

Real life has not been suspended

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I posted this on Twitter this morning:

https://twitter.com/richardjmurphy/status/1568504692455477251?s=21&t=JjxGvALasri_QPDBQ3RZfQ

I understand mourning. I know all about grief. You don't get to sixty four without having experienced both.

I also appreciate the role of the royal family in our constitution, whether appropriate or otherwise. And I have watched my fair share of the coverage because this is about politics, and most especially the power relationships that define political economy.

But, and I think it only fair to say it, whatever some journalists struggling for yet more words to say at this moment might suggest, I do not think that this country was built around the monarchy, let alone a person who managed to remain almost unknown for more than seventy years.

Any country is built around its people; every single one of them. What they have in common - included shared conventions such as having a monarch - matter. But so too does their diversity. Without disrespecting those who wish to mourn, lives should be allowed to go on. In its own way that is celebration, most especially in the realm of monarchy, where continuity is one of the critical themes that underpins its narrative.

I don't think we all need days more denial of the reality of the rest of life as a result.

Nor do I want for more myth making that pretends that the issues that trouble so many are suspended at present, because they aren't.

If we are to truly respect what is happening then we may by all means mourn a person, and allow space for others to do so. But the world does not stop for anyone's death. That is the mystery of life. It continues, and we learn, adapt and deal with it.

I am not convinced that the coverage I am seeing reflects this in anything like a healthy

way. And that troubles me.