

Tony Thinking Aloud cxlviii

It is over 300 years since there has been a King Charles in this country. Charles I and Charles II are remembered because of their involvement in the Civil War between Monarchists and Roundheads (Parliamentarians). In consequence of which Charles I was beheaded, and the period known as the Commonwealth followed under Oliver Cromwell

The future King Charles II escaped the following Battle of Worcester and fled abroad. He is best remembered for hiding in an Oak Tree at Boscobel on the Staffordshire/Shropshire boarder, just off the Holyhead Road (known now as the A5). The Royal Oak in which he is reputed to have hidden was in Boscobel Wood which was part of the park of Boscobel House. Many people visit it today.

We are used to seeing (and visiting) Public Houses, they have been on our streets for centuries. The most popular names are of a Royal connection viz Kings Arms, The Crown, the Rose and Crown, the King's Head. Many of these were named or renamed to commemorate the restoration of the monarchy and mark Charles' escape by hiding in an oak tree. The third most popular pub name is Royal Oak with 412 in the country.

King Richard III passed an Act making it compulsory for pubs and inns to have a sign in order to identify them to the Official Ale taster. The first pub to change its name to Charles III is in Norfolk, obviously very recently.

So much about us has a Royal connection which we just take for granted...The Royal Mail, the Royal Mint/Coinage, Royal Navy, the Royal Army, the Royal Air Force Possibly coming to our minds when we have a Royal Coronation...

A time for celebration, which is all focused on a traditional Christian Act of Worship in Westminster Abbey - the Holy Communion – during which the King and Queen will be crowned.

I commend them, our country and people to your prayers. Thinking of the ways we all share in the celebrations and make sure everyone in the community can be involved.