



**FLAG INSTITUTE**

# **A VISUAL GUIDE TO THE FLAGS USED IN THE THAMES DIAMOND JUBILEE PAGEANT**

**Graham Bartram**  
Chief Vexillologist, The Flag Institute

Version 1.6



**THAMES  
1952 DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012  
PAGEANT**

## Introduction

This guide shows the main flags used in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant, along with some background notes on them.

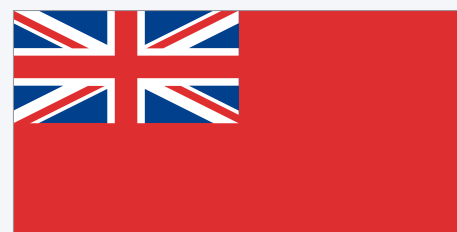
It is intended to help you identify flags and will hopefully add to your enjoyment of the day. It has been prepared by the Flag Institute, the UK's national flag body, who have worked closely with the organisers of the Pageant to ensure that the correct flags are displayed in the right order.

For more information about the Flag Institute please visit our website at <http://www.flaginstitute.org>

## Some Terminology

### Ensign Staff

This is the flag staff at the stern (back) of a vessel, so-called because this is where she would normally fly her ensign, which in the case of a British vessel is either red, blue or white with a Union Flag in the canton (top corner nearest the flagpole). For the Pageant some vessels will be flying the Pageant Flag instead.



The Civil "Red" Ensign

### Jack Staff

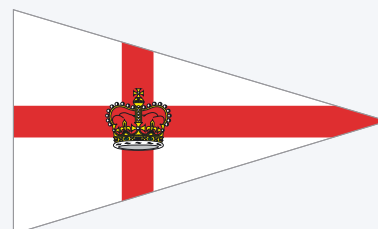
This is the flag staff at the bow (front) of a vessel. There is a civil jack that can be flown here, but it is often used for a house flag. Because many of the river vessels do not have masts (masts and bridges do not get along) this where the vessels carrying members of the Royal Family will fly the appropriate Royal Standard.



The Civil (or Pilot) Jack

### Pennant / Burgee

A small, usually triangular flag. One common form is the burgee that indicates which yacht club a vessel belongs to. Many yacht clubs have their own special ensigns. There is a special Pageant Pennant (shown on page 4), which vessels can continue to use after the Pageant is over to show that they took part in this historic event.



The Burgee of the Royal Yacht Squadron - the only private vessels that fly White Ensigns

## The Union Jack or Union Flag?

It is often stated that the Union Flag should only be described as the Union Jack when flown in the bows of a warship, but this is a relatively recent idea. From early in its life the Admiralty itself frequently referred to the flag as the Union Jack, whatever its use. This was given Parliamentary approval on 14th July 1908 when it was stated in a parliamentary answer by the Earl of Crewe, speaking on behalf of HM Government, that “the Union *Jack* should be regarded as the national flag”.

In fact the term ‘Jack’ was used in the 1600’s for a small version of the Union Flag flown from the front of a ship, probably using ‘jack’ as a diminutive. The Jack Staff was only introduced in the 18th century when changes in the rigging of ships necessitated that a small mast be rigged specially to fly the flag when in harbour. So the name predates the mast by over a hundred and fifty years.

## Why So Few Union Flags?

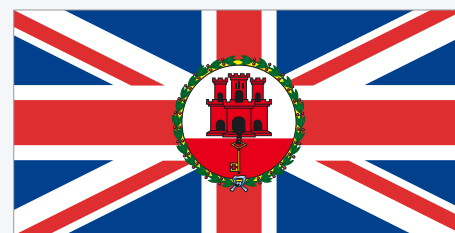
You may notice that amongst all the thousands of flags being used in the Pageant there are not many Union Flags. So why not?

When King James VI/I introduced his ‘British Flag’ in 1606 it was to be used by all British ships, but 28 years later King Charles I decided that the flag should only be used by his ships, ie. warships. This has remained the case ever since and the Royal Navy jealously guard their right to fly the flag as a jack and as the distinguishing flag for Admirals of the Fleet and the First Sea Lord. The prohibition is included in the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

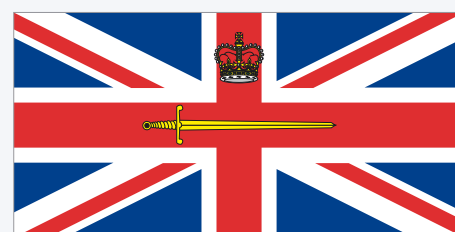
You may see some Union Flags with devices in the centre. These are the flags of people who administer governments, such as the Governors of the Overseas Territories. British Ambassadors also use a Union Flag with the Royal Arms in the centre. Finally HM The Queen's representatives around the United Kingdom, the Lord Lieutenants, use a Union Flag with a crown and sword in the centre, although Scottish Lord Lieutenants can also use the Scottish Royal Banner, as heraldic law is different in Scotland.



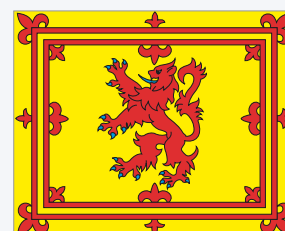
The Union Flag or Jack



Governor of Gibraltar



Lord Lieutenant



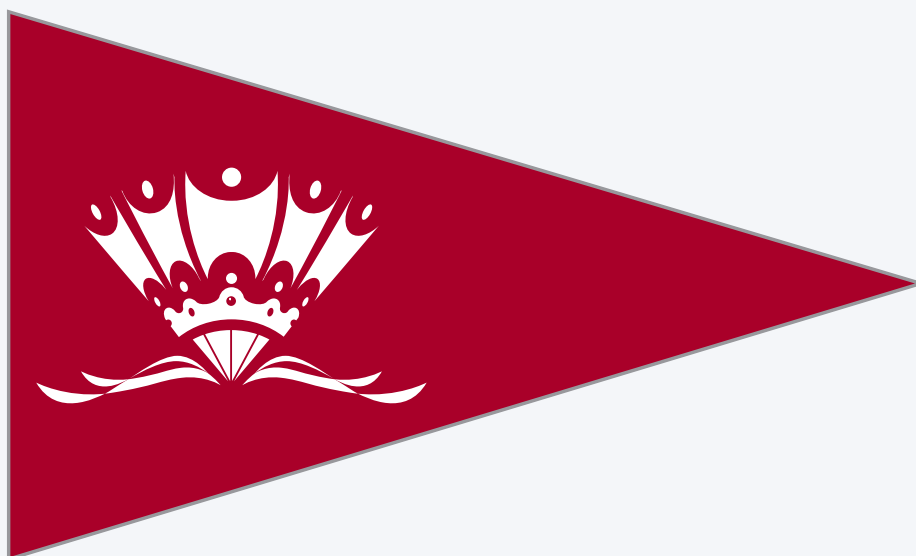
Scottish Lord Lieutenant

## The Pageant Flag

Every vessel, apart from the Royal Barge Chartwell, will display either the Pageant flag or pennant. If the vessel is too small for a fabric flag it will use a decal of the design. Both flags feature the wonderful design of a ship under full sail that is the heart of the Pageant's emblem. The crimson background was chosen to reflect the royal nature of the event and to coordinate with the colour scheme of the Royal Barge.



The Pageant Flag



The Pageant Pennant



# Gloriana

The new ceremonial barge, *Gloriana*, will be carrying Lord Sterling and his guests. On the canopy she will fly the flags of the four home nations.

## England

England's flag dates back to the crusades. St. George was a very popular saint with the early crusaders, and they brought his cult back with them. The flag is based on the red crosses worn by the crusaders on their surcoats. The earliest record of its use in its current form is in 1277, in the reign of Edward I.



England - St George

## Scotland

Scotland's flag is the Cross (or more accurately "saltire") of St. Andrew. In legend it dates back to the Battle of Athelstaneford in the 9<sup>th</sup> century when the Pictish king Angus MacFergus credited St. Andrew with his victory over the Saxon Athelstan. The clouds formed a white cross in the sky to signal St. Andrew's support of the Picts and the Saxons lost heart. Since the 11<sup>th</sup> century the white or silver saltire has been the symbol of the Scots. The blue background dates back to at least the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



Scotland - St Andrew

## Wales

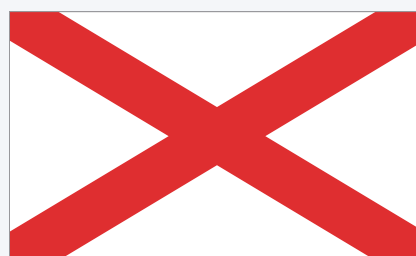
Wales' flag is *Y Ddraig Goch* "The Red Dragon". The red dragon symbol dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century and in the 7<sup>th</sup> century Cadwaladr, Prince of Gwynedd, adopted it as his emblem. Green and white were the colours of the Welsh Prince Llewellyn. The Tudors used the same colours and adopted the red dragon as one of the supporters of the Royal Arms. The current design was introduced in 1959.



Wales - The Red Dragon

## Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is represented in the Pageant by St Patrick's Cross, as that represents Northern Ireland in the Union Flag.



Northern Ireland - St Patrick

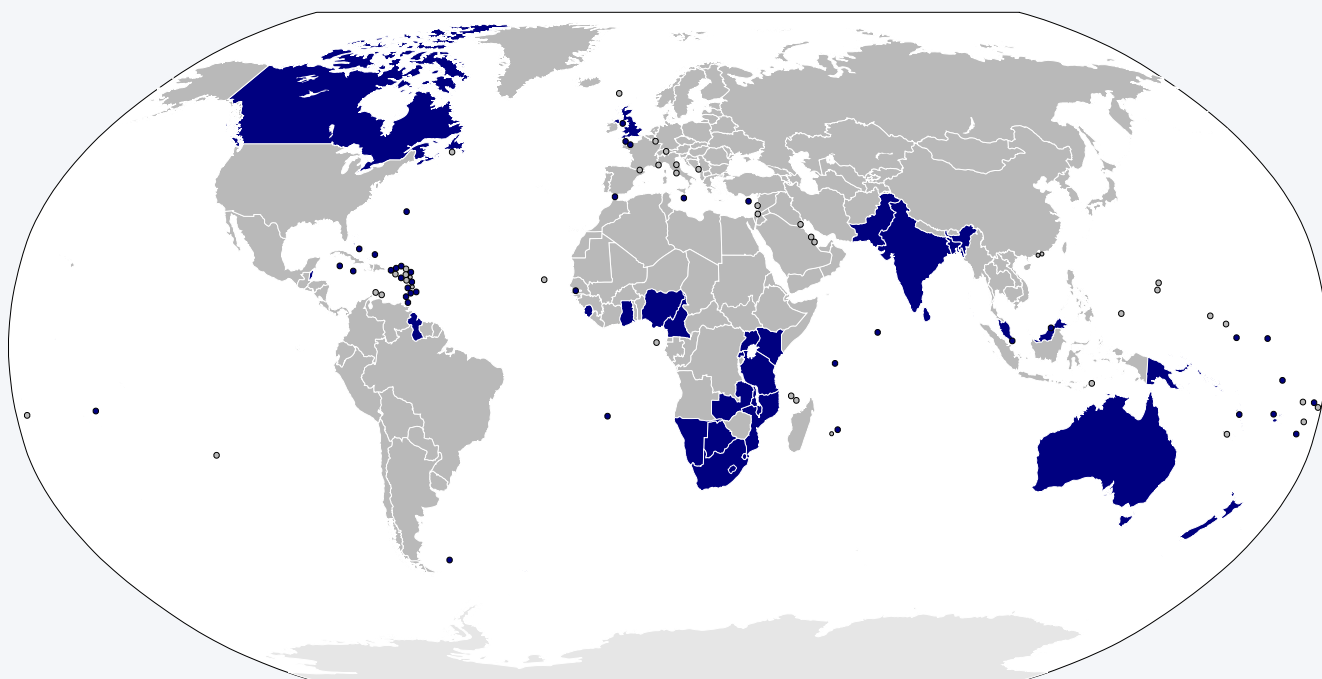
## The Commonwealth

All the nations of the Commonwealth are represented with the aid of the Naval Cadets in their Trinity 500 vessels. Each boat is fitted with a specially designed mast that will display a large national flag of one of the Commonwealth members.

The first boat flies the flag of the Commonwealth itself, royal blue with a globe surrounded by golden rays, forming the letter C.

This is followed by 53 other boats with the flags of the member states, in the order that they joined the Commonwealth, with the United Kingdom leading.

The following two pages show all 54 flags, complete with the date the country joined the Commonwealth.



The Commonwealth of Nations  
(shown in blue)



The Commonwealth Flag



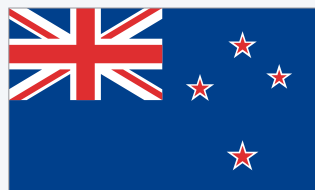
United Kingdom  
11 December 1931



Canada  
11 December 1931



Australia  
11 December 1931



New Zealand  
11 December 1931



South Africa  
11 December 1931



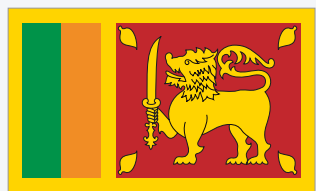
Ireland  
11 December 1931  
Left on 18 April 1949



India  
14/15 August 1947



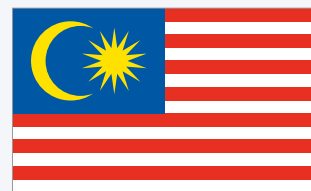
Pakistan  
14/15 August 1947



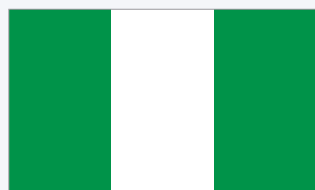
Sri Lanka  
4 February 1948



Ghana  
6 March 1957



Malaysia  
31 August 1957



Nigeria  
1 October 1960



Cyprus  
13 March 1961



Sierra Leone  
27 April 1961



Tanzania  
9 December 1961



Jamaica  
6 August 1962



Trinidad and Tobago  
31 August 1962



Uganda  
9 October 1962



Kenya  
12 December 1963



Malawi (see stop press)  
6 July 1964



Malta  
21 September 1964



Zambia  
24 October 1964



The Gambia  
18 February 1965



Singapore  
15 October 1965



Guyana  
26 May 1966



Botswana  
30 September 1966



Lesotho  
4 October 1966

The flags of the Commonwealth are shown in 3:5 format, as they will appear in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Flotilla.



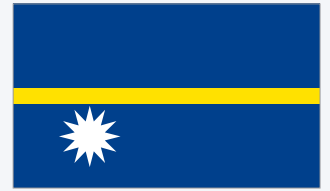
**Barbados**  
30 November 1966



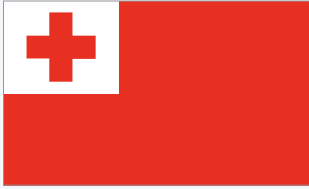
**Mauritius**  
12 March 1968



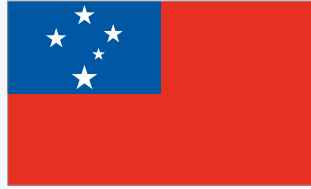
**Swaziland**  
6 September 1968



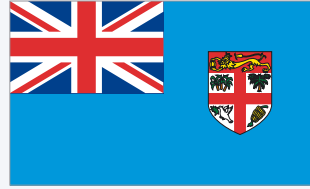
**Nauru**  
1 November 1968



**Tonga**  
4 June 1970



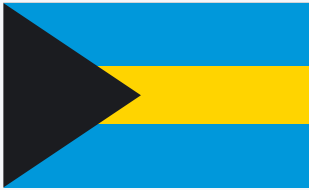
**Samoa**  
28 August 1970



**Fiji Islands**  
10 October 1970  
Currently suspended



**Bangladesh**  
18 April 1971



**The Bahamas**  
10 July 1973



**Grenada**  
7 February 1974



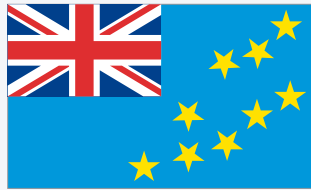
**Papua New Guinea**  
16 September 1975



**Seychelles**  
29 June 1976



**Solomon Islands**  
7 July 1978



**Tuvalu**  
1 October 1978



**Dominica**  
3 November 1978



**Saint Lucia**  
22 February 1979



**Kiribati**  
12 July 1979



**Saint Vincent  
and the Grenadines**  
27 October 1979



**Zimbabwe**  
18 April 1980  
Left on 7 December 2003



**Vanuatu**  
30 July 1980



**Belize**  
21 September 1981



**Antigua and Barbuda**  
1 November 1981



**Saint Christopher and Nevis**  
19 September 1983



**Brunei Darussalam**  
1 January 1984



**Namibia**  
21 March 1990



**Cameroon**  
13 November 1995



**Mozambique**  
13 November 1995



**Rwanda**  
29 November 2009

The modern names have been used. The dates shown are admittance to the Commonwealth, rather than independence.

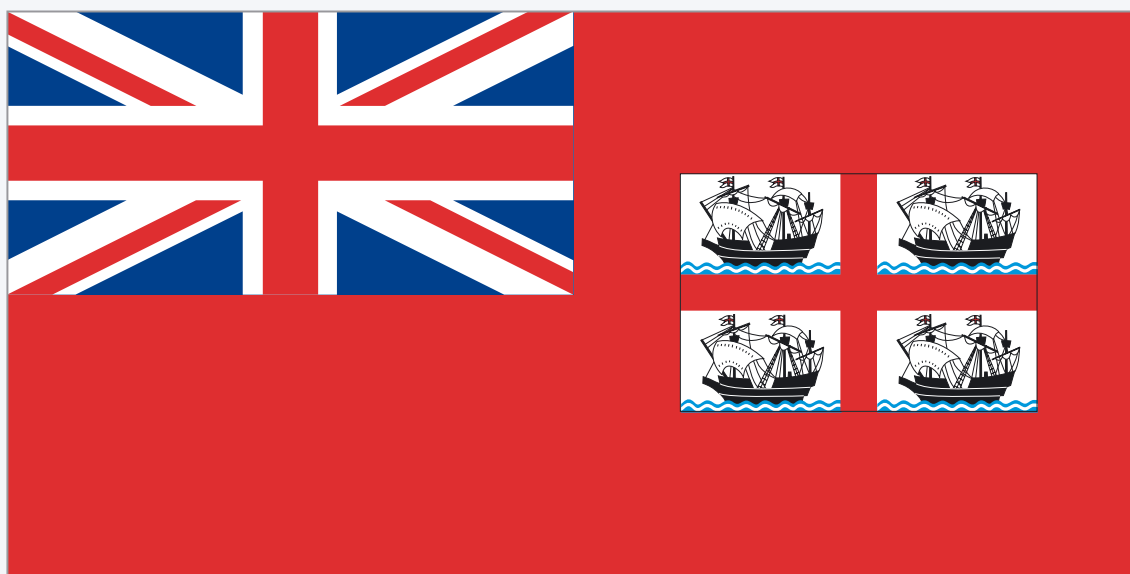
# Trinity House Boat No. 1

Trinity House will be exercising their right to escort the Sovereign, using Trinity House Boat No.1. The boat will fly the Trinity House Red Ensign and HRH The Princess Royal will fly the flag of the Master of Trinity House whilst on board.

The Trinity House Red Ensign features the Trinity House flag in the fly. The flag is a banner of the arms, granted to Trinity House in 1573, and comprises the cross of St George with an Elizabethan galley in each corner.

The flag of the Master of Trinity House is the house flag with the shield, helmet and crest of Trinity House in the centre.

Other Trinity House flags may be seen in the Pageant as the Brethren of Trinity House are entitled to fly the house flag.



The Trinity House Red Ensign



The Master of Trinity House



## The Heralds

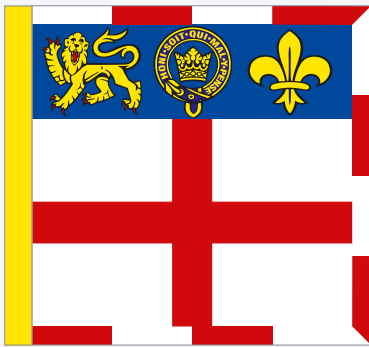
No Royal occasion would be complete without the Queen's Heralds in their splendid heraldic tabards in attendance. The Pageant will see probably the largest gathering of Her Majesty's heralds ever to take place. To mark the occasion their vessel will be festooned with their individual flags. The heralds come from the College of Arms in London, the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh and the Canadian Heraldic Authority in Ottawa.

The next four pages show all these flags.

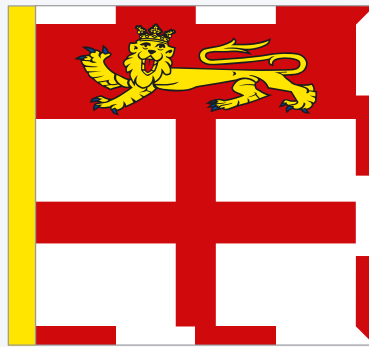


English Heralds at the Garter Service in Windsor Castle

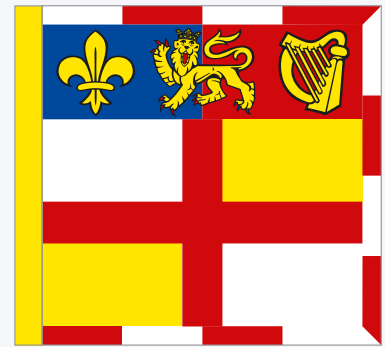
# The College of Arms - London



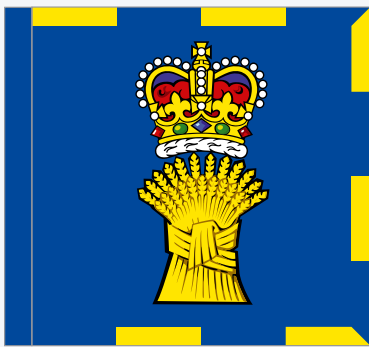
Garter King of Arms



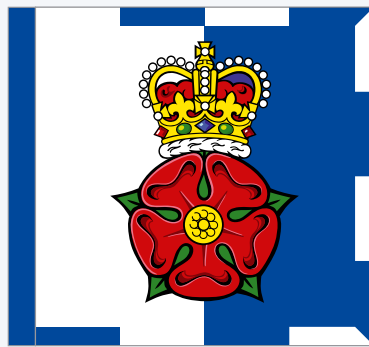
Clarenceaux King of Arms



Norroy and Ulster King of Arms



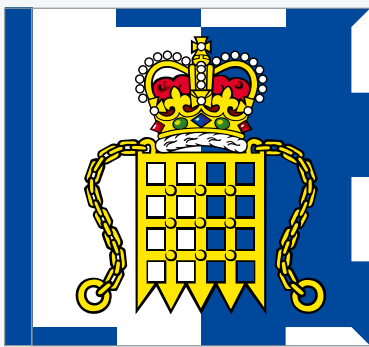
Chester Herald



Lancaster Herald



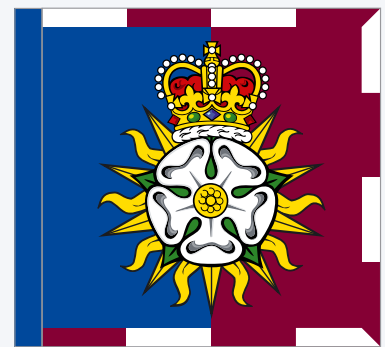
Windsor Herald



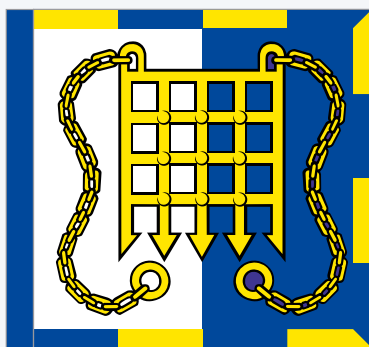
Somerset Herald



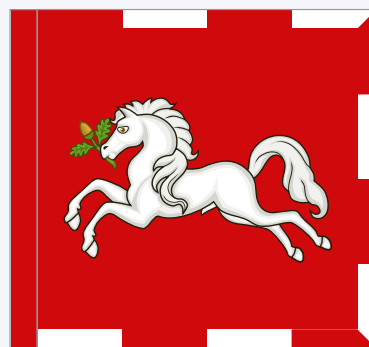
Richmond Herald



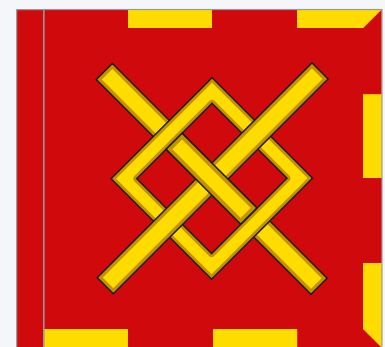
York Herald



Portcullis Pursuivant



Arundel Herald  
Extraordinary



Maltravers Herald  
Extraordinary

# The College of Arms - London (cont.)



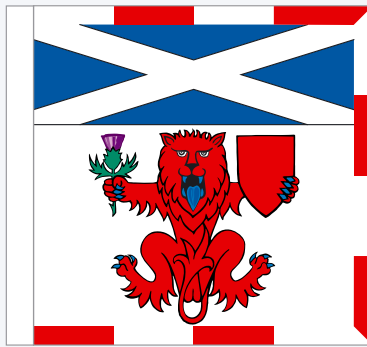
Norfolk Herald Extraordinary



Wales Herald Extraordinary



# The Court of the Lord Lyon - Edinburgh



Lord Lyon King of Arms



Rothesay Herald



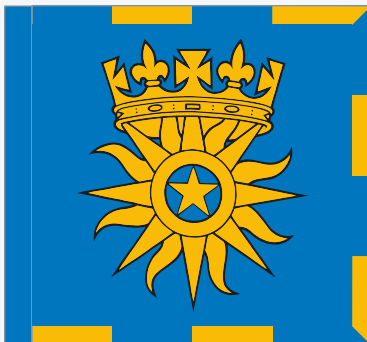
Snawdoun Herald



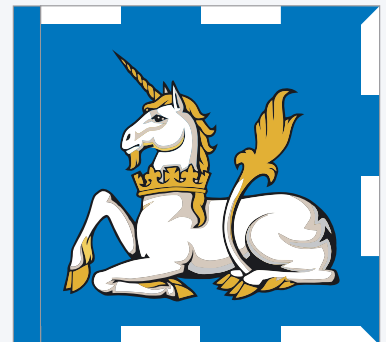
Marchmont Herald



Ormond Pursuivant



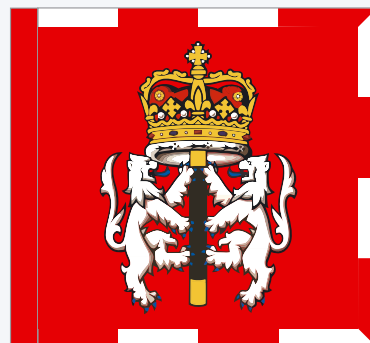
Dingwall Pursuivant



Unicorn Pursuivant

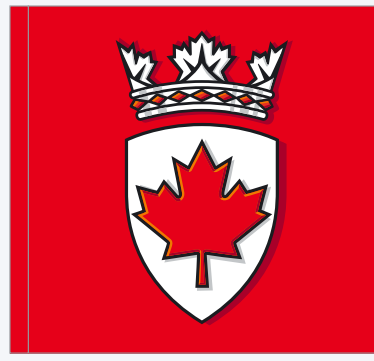


Islay Herald Extraordinary

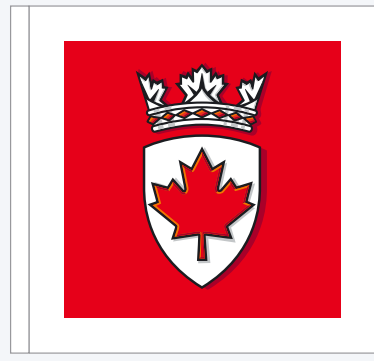


Ross Herald Extraordinary

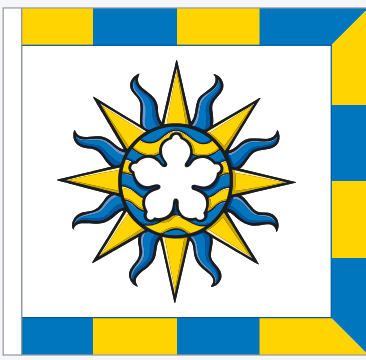
# The Canadian Heraldic Authority - Ottawa



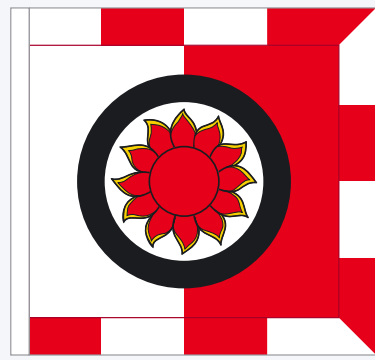
Chief Herald of Canada



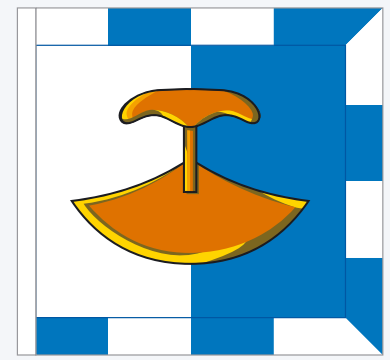
Deputy Chief Herald of Canada



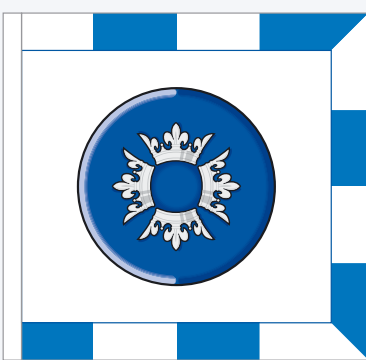
Fraser Herald



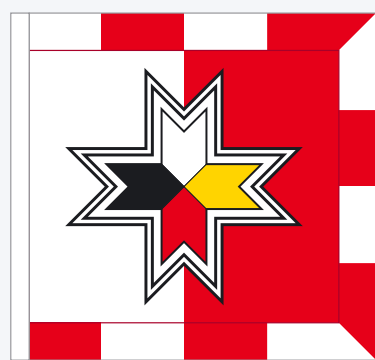
Assiniboine Herald



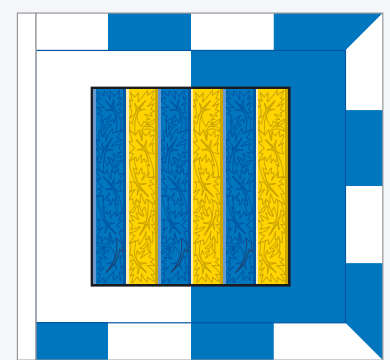
Coppermine Herald



Saguenay Herald



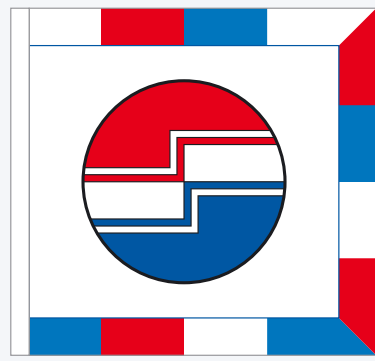
Miramichi Herald



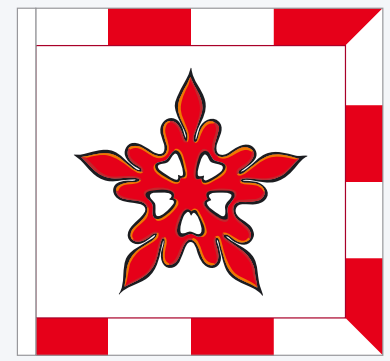
Rideau Herald Emeritus



Niagara Herald



Albion Herald Emeritus



Rouge Herald Extraordinary

## The Royal Barge

HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and several other members of the Royal Family will be using the MV *Spirit of Chartwell* as the Royal Barge. For the occasion Joseph Bennett has transformed the vessel with elaborate gold mouldings and velvet hangings.

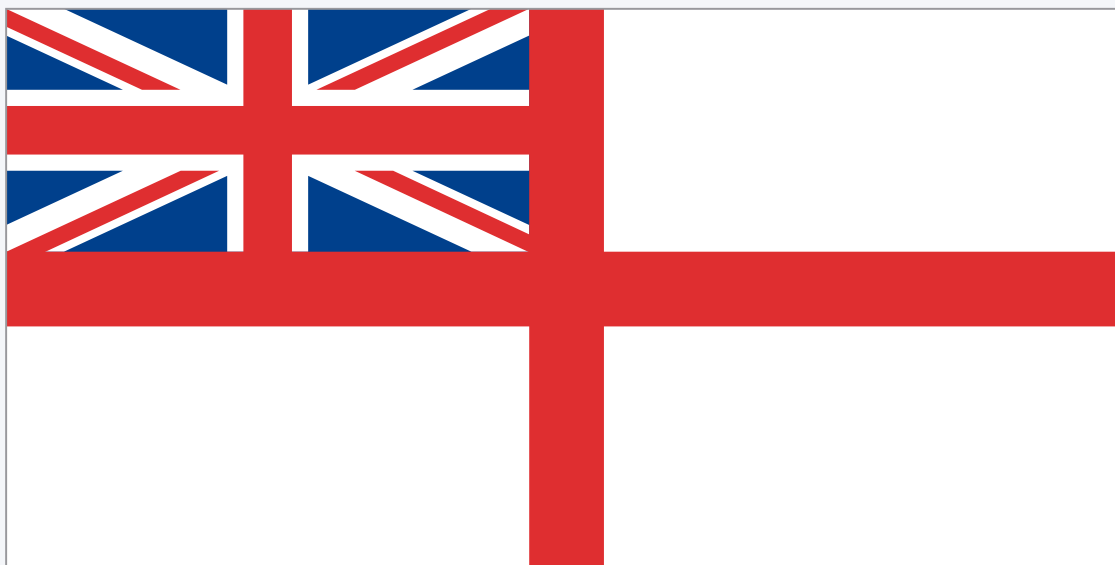
The Royal Standard will be flown from the vessel's bow once Her Majesty has boarded. The standard is actually a banner of the Royal Arms, featuring in the first and fourth quarters the Royal Arms of England, in the second quarter the Royal Arms of Scotland and in the third quarter the Royal Arms of Ireland.

To commemorate the event a new artistic rendition of the Royal Standard has been created (shown below). This will be presented to Her Majesty at the end of the Pageant as a memento of the day.

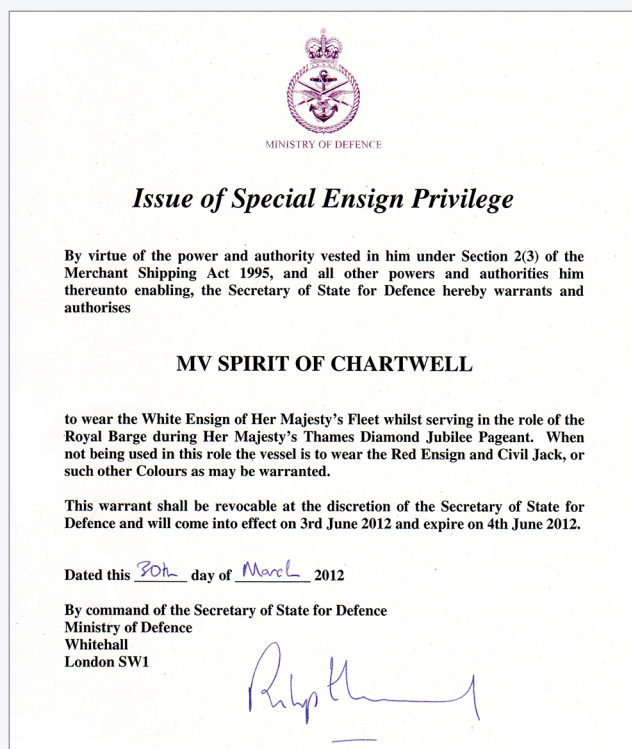


The Royal Standard of Her Majesty The Queen

Normally the *Spirit of Chartwell* would wear a Red Ensign from her ensign staff, but because she is being used as the Royal Barge, the First Sea Lord (Chief of the Naval Staff), Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE decided that it would be appropriate for her to wear the White Ensign, the ensign of the Royal Navy. Normally only commissioned warships and members of the Royal Yacht Squadron are permitted to fly the White Ensign, so a special warrant had to be drawn up. The Rt Hon Philip Hammond, the Secretary of State for Defence, signed the warrant using his powers under the Merchant Shipping Act.



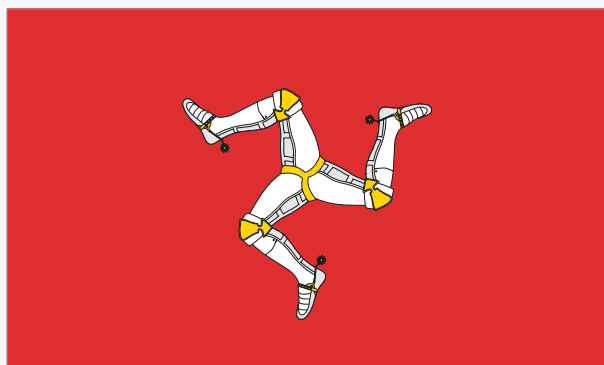
The White Ensign of the Royal Navy



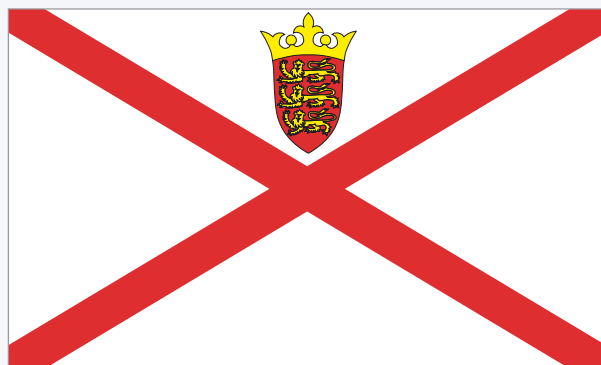
The Warrant for MV Spirit of Chartwell

## The Crown Dependencies

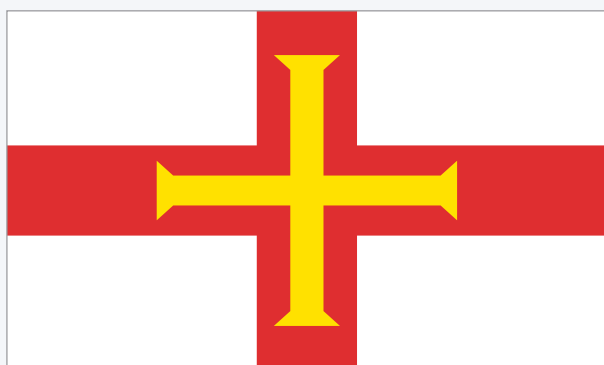
These are the countries near the United Kingdom that have the Queen as their head of state but are not part of the United Kingdom. Alderney and Sark are part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, but are treated as separate entities.



Isle of Man



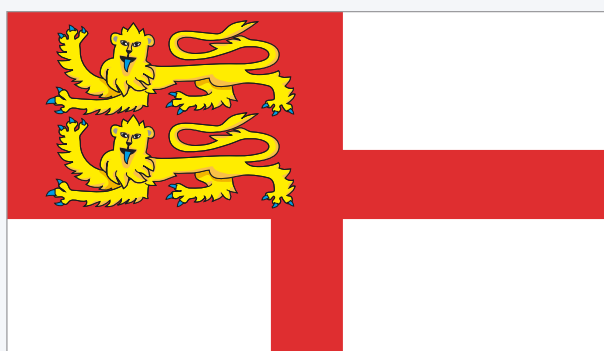
Jersey



Guernsey



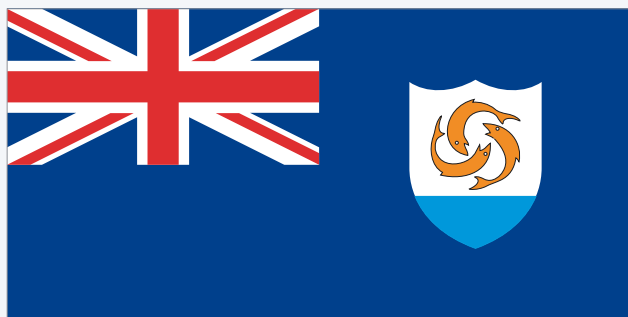
Alderney



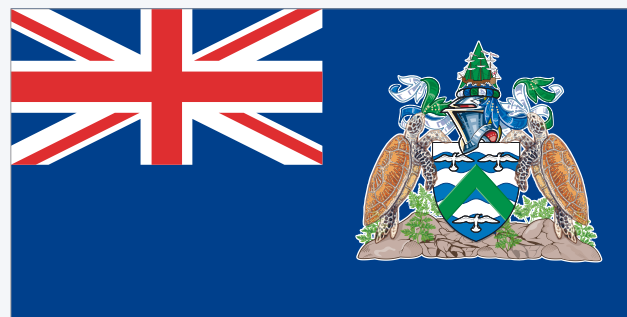
Sark

# The Overseas Territories

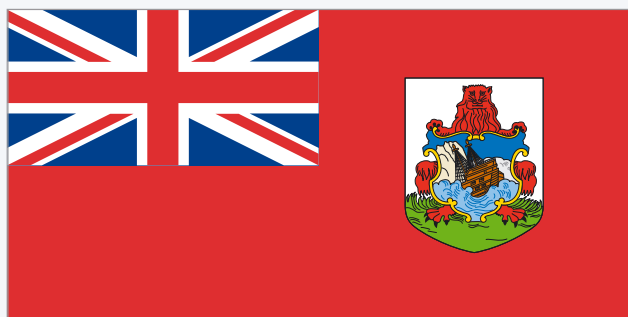
These are the countries around the world that are administered by the United Kingdom. They used to be called colonies, but the modern term is overseas territories. This will be the first time that the new flag of Ascension Island is seen.



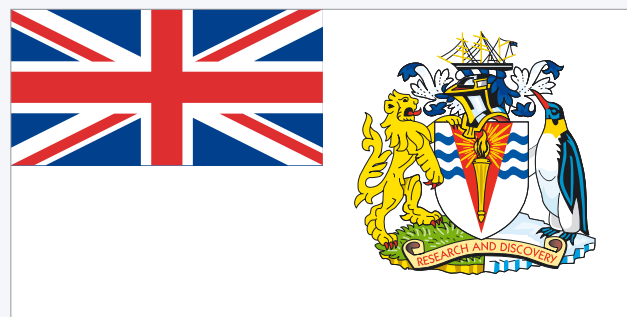
Anguilla



Ascension Island



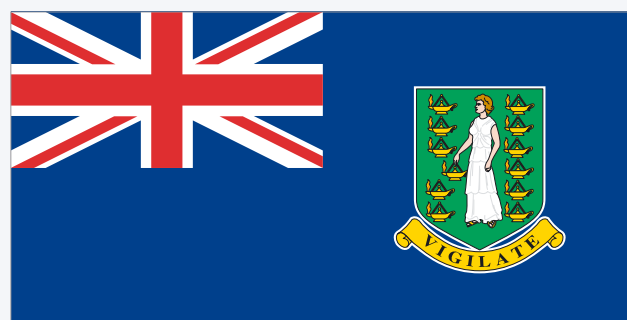
Bermuda



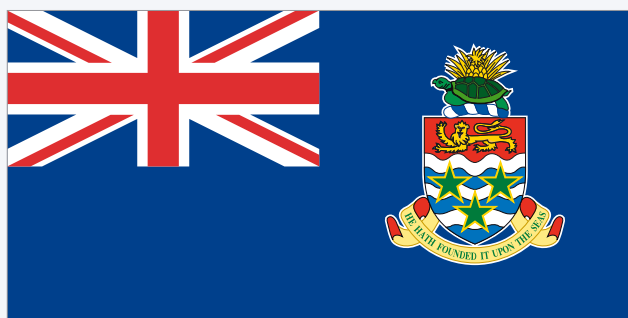
British Antarctic Territory



British Indian Ocean Territory



British Virgin Islands



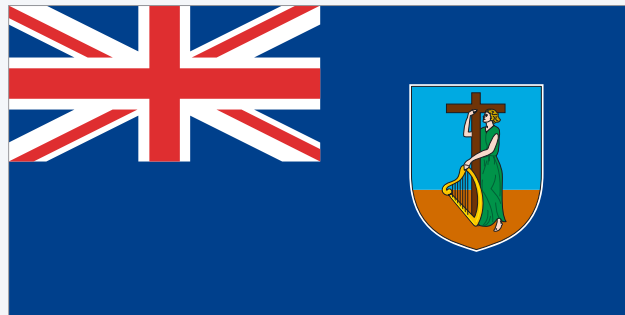
Cayman Islands



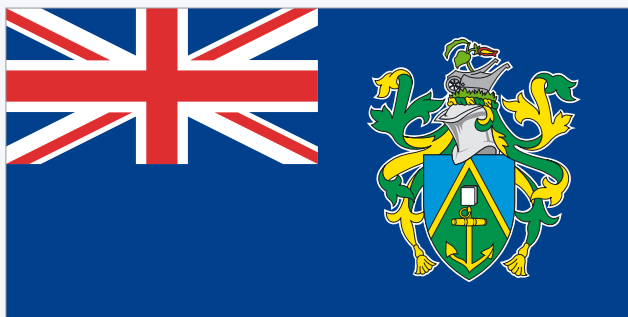
Falkland Islands



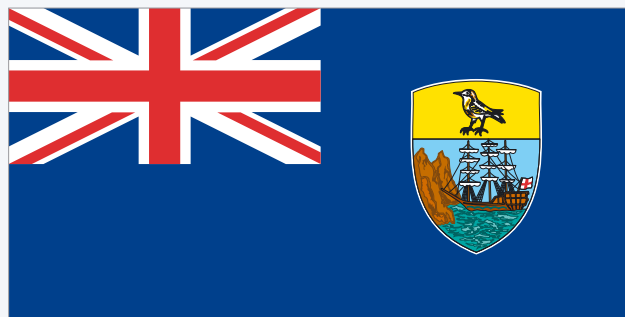
Gibraltar



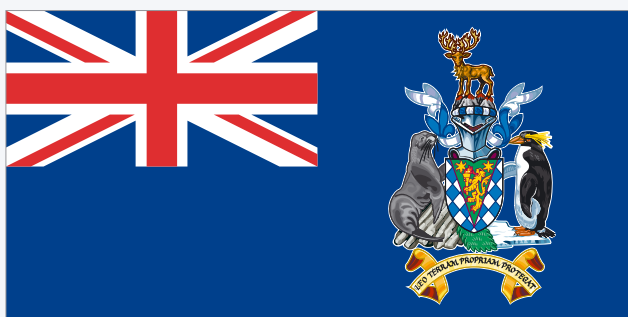
Montserrat



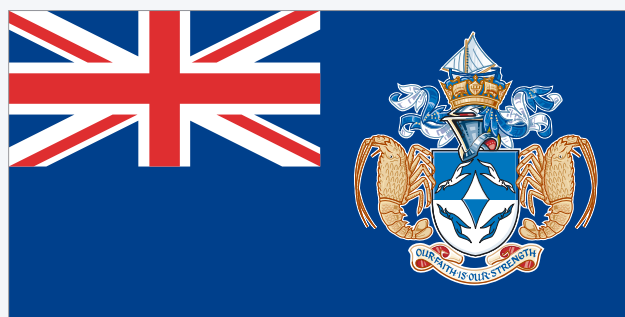
Pitcairn Islands



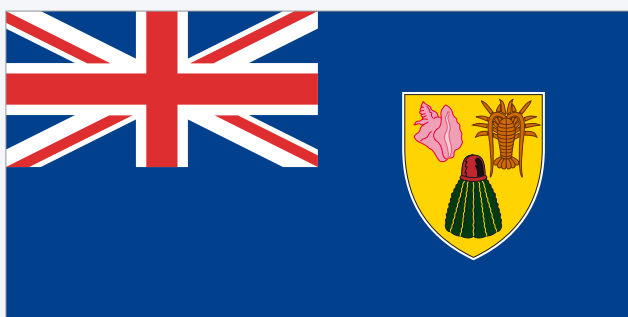
Saint Helena



South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands



Tristan da Cunha



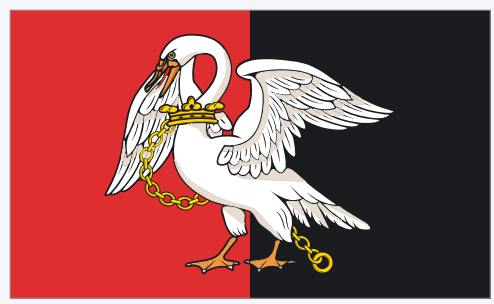
Turks and Caicos Islands



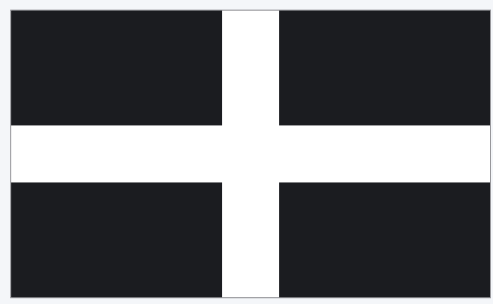
# County & Regional Flags

Many of the United Kingdom's counties, and some regions, now have their own flag, a trend that is continuing to grow with two recent additions from Wales, Monmouthshire and Caernarfonshire.

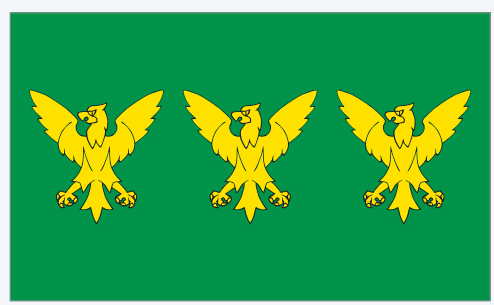
Listed here are the county and regional flags that have been registered with the Flag Institute.



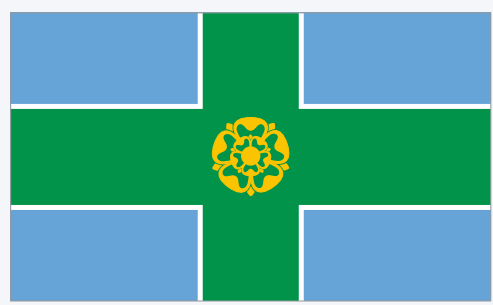
Buckinghamshire



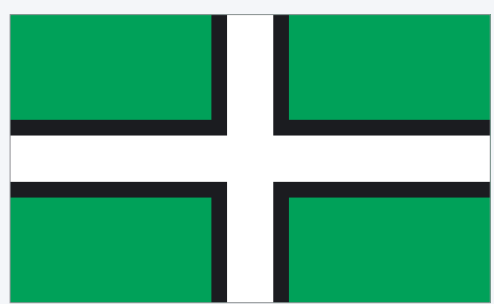
Cornwall



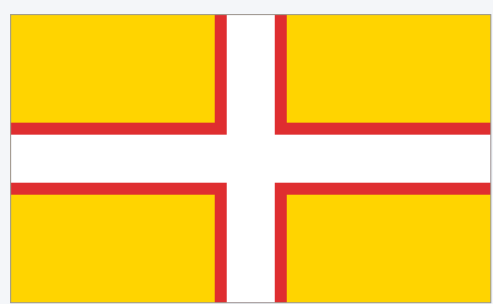
Caernarfonshire



Derbyshire



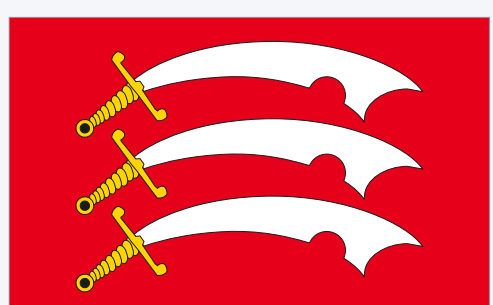
Devon



Dorset

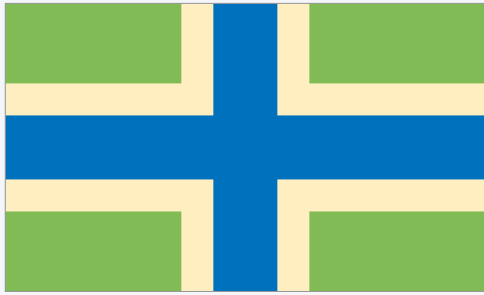


East Anglia



Essex

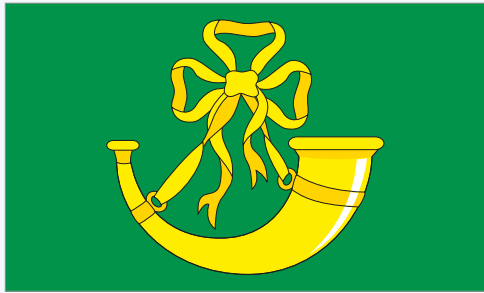




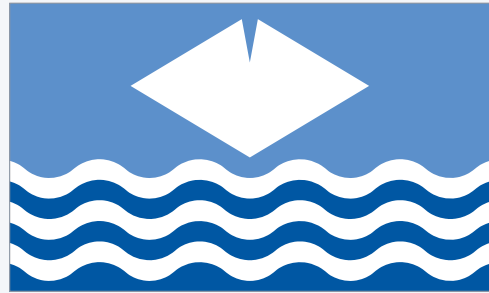
Gloucestershire



Hertfordshire



Huntingdonshire



Isle of Wight



Isles of Scilly



Kent



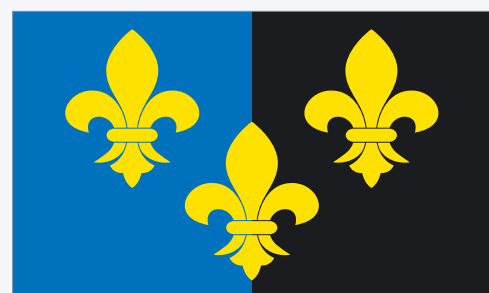
Lancashire



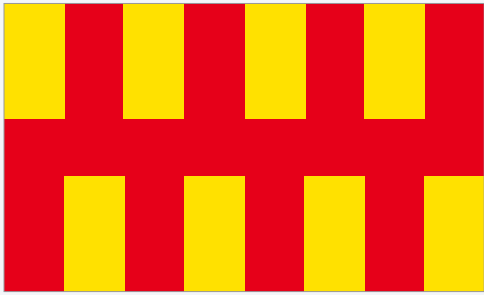
Lincolnshire



Middlesex



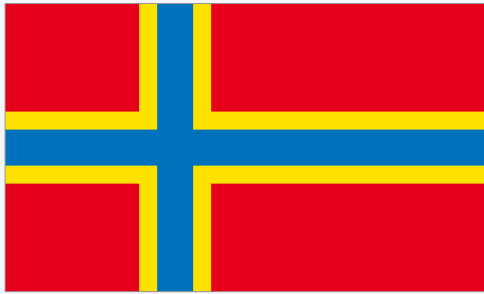
Monmouthshire



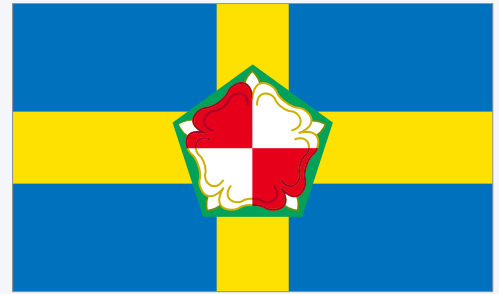
Northumberland



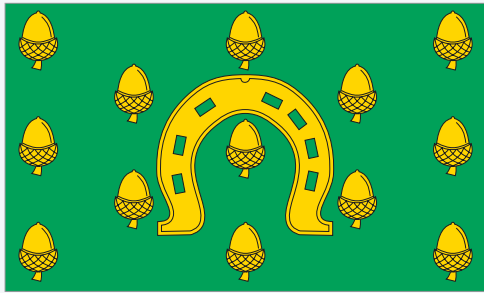
Nottinghamshire



Orkney



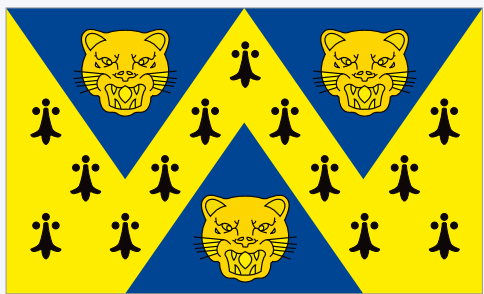
Pembrokeshire



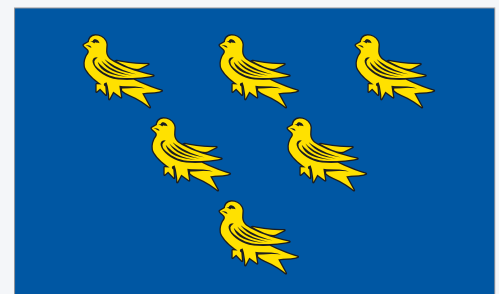
Rutland



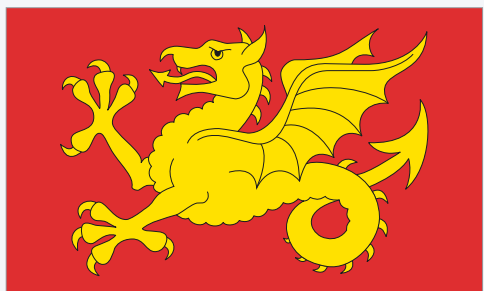
Shetland



Shropshire



Sussex



Wessex



Westmorland



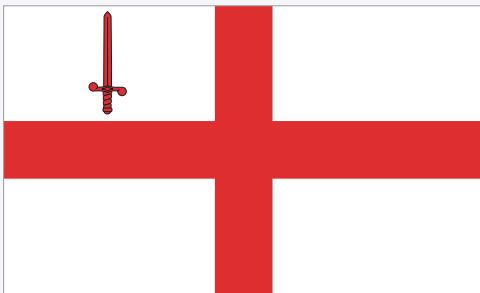
Wiltshire



Yorkshire

## City & Town Flags

Several British cities and towns now have flags and some of these may be seen on the day, but one city flag that certainly will be seen is that of the City of London, where the finale of the Pageant takes place. The flag is the Cross of St George with the Sword of St Paul in the canton.



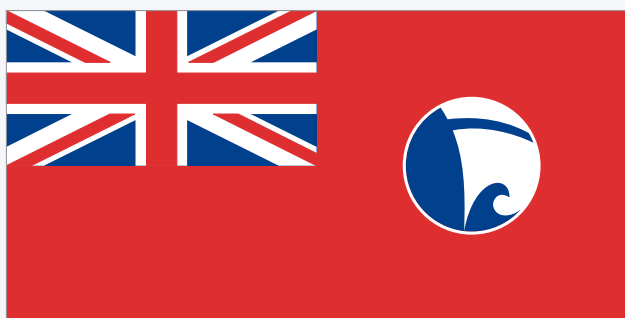
City of London

## Other Ensigns and Flags

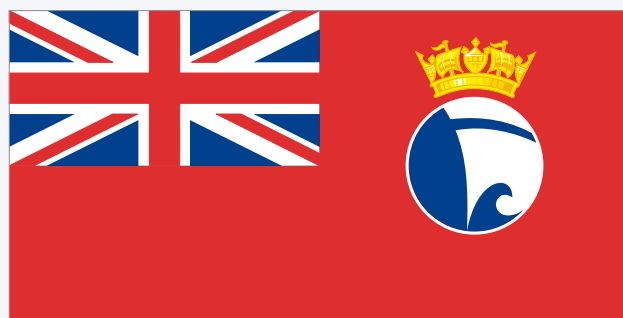
There are just too many flags that might be seen during the Pageant to cover all of them in this briefing, but here are a selection:

### National Historic Ships

Britain has a listing system for ships as well as buildings, and ships which are on the register can fly the special Red Ensign, defaced with the badge of the register. Some particularly important vessels make up the National Historic Fleet and these fly a similar ensign, but with the addition of a gold naval coronet.



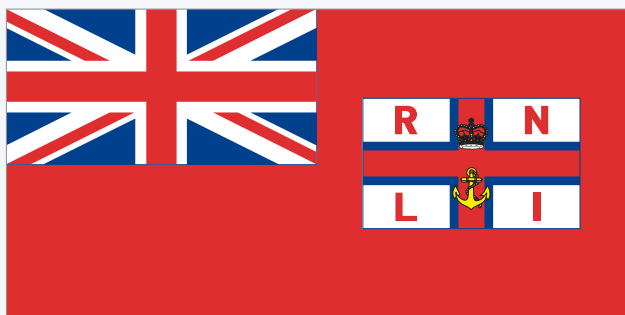
National Historic Ship



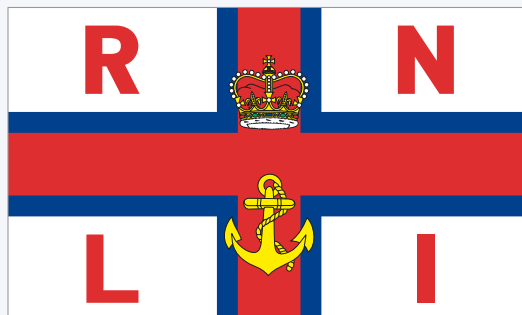
National Historic Fleet

### Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

The RNLI will be providing life-saving cover during the Pageant but will also be taking part with the new lifeboat RNLB *Diamond Jubilee*. HRH The Duke of Kent, President of the RNLI, is due to be on board, so his Royal Standard may be flown. This is similar to Her Majesty's Royal Standard but has a five-pointed white bar (or label) over the top with the points bearing a blue anchor, red cross, blue anchor, red cross and blue anchor. RNLI vessels fly their own Red Ensign and usually an RNLI house flag. You may also see some of the other vessels flying small flags in blue or white and blue with the house flag - this means the vessels owner is a member of the RNLI.



RNLI Red Ensign



RNLI House Flag

## Metropolitan Police

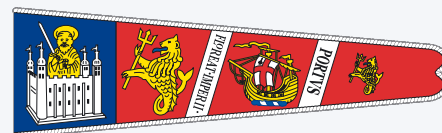
The River Section of the Metropolitan Police will be providing security for the Pageant and you will probably see their patrol craft running up and down the river. These fly the Metropolitan Police's Blue Ensign, featuring the service's badge.



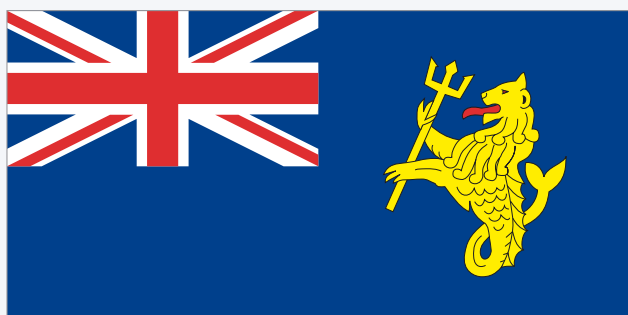
Metropolitan Police Blue Ensign

## Port of London Authority

The management of navigation on the tidal Thames is the responsibility of the Port of London Authority. The Harbourmaster is an official of the PLA. The PLA vessels fly their Blue Ensign which features a gold sea-lion. They also have a house flag and a chairman's flag.



Port of London Chairman's Flag



Port of London Blue Ensign



Port of London House Flag

## HM Coastguard

The Coastguard operate a number of vessels around the UK's shores and these wear a Blue Ensign defaced with the Coastguard's badge.



HM Coastguard Blue Ensign

## UK Border Force

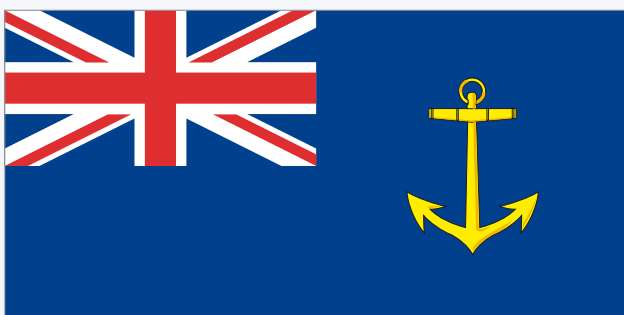
Britain's maritime borders are patrolled by Border Cutters of the UK Border Force. These fly a Blue Ensign defaced with the Border Agency's badge, which was designed by the Flag Institute.



UK Border Force Blue Ensign

## Royal Fleet Auxiliary

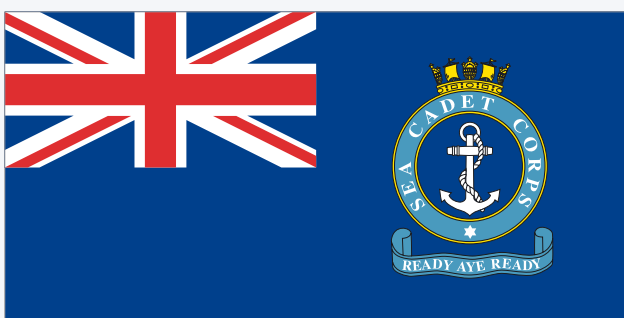
The Royal Navy is supported around the world by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. They supply the Navy with fuel, ammunitions, stores and even mail. Their vessels fly a Blue Ensign with a gold anchor on it.



Royal Fleet Auxiliary Blue Ensign

## The Sea Cadet Corps

The Sea Cadets are crewing the fifty four Trinity 500 vessels that are carrying the Commonwealth flags and these may display the Sea Cadet Ensign.



Sea Cadet Corps Blue Ensign