



Cecil Beaton's portrait of the Queen in her Coronation Robes, June 1953, on display at the V&A



The National Portrait Gallery exhibition *The Queen: Art and Image* includes early portraits of the Queen including these images **top**: by Dorothy Wilding taken in 1952; **and above**: *The Queen* by Pietro Annigoni, 1969

1. CECIL BEATON: QUEEN ELIZABETH II IN CORONATION ROBES, 1953 © V&A IMAGES 2. QUEEN ELIZABETH II BY DOROTHY WILDING, 1952 © WILLIAM HUSTLER AND GEORGINA HUSTLER / NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY 3. QUEEN ELIZABETH II BY PIETRO ANNIGONI 1969 NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

ROYAL LONDON

# HER DIAMOND JUBILEE

A magnificent flotilla, a big lunch, colourful beacons and nostalgic bunting make one very big 60th celebration for Queen Elizabeth II. *By Francesca Young*

**P**ICTURE THIS: the Queen, cruising down the Thames, flanked by senior members of the royal family and a thousand ships to a fanfare of trumpets and a floating bell tower. This is the scene **08** – predicted to “perhaps be more exciting than the Olympics themselves” by London Mayor Boris Johnson – which will be set on Sunday 3rd June. The grand river pageant **PAGE 74** will be the largest river celebration seen in London since Charles II’s reign – set to rival “the most magnificent triumph that ever floated on the Thames” (The Diary of John Evelyn).

In 2012, Queen Elizabeth II becomes the second monarch in British history to have reigned for sixty years (joining Queen

Victoria who celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897) and there are a huge number of events and initiatives to mark the occasion, from a river pageant to a nationwide street party – the Big Jubilee Lunch **PAGE 75** – which is expected to be bigger than last year’s royal wedding bash.

Festivities focus on one central weekend, from Friday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June **PAGE 74**, when school gates will close, shops shut and pubs stay open late as the whole country celebrates the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. But official events begin before that in May with an equestrian pageant at Windsor Castle **PAGE 58** featuring more than 500 horses in a spectacular show celebrating horsemanship around the world.



The Queen will be very much involved in the official events on the June weekend, putting in appearances at the Epsom Derby **PAGE 75**, at the river pageant, and lighting the National Beacon **PAGE 76** – part of a network of 2,012 to be lit throughout the UK and Commonwealth. In the evening of Monday 4th June 12,000 lucky revellers will get to go to a BBC concert **PAGE 76** coordinated by Gary Barlow at Buckingham Palace with singers rumoured to be performing from the famous balcony.

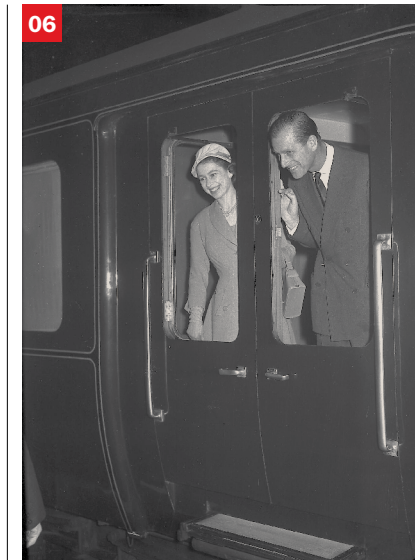
The Evening Standard reports plans are underway for a family friendly three-day Diamond Jubilee open-air festival in Hyde Park, beginning on Friday 2nd June, with marching bands and military displays, orchestral recitals, West End musicals and Commonwealth dancers in a programme designed to showcase ‘Britain through the decades’.



The grand finale to the weekend will be the Queen attending a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul’s Cathedral **PAGE 76**, on Tuesday 5th June, with the pomp and ceremony of a formal carriage procession to and from Sir Christopher Wren’s beautiful domed building.

Many of London’s major cultural institutions are marking the Queen’s sixty year reign with a string of must see exhibitions. The V&A **PAGE 76 05**, the National Portrait Gallery **PAGE 59 02 03**, Windsor Castle **04** and Buckingham Palace **PAGES 74, 76 & 82** between them are putting on displays of official portraits, rarely seen intimate family photographs and an astonishing collection of diamonds from the Queen’s personal collection **09**.

Greenwich, granted Royal Borough status, reciprocates the honour with a special David Starkey curated exhibition at its



National Maritime Museum **PAGE 38**, with over 250 museum quality items including carvings from the stern of the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert III and a clutch of Canaletto’s on display.

One of the Queen’s jubilee year projects sets out to leave a lasting legacy by encouraging the planting of 6 million trees across the UK, as well as small Jubilee Woods and 60 special Diamond Woods.

With so many events marking the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee it can’t fail to be an occasion that will go down in history and one that will be remembered for years to come. Whatever your view of the monarchy (relic of a previous order, or marvellous reminder of our imperialist past), the scale of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations – from beacons and boats to a BBC concert at Buckingham Palace and lunch party in the streets – makes it truly unmissable.



4. QUEEN ELIZABETH II, DOROTHY WILDING 1952 WILLIAM HUSTLER AND GEORGINA HUSTLER / NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY 5. LIGHTNESS OF BEING 2007 PRIVATE COLLECTION © CHRIS LEVINE, COURTESY OF MIP KEVIN BURKE AND THE BURKE CHILDREN 6. © COURTESY OF DERBY TELEGRAPH 7. © ANWAR HUSSEIN 8. THE ROYAL BARGE BY TOWER BRIDGE CREDITED TO JOSEPH BENNETT 9. QUEEN VICTORIA’S SMALL DIAMOND CROWN, 1870, F. & S. GARIBOLDI © THE ROYAL COLLECTION 2011, HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II