





SUPPORTING THE QUEEN

The main part of The Prince of Wales's role is to support Her Majesty The Queen as the focal point for national pride, unity and allegiance and bringing people together across all sections of society, representing stability and continuity, highlighting achievement, and emphasising the importance of service and the voluntary sector by encouragement and example.

LEFT
The Prince, Colonel-in-Chief, the Parachute Regiment, awards campaign medals to paratroopers returning from Afghanistan at Hyderabad barracks, Colchester, Essex.

THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OVERSEAS



ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall unveil a memorial to victims of the Bali terrorist bombing on Clive Steps at Horse Guards Road in London.

The Prince of Wales meets young gardeners working on an allotment project at the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

The Prince of Wales speaks with local residents who were affected by the Buncefield oil depot fire, during a visit to People's Building, Hemel Hempstead.

During the year The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall undertook a wide variety of engagements and visits, both at home and abroad. These ranged from attending ceremonial occasions, supporting and representing the Armed Forces and in their work for the nation, undertaking official overseas tours to further Britain's interests abroad.

England

Their Royal Highnesses' duties include attending great national occasions, and undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year was the celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 80th birthday. On the actual day, 21st April 2006, The Prince of Wales hosted a dinner at the newly-restored Kew Palace in London for 27 members of the Royal Family. Earlier, His Royal Highness had broadcast a special birthday tribute on national television. In it he praised his mother's "remarkable steadfastness and fortitude", and wished her, as "a proud and loving son... the happiest of happy birthdays".

On a more formal note, The Prince and The Duchess, with Prince William and Prince Harry, attended a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral to mark The Queen's official birthday on 17th June 2006. After the service there was a dinner at the Mansion House hosted by the Lord Mayor of London, when Her Majesty took the opportunity to celebrate two other important anniversaries of 2006 – the 50th year of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and the 30th birthday of The Prince's Trust. The Queen said the organisations' achievements were a tribute to the drive and energy of her husband and her eldest son, and said: "I am very happy to take this opportunity to draw attention to their achievements and to thank them both for all the support they give me each and every day."

An important part of the Royal Family's role is to offer support and sympathy in times of crisis or national challenge, and in October 2006 The Prince and The Duchess led the tributes to the victims of the Bali terrorist bombing when they unveiled a memorial in London to the 202 victims of the 2002 atrocity. Their Royal Highnesses followed the unveiling by attending a reception for 600 friends and relatives of those who died.

In June 2006, The Prince gave a reception at Highgrove for the families of the people killed and some of those severely injured, in the terrorist attacks in London on 7th July 2005.

The work of the Royal Family also includes supporting the UK's tourist industry, and in March 2007 The Prince of Wales visited the Tower of London as Patron of the very first British Tourism Week. His Royal Highness toured the royal palace and in a speech to launch the new initiative he said he also hoped that "every effort" would be made to remind British people of the wonderful opportunities they had for holidaying at home. Later, The Prince boarded a boat for a cruise up the River Thames past some of London's most popular attractions, on his way back to Westminster Pier.

The Prince and The Duchess also take part in visits to the UK by overseas Heads of State, and last year His Royal Highness attended a state banquet for the President of Ghana.

Wales

In recognition of his special relationship with Wales, His Royal Highness pays regular visits to the Principality. One of the annual highlights is the week each Summer that The Prince and The Duchess spend attending engagements and events in Wales.

During last year's week in Wales Their Royal Highnesses visited Cardigan Castle where The Prince's Regeneration Trust had been advising the local building renovation trust on developing a plan for long-term sustainable use of the castle. Another of The Prince's charities to feature during the week was PRIME-Cymru, which supports businesses and self-employment for over-50s. In a visit to the village of Southgate, Their Royal Highnesses stopped by Jewels by the Sea, a bead shop set up by Marianne Merrick with the help of PRIME-Cymru, where they met other beneficiaries of the charity's work in Wales.

The Prince and The Duchess also attended the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, one of Wales's main national music festivals. Continuing the arts theme on the same day, The Prince was presented with a new £150,000 gold leaf harp made by the renowned Italian harp maker Victor Salvi. The harp will be used by His Royal Highness's Official Harpist, Claire Jones.

In March 2007, The Prince visited the National Botanic Garden of Wales in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, as part of British Tourism Week. On the same day His Royal Highness paid a visit to Llwynywerwd, the farm in Myddfai, West Wales, that the Duchy of Cornwall has acquired for The Prince and The Duchess to use as a home during their regular visits to Wales. As well as staying there, The Prince also intends to offer the property as occasional holiday lets for visitors and as a venue for some of his charities for business meetings and seminars.

In February 2007, for the first time Prince William attended a rugby international in his capacity as Vice Royal Patron of the Welsh Rugby Union, watching Wales meet Ireland at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Welsh rugby legend JPR Williams said Prince William's association with the national team would benefit the sport. "I met The Prince of Wales when he first came to Cardiff Arms Park 38 years ago, and it's good to continue that link," he said.

Scotland

The Prince and The Duchess share a special relationship with Scotland, and spend a good deal of time there every year, both working on engagements and spending time at their home at Birkhall in Aberdeenshire.

While His Royal Highness's work in Scotland is wide-ranging, last year there was a specific focus on developing the work of his charities and initiatives, especially in the area of regeneration of the built environment and heritage.



ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
The Prince of Wales launches Pleasure in the Extreme, the second part of his North Highland Initiative based on promoting tourism in the area.

The Prince of Wales, unveils a cloth of the estate of James IV at Rothesay Castle on the Isle of Bute.

THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OVERSEAS

CONTINUED

Among the highlights were The Prince's speech at the "Inspiring Cities" conference organised by Edinburgh World Heritage, a reception at the Scottish Parliament to mark 30 years of The Prince's Trust in Scotland, and the launch of the second phase of his North Highland Initiative (NHI) in Caithness.

At the NHI event at the Castle of Mey in August 2006, representatives from more than 150 hotels, B&Bs and other organisations from the North Highlands gathered for the launch of "Pleasure in the Extreme", a new brand to promote tourism in what is one of the most northerly areas of Scotland.

The tourism initiative follows the successful launch in 2005 of Mey Selections, a food brand introduced to sell beef, lamb and cheese from the region. The NHI was set up by His Royal Highness to help the North Highlands' economy by raising the profile of the area through its food and drink products, its tourism and the quality of its heritage buildings.

Another highlight of the year in Scotland was a visit by The Duke of Rothesay (as His Royal Highness is known in Scotland) to the Bute Agricultural Show on its 200th anniversary. At the show he toured the judging rings, met competitors and presented rosettes to winners, before paying a visit to Rothesay Castle, established by James IV as a Summer retreat for the Royal Family in the 16th century.



Northern Ireland

In May 2006, Their Royal Highnesses visited the Musgrave Park Hospital in South Belfast to open Northern Ireland's first dedicated Brain Injury Unit. After touring the new state-of-the-art rehabilitation facilities, The Prince and The Duchess met volunteers from the National Osteoporosis Society's Belfast Support Group.

Their Royal Highnesses also joined 2,500 guests in the grounds of Hillsborough Castle for a garden party hosted by the Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Hain. At the event, The Prince and The Duchess met representatives of Northern Ireland's health sector, including practitioners of integrated medicine.



During their two-day May visit to the province Their Royal Highnesses also granted a special audience to Anna Earls, an eight-year-old girl from the Dundonald area of Belfast. Anna, who has a malignant tumour, sent a painting to the Make-a-Wish Foundation in 2005 explaining that it was her dream to meet the Royal Couple. Later in the day, The Prince and The Duchess visited traditional Irish cheesemakers at Fivemiletown Creamery in County Tyrone.

Overseas

Every year Their Royal Highnesses' duties take them abroad representing the country's interests, and in 2006-07 they undertook two main official tours together, the first to Pakistan in November 2006 and the second to four Gulf States in February 2007. The Prince also undertook a tour on his own, to West Africa, also in November 2006, and he visited the United States of America with The Duchess in January 2007, where they attended engagements in Philadelphia and New York.

These visits are organised with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to promote and protect Britain's overseas interests.

ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

The Duchess of Cornwall takes a closer look at the goats at the Fivemiletown Creamery in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

The Prince speaks with local residents affected by the Himalayan earthquake in Pattika, Pakistan.



During Their Royal Highnesses' overseas tour to the Gulf in February 2007, The Duchess of Cornwall met female members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament in Bahrain. During her visit, The Duchess was told about the democratic reforms taking place in Bahrain and the growing role of women in Bahraini legislature and government. Among the parliamentarians she met was Dr Nada Haffadh, a member of the Shura council, who in 2004 was appointed to the cabinet as Minister of Health.

The visit was one of a number of engagements on the tour which The Duchess undertook on her own, mostly focusing on education and the care of women and children. Places visited by Her Royal Highness during the tour included the Al Noor Training Centre for Children with Special Needs in Dubai, and The Centre for Child Evaluation and Teaching in Kuwait.

The aim of the tour to Pakistan was to support the breadth of the partnership between the two countries, with a particular focus on the themes of inter-faith relations, education and youth entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. During the week-long trip Their Royal Highnesses visited Lahore, Pakistan-administered Kashmir, northern mountain villages, and Islamabad, where The Prince held a meeting with President Pervez Musharraf.

At the meeting the President thanked the UK for the support it offered to Pakistan after the devastating earthquake of October 2005. The Prince and The Duchess were able to see the country's reconstruction work for themselves when they visited the town of Pattika, which had been devastated by the quake.

The second main tour of 2006-07 took Their Royal Highnesses to Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and, in the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. As with previous visits to the Middle East, the main purpose of the trip was to strengthen the UK's political, defence, commercial and cultural relations in the region. The 10-day tour included meetings with local Ruling Families, engagements to support youth opportunity, and events which emphasised the importance of education and inter-faith dialogue.

The third overseas tour of the year was undertaken by The Prince of Wales to Sierra Leone and Nigeria. He visited Sierra Leone to highlight the country's emergence from many years of civil war, and to meet members of the British Armed Forces training the country's army. Later in the same week The Prince spent three days in Nigeria, where he helped to celebrate the success of the country's longest unbroken period of democratic rule.

In addition, Their Royal Highnesses visited the USA in January 2007. The trip was arranged in response to requests from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for The Prince and The Duchess to follow up their successful 2005 visit to the USA.

ABOVE

The Duchess of Cornwall meets female members of the Bahrainian Parliament in Manama, Bahrain.

The main purpose of the 10-day tour of Gulf states was to strengthen the UK's relations with the region.

THE ARMED SERVICES

The Prince of Wales's relationship with the Armed Services is based on four themes: promoting the role of the Forces within national life, through operational visits and ceremonial duties; focusing on the professionalism and excellence of training; supporting the welfare of service personnel and their families; and helping to maintain and enhance Britain's unique regimental system through links with veterans' and regimental groups.



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S MILITARY APPOINTMENTS

The Prince of Wales currently holds the ranks of Admiral in the Royal Navy, General in the Army and Air Chief Marshal in the Royal Air Force. The Prince of Wales maintains a special relationship with the following:

- The Welsh Guards
- The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment
- The Parachute Regiment
- The Royal Gurkha Rifles
- Army Air Corps
- The Royal Dragoon Guards
- The Queen's Own Yeomanry
- The Queen's Dragoon Guards
- The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion
- The Royal Regiment of Scotland
- 51st Highland, 7th Battalion
- The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Prince is also Honorary Air Commodore of Royal Air Force Valley, Commodore-in-Chief of the Royal Naval Command, Plymouth, Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and he maintains a special relationship with eight Commonwealth regiments as their Colonel-in-Chief.

The Prince's commitment to the Armed Services is matched by that of his wife and sons. The Duchess of Cornwall has two official military associations – she is Royal Colonel of the 4th Battalion The Rifles, and Commodore-in-Chief of Naval Medical Services.

It was as Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment that The Prince, accompanied by his wife, visited the 3rd Battalion of the Paras at Hyderabad Barracks in Colchester, Essex, in November 2006. The occasion was to present members of the regiment who had just returned from Afghanistan with operational service medals, and to meet privately the families of three soldiers from the 3rd Battalion who had been killed in action. During the visit, Their Royal Highnesses also met primary school children from the local garrison schools and soldiers' families.

Although The Prince and The Duchess regularly visit military units in the UK, when travelling on official overseas tours they also take the opportunity where possible to meet with British forces stationed abroad. During their tour of the Gulf States in February 2007, Their Royal Highnesses visited British and Commonwealth Airforce personnel at the Al Udeid Airbase in Qatar. The base provides vital support for British troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and serves as the home for a permanent Tornado, VC10 and C130 aircraft presence.

On their way back from the Gulf tour The Prince and The Duchess stopped off to celebrate St David's Day with the Welsh Guards stationed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, who made up a large part of the British forces in Bosnia, had just heard that they would be the last UK regiment to serve as EUFOR peacekeepers in the region. As tradition dictated they were presented with leeks by The Prince, who is the regiment's Colonel, and The Duchess.

One of the key duties of members of the Royal Family is to celebrate and commemorate the service and sacrifice of Armed Forces veterans of past wars and conflicts. One of the most poignant occasions last year came when Their Royal Highnesses joined thousands of people in France in July 2006 to honour the 125,000 British soldiers who were killed on the battlefields of the Somme in World War One.

The Prince and The Duchess laid a wreath of poppies at the Thiepval Memorial, and then met Henry Allingham, at 110 the oldest surviving veteran of the Great War. He said of his presence at the ceremony: "I am here not because of me, I am here because of those men that I knew so well, I'm here on their behalf, for their sakes."



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
The Prince of Wales, Colonel of the Welsh Guards, meets troops during a visit to Bosnia.

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall attend the 90th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of the Somme.

Their Royal Highnesses meet RAF and Commonwealth personnel when they visit the Al Udeid US Airbase outside Doha in Qatar.

The Duchess of Cornwall takes a ride in a Bulldog armoured personnel carrier during her first visit to the 4th Battalion The Rifles as Royal Colonel.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment, meets Lance Corporal Stuart Hale, Corporal Stuart Pearson and Fusilier Andy Barlow, who were wounded in Afghanistan, during a visit to Hyderabad Barracks.

FAR LEFT
The Prince shares a joke with guests including Private Johnson Beharry VC at a reception for the 150th anniversary of the Institution of the Victoria Cross and the 50th anniversary of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association in St James's Square.

Another notable anniversary last year was the 150th year of the Victoria Cross, the UK's highest medal of valour. In his capacity as President of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, The Prince was joined by his wife in a special service at Westminster Abbey and a reception in St James's Square in June 2006. To mark the anniversary, a three-part television series on the history of the VC was broadcast on Channel 5, introduced by His Royal Highness.

The Duchess of Cornwall's links to the military extend to her own family, and in November 2006 she hosted a lunch at Clarence House for veterans of the 12th Royal Lancers, the regiment her father, Major Bruce Shand, served with during World War Two. Major Shand died in June 2006, aged 89, at his home in Dorset.

In her capacity as Royal Colonel, Her Royal Highness visited the 4th Battalion The Rifles in February 2007 at its barracks in Bulford, Wiltshire, prior to its deployment to Iraq. During her visit, The Duchess went for an impromptu ride in a newly-modified Bulldog armoured personnel carrier, before having lunch with some of the soldiers and their families. The battalion's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Sanders, said it was a huge honour to have The Duchess as their Royal Colonel. "She is so interested in what we are doing. She has got such a fantastic touch with everyone in the regiment – the families, the children and the men."

Prince William and Prince Harry are both serving officers in the British Army. In April 2006, Prince Harry passed out from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned as a Cornet (2nd Lieutenant) in The Blues and Royals. He is currently serving as an armoured reconnaissance troop leader in the Household Cavalry regiment. In December 2006, Prince William completed his officer training at Sandhurst and was also commissioned into The Blues and Royals. As with his younger brother, Prince William's Commissioning parade was taken by The Queen, and attended by The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.