

# PLATINUM LININGS FOR THE WINDSORS

The Queen's Jubilee celebrations will be a high spot in a year of melancholic milestones and unresolved family differences, writes **Kerry Parnell**

**I**t will be a year of milestones for the Royal Family, but will the Windsors be making resolutions to resolve a few issues in 2022?

As the new year begins, Teams Wales, Cambridge and Sussex will be cracking open their new diaries and penning their plans – but the big question is, will they finally RSVP yes as one?

“The year 2022 should really be all about the Queen and her Platinum Jubilee, but inevitably it will be overshadowed at times by the Duke of York's legal wrangling and later on by Prince Harry's book, about which there is already much conjecture,” says Joe Little, managing editor of Majesty Magazine.

However, there is much to celebrate in 2022. Here's what we can expect:

Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge starts the party early, as she turns 40 on January 9. She is enjoying a boom in popularity, having worked solidly throughout lockdowns, supporting frontline workers and the NHS.

Royal commentators expect her run of success to continue, as Kate matures into a senior, dependable royal family member. And now she's hit 40, will 2022 be the year she goes for a rumoured wanted fourth child?

In February, the Queen reaches 70 years on the throne, “which I hope will be an opportunity for people everywhere to enjoy a sense of togetherness; a chance to give thanks for the enormous changes of the last 70 years – social, scientific and cultural – and also to look ahead with confidence,” she said in her Christmas speech.

Her record-breaking rule began on February 6, 1952, when her father, King George VI died aged 56, while Princess Elizabeth was famously visiting Treetops in Kenya. She “climbed a tree a princess and descended it a queen,” says royal biographer Matthew Dennison.

Major events are planned for June – the Queen never celebrates the day she took the throne, because she mourns her father's death.

“It's important to understand that for the Queen this marks the anniversary of



Queen Elizabeth reflected on her hopes for togetherness in 2022 during her Christmas speech; the year also marks 20 years since the passing of her sister Margaret and a year since Prince Philip died while William and Catherine both turn 40.



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the day her father died,” her former press secretary Dickie Arbiter previously explained. “She has always made it clear that her long reign is a consequence of her father's early death and so it is not a day for celebration.”

Pandemic-permitting, senior royal family members will be embarking on tours around the UK and Commonwealth on behalf of the jubilee. Reports hint Princess Anne could visit Sydney and it has been suggested Harry and Meghan may visit Australia for their foundation. Harry is also holding his Invictus Games in

The Hague early in the year.

But 2022 is also full of emotional milestones for the Queen – it is the 20th anniversary of Princess Margaret's death on February 9 and the Queen Mother's on March 30 and April 9 is the one-year anniversary of Prince Philip's passing. She has announced a service of thanksgiving for his life will be held in spring in Westminster Abbey.

However, the melancholy will turn to jubilation in June, when the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations take place.

Events include a parade, the Platinum Party At The

Palace live concert and the Platinum Jubilee Pageant and the whole family is expected to turn out.

The big question is whether that will include Harry, Meghan, Archie and Lili.

“One would hope they would reconcile for the Queen's big milestone,” says Brittani Barger, deputy editor of Royal Central. “It's such an important moment for her. It would be nice to have all her family there, getting along.”

“The Platinum Jubilee celebrations should be epic, given that a reigning British monarch has never got this far until now,” says Little. “But

there is the possibility that the pandemic will interfere with what's being planned, and the Queen will be less visible than in previous jubilees because of her age and maybe health issues.”

Prince William will also be getting out the party poppers that month, as he hits the big 40 on June 21 and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall celebrates her 75th birthday on July 17.

The party continues with the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham at the end of July.

The Queen launched the baton relay from Buckingham Palace in October and it is hoped will receive it back at the opening ceremony. The event is being produced by Peaky Blinders' Steven Knight, who says “it is going to be mind-blowing”.

Last year, William and Harry launched their long-awaited statue of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, in the gardens of Kensington Palace to commemorate what would have been her 60th birthday and in August, the brothers will mark the 25th anniversary of her death, in Paris, aged 36.

It is also about this time Harry's memoir is expected to be published, which threatens to overshadow either the jubilee or his mother's anniversary. And at the year's close, there will be more bittersweet anniversaries as the Queen marks what would have been her 75th wedding anniversary to Philip, on November 21.

Back in 1947 when they wed, the princess noted, “It is lovely to think that your happiness has made millions happy too in these hard times,” but she could never have known that 75 years later, in more difficult times, she'd be remembering that joyful day alone.

Finally, Princess Anne reaches her pearl anniversary with second husband Timothy Laurence, as the pair celebrate 30 years married on December 12.

Her first marriage breakdown, amid that of her siblings' Charles and Diana and Andrew and Sarah, had been the cause of what the Queen termed her Annus Horribilis in 1992, so 30 years later, it is with a quiet success that she made it work, second time around.