



CHLOE LAMBERT MEETING HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

I was extremely fortunate to be elected Chairman of Aylesbury Vale District Council for two years and met Her Majesty The Queen twice during my period of office. 2002 was her Golden Jubilee Year and during that time and as part of her Golden Jubilee tour, Her Majesty came to Aylesbury. She was greeted by the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, and his wife in Aylesbury Market Square.



It was an incredible experience and one I will never forget. I am told that there were 10,000 people in the Square that day. She landed by helicopter at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and was driven down into the Market Square. You could tell when she was being driven down Walton Street because you could hear the cheering getting louder and louder.

Prior to her arrival, those of us who were meeting her had a briefing in what was then the Civic Centre. We were told not to speak to her unless she spoke to us first and were told to call her Ma'am (to rhyme with spam, not harm) after calling her Your Majesty the first time. I was standing in the reception line next to Lady Aubrey-Fletcher. On my other side was Richard Carr who, at that time, was Chief Executive of Aylesbury Vale District Council, and then Councillor Raj Khan, the Mayor of Aylesbury.



I remember my older sister's telling me when she heard I was going to meet Her Majesty that it was a good job I had been taught how to curtsey when I was at school !

The Queen was presented with an enormous number of bouquets and posies and told me she didn't think there could be any flowers left in Aylesbury Vale. Her Ladies-in-Waiting put them all in Her Majesty's car. Her Majesty was also presented with a case of a special brew made by Chiltern Brewery for Prince Philip. That too was put in the boot.

There were lots of schoolchildren lined up on the steps of what used to be Aylesbury Crown Court and there were also lots of people in wheelchairs who were at the front of the crowds so they could get a clear view of Her Majesty.

I showed her round the Market Square and she met a lot of stall holders and I then took her up to Kingsbury Square where there were yet more crowds waiting to see her.



One of the things I will always remember about Her Majesty is her immaculate complexion. It was perfect. She also had a lovely smile and was interested in meeting lots of different people.

I was also invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. I took my daughter, Helen, with me and a Police photographer, who was outside Buckingham Palace, took photographs of us which he kindly sent to me afterwards. That day was another very memorable occasion and I considered myself very fortunate to be invited.



During my Chairmanship I met several other members of the Royal family. Prince Charles, as he then was, came to Stowe with Camilla, now the Queen Consort.



Princess Anne came to Springhill Prison – that was the only Royal visit when I was told specifically not to wear a hat.



Prince Andrew came to an aircraft factory.



Prince Edward and his wife came to Aylesbury and formally opened Aquavale, a fortnight after I opened it. All the Royal visits were great experiences and I enjoyed them all.





Because of all the Royal visits I had a huge number of smart hats which I still have. I shall never forget any of the Royal visits and I am very grateful to all those who elected me, not only as Chairman for two years, but also as a District Councillor for twelve years.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Her Majesty in September, 2022, and was not surprised by the tributes that were paid to her. She will always be remembered throughout the world and will never be forgotten. She set a great example to us all. Long may she rest in peace.

