

Dutch crown handed to new generation

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands is to relinquish the crown after 33 years. The investiture of Willem Alexander, Prince of Orange, will take place in Amsterdam's Nieuwe Kerk on April 30

■ **Jan 31, 1938:** *Princess Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard* is born in Baarn, Netherlands. Eldest daughter of **Queen Juliana** and **Prince Bernhard**

■ **Exile:** Together with her mother and her sister **Irene**, Beatrix lives in Canada during German occupation from 1940-45

■ **Education:** Studies law at Leiden University, graduates in 1961



■ **Family:** Marries German aristocrat **Claus von Amsburg**. Wedding in 1966 becomes target of anti-German protests. Couple have three sons: **Willem Alexander** (1967), **Johan Friso** (1968), and **Constantijn** (1969)

■ **Tragedy:** Her husband is diagnosed with mental illness in late 1970s. Prince Claus dies in 2002 after suffering from Parkinson's disease and cancer. In 2012, her son, Prince Friso (*right*), is left in a coma following skiing accident in Austria



■ **Apr 30, 1980:** **Queen Juliana** signs paper of abdication and Beatrix formally becomes **Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands**

Bike-riding Queen Beatrix takes intense interest in national politics and is official member of Dutch cabinet

■ **Apr 30, 2009:** Queen Beatrix and other members of royal family are targeted in car attack during parade in Apeldoorn. Royal party are unharmed but seven people are killed

■ **Apr 30, 2013:** Thirty-three years after his mother's investiture, Willem Alexander, Prince of Orange, will succeed Beatrix and become first **King of the Netherlands** in more than a century. His Argentine-born wife, **Princess Maxima**, will become Queen

