



Making Newbury a town we can all be proud of.

Queen Elizabeth II reigned from 6th February 1952 until her death on Thursday the 8th September 2022. The Queen had very strong connections with West Berkshire and Newbury. A great supporter and lover of horse racing, the Queen was a regular visitor to Newbury Racecourse.

In 1996 she honoured us by coming for the 400th anniversary of the town's royal charter. On that occasion she was welcomed by the Town Mayor, Councillor Garry Poulson. Her Majesty met the Charter Trustees and various members of the the community and then enjoyed a walk about in the Market Place and visited the Town Hall and Mayor's Parlour.



NTC NEWS: Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Special

The Mayor, Councillors and Officers of Newbury Town Council were deeply saddened at the news of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.



The Proclamation for the accession of King Charles III was read on Sunday 18th September at 2.00 pm outside Newbury Town Hall, in the Market Place.

A crowd of 500 people gathered to hear the Chairman of the District Council, Councillor Rick Jones, read the Proclamation. Councillor Gary Norman, the Mayor of Newbury, also addressed the crowd in attendance.



He said *"The Queen cared for her people and, in return, we cared for her. All of us gathered here today will be feeling a range of emotions at the moment. Most of us have a feeling of profound sadness, some feel disorientated, even worried. Some of us like me, are finding it difficult to describe just how we feel. All I know is that last Thursday felt like the first day of the rest of our lives. Now, after a suitable period of reflection and mourning, let's all give our respect and support to our new King, if, for no other reason, than that her late majesty would have wanted it that way.*

Today, we proclaim a new King. A significant thing in itself as, for most of us who do not remember a king in our lifetime; kings are just historical figures, or characters in story books.

So, people of Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford, West Berkshire and beyond; thank you for coming here today to share this momentous piece of history with us, and let's together look forward to the future with a measure of hope and optimism."

The State funeral for her majesty, The Queen, took place on Monday 19th September. A bank Holiday had been declared for the day and the nation stopped to pay their last respects to our longest serving monarch. Her lifetime of service will always be remembered with great fondness and admiration.

Earlier this year, on 2nd June, we celebrated the former Queen's Platinum Jubilee by lighting a beacon in the pond in Victoria Park, which we also did to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday in 2016.



Working with our partners at West Berkshire District Council, the Mayor, Councillor Gary Norman, along with the Vice-Chairman of the District Council, Councillor Alan Law, laid the first floral tributes outside the Town Hall at 1.30 pm on Friday 9th September.

Shortly after that we opened our book of condolences in the civic entrance of the Town Hall. The Book remained opened until 12 noon on Saturday 17th September, during which time more than 600 people signed the book and sent messages of condolences. As a mark of respect, the Union Flag was flown at half-mast from the Town Hall throughout this time.

