

Buckingham Palace Press Release, Thursday 2 June 2011, 09:00 hrs

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS ISSUED BY THE PRESS SECRETARY TO THE QUEEN

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend 2012

Buckingham Palace has today announced plans for the central weekend to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The main programme will take place from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June with celebratory activities throughout the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth. Further details of these events and of other national and regional Diamond Jubilee events will be announced in due course.

Saturday 2nd June, 2012

The Queen will attend the Epsom Derby.

Sunday 3rd June, 2012

The Big Jubilee Lunch: Building on the already popular Big Lunch initiative, people will be encouraged to share lunch with neighbours and friends as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This may take the form of a traditional street party or a picnic lunch in small or larger groups. This event is being organised by the Big Lunch, <http://www.thebiglunch.com/>

The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant: This event will take place on the Thames and consist of up to 1,000 boats assembled from across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world. The Queen will travel in the Royal Barge which will lead the flotilla. This event is being organised by the Thames Diamond Jubilee Foundation, <http://www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org/>

Monday 4th June, 2012

BBC Concert at Buckingham Palace: There will be a televised Diamond Jubilee Concert at Buckingham Palace with tickets being available to UK residents by public ballot. The musical programme for the concert is still being planned and is expected to feature British and

Commonwealth musicians. Details on how to apply for the concert will be available in due course. This event is being organised by the BBC.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons: A network of 2,012 Beacons will be lit by communities and individuals throughout the United Kingdom, as well as the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Commonwealth. As in 2002, The Queen will light the National Beacon. The beacons project is being organised by Diamond Jubilee Beacons Ltd.

Tuesday 5th June, 2012

Service of Thanksgiving and Carriage Procession: There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral and a formal carriage Procession by The Queen.

Commonwealth Realms and other Commonwealth nations will be creating their own events in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. In addition, they will be represented at, and involved with, the events taking place over the central weekend, including the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant on 3rd June and the Service of Thanksgiving on 5th June.

Further details for all Diamond Jubilee events will be released early in 2012. The Government has today launched its dedicated Diamond Jubilee Directgov website - www.direct.gov.uk/diamondjubilee - which will feature regularly updated public information about the Diamond Jubilee.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For further information about the specific events, please contact the following:
 - ***The Big Lunch:*** David Rowe, 01726 811901/ 07813 041 923/
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 - ***The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant:*** Kate Levine, 020 7440 0980 /
07740 473 641/ Kate.levine@pagefield.co.uk
 - ***BBC Concert at Buckingham Palace:*** Ali Cowe, BBC Press Office, 020 8225
7652/ ali.cowe@bbc.co.uk
 - ***The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons:*** Bruno Peek OBE MVO OPR,
Pageantmaster, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons, 07500 518 334/
07737 262 913/ pageantmaster@mac.com

For general enquiries about the Diamond Jubilee, please contact the Buckingham Palace press office on 020 7930 4832.

2. Please note the following supplementary information about some of the events:
 - ***The Big Jubilee Lunch:***

The Big Lunch is a simple idea originating from the Eden Project, an educational charity based in Cornwall. The aim is to encourage as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to have lunch with their neighbours for a few hours of community, friendship and fun. This year's event takes place on Sunday 5 June 2011 and a record number of people are expected to take part. Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities and the best part of a million people have taken part each year.
 - ***The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant:***

The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant – expected to measure 7.5 miles long from end to end – will include a diverse mix of the historic and the modern: from rowed boats to sailing ships, steamers to wooden launches and larger motorised craft. The pageant will be made up of both private and commercial vessels which must be nationally or internationally registered. All vessels must be capable of travelling at four knots through the water for two hours. Individuals and associations wishing to take part can register their interest and details at www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org .

A newly set up Thames Diamond Jubilee Foundation will aim to raise the funds for the River Pageant and charitable projects that have a link to The Queen and her Diamond Jubilee, with a particular focus on areas such as the Commonwealth, youth and education, as well as supporting the wider charitable sector.
 - ***The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons:*** The 2,012 beacons to be lit will include Church Tower beacons on the battlements of HM Tower of London, St. James's Palace, London, and at The Palace of Holyroodhouse, with a similar Beacon being lit at Killyleagh Castle, Northern Ireland; a beacon on top of Pen Y Fan Mountain, Wales lit by the Cadets of Unit 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron Air Training Corps; and a beacon at Flash Church of England Primary School in Staffordshire, the highest school in Great Britain, with only ten pupils aged between 4 – 11 years old.
3. The Jubilee Weekend features an extra Bank Holiday for the Diamond Jubilee, with the late May Bank Holiday moved one week later, thereby making a 4-day long weekend. The government announced the extra Bank Holiday for the Diamond Jubilee on 5th January 2010.
4. The official emblem for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is available, free of charge, for download from the British Monarchy website – www.royal.gov.uk . It is intended that the emblem be used widely by individuals, organisations, companies and charities for celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee. The emblem, drawn by 10-year-old Katherine Dewar, was the winning design following a national competition run by Blue Peter for children aged between 6 and 14.