

The Queen's WORKING DAY



Awards and Honours

Awards ceremonies are held at Buckingham Palace on a regular basis throughout the year. These are called investitures. The awards are for people who have done good work in their community or in a particular subject or field. Some people are knighted by The Queen. When a gentleman receives a knighthood, Her Majesty rests a sword on each of his shoulders. Ladies are given a badge and star to wear, and call themselves Dame.

Garden Parties

During the summer, The Queen gives at least three garden parties at Buckingham Palace and one at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, when she is staying there. These usually start at 4.00pm. Guests come from all over the United Kingdom and even overseas to enjoy tea, sandwiches and cakes in the garden. Once a week, when Parliament is sitting, the Prime Minister comes to see Her Majesty privately to talk about Government and other matters. On other evenings she might host a reception at Buckingham Palace. Otherwise she spends her evenings privately, often working on the papers in her red boxes.



Out and About

Of course The Queen's day might be very different if she is going out on visits. She is Patron or President of over 600 charities, churches, societies, schools and associations which she often visits. Her Majesty has visited every single county in the United Kingdom, frequently with her husband, The Duke of Edinburgh. These visits can take the whole day and sometimes two days. The Queen still has to work on her red boxes after she has returned, and she may have to see members of her household and staff before the end of the day. Her Majesty carries out over 450 engagements every year.



Overseas Travel

Usually twice a year The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh pay a State Visit to another country, and Heads of State from other countries pay a State Visit to this country, when they stay with Her Majesty at one of her official residences. The Queen also pays Royal Visits to Commonwealth countries.