

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-1952

Ledbury Town Council, on behalf of Councillors, staff and residents of Ledbury offer heart-felt condolences and sympathy to The Royal Family and join the people of the United Kingdom in national mourning.

Flags in Ledbury will fly at half-mast as a sign of respect, and books of condolences will soon be available following the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

The following statement was made by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, Edward Harley OBE:

"I am deeply saddened to hear the news regarding our late Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"The Queen has been a constant, reassuring, and positive part of all our lives – for many of us in the United Kingdom, there has been no other Monarch.

"Throughout her reign Her Majesty brought wisdom, stability, and peace, and was a positive force for good throughout.

"The Queen paid many visits to Herefordshire during the course of her reign most recently for her Diamond Jubilee when over 25,000 people came to the city to share the celebrations.

"As her Lord-Lieutenant it has been a great honour and privilege to have served The Queen and act as her personal representative in Herefordshire.

"I look back in gratitude and look forward to offering support and loyalty to The King. My thoughts are with all members of The Royal Family at this very sad time."

Statement by the Mayor of Ross-on-Wye, Cllr Ed O'Driscoll: "On behalf of the whole community of Ross-on-Wye I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to King Charles III and the family of our late Queen. May she rest in peace. We understand how shocked and saddened so many of us will be by this news and will be providing books of condolence at St Mary's Church and the Larruperz Centre.

"It is very difficult to know what to say at such a time in our nation's history, but I feel these few words spoken by Her Majesty are poignant and appropriate: 'I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else – I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.'"

"She lived by these words until the very end."

**The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 1957*

Tribute to The Queen from the Mayor of Ledbury - Cllr Phillip Howells

This is a day we all knew was inevitable, although such has been the seeming permanence of Queen Elizabeth II in all our lives it was somehow hard to believe it would ever happen. For very many millions of us, not just in the United Kingdom, but throughout the world, including the 14 other countries for which she was recognised as the Head of State and known simply as The Queen, much of daily life year after year revolved around her somehow consistent and calm presence in a turbulent world. Mine was one of those families who managed to scrape the money together to buy our first TV specifically to see for ourselves in our own home, and for the first time, the history and pageantry of a British Royal Coronation, although still at that time in black and white. That alone demonstrates the huge changes in the world we have all experienced in the 70 years since, but with The Queen always there as a stabilising influence, hugely respected and honoured for her dedication to duty, her integrity and seemingly unruffled dignity. She was the most loved, admired, and recognised woman throughout the world.

For decades and for most of us, Christmas days revolved around making sure we were ready to sit as families around the television to listen to the traditional Queen's speech to the nation. As families we have also shared in the ups and downs of Royal births, deaths, marriages and a few scandals in a way never experienced so personally before, with the growth of mass media bringing a human dimension to the royalty with which we could associate in our own everyday lives.

Even if not a Royalist, you could not but have respect for her example of total dedication to service to the nation as she so prophetically promised on her accession. For the majority who have loved and admired The Queen for all she has stood for and meant for us over the years, her loss will be keenly felt and mourned. It marks a significant shift in world affairs, and many will grieve deeply for a Queen and age now lost to us.

As the Mayor and on behalf of Ledbury Town Council and people of Ledbury, I send our deepest condolences to her family who will feel the loss most acutely. We feel for them all at this very sad time. This will go down as one of the most momentous times in our history."

"Long live The King."

