



THE NEW HOUSEHOLD OF PRINCE WILLIAM AND PRINCE HARRY

Prince William and Prince Harry continue to serve as full-time officers in the Armed Forces while taking on a growing number of Patronages and charitable links. A new Household was created to support The Princes in these activities. In addition, The Princes' Charities Forum continues to grow as a means of supporting the organizations and charities with which they are closely linked.

LEFT

Prince William and Prince Harry arrive for the Royal World Premiere of the 22nd James Bond film 'Quantum of Solace' in aid of the Royal British Legion and Help the Heroes in October 2008.



ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
Prince William lays a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day in November 2008.

Prince William disembarking a Royal Navy Lynx helicopter from HMS Iron Duke, on the island of Montserrat, where the ship was taking part in an exercise in July 2008.

Prince William bends to chat to children during a visit to the Valleys Kids Project at the Pen Dinas Flats, in Dinas in the Rhondda Valleys in May 2008.

The past year has been a busy period for both Prince William and Prince Harry. As well as beginning full-time military flying training courses and becoming involved with a number of new associations, charities and other organizations, in January 2009 a new joint Household Office was created for the two Princes in recognition of their evolving public, military and charitable activities.

The creation of the new Household recognized The Princes' increasing contribution and responsibility. During the past year, Prince William took on six additional Patronages. Prince William is now President or Patron of 12 organizations, many of which are linked to his and Prince Harry's main areas of interest: supporting young people in society, particularly the most disadvantaged; Armed Forces' charities and related support groups; and ecology and the environment. The Prince also took on his first honorary appointment in the Royal Air Force, becoming Honorary Air Commandant of RAF Coningsby.

Prince William carried out a number of engagements throughout the country during the year, a good number of them in Wales reflecting his particularly close links with the Principality. Engagements ranged from meeting children, families and staff at Valleys Kids' Dinas Community Project in Mid-Glamorgan, supporting the Welsh rugby team at the Millennium Stadium, meeting rescue teams at the Central Beacons Mountain Rescue base, to opening the new headquarters of Media Wales in Cardiff.

Prince Harry's official activities also increased during the year, as he took on two new Patronages with Prince William: the Henry Van Straubenzee Memorial Fund, which support schools in Uganda, and Khumbu Challenge 2009, which creates adventurous training opportunities for wounded British Armed Forces personnel. Prince Harry was also given his first honorary appointment in the Royal Air Force, becoming Honorary Air Commandant of RAF Honington.

During the year, Prince Harry remained closely involved with Sentebale, the charity he co-founded with Prince Seeiso of Lesotho in 2006. In August, Prince Harry led a team of fellow soldiers from the Household Cavalry on a two-week expedition in southern Africa to raise money to support the children of Lesotho. The expedition culminated with a project to help construct a new school for disabled children. In October, Prince William and Prince Harry together took part in a 10-day charity motorbike ride across South Africa to generate funds for Sentebale, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and UNICEF.

As well as carrying out public and private engagements to support their Patronages, The Princes invite all their charities and associations to a seminar to assist in promoting exchanges of ideas and joint initiatives to the benefit of all the members. Last year the gathering, which has become known as The Princes' Charities Forum, met on two occasions.



ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
Prince Harry jokes with a toddler during his visit to a newly opened centre for abused children in Maseru, Lesotho in July 2008.

Prince Harry departs from the service at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, in June 2008 after a military parade along the Royal Mile to honour troops who fell during his tour of Afghanistan.

Prince Harry talks to Harvey Fleming, five, and Lily Slater, four, winners of 'Best Brave Child 2-5' awards at the WellChild Awards, held at Lord's Cricket Ground, London in October 2008.

In addition to their charitable and other work, Prince William and Prince Harry remain full-time serving officers in the Armed Forces. In January, Prince William started an 18-month training course to become a full-time, fully operational Search and Rescue Pilot in the Royal Air Force.

His decision to embark on the training course followed a successful year of intensive attachments to all branches of the Armed Forces. These included: four months with the Royal Air Force learning about their range of capabilities and modern-day role, culminating with a short visit to RAF personnel in the Middle East and Afghanistan; two months with the Royal Navy, including time on board HMS Iron Duke engaged in counter-narcotics activities in the Caribbean; a fortnight at the Ministry of Defence's strategic headquarters; a series of visits to the Army Air Corps; and an extended period with Special Forces in the Autumn. These attachments were designed to build on Prince William's existing knowledge of the Armed Forces gained during his services as a tank commander in the Household Cavalry.

In January, after two and a half years serving as a Formation Reconnaissance Troop Leader in the Blues & Royals (a regiment of the Household Cavalry), Prince Harry began training with the Army Air Corps with the aspiration of becoming a full-time helicopter pilot. His course will last at least two years and will take him to a number of Army and Royal Air Force bases across the country.

The Princes' new Household was created in January 2009 with The Prince of Wales's support, and remains closely linked with his Household at Clarence House. The Princes' new Household shares with Clarence House a number of departments, such as Finance, Personnel, Archives and Press Office.

The Household is based at St James's Palace and is led by Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, The Princes' Private Secretary. Two other senior staff are also employed, one of whom (the Assistant Press Secretary) is shared with Clarence House. These three officials are assisted by other members of staff who support The Princes and the Household in their activities. Additionally, Sir David Manning, a former British Ambassador to the United States of America, was appointed by The Queen to an unpaid, part-time, advisory role with The Princes.

The new Household is funded in the same way as The Princes' previous Office, predominately by The Prince of Wales, with small amounts met through the Grants-In-Aid, as for other Members of the Royal Family.