





PROMOTING AND PROTECTING

As well as supporting The Queen in her royal duties and acting as a charitable entrepreneur, The Prince of Wales also seeks to promote and protect the country's enduring traditions, virtues and excellence. Among other things, this work involves highlighting achievements or issues that, without his support, might otherwise receive little exposure, supporting Britain's rural communities, encouraging sustainable farming, and promoting tolerance and greater understanding between different faiths and communities.

LEFT

The Prince of Wales, The Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, and Chief Rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks at the official opening of 'The Tent' at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace. The multi-faith sanctuary is located in the garden of the former medieval St Ethelburga's Church which was destroyed by the IRA Bishopsgate bomb in 1993.

RAISING ISSUES

During the past year, The Prince of Wales, with the support of The Duchess of Cornwall, has once again sought to promote and protect what is best about Britain and its people. This will often involve The Prince acting personally as a catalyst to achieve change, to generate debate, or to raise neglected issues.

Achievement and service

Their Royal Highnesses regularly participate in events to recognise the work of the emergency services. In June 2006, His Royal Highness visited the site of Europe's biggest peacetime explosion at Buncefield in Hertfordshire to thank the fire service, the police and others who had tackled the enormous blaze at the oil depot in December 2005.

During his visit The Prince described the efforts of the emergency services as "remarkable" and praised the resilience of the local community. More than 2,000 people were forced from their homes and many of the 630 businesses employing 16,500 people were destroyed or badly damaged in the explosion.

Their Royal Highnesses also participate in engagements that highlight the work of volunteers throughout the UK. In March 2007, The Prince hosted a reception at Clarence House for volunteers who support Age Concern. Volunteers of all ages attended the event, which celebrated the charity's work and, in particular, its projects aimed at breaking down barriers between the generations through activities such as sport, history and cookery.

His Royal Highness described Age Concern's inter-generational initiatives as essential. He said: "I really do salute the work you do because it's crucial to go on ensuring that the generations can learn from each other. It's vital that we find a way of preserving and fostering the links with not only our parents' generation but also our grandparents' as well."

Another group of volunteers whose work was celebrated last year by a visit from The Prince of Wales were the young people helping the National Trust restore Tyntesfield House in North Somerset. As President of the National Trust, His Royal Highness was keen to see the ongoing restoration of the 19th century gothic revival mansion and say thank you to the volunteers from local schools and the Tyntesfield Youth National Trust Experience who were helping to restore the house.

Rural communities, farming and food

As a farmer himself, The Prince cares deeply about the British countryside and the welfare of those who live and work in it. Maintaining a healthy agricultural sector is vital to the country, not just because the landscape



ABOVE
The Prince of Wales meets Barbara Windsor and Age Concern volunteers at a Clarence House reception.



At a reception to mark five years of his Pub is the Hub initiative, The Prince of Wales said that local village pubs were a “special and unique” part of British life but warned that they were under threat.

Traditional ales were served at the reception, held at Clarence House in March 2007, which celebrated five years of Pub is the Hub helping rural pubs, owners, licensees and communities support local needs by using pubs as a base for necessary services that might otherwise be lost to the area.

The Prince met Ian and Sue Huntley, from the King’s Head in Tealby, Lincolnshire, who had with them the van they use to deliver home-made meals to their village’s primary school.

Mr Huntley said: “Village shops and services are just dying a death so it’s great if people can diversify into these areas and keep the village spirit going.”

relies on the accumulated knowledge of farming communities for its continued stewardship, but also because the social fabric of the countryside depends on a strong farming base.

Last year was the fifth anniversary of The Prince’s “Pub is the Hub” initiative, which was set up in 2001 through Business in the Community’s Rural Action programme to encourage breweries, pub owners, licensees and local communities to retain and enhance rural services, such as shop and post offices, in pubs, the traditional heart of many villages and hamlets.

To celebrate the initiative’s birthday, His Royal Highness gave a reception for pub owners and industry figures at Clarence House in March 2007. In its first five years Pub is the Hub has been involved with more than 300 projects, including 100 post offices, 80 community shops and 30 computer training centres.

In November 2006, The Prince and The Duchess spent a day in Northumberland visiting farms and towns. Among the engagements were a visit to an organic farm in Bellingham where over tea Their Royal Highnesses discussed the future of the North East’s rural economy with local business leaders, a meeting of farmers in the Holly Bush pub in Greenhaugh, and the official re-opening of the refurbished Jubilee Institute village hall in Rothbury. The Prince has long been working to help provide affordable housing in rural areas, and in December 2006, 10 of the UK’s biggest water companies responded to a call for action from His Royal Highness to set up a pilot project to develop new homes. As sizeable land owners in rural areas, the water companies are in a strong position to work with parish councils, local authorities and housing associations to find suitable sites for new affordable housing.

ABOVE
The Prince meets Ian and Sue Huntley outside Clarence House.

RAISING ISSUES

CONTINUED

In September 2006, His Royal Highness paid tribute to the “power and majesty” of the Book of Common Prayer and credited it with “instilling in English culture the essential virtues of resilience and balance”.

To read the entire speech

The Prince of Wales gave at The Prayer Book Society’s annual conference, please visit:

www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speeches

As an advocate of healthy eating and locally sourced British food, The Prince of Wales held a reception with The Duchess of Cornwall at Clarence House in February 2007 to pay tribute to those school cooks and head teachers who are helping to provide better food for the country’s children. Joined by the television chef Jamie Oliver, Their Royal Highnesses chatted with cooks and teachers about their work to improve the diet of British schoolchildren.

In November 2006, The Prince hosted a dinner at Clarence House for some of Europe’s top chefs and restaurateurs to promote the quality of British beef and improve the export market. Chef James Martin provided the menu, and as a strong supporter of British farming, His Royal Highness ensured the beef for the evening’s menu came from four traditional British breeds; Aberdeen Angus; South Devons; Sussex; and Welsh Black Cattle.

Faith and ethnic communities

Encouraging tolerance in Britain of other faiths and communities has long been a feature of The Prince’s work. In May 2006, His Royal Highness opened “The Tent”, a Bedouin-style tent dedicated to inter-faith dialogue and learning, at St Ethelburga’s Centre in London. After the opening, which was attended by representatives of nine different faiths, The Prince addressed faith leaders including The Bishop of London, The Rt Reverend Richard Chartres, Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks and representatives of the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths.

St Ethelburga’s inter-faith credentials date back long before its current use. The Reverend John Rodwell, the rector of St Ethelburga’s from 1843 to 1900 was responsible for publishing the first reliable version of the Koran in English, and during his visit The Prince unveiled a plaque commemorating the Reverend Rodwell.

In September 2006, His Royal Highness paid tribute to the “power and majesty” of the Book of Common Prayer and credited it with “instilling in English culture the essential virtues of resilience and balance.” The Prince was speaking as Patron of The Prayer Book Society on the 450th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Book of Common Prayer’s author, Thomas Cranmer.

The Society exists to promote and preserve the use of the Book of Common Prayer and introduce it to young people, trainee priests and church councils. His Royal Highness praised this work, saying that it created an important “generational link” ensuring that the traditional values contained within it remained at the forefront of modern Anglican worship.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall meet school cooks at a Clarence House reception.

Holocaust survivor Leon Greenman points to his late wife Else's wedding dress, as he shares his memories with The Prince of Wales at the Jewish Museum in Finchley, North London.

The Prince of Wales gives the inaugural address at The Prayer Book Society's Annual Conference at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford, Oxfordshire.

The Prince jokes with young volunteers at Tyntesfield House.

His Royal Highness jokes with chef James Martin before a dinner hosted by The Prince to promote the quality of British beef to some of Europe's top chefs and restaurateurs.
Courtesy of the Daily Telegraph.

The Prince of Wales has worked for years to help the Muslim community in the UK, and last year saw the launch of the first Young Muslim Leadership Programme (YMLP) at the Oxford University's Centre for Islamic Studies. His Royal Highness proposed the idea of the YMLP, which each year will offer 25 young Muslims the chance to attend an intensive two-week course aimed at improving their knowledge, confidence and skills to help them realise their full potential in mainstream British life.

In the first YMLP, participants were encouraged to learn more about how the British political system functions, and the course included a day in London with visits to the House of Commons and Buckingham Palace, while senior politicians, representatives from non-governmental organisations and journalists visited the group in Oxford.

In February 2007, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited the Jewish Museum in London to celebrate its organisation's 75th birthday. Their Royal Highnesses were given a guided tour of the museum in Camden, which was founded in 1932 and tells the story of Jewish life in Britain. The Prince became Patron of the museum in 2006 and visited its Finchley site in June, meeting Auschwitz survivor Leon Greenman.

Correspondence and meetings

As well as raising issues publicly to bring attention to matters that might otherwise be overlooked, His Royal Highness, as a Privy Counsellor himself, also privately corresponds with, and meets, Government ministers, business leaders and other people of influence on a variety of subjects that have been brought to his notice or which concern him as a result of many meetings and visits all over the UK and abroad. In doing so, The Prince is always careful to avoid party political and politically contentious issues.