



# VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END ESHER

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## A TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 –2022



It was with profound sadness that the nation learned Queen Elizabeth had passed away, at the age of 96, on Thursday 8th September 2022 at Balmoral. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family at this extremely sad time.

As the news of the Queen's passing broke thousands of people gathered in The Mall to pay their respects, a rainbow appeared over Buckingham Palace. Her dedication and loyal devotion to the service of her peoples lasted until her death. It was just two days earlier she met the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss and outgoing Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. The Queen worked with 15 Prime Ministers the first of whom was Sir Winston Churchill. Following her death gun salutes around the world marked the passing of the Queen.

In 1947, on her 21st birthday, she pledged in a broadcast from Cape Town to the Commonwealth to devote her life, whether it be short or long to the service of her peoples. Princess Elizabeth's accession to the throne in 1952 followed the death of her father, King George VI, whilst she was on an official visit to Kenya with her husband Prince Philip. On her return to the UK as Queen, her Proclamation took place at St. James's Palace, as tradition dictated. This is an historic ceremony with archaic language and was held in private. The Queen's Coronation took place on 2 June 1953. During WWII the Queen served in the ATS as a driver and mechanic. She was very fond of Corgis and was a successful trainer and breeder of race horses. She also had an interest in highland ponies. Her race horses were successful on numerous occasions at Ascot, Newbury and Epsom Racecourses. She will also be remembered for her sense of humour as was evident when she participated in a 007 James Bond stunt for the London Olympics in 2012 and invited Paddington bear to tea at Buckingham Palace during her Platinum Jubilee, and as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

The Queen was queen regnant to 32 sovereign states during her life and served as monarch not only to the UK, but 14 other countries. By 1949 there was a group of 8 Commonwealth countries, during her reign this number increased to 53. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days is the longest of any British monarch. She celebrated her Silver, Gold, Diamond and Platinum Jubilees, the latter was held in June this year to the delight of the nation following the strict restrictions of the Covid pandemic. The death of the Duke of Edinburgh during the Covid pandemic limited the number of people able to attend his funeral. This had a profound impact on the Queen, as did the internal family tribulations that year. The Queen subsequently moved to Windsor Castle making it her home. However, despite her failing health she continued to work, albeit with a reduced diary, and visit Sandringham in Norfolk and her favourite home Balmoral on Deeside, Scotland.

**Thank you Queen Elizabeth for your long, loyal and devoted service to our country and the Commonwealth.  
May you rest in peace.**

Tributes flowed in from Parliamentarians, world leaders and heads of state across the globe. An outpouring of grief followed the news of the Queen's passing. Many people travelled to London from all over the UK to lay flowers at royal residences in London. A period of National Mourning will be observed until 7 days after her funeral. The Queen will lie in state in Westminster Hall until her funeral on Monday 19th September at 11am at Westminster Abbey. The King has approved a Bank Holiday for the occasion.



King Charles III

Immediately following the Queen's death, Prince Charles assumed the Crown. Clarence House announced he would be known as King Charles III— starting a new Carolean era. Prince Charles was proclaimed King at a Proclamation held on 10th September in a televised ceremony at St. James's Palace attended by 200 members of the Privy Council. The King's Address to the nation was very moving and personal and a promise of lifelong service was renewed. Proclamations were duly read from the balcony of St James's Palace, the Royal Exchange in London and locations in the UK and Commonwealth countries. Gun salutes took place at the Tower of London, Hyde Park and across the globe to mark the proclamation. "God Save the King".