

The extraordinary life of QUEEN ELIZABETH II



1926

Princess Elizabeth is born in London.



1945

Towards the end of World War II, 18-year-old Elizabeth joins the Auxiliary Territorial Service and trains as a driver and a mechanic.



1947

Princess Elizabeth marries Prince Philip, an officer in the Royal Navy.



1948

The princess gives birth to her first child, a boy named Charles who will grow up to be King.



1966

Her Majesty is at Wembley to see England beat West Germany (as it was called before the Berlin Wall came down) 4-2 in the World Cup final, presenting the trophy to victorious captain Bobby Moore.



1957

Her Majesty gives the first televised Christmas broadcast to the nation. 'The Queen's Speech' goes on to become a permanent and powerful tradition of the festive season.



1953

The new Queen is crowned at Westminster Abbey – the first coronation to be televised. Sales of TVs soar as many families buy one for the first time to watch the ceremony. The eventual worldwide audience is around 277 million.



1977

Britain and the Commonwealth celebrate the Queen's silver jubilee (marking 25 years on the throne). A chain of beacons is lit around the country, and thousands of street parties are held.

2015

Having ruled for 63 years, Queen Elizabeth becomes the longest-reigning monarch in British history – overtaking her great great grandmother, Queen Victoria.



2022

The nation celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with more events and street parties. Sadly, however, Her Majesty's health declines and she passes away months later, aged 96. After 70 years of rule, Queen Elizabeth II leaves a legacy of lasting affection and respect from people not only in the UK, but around the whole world.

Did you know?... Rest well, Your Majesty – and thank you.

The Queen received her first Corgi, Susan, as an 18th birthday present. She loved that breed of dog throughout her life, going on to own another 30 of them.



In 1982, a mentally ill man broke into the palace and reached the Queen's bedroom! Reports suggest Her Majesty calmly kept him talking for 10 minutes until the security team arrived.



As Britain was still recovering from the effects of the war, the young Princess Elizabeth had to save ration coupons to buy the material for her wedding dress!

The Queen took the unusual step of inviting a TV documentary crew into Buckingham Palace in 1969. This let people see the Royal Family in a way they'd never been able to before.



It was Queen Elizabeth who, in 1993, decided to open up Buckingham Palace to visitors from the public for the first time.

To help launch the 2012 Olympics in London, Her Majesty featured in a short film where she meets super-spy James Bond, as played by Daniel Craig.



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