



Pearly Queen Half a million gold buttons for Jubilee barge banner

Artist Ann Carrington checks tassels and gold coloured buttons on a banner to decorate the royal barge that will carry the Queen during the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. The design on her red velvet flag is picked out in more than half a million

buttons, echoing the tradition of the Cockney pearly kings and queens. According to one tradition, they began decorating their clothes with peal buttons after a Japanese ship carrying them foundered in the Thames. The names of monarchs and the

dates of their coronations will be sewn around the edge of the banner. The hanging will decorate the stern of the Spirit of Chartwell as it travels down the Thames surrounded by a 1,000-strong flotilla on Sunday June 3.

