

## Statement by East Kent Chambers of Commerce on the death of Her Majesty The Queen

**It is with great sadness that we record the demise of Queen Elizabeth II who passed away yesterday at Balmoral, Scotland at the age of 96.** Head of state to 15 Commonwealth Realms and Head of the Commonwealth of 56 nations, our beloved Queen was also Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has paid tribute to Her Late Majesty The Queen's extraordinary dedication as well as to her "courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first".

As Princess Elizabeth, she famously stated from South Africa on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1947:

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

There is surely nobody in public life anywhere in the world who has kept to a promise for so long to so many people.

The Late Queen had strong links to East Kent. Many will recall her arrival in Margate in 2011 when she visited the recently opened Turner Contemporary as well as the local RNLI, one of more than 600 charities of which she was patron. Fewer perhaps will recall the delight on the face of the young Princess Elizabeth in 1949 watching her husband Prince Philip take 3 wickets for 27 runs playing cricket for Mersham Le Hatch in the heart of the Kent countryside.

As well as her steadfastness through times of war and hardship, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered for her playfulness and sense of fun. One of the highlights of the 2012 London Olympics was the opening sequence involving Daniel Craig as James Bond and The Late Queen seemingly parachuting into the stadium. We learned later that she had kept this secret from her own family who must have been as startled and amused as the rest of us. Similarly, the delightful scene with Paddington Bear in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations may well be recollected long after our street parties have faded from our minds.

Paddington Bear: "Would you like a marmalade sandwich? I always keep one for emergencies."

Queen Elizabeth II: "So do I. (*opens handbag*) I keep mine in here."

Warm words of appreciation have been pouring into the Chamber since her death was announced at 6.30pm yesterday. East Kent Chambers of Commerce is joining the mourners at Canterbury Cathedral today. We have opened a book of condolences and ask for thoughts from our friends and associates anywhere in the world. Please send these by email to [admin@doverchamber.co.uk](mailto:admin@doverchamber.co.uk) with the subject line "Queen Elizabeth II". We welcome the opportunity to include these comments in our Chamber archives which record key events in British history dating back over 150 years.

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9<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
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