Happy birthday Your Majesty

This year is the Queen’s 90th birthday! Her actual birthday is 21 April and her official birthday weekend is 10-12 June 2016. This souvenir print and keep timeline shares some of the connections between GB and the Queen.

Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth was born on 21 April 1926.


When Girls’ Life Brigade (GLB) celebrated its jubilee in 1952 with a special rally at the Royal Albert Hall in London the Brigade President Mrs G Hardy sent the Queen a message.

Her private secretary replied saying ‘Please convey to the officers and girls of the GLB the sincere thanks of the Queen for their kind message which you have sent from your rally this afternoon. Her Majesty sends her warm congratulations on the completion of 50 years’ work by the Brigade and her best wishes for the future.’

GB’s international Queen’s Award was started to mark the Queen’s coronation in June 1953. Since then hundreds of young women have achieved the award which builds their confidence and inspires them to play their part in GB, the church and the community.

Brigade President Mrs G Hardy sent the Queen an address, part of which said ‘Girls and officers of the movement are inspired by Your Majesty’s gracious and noble example, and their thoughts will be with Your Majesty on the day of the coronation with prayers that God may indeed give the wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn pledges and onerous duties of sovereign rule.’

Nearly 200 GLB officers and girls paraded with other uniformed youth organisations to welcome the Queen to Hull. A member of 4th Hull presented the Queen with a bouquet.
Lynn Stoddart from 1st Kenton GB wrote a report for the GB magazine sharing her experiences of celebrating the Queen’s 60th birthday in London. She says ‘Five bands and 6,000 children paraded down the Mall to Buckingham Palace and inside the grounds we were waving our daffodils, then a fanfare and loud cheers heralded the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson as they came onto the balcony. After we had sung the special birthday song we made our way to Green Park where we were given a picnic tea, a mug with the Queen’s picture, a souvenir medal and a programme.’

GB had 250 young people from England, Wales and Scotland (and one very large balloon!) attend a parade to mark the Queen’s Golden Jubilee. An article in GB magazine The View said ‘Walking through the crowds was an amazing experience. It was very tiring, yet no-one complained, as there was a sense of really being in the centre of a unique moment in British history.’

GB celebrations to mark the Queen’s Silver Jubilee continued from June to December 1977 – from GB floats in processions, parades and camps to coffee mornings, fetes and tree planting.

In December 1966 Her Majesty the Queen was prevented by illness from opening Brigade House. Instead she promised to visit the joint Boys’ Brigade and GB headquarters in London and this visit took place on 22 February 1973.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, spent time with GB members who demonstrated aspects of the GB programme.

The Queen opened the North Herts Leisure Centre and a guard of honour was provided by the local youth organisations including GB.

In December 1966 Her Majesty the Queen was prevented by illness from opening Brigade House. Instead she promised to visit the joint Boys’ Brigade and GB headquarters in London and this visit took place on 22 February 1973.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, spent time with GB members who demonstrated aspects of the GB programme.
Two Seniors from 2nd Barnsley, Emily Roberts and Emma Haimes, won a GB competition to design a birthday card for the Queen’s 80th birthday. A leader and two girls from 1st Kenton presented the card and some flowers to the Queen at Windsor Castle on 21 April 2006.

For the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee around 300 GB members attended Trooping the Colour and had a bird’s eye view from the youth area on Horseguards Parade; more than 100 members volunteered at the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on the River Thames; and 35 members attended a star-studded open-air Diamond Jubilee Concert outside Buckingham Palace.

Locally, groups enjoyed a range of celebrations including mosaic-making, parades and BBQs.

Louisa Sampson, from 1st St Mary Cray, appeared on the cover of The View magazine when the Queen spoke to her during a Diamond Jubilee regional tour visit to Bromley.

There was also a Jubilee garden party held during the BB/GB festival Firm Foundations featuring singing, flag waving and a cream tea.

Nationally this year GB is sending a card featuring GB members to the Queen and more than 200 members will be attending Trooping the Colour.

Are you planning a special event to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday? Whether it’s cleaning for the Queen, a party, a church service or something else… we want to hear about it so we can share the great news with the wider GB family. Send details and pictures to catherine.burt@gb-ministries.org.

Plus get your hands on our limited edition badge to commemorate the Queen’s 90th. £2.45 (Code: GBG02405) from GB Trading – 01246 582322 or www.girlsbrigadetrading.com

You might also want to check out The Servant Queen (or the schools’ edition) produced by LICC/HOPE/Bible Society to celebrate the Queen and her Christian faith – www.licc.org.uk/resources/the-servant-queen/?mc_cid=f7ed7a15b1&mc_eid=da302b7aab