

Tony Thinking Aloud liii

No doubt many readers will have seen the Duke of Edinburgh and some will have met him, perhaps many times. A personal recollection will stay for a long time.

Something personal from about 1948. I lived in the County Town of Wiltshire, the Duke was to visit County Hall (I do not know the reason!). He was to pass our shop in the main street, we lined the pavement, and to our amazement he had passed us before we hardly realised! He did not travel in a large Royal Car. He was in an open top sports car, driving himself, he took one hand off the wheel to acknowledge us! Seat belts had not been invented! If it had been now, people may well have said they were Gobsmacked! I can imagine afterwards, as a 10 year old asking my father, 'What is so special about him?'

We are beginning to learn or be reminded that Prince Philip was the rock, there all the time for the Queen and her family. He supported his wife in her enormous responsibilities, he encouraged endless groups in their special interests. He will be remembered for his Naval background and most important he was the ever supportive father to his family at home.

The Covid situation has enabled him to be given a formal but more simple funeral. It seems just as he would have wished – without all the fuss, he might have put it.

Have you ever noticed that there are times when things go as you would wish, helped in ways rather unexpected? Sometimes you can look back and see when this has happened in your life. Situations like this have given to me personally much strength and certainty in the guiding Hand of God.

Prince Philip's funeral is going to be much as he would have preferred. As we stand alongside others in this strange time of pandemic, we need to help to make things happen if we can, as others would prefer.

Today we are with Prince Philip at the time of his funeral, giving thanks for all he has done for his Family, the Nation and Commonwealth...

May he rest in peace. Amen.