



# End of an Era

It is with great sadness that we all received the announcement from Buckingham Palace that Queen Elizabeth II had died peacefully on the afternoon of September 8<sup>th</sup> at Balmoral, in Scotland.

Whether you are a monarchist or not, no-one can fail to appreciate that our long reigning Queen was a constant and reassuring presence in a rapidly changing world.

For those of us in our mid-70s or older, who can forget those magical grainy black and white images on a tiny TV screen (often rented for the first time) of Her Majesty's Coronation – to be recalled again this year with the very successful sun- blessed Platinum Jubilee?

The hallmarks of the Queen's remarkable reign included her astute 'constitutional correctness' and her steadfastness and unwavering commitment to duty and her irrepressible sense of humour.

The Queen's quiet forbearance enabled her to offer wise counsel, and with deep humility she pledged her whole adult life to the service of her subjects. For over 70 years she displayed exceptional leadership and diplomacy skills. No wonder that Her Majesty was held in the highest regard not only in the UK but across the whole world.

There will be many, many tributes to the late Queen and a profound sense of loss will be felt again, so soon after the death of her beloved Prince Philip. They both represented a different generation – where high standards, service to others, commitment, duty, and reliability all mattered. The best of British in fact.

We shall not see the likes of Queen Elizabeth II again – but she has left a perfect template for King Charles III and his heirs to follow. God save the King.

