

Trivia

Queen Anne

Born in 1665

Ascended in 1702

Died in 1714, aged 49

Reigned for 12 years

Married to George, Prince of Denmark bearing 2 sons and 3 daughters.

Queen Anne was the second daughter of James II and sister-in-law to William III. She came to the throne in 1702, at the age of 37, and was worn out with continual pregnancies - seventeen in total. One child was stillborn, five died in childhood and the other twelve pregnancies led to miscarriages.

George, who was very much a family man, was given a post in the Navy but was not a good commander. He was not disliked, but the Queen often had to protect him. Charles II remarked about the Prince of Denmark, *I have tried him drunk and tried him sober and there is nothing in him.*

George died in 1708, leaving the Queen to rule on her own for another six years. After Anne's reign, the crown went to the essentially German house of Hanover with George I, because Anne and her husband, George (Prince of Denmark) failed to produce an heir.

Her reign had been good in many respects, although England had declared war against France and Spain. A minor war in Blenheim (1704), against the French and her allies, eventually resulted in the Treaty of Utrecht between England and France. In 1707, there was the Act of Union with Scotland, which essentially created the United Kingdom under the flag we have today. There were also many great scientific and intellectual changes during her reign: the writers Swift and Pope, the scientist Newton, the philosopher Locke and the architect Sir Christopher Wren were all prominent in the reign of Queen Anne.