

EXPLORER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HER MAJESTY ♦ SPECIAL FEATURE ♦ JUNE 14, 2014

Queen Elizabeth II Celebrates Two Birthdays

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Did you know that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrates two birthdays each year? Her actual birthday is on April 21, but her official birthday is celebrated on a Saturday in June. This year her 88th birthday falls on June 14, 2014.

Do you know why two birthdays are celebrated? Through the years, when the Sovereign's actual birthday was not in the summer, the official birthday was celebrated in May or June because there was a better chance of good weather for Trooping the Colour, the Birthday Parade.

Her Majesty usually spends her actual birthday privately, but it is marked publicly by midday gun salutes in central London: a 41 gun salute in Hyde Park, a 21 gun salute in Windsor Great Park and a 62 gun salute at the Tower of London.

On her official birthday, Her Majesty will be joined by other members of the Royal Family at Trooping the Colour, a colourful military parade that has taken place in London since 1820. The parade is full of pomp and pageantry and moves between Buckingham Palace, The Mall and Horse Guards Parade. Queen Elizabeth II carries out an inspection of the troops from the Household Division. Her Majesty then leads the troops down the Mall to Buckingham Palace. The Queen salutes and guns are fired in Green Park and at the Tower of London. Finally, she joins other members of the Royal Family on the balcony to watch the Royal Air Force flypast.

These photos were taken by The Explorer in 2010 in Halifax during the Official Reception for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. We wish her a very happy day!

[Click here for 2012 Birthday Wishes Video](#)



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