

grandmother The Queen was born in 1926, the wounds of the Great War were still healing, but few would imagine how soon they would be reopened. The confidence of the previous century had morphed into uncertainty and many worried – as they still do – about the challenge presented to our communities by rapid technological and social change."

Home and Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd Elizabeth II: The Steadfast
1990—1926

Prince William adds: "After almost ninety years, we find ourselves in a world that has changed dramatically, almost beyond recognition to the world that The Queen was born into, but where the role of charity, family, duty and compassion perseveres. I think I speak for my generation when I say that the example and continuity provided by The Queen is not only very rare among leaders but a great source of pride and reassurance. Time and again, quietly and modestly, The Queen has shown us all that we can confidently embrace the future without compromising the things that are important."

1990

"From a personal point of view, I am privileged to witness the private side of The Queen, as a grandmother and great-grandmother. The Queen's kindness and sense of humour, her innate sense of calm and perspective, and her love of family and home are all attributes I experience first-hand. All of us who will inherit the legacy of my grandmother's reign and generation need to do all we can to celebrate and learn from her story. Speaking for myself, I am privileged to have The Queen as a model for a life of service to the public."

1990

Prince William also pays tribute to the role played by his grandfather, the Duke of Edinburgh, in supporting the Queen throughout her 63-year reign. He writes: "I should add that no mention of The Queen is complete without paying tribute to my grandfather Prince Philip, who has devoted his life to supporting her."

Duke of Edinburgh 63

The book comes as the country prepares to celebrate the moment, on September 9, when the Queen's becomes Britain's longest-reigning monarch – overtaking the record set by Queen Victoria.

1999

Although the Queen had insisted she wanted no fuss to be made, the landmark will be recognised with a range of souvenir china and photographic exhibitions at three royal palaces. On the day itself the Queen will be opening a new railway line in Scotland and taking a ride in a carriage pulled by a steam train.

Elizabeth II: The Steadfast will be published on August 27 by Penguin Books, as part of series of short histories of Britain's sovereigns entitled Penguin Monarchs.

827 Penguin Monarchs

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