal Warrant Holders Association was formed in 1840. Its main objective is to ensure the continued existence of the Royal Warrant as a treasured and respected institution. It helps to administer applications for new Royal Warrants and changes to existing ones.*

«The Royal Warrant Holders Association,  
on behalf of all Royal Warrant holders, wishes  
HM the Queen a very happy 90th Birthday.»

The Association's original Royal Charter was granted in 1907 and this was re-granted by HM the Queen in 2007.

### **Royal Warrants today**

Today there are around 800 Royal Warrant holders representing a huge cross-section of trade and industry, from individual craftspeople to global multi-nationals. While most are British based and have evolved and adapted during the extraordinary reign of HM the Queen, such as Jaguar Land Rover, Bentley and Burberry, there are also a number based in other Commonwealth countries such as silversmiths Hardy Brothers in Australia and Angostura Bitters in Trinidad & Tobago. Details of all Warrant-holding companies can be found on the Royal Warrant Holders Association website.

The Royal Charter states that the Association is to unite in one body all those who hold a Royal Warrant and to serve the members of that body by promoting and when necessary protecting their interests to the best of its ability, subject always to the maintenance of the highest standards of craftsmanship and service.

### **The Coronation Festival**

In 2013 HM the Queen gave permission for the Royal Warrant Holders Association to hold the Coronation Festival in the gardens of Buckingham Palace - the biggest event in the modern history of the Royal Warrant. Held over four days, the Coronation Festival celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation with a one-off exhibition, by over 200 Warrant-holding companies, of innovation, industry and excellence through craft and trade. The event was attended by 60,000 members of the public, press, trade delegations and members of the Royal Family.

Regardless of size or sector, all Royal Warrant holders are united as current suppliers of goods and services to the royal household and Royal Family and by a commitment to the highest standards of service, quality and excellence.

«Today there are around 800 Royal Warrant holders  
representing a huge cross-section of trade and industry,  
from individual craftspeople to global multi-nationals.»





“QEST and the Association are honoured that in 2016 HM the Queen has become Patron of QEST, which gives our charity additional, invaluable support.”

**Left:**

Portrait of The Queen, painted by QEST Scholar Alastair Barford.  
Website: recordreign.com



### The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust

In 1990, the year of the Association’s 150th anniversary and the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Association established the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) to fund the continued training of talented craftsmen and women. Founded on the premise that traditional British crafts were declining and that support was required to retain creative, high quality artisans, QEST has so far awarded over £3 million to over 400 gifted individuals almost all of whom are still in business.

QEST and the Association are honoured that in 2016 HM the Queen has become Patron of QEST, which gives our charity additional, invaluable support as it is now also funding craft-based apprenticeships.

Having been established with funds contributed by Royal Warrant holders, QEST aims to reflect the excellence of British craftsmanship as symbolised by the Royal Warrant of Appointment. Royal Warrant holders are not only its largest benefactors, but also an invaluable source of work experience, business mentoring and skills training for its scholars and apprentices. Details of QEST and its scholars and apprentices can be found on the QEST website.

The scholars and apprentices of QEST join the Association and all Royal Warrant holders in wishing Her Majesty a happy and glorious 90th Birthday.

**Websites:** [royalwarrant.org](http://royalwarrant.org) / [qest.org.uk](http://qest.org.uk)





BY APPOINTMENT TO  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
SUPPLIERS OF EQUINE EQUIPMENT,  
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR  
SHIRES EQUESTRIAN, HEREFORDSHIRE





Trusted by riders since 1968, Shires Equestrian is a family owned business, based in Herefordshire, and one of the leading names in equestrian equipment for horse and rider across the globe.

With a range that extends from rugs and saddles, to rider wear and yard equipment, Shires provides the equestrian community with high quality products which are affordably priced.

Owning or caring for a horse takes commitment, effort and is not inexpensive. With modern life becoming increasingly hectic, this commitment to the horse and equestrianism is to be admired.

Yet it is time out. It feels good and raises a smile. It is freedom.

We salute these beautiful animals that give us so much. They have been celebrated in art since man lived in caves and integral to our lives in so many ways throughout history.

Shires have been proud holders of a Royal Warrant to supply Her Majesty the Queen with equine equipment, clothing and footwear since 2009 – a reflection of the company's commitment to products that deliver performance and reliability.

We congratulate Her Majesty on the milestone of her 90th birthday and pay tribute to her own enduring commitment to our Nation and to the Commonwealth.



The Shires brand is available through a network of specialist equestrian retailers across the world.  
A list of stockists is available online.

[www.shiresequestrian.com](http://www.shiresequestrian.com)  
01568 613600



**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II visiting the Sue Ryder Care Hospice in Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire, 17 November 2006.



# A ROYAL PATRON

*“The Queen has set an amazing example when it comes to her charitable support, making an enormous difference to millions of people up and down the country; doing more for charity in the last 60 years than probably any other monarch in history.”*

Dr John Low, Chief Executive of Charities Aid Foundation speaking in 2012

## A long tradition of support

During her lifetime Her Majesty has helped to raise an estimated £1.5 billion for charitable causes – a staggering achievement. In doing so she has made an enormous difference to the lives of millions of people throughout the country and Commonwealth.

A large number of her patronages were inherited from her father, George VI. That number has obviously grown over time. The Queen has tended to lend her support to charities that deal with community and civic issues; such organisations make up 14 per cent of her charitable portfolio, with education and training causes coming a close second.

The practice of members of the Royal Family lending their names to organisations through formal patronages is thought to have existed since the 18th century. Her Majesty is now royal patron to 510 charities in Britain, including such crucial organisations and well-known names as Cancer Research UK, the British Red Cross and Barnardo's. The Queen



**Left:**  
Erna Takazawa from Samoa is presented with the Queen's Young Leader Award.





**Top:** Princess Elizabeth in 1944 at a NSPCC meeting with the Lord Mayor of London.

**Above:** The 'Not Forgotten' Association (NFA) holds their annual garden party at Buckingham Palace.  
Here the Queen talks to a veteran while touring the garden party in 2014.





is also Patron of the Mothers' Union, a role that was first held by Queen Victoria in 1898.

With the Queen leading the way, the extended Royal Family supports a further 2,415 charities in Britain alone, with this figure rising to almost 3,000 globally.

The Queen also holds special garden parties at Buckingham Palace in support of charities. For Example, in 2015 there were garden parties to celebrate the centenary of

the Women's Institute and Blind Veterans UK, and every year the 'Not Forgotten' Association, a charity for war veterans, holds a reception in the Palace gardens.

Royal patronages generally reflect the interests of the member of the Royal Family involved. The Duchess of Cornwall, for example, is President of the National Osteoporosis Society. Both her mother and grandmother died as a result of the brittle bone disease. Princess Alexandra,

**Above:**

The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry open the 'Help for Heroes' Recovery Centre at Tedworth House, Wiltshire, May 2013.

« Royal patronages generally reflect the interests of the member of the Royal Family involved. »

who undertook a nursing course at Great Ormond Street Hospital after leaving school, is Patron of both the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service and Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

Many of the Prince of Wales's patronages stem from his passions for the environment and the arts, while Prince William's involvement with the Centrepoin charity – a role once carried out by his mother, the late Diana Princess of Wales – reflects his long-standing interest in homelessness and the people affected by it. The Duchess of Cambridge is particularly focused on the issue of children's mental health, and supports the charity Place2Be.

Certain themes in patronage also reflect the titles of members of the Royal Family. Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, is patron of the regional charity Wessex Heartbeat. The Duke of Kent, the Queen's first cousin, is similarly involved with various Kent-based organisations, including the Kent County Agricultural Society.

Royal support for charities is not set in stone. On their travels at home and abroad the Queen and members of her family learn of causes and decide to throw their support behind them. When they do, it is a godsend to the charity because royal patronage often stimulates considerable growth in financial backing from other supporters, and increases media interest and publicity.

## A huge street party

Appropriately, as the country commemorates Her Majesty's landmark birthday this summer with one of the biggest street parties Britain has ever seen, her many charities will be at the heart of that celebration. The Patron's Lunch is the highlight of a weekend of events in June paying tribute to Her Majesty's life achievements. She is 'really excited' about the party – which will showcase her role as patron of more than 600 national and Commonwealth organisations.

Her Majesty is attending the event as guest of honour, along with the Duke of Edinburgh and grandsons Prince William and Prince Harry, who are joint presidents of the event, as well as other members of the Royal Family, to make a truly memorable day. The organiser, the Queen's grandson Peter Phillips, has indicated that the Patron's Lunch is a not-for-profit event, and would have a 'carnival atmosphere'.

Most of the 10,000 guests will be from organisations of which the Queen is patron, with 1,000 tickets to be released in a public ballot. Peter Phillips has said that any surplus money from the Patron's Lunch will be allocated to a newly created Patron's Fund, which will be used to support specific initiatives and projects run by the Queen's charities.

Charities and organisations associated with the Queen will be there. Each guest will receive an individual hamper of food at tables set up along the length of the Mall, where entertainers will perform. Corporations and official partners, including Boots, BT, Pimms, M&S and Unilever, sponsor the Patron's Lunch. Charities have welcomed the event as a way to celebrate the Queen as their patron, and raise awareness. Action for Children has said that the Patrons' Lunch is a "unique opportunity to be able to reward some of our volunteers and supporters."

Peter Phillips added that "there's a huge amount of pride – the fact that I'm able ... to put a

“On their travels at home and abroad the Queen and members of her family learn of causes and decide to throw their support behind them.”





**Above:** Crowds in the Mall for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. 5 June 2012.



“Many of the royal warrant holders date back centuries and have fascinating stories to tell about their progress from the past to the present.”

celebration on which ultimately she appreciates, she enjoys and she thinks is a great idea.”

The street party on Sunday 12 June follows a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 10 June, and the annual Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards on Saturday 11 June. It promises to be a wonderful spectacle of celebration. The Mall will be transformed, with a thousand tables, each seating ten people, and ten thousand chairs – all needing to be laid out. Guests are being treated to a wicker hamper lunch provided by Marks & Spencer and refreshments including Pimm's, PG Tips tea and Wall's Ice Cream. A party, without doubt, fit for a Queen.

### Royal warrants

As well as charity the Queen and her family support excellence in business to companies who supply goods to them. A Royal Warrant of Appointment is a mark of recognition of those who have supplied goods or services to the Households of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh or the Prince of Wales for at least five years, and who have an ongoing trading arrangement. It is a little crest that states “By Appointment To...” It is seen as the ultimate seal of approval, and is definitely noticed, which makes it good for business.

Henry II granted the earliest recorded English royal warrant to the Weavers' Company in 1155. A royal warrant signifies a satisfactory trade relationship between the grantor and the grantee, but it does not mean any goods are supplied to the royals for free. There are currently 850 companies and individuals

holding more than 1,100 royal warrants who are entitled to display that coveted crest, including Barbour, Hunter and Jaguar Land Rover.

Royal warrants are awarded only to tradesmen. The professions, employment agencies, the media, government departments, pubs, restaurants and theatres do not qualify. The list includes companies one would expect a head of state to frequent: from champagne houses like Bollinger and Veuve Clicquot to luxury car manufacturers – and Waitrose in Bracknell. But it also reflects a more down-to-earth ‘high-street’ monarch: Carphone Warehouse and House of Fraser are entitled to a warrant, as are British Gas and Weetabix.

But having a royal warrant also carries responsibilities. Holders must exercise discretion, and make it their duty not to let standards slip. Many of the royal warrant holders date back centuries and have fascinating stories to tell about their progress from the past to the present – and even the future. The Sovereign decides who can grant royal warrants.

The Royal Warrant Holders Association was established in 1840. Its main objective is to ensure the continued existence of the royal warrant as a treasured and respected institution. It helps to administer applications for new royal warrants, as well as changes to existing ones. It is not part of the royal household, but belongs to its members. It advises members on everything to do with their royal warrants and assists with the correct interpretation and implementation of the Lord Chamberlain's Rules, which govern royal warrants.





THE QUEEN'S  
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2016

# THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION

## A legacy in stories

How does one capture the story of generations? How does one discover what the Commonwealth really means to young people across our family of nations? Since 1883, these questions have been explored by the Royal Commonwealth Society through its flagship programme, The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition. Together, these answers form a Commonwealth legacy in stories from the voices of young people.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest schools' international writing competition, dating back over 130 years of shared history. In 2015, the Royal Commonwealth Society was privileged to be able to rename the competition in honour of Her Majesty The Queen as both Head of the Commonwealth and patron of the Royal Commonwealth Society. The Queen and members of the Royal Family have been an important part of the competition. Her Majesty's support of the programme has been invaluable to its continuing success and prestige.

Since it began so many years ago, The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition has grown from strength to strength. What began as a strict essay competition, judged not only on academic merit but also penmanship and similarly outdated elements, has since become a creative writing competition that sees thousands of young people take part every year. In The Queen's lifetime, winners have gone on to become writers, literary critics, a Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and even the Prime Minister of Singapore. Over this period, winners have also hailed from every corner of the Commonwealth, including the most remote inhabited island, Tristan da Cunha. Exploring such themes as sport for peace and development, the power of words, culture, family and, most recently, inclusivity, young people have used this competition to hone their creative writing skills in the context of Commonwealth values. The essay competition continues to allow young people to express their hopes, dreams and beliefs, encouraged to do so by the Head of the Commonwealth. It is an enduring testament to the connectivity and relevance of the Commonwealth today.

In some Commonwealth countries, the competition is used as a tool for entrance into tertiary education, and awards are held in the highest regard. As all young people who enter the competition receive a Certificate of Participation, they hold in their hands a testament to their role as a Commonwealth citizen or resident. We trust that this experience, one that is often a first interaction for young people with the Commonwealth, leaves a lasting and positive impression of just what our family of nations and its Head have to offer.

The Commonwealth theme for 2016 continues to support this idea of a connected identity, with the title An Inclusive Commonwealth. At a time when the international community has defined the Sustainable Development Goals as 'leaving no one behind', the Commonwealth family of nations can act as an inclusive network for mutual support, development and growth of opportunity and rights for all its many, diverse citizens. The theme also refers to the core Commonwealth values of tolerance, respect and understanding, as well as equity and fairness. It is timely that in this, the year of The Queen's 90th birthday, it is inclusivity that we hold central. Her lifetime has seen the enhancement of female, indigenous and minority rights, a time of unprecedented globalisation, and the rise of communication technology that has made the world simultaneously a smaller and larger place for all.

The Commonwealth is central to this innovation and global inclusivity, as it leads the way for developments in Human Rights, freedom and creativity. This leading role is documented in the words written by thousands of young people over 130 years, in what has become a legacy of stories.



'In the Commonwealth, governments, businesses, communities and individuals should each strive to match words and good intentions with deeds. Every contribution has its part to play. Whatever we do, wherever we live, our actions in defence of the environment can have a real and positive effect upon the lives of others, today and in the future.'

Queen Elizabeth II  
Commonwealth Day Message 2008



As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty has long championed the view that to belong to the Commonwealth one must be willing to share, to exchange and to act for the common good.

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC), launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in November 2015, will create a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects, marking Her Majesty's service to the Commonwealth, to preserve indigenous forest and vegetation for future generations.

By linking projects in the Queen's name, there is an opportunity to unite individual efforts to preserve indigenous forest and vegetation across the Commonwealth into a coherent and vibrant network of forest conservation projects. This network will take advantage of the strong relationships of the Commonwealth to share best practice across these disparate activities, and create new, collaborative initiatives that will champion and foster community-led approaches to forest conservation.

The QCC will raise the profile of the Commonwealth, tangibly demonstrating the capacity of all its 53 members to act collectively on the issue of forest conservation, and celebrate the breadth of Commonwealth responses to this important environmental issue. It will show that, irrespective of geography, economy, culture or tenure, solutions exist to the threats facing the Commonwealth's forests. Importantly, it will create a physical and lasting legacy of Her Majesty's leadership of the Commonwealth.



*Old growth forest - Cathedral Grove Forest, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada (Photo: Mike Zahra)*

With countries including Australia, Belize, New Zealand, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and Zambia having already committed themselves to this exciting initiative, every Commonwealth country will be invited to contribute to the QCC by the spring of 2018.

Those countries with limited forest cover will be able to participate through the planting of native trees, the conservation of other indigenous vegetation or by supporting QCC partnerships with fellow Commonwealth members.

Participation in the QCC comes without financial or regulatory obligations. Fundraising endeavours by the Royal Commonwealth Society and Cool Earth meet the administration costs of this initiative, costs associated with developing, monitoring and reporting on new community-led projects and knowledge exchange activities between QCC projects.



*Village landscape in the East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania (Photo: Salla Rantala)*

The QCC, conceived by the NGO Cool Earth, is being led by the Royal Commonwealth Society in partnership with Cool Earth and the Commonwealth Forestry Association.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

**The Royal Commonwealth Society** is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world – [www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)



**Cool Earth** is an award-winning, UK-based charity that works alongside indigenous villages to halt rainforest destruction – [www.coolearth.org](http://www.coolearth.org)



**The Commonwealth Forestry Association** links foresters, scientists, students and policy-makers throughout the Commonwealth to seek ways of wise forest management – [www.cfa-international.org](http://www.cfa-international.org)



## MESSAGE FROM SIR CIARÁN DEVANE

Chief Executive of the British Council

*Sir Ciarán Devane took up the role of Chief Executive of the British Council in January 2015. He is focused on ensuring that all stakeholders understand and value the contribution that soft power, cultural relations and the British Council makes to security, prosperity and influence. Ciarán was awarded a knighthood in 2015 (for his services to cancer patients, having been Chief Executive of Macmillan Cancer Support from 2007 to 2014).*

As Chief Executive of the British Council, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to Her Majesty on the occasion of her 90th birthday, and express my admiration for her 65 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Nations.

For the people of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth countries, the Queen is an enduring symbol of continuity in a rapidly changing world. Her commitment to the Commonwealth family and its shared values of peace, tolerance and democracy have earned her the respect and admiration of millions around the world.

The British Council has a very direct and personal connection with Her Majesty, who has served as our Patron since ascending the throne. For many decades we have enjoyed her support and encouragement, and have had the honour of welcoming her to a huge number of our projects around the world.

It has been a great privilege for our organisation to have the active support of the person who has been inarguably, for many years, the 'greatest British ambassador'.

Of course many of the countries in which we operate are members of the Commonwealth, and that adds another, special layer of shared history and understanding to our work.

The British Council is the United Kingdom's cultural relations organisation. We were set up in 1934 to create 'friendly knowledge and understanding' among the nations of the world, by sharing the cultural assets of our country: our language, education, arts and values.

In 1940, at the height of the Second World War, we received our Royal Charter from the Queen's father, George VI. The awarding of the Charter was a great honour, and a demonstration that even at the moment of greatest threat to the United Kingdom, our work was vital – perhaps even more so than in peaceful times.

In the years following the war we opened offices across Europe, as well as in many of the newly independent nations that now form the backbone of the Commonwealth. We offered people behind the iron curtain a safe space in which to explore new ideas (our libraries continue to be hugely popular), and the language skills to enable them to join in wider conversations.





Today we are present in 115 countries around the world, and have around 8,500 members of staff, the majority of them locally employed.

The British Council works in three main areas: English language; Education and Society; and the Arts. We do this because we believe these are activities that speak to people, that connect them with others around the world, and that allow them to make a better future for themselves.

As well as promoting the 'friendly knowledge and understanding' envisaged by our founders, all of our work aims to make a positive contribution to the countries we are working in. In other words, the benefit does not flow in one direction; it is mutual. We know this is the best way to build trust. The test of everything we do is whether it has a lasting effect on the United Kingdom's international standing, its prosperity, and its security.

### Creating connections

We are a modern organisation, and take advantage of new technology to reach increasingly large numbers of people. This year we had an online audience of around 125 million people.

But in a complex and changing world, the personal connection and the conversation carried out through cultural means – whether that is reading works of literature, or taking part in a debating club, or creating or experiencing works of art – remain essential.

Those are the connections we will continue to make in the future, whatever the challenges and opportunities of the changing global society.

Like Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we will continue to engage with others when alternative channels of communication are blocked, and help to create the warm connections between people that are at the heart of all real understanding.

**Website:** [britishcouncil.org](http://britishcouncil.org)



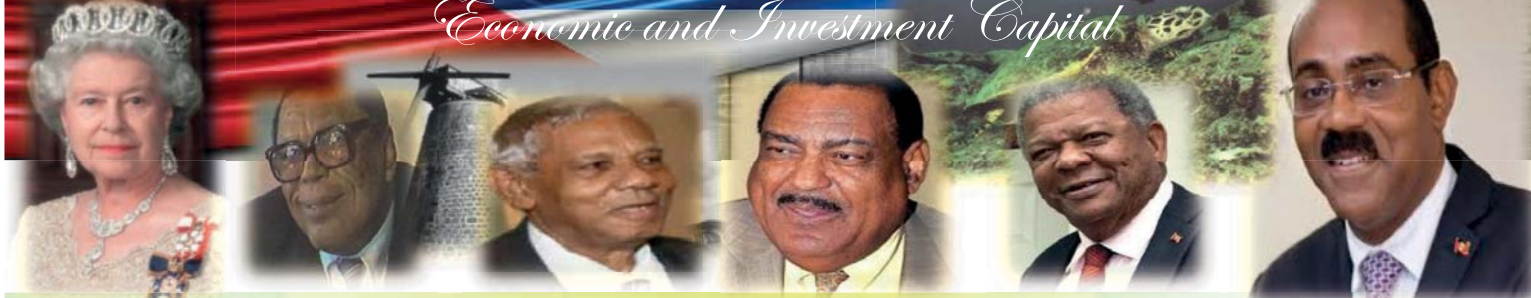
**Above:**

The Queen at the British Council's head office in London, 1984, celebrating the organisation's 50th anniversary.

«The British Council has a very direct and personal connection with Her Majesty, who has served as our Patron since ascending the throne.»

# *A Journey to Remember*

## *From Colony to Independent Island Paradise and now Economic and Investment Capital*



### CELEBRATORY MESSAGE AND RECOGNITION OF 65TH YEAR AS HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda take this opportunity to express to Her Majesty the Queen heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda we feel a sense of pride and honour for Her Majesty's invaluable and enduring services over the 65 years as Head of the Commonwealth. Among her numerous accomplishments include Her Majesty's encouragement of the various modes of cooperation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the member states of the Commonwealth; Her support of the Commonwealth as an international force for democracy and development; and the remarkable milestone of being a monarch for 65 successful years.

We thank Her Majesty for her visits to Antigua and Barbuda in 1966 and 1977 and for dispatching Princes Margaret to officiate in our 1981 Independence Ceremonies. Our country has undergone significant developmental changes over the past 35 years and the stability of the monarchy has been a contributing force.

### A LITTLE BIT OF PARADISE

With 365 beaches, the beach is literally just the beginning. One for every day of the year and where most of the action takes place, a beautiful island accommodating expensive yachts in its harbor, scuba divers explore colourful coral reefs in pristine waters.

Away from the sea, there are many attractions: get in touch with nature exploring rainforests or reliving a bit of history with its historic sites such as Shirley Heights, a military lookout with views over Nelson's Dockyard, the only working Georgian dockyard in the world. Not to forget the island's national parks and natural bridges and blowholes, such as Devil's Bridge.

The exciting Saturday market in St Johns, the capital, is a sure stop to grab fresh fruit and vegetables, local crafts and souvenirs. Antigua springs to life at night, with dozens of places to party including Shirley Heights, flavored with live music and lots of rum punch.

Antigua's little sister Barbuda is quieter, but no less beautiful. Although small, there is plenty to do. The island is home for wild deer, exotic birds, and the Frigate Bird Sanctuary. Not to mention that Barbuda's pink sandy beaches is second to none in the world.

### ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT CAPITAL

Antigua and Barbuda considered to be "The Heart of the Caribbean" due to its strategic location, and its near-perfect climate, breath-taking coastline and investor-friendly Government, has long been an attractive place to invest. Over the past 2 years, the nation has seen in excess of **US\$2 billion in developments**. With green friendly projects targeting solar energy as a viable alternative to fossil fuels, Antigua's focus is not just economically driven.

This twin-island nation of 85,000 people, has been independent since 1981 and has established itself as a progressive, stable and multi-cultural democracy. Historically, as a result of tourism and real estate, the country has experienced continuous growth in foreign direct investment. Bolstered by generous Government incentives, foreign investment has contributed to the rapid development of the economy, resulting in the country having one of the highest GDP per capita in the sub-region.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has set a clear goal for the country to become, according to Prime Minister, the Hon. Gaston Browne, "**the economic powerhouse**" of the Eastern Caribbean

an" and sees its Citizenship-by-Investment Program as one of the key drivers that will lead to the realization of this ambition. With its efficient processing, rigorous due diligence, wide choice of investment options and the sheer physical attraction of the islands, the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship-by-Investment program is fast becoming a jurisdiction of choice.

"The ease of global travel is the most obvious advantage," Anthony says. "The Antigua and Barbuda passport provides visa free travel to 133 countries, including Canada, the UK and the European "Schengen" countries. Additionally," he continues, "with safety and security becoming areas of increasing concern in certain parts of the world, Antigua and Barbuda can offer a peaceful and stable environment for families looking for a second citizenship." *Acting CEO of the CIU, Thomas Anthony,*

The CIP program allows foreign nationals (along with their spouse, dependent children and parents over the age of 65 years) to acquire citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda by making an appropriate investment in the country. "Anyone 18 years and older, who commits to making an investment can participate in the CIP."



# TRANSPORT FIT FOR A QUEEN

*"The Queen has visited 120 out of the world's 196 countries, sailed over one million miles on the Royal Yacht and travelled – in miles – the equivalent of 42 times around the globe."*

Royal historian Kate Williams, 18 April 2016

## An unusual passenger

### Below:

Queen Elizabeth II boarding a train from Kings Cross in London to Sandringham, 2014.

There was a buzz at King's Cross as the railway station platform began crawling with police officers. It was cold, just a few days before Christmas. Could it be a raid or some sort of threat? Then a small and very familiar-

looking white-haired lady in a headscarf appeared, a handbag on one arm and a small posy on the other. Fellow passengers on the 10.45am First Capital Connect service to King's Lynn were uncertain whether to believe their eyes as the Queen stepped on board one of the first class carriages.



It seems extraordinary to some; you cannot imagine many sitting US presidents following Her Majesty's example of using public transport. In recent years this journey has become an annual event, travelling from London's Kings Cross station to King's Lynn in Norfolk on route to her country estate in Sandringham, Norfolk. Using scheduled train services has been introduced by the Keeper of the Privy Purse Sir Alan Reid – in charge of spending at the palace – in a bid to drive costs down.

Sir Alan has the task of getting the balance right so that the Sovereign and her family travel cost-effectively, but also in a style



**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke Of Edinburgh on board HMY Britannia in 1955.





befitting their status. It is a tricky balance, as royal accounts are now scrutinised annually by the media; and transport is always an area that comes in for particular criticism. However, wherever possible the Queen has shown she is happy to embrace change as long as it does not reduce the standing of the monarch of which she is custodian.

### By land, sea and air

The Queen and the Royal Family complete more than 3,000 official engagements in the UK and abroad on behalf of the charitable organisations of which they are patrons, and as super ambassadors for Her Majesty's Government. These visits require detailed planning – including reconnaissance visits

by palace staff and security from Scotland Yard to ensure nothing goes wrong. They prepare detailed notes for the member of the royal family carrying out the specific duty.

During her 63 years as monarch, the Queen has reached her destinations by land, sea and air – but in the past it would have been unthinkable for a monarch or senior royals to use public transport. Her Majesty once even rode resplendent by elephant on her tour of India in 1961 in Delhi, and also on a carriage carried aloft by men through the streets of Tuvalu in 1982. As time has passed, royalty has been expected to conform and accept that if there is a cheaper option that is still safe, they may have to use it.

### Above:

HMNZS *Britannia* sails into Sydney Harbour during Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee tour of the Pacific Islands, New Zealand and Australia in 1977.



**Above:**  
Queen Elizabeth II is presented with her new Bentley for her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Royal travel is also linked to the pomp and pageantry so closely associated with the royal traditions. Horse-drawn carriages, albeit priceless and gilded, for ceremonial occasions, and state cars all add to the splendour and spectacle of monarchy. The Queen also uses the royal train and helicopter for engagements in Britain, and plane for foreign visits. Before it was decommissioned in 1997, by far her most loved means of getting from A to B was aboard the royal yacht *Britannia*.

### The royal Bentleys

The most frequent mode of transport is by chauffeur-driven 'state' car housed in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. The Royal Mews is open to the public throughout the year and has thousands of

visitors. The state cars are garaged there and are used for public engagements and some ceremonial occasions. These magnificent vehicles are designed so that the public can get the best view possible of the Queen.

The Queen has two Bentleys, the first presented to her for her Golden Jubilee in 2002. The one-off design, conceived by a Bentley-led consortium of British motor industry manufacturers and suppliers, was created with specific input from the Queen and Prince Philip, as well as her head chauffeur. The special Bentley cars have a modern 'monocoque' construction – created as a single shell, rather than built up on a chassis – which maximises the car's interior space. Both Bentleys are 6.22 metres long, nearly a metre longer than a standard Bentley Arnage. At 3.84 metres, the wheelbase is 1.3 metres longer than that of an average family-sized saloon.

The Bentleys, like any other cars, are subject to normal speed restrictions despite having extremely powerful engines. During royal processional occasions, they travel at around nine miles per hour, and sometimes as slow as three miles per hour. The rear doors are hinged at the back and are designed to allow the Queen to stand up straight before stepping down to the ground. The rear seats are upholstered in Hield Lambswool Sateen cloth, while all remaining upholstery is in light grey Connolly hide. Carpets are pale blue in the rear and dark blue in the front. The Bentleys are fitted with a removable exterior roof covering which exposes a clear inner lining, giving an all-round view of their royal passengers. There are obviously extra security features, but these are not made public.

### Other royal cars

For official duties – providing transport for state and other visitors as well as the Queen herself – there are eight state limousines, consisting of the two Bentleys, three Rolls-Royces and three Daimlers. Other vehicles in

“The one-off design, was created with specific input from the Queen and Prince Philip, as well as her head chauffeur.”





the royal fleet include a number of Volkswagen 'people carriers'. They are painted in a special royal claret livery and the state vehicles do not have registration number plates.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders presented a Rolls-Royce Phantom VI to the Queen for her Silver Jubilee. The oldest car in the fleet is the Phantom IV, built in 1950, 5.76 litre with a straight eight engine and a Mulliner body. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh used it. Despite its age, the car is in fine condition, and is still used for occasions such as Ascot. There is also a 1987 Phantom VI.

The Rolls-Royce Phantom VI was given to the Queen on her Silver Jubilee in 1977. It is housed at the Royal Mews - home to the royal collection of carriages and limousines.

There is no evidence whether King Edward VII or King George V could drive, but later monarchs King Edward VIII and King George VI certainly could. Some interesting historic royal cars can be viewed at Sandringham Museum. Items include the 1900 Daimler bought by Edward VII, and a half-scale Aston Martin given to Princes William and Harry in 1988. Philip privately drives an LPG gas-powered London taxicab to get around the capital.

Prince Charles famously was given a 1969 Aston Martin Volante DB6 MKII for his 21st birthday, and it featured in the wedding celebrations of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It is one of the rarest Aston Martins ever made, with only 12 thought to have been produced.

**Above:**  
The Rolls-Royce Phantom VI was given to the Queen on her Silver Jubilee in 1977. It is housed at the Royal Mews - home to the royal collection of carriages and limousines.



**Above:**

The Gold State Coach (1762) is housed in the Royal Mews.

Since the 1950s, the Queen has regularly been spotted as either the passenger or driver of a Land Rover. She is known to be a keen driver following her time in the Women's Auxillary Territorial Service during the Second World War and is the only person in the UK who is permitted to drive without a licence. Her Majesty tends to restrict her time behind the wheel to visits on her private estates.

**The gold state coach**

Also housed in the Royal Mews is the collection of historic carriages and coaches, most of which are still in use to transport members of the Royal Family in ceremonial processions. The centrepiece of the Royal Mews exhibition is the stunning gold state coach, which has been used for every coronation since George IV's in 1821, and is painstakingly maintained in pristine condition. It is covered with gold leaf, and the exterior is decorated with painted panels. The coach weighs four tonnes and requires eight horses to pull it. It was built for George III, who reigned from 1760 to 1820. When he first became king, he wanted something special to travel to Westminster Abbey in for his Coronation, and for his wedding to Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. It is huge: 3.6 metres high and over 7 metres long. It is decorated with cherubs, crowns, palm trees,

«The centrepiece of the Royal Mews exhibition is the stunning gold state coach, which has been used for every coronation since George IV's in 1821.»





lions' heads, faces, tritons and dolphins. In the end, the coach was not ready in time for the Coronation of George III; the first time he used it was when he travelled to Westminster to open Parliament on 25 November 1762.

### Other coaches

The Irish state coach is the one most often seen by the public, as it is used by the Queen at the State Opening of Parliament. It was originally built in 1851 and given as a gift by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who was also a coach builder. The exterior is blue and black with gilt decoration, and the interior is covered in blue damask. It is driven from the box seat using four horses.

Other coaches used include the Scottish state coach (built in 1830 and used for Scottish

and English processions), Queen Alexandra's state coach (used to convey the Imperial state crown to Parliament for the state opening), the 1902 state landau, the Australian state coach (presented to the Queen in 1988 by the Australian people to mark Australia's bicentenary), the glass coach (built in 1881 and traditionally used by royal brides) and the state and semi-state landaus used in state processions. In addition there are two barouches, broughams (which every day carry messengers on their official rounds in London), Queen Victoria's ivory-mounted phaeton (used by the Queen since 1987 for her birthday parade) as well as a number of other carriages.

The Irish State Coach took Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to Westminster Abbey for her Coronation Service, 1953.

### Above:

The Irish State Coach takes Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to Westminster Abbey for her Coronation Service, 1953.

“Journeys on the royal train are always arranged so as not to interfere with scheduled train services.”

### The royal train

The royal train comes with chefs, lace-trimmed pillows, and an unbreakable rule that no bumpy track should be encountered during the Queen's 7:30am bath. But it has modern communications facilities as well, and acts as an essential mobile office when the Queen is on her 'away days' in specific regions across the country. Journeys on the royal train are always arranged so as not to interfere with scheduled train services. Only the Queen, Prince Philip and the Prince of Wales use the royal train. It enables them to travel overnight and at times when the weather is too bad to fly, and to work and hold meetings during lengthy journeys.

The first royal train journey took place on 13 June 1842, when the engine *Phlegethon*, pulling the royal saloon and six other carriages, transported Queen Victoria from Slough to Paddington. The journey took 25 minutes. The modern royal train consists of carriages drawn from a total of eight purpose-built saloons, pulled by one of the two royal diesel locomotives: 67005 *Queen's Messenger* and 67006 *Royal Sovereign*. Both locomotives were named in ceremonies performed by the Queen, and are used for general duties when not pulling the royal train.

The carriages are a distinctive maroon with red and black coach lining and a grey roof, and include the royal compartments, sleeping, dining and support cars. The Queen's saloon has a bedroom, bathroom and a sitting room with an entrance that

opens onto the platform. The Duke of Edinburgh's saloon has a similar layout plus a kitchen. Scottish landscapes by Roy Penny and Victorian prints of earlier rail journeys hang in both saloons. A link with the earliest days of railways is displayed in the Duke of Edinburgh's saloon: a piece of Brunel's original broad gauge rail, presented on the 150th anniversary of the Great Western Railway. Brunel had accompanied Queen Victoria on her inaugural 1842 journey.

The Queen's and Duke's saloons came into service in 1977, when they were extensively used during the Silver Jubilee royal tours. They had began life in 1972 as prototypes for the standard Inter-City Mark III passenger carriage and were later fitted out for their royal role at the Wolverton depot, where work on the royal train is normally done. Network Rail manages the royal train and owns the rolling stock. Day-to-day operations are conducted by another privatised company, DB Schenker.

### Flying high

The Royal Family have used planes to get them to royal visits since the 1930s. King Edward VIII – who later abdicated and became the Duke of Windsor – was the first British monarch to fly in 1936. On 21 July 1936 the King's Flight was formed and based at Hendon in North London. In May 1937 an Airspeed Envoy III, G-AEXX, was purchased – the first aircraft specifically bought for the King's Flight. The King's Flight was disbanded during World War 2, with royals using military aircraft instead. In 1946 it was reformed in greater strength at RAF Benson and consisted of four Vickers Vikings.

Many members of the Royal Family since then have learnt to fly, including the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, a Royal Navy helicopter pilot. Prince William and Prince Harry are also qualified plane and helicopter pilots.





The Royal Travel Office based at Buckingham Palace co-ordinates use of the different types of aircraft by members of the Royal Family, ensuring that their use is both appropriate and cost-effective. Official flying for members of the Royal Family is provided by BAe 146 and HS 125 jet aircraft of 32 (The Royal) Squadron, based at RAF Northolt, north-west of London, which was formed from the former 32 Squadron after a merger with the Queen's Flight in 1995. They have also used a Sikorsky S-76 C+ helicopter operated by the Royal Household from Blackbushe Aerodrome in Hampshire.

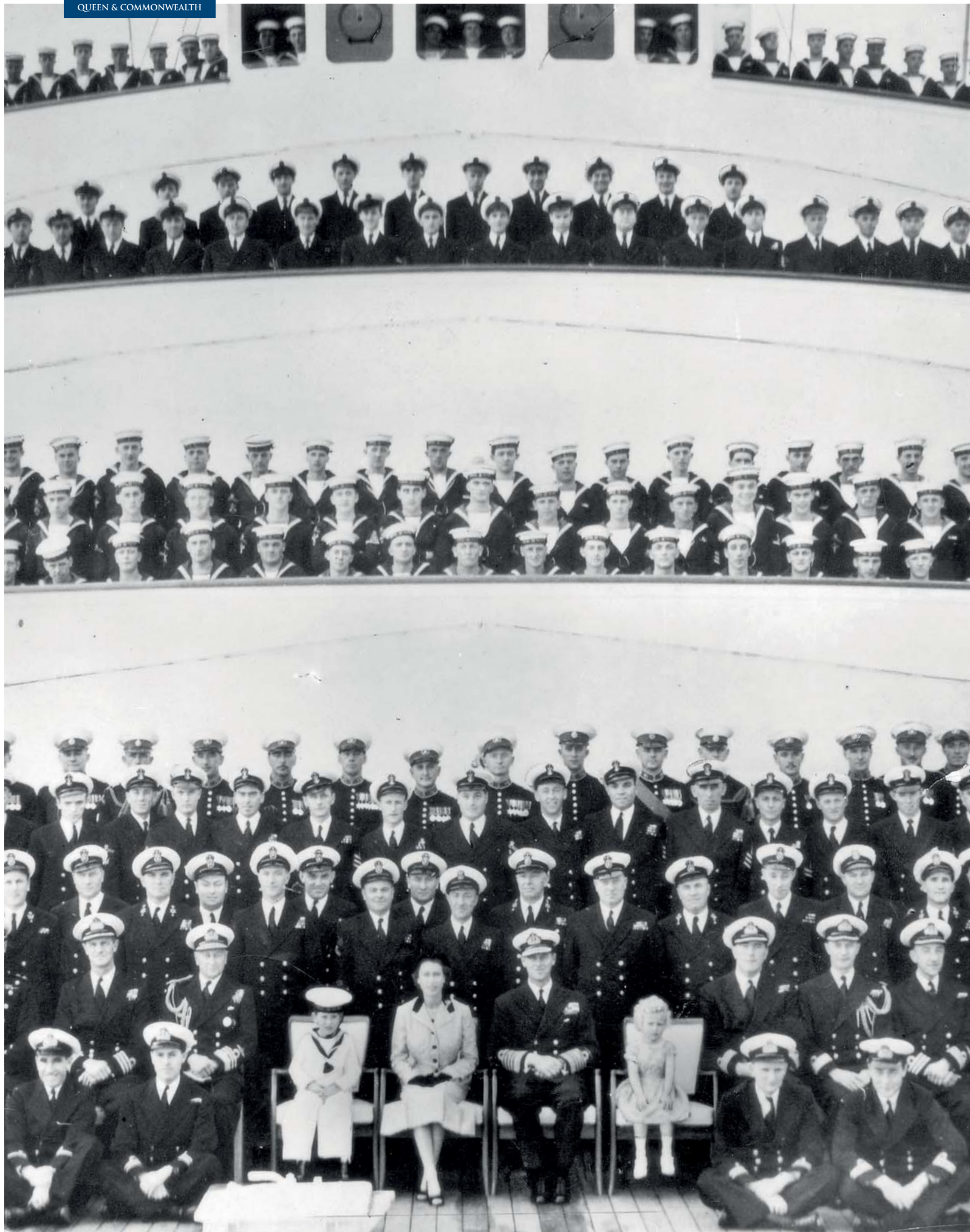
In 2014 the Queen leased an £8 million helicopter for members of the Royal Family, including William and Kate, to use on official engagements. The luxury Agusta A109S Grand comes complete with leather

seat covering and customised interior, and is used by royals on official visits. The move came after Prince Charles and Camilla were the subject of a safety scare in 2013 when their chartered helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing on its way to the Hay-on-Wye festival in Wales. The new helicopter, made by Anglo-Italian company AgustaWestland – a first for the Queen, whose earlier helicopters have all been American Sikorskys – is based alongside the Queen's other private helicopter at RAF Odiham in Hampshire.

The primary role of 32 (The Royal) Squadron is to provide support in operational theatres for the Ministry of Defence. Any spare capacity on the aircraft is offered to the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and senior ministers.

**Above:**  
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Canberra, Australia, 2011.





**Above:** The Commonwealth Tour homecoming aboard HMV Britannia, 19 May 1954.



## The national flagship

For 44 years the royal yacht *Britannia* was the monarch's floating home during many UK and overseas tours. Redolent of a bygone age, the ship was full of royal memories, not to mention Prince Philip's collection of driftwood, curious family memorabilia and an original set of G Plan furniture. She was very special to all the royals.

The ambience aboard, say those who sailed in her, was a cross between that of a works outing and of a small country house on the high seas. At the end of each day aboard, the Queen liked to kick off her shoes and have a gossip post-mortem with her staff about the day's events. There might even be a little light teasing. Naval engineers had even designed the royal observation decks so that gusts of wind were vented downwards. That way, there could be no Marilyn Monroe moments with the royal skirts.

The primary purpose of a royal yacht was not an economic one. The main argument was political and emotional. This was the national flagship of a maritime nation, recognised around the world. Built by the Clyde shipbuilders John Brown & Co at a cost of £2,098,000 to replace her 50-year-old predecessor, *Victoria and Albert III*, HMY *Britannia* was named and launched by the Queen on 16 April 1953 and was commissioned on 11 January 1954. The name was the Queen's personal choice. In her first royal voyage the Queen joined the yacht at Tobruk and sailed up the Thames to the Pool of London in 1954.

The royal yacht was a highly successful venue for official entertaining and receptions, as well as a residence for royal tours. It provided state apartments catering for up to 250 guests, and included office space and accommodation for members of the Royal Family and staff accompanying them. *Britannia's* state apartments contained furniture and recycled fittings from the *Victoria and Albert*, including a small gimbal



table designed by Prince Albert. The wheel in the wheelhouse came from George V's racing yacht *Britannia*, while the binnacle on the veranda deck was first used in the *Royal George* (built in 1817) and since fitted in each successive royal yacht.

Royal yachtsmen were distinguished by their uniform, which was finished off at the back with a black silk bow, originally worn in mourning for Prince Albert. By tradition, no shouted orders were given. Instead, hand signals were used, with written daily orders (updated by 'hot notices' if required) taking the place of a broadcast system.

*Britannia* was decommissioned in 1997 and is now a floating museum in Leith, Scotland. During the decommissioning ceremony the Queen wept openly – the first time she had shown such emotion in public. Others in the 15-strong royal party were similarly affected at a ceremony in Portsmouth to mark the end of the yacht's service. Princess Anne took out a white handkerchief to wipe away her tears. The Duke of Edinburgh also dabbed his eyes, and Prince Charles was visibly upset. To them HMY *Britannia* was much more than a ship, a simple means of transport – she was their home, a yacht full of private memories.

### Above:

An emotional Queen Elizabeth II is accompanied by Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Prince Andrew at the decommissioning ceremony of Royal Yacht *Britannia*, Portsmouth, Britain, 1997.

# WE CONGRATULATE HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II ON THE MILESTONE OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY AND CELEBRATE HER ACHIEVEMENTS AS THE LONGSTANDING HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

**STARZS INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED** is a foremost Nigerian maritime company, which is wholly indigenous, and which renders quality services to various international companies operating within the Nigerian oil and gas industry. We recently became a strategic partner of the **Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council**, with our Chairman and CEO appointed as a member of the CWEIC advisory board.

As ship owners and managers, and as providers of offshore marine services and private maritime security, STARZS owns and operates a fleet of offshore supply vessels - terminal and anchor handling tugs - and patrol boats, which carry out their operations safely under our guarantee of 'Zero Down Time or Lost Time Through Injury'. It is the company policy to ensure that this safety conscious culture remains an integral part of our daily activities and it is observed with a high degree of diligence and dedication. STARZS working conditions are in compliance with all international health and safety standards for everyone connected with our vessels, and we also make certain that our operational activities do not adversely affect the safety and wellbeing of others.

At this time of commemorating Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, we reflect on our origins within the British maritime

industry where **Engr. Greg Ogbeifun**, our Chairman/CEO and Brand Champion, started his seafaring career within the Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited Nigeria and subsequently served aboard Shell Tankers UK in 1972.

In 2015 Engr. Ogbeifun, by now a leading ship-owner and President of the Shipowners Association of Nigeria (SOAN), headed the Nigerian delegation at the inaugural Commonwealth Maritime Initiative of the Commonwealth Business Forum, held alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta. Here he met and exchanged pleasantries with HRH the Prince of Wales, who had addressed delegates at the concluding session.

Subsequent to the positive results achieved at the Forum, SOAN was elected to be one of the three-member working group - together with Transport Malta and UK Maritime - who were tasked with exploring the opportunities for collaboration amongst the Commonwealth member nations.

## THE STARZS FLEET

The company's flagship is MV Osayame, which was commissioned in 2010 to deliver a five year contract with TOTAL Exploration & Production Nigeria. The contract was successfully completed in 2015, with a perfect record of zero 'down time' and 'lost time through injury', thus delivering on our guarantee, having operated with a fully Nigerian crew.

Over time, the STARZS fleet has grown in size with the acquisition of the MV Osarugue, a 90 tonne anchor handling, towing and support vessel, the MV Osamede, a security patrol vessel, and we are currently completing the construction of the MV Osanyamo, a new build Damen 90 tug which is due for delivery by the end of the year.

The MV Osanyamo is the first of

Damen's Azimuth Stern Drive Tug 5114 class and is designed to carry out another five-year contract with TOTAL by assisting export tankers alongside offshore 'Floating Production, Storage and Offloading' units in the Gulf of Guinea.

The MV Osayame, MV Osamede and MV Osanyamo were built by the Damen shipyards in South Africa, Singapore and China respectively, as Nigeria is yet to attain the necessary infrastructure capability to construct such bespoke vessels.

## THE STARZS SHIPYARD

As a result of this gap in the shipbuilding infrastructure, Engr. Ogbeifun founded the STARZS Shipyard in 1992 as the only privately-owned and indigenous repair yard in Nigeria. Operations started in 2000 under the control of STARZS Marine and Engineering Limited Liability Company. In order to further develop shipbuilding capacity in Nigeria, and generate employment opportunities as a result, Engr. Ogbeifun continues to head a team of highly-skilled professionals, who are working concertedly to increase the existing capacity of the shipyard by incorporating new shipbuilding and shipbreaking facilities.

The STARZS Shipyard has already made a significant contribution to the maritime industry through the provision of dry dock and floating repair services to the domestic fleets, which operate predominantly in and around the Niger Delta region. Although repairing ships remains the core activity, STARZS is also able to undertake other maritime engineering projects. Since 2000, STARZS Marine and Engineering has completed over 700 dry dock repair operations.

The STARZS shipyard has gained a considerable reputation for delivering high quality services around the clock and, under the expansion programme, the existing lifting capacity will significantly increase from 500 to 8,000 tonnes.



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

STARZS is engaged in a number of local content initiatives, which includes a strategic development, as we know that building capacity within our employees directly affects the growth of the organisation. Looking to the future, STARZS is also committed to sponsoring industrial training opportunities for cadets from the Maritime Academy of Nigeria in Oron, and within other Nigerian universities, where over one hundred cadets and students have already been trained across the various maritime disciplines.

STARZS also provides scholarships and employment opportunities to high-performing students and cadets and currently have crew officers on board our vessels that were developed from cadetship through to officer level. We remain committed to tracking their career progression to ensure they reach the peak of their respective careers.

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

At STARZS, we remain committed to the empowerment of the local communities in which we operate. We consistently recognise our wider responsibilities to the environment where we live and work and seek to identify areas of for intervention where our voluntary efforts can make a real difference.

Our hosts receive targeted support towards their key needs. STARZS will employ from the local population wherever possible, source for goods and services the same, sponsor community sports and festivals annually, we pay homage to community leaders and support the widows, orphans and less able within our local communities.

STARZS 'Catch-Them-Young' initiative sees students from the surrounding elementary and high schools given the chance to tour our facilities. This allows for the students to interact in illuminating sessions with our staff, who are able to provide guidance and counselling in their prospective career paths within the marine, finance, human resources, legal and ICT disciplines, amongst others.

As Nigeria prepares to diversify its economy beyond oil and looks towards the shipping sector as a main driver, STARZS is focused on building a globally renowned frontline organisation which thrives on value creation for the stakeholders of the maritime industry.



## OUR MISSION IS TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NIGERIAN MARITIME INDUSTRY AND TO THE GROWTH OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY.

**CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
15c Omerelu Street, GRA Phase 1  
P.O. Box 12317, Port Harcourt  
Rivers State, NIGERIA

**LAGOS LIAISON OFFICE**  
54 Ogudu Road  
Stanbic-IBTC Building  
Ojota, Lagos State, NIGERIA

www.starzs-group.com  
info@starzs-group.com  
+234 (0)8 446 1258  
+234 (0)803 477 0824  
+234 (0)803 785 1692



HRH Prince Charles and Engr. Greg Ogbefun speaking at the Commonwealth Business Forum.



## MESSAGE FROM CARL WRIGHT

Secretary-General, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

*Carl Wright has been the head of CLGF since it was founded in 1994/5 and has been responsible for initiating key programmes such as the CLGF Good Practice Scheme and establishing the organisation as one of the key Commonwealth organisations.*

CLGF, which represents local government in the Commonwealth, would like to congratulate warmly Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The Queen has not only served the people of the United Kingdom through difficult times as well as times of celebration, but has also been head of the modern Commonwealth since she came to the throne in 1953, upholding its values of democracy and human rights and uniting its people while respecting diversity and culture.

We value the Queen and her family's strong commitment to the Commonwealth and its principles of democracy and human rights. The Commonwealth is composed of 53 highly diverse countries, both large and small, highly developed and least developed, island states and landlocked states. What unites all of them, are the core values and common traditions and the belief in democratic governance and fundamental political freedoms as set out in the Commonwealth Charter, which includes the Aberdeen Agenda: Commonwealth principles on good practice for local democracy and good governance, developed by CLGF in 2005 and subsequently incorporated into the new Commonwealth Charter which was signed by HM the Queen in 2013.

### **CLGF – a partner in the Commonwealth**

As an Associated Organisation of the Commonwealth, CLGF works closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat and other Commonwealth organisations to uphold the principles in the Commonwealth Charter and work towards supporting member governments and local governments to deliver them locally. CLGF influences Commonwealth policy development and leads on local democracy and good governance, including supporting members where local democracy is under threat. It has worked with the Secretariat in monitoring many local elections and in regional and country-specific projects including local government in nation building and reconciliation such as the current work on strengthening local government and democracy in Sri Lanka.

CLGF's access to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM), which is traditionally opened and addressed by Her Majesty as Head of the Commonwealth, and its recognition that allows it to participate in key ministerial meetings ensures that its policies are endorsed in every country at the highest level to support and empower local government.





«CLGF influences Commonwealth policy development and leads on local democracy and good governance, including supporting members where local democracy is under threat.»



**Above:**

Carl Wright with Her Majesty the Queen in 2015.

There are many global issues where we can help each other working together as a Commonwealth, where organisations such as CLGF can bring their own network, knowledge, expertise and passion – including helping to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, tackling poverty, climate change, peace building and other issues such as refugees and asylum seekers, and the development of the New Urban Agenda in the lead up to Habitat III. As a high proportion of Commonwealth countries are small island states, they are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events and low lying coastal areas which may in future be underwater will create environmental refugees.

As the sphere of government nearest to and most in touch with people, local governments are at the heart of successfully responding to these challenges working with other spheres of government and other agencies. CLGF has successfully made local government's voice be heard internationally and Commonwealth-wide to emphasise its key role in promoting democracy and delivering sustainable development.

### **CLGF working with its members**

CLGF was established in 1995 to promote, develop, support and improve democratic local government throughout the Commonwealth. It is a membership organisation bringing together cities, councils, local government associations, national and sub-national ministries responsible for local government and, as associates, academic and policy institutes and professional organisations working with local government in the 53 countries of the Commonwealth.



**Above:**

Strengthening local governance and democracy for national development, Sri Lanka project.

CLGF is highly regarded as the voice for local government in the Commonwealth; it has a strong track record in the strength of its networks and its knowledge-sharing and information platforms and events. The new Sustainable Development Goals are helping to frame the global, national and local efforts to reduce poverty and create sustainable and peaceful societies. Through working in partnership with other international organisations, CLGF has played an instrumental role in ensuring the localisation of the 2030 Agenda and the recognition of local governments as one of the key implementers to achieve the SDG targets. CLGF continues to contribute to other UN and international policy development through organisations such as the UNDP, the European Commission and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments.

CLGF's programmes on the ground are geared to supporting our local and central government members implement practical policies to promote democracy and development and tackle poverty. This entails supporting the development of national and local policies and practices to promote decentralisation, strengthening local government associations so that they can better support their members, and local strategies to encourage development and tackle poverty through local economic development. CLGF provides technical assistance and advice such as on local government legislation and practice, it provides training for councillors and officers and the production of training materials. CLGF is also working to address climate change, disaster risk management and work around the New Urban Agenda to support cities for sustainable development. The CLGF Sustainable Cities Network which is taking some of this work forward is looking to work closely with HRH the Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit which shares many common ideas and objectives on city planning, inclusiveness and sustainability, as well as other foundations and other Commonwealth organisations.

CLGF carries out research and assessments to identify where support is needed and shares good practice through dissemination of its own work and good practice by its members. Knowledge and information is shared through a variety of publications, the CLGF website – including a soon-to-be-launched knowledge hub, social media, member networks, and country, regional and Commonwealth-wide events. The biennial Commonwealth Local Government Conference provides a unique opportunity for international sharing of ideas and learning in local government. The next conference will be in 2017, hosted by Malta whose Prime Minister is currently Chairperson-in-Office of the Commonwealth.

CLGF will continue to work together across the Commonwealth to share experiences and learn from each other at all levels and with all spheres of government and to try to address some of the longer-term development challenges to promote a better quality of life for all the 2.3 billion people who live in the Commonwealth.

**Website:** [clgf.org.uk](http://clgf.org.uk)





**Above:** Queen Elizabeth II leaving the Indian Embassy in London, 1961.





**ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF OGUN STATE, I TAKE  
GREAT PLEASURE IN CONGRATULATING QUEEN  
ELIZABETH II ON THE TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT OF  
HER MAJESTY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY AS WE, AS A PEOPLE,  
REFLECT OURSELVES ON REACHING THE LANDMARK OF  
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DEAR STATE.**

HE Senator Ibikunle Amosun, CON, FCA  
*Governor of Ogun State*





## THE GATEWAY STATE

EXACTLY 40 YEARS AGO, OUR DEAR STATE WAS CREATED

**OGUN STATE** is particularly unique among the comity of states in Nigeria. Its people are favoured by history. The geography ensures that a lot of rich minerals are underneath the soil and gives it vantage location. The culture is so rich that the people have so much to display. The cuisine is varied and salivating. It is a state whose people had the earliest exposure to western education because of the early contact with the Europeans.

As a result, the people boast of many firsts in many areas of human endeavours. It is a state with many big cities, whose existence and civilisation date back to at least one and a half centuries. These cities have respected royalties with beautiful palaces, filled with ancient artefacts. They have festivals, colourful masquerades, shrines, monuments, markets and other tourist attractions.

Here is a state named after the Ogun River, which runs across it from north to south.

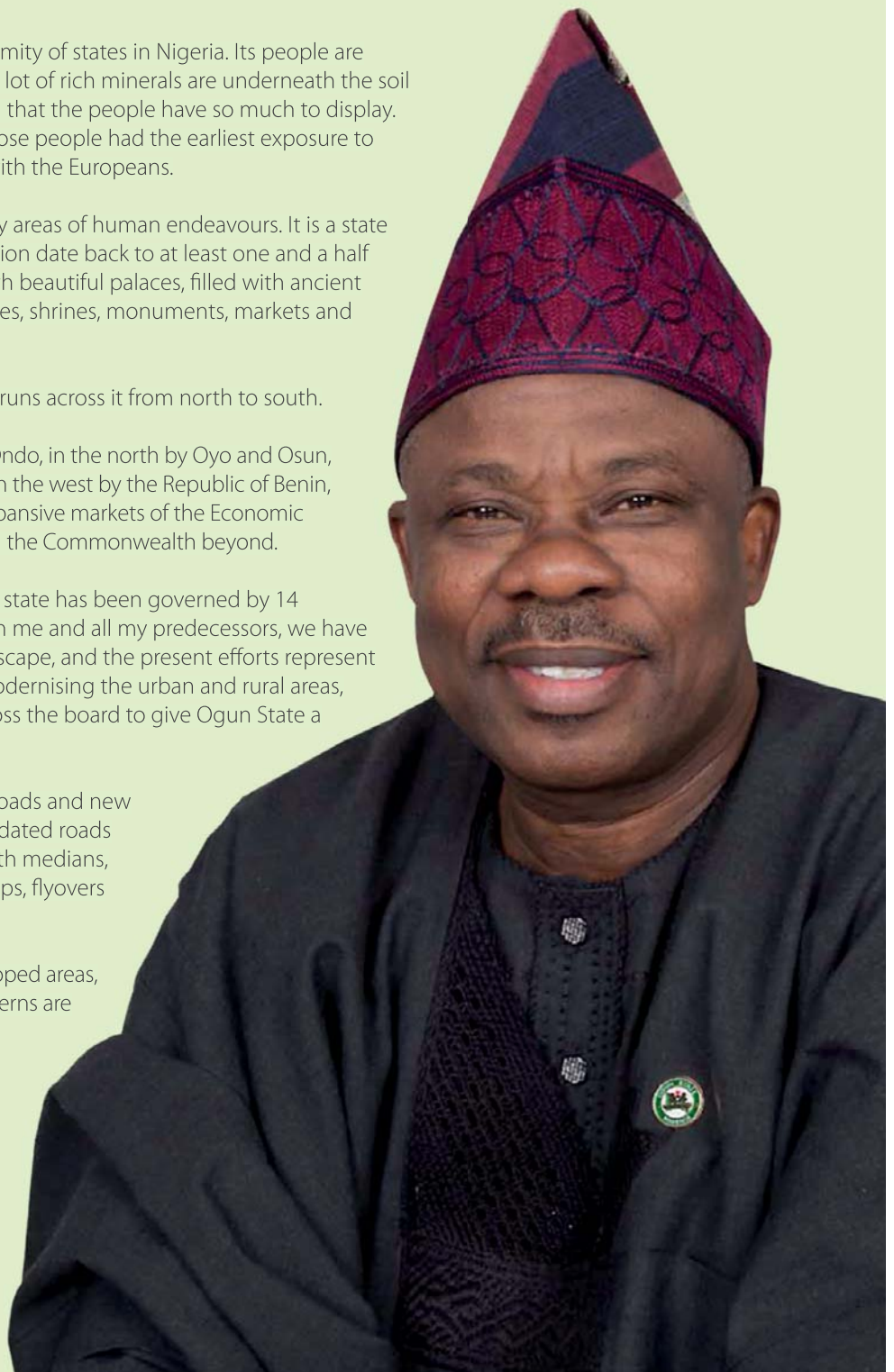
It is strategically located - bordered to the east by Ondo, in the north by Oyo and Osun, in the south by Lagos and the Atlantic Ocean and in the west by the Republic of Benin, which makes Ogun State an access route to the expansive markets of the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, and the Commonwealth beyond.

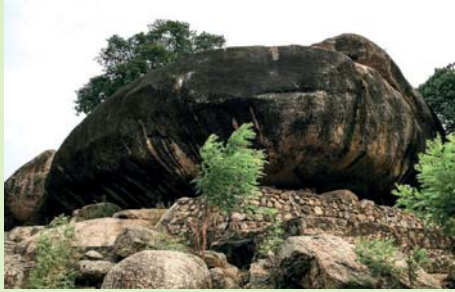
More than all these factors, in the last 39 years the state has been governed by 14 different administrators, including myself. Between me and all my predecessors, we have tried our best to make improvements on the landscape, and the present efforts represent the boldest and most revolutionary attempt at modernising the urban and rural areas, while also totally rebuilding the infrastructure across the board to give Ogun State a really modern outlook.

Thus, many old structures are giving way to new roads and new edifices or estates. The narrow, winding and dilapidated roads are being replaced by six to ten lane highways, with medians, walkways, drains, green areas, street lights, bus stops, flyovers and pedestrian bridges.

Housing estates are appearing in hitherto undeveloped areas, while new multi-million dollar manufacturing concerns are appearing in previously uncharted land spaces.

There is still more to come. The proposed light rail and airport developments to ease the transportation of goods and personnel, recreational parks aimed at making the Ogun State a good place to live, to work and for leisure, as well as the ambitious health facilities that will create a medical tourism hub here in Ogun State.





## CULTURE and TOURISM

With our eco-tourism, our sports tourism, coupled with our historical tourism, Ogun State is a leading destination in Nigeria. Our beautiful culture speaks in volumes for lovers of culture.

The Bilikisu Sungbo tourist site holds a significant history of relevance, as the biblical Queen of Sheba is believed to be buried within the State. Yemoji provides tourists with a natural pool, while Olumo Rock preserves the history of some of our indigenes. The J4 forest reserve provides the natural habitat for elephants, as well as a scintillating environment where man can commune with nature. Erinfun Stream, where hot and cold water flow gracefully beside each other, creates a beauty to behold with natural aesthetics providing a cool serene atmosphere.

Our Adire fabrics, with their stunning designs, and our unique pottery celebrate and define our people's distinctive trade and craft. The first time that the women of Ogun State made their renowned fabric was in 1935 to mark the Queen's birthday, and the design was named 'Jubilee' in her honour. Adire remains one of the main handicraft industries in the state today.

The exclusivity of our attire, music and dances thrills the mind. Ojude Oba is a beautiful combination of horse riding and costume parades among the Ijebu people. The Lisabi and Oronna Festivals celebrate the heroes of the Egba and Yewa people respectively, with different cultural displays. Indisputably, Eyo Festival has its origins from Iperu Remo in our dear state. Other prominent festivals are the Igunnuko, Egungun, Agemo, Gelede, Oro, Ifa, Sango and Obatala, amongst a host of others.

Globally, the indigenes Ogun State have played outstanding roles in the areas of medicine, literature, politics, music, administration, commerce and other human endeavours of life. The cuisine peculiar to our people leaves a savouring taste as ikokore defines the Ijebu people, ebiripo signifies Remo, ofada rice and lafun, with its sweet taste, reminds one of the Egba and eko is the delicacy of the Yewa people.

Our appetisers and local snacks including kokoro, robo, ipekere, aadun and akara egusi stand out with their relishing tastes.

Our tourism and culture thrives and awaits the discerning tourists who wish to experience and enjoy the warm hospitality of our people.

Mrs Yewande Amusan  
*Commissioner for Culture & Tourism 2011 – 2015*

## VISIT OGUN STATE

# WHERE UNLIMITED TREASURES AWAIT YOU



# THE MISSION TO REBUILD



## QUALITATIVE EDUCATION

We have continued to accord our educational system the utmost priority. This is not just because it is the first item on our Five Cardinal Programme, but because we appreciate the importance of education to our development agenda. Our intention is that no Ogun State child should be denied access to qualitative education for whatever reason, and this stand is non-negotiable. We believe our children must be adequately prepared for their future roles as leaders in the society.



## HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

Our avowed determination to improve health care delivery services in the state has continued to result in significant strides. Undoubtedly, it is our belief that the core of any health system is the workers. We have continued significant recruitment of health personnel to man our facilities and have complemented this with training and re-training of our health workers in order to create a renewed, vigorous healthcare workforce. The workforce is being provided with necessary facilities to enhance their level of efficiency in service delivery to our people.



## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The agricultural sector is no doubt crucial to the economic development of the state. Apart from the fact that we have comparative advantage in this area, the sector offers enormous economic opportunities in terms of job creation for our youth, enhancement of our citizens' economic power and quality of life, as well as provision of raw materials for the agro-allied industries, with its attendant value addition opportunities.



## RURAL and INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Another area where we have stamped our Ogun Standard badge is in rural and infrastructural development. The last four years, we have consistently invested heavily in infrastructure, particularly road construction and rehabilitation as attested to by the numerous road projects across the state. We have seen the first state-constructed fly-over at Ibara, Abeokuta, and the six lane Ibara-Sokori-Totoro road, both of which have been hallmarks.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING and URBAN RENEWAL

The Ministry of Housing, the Ogun State Property Investment Corporation and the Housing Corporation have been restructured and are now providing housing for people in different economic strata. We have the AAK Degun Mission I Estate at Laderin for public servants, the Orange Valley Estate and the Plainfields Estate as flagship housing developments. The estates have announced our state as an attractive location in which to live, work and recreate.



[www.ogunstate.gov.ng](http://www.ogunstate.gov.ng)

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In June 2016 we officially celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. This sumptuously illustrated publication, edited by Robert Jobson, pays tribute to her extraordinary life and in particular her unique position of unity and strength at the heart of the Commonwealth.

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“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.”

Princess Elizabeth on her 21st birthday, 21 April 1947.