

Tony Thinking Aloud cxxii

Most certainly an Elizabethan Era has come to a close with the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her recent speeches to the nation were very forward-looking to the time when Charles, then Prince of Wales, came to the throne, with, she hoped, the Duchess of Cornwall as Queen Consort.

Although we all thought of her as just the Queen, she saw herself as part of an ongoing pageant of this Country and the Monarchy.

We all have our own thoughts and remembrances of her. Some will have met her personally. Some will have thoughts and memories which go back many years.

My Mother and Auntie showed me books about Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose when I was very young. They were important people in their lives! You may remember the Royal Wedding in 1947 on the radio (we had a day off school!). Many saw television for the first time for her Coronation. Perhaps you have seen the Queen on one of her visits to the National Memorial Arboretum.

My personal reflection of the Queen being when Margaret took me as her guest to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. We were very close to the Queen – I remember, as it were, seeing the Queen Mother's face flash across hers.

We have had many remembrances in the last couple of days including the way in which folk retold how comfortable they were in meeting the Queen after being very anxious about the experience.

I assume Queen Elizabeth II learnt to be very relaxed, she encountered everyone the same. Lives and living changed during her reign, and she changed with them.

Her Christmas broadcasts are remembered by many, a tradition after the Christmas meal to listen. You could not doubt her Christian belief it meant everything to her, she always shared her faith at Christmas.

May she rest in peace. Amen.