



## Golden Jubilee 2002

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This note sets out as a record the progress of the Queen's Golden Jubilee, and gives historical background. A separate Standard Note, SN/HA/1648, dealt in more detail with the issue of funding for Golden Jubilee street parties. A further Standard Note, SN/IA/1732 gave more details on the Golden Jubilee Medal. Research Paper 02/28 was compiled by research service statisticians, and presented a range of figures illustrative of the changes of the years 1952-2002.

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## **A. Introduction**

The year 2002 marked the 50th anniversary of the accession to the throne of HM Queen Elizabeth II.<sup>1</sup> The focal point of the programme of celebrations was the Jubilee weekend, from 1 to 4 June. There were bank holidays on Monday 3 June and Tuesday 4 June.<sup>2</sup> An extensive Golden Jubilee website was launched - <http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk> - giving details of the Queen's programme, frequently asked questions, and including information on the celebrations that accompanied the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

## **B. The celebrations in 2002 - plan**

In brief, the celebrations planned to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee included:

- "Jubilee weekend", 1-4 June (with an extra bank holiday), including a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on 4 June
- Presentation of addresses by both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall on 30 April
- visits to each English region, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (during the summer months, May-July)
- visit to the armed forces on 27 June
- opening the Commonwealth Games in Manchester on 25 July and closing them on 4 August
- Granting of civic honours – city status for four towns, and a Lord Mayoralty
- a Jubilee Emblem
- Commonwealth visit (to Jamaica, New Zealand and Australia )
- issue of a medal
- grants available for Jubilee-related projects

In addition, people born on the Queen's Accession Day, 6 February 1952, were invited to Golden Jubilee parties in London and Edinburgh in 2002, hosted by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

Details of the programme of celebrations being planned for the Queen's Golden Jubilee were first comprehensively given in a statement by the Prime Minister in reply to a written parliamentary question in June 2001.<sup>3</sup> They were restated on 8 February 2002 (see Footnote 7).

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<sup>1</sup> accession to the throne – 6 February 1952

<sup>2</sup> announced HC Deb 23 Nov 2000 Vol 357 c294-5W –

[http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo001123/text/01123w11.htm#01123w11.html\\_sbhd2](http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo001123/text/01123w11.htm#01123w11.html_sbhd2).

The bank holiday on Tuesday 4 June will be in place of the spring bank holiday that would otherwise fall on 27 May 2002; Monday 3 June is an extra bank holiday.

<sup>3</sup> HC Deb 22 June 2001 Vol 370 c 7-9W –

[http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmhansrd/cm010622/text/10622w01.htm#10622w01.html\\_sbhd1](http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmhansrd/cm010622/text/10622w01.htm#10622w01.html_sbhd1)

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has relating to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the throne; and if he will make a statement. [408]

The Prime Minister: I am pleased to be able to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has approved a number of recommendations for the programme of celebrations during 2002, the focal point of which will be the "Jubilee weekend" covering 1 to 4 June. As I announced on 23 November 2000, Tuesday 4 June will be a bank holiday in place of the spring bank holiday that would otherwise fall on 27 May 2002, and Monday 3 June will be an additional bank holiday for the Golden Jubilee.

Following the recent reorganisation of Government Departments, the Ministerial Committee set up last year to help co-ordinate arrangements with Buckingham Palace is now being chaired by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

This significant national anniversary of 50 years of the Queen's reign will offer people of all ages and cultures and from all walks of life the opportunity for celebration, and the events surrounding the Jubilee will provide numerous opportunities for voluntary and community service. It should be a time for looking forward as well as back--including at the great changes that have taken place in the nation's life during Her Majesty's reign.

The main features of the programme approved so far by Her Majesty are as listed. Further details will be announced later.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh plan to travel as widely as possible around the United Kingdom during the year 2002, including visits to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These tours around the UK will be focused on the summer months. The Queen will visit each English region, although it will not be possible to visit all cities and counties. The outline itinerary is as follows:

1-2 May

South West of England (including Cornwall, Devon and Somerset)

7-8 May

North East of England (including Tyne and Wear and Durham)

10 May

South East of England (Buckinghamshire and Berkshire)

23-29 May

Scotland

1-4 June

Jubilee Weekend in Windsor and London

7 June

South East of England (West Sussex)

11-13 June

Wales

27 June

Visit to the Armed Forces, Portsmouth

2-3 July

West Midlands (including Staffordshire and Warwickshire)

11-12 July

Yorkshire and the Humber (including West Yorkshire and the East Riding)  
17-18 July  
East of England (including Suffolk and Norfolk)  
24-26 July  
North West of England (including Merseyside and opening the Commonwealth Games in Manchester)  
31 July-1 August  
East Midlands (including Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire), and Yorkshire and the Humber (North Lincolnshire)  
4 August  
Close the Commonwealth Games in Manchester  
5 August  
North West of England (Lancashire)

To help local communities mark and celebrate the Jubilee, lottery funding will be available from the Arts Councils, the Sports Councils, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Community Fund, and the New Opportunities Fund. Voluntary organisations and local groups in the community will be able to apply through the cross-distributor "Awards for All" for grants of between £500 and £5,000 for Jubilee-related projects. Projects must meet existing criteria and involve one or more of the lottery good causes of the arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education or the environment. I hope people will take advantage of this opportunity to use lottery money as a means both of celebrating the Jubilee and providing a lasting legacy for their communities.

The official Golden Jubilee website is being launched later today at <http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk/>. In due course it will include details of celebrations and events taking place throughout the United Kingdom during 2002, including the Queen's programme of visits. It will also provide members of the public with a central point for inquiries, suggestions and comments on any aspect of the celebrations. By the autumn of this year, it will incorporate, or give access to, other sites containing information about the plans for the Jubilee.

The Queen has accepted a recommendation for the design for a Golden Jubilee Emblem which members of the public, commercial and public services and manufacturers may use, at no cost, to "brand" events, services, souvenirs and other items connected with the Jubilee. The Emblem, together with guidance on its use, will be obtainable from the Golden Jubilee website. A copy of the Emblem has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Queen has made clear that she wishes there to be no undue expenditure from public funds on the celebrations. The Queen has asked that those organisations or individuals wishing to celebrate the Golden Jubilee with some form of donation be encouraged to give either to one or more of the following five charities of which Her Majesty is Patron: Banardo's, CRUSE Bereavement Services, I CAN (national education charity for children with speech and language difficulties), the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, and the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Association (SSAFA)--or to the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is Grand President. Further details will be available in due course on the Golden Jubilee website.

Some other details relating to the Jubilee had appeared in an earlier statement in November 2000:<sup>4</sup>

Her Majesty the Queen

Mr. Levitt: To ask the Prime Minister what plans are being made to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's Accession to the Throne; and if he will make a statement. [140120]

The Prime Minister: I believe that not only this House, but also the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, will join me in looking forward to Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee as a joyous occasion and a very special milestone. It will be a time both for looking back at the central part which the Queen has played in the affairs of this country and the Commonwealth over the preceding 50 years, and for looking forward to the continuation of Her Majesty's unique contribution for many years to come.

Her Majesty The Queen has approved my recommendation that the 50th anniversary of her accession to the throne should be celebrated during the summer of 2002.

A Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, was set up last year to help co-ordinate arrangements with Buckingham Palace. I have made the following recommendations which Her Majesty has approved and which have the support of the Leaders of the Devolved Administrations and of Opposition Parties.

The Queen will attend a National Service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 4 June 2002. That day will be a Bank Holiday in place of the Spring Bank Holiday, which would otherwise fall on 27 May in 2002. The day before, Monday 3 June, will be an additional Bank Holiday for the Golden Jubilee.

The Queen hopes to travel within the United Kingdom as widely as possible during the summer months of May to July, and especially the weeks running up to and following the Bank Holiday weekend. She has agreed to visit the armed forces on 27 June and to open the Commonwealth Games in Manchester on 25 July and to close them on 4 August. She will undertake a Commonwealth visit in the autumn. The Queen has also agreed to a grant of certain civic honours--city status and Lord Mayoralty--to mark Her Jubilee. Other elements of the programme will be announced in due course. It is Her Majesty's express wish that there should be no undue expenditure from public funds on the programme of celebrations.

The Queen has said that she sees her Golden Jubilee as an opportunity to express her thanks for the support and loyalty she has enjoyed during her reign. She hopes that events surrounding the Jubilee will create numerous opportunities for voluntary and

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<sup>4</sup> HC Deb 23 Nov 2000 Vol 357 c294-5W – [http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo001123/text/01123w11.htm#01123w11.html\\_sbhd2](http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo001123/text/01123w11.htm#01123w11.html_sbhd2).

community service and that as many people as possible will have the opportunity to enjoy the celebrations to mark this happy occasion.

Details of the competitions for grants of city status to four towns, referred to in the statement above, and for the granting of a Lord Mayoralty to mark the Golden Jubilee were announced in July 2001:<sup>5</sup>

David Wright: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department when the competitions for civic honours to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee will be launched; and if she will make a statement. [6533]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The competitions for grants of city status to one town in each of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and for a Lord Mayoralty, will be launched next Wednesday, 25 July, by means of press notices. Letters will be posted on 24 July to the towns and cities known to be interested in applying for these honours. Both the letters and the press notices will provide some guidance on the main factors that will be taken into account in identifying the successful towns and city. The honours will, however, continue to be rare marks of distinction conferred, on Ministerial advice, under the Royal Prerogative, rather than rights to be earned by the meeting of specific criteria.

Applications submitted for the grant of city status to mark the Millennium will be reconsidered if the local authorities so wish, with or without additional material. The closing date for the submission of applications and any fresh material will be 12 October 2001. The Government hope to announce the results of the competitions in the early months of 2002.

The announcement was made on 14 March 2002 – see below.

A Jubilee medal was to be awarded<sup>6</sup>. The decision to strike such a medal was part of a long tradition of marking special occasions in the life for the nation, including Royal Jubilees. A commemorative medal was distributed for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and there were also medals to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 and Diamond Jubilee in 1897, and King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935.

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<sup>5</sup> HC Deb 20 July 2001 Vol 372 c 787W – [http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200102/cmhansrd/cm010720/text/10720w83.htm#10720w83.html\\_sbhd4](http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200102/cmhansrd/cm010720/text/10720w83.htm#10720w83.html_sbhd4)  
see also Lord Chancellor's Dept press notices – *Golden Jubilee City Status Competition Announced*, 25 July 2001, LCD 273/01 - <http://213.38.88.195/coi/coipress.nsf/283b67283b5315e38025673500584c3c/0555c461c9f1497880256a94003fba4a?OpenDocument>  
and *Golden Jubilee Lord Mayoralty Competition Announced*, 25 July 2001, LCD 274/01 - <http://213.38.88.195/coi/coipress.nsf/283b67283b5315e38025673500584c3c/622e3233296549bf80256a94003fbadb?OpenDocument>

<sup>6</sup> This section is adapted from [http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk/content/serve.pcgi/gj/Media/Press\\_Releases#Pressrelease4Dec01](http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk/content/serve.pcgi/gj/Media/Press_Releases#Pressrelease4Dec01)

At first it was decided that medals would be issued to members of the uniformed Armed Forces and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary who had completed a minimum of five years' reckonable service on 6 February 2002, but later this was extended to the civil emergency services. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport stated that 370,000 medals would be struck<sup>7</sup> An example of the medal was added to the exhibition of medals at the entrance to the House of Commons Terrace.

On 21 March, a programme of visits were announced in London<sup>8</sup>, as follows:

9 May: Waltham Forest, Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Newham

6 June: Brent, Barnet and Haringey

25 June: Bushy Park, Gunnersbury Park, Hillingdon, and Kingston

4 July: Lewisham, Croydon, and Crystal Palace.

### C. The celebrations in 2002 – progress

On **6 February**, the Queen issued a personal message concerning the Jubilee at [http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk/content/serve.pcgi/gj/Media/Press\\_Releases/Jubilee\\_Message.pdf](http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk/content/serve.pcgi/gj/Media/Press_Releases/Jubilee_Message.pdf)

On **9 February**, HRH Princess Margaret, the Queen's sister, died: the funeral was held on 15 February. The Royal Family instituted a short period of family, but not State, mourning, and from 12 February, the Queen carried on her engagements as normal. The House had observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the deceased Princess on 11 February<sup>9</sup>

On **19 February**, the Queen started her Commonwealth tour, of Jamaica, New Zealand, and Australia, and returned home on **3-4 March**. The Australian visit, which took place at a time of some tension concerning the past conduct of the Queen's representative, the Governor-General, included attendance at the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

On **14 March**, the Lord Chancellor announced the award of city status to five towns – Preston, Stirling, Newport (Mon.), Newry and Lisburn, and a Lord Mayoralty for Exeter.<sup>10</sup>

On Easter Saturday, **30 March**, H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother died. The ceremonial funeral was held on Tuesday 9 April, preceded by lying-in-state in Westminster

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<sup>7</sup> *HC Deb*, 8 February 2002 vol 380 c. 1204-5W  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmhansrd/cm020211/debindx/20211-x.ht2>

<sup>8</sup> [www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk](http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk), and repeated in *HC Deb*, 21 March 2002, vol 381 c 453W

<sup>9</sup> *HC Deb*, vol 380 c. 1  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmhansrd/cm020211/debindx/20211-x.htm>

<sup>10</sup> *HL Deb*, 14 March 2002, vol 106 c 93WA;  
[http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds02/text/20314w01.htm#20314w01\\_sbhd0](http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds02/text/20314w01.htm#20314w01_sbhd0)

Hall<sup>11</sup>. Royal engagements during the period of mourning were curtailed, but April was not a busy month in terms of the Jubilee (see above). The House was recalled on 3 April for a minute's silence and tributes to the Queen Mother, agreeing an address of condolence to the Queen. The cruel loss of the Queen's sister and mother within a few weeks at the beginning of Jubilee year was noted by the Prime Minister<sup>12</sup> and other Members.

In May, the Queen began her series of UK visits, with the south-west, east and north-east London, and Northern Ireland. She seems to have received a warm welcome throughout. For the visit to south-west England, the Queen was based in the Royal Train. The visits continued through the summer months.

On **30 April**, the Queen received addresses from both Houses of Parliament, and spoke in reply. She then met a number of the staff and members of both Houses.<sup>13</sup>

The Jubilee weekend, **1-4 June**, was marked by several national and many local events. Two concerts, one of classical music on Saturday 1 May, and one of pop music, on Monday 3 May, funded and broadcast by the BBC, were held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, the 12,000 free tickets for each event being allocated randomly. Each of these events was followed by a grand firework display, and the Monday concert by Royal walkabouts, and the firing of the last Jubilee beacon, on the Queen Victoria memorial. It was estimated over a million people were in the area of the Palace at that time. The Monday was also the main occasion for street parties and local celebrations.

There was a procession in the gold state coach on the Tuesday to St Paul's for a national service of thanksgiving, followed by lunch at Guildhall and a motor tour of parts of London. Again, there was a huge public turnout, and altogether the Queen and Palace staff were reported to have been very pleased with the public turnout and response over the weekend.

The opening of the Commonwealth games at the end of July and beginning of August was accompanied by tours of the north, and preceded by visits to eastern England.

It was generally thought that the celebrations had attracted a rather larger proportion of the public than might have been expected, and that in the autumn, public esteem of the Monarchy was at a greater level than had been current before the Jubilee. However, the abandonment of the trial of Paul Burrell, former butler to Princess Diana of Wales, on charges of having stolen property, after it was said the Queen had remembered a conversation in which he had told her about "safeguarding" certain items, led to renewed adverse press coverage of the

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<sup>11</sup> See Standard Note *Lyings in State* <http://hc11.hclibrary.parliament.uk/notes/pcc/snpc-01735.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> HC Deb, 3 April 2002, vol 382 c 801  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmhansrd/cm020403/debindx/20403-x.htm>

<sup>13</sup> See *Palace of Westminster Staff News*, Special issue, June 2002, for pictures and full details



monarchy. Commentators then reckoned that much of the positive effect of the Jubilee had been undone.<sup>14</sup>

#### **D. The Silver Jubilee 1977<sup>15</sup>**

In 1977 church services had been held during the month of February, commemorating the anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne 25 years earlier. On 4 May both Houses of Parliament had presented loyal addresses to the Queen, who made a reply stressing the unity of the nation. After the ceremony, the bells of the Great Clock of Westminster rang out again after their reinstatement following the catastrophic failure of the mechanism in 1976. Another Parliamentary commemoration was the installation of the Silver Jubilee Fountain in New Palace Yard, subscribed for by Members.<sup>16</sup>

Full Jubilee celebrations began in the summer months, the main events taking place during the week of 6 June 1977. On Monday 6 June, Jubilee Eve, 102 beacons were lit across the country, started by the Queen lighting the first bonfire in Windsor Great Park. Jubilee Day on 7 June saw a procession to St Paul's Cathedral for a Service of Thanksgiving, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh riding in the Gold State Coach (not used since the Coronation). After the service,<sup>17</sup> the Royal party walked among the public and then had lunch at the Guildhall with the Commonwealth Heads of Government and other dignitaries, including the Prime Minister. The Queen made a speech renewing the vow she made at her Coronation to serve her people.<sup>18</sup> It was on this day too that thousands of street parties and village parties were held. A traditional Royal balcony appearance ended the day.

On 9 June, there was a procession on the river Thames, the Royal barge travelling from Greenwich to Lambeth. In the evening, the Queen opened the Silver Jubilee Walkway and viewed a pageant sail-past of a hundred small boats. She then opened the new Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank, which was followed by a firework display. Again, the day ended with a balcony appearance. The Jubilee Line of the Underground was named after this anniversary: in the event, the only new section (between Baker Street and Charing Cross) was not opened until 30 April 1978.<sup>19</sup> It was duly printed in silver on the Underground map.

A Silver Jubilee Medal was awarded. The Queen had decided that she wanted to meet as many of the people as possible during the Jubilee celebrations, and undertook six jubilee tours of the United Kingdom. The Scottish tour in May included a Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. In June there was a tour of the North West of England, taking in

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<sup>14</sup> See, for instance, editorial in the *Mirror*, 4 Dec 2002, p.6. There was a very large volume of press comment throughout the world on this case.

<sup>15</sup> This section is based on the information given on the golden jubilee website – <http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk/content/serve.pcgi/silver>

<sup>16</sup> see HC Deb 3 March 1977 Vol 927 c 277W

<sup>17</sup> led by the Archbishop of Canterbury

<sup>18</sup> for further details see PCC Standard Note *The Coronation Oath* – <http://hcl1.hclibrary.parliament.uk/notes/pcc/Coronation.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> White, H. P. *A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain, Vol 3, Greater London*, 1987

Manchester and Lancashire. This was followed by a tour of Wales, including visits to Harlech Castle and Blaenau Ffestiniog. Two tours of the London boroughs took place in late June/early July, and in mid-July there was a tour of Northern Ireland. The *Royal Encyclopedia* states:<sup>20</sup>

... never before has a Sovereign visited so much of Britain in the course of just three months.

Official overseas visits were also made, starting in February with an extensive Commonwealth tour of Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and Papua-New Guinea. In July a Royal visit was made to Canada, and then on to the West Indies.

## E. Jubilee Celebrations before 1977<sup>21</sup>

The concept of jubilee has its origin in the Bible, when, according to the Book of Leviticus, every 50th year (that is, *after* seven times seven years) was to be observed as a year of perfect rest, when there was to be no sowing, nor gathering of the products of field or vine. “*And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land...*”<sup>22</sup> The word *jubilee* comes from the Hebrew noun (transliterated *yobel*) for ram’s horn; a ceremonial blowing of which inaugurated the year of jubilee. This idea transferred to the Roman Catholic church when, in 1300, Pope Boniface VIII inaugurated every 25 years in Rome a period of plenary indulgence, obtainable on the confession of sin and a certain regularity of participation at Mass.<sup>23</sup>

In Britain, celebration of the Sovereign’s jubilee years began in the reign of King George III (1760-1820).<sup>24</sup> The beginning of the fiftieth year of his reign was celebrated in 1809 in Britain and the Colonies. There was a private service for the Royal family at Windsor, a thanksgiving service at St Paul’s Cathedral and a dinner at the Mansion House. The national public celebrations consisted of a grand fête and firework display. There were also local celebrations. There was no parliamentary celebration of this jubilee, nor, indeed any recorded mention of it in the debates of the time, but this may have been because Parliament was prorogued at the time of the celebrations.

The qualification of “Jubilee” by *Silver* (25 years), *Golden* (50), and *Diamond* (60) appears to have been a late 19th/early 20th century idea, which presumably follows the pattern of celebrating wedding anniversaries. There is no evidence that silver jubilees were celebrated

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<sup>20</sup> *The Royal Encyclopedia*, 1991, p 289, and see, for instance, *An Account of the Celebration of the jubilee, on the 25 October 1809, being the forty-ninth anniversary of the reign of George the third*, by a lady, the wife of a naval officer, Birmingham, 1809, which is a compendium of the celebrations in different parts of the country. A good account will also be found in *The Times* for 26 October 1809, p.2.

<sup>21</sup> part of this section is based on information from *The Royal Encyclopedia*, 1991

<sup>22</sup> Leviticus 25, vv 8-15. The quotation is from AV v. 10,.

<sup>23</sup> This paragraph is adapted from *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed, 1911, articles *Jubilee Year* and *Jubilee, Year of*.

<sup>24</sup> *The Royal Encyclopedia*, p 287

as such in the 19th century; the main dictionary of the time defines jubilee as “the fiftieth anniversary of some event of public interest or importance, often used when a clergyman completes the fiftieth year of his ministry”.<sup>25</sup> In particular, the Diamond Jubilee, which properly might have been expected after 75 years of a reign (which threshold, to date, has never been reached) seems to have unilaterally been brought forward to 60.

Queen Victoria’s Jubilee was celebrated after she had reigned 50 years, not at the beginning of the fiftieth year (i.e. after she had reigned 49 years) as ordained biblically or as had been observed in 1809.. This was apparently by her own personal wish, lest she should not survive though till the full 50.<sup>26</sup> The Jubilee was celebrated on 21 June 1887. The Queen rode in a procession through London, together with foreign kings and princes and governing heads of Britain’s overseas territories. A service was held at Westminster Abbey. This was the first jubilee to be marked by a jubilee coin. The event later became known as the *Golden Jubilee*.

Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee was celebrated ten years later. On 22 June 1897, there was a procession to St Paul’s Cathedral, where a thanksgiving service was held.<sup>27</sup> The Queen’s carriage crossed over to the south of the river before returning to Buckingham Palace. On 21 June, the House considered a motion to present a congratulatory address to the Queen.<sup>28</sup> It is noteworthy that the Irish nationalists had tried to amend the motion for the address by setting forth their view that the jubilee could not be welcomed in Ireland, but this was defeated by 436 votes to 7.<sup>29</sup> The address was presented by the whole House at Buckingham Palace on 23 June.<sup>30</sup> Mr Speaker proceeded to outline the arrangements: Members would walk to Buckingham Palace in morning dress, except Privy Counsellors, who were to wear levee dress. They would follow the Speaker’s coach, which would proceed “at a walking pace”.<sup>31</sup>

King George V’s Silver Jubilee was celebrated -- the first time a silver jubilee had been commemorated -- on 6 May 1935, with a thanksgiving service at St Paul’s Cathedral. The Commons agreed *nemine contradicente* an address to the King on 8 May<sup>32</sup>. The address was presented to the King in Westminster Hall on 9 May, and the text of the Speaker’s words and the King’s reply were ordered to be entered on the Journals<sup>33</sup>, the first time this had been done for a jubilee address. In the country, celebrations lasted for about a month and included official receptions, loyal addresses and street parties. This was the first Royal Jubilee to be marked by the issue of a commemorative stamp.

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<sup>25</sup> R Hunter, *Encyclopaedic Dictionary*, 14 vols 1879-87, article *Jubilee*.

<sup>26</sup> see M Oliphant, *Life and Times of Queen Victoria*, n.d. but 1900, Vol III p343.

<sup>27</sup> the service was held outside as the Queen was too infirm to manage the steps

<sup>28</sup> *Commons Journal*, 152, p 299

<sup>29</sup> CJ, 152, p 299

<sup>30</sup> CJ, 152, p 301

<sup>31</sup> HC Deb 21 June 1897, 4th ser. vol.50, cc. 456-7

<sup>32</sup> CJ, 190, p 190

<sup>33</sup> CJ, 190, pp 191-3

