



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATES OF DELIBERATION

OF THE

ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

HANSARD

Royal Court House, Guernsey, Tuesday, 13th April 2021

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Present:

R. J. McMahon, Esq., Bailiff and Presiding Officer

Law Officers

M. M. E. Pullum, Q.C. (H.M. Procureur)
R. M. Titterington, Q.C. (H.M. Comptroller)

People's Deputies

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C. P. A Blin	J. P. Le Tocq
A. H. Brouard	M. P. Leadbeater
Y. Burford	D. J. Mahoney
A. Cameron	A. D. S. Matthews
D. de G. de Lisle	L. J. McKenna
H. L. de Sausmarez	C. P. Meerveld
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S. J. Falla	R. G. Prow
P. T. R. Ferbrache	L. C. Queripel
A. Gabriel	H. J. R. Soulsby
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S. P. Haskins	A. W. Taylor
M. A. J. Helyar	L. S. Trott
N. R. Inder	S. P. J. Vermeulen
A. Kazantseva-Miller	

Representatives of the Island of Alderney

The Clerk to the States of Deliberation

S. M. D. Ross, Esq. (States' Greffier)

Absent at the Evocation

Deputy T. L. Bury (*indisposé*), Deputy C. N. K. Parkinson (*absent de l'île*),
Deputy P. J. Roffey (*absent de l'île*)
Alderney Representatives S. Roberts and E. A. J. Snowdon (*absent d'île*)

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States of Deliberation

*The States met at 2.30 p.m. in the presence of
His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Ian Corder, K.B.E., C.B.
Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bailiwick of Guernsey*

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

The Bailiff: Good afternoon, Your Excellency, and welcome to this special sitting of the States of Deliberation.

PRAYERS

The States' Greffier

EVOCATION

CONVOCATION

- 5 **The States' Greffier:** Billet d'État X of 2021. To the Members of the States of the Island of Guernsey I hereby give notice, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 2(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees, that a Meeting of the States of Deliberation will be held at the Royal Court House, on Tuesday, the 13th April, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. to pay tribute to the late His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Billet d'État X

Tribute to the late HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT, OM, GCVO, GBE, Royal Victorian Chain, AC, QSO, PC

- 10 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States of Deliberation, it is with sorrow that I have today to pay a tribute to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Companion of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Member of the Order of Merit, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Royal Victorian Chain, Knight and
15 Companion of the Order of Australia, Additional Member of the Order of New Zealand, Extra Companion of the Queen's Service Order, Extraordinary Companion of the Order of Canada, Privy Councillor, who died last Friday on 9th April 2021.

The message advising us of the death of his Royal Highness reads as follows:

It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty The Queen announces the death of her beloved husband, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness passed away peacefully this morning at Windsor Castle.

Further announcements will be made in due course.

The Royal Family join with people around the world in mourning his loss.

In reply His Excellency and I sent the following message of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen:

We, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Bailiff of Guernsey, the Royal Court and the States of Guernsey, the President and the States of Alderney, the Seigneur and the Chief Pleas of Sark, and all the people of this Bailiwick with humble duty beg leave to offer to Her Majesty The Queen, and her family, our respectful and sincerest sympathy on the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, whose long life represented the epitome of loyalty, commitment, service and good humour, and stands as an inspiration to us all.

His Royal Highness will be remembered with great affection across our islands, which he visited on six memorable occasions.

20 His Royal Highness was in public life for so long that most of us have known nothing else. Relatively few people are old enough to remember a time before the then Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten RN married the then Princess Elizabeth and became His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, on 20th November 1947. Supporting the Queen, he was at virtually every major national event from then until only a few years ago. Even in an age of widespread celebrity, and despite
25 having stepped back from a full-time working role, he was still an incredibly well-recognised person.

We will all have our own memories of the Duke of Edinburgh. He was married to Her Majesty for more than 73 years and her royal consort for more than 69 years, both periods of time longer than any other consort in British history. His Royal Highness was much loved and greatly respected for his sense of duty and his devotion to supporting Her Majesty and giving so many years of his
30 life in service to the United Kingdom and the entire Commonwealth.

For many years he was one of the busiest members of the Royal Family, and continued to carry out engagements for several decades beyond when most of us retire, only ceasing them in his mid-90s. He was also widely respected for what he achieved in his lifetime, being involved with numerous charities and he held various military offices. One particular legacy for which he will be
35 fondly remembered by many was the foundation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

His Royal Highness, with Her Majesty the Queen, honoured the Bailiwick with visits on six occasions. The first of those visits was in 1949 before Her Majesty had succeeded to the throne, during which the Princess officially opened the new Princess Elizabeth Hospital with a silver key. The hospital has, of course, played an important part in so many people's lives since then. Indeed one
40 of the factors in our recent response to the coronavirus pandemic was to ensure that *our* hospital would not be overwhelmed because it provides such essential services for the benefit of our community. During that visit events were held at Saumarez Park before the couple toured the west coast and the parish of St Saviour on their way to the hospital. They departed that evening after an official dinner.

His Royal Highness returned with Her Majesty for a second visit in 1957, the highlight of which was attending at Cambridge Park where over 6,000 school children had gathered to welcome them. Because this was the first visit of Her Majesty as the Queen the busy itinerary included a visit to St George's Hall for a sitting of the Court of Chief Pleas.

In 1978, for the first time, they arrived on board Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia. After a walk about
50 in St Peter Port, including the Old Guernsey Market and a formal lunch, the couple travelled out to St Pierre du Bois and met the crowds who had gathered to see them at the church. They again then went to Cambridge Park, stopping en route at a tomato vinery. After greeting the thousands of children who had gathered, Prince Philip went on his own to St Peter Port School to meet young people involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. They left the following day to visit Sark
55 and Alderney.

The second occasion on which Britannia was used was in 1989. The main focus of that visit was Her Majesty's opening of the new Queen Elizabeth Marina. On this occasion local dignitaries were presented at Beau Sejour and there was a meeting with parish officials in St Sampson. In a repeat
60 of 1949, an event was held at Saumarez Park and they similarly departed the next day to visit Sark and Alderney.

The penultimate visit took place in 2001. The Duke of Edinburgh joined the visit in Alderney and he and the Queen stopped briefly in Sark before landing at L'Ancrese where Her Majesty unveiled the plaque on the Millennium Stone.

His Royal Highness came for the last time in 2005 with Her Majesty for the 60th anniversary of our liberation from German occupation. The Royal visitors were greeted by hundreds of school children in the Airport building. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness travelled to Beau Sejour for a Liberation Day service, at which I was privileged to be present. Afterwards they viewed a small exhibition of Liberation memorabilia and met representatives of the Liberation Generation. Later in the day they went to the roundabout at the bottom of St Julian's Avenue, where the then Bailiff, Sir de Vic Carey, publically welcomed Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip and invited Her Majesty to unveil a stone commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Liberation, and that was the only occasion on which they did not also visit Alderney and Sark.

I know that many people in the Bailiwick, including perhaps some of you, will have had the privilege of seeing or even meeting His Royal Highness in person on his visits to Guernsey and elsewhere and will be able to treasure happy memories of the occasion.

His Royal Highness enjoyed a long and remarkable life, founded on devotion, loyalty and commitment to service, and we remember him with affection, joining with others in mourning his loss.

Deputy Ferbrache.

The President of Policy & Resources (Deputy Ferbrache): Thank you very much, sir.

It is with great honour and much sadness that I will say a few words as President of Policy & Resources, on behalf of the whole of this Assembly and the people of the Island of Guernsey; and our colleagues in Alderney and Sark will also be making their own tributes to a truly remarkable man.

The Bailiff has already described the visits of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip to this Bailiwick over a period of time. I can remember in my first year at Vauvert Infants School, we were one of those six and a half thousand children at Cambridge Park, and cheering what we thought were superstars coming from England – and they *were* superstars coming from England. Little did I know that a little short of 64 years later, I would be making these remarks in relation to a truly, truly great gentleman.

Now, 'great' is an epithet and a word that is used too loosely, but it does not even half describe the magnificence of the work and the contribution that His Royal Highness Prince Philip has made to the life of the world, let alone just this Bailiwick. It is with great sadness that we make these remarks today but it is also in honour to a fine man. A well-known Guernsey historian, Victor Coysh, once described a former Bailiff – and we are not talking about pecuniary terms – as a person of sterling worth. I thought those were apt words to describe his Royal Highness, he was a person of sterling worth.

Now, in relation to his Royal Highness, of course, Guernsey has been aligned with, part of, the British Crown for over 800 years. For the last 70 years, or nearly 70 years, we have had one of the truly great monarchs in Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who has guided us through the change from the British Empire through to the British Commonwealth and all of the vicissitudes of life and history in that period of time. The person who by etiquette had to stand a few steps behind her, but in reality was at her side, both figuratively and literally for all of that period of time, was His Royal Highness. He was there giving her words of comfort, giving her love, and indeed their relationship, again as the Bailiff has said, has endured for more than seven decades, nearly 74 years as a married couple. And of course we have all seen the history of their romance which started when Her Majesty was an infatuated young girl with a very handsome officer.

His Royal Highness was born in 1921, in difficult circumstances. His family, of course, had to move away from their homeland very quickly.

When I was asked in one of the many interviews that I, the Bailiff and His Excellency have engaged in over the past several days or so, I was asked in particular in relation to His Royal Highness if they thought he had a particular affinity with the Islands like Guernsey and I unreservedly thought yes, he did, because of his strange and difficult childhood, or the beginning of his childhood, he would have had an affinity, and he clearly did have an affinity, with where we are and

where we come from, and he realised the benefits of small communities and what contribution they can make. And, of course, not only in the six visits that the Bailiff has talked about but otherwise, the contributions he has made.

120 The Bailiff has talked about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, set up in 1956 or thereabouts. It now extends to over 130 countries and territories and many, many Islanders over the years, hundreds of Islanders from my generation, and those going beyond have undertaken the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. A good friend of mine I can remember coming and saying when I was a young lawyer in London in 1973, she came and stayed with me, and went off to receive her Gold Award from His Royal Highness at Buckingham Palace, and that was a great memory for
125 her and she still treasures that all those years since.

Not only did His Royal Highness found the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, he was also involved in so many other charities, over 750 organisations, that he was connected with and associated. Most people cease work – or some people do not start work very much – but most people cease work when they are in their 60s at the oldest. His Royal Highness continued working
130 as a full time and particularly diligent member of the Royal Family until he was 96. Indeed his last function, official function – he did some things beyond then because you could not stop like a man like him working, because of his sense of duty – but his last function was visiting the Royal Marines and, of course, he had such a great military record, and I will mention that again shortly.

But in relation to His Royal Highness, we talk now about the environment, and we are much
135 more conscious about the environment then we probably were 40 or 50 years ago, and we are, of course, also conscious of the great work done by the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, in relation to the environment. But he was really stepping into the shoes of his father because his father was, from 1961, or thereabouts, engaged in the World Wildlife Fund and he was the first UK President of the foundation in 1961. He always had concerns about pollution. People are driving electric cars
140 now, His Royal Highness drove one and began using one as early as the 1960s.

He was a man of great interests. He was interested in poetry, he was interested in sport, he was interested in technology, he was interested in science and he was involved with numerous charities in relation to those particular interests: conservation, sport, all such matters engaged his attention.

I mentioned before, and I said I would mention again, his various military offices. He joined the
145 Royal Navy as a cadet in 1939 and he was on active military service throughout the Second World War and that was in the Mediterranean and the Pacific. He was promoted to Admiral of the Fleet in January 1953 and appointed a Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom in 2011, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. I am told that he held 42 service appointments, including those in British and Commonwealth services.

150 I once saw a programme, many years ago, where they had somebody from the officers' mess and an ordinary soldier speaking independently of each other of their experiences dealing with the Duke of Edinburgh, who had been Colonel in Chief or Captain General, whatever it was, of their particular regiment. You could see they were so enthused with the contribution that he made both as a senior officer but he was also one of the men. They would both have given their lives for that
155 man, and there are not many people that can be said about. He was a truly remarkable man, as I say. We could use all the adjectives, we could fill up this room with hyperbole, but none of it would justify and say satisfactorily all of the things that should be said about such a great man.

Life should be lived generally with a smile on your face, you cannot always do that because the trials and tribulations of life are such that that is not possible, but His Royal Highness lived most of
160 his life with a smile on his face. He had an impish sense of humour, he made the occasional injudicious remark, but that made him even more interesting because he was a human being. He was an extraordinary man and he was an ordinary man, and there is no contradiction in those two terms.

In relation to the great loss, it is a great loss to this Bailiwick that we have lost such a fine and
165 admirable public servant. We hear much about peoples' rights nowadays, we do not hear so much about duty. His Royal Highness discharged his duty for well over 70 years, we owe him a great, great debt. We feel sorry for ourselves but there is a future because we have got his memories. We feel

sorry for the Commonwealth because of the loss they have had, but we must feel particularly sorry for Her Majesty. The loss to her is considerable and significant, and our thoughts go out to her.

170 Sir, I know we are not allowed to speak directly to somebody because you will admonish us, even on an occasion such as this, but if I could speak directly to His Royal Highness I would say, 'On behalf of the people of Guernsey, on behalf of the States of Guernsey, thank you, sir, for all your magnificent work. Rest in peace.'

175 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much, Deputy Ferbrache.

Members of the States will you please now join me in rising to honour the memory of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Members stood in silence.

The Bailiff: Thank you very much, Members of the States.

180 Thank you all for coming to this meeting at comparatively short notice. There is no other business for this meeting. I thank Deputy Ferbrache for his words and we ask the States' Greffier now to close the meeting.

The Assembly adjourned at 2.53 p.m.