

## FAMOUS BRITISH PEOPLE - IMPORTANT BRITISH WOMEN

There are **many famous British** people

- **Scientists and inventors** [sájentysts] (vědci a vynálezci)
- **Historical personalities – kings, queens, princes and princesses**
- **Writers, playwrights, poets**
- **Composers, painters, singers**
- **Directors, actors and film stars**
- **Sportsmen** etc.



### QUEEN ELIZABETH II (the second)

Queen Elizabeth (nebo **the Queen**) is **94 years old** (born on April 21st 1926) and she has been **the oldest reigning monarch on the throne**. She has celebrated **68 years of reign/ 68 years on the throne** (in 2020). During the 50th anniversary, she *visited every region of the UK*, as well as many other countries.

She was born in London. Elizabeth was named after her mother. When **her uncle King Edward VIII abdicated the throne to marry Wallis Simpson**, a famous *actress*, **Elizabeth's father became King George VI**.

The king **died suddenly at the age of 56, he had a lung cancer, young Elizabeth had to become the Queen**. She was **only 25 years old** to rule 4 countries. Elizabeth didn't go to school, she was **educated at home**. She studied constitutional history and law, preparing for her future role as the queen.

Princess *Elizabeth and Prince Philip met at a wedding* in 1934. Elizabeth and **Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh**, were **married at Westminster Abbey** on November 20, 1947. Elizabeth had **four children (Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward)**. She has had **over 30 corgis** (dogs). The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh became the first couple in the Royal family to celebrate **60 years of marriage**, also known as their **diamond wedding anniversary**. Elizabeth doesn't have money in her purse, she carries cash in her purse only on Sundays; she donates money to her church. The Queen has **visited more than 115 countries**.



The queen celebrates her birthday **twice — once in April and once in June** — because sovereign birthdays are often celebrated twice when not naturally in the summer. **Once a week for an hour, she meets with Britain's prime minister**. The current Prime Minister is **Boris Johnson**. The queen **speaks fluent French**. She gives money to almost 40 animal-related organizations as well as almost 90 medical and health-care **charities**, in addition to the hundreds of other organizations she is involved with. *There have been 12 U.S. presidents since she first began her reign*. The British Monarchy created their **Youtube channel** in 2007 and has almost **56 million views** and more than **150,000 subscribers**.

The queen is the only person in the UK who **doesn't need a driver's license** or a license plate to drive. Elizabeth also **does not need a passport** to travel internationally. **As a princess, Elizabeth drove a truck and trained as a mechanic in World War II**.

### DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Diana has always been one of the most iconic celebrities, from the moment of her marriage to **Prince Charles**, the Prince of Wales till her **death in the car accident**. She had **two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry**. Both

## **Buckingham Palace**

Buckingham Palace is the official city residence of the Royal Family in London. The palace is a place for grand occasions and royal weddings. It is also a workplace, where all the official administration is done. There are offices and lots of staff. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, it is also a family home.

Buckingham Palace was built as a town house in the early eighteenth century. King George III bought it for his wife and children. Queen Victoria made Buckingham Palace the main royal palace in 1837 and made it bigger for her growing family. Queen Elizabeth II also lived there as a girl.

The Palace has 775 rooms. These include 19 State Rooms, 52 bedrooms for the Royal Family and guests, and 78 bathrooms. There are another 188 bedrooms for the people who work there. There are also 92 offices, a cinema, a police station, a post office and a sports centre!

The State Rooms are not usually open to the public because they are used by the Royal Family to receive guests on important state occasions. For a long time the Ballroom was the largest room in London. It has many famous paintings and is the place used to host wonderful parties. Over 50,000 people arrive each year as guests of the Royal Family.

Although Buckingham Palace is the main working palace for the Royal Family, they also have other residences, such as Balmoral in Scotland. During August and September the Royal Family stay at Balmoral, so when tourists visit Buckingham Palace at this time they can see the State Rooms too.



of them are married and have children. Diana was known for her **charity work**, she was the president of the Great Ormond Street Hospital. She loved to be rebellious, break rules, help other people, homosexuals or people ill with AIDS. The whole world was sad when the French news announced she died. The royal family blamed paparazzi for her death at that time. Diana was often called **People's Princess**.

(obr. Angola)



### QUEEN VICTORIA

The times Queen Victoria was **on the throne, 63 years**, at the end of the 19th century, are known as **Victorian era**. It was an era of political, industrial, cultural, military and scientific change in the country. **British Empire expanded**.



Victoria was not her first name, her name was Alexandrina Victoria. She liked using a nickname Drina. Victoria was **the first member of the royal family to live at Buckingham Palace**. The house went through **very big renovations**. Victoria created a new wing of the house (nové křídlo domu) and made it a house of royal business, workplace for the monarch.



Queen Victoria was **very short**. Barely 5 feet tall – 150cm. Four inches shorter than Queen Elizabeth.

Victoria **became the Queen when she was 18 years old**. Her uncle King William IV died of a heart attack in the middle of the night.

She and her husband had **9 children**.

She is the second longest reigning British monarch on the throne. Queen Elizabeth II broke her record.

By Buckingham Palace there is a **monument to Queen Victoria, The Queen Victoria Memorial**.

### QUEEN ELIZABETH I

Was Queen of England and Ireland at the end of the 16th century. She was sometimes called the **Virgin Queen**. She was **daughter of Henry VIII** (married 6 times, executed 2 of his wives) **and Anne Boleyn** (one of the 2 executed wives).



Elizabeth was **imprisoned for nearly a year**, in the Tower of London. On the other side, **she imprisoned and executed** James VI of Scotland's mother, **Mary, Queen of Scots**.



Though Elizabeth was *moderate and relatively tolerant*, she couldn't avoid **war with Spain**. England's victory against the Spanish Armada in 1588 associated Elizabeth with one of the greatest military victories in English history. The Queen was celebrated for her **virginity**, Though she announced to marry Prince Phillip of Spain, she never married or had children. She dedicated her life to England. She lived at the times of **Shakespeare**, enjoyed his theatre. Shakespeare wrote historic plays about English kings.

### J.K. ROWLING (Joanne Rowling)

JK Rowling is **the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series**. *Harry Potter* is about a young magician



and his adventures as he attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, meets his best friends Ron and Hermione, learns how to perform magic, and comes face to face to his biggest enemy Lord Voldemort. She's sold over **400 million copies** of her Harry Potter books. She **encourages children from different corners of the world to be creative, to feel inspired and to read books**. Thanks to the books she has made a fortune of about 1 billion American dollars. She's the **12th richest woman in Britain**.



JK Rowling was *unemployed*, while she was writing the first Harry Potter book in a *Scottish café*. The first book was a huge success, she wrote 6 more *sequels* (pokračování).

Her other books are popular as well, some of them were **made into films**. **Sci-fi series Doctor Who** or **Fantastic Beasts**. *Fantastic Beasts* is a fantasy film about a young zoologist, who arrives in New York city with a briefcase full of magical animals. Some of them escape and with help of other magicians he's trying to catch all of them without being discovered by people.



### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (The Lady with the Lamp)

Is a British nurse, **founder of modern nursing**. Helped soldiers, at night with a lamp, during the Crimean war in Turkey. **Created 1st nursing school**, the Nightingale School of Nursing by St Thomas's Hospital in London at the end of the 19th century, 1860.