

The Queen and the nation bid farewell to Prince Philip.

Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, died at Windsor Castle on Friday 9 April, aged 99.

The funeral procession and service was held at St George's Chapel, Windsor on Saturday April 17th on a glorious spring day.

The whole event was powerful in its beauty, simplicity and reverence, perfectly reflecting the Duke's own wishes, along with his love of the sea and the environment.

In the Bidding, the Dean of Windsor, David Conner said of the Duke, "we have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the nation and the Commonwealth; by his courage, fortitude and faith. Our lives have been enriched through the challenges that he set us, the encouragement he gave us, his kindness, humour and humanity."

As the coffin was lowered into the Royal Vault, buglers of the Royal Marines sounded 'Action Stations' a signal that all hands should be ready for battle.

The Service was, at its heart, an intensely private and family occasion and one we can all readily identify with.



An Extraordinary Man.

Friday April 9th 2021 was one of those awful days when someone's death touched all of us as if we had lost someone close to us within our own family.

The death of Prince Philip, aged 99, was announced around midday by Buckingham Palace with the Queen expressing her "deep sorrow at the loss of her beloved husband" at Windsor Castle on Friday morning.

Tributes have poured from all parts of the country and the world as various heads of state and politicians recognised the passing of this remarkable man who so epitomised the demise of a whole generation born in the 1920s that consistently put the interests of others ahead of their own; had a strict sense of duty and loyalty; all driven by a common bond of old fashioned values that underpinned integrity.



HRH PRINCE PHILIP
Duke of Edinburgh

Above all though, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh will be remembered for his unstinting support of the Queen, always by her side for 73 years and his contribution to the success of the Monarchy from 1952 to the present

was immense. Queen Elizabeth paid tribute to her husband back in 1997 when she described him as her "strength and stay" during their Golden Wedding celebrations at a lunch in the Banqueting House.

If it were possible to highlight just one of his countless initiatives he gave to the nation over the years it would have to be the 'Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme'. This scheme (involving voluntary work, physical challenges, developing a skill and taking part in a group expedition) was established by Prince Philip in 1956. There were three levels - basic bronze, silver and gold awards designed to encourage youngsters to progress to the highest level. This 'outward bound' approach has since helped hundreds of thousands of young people from all walks of life achieve potential they did not know they had. On occasions, troubled teens were able to turn their lives round and go on to developing successful careers.

Prince Philip was a man ahead of his time and leaves a legacy few others will ever match. He leaves a nation in short supply of those once steadfast 'old fashioned values'.

