



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

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in York at a ceremony to name the new Peppercorn class A1 steam locomotive, the Tornado, in February 2009.



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 September 2008 The Prince joined more than a thousand people at Liverpool Cathedral to pay tribute to the lives of police officers who had died in the line of duty.

The Prince, as Patron of National Police Memorial Day, met the families of fallen officers after the service. Among them were Corrie Methven and Kate Parker, whose husband, PC Andrew Parker of North Wales Police, was killed in a road traffic accident three years ago. Mrs Parker said: "The service was absolutely perfect and I'm very, very proud today."



Their Royal Highnesses also participate in engagements that highlight the work of volunteers throughout the UK. In July 2008, they hosted a garden party at Buckingham Palace in honour of the British Red Cross. His Royal Highness is President of the British Red Cross Society and the event marked the centenary of the British Red Cross's Royal Charter. Thousands of Red Cross staff and volunteers attended the party, which also saw The Prince receive the keys to a Land Rover, one of 60 being donated to the charity by the car company as a gift on His Royal Highness's 60th birthday.



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.

Promoting locally sourced food to help small family farms has long been a passion of The Prince's, and in February 2009 he visited Nottinghamshire for the launch of a food accreditation scheme for caterers who buy local, organic and GM-free produce. The Food for Life Catering Mark is an accreditation scheme that provides a step-by-step route to sustainable catering. The scheme grew out of the Soil Association's work with school dinners, and in a speech at the launch, The Prince, who is Patron of the Soil Association, said he hoped food "hubs" could be developed to help hospitals and schools source from local farmers.

Supporting farmers' families is another part of The Prince's work, and in September 2008 he hosted a reception for the Women's Food and Farming Union (WFU) at Highgrove. The reception was attended by 130 farmers' wives and women farmer members of the WFU, which was founded in 1979 to promote an understanding of the quality of British produce, and to link the producer to the consumer to help improve the quality and variety of British food. In a speech, The Prince thanked the WFU for their work in running an

ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
Corrie Methven meets The Prince of Wales during the National Police Memorial Day service at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral in September 2008.

The Prince of Wales is presented with a bottle of apple juice by Roz Day during a reception at Highgrove House for members of the Women's Food and Farming Union in September 2008.

The Duchess of Cornwall during a visit to the Devon County Show near Exeter in May 2008.



ABOVE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

The Duchess of Cornwall meets school pupils from Hawarden High School in Flintshire in the kitchens of the Dorchester Hotel, London, who won the 'Cook for Life Challenge' in February 2009.

The Prince of Wales with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, at a Service of Thanksgiving for the renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London in April 2008.

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall during their visit to the Dawoodi Bohra Mosque known as the 'Husaini Masjid', in Northolt, West London in February 2009.

education programme for primary schools to educate children about where their food comes from and how to grow sustainably and eat healthily.

During a visit to the Devon County Show, in May 2008, The Duchess of Cornwall, as President of the Devon County Agricultural Association, told members that she was especially pleased to see the work of the Year of Food and Farming and Farms for City Children. She said: "Few things can be as important as reconnecting children and indeed adults with the land, and helping to understand how food is grown."

In a similar vein, The Duchess met winners of the 2008 British Food Fortnight Cook For Life Challenge at the Dorchester Hotel in February 2009. The school pupils from Hawarden High School in Flintshire cooked for her and other guests.

Faith and ethnic communities

Encouraging tolerance in Britain of the country's many different faiths and communities and celebrating the good works they do throughout the UK has long been a feature of The Prince's work.

In June 2008, His Royal Highness hosted a reception at Clarence House for volunteers working with the Hope 08 project, a Christian church-led initiative which has organized for tens of thousands of volunteers to make a positive impact on communities across the country. The initiative encourages members of church congregations to play an active role in helping transform their communities and bring hope to those around them through a wide variety of activities.

In February 2009, The Prince and The Duchess visited the Dawoodi Bohra Mosque in London to highlight the work of a Muslim community in London that has made a major contribution to British business and has patriotism at the heart of its faith. Prince Qaidjoher Ezzuddin, the son of the Dawoodi Bohra's leader, attended the visit and praised The Prince in a speech to more than 100 people gathered in the mosque in Northolt. He said: "It is heart-warming for our community and all Muslims residing in the United Kingdom that the Heir to The Throne of the country they live in values their religion and traditions in the way you do."

In March 2009, Their Royal Highnesses celebrated the Hindu festival of Holi with schoolchildren in Neasden, London, in a riot of colour, dance and music at the Swaminarayan School. Holi celebrates the arrival of Spring and marks the changing Seasons with a vibrant festival which reflects the beauty associated with Spring blossoms and the colour they bring. The Prince and The Duchess watched the event and afterwards threw flower petals over the powder-covered youngsters once their display was over. They also visited a classroom where five year-olds were learning about St David's Day by making daffodil chains and baking special treats.

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 issues.