



On behalf of Nazeing Parish Council we have the privilege to pay tribute to His Royal Highness The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh who has passed away at the age of 99 years.

The majority of people would agree with Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, who has described him as "remarkable" and "a very special person".

Prince Phillip was a truly remarkable person in terms of his vast contribution to the UK, the Commonwealth and indeed the whole world. In addition he has left a lasting legacy. For example his Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme which has inspired many thousands of young people and this will continue.

Most significant was Prince Phillip's steadfast, unwavering and devoted service to the Queen. In a speech to mark their Golden Wedding anniversary she herself said

"He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, the United Kingdom and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know."

The Queen had him by her side for more than 70 momentous years of marriage and her loss can only be imagined. He was her great love, her reliable and trusted best friend and is irreplaceable.

Many years ago on a visit to Canada Prince Phillip made one of the wisest and most profound statements about monarchy that anyone has ever uttered

"It is a complete misconception to imagine that the monarchy exists in the interests of the monarch. It doesn't. It exists in the interests of the people. If at any time a nation decides that the system is unacceptable then it is up to them to change it."

Prince Phillip did have critics. In particular there were those who tried to attack the monarchy through him and deliberately misunderstood the dutiful nature of the Queen's reign. These people need to understand a simple thing. When Prince Phillip swore in Westminster Abbey to be the Queen's loyal subject throughout his life he meant exactly what he said.

RIP Prince Phillip. There are far too few like you left.

Karen Carter
Chairman

David Joslin
Vice-Chairman