

# *The Willows Whisper*

*SPECIAL JUBILEE EDITION*



**On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.**

**To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the country, in a four-day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.**

**The four days of celebrations at The Willows will include live entertainments starting Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> On Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> our residents will enjoy Tea Party.**

# Queen Elizabeth II Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch



## **Elizabeth became queen at just 25 years old**

Princess Elizabeth never expected to become queen. Even when she became first in line to the throne, she didn't think she'd have to assume the role of monarch for a long time. But after her father died early, young Queen Elizabeth took the throne at just 25 years old, dedicating her entire life, "whether it be long or short," in service to the country. As it turns out, it was the latter, and the now 95-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, set to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee in 2022 marking the 70th anniversary of her reign.

## **Queen Elizabeth's coronation was modern—and traditional**

First Elizabeth's wedding, then her coronation became highlights for post-war Britain. She ascended the throne at the exact moment her father died; but in order to allow a period of mourning, the official coronation is traditionally months after the previous monarch has died. Elizabeth's was held on June 2, 1953. Queen Elizabeth wore both the famed St. Edward's Crown and the Imperial State Crown, British crown jewels that are worth millions





## **She never went to school**

Princess Elizabeth never attended a public or private school, and she doesn't have a college degree—in fact, one of the facts you didn't know about the British royal family is that Elizabeth's grandson, Prince William, was the first royal not to start their education at the palace. But Elizabeth still got an education from her tutors at home. Queen Elizabeth was homeschooled as was normal for a princess at that time. She also had the Archbishop of Canterbury as a religion teacher, and became fluent in French, which she learned from her French and Belgian governesses. This skill later helped her as monarch in communicating with other world leaders. She also studied art and music and became a champion swimmer.



## **She was a Girl Guide and a Sea Ranger**

The outdoorsy Princess Elizabeth started her survival-skills training as a Girl Guide, the U.K.'s version of the Girl Scouts. Her mother was an early supporter of the organization and enrolled Princess Elizabeth when she was 11, along with her sister, Princess Margaret. Elizabeth joined the Girl Guides to meet other girls her age though a special division that was set up called the 1st Buckingham Palace Company. She also joined the Sea Rangers, a group that teaches girls sailing and other water-based activities.

## **She served in World War II—and snuck out of the palace on VE Day**

For Elizabeth, her work in the Girl Guides and Sea Rangers prepared her for such military service. Famously, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Services during World War II doing her bit to raise morale during the Blitz. She signed up when she turned 18 in 1944 and worked as a mechanic and truck driver. Her service makes

her the only current living head of state to have served in World War II, and the only female member of the royal family to have entered the military.

Amazingly, Elizabeth's ATS uniform allowed the princess to go incognito on the streets of London with her sister, Margaret, on Victory in Europe (VE) Day, May 8, 1945. She recorded her memories of the night for the BBC in 1985: "I remember we were terrified of being recognized, so I pulled my uniform cap well down over my eyes," Elizabeth said. "We cheered the king and queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace and then walked miles through the street. I remember lines of unknown people linking arms and walking down Whitehall, all of us just swept along on a tide of happiness and relief...I think it was one of the most memorable nights of my life."

### **She was only a tween when she fell in love**



The pair was permitted to become engaged in July 1947.

### **She paid for her wedding dress with coupons**

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip tied the knot in 1947 when the United Kingdom was recovering from World War II and still had rationing measures in place—not even the future queen was exempt. Elizabeth dressed in a gown that had to be purchased with war-time rationing coupons. A reflection of her popularity was that young women from all over Britain sent her their own coupons, to make sure she had enough for a very beautiful dress.

## **Her 1947 wedding was a landmark moment in British history**

After six years of war, England was ready for a happy event, which the royal wedding provided. In many ways, Elizabeth's wedding was just a grander version of the weddings of many young women who waited until after the war to wed the servicemen they had loved. The couple married in November 1947 at Westminster Abbey before 2,500 guests, and the ceremony was broadcast over the radio. They had a reception at Buckingham Palace and enjoyed a nine-foot high wedding cake; they also waved to the audience afterwards from the famous balcony, beginning that matrimonial tradition.



## **She had four children**

Elizabeth had two children in quick succession following her wedding. Prince Charles born a year after their marriage in 1948 and Princess Anne two years later. Elizabeth's two younger children, Princes Andrew and Edward, were born later in 1960 and 1964.

## **The Windsors had a strong family bond**

Just as Elizabeth's childhood was filled with a strong sense of family, so was her children's, even if they weren't always together. Family photographs and films demonstrate that when the royal family was together, they enjoyed family holidays at Balmoral and Sandringham, and the Queen and Prince Philip spent quality time with their children.







## **Her Christmas broadcast is an annual tradition**

Over the years, watching Queen Elizabeth’s annual Christmas television broadcast has become a tradition for British families on Christmas Day, and doing the broadcast has helped the queen maintain a sense of closeness to her people. The Christmas broadcast is one of the few times when the Queen directly addresses the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, and the public is interested in her reflections on the year.

The Queen herself enjoys Christmas with her family at Sandringham House, her estate in Norfolk, and follows many royal family holiday traditions. She sends out around 750 Christmas cards to family, friends, and some government officials; she also gives about 1,500 Christmas “puddings,” a cake-like dessert, to palace staff.



## **She celebrates her birthday twice a year**

Queen Elizabeth celebrates her actual birthday privately on April 21—and then does it again publicly in June.

As for the June date, the modern custom of an additional summer birthday for the monarch can be traced back to the Queen's great-grandfather, King Edward VII, who was born in November. As the weather in Britain is generally temperamental around this time, the 'Trooping of the Colour' was moved back to the summer to mark the official birthday and accommodate the large crowds who turned up to view it. Today, the queen's official birthday parade is still called Trooping the Colour, and this royal birthday tradition is celebrated on a selected summer day each year.

### **She jokes about her age**

If you still don't believe the buttoned-up monarch has a sense of humor, you haven't seen Queen Elizabeth come up with a quick retort. Case in point: While introducing her at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 2015, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reverently said, "I am deeply mindful of Your Majesty's long and tireless service." After coming to the microphone, the Queen deadpanned, "Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister of Canada, for making me feel so old." Her off-the-cuff remark elicited a huge laugh from the audience,

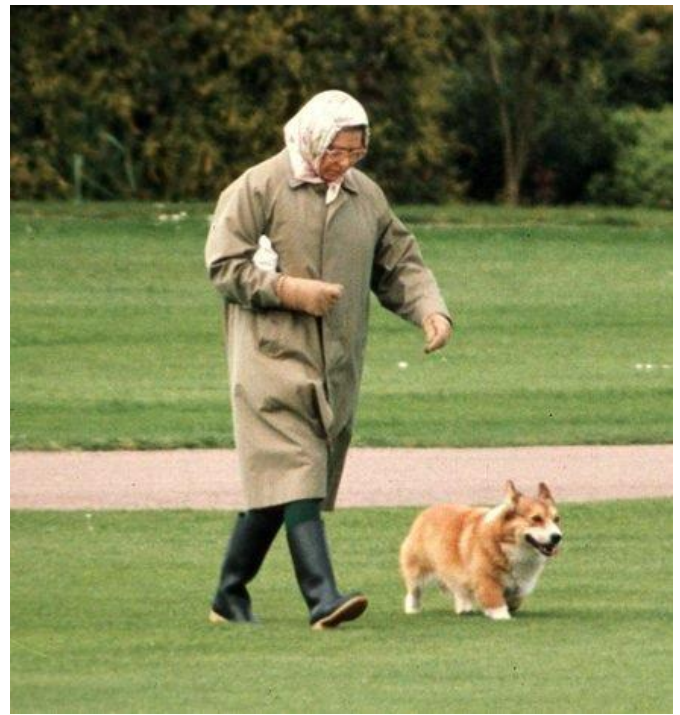


### **She has a few nicknames**

Queen Elizabeth's full name is Elizabeth Alexandra Mary. But back when she was still Princess Elizabeth, she was called Lilibet by close family—she had trouble pronouncing her own name when she was a young girl. The queen's husband, Philip, was known to call her Cabbage.







### **She dresses with a purpose**

Just as the queen's purse has a purpose, so do her outfits—and it's because she always has her people first in mind. From the moment she wakes up, virtually every decision she makes is an act of service, including choosing that day's outfit and umbrella color, both of which must ensure her visibility in crowds. The queen has worn every color of the rainbow, from yellows, oranges, purples, and blues to even florescent-colored frocks the crowds are two, three, four, 10, 15 deep, and someone wants to be able to say they saw a bit of the queen's hat as she went past.

### **She's a dog lover**

We've all seen the classic images: Elizabeth accompanied by her iconic corgis. But do you know the real extent of the love for Queen Elizabeth's corgis? She received her first, Susan, as a birthday present when she turned 18. She's owned at least 30 Pembroke Welsh corgis, all descendants of Susan, the last of which, named Willow, died in 2018.

### **She owns (almost) all the swans in the United Kingdom**

The queen may have received many bizarre animals as gifts, but one creature she owns is part of a royal tradition that dates to 1186. The queen lays claim to all the swans in the United Kingdom—well, the unmarked mute swans, anyway. Every year, a team rows through the River Thames to count the birds and check their health, which is called swan upping.





### **She was the longest-married British monarch**

Helping the queen along the way, of course, was her husband Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, until his death in April 2021 at age 99. Queen Elizabeth was the first British monarch to celebrate her 60th “diamond wedding” anniversary, in 2007; they were married for 73 years in total. The queen described Prince Philip as her ‘strength and. Prince Philip’s sense of humor and outgoing personality complemented the queen’s more reserved temperament.

She’s been queen for nearly 70 years...



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# British Royal Family

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V P R I N C E Q P G T X Y K J G I  
D R A W D E C I N L O J U B Q Q L  
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princess  
albert  
prince  
diana  
elizabeth

edinburgh  
victoria  
william  
meghan

cornwall  
catherine  
george  
harry

cambridge  
duchess  
charles  
philip

edward  
duke  
camilla  
queen