



■ **1926, Apr 21: Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary** born at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, London, first child of **Duke and Duchess of York**. Younger sister **Princess Margaret** born four years later

■ General strike brings Britain to a standstill. **John Logie Baird** invents television. **British Commonwealth of Nations** born

■ **1929: Wall Street Crash** triggers **Great Depression** of 1930s



■ **1933: Rise to power of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.** Suppression of Jews begins in Germany under **Third Reich**



■ **1934: Mao Tse Tung** leads thousands of Chinese on **Long March**, from which he emerges as undisputed Communist Party leader in China

■ **1936: Abdication crisis** in Britain. Elizabeth's father becomes **King George VI**

■ **1939: World War II** begins when Hitler invades Poland – Britain and France declare war on Germany

■ **1940: Winston Churchill** becomes British Prime Minister. Nation suffers its darkest hours – Battle of Britain and Blitz on major cities



■ **1945, May 8:** German surrender ends war in Europe. **Aug 14:** Second

World War ends with Japanese surrender following atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

■ **1946: Churchill's Iron Curtain** speech marks onset of **Cold War**

■ **1947: British rule in India ends. Nov 20: Princess Elizabeth marries Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten** at Westminster Abbey



■ **1948: New state of Israel** proclaimed in Palestine. London hosts Olympic Games. First wave of Jamaican immigrants starts new life in UK. **Prince Charles** born

■ **1950: Princess Anne** born

■ **1952, Feb 6: King George VI dies. Princess Elizabeth, on safari in Kenya, becomes Queen.**



World's first commercial jet service flies from London to Johannesburg

## EIGHT DECADES IN THE LIFE OF BRITAIN'S MONARCH

**Queen Elizabeth II is Head of State of 16 Commonwealth realms.**

During her reign, The Queen has conferred over 387,700 honours and awards

**Made over 250 official overseas visits to 129 countries**

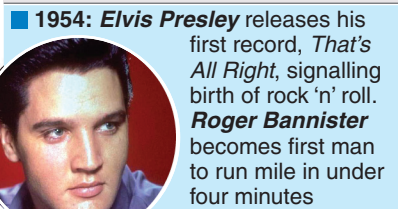
Made the first Royal walkabout on a visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1970

**Become the first reigning Sovereign to have a child since Queen Victoria**

Given weekly audiences to 10 British Prime Ministers, from Churchill to Blair



■ **1953: Hillary and Tenzing** conquer Mount Everest. News reaches Britain one day before **Queen Elizabeth II** is crowned on June 2



■ **1954: Elvis Presley** releases his first record, *That's All Right*, signalling birth of rock 'n' roll. **Roger Bannister** becomes first man to run mile in under four minutes

■ **1956: Suez Crisis** – UN forces Britain and France to withdraw troops from Egypt

■ **1957: France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg sign Treaty of Rome** to create **European Common Market**

■ **1960: Prince Andrew** born

■ **1962: Cuban Missile Crisis.** U.S. President **John F. Kennedy** imposes blockade until Soviets dismantle nuclear weapons on Cuba

■ **1963: Kennedy** assassinated in Dallas, Texas

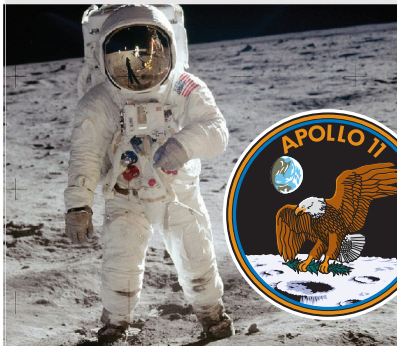
■ **1964: Prince Edward** born. Black activist **Nelson Mandela** jailed for life in South Africa



■ **1965: U.S. troops** sent into combat in Vietnam

■ **1966: At height of Swinging Sixties,** England football team beats West Germany to win **World Cup**

■ **1969: British Army** deployed to keep peace in Northern Ireland. **Concorde** makes maiden test flight. **Neil Armstrong** walks on moon – Queen's message of congratulations to **Apollo 11** astronauts is micro-filmed and left on moon in metal container



■ **1972: Britain joins European Economic Community.** Eleven members of Israeli team killed by Arab terrorists at Munich **Olympic Games**

■ **1973: Vietnam War** ends

■ **1977: Silver Jubilee** celebrations mark Queen's first 25 years on throne

■ **1979: Margaret Thatcher** becomes Britain's first female Prime Minister. Queen's cousin, **Lord Mountbatten**, murdered by IRA bomb

■ **1980: John Lennon** shot dead outside his home in New York

■ **1981: First cases of AIDS** reported in America's gay community.



■ **Jul 29: Marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer** watched by 700 million TV viewers worldwide



■ **1982: Prime Minister Thatcher** declares war on Argentina over Falkland Islands. **Princess of Wales** gives birth to **Prince William**

■ **1984: Year-long miners' strike** begins in Britain. IRA attempts to assassinate Thatcher during party conference in Brighton

■ **1985: Mikhail Gorbachev** becomes new Soviet leader. Worldwide **Live Aid** concerts raise money for Ethiopian famine victims

■ **1986: World's worst nuclear accident** takes place at **Chernobyl**

■ **1988: Terrorist bomb explodes on Pan Am flight 103** over Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing 270 people

■ **1989: Fall of Berlin Wall**

■ **1990: Nelson Mandela** released after 27 years in prison



■ **1991: Gulf War** – allied forces evict Iraq from Kuwait. Ethnic strife in Balkans leads to violent breakup of Yugoslavia. Collapse of Soviet Union

■ **1992: Fire at Windsor Castle** completes Queen's "*annus horribilis*", which sees divorce of Princess Anne and breakdown of marriages of Prince Andrew and Prince Charles

■ **1994: Channel Tunnel**, linking Britain to mainland Europe, opens

■ **1996: Charles and Diana** divorce

■ **1997: British geneticists** introduce *Dolly the sheep* – world's first cloned animal. **Aug 31: Diana, Princess of Wales** killed in car crash in Paris

■ **1999: Queen** opens new **Welsh National Assembly** in Cardiff and **Scottish Parliament** in Edinburgh

■ **2000, Aug 4: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** turns 100

■ **2001, Sep 11: Terrorist attacks** on New York and Washington kill almost 3,000 people

■ **2002: Euro** becomes legal tender in 12 member states of European Union. **Queen suffers double blow as Princess Margaret and then Queen Mother die** at start of **Golden Jubilee** year



■ **2003: Britain and America** invade Iraq over alleged weapons of mass destruction

■ **2004: Indian Ocean tsunami** kills estimated 230,000 people

■ **2005: Prince Charles** marries **Camilla Parker Bowles**. London wins 2012 Olympics. Suicide bombers target public transport in London, killing 52 people

■ **2006, Apr 21: Her Majesty The Queen** celebrates her 80th birthday