

## Passing of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III

It was only a small number of months ago we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with much merriment, beacons across the country, and numerous other happy days in the sun.

All that has changed with the passing of the Queen on the afternoon of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, swiftly followed by accession to the throne of our new monarch, King Charles III and his Queen consort.

The reaction of the nation, commonwealth and world has been instant, displaying enormous support for our Royal Family and the Constitutional Monarchy within which they serve.

As Chair of East Devon District Council and First Citizen of East Devon, it has been an enormous honour to represent our District in several events across the County.

### Proclamation of the New Sovereign.

At a time when instant global communications are the norm, few would still have been unaware of the passing of Queen Elizabeth and Accession to the throne of our new monarch, King Charles II.

Our Proclamation ceremony on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September formed part of a historic communications



*EDDC CEO Mark Williams, Chair Cllr Ian Thomas and Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, representative of the Lord Lieutenant of Devon*

network, when news was disseminated much more slowly through the country, by word of mouth. The ancient style wording chosen, as specified by St James Palace, also formed a phrasing challenge.

*“Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy, our late Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth the Second, of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease, the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is solely and rightfully come, to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George: We therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm, and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty’s Privy Council, and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby, with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart, publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord, Charles the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all Faith and Obedience, with humble Affection; beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless His Majesty, with long and happy Years to reign over us.*

*Given at St. James’s Palace, this tenth day of September in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty-two.”*

### **GOD SAVE THE KING**

Other events I attended, as our representative, included; The Devon County Proclamation at County Hall, A Service of Commemoration & Thanksgiving for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Exeter Cathedral and The East Devon Civic Service at Sidmouth Parish Church.

### **Queens Platinum Jubilee Oaks...**

Earlier in the year we deployed the (very limited) EDDC Civic Budget to the gift of a single commemorative oak tree to each Town and Parish across East Devon. Each Jubilee Oak is now part of a network of 70 across East Devon, one for each Town or Parish Council area community. All are also part of the Queens Green Canopy.

These trees now represent an enduring reminder of the exception reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II. It is pleasing to see how well trees have been received and how virtually all are now thriving in their new homes. I am grateful for the efforts made by communities to ensuring the trees did not succumb under the pressure of the demanding hot summer of 2022.

### **Cllr Ian Thomas**

Independent Ward Member for Trinity

Chair - East Devon District Council

Phone: 07884 494474

email: [ian.thomas@trinitymatters.co.uk](mailto:ian.thomas@trinitymatters.co.uk)

Facebook: [@ianthomas247](https://www.facebook.com/@ianthomas247)

Twitter: [@ianthomas247](https://twitter.com/@ianthomas247)