

60 FUN FACTS about the QUEEN

In honour of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee on Monday

A letter she wrote to Apollo 11 astronauts remains on the moon. She wrote the letter July 23, 1969, and it was put in a metal container and placed on the moon's surface.

She and Prince Philip created the Royal Walkabout in 1970 to meet a greater number of people. They did their first walkabouts during a trip to Australia and New Zealand.

The Queen created a new breed of dog — the dorgi — a mix of corgis and dachshunds.

Her first corgi was named Susan. The dog was a gift for her 18th birthday.

She used to breed corgis, but stopped in 2009.

She became the first monarch in 450 years to welcome the Pope to Britain in 1982.

She gave her first public speech in Oct. 1940 when she was 14. It was a live broadcast during the war, and she sent a message to all the children of Britain and the Commonwealth telling them, "We know in the end that all will be well."

The Queen carries a comb, a handkerchief, a small gold compact, and a tube of lipstick in her handbag. *Majesty* magazine has reported. On Sundays, she carries cash for the collection plate at church.

When Prince Andrew was born, she became the first reigning sovereign to give birth since Queen Victoria.

She carried out her first public engagement when she was 16 — she inspected the Grenadier Guards.

She loves photography.

She was known for her "credit crunch couture." On a tour to Trinidad, she wore a dress that was embroidered with the national birds and flowers of that country. When she returned to England, the beads and crystals were unthreaded and the dress was re-embroidered in the maple-leaf pattern for her tour of Canada.

Her first visit to Canada was in 1951. As Queen, she has made 23 official visits to Canada — the most recent in 2010.

Waterloo, Ont.-based Research in Motion gave her a BlackBerry during a Canadian tour.

In 1954, the Bank of Canada received a complaint that the outline of the devil's face was visible in the hair of the Queen depicted on banknotes put into circulation two years earlier. The Devil's Face notes were pulled and cancelled and new bills with a modified portrait were put into circulation.

She has travelled more than all her predecessors put together.

In 1945, she joined the war effort and was trained as a driver in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (WATS). She also served as an auto mechanic.

She dubbed 1992 *annus horribilis* (horrible year) as it was the year her sons, Charles and Andrew, separated from their wives, her daughter Anne divorced and part of Windsor Castle was destroyed by fire.

She has a Gold Record — the CD *Party at the Palace*, produced by EMI, sold 100,000 copies within the first week of release.

One of the Queen's favourite drinks is a Dubonnet and gin.

The Queen and Prince Philip have the longest marriage of any monarch. They marked 64 years on Nov. 20, 2011.

A man pointed a gun at the Queen while she was celebrating her birthday in June 1981. It was later determined that even though he did fire the gun, he was shooting blanks.

The Queen owns all the sturgeons, whales and dolphins in the waters around the U.K. It stems from a law from 1324, and is still valid. Sturgeons, porpoises, whales and dolphins are considered Fishes Royal and when captured within three miles of the U.K., or that wash ashore dead or alive, can be claimed on behalf of the Crown.

Along with corgis, the Queen also breeds and trains Labradors and Cocker Spaniels.

The Queen's Coronation was televised — a first for the royal family.

She raises racing pigeons.

She carries out about 430 engagements each year.

She is a strong swimmer.

She was once filmed throwing tennis shoes and yelling at Prince Philip, who was also filmed running away, during a tour of Australia on March 6, 1974. The shots, filmed by an Australian camera crew for a special feature called *The Queen in Australia*, were destroyed immediately and the cause of the royal dust-up was never known.

The Queen is known for her stare, which she gives to people who do not follow protocol. One person described it in the book *Our Queen* as "open eyes, absolutely no expression."

She found out she was Queen while on a trip to a remote part of Kenya on Feb. 6, 1952. Prince Philip told her the news.

She was 25 when she became Queen.

Her birthday is April 21, but it is officially celebrated in Britain on the second Saturday of June.

If the Queen is done talking to a person, but finds it hard to get away, she will switch her purse from one arm to another, or she will spin her wedding ring, as a sign to her handlers to come get her.

In film, she's been portrayed by Helen Mirren, Emilia Fox, Samantha Bond, Susan Jameson, Barbara Flynn, and Froya Wilson (who played a young Princess Elizabeth in *The King's Speech*).

Her full name is Elizabeth Alexandra Mary of York.

She has four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Her great-grandchild is the daughter of Canadian Autumn Phillips, who is married to Peter Phillips. Savannah was born Dec. 29, 2012.

Her shoe size is 7.5.

There are more than 130 portraits of the Queen, but just one hologram portrait, which she sat for in 2003.

As a child, she was homeschooled with her sister, Princess Margaret.

She and Prince Philip married just after the war, and for her wedding dress, she had to collect "clothing coupons" just like any other British bride to get the fabric.

The Queen sent her first e-mail in 1976 from an Army base.

She owns an iPad.

She has opened British parliament every year except 1959 and 1963 — those years she was pregnant with Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, respectively.

She was the first British monarch to visit China. She went there in 1986.

She has a 6:30 p.m. meeting every Tuesday with the prime minister. No written record is ever made at those meetings and they do not discuss what is said to others.

She was a Girl Guide.

She breeds horses. In 1984, 1986 and 1991 she made private visits to the U.S. to see stallion stations and stud farms in Kentucky.

She does not need a licence to drive a car.

She loves Scottish country dancing and each year during her stay at Balmoral Castle she gives dances known as Gillies' Balls for neighbours and staff.

She is Queen of 16 countries: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, Barbados, the Bahamas, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The Queen was once given two black beavers from Canada. They were placed in the care of the London zoo.

The Queen hid behind a bush in 1978 when she had no desire to meet with Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The book, *Our Queen*, said she was walking in the palace gardens when she saw Ceausescu coming her way and she hid behind a bush to avoid him.

When she woke up the morning of July 9, 1982, she was greeted by an intruder in her bedroom. Michael Fagan had scaled the walls around Buckingham Palace and entered her room. The man didn't want to hurt her, he just wanted to talk, which she did. When he asked for a cigarette, she was able to alert her staff. He was not charged.

Prince Philip is her distant cousin. They share the same great, great grandmother: Queen Victoria.

She has worn more than 5,000 hats. She will wear favourite hats 20 to 30 times, one of the Queen's milliners, Freddy Fox, has said in previous media reports. There are very few hats she won't wear more than once.

She is 5-foot-4.

In 2002, at 76 years of age, the Queen was the oldest monarch to celebrate a Golden Jubilee. The youngest was James I (James VI of Scotland) at 51 years.

She does not have a passport.

She is fluent in French.

How Queen Elizabeth II is Related to Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria
(1819-1901)
Great-Great
Grandmother



Prince Albert
of Saxe-Coburg
and Gotha
(1819-1861)
Great-Great
Grandfather

Edward VII
(1841-1910)
Great-
Grandfather



George V
(1865-1936)
Grandfather



George VI
(1895-1952)
Father



Princess
Margaret
(1930-2002)
Sister



Queen Elizabeth II
(b. 1926)

