

## Britons mark their longest-serving monarch's birthday

By Julia Longbottom  
Ambassador of the United Kingdom

On Saturday 12 June, we marked Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 95th birthday.

In normal circumstances, we would have marked this significant milestone of her 95th official birthday with celebratory events.

Current COVID-19 restrictions mean such events are not possible, but Her Majesty's birthday offers the opportunity to celebrate her service to the UK and the Commonwealth during her 69 years on the throne.

It is also a time to feel confident about the relationship between the UK and Japan and its future. From trade and innovation to addressing shared global challenges like COVID-19 and climate change, the UK and Japan will be working harder than ever this year to strengthen our partnerships and collaboration.

This year began with the launch of a UK-Japan trade deal that is helping investment and trade to flourish and prosperity to grow for both countries. I am also delighted that the UK government has been invited to begin accession negotiations to join Japan and other economies in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

This is also a year of global leadership for the UK. Prime Minister Boris Johnson hosted the G7 Leaders'



Julia Longbottom



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Her Majesty The Queen visited Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth on 22 May, just hours before the UK Carrier Strike Group sailed for its first operational deployment.

Summit in Cornwall in the South West of England earlier this month. The UK and Japan share a commit-

ment to the G7 as the catalyst for decisive international action to tackle the greatest challenges the world faces.

In November, the UK will host the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26. We strongly welcome the Japanese government's commitments to Net Zero by 2050, and to reducing its emissions to 46-50% by 2030.

A further significant statement of the UK's commitment to a strong and close relationship with Japan will arrive later this year. The aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, the largest and most powerful surface vessel in the Royal Navy's history, will visit Japan on its maiden deployment.

As we mark Her Majesty's birthday, and celebrate her remarkable service as the longest-reigning British monarch, we have much to look forward to in

a year that will see the UK and Japan further deepen our relationship and build a brighter future together.

*Our warmest wishes  
to Her Majesty  
Queen Elizabeth II  
on Her Birthday*

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**Birthday Greetings to  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

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**Birthday Greetings to  
Her Majesty  
Queen Elizabeth II**

**ROBERT WALTERS**