

Tony Thinking Aloud cviii

The Platinum Jubilee is here! The celebrations begin with 'Trooping the Colour' on Thursday June 2nd – the anniversary of the Coronation 1953. Can you remember that day? Did you have a television with neighbours coming round in instalments through the day to watch some of it.

I know we did – then we went to London to see the decorations the next day. It all seems rather a long time ago, well I suppose it is! Most of us had never seen the Golden Coach and of course it rained for most of the procession. The Coronation itself is a significant act of worship – it is focused on the service of Holy Communion. A canopy was brought over the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh when they received Holy Communion. On this occasion the only people to do so.

It is also the week of the anniversary of the Restoration of the Monarchy after the Commonwealth period. Charles II returned to the country. Often referred to as Oak Apple Day, May 29th, in remembrance of him hiding in an Oak tree to avoid Cromwell's Men. The tree is just south of the A5, quite near Gailey. I'm told it was quite an important day up to the beginning of the last war. Children especially wore an Oak Leaf, if the girls did not do that the boys would chase them!

As I frequently say it is good to look back but equally good to look forward. Although the Queen's mode of transport may be changing to accommodate her needs, she is looking forward to her future engagements.

So, we look forward to whatever we can do for others by learning from experience of the past. Spring is with us; the Chelsea Flower Show helps us

think about the ongoing nature and subsequently how we fit into the mighty plan which some will say is in the Hand of God.

Long may she reign over us.

God save the Queen.