

Timeline: Queen Elizabeth II

Early days

1926

Princess Elizabeth was born in London.

1936

Elizabeth's father became king when his older brother stepped down.

1930s

Princess Elizabeth was taught at home, not at school.

She studied art and music and enjoyed drama and swimming.

1937

She became a Girl Guide when she was 11.

1940

At 14 she sent a radio message to the children of Britain.

The young princess

1942

Her first public engagement. She inspected the soldiers of the Grenadier Guards on her 16th birthday.

1947

Her first official overseas visit. She celebrated her 21st birthday on a tour of South Africa.

Elizabeth got married in Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947. Her husband Prince Philip was the son of Prince Andrew of Greece.

1948

When she was 22 the Queen's first child Prince Charles was born.

1950

Two years later Princess Anne was born.

Elizabeth becomes the Queen

1952

Her father died of cancer and Princess Elizabeth became the Queen.

1953

Her coronation (crowning) took place in Westminster Abbey.

1960

Prince Andrew was born.

1964

Prince Edward was born.

1965

The Beatles got MBE medals from The Queen.

1973

The spectacular Sydney Opera House in Australia is officially opened by The Queen.

1977

The Queen's Silver Jubilee was celebrated.

1981

Prince Charles marries Lady Diana Spencer.

1982

Prince Andrew came back safely from the Falklands war.

1982

Prince William is born.

1984

Prince Harry is born.

1986

The Queen celebrated her 60th birthday.

Difficult times

1992

A fire wrecks part of the Queen's home at Windsor Castle.

1993

The Queen starts to pay income tax to the Government.

1996

Prince Charles got divorced from Princess Diana.

1997

Princess Diana was killed in a car crash. Some people were angry about the Queen's reaction.

1999

The Queen's son Edward, Earl of Wessex, married fiancée Sophie Rhys-Jones, who becomes the Countess of Wessex.

2002

The Queen's younger sister Princess Margaret died following a long illness.

Soon afterwards, the Queen mother died making 2002 a sad year for the Queen.

During that year she also marked her Jubilee - spending 50 years on the throne.

2003

The Earl and Countess of Wessex have a baby girl named Louise.

2005

Prince Charles marries his second wife Camilla Parker-Bowles, who becomes The Duchess of Cornwall. The Queen gives their marriage her blessing.

2006

The Queen celebrates her 80th birthday on 21 April.