



HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926 - 2022

Following requests from a number of constituents, the video and text of the **House of Commons tribute** made on behalf of the people of **Cheltenham** is attached below.

Books of Condolence can be signed at the following locations:

Municipal Offices

Monday – Friday: 9.00am – 7.30pm

The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum

Monday – Saturday 08:30am – 6.00pm

Sunday 8.30am – 4.00pm

Pittville Pump Room

Monday - Sunday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Best wishes,

Alex

Alex Chalk KC MP
Member of Parliament for Cheltenham



[Click the image above to watch]

"THE STRENGTH AND STAY OF A NATION"

Speech as given (NB - a time limit of 3 mins was imposed):

Queen Elizabeth II famously referred to her late husband as her “strength and stay”. But although she would never have claimed it for herself, it was she who was the strength and stay of an entire nation and, indeed, the Commonwealth.

The constancy and humble commitment to duty were the hallmarks of her life. She embodied the values that are the best of our country. In a world of increasing noise and self-promotion, she provided that counterpoint of quiet poise and dignity.

We in Cheltenham are proud of a lifetime’s connection with Queen Elizabeth II. It was as a young princess that she came to our town. She gave her name to Princess Elizabeth Way, which remains a major Cheltenham thoroughfare, and planted an oak tree in 1951 to mark its completion. Later that same year, she was at the Races—the Cheltenham Gold Cup—with her mother. History does not relate which Cheltenham event she enjoyed more, opening the road or going to the Races. We may have our suspicions, but she was far too professional ever to let on.

Prince Philip was back in 1957 to open an extension to what is now the University of Gloucestershire, and in 2004 the Queen was in Cheltenham to open GCHQ, or “the Doughnut” as we refer to it. Indeed, she was a strong supporter of the intelligence agencies and unveiled the plaque at GCHQ’s first London home in 2019.

She had a quick mind, as many have observed, and was very much up to speed on current events. In Cheltenham in 2004, when she observed the magnificent hanging baskets that then decorated the front of the municipal offices, she recalled a recent media story about a hanging basket landing on someone’s head. She noted that Cheltenham’s display was so magnificent that it could wipe out the entire council.

Like many people, I sat down with my children, aged 10 and eight, yesterday and tried to convey the scale of what had happened. Children cannot and probably should not bear, as we do, the aching pain of this loss.

But, as we mourn, let us explain to them what Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II meant to this nation. Just as Her Majesty the Queen dedicated herself to the service of our country in 1952, let us dedicate ourselves to immortalising her values: duty, integrity, selflessness, country and kindness.

The Queen was a woman of faith, and I hope she approached the end with peace. Yesterday, as her death was announced, I thought of her family and those close by as, in the words of a young RAF pilot in 1941, she

“slipped the surly bonds of Earth...and touched the face of God.”

God save the King.

To watch Alex's tribute, please click [HERE](#).

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II IN CHELTENHAM



[HM the Queen and the Queen Mother at Cheltenham Racecourse in 1957]





[HM the Queen visiting Cheltenham in 2004]



[HM the Queen at Gold Cup Day at Cheltenham Racecourse in 2009]



THE PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES

His Majesty the King heard formal condolences from the Speakers of the Commons and Lords.

King Charles III replied stating:

"I cannot help but feel the weight of history which surrounds us and which reminds us of the vital parliamentary traditions to which members of both houses dedicate yourselves, with such personal commitment for the betterment of us all."

"Parliament is the living and breathing instrument of our democracy. That your traditions are ancient, we see in the construction of this great hall and the reminders of medieval predecessors of the office to which I have been called."

MUNICIPAL OFFICES





PROCLAMATION OF ACCESSION IN CHELTENHAM

Cheltenham came together to witness the Proclamation of King Charles III's accession to the throne outside the Municipal Offices.

The Proclamation of Accession, which was attended by hundreds of Cheltenham residents, is the formal method of sharing the news that the monarch has died and that the heir has acceded to the throne.

To watch a video of the proclamation, please click [HERE](#).

Copyright © 2022 Alex Chalk, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).