



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean has always presented a formidable challenge to sailors throughout the ages. The achievement of the first Atlantic navigators, who succeeded in traversing that tremendous expanse between the Old World and the New, continues to shape and influence our own world even today.

Recently we reflected on the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Jamestown, in Virginia, by the first English settlers in North America. 2009 marks a similar milestone in the history of Bermuda. It is particularly fitting that the 2009 Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge Race will visit Bermuda in this important anniversary year. I send my good wishes to all who take part in the Race, and hope that every participant will experience for themselves something of the spirit, ingenuity and resolve demonstrated by the Atlantic sailors who have gone before them.

ELIZABETH R