



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING

As well as supporting The Queen with her duties as Head of State and acting as a charitable entrepreneur, The Prince of Wales 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

Prince Charles talking with farmer Tim Wilson, right, and stocksman Kevin Hodgson, during a visit to Grange Farm in Levisham in January 2008.

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 often involves The Prince acting personally as a catalyst to suggest change, to generate discussion, or to highlight neglected issues.

Achievement and service

Their Royal Highnesses regularly participate in events to recognize the work of the emergency services, and in July 2007 The Prince presented the prizes at the 12th annual Police Bravery Awards in London. Seventy-two officers were nominated, and the overall winner of the bravest officer award was PC Geoffrey Hince from Manchester, who while off duty, tackled two armed thieves robbing a post office.

At the event His Royal Highness spoke of the modesty that characterised the officers presented with awards: "We will hear them say they were just doing their jobs. Perhaps they were, but it is an exceptional job and they are exceptional people."



Their Royal Highnesses also participate in engagements that highlight the work of volunteers throughout the UK. In December 2007, The Duchess of Cornwall met volunteers working to help the homeless during a visit to a centre run by the charity Emmaus in South London. Her Royal Highness has been patron of Emmaus since 2006, and during her tour of the facility she met resident Elizabeth Harrington, who said it was "wonderful" that The Duchess had visited the centre as it would help to promote the work of the charity; "There is such a crying need for that," she said.

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 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.



A key role in maintaining that fabric is the country pub, and for the past six years The Prince's "Pub is the Hub" initiative has been encouraging breweries, pub owners, licensees and local communities to use pubs to enhance rural services, such as shops and post offices.

ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

The Prince of Wales helps make bread with children at Avening Primary School in Gloucestershire.

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visit London's Chinatown to meet members of the Chinese community.

In March 2008, His Royal Highness visited one of the pubs in the scheme in Ravenstonedale in Cumbria. Accompanied by Hilary Benn, the Environment Secretary, The Prince heard from landlords Alan and Louise Dinnes how the Black Swan had become an integral part of the remote village community since the conversion of a ground-floor bedroom into a village shop.

As an advocate of healthy eating and locally sourced British food, The Prince of Wales agreed to become patron of the Year of Food and Farming and in September 2007 he launched the campaign, which aims to reconnect children with food and the countryside by encouraging them to grow their own food and visit local farms.

In November 2007, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited Jesus House in Brent Cross, London, to celebrate the contribution of Black Majority churches to life in the United Kingdom.

As well as being introduced to volunteers, staff and members of the congregation, The Prince met privately with The Bishop of London and 20 pastors of Black Majority churches to discuss faith issues and the possibility of greater collaboration between the churches and The Prince's Trust.

In an address to the congregation His Royal Highness praised the church's community and charity work. He told them: "You are all a marvellous example of how so many people whose families originate from the Commonwealth have yourselves brought new life into the Christian church in the United Kingdom, thereby completing the cycle started by missionaries from Britain so many years ago."



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The Prince of Wales speaking at the 12th annual Police Bravery Awards in July 2007.

For the launch around 50 students from Oathall Community College in West Sussex and Avening Primary School in Tetbury were invited to tour The Prince's Duchy Home Farm, where they were shown how to make bread rolls from scratch, including grinding their own flour. His Royal Highness said the Year of Food and Farming was so important for children because it was "about instilling in them a life-long appreciation of food and the way it is produced, and reconnecting them with Nature so that they may have a better understanding of why it is so precious to the health and well-being of each and every one of us."

Faith and ethnic communities

Encouraging tolerance in Britain of the country's many different faiths and communities has long been a feature of The Prince's work. In November 2007, he visited Chinatown with The Duchess of Cornwall to meet members of London's thriving Chinese community. Their Royal Highnesses spent two hours in the tightly-packed streets, dropping in on a Chinese bakery, supermarkets and a restaurant, and being entertained by a traditional Chinese lion dance as they stood beneath the dozens of red and gold lanterns hanging over Gerrard Street in Soho.

The Prince's engagement with the Chinese community extends to asking his Foundation for the Built Environment to work with Westminster City Council and the local community to find ways to build on recent improvements to Chinatown by encouraging the use of traditional Chinese architectural practices and by drawing on the expertise and skill of craftsmen in China and the UK. The Foundation is working on the designs for improvements with the school of architecture at Beijing's Tsing Hua University.

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.