

# The Queen's Birthday

Queen Elizabeth II was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1926. She became Queen of the United Kingdom on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1952 and her coronation was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1953.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016, she turned 90 years old!



## Did You Know?

Kings and queens often have an official birthday on a day other than their actual birthday. King Edward VII was born 9<sup>th</sup> November but his official birthday was celebrated in May or June.

The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year. She has her actual birthday (the anniversary of her birth) on 21<sup>st</sup> April but she also celebrates an 'official' birthday on the second Saturday in June, with a big parade.

## How Does the Queen Celebrate?

The Queen spends her actual birthday privately with her family. Her official birthday in June is marked publicly by a gun salute in central London, at 12 noon. There is also a spectacular parade called 'Trooping the Colour', where the Queen is saluted by over 1400 officers. There are also over 200 horses in the parade!

## Our Record-Breaking Queen!

Queen Elizabeth II is Britain's longest reigning monarch, which means she has been queen for longer than anyone has been our king or queen before. She has ruled our country for over 65 years, beating the record held by Queen Victoria.