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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR COMMONWEALTH MEDIA
ON
THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL**

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"For me the Commonwealth is something rather special – and worth cherishing. It is as old as I am, and so has been present throughout my life, as something to which The Queen and other members of my family attach great value."

"I have long had an instinctive sense of the value of the Commonwealth. It encourages and celebrates cultural diversity and makes no attempt to homogenise."

Quotes from The Prince of Wales in a speech made at The University of the West Indies in Trinidad in 2000 titled 'The Commonwealth in the New Millennium'

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Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth

Her Majesty The Queen has been Head of the Commonwealth throughout her reign (since 1952). This is an important symbolic and unifying role. As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty personally reinforces the links by which the Commonwealth joins people together from around the world. In 1949 the London Declaration recognised the British Monarch as the symbol of the free association of independent member nations and as Head of the Commonwealth. Upon the death of her father King George VI and her accession to the throne, The Queen became Head of the Commonwealth, recognised by Commonwealth leaders in that capacity. Throughout Her Majesty's reign, the Commonwealth has grown from just seven nations to 53 members representing more than two billion people, 60 percent of whom are under 30. During this time, The Queen has played a unique part as a symbol of unity and strength at the heart of the Commonwealth. One of the ways of strengthening these connections is through regular Commonwealth visits.

During her reign, The Queen has undertaken more than 200 visits to Commonwealth countries and visited every country of the Commonwealth (with the exception of Cameroon, which joined in 1995 and Rwanda which joined in 2009) as well as making many repeat visits. For more information visit www.royal.gov.uk

In addition to the United Kingdom, The Queen is Head of State of fifteen other countries. In these countries, which are often referred to as 'Realms', the constitutional functions of the Crown are exercised on the advice of local ministers by Vice-Regal representatives known variously as Governors-General, Governors and Lieutenant-Governors. The Queen has a different title in each of the Realms, for example, Queen of Tuvalu, Queen of Barbados and Queen of Saint Lucia. The Prince of Wales is, therefore, the Heir to the Throne in 15 countries.

The fifteen other Realms of which The Queen is Head of State are:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Australia
3. Bahamas
4. Barbados
5. Belize
6. Canada
7. Grenada
8. Jamaica
9. New Zealand
10. Papua New Guinea
11. Saint Kitts and Nevis
12. Saint Lucia
13. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
14. Solomon Islands
15. Tuvalu

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, like all Members of the Royal Family, maintain especially close links with the countries of the Commonwealth.

Online Resources

www.princeofwales.gov.uk



[@Clarence House](https://twitter.com/ClarenceHouse)



YouTube.com/TheRoyalChannel



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facebook.com/TheBritishMonarchy

The Prince of Wales in the Commonwealth

The Prince of Wales has been an active supporter of the Commonwealth for over 40 years. In a speech made at The University of the West Indies in Trinidad in 2000 titled 'The Commonwealth in The New Millennium', The Prince of Wales described the uniqueness and relevance of the Commonwealth: *"I have long had an instinctive sense of the value of the Commonwealth. It encourages and celebrates cultural diversity and makes no attempt to homogenise."* The Prince went on to praise the "voluntary commitment" and shared values of the Commonwealth member states.

Together with The Duchess of Cornwall, His Royal Highness shows his support through official visits, military links, charitable activities and other special events such as the opening of the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India. The Prince sat on the Commonwealth Development Corporation for eight years, from 1979-1987. He has also attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) four times to date – Edinburgh in 1997, Uganda in 2007, Sri Lanka in 2013 (where The Prince represented Her Majesty The Queen) and Malta in 2015.

Since 1969, **The Prince has visited 44 Commonwealth countries**, many of them on several occasions. **The Duchess has visited 18 Commonwealth countries** since marrying The Prince in 2005. Most recently, Their Royal Highnesses visited Australia and The Prince visited Vanuatu in 2018.

A full list of the Commonwealth Countries The Prince of Wales has visited is below (in alphabetical order):

1. Antigua & Barbuda
2. Australia
3. Bahamas
4. Barbados
5. Bangladesh
6. Bermuda
7. Botswana
8. Brunei
9. Cameroon
10. Canada
11. Cyprus
12. Dominica
13. Fiji
14. Ghana
15. Grenada
16. Guyana
17. India
18. Jamaica
19. Kenya
20. Lesotho
21. Malawi
22. Malaysia
23. Maldives
24. Malta
25. New Zealand
26. Nigeria
27. Pakistan
28. Papua New Guinea
29. Rhodesia/Zimbabwe
30. Samoa
31. Sierra Leone
32. Singapore
33. South Africa
34. Sri Lanka
35. St Kitts and Nevis
36. St. Lucia
37. St Vincent
38. Swaziland
39. Tanzania
40. Tonga
41. Trinidad & Tobago
42. Uganda
43. Vanuatu
44. Zambia

A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at a Gala Dinner in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3rd November 2017

Your Royal Highnesses, the Prime Minister, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I cannot tell you how delighted my wife and I are to have been invited to visit Malaysia to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of your independence and all the years of diplomatic ties between our countries that have followed. Both of us have long held a firm desire to visit your country, so this occasion is not only a very special moment for us personally, but is also a particularly special opportunity to celebrate the enduring ties between our people. Those ties, of course, go back a very long way and the friendship between us is so deeply rooted in our shared history.

Our visit ends on Wednesday in Penang, which is, of course, where, two hundred and thirty one years ago, the long-standing history between our nations began. I gather that Penang was known for many years as Prince of Wales Island and the fact that it isn't the case any longer; I promise I will not take personally - although my grandson, George, may possibly be cheered in due course by the name of its capital! Rather more poetically, though, I believe Penang was known as 'The pearl of the Orient,' so my wife and I are very much looking forward to discovering its charms for ourselves.

Sixty years on from independence it is clear that very strong foundations of mutual respect and understanding were laid down when Malaysia became part of the Commonwealth, with its shared principles, strong values and vision of a common future. Sixty years on, it is also clear that Malaysia now offers a powerful model to others in the region not only because of your particular strengths in business, education, science, security and defence, but also because of the way you operate on the world stage.

Today our partnership is vibrant and dynamic and, if I may say so, it is vitally important for the prosperity and security of both our countries. The trade and investment that flows between us, in both directions, creates skilled, well-paid employment in the United Kingdom just as it does in Malaysia. The defence and security cooperation that we enjoy makes a crucial difference to keeping all our people safe - whether through the Five Powers Defence Arrangements that I am greatly looking forward to learning more about when I visit the Royal Malaysian Air Force station at Butterworth next week, or through our shared determination to tackle the evil of terrorism that threatens us all.

Likewise, your country's long-standing global reputation for understanding across the borders of faith and community is a precious asset in a world threatened by a lack of this most essential commodity. The pillars of such a reputation, founded, as they must be, on mutual respect and the willingness not merely to tolerate, but to celebrate differences and diversity in all their forms, could not be more relevant or, indeed, needed in today's fractious times.

These attributes are well embedded in the ethos of the Commonwealth as demonstrated by its members' convening of people to discuss problems and share ideas as we look to finding

ways to address the challenges of our future. So I was delighted to join the first Commonwealth Youth Summit earlier today. It aims, helpfully, to be 'An Intergenerational-Convergence' - so even someone of my advancing age can be included...!

I have every hope that the Youth Summit will offer us some valuable insights and compelling solutions to the challenges we all face such as the accelerating threat multiplier of catastrophic climate change or, as I heard from the young people this afternoon, the empowerment of women and tackling cyber-bullying. What gives me that hope is what I have seen happen when you put faith in young people. To take just one small example, over the last forty-one years my Prince's Trust has helped more than 870,000 young people in the U.K. and now increasingly overseas, my Prince's Trust International, to overcome seemingly impossible problems to turn their lives around; by, for instance, setting up their own enterprises – of which there are now nearly 90,000 one of which I am proud to say is Jimmy Choo. What young people need, I have learned, is encouragement and enough support, advice and skills-training to get started. Once started, the results can often be spectacular and profoundly heartening...

So my hope this week for the Commonwealth Youth Forum is that its discussions will epitomise all that is good about the Commonwealth – and indeed about Malaysia - with an open sharing of ideas, knowledge and expertise and a commitment from these young people to show leadership. In return, I know the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London next April will make it a priority to hear from them.

In addition to these issues, I was pleased to see that developing policies on climate change and finance are at the top of the agenda for C.H.O.G.M. As I have been trying to point out for many years, there is no greater challenge to the young people of the Commonwealth and the world at large than climate change. How to limit its causes and adapt to the changes already bearing down on us will be one of the defining issues of their lives, as it is already proving to be one of ours. Climate change presents an existential crisis; the recent devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean or here in Malaysia with the catastrophic flooding in Kelantan in 2014, bear stark testimony to the issues with which we are increasingly going to have to contend. Indeed, we may have underestimated the severity of the problem. In the past week alone we have seen three very disturbing reports. One from the World Meteorological Organisation stating that in 2016 a combination of human activity and the El Niño effect increased CO₂ in the atmosphere to a record level, fifty per cent higher than the average of the past ten years. This casts deep uncertainty about the attainability of the CO₂ targets agreed under the Paris Agreement. Meanwhile the United Nations has just reported that rising temperatures and the loss of nutrition caused by failing crops due to climate change are likely to have the largest impact on human health this century.

I regret to say this follows yet another report published last week by German scientists after an eight year study into the health of our oceans, which concludes that marine life around the world faces a deadly threat from increasingly acidic water. Such is the pace of this acidity, many small organisms will not be able to adapt quickly enough, and that will have a devastating impact on fish stocks – the source of protein for millions of people. And this is before mentioning the appallingly high levels plastic that we have put into the Ocean. As I recently said at the Our Ocean conference in Malta a few weeks ago, plastic is now on the menu! Also, of course, in this part of the world, you are all only too aware of the pressures

that agriculture and the commodity sector put upon rainforests and their precious biodiversity and the causal relationship between their survival and that of our own.

At the same time, the world is also seeing an unprecedented shift from rural to urban dwelling which is creating many acute pressures: traffic congestion, dangerous levels of air pollution, the spread of unplanned settlements along highways and the destruction or disruption of vital eco-systems and the services that Nature struggles to provide us.

How, then, should we respond, Ladies and Gentlemen, to this perfect storm of human-created problems that we simply can no longer afford to ignore? Well, here is the good news. If we show determination, we are fully able to harness our intelligence and our compassion to build societies that are restorative and regenerative. We certainly have the money, we increasingly have the technology and we now have the Sustainability Goals as a commonly agreed framework of joint action which, if implemented would generate \$12 trillion dollars and 600 million additional jobs.

Transformative change is possible. To attain it, I cannot help but think that we need to embrace the concept of a circular economy that builds partnerships and develops an economic model that is regenerative and that creates, uses, recovers, recycles and restores. Evidently our investments must now all deliver long-term social and environmental values and it is vital that we decouple GDP growth from resource use as, quite simply, the Earth's ecosystems cannot take the pressure.

This is certainly not business as usual, but it is a path, it seems to me, which offers resilient growth and the hope of healing to societies, economies and environments. And, indeed, the way that we need to go forward is reminiscent of the characteristics of innovation and determination that have powered Malaysia's economic growth. There is so much opportunity to be grasped as we catalyse the large investments needed into renewable energy, restorative agriculture and forestry, public transport and zero-carbon buildings.

The fact that you will be hosting the World Urban Forum early next year provides an opportunity to discuss more imaginative approaches that are based, for example, on the enduring relevance to humanity of timeless principles of urban planning that put the pedestrian at the heart of the design process, and not the car.

For the resolution of all these issues, the Commonwealth should, and does, have a pivotal role to play. Representing a third of the world's population and a fifth of its land-mass, it can draw on a uniquely wide range of national contexts, experiences, traditions and, above all, professional associations – something, of course, which makes the Commonwealth unlike anything else in the world – for the solutions that we all so desperately need now.

For I do not feel that it is realistic or fair for us simply just to pass our problems to the next generation in the hope that they will resolve them; we are beholden at the very least to ensure that their inheritance sustains rather than constrains them.

Ladies and gentlemen, your sixtieth anniversary of independence is a worthy moment to reflect on the fact that we have much to learn and everything to gain by building on the legacy of trust and the strong bonds that exist between our nations, and which are augmented by our membership of the very special Commonwealth Family of nations... And

so, Your Royal Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we come together this evening to celebrate how far we have travelled in these past sixty years, and just how much we do together on so many fronts today, I pray we may also resolve to keep strengthening the enduring friendship between us so that it thrives and prospers for many years to come.

A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales to open the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15th November 2013

President Rajapaksa, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for your kind welcome. My wife and I are very glad indeed to be joining you here in Colombo. At the personal request of The Queen, I am delighted to be addressing you this morning on behalf of the Head of the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty's deep affection for the Commonwealth, and the special importance she has attached to it throughout her reign, are well known to you all. And if I may say so, those very sentiments have been an ever-present cornerstone in my own life also. It is therefore my particular privilege and pleasure to be representing The Queen at this, the 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Now, I am especially pleased to be back among the people of Sri Lanka who, in recent years, have confronted great adversity. My last visit here, in 2005, came just weeks after the devastating tsunami had struck these shores. I visited communities affected by the disaster and met many of the relief workers who were doing so much to help rebuild broken lives and livelihoods. I recall my admiration for the fortitude shown by them all at that time and commend the progress that has been made since in healing those dreadful scars.

Sri Lanka was one of the founding countries of the modern Commonwealth. Historians of this family of nations will recall that, in the circumstances of that time, the Commonwealth showed an exceptional spirit of accommodation over how the organisation should be constituted. This led one prominent Head of Government, in other words Prime Minister Nehru (with whom incidentally I always felt proud to share a birthday) to declare that the Commonwealth seemed capable of bringing 'a touch of healing' to the management of contemporary world problems. More than sixty years later, we should not need to be reminded of the many troubles that beset our world, some of them previously little understood, nor should we underestimate the importance and responsibility of the Commonwealth's role in addressing them.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is the first CHOGM to take place since the adoption of the Commonwealth Charter, to which the Prime Minister of Australia has just alluded and which The Queen signed on Commonwealth Day earlier this year. Her Majesty welcomed the Charter as a milestone in the development of today's Commonwealth, saying, 'It will light the path of all those involved in the work of the Commonwealth and of those who follow in our footsteps'. The Charter reaffirms the core values and principles of the Commonwealth. At this CHOGM, and guided by that spirit, the Commonwealth is being charged to confront the many issues affecting the security and well-being of its nations and peoples, working to the agenda which the Secretary-General has just outlined. The Queen wishes you well in these vitally important deliberations.

Mr. Abbott also kindly mentioned The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. If I may, I should like to take this opportunity of extending Her Majesty's sincere thanks for this remarkable

initiative which has been founded as a tribute to her sixty years of service as Head of the Commonwealth. The Diamond Jubilee Trust, announced in Perth two years ago and designed to provide a lasting legacy for the benefit of the Commonwealth, has since been richly supported by people, organizations, businesses and governments of the nations represented here. And as you have heard, that generosity will be devoted to two major causes: first, the treatment and, in some cases, the elimination of avoidable blindness; and, secondly, a new programme of youth leadership, named for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Both these projects have the potential to transform millions of lives across the Commonwealth, and would simply not have been possible without your outstanding and continuing support.

Ladies and gentlemen, each one of us is here because of the hope and the trust we place in the Commonwealth to bring that 'touch of healing' to our troubles and deliver the very best future for our people. The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, sends warm greetings to you all and, on her behalf; it gives me very great pleasure to declare open this Meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government.

A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at a dinner hosted by Their Royal Highnesses for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15th November 2013

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I must say it is a great privilege for me to be able to represent Her Majesty, Head of The Commonwealth here at this Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and I am enormously grateful to the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands for his very kind toast which I shall ensure is reported back to Her Majesty when we return.

And I'm also most grateful to the Prime Minister of Malta, because when he was speaking it reminded me that I have actually visited an enormous number of Commonwealth countries in the last 60 years. And in 1954 I remember my sister and I went over to Gibraltar, Malta and then on to Dubruck to meet The Queen and Prince Philip at the end of their Coronation cruise.

So, I think I've been around longer than some people realize. And I looked up the other day just how many countries I have visited in that 60 years, it's now 41 countries out of the 53 in the Commonwealth in something like 151 official, unofficial or even Royal Naval visits, because again I have got to that age where I am so old, that people have forgotten that I actually served in the Royal Navy, all those years ago. And not only that, but officiated on behalf of The Queen at Independence celebrations, for instance of The Bahamas, and I remember in those days I was young enough to be able to attend three - not one - but three, Independence Balls in the same night! That was quite an undertaking and I have never forgotten dancing with Mrs Pindling, who was the wife of the then Prime Minister of the Bahamas, and a whole lot of other remarkable ladies in The Bahamas.

And then, also, I remember, represented The Queen at the Independence ceremony of Fiji, and indeed Zimbabwe. So I have been around, here and there over the years and when I was in Malta on one occasion I remember Mr Dom Mintoff, who was a remarkable Prime Minister, invited me to go water skiing with him, and he was very keen on water skiing but he was one of those people who go on and on water skiing for hours and hours. And I remember he wore this extraordinary bath hat, bathing hat, and put wax plugs in his ears. Anyway we solemnly water-skied around most of Malta, until I could bear it no longer and dropped off, and let go of the rope and he went on. I never saw him again!

But it was something that has remained deeply imprinted on my memory. It also reminds me, Ladies and Gentlemen, very briefly of the number of Commonwealth leaders that I have met in those 60 years and when I think that I remember Sir Robert Menzies in Australia all those years ago. He was responsible for suggesting that I should be sent to school in Australia for six months, and look what it's done to me!

I also remember so many others, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, who came to visit The Queen at Balmoral when I was quite young, and gave me the most remarkable set of bow and arrows which I remember firing busily into trees and we never could get the arrows out! Dr. Julius Nyerere, Dr. Hastings Banda who I remember welcoming me to Malawi all those years ago and he brought one million people on to the streets, I have never forgotten, and I thought for a moment I was frightfully popular! But he was another remarkable man.

And also, President Kenyatta, not the son, the father, who I remember 40 years ago in Kenya calling on him I think in 1971 or something and I have never forgotten that conversation I had with him then, and Dr Kenneth Kaunda who was always very kind to me I remember when I went to Zambia and every time I saw him and I am so glad that he is still going strong. And still in remarkable form. Then there's Pierre Trudeau and many others besides.

So Ladies and Gentlemen, I just wanted to say that the result of all this, over all these years, is that I feel very much part of a family, and it is in my blood I hate to tell you. I have been brought up in the family with all the stories about it, and all the accounts, and all the reminiscences, and everything else over so many years and I think that what we are renewing here are those family ties, those family associations, and most of all those family values, if I may say so, and I feel proud and enormously privileged to be a part of it all.

A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales titled 'The Commonwealth in The New Millennium' The University of the West Indies in Trinidad, 22nd February 2000

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your welcome. Vice Chancellor, thank you for your kind words.

It is a great pleasure to be here, on my first visit to Trinidad and Tobago. The University of the West Indies is one of the great successes of the region. I want to begin by paying a heartfelt and, I hope, not too belated fiftieth anniversary tribute to it, and to all of you who give it its life. You can be justly proud of all your achievements. I want, too, to add my best wishes for the future; I trust that the University, on all its three campuses and at all its outstations - like Discovery Bay which I shall visit later in my tour - will continue to thrive, giving the young people of the Caribbean the very best of higher education.

I must say as well that I was delighted to hear about your plans for collaboration with University College in London. Work on the sustainable use of the Caribbean's natural resources and the economic valuation of its environmental assets is urgently needed. Both that and the work in which the British Council is involved in Trinidad and Tobago to develop vocational education are close to my heart.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this tour of mine is not only to three countries with which Britain has the closest of relations. It is a chance for me to visit a part of the Commonwealth I have seen little of in recent years. And that is a particular joy. For me, the Commonwealth is something rather special - and worth cherishing. It is as old as I am, and so has been present throughout my life, as something to which The Queen and other members of my family attach great value.

Coming to this region, and to a country like Trinidad and Tobago, reminds you of a number of its qualities. This country is an ethnic microcosm of the Commonwealth, embracing people from the same regions of the world - Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas - with several of the same faiths. And arriving from Britain dramatises the nature of many of the relationships between Commonwealth countries, with their strange mixtures of similarities and differences.

But the fact that the Commonwealth embraces North and South, developed and developing countries, and so many races and religions, is repeated so often that I sometimes feel that we are just meant to assume that this is a good thing. Why? On the face of it, it is a recipe for ineffectualness. Why is an informal association sometimes more valuable than one which is treaty-based? Why can moral sanctions sometimes be more persuasive than Chapter Seven resolutions?

I have long had an instinctive sense of the value of the Commonwealth. It encourages and celebrates cultural diversity and makes no attempt to homogenise - and in this it teaches those of us living in multi-racial societies like Britain or Trinidad and Tobago a valuable lesson. But it was reading Professor Huntington's notorious Clash of Civilisations recently that I found the clearest arguments I have seen to underpin this sense. We live in a world where the old ideological allegiances have fallen away. People do band together, increasingly, on the basis of shared cultures or civilisations - built on the great religions or systems of belief, and the loyalties to them created over centuries. In such a world, bridges between civilisations are at once more important and more rickety.

We have the good fortune to have inherited a set of values which co-exists with the core values of our Christian or Hindu, or indeed Caribbean, culture and serves as the strongest of such bridges. It has to do with a particular understanding of parliamentary democracy, of the law, and of the importance of virtues which are hard to define, but easy to recognise - a particular kind of decency and humanity. The Commonwealth still exists because its members have decided for themselves that these values are worth cherishing - and that voluntary commitment is partly why I consider it to be such an asset. It is remarkable, for instance, that Mozambique, never administered by Britain, should have wanted to join, and that other countries continue to show interest in doing the same.

But what use is this asset? In spite of what people sometimes imply - and all of us find it easier to think in concrete terms - I think the Commonwealth is more like the wiring than the current. As in an old house, you may sometimes wonder why the wiring goes where it does; but wherever, it is there to be used.

The current can only be us, the people of the Commonwealth, choosing to use it; our energy and our ideas. I am thinking of the NGOs which gather in increasing numbers around both CHOGMs and the Secretariat; the professional and parliamentary associations; the Games; projects like the Iwokrama rainforest, which I shall visit in Guyana; and organisations like the marvellous Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, of which I am Patron.

On this campus you also think, of course, of young people. I remember talking to the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Edinburgh in 1997. It was only as I entered that room full of young people that I realised what I wanted most to tell them. It was to nurture the contacts they were making, not necessarily with specific purposes in mind, but as a wonderful resource to be drawn upon when- and how-ever.

Recently, my faith in the robustness of the wiring has been lifted by my experience with the Youth Business Trust concept. Much of my work in Britain over the last twenty-five years has been with the disadvantaged young, who most need the help of those of us with time and skills to offer, using my Princes Trust to give them another chance after they have been written off by the rest of society.

We began to notice that while micro-credit schemes, about which I am also enthusiastic, were popular right around the world, mentoring - the 'unique selling point' of the Youth Business Trust concept - was largely confined to Britain. Half the population of the Commonwealth is under twenty-five, so it seemed right to use it to try to spread ideas about helping the disadvantaged young - and to stimulate the energy and desire to do so.

The Commonwealth has proved the perfect means. Since the High Commissioners of Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Jamaica came to my home last summer and heard about what we were doing in Britain, Youth Business Trusts have been conceived in all three countries. There is a real demand for this sort of private sector, self-help solution to some of the challenges Britain and the countries of the Caribbean share, and which government should not have to deal with alone.

Youth Business Trusts make small loans to young people with business ideas whom the banks regard as too great a risk. They also give each young person a 'mentor' - somebody who has already succeeded to whom they can turn for advice and guidance. It is this mix which has helped us to establish over 40,000 young people in business in Britain since 1983; the top sixty businesses turn over more than £112m and employ more than 1000 staff. It has worked in India and South Africa, and other Commonwealth countries. And I hope it will work here.

In Trinidad and Tobago, there is now a Board of Trustees and an Executive Board, represented here today. Funding from both local and British businesses is being put in place and I wanted to use this opportunity to thank them all for their willingness to become involved. The business people involved believe, as I do, that this can make a real difference in time to the prospects of some of the many young people who do not get as far as this university – or finish school.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an important time for the Commonwealth. Following in the footsteps of your distinguished Chancellor (Sonny Ramphal) and Chief Anyouku - to whom I should like to pay the warmest of tributes for all his work - Don McKinnon was chosen as our new Secretary General in Durban in November. I wish him every success in this role.

At Durban, the Commonwealth also set up a High Level Group to look more formally at its role and its future. I think there is broad consensus as far as the aims are concerned - in the fields of trade, the environment, young people and education, and the strengthening of democracy. I would like to end by suggesting that the house does not necessarily need rewiring in order to achieve them. So much can be done by stimulating the enthusiasms and bright ideas of the people of the Commonwealth, re-energising all these informal networks. It is this which will give it the vitality and relevance at the start of this new century that I, for my part, try to work for and hope to see.

The Prince of Wales's Biography

The Prince of Wales, eldest son of The Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was born at Buckingham Palace at 9.14pm on 14th November 1948, weighing 7lb and 6oz.

A proclamation was posted on the Palace railings just before midnight, announcing that Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth had been safely delivered of a son who had been named Charles Philip Arthur George.

On 15th December, the young Prince Charles was christened in the Music Room at Buckingham Palace, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher.

The Prince's mother was proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 25, when her father, King George VI, died aged 56 on 6th February 1952. On The Queen's accession to the throne, Prince Charles - as the Sovereign's eldest son - became heir apparent at the age of three.

The Prince, as Heir to The Throne, took on the traditional titles of The Duke of Cornwall under a charter of King Edward III in 1337; and, in the Scottish peerage, of Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland.

The Prince was four at his mother's Coronation, in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953. Many who watched the Coronation have vivid memories of him seated between his widowed grandmother, now to be known as Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and his aunt, Princess Margaret.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh decided that The Prince should go to school rather than have a tutor at the Palace and so The Prince started at Hill House school in West London on 7th November 1956.

After 10 months, the young Prince became a boarder at Cheam School, a preparatory school in Berkshire. In 1958 while The Prince was at Cheam, The Queen created him The Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester. The Prince was nine-years-old.

In April 1962 The Prince began his first term at Gordonstoun, a school near Elgin in Eastern Scotland which The Duke of Edinburgh had attended.

The Prince of Wales spent two terms in 1966 as an exchange student at Timbertop, a remote outpost of the Geelong Church of England Grammar School in Melbourne, Australia.

When he returned to Gordonstoun for his final year, The Prince of Wales was appointed school guardian (head boy). The Prince, who had already passed six O Levels, also took A Levels and was awarded a grade B in history and a C in French, together with a distinction in an optional special history paper in July 1967.

The Prince went to Cambridge University in 1967 to read archaeology and anthropology at

Trinity College. He changed to history for the second part of his degree, and in 1970 was awarded a 2:2 degree.

He was invested as Prince of Wales by The Queen on 1st July 1969 in a colourful ceremony at Caernarfon Castle. Before the investiture The Prince had spent a term at the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth, learning to speak Welsh.

On 11th February 1970, His Royal Highness took his seat in the House of Lords.

On 8th March 1971 The Prince flew himself to Royal Air Force (RAF) Cranwell in Lincolnshire, to train as a jet pilot. At his own request, The Prince had received flying instruction from the RAF during his second year at Cambridge.

In September 1971 after the passing out parade at Cranwell, The Prince embarked on a naval career, following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and both his great-grandfathers.

The six-week course at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, was followed by service on the guided missile destroyer HMS Norfolk and two frigates.

The Prince qualified as a helicopter pilot in 1974 before joining 845 Naval Air Squadron, which operated from the Commando carrier HMS Hermes. On 9th February 1976, The Prince took command of the coastal minehunter HMS Bronington for his last nine months in the Navy.

On 29th July 1981, The Prince of Wales married Lady Diana Spencer in St Paul's Cathedral who became HRH The Princess of Wales.

The Princess was born on 1st July 1961, at Park House on The Queen's estate at Sandringham, Norfolk. She lived there until the death in 1975 of her grandfather, the 7th Earl, when the family moved to the Spencer family seat at Althorp House in Northamptonshire.

Lady Diana's father, then Viscount Althorp and later the eighth Earl Spencer, had been an equerry to both George VI and The Queen. Her maternal grandmother, Ruth, Lady Fermoy, was a close friend and lady in waiting to The Queen Mother.

The Prince and Princess of Wales had two sons: Prince William, born on 21st June 1982; and Prince Harry, born on 15th September 1984.

From the time of their marriage, The Prince and Princess of Wales went on overseas tours and carried out many engagements together in the UK.

On 9th December 1992, The Prime Minister, John Major, announced to the House of Commons that The Prince and Princess of Wales had agreed to separate.

The marriage was dissolved on 28th August, 1996. The Princess was still regarded as a member of the Royal Family. She continued to live at Kensington Palace and to carry out her public work for a number of charities.

When The Princess was killed in a car crash in Paris on 31st August 1997, The Prince of Wales flew to Paris with her two sisters to bring her body back to London. The Princess lay in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace until the night before the funeral.

On the day of the funeral, The Prince of Wales accompanied his two sons, aged 15 and 12 at the time, as they walked behind the coffin from The Mall to Westminster Abbey. With them were The Duke of Edinburgh and The Princess's brother, Earl Spencer.

The Prince of Wales asked the media to respect his sons' privacy, to allow them to lead a normal school life. In the following years, Princes William and Harry, who are second and fourth in line to the throne, accompanied their father on a limited number of official engagements in the UK and abroad.

On 9th April 2005, The Prince of Wales and Mrs Parker Bowles were married in a civil ceremony at the Guildhall, Windsor.

After the wedding, Mrs Parker Bowles became known as HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall were joined by around 800 guests at a Service of Prayer and Dedication at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The Service was followed by a reception at Windsor Castle hosted by Her Majesty The Queen.

The Duchess supports The Prince of Wales in his work. Through the years, His Royal Highness developed a wide range of interests which are today reflected in The Prince of Wales's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which The Prince of Wales is Patron or President.

These interests are also reflected in the list of more than 400 organisations of which His Royal Highness is Patron or President.

The Prince's interest in fields such as the built environment, global sustainability, youth opportunity, education and faith have been elaborated over many years in a large number of speeches and articles.

The Prince of Wales's Role and Duties

The main part of The Prince of Wales's role as Heir to The Throne 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.

The Duchess of Cornwall supports her husband The Prince of Wales in his work and role as Heir to the Throne.

The Prince often represents The Queen by welcoming dignitaries to the UK and attending State dinners during State visits. Along with other members of the Royal Family, His Royal Highness always attends the Trooping the Colour ceremony which forms part of the official celebration of Her Majesty's birthday. The Prince often represents The Queen and the UK overseas at state and ceremonial occasions such as state funerals.

The Queen has always been committed to the Commonwealth and its members and visits on behalf of Her Majesty to Commonwealth countries, particularly realms, have been vital over the years.

In addition the other important parts of The Prince of Wales's Royal duties include:

- Armed Services
- Special Relationships and Regiments
- Working in the UK
- Overseas Duties
- Countries Visited
- Investitures

During celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, The Prince was able to thank The Queen on behalf of the Nation for her many years of service at the concert held at Buckingham Palace.

In front of a crowd of thousands and a global television audience, His Royal Highness said to Her Majesty:

"We're now celebrating the life and service of a very special person, over the last 60 years. I was three when my grandfather George VI died and suddenly, unexpectedly you and my father's lives were irrevocably changed when you were only 26. So as a nation this is our opportunity to thank you and my father for always being there for us. For inspiring us with your selfless duty and service and for making us proud to be British."

The Prince of Wales is a strong supporter of the Armed Services and sees them as one of the most important parts of his role as Heir to The Throne. The Prince of Wales's relationship with the Armed Services consists of three main activities:

- Promoting the role of the Armed Services within national life, through operational visits, ceremonial duties, and commemorative activity across the UK and around the world.
- Supporting the welfare and interests of Service personnel, Veterans, and their families.
- Maintaining the history and heritage of the Armed Services through links Regiments, Units and Formations both in the U.K. and around the Commonwealth.

In The Prince's capacity as Crown Prince of The Realms, he was involved in the most meaningful World War One centenary commemorations for the Realms of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The Prince was present at the events marking the centenary of the New Zealand Battle of The Somme in 2016 and the Canadian events at the centenary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 2017. All of these took place at the corresponding Battlefields in France. Additionally, in May 2015 The Prince of Wales, along with Prince Harry, attended British, Australian and New Zealand led events in Turkey marking the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign.

The Prince of Wales often pays tribute to the dedication of British Service personnel during his visits to foreign countries, often through visits to Commonwealth War Grave Commission sites or overseas memorials to the Armed Services. This took place most recently in Malaysia, Italy and Romania in 2017, as well as in Kosovo, Bahrain, and Serbia during 2016.

The Prince of Wales's Charities

Inspired by HRH's values of harmony and sustainability, The Prince of Wales's charities work to transform lives and build sustainable communities.

For over 40 years His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales has been a leader in identifying charitable need and setting up and driving forward charities to meet it.

The Prince of Wales carries out dozens of engagements every year in support of his charities. Collectively The Prince of Wales's charities raise more than £100 million annually to support The Prince of Wales's charitable work in the UK and overseas.

Prince's Trust Group

The Prince's Trust Group includes the work of The Prince's Trust alongside a new network comprising activity previously carried out by The Prince's Charities Canada, Australia and New Zealand and The Prince's Trust International. The new group will continue The Trust's work in providing meaningful help to disadvantaged and vulnerable young people and will now also provide support for indigenous groups and environmental projects.

The Prince's Trust help 11 to 30 year-olds who are unemployed or struggling at school to transform their lives. Since The Prince of Wales set up The Prince's Trust in 1976, more than 870,000 disadvantaged young people across the UK have been supported by the Trust and helped to move into work, education or training. www.princes-trust.org.uk

The Prince's Trust International works to combat the global issue of youth unemployment and focuses on supporting young people overseas. www.princestrustinternational.org

The work of **The Prince's Charities Canada** is guided by The Prince's charitable interests and the core programs focus on providing entrepreneurship training for veterans, getting jobs for young people furthest from the labour market and supporting the revitalization of Indigenous languages. www.princescharities.ca

The Prince's Trust Australia works in partnership with Australian businesses and the not-for-profit sector to deliver high-impact, evidence-based programs across the country. www.princes-trust.org.au

The Prince's Foundation

The Prince's Foundation focuses on the built environment, heritage, community education projects and promoting culture across the UK. The Foundation now comprises four of The Prince of Wales's existing charities: The Prince's Regeneration Trust, The Prince's Foundation for Building Community, The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts and The Great Steward of Scotland Dumfries House Trust. This new structure allows the Foundation to achieve His Royal Highness's goal of creating viable and renewable communities.

The Dumfries House Trust works to deliver His Royal Highness's vision for heritage led regeneration, through education, employability and community involvement, and is a hub for the work of The Prince's other major charities. www.dumfries-house.org.uk

The Prince's Foundation for Building Community transforms people's lives by creating beautiful, harmonious and enduring communities. It does this by educating people, enabling projects and championing its principles. www.princes-foundation.org

The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts specialises in teaching, researching, and promoting the practice and theory of the arts and crafts of the world's great traditions; it offers postgraduate courses, short courses, research, lectures, study visits, and international outreach projects. www.psta.org.uk

Royal Founding Patronages

Business in the Community (BITC) is the Prince's Responsible Business Network. Its members work together to tackle a wide range of issues that are essential to building a fairer society and a more sustainable future. www.bitc.org.uk

The British Asian Trust maximises the impact of philanthropy and expertise to make a difference to the lives of poor people across South Asia by supporting programmes in education, livelihoods and anti-trafficking. www.britishasiantrust.org

In Kind Direct provides a unique service redistributing donated goods from companies to a growing network of UK charities and European affiliates. www.inkinddirect.org

Prime Cymru is the only organisation in Wales dedicated to providing practical support to people aged 50 and over who want to become and remain economically active through employment or self-employment. www.primecymru.co.uk

The Prince's Teaching Institute helps teachers rediscover their love of their subject, inspiring them to teach with renewed passion and supporting them to bring more enriching and challenging material to all students, regardless of their background or ability. www.princes-ti.org.uk

The Royal Drawing School is dedicated to teaching observational drawing; it offers a postgraduate scholarship programme, a fine art foundation course, a drawing programme for young artists aged 10-18, tutor training, and a public programme of part-time courses. www.royaldrawingschool.org

The Turquoise Mountain Trust is rebuilding historic cities and reviving traditional crafts to provide jobs, skills and a renewed sense of pride to communities in Afghanistan, Burma and Saudi Arabia. www.turquoisemountain.org

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) empowers business and policy leaders to tackle critical global challenges such as climate change and resource security through education, research, and business-led act

The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation

Founded in 1979 and incorporated in 2008, The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation (PWCF) supports the charitable work of The Prince of Wales.

The work of the Charitable Foundation is two-fold:

1. A grant making body that supports a wide range of causes, the primary areas of interest being the built environment, responsible business and enterprise, young people and education, and global sustainability.
2. An incubator for initiatives and projects that fall within the Charitable Foundation's primary areas of interest.

Accounting for Sustainability: The Prince of Wales established his Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) to help the business community and public sector recognise the benefits of considering the environment and wider society as part of their mainstream day-to-day business decisions. A4S specifically work with the global accounting and finance community to achieve this. www.accountingforsustainability.org

The Prince's Countryside Fund: The Prince's Countryside was established by The Prince of Wales in 2010 and exists to improve the prospects of family farm businesses and the quality of rural life. Through partnerships and events, the charity celebrates and promotes the value of the countryside. www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk

The Prince of Wales's Foundation Romania: The Prince of Wales's Foundation Romania (PWFR) was established in 2015 to take forward His Royal Highness's charitable work in Romania. The Foundation develops a number of projects to support the architectural heritage preservation, farming and sustainable development of the country. www.printuldewales.org

The Duchess of Cornwall's Biography

The Duchess of Cornwall was born Camilla Rosemary Shand on 17th July 1947 at King's College Hospital London, the daughter of Major Bruce Middleton Hope Shand and the Hon Rosalind Maud Shand (nee Cubitt).

Her Royal Highness has a sister, Annabel Elliot, and a brother, Mark Shand. Mark Shand, a conservationist, died on 23rd April 2014.

The Shand family lived in East Sussex from 1951 onwards. Major Shand, MC and Bar, was Vice Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex and Master of the South Down Hounds for 19 years. He died aged 89 on 11th June 2006 at his home in Dorset.

Mrs Rosalind Shand was 72 when she died in 1994 as a result of osteoporosis. The Duchess's grandmother had died from the same condition eight years earlier.

The Duchess was first educated at Dumbrells School, in Sussex, and then at Queen's Gate School in South Kensington. She also attended Mon Fertile school in Switzerland and studied at the Institut Britannique in Paris.

The Duchess is the great-great-great-granddaughter of Sir Allan MacNab, who was Prime Minister of the Province of Canada before Confederation and the builder of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton.

On 9th April 2005, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall married at the Guildhall in Windsor in a civil ceremony. Afterwards, there was a Service of Prayer and Dedication at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury, followed by a wedding reception at Windsor Castle given by Her Majesty The Queen.

The Prince and Duchess made their first visit to Canada together in 2009 and visited Dundurn Castle which is a National Historic Site. Following the visit, Her Royal Highness agreed to become Patron of the Dundurn National Historic Site.

In May 2006, her daughter Laura Parker Bowles married Harry Lopes at St Cyriac's Church in Lacock, Wiltshire.

The Duchess of Cornwall's Role and Duties

The Duchess of Cornwall supports her husband The Prince of Wales in his work and role as Heir to the Throne, and also supports a number of charities and organisations in the role of President or Patron.

Since her marriage, Her Royal Highness has travelled widely with The Prince and on her own engagements, meeting people from all over the world and from all walks of life. The Duchess has accompanied The Prince on many overseas tours. In November 2017, The Prince and The Duchess visited Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and India as part of the ten-day Autumn tour, and in April 2018 Her Royal Highness travelled with The Prince to Australia's Gold Coast to open the Commonwealth Games.

Her Royal Highness has eight military appointments and, with The Prince, supports the work of the Armed Forces in the UK and overseas.

The Duchess supports the work of the British Armed Services both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Her Royal Highness has her own military appointments and accompanies The Prince on many of his visits to the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Her Royal Highness is Royal Colonel of 4th Battalion The Rifles, Commodore-in-Chief of the Royal Naval Medical Services and the Naval Chaplaincy Service, Sponsor of HMS Astute and Honorary Air Commodore of both RAF Leeming and RAF Halton.

Every year, Their Royal Highnesses travel abroad at the request of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to further British diplomatic interests, raise the UK's profile and promote British excellence.

Overseas visits enable Their Royal Highnesses to familiarise themselves with a wide range of international issues and to meet Heads of State and senior officials.

When travelling overseas, The Duchess often undertakes solo engagements that are related to her charities and interests such as literacy and empowering women.

Commonwealth countries account for a large part of Their Royal Highnesses' overseas travel schedule.

The Duchess of Cornwall and Charities

The Duchess of Cornwall supports over 90 charities as Patron or President. Her Royal Highness's charity work is varied but several themes prevail: health, literacy, supporting victims of rape and sexual abuse and domestic violence, empowering women; food; animals and heritage and the arts.

Health

Her Royal Highness's first Patronage was the National Osteoporosis Society (NOS). Her Royal Highness's involvement in this Charity began in 1994 after seeing her own mother suffering with this disease, resulting in her early death at the age of 72. This led Her Royal Highness to The NOS, and she has remained heavily involved in supporting the Charity, firstly as its Patron and then as its President, as huge strides have been made in the diagnosis, treatment and research of osteoporosis.

The Duchess is also President of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres, an innovative charity which has built a number of centres in the UK and abroad to provide a supportive and caring environment for people with cancer.

Literacy

The Duchess is a passionate promoter of Literacy in the UK and internationally, with particular focus on encouraging a love of reading and writing from an early age.

The Duchess is Patron of several organisations which promote and support literacy, including the National Literacy Trust, Book Trust, First Story, the Wicked Young Writer Awards and Beanstalk, and has attended Literary engagements such as the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and Chris Evans' 500 Words Competition – an initiative which encourages children around the country to get creative and send in their stories of no more than 500 words. The Duchess first attended the final of the competition in 2015, has been an honorary judge since 2016 and has also been cast as the 500 Words 'Fairy Godmother', appearing in animated form in the video launching the competition.

Rape and Sexual Abuse

In 2013 The Duchess began a Wash Bag initiative, providing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (or SARCs) with wash bags, which are given to those referred to the centres. Following a successful pilot of the project at the three London SARCs, known as The Havens, the scheme has since grown from a London based pilot of 750 bags to a national distribution partnership with Boots of over 10,000 wash bags. The Duchess attended its national launch in Nottingham in March 2017. The national roll out of the project began delivering wash bags, provided by Boots, twice yearly to the 49 SARCs around the UK.

Her Royal Highness has visited projects run by Barnardo's, of which she took on Patronage from HM The Queen in 2017, focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation, and has visited centres in many countries, including the USA and the Balkans.

In 2013, The Duchess held a Reception at Clarence House bringing together an important group of national stakeholders and key decision-makers. This was the first time in the UK that such a wide range of organisations had been drawn together specifically to discuss rape and sexual abuse. In 2014, The Duchess met actress and campaigner Angelina Jolie and the then UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague, to discuss their work on ending sexual violence in areas of conflict.

Domestic Abuse

The Duchess has also highlighted the work of domestic abuse charities and the work they do to support victims and survivors. In November 2016, Her Royal Highness visited the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, which is a shelter for victims of domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking, and attended a round table meeting on the subject in Adelaide, Australia in 2015.

Her Royal Highness has visited the domestic violence charities SafeLives, Refuge and Women's Aid in the UK, and in July 2016 hosted a reception at Clarence House on this subject. The Reception provided an opportunity for guests to share and generate new ideas, encourage closer collaboration, and ultimately to benefit victims of domestic abuse. It also acknowledged the work of staff and volunteers across the various sectors – as well as the bravery of victims in coming forward to share their experiences.

Empowering Women

Her Royal Highness became President of Southbank Centre's Women of the World Festival since 2015, and has been involved in the initiative since its conception. The WOW Festival is a global festival movement launched by Jude Kelly in London in 2010 that celebrates women and girls. To date, WOW has reached over one million people worldwide and this number is growing year on year with WOW festivals in 17 cities across 5 continents.

Her Royal Highness attended a Reception to mark the launch of WOW Festival in February 2015 at the Royal Festival Hall and has hosted several events, including a lunch time Reception at Buckingham Palace on International Women's Day to celebrate WOW 2017. In April 2018 The Duchess attended a reception for WOW Brisbane during Their Royal Highnesses visit to Australia.

Food

Her Royal Highness has been Patron of The Big Lunch since 2013. In 2017, The Big Lunch partnered with the Jo Cox Foundation and aligned the date of The Big Lunch to the weekend of 17 and 18 June, marking the anniversary of the death of Jo Cox.

In partnership with Brendan Cox, the husband of Jo Cox, they co-created a new event called The Great Get-Together – a shared weekend of community mindedness activities taking place this weekend based around the Big Lunch. The celebrations were based around communities and neighbours coming together to share a meal over the course of the weekend.

As Patron, The Duchess invited those involved with The Big Lunch and The Jo Cox Foundation to join her at Clarence House in February 2017 for a Reception to launch "The Great Get Together" campaign. The Launch gave communities, companies, and likeminded institutions the opportunity to get together to celebrate, plan and look ahead to the weekend in June.

Animals

The Duchess's personal interest in animals and their welfare is reflected in her patronages. During Their Royal Highnesses' tours of Egypt and Pakistan in 2006, Her Royal Highness visited the Brooke Hospital for Animals. Later that year, The Duchess became President of the Brooke, a charity which operates worldwide providing free veterinary treatment for horses and donkeys, and advice for their owners on how to care for them.

Her Royal Highness is also Patron of The British Equestrian Foundation, the Kennel Club Charitable Trust (the charitable arm of the Kennel) and in November 2006, The Duchess became Patron of the Langford Trust for Animal Health and Welfare which is a charity that supports the University of Bristol Veterinary School to promote the practice, advancement and teaching of veterinary science.

The Duchess is also Patron of the Animal Care Trust (under the umbrella of The Royal Veterinary College) and the Langford Trust for Animal Health and Welfare, which is a charity that supports the University of Bristol Veterinary School to promote the practice, advancement and teaching of veterinary science.

In September 2014, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall became Joint Presidents of Elephant Family. The charity was founded in 2002 by The Duchess of Cornwall's late brother, Mark Shand, who dedicated his life to saving the Asian Elephants.

The Duchess became Patron of Battersea Dogs and Cats Home in 2016, in succession to HM The Queen, and in fact has two of her own rescued dogs from Battersea, Beth and Bluebell.

Heritage and the Arts

Like The Prince of Wales, The Duchess takes a keen interest in heritage and is Patron of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust, Scotland's Gardens Scheme, Ditchling Museum, the Fan Museum and Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum. The Duchess is a great supporter of the arts and regularly attends concerts and the theatre with The Prince of Wales. These are often fundraising events for charities with which Their Royal Highnesses are affiliated.

The Duchess is Patron of the London Chamber Orchestra, St Johns, Smith Square, the New Queen's Hall Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and the Theatre Royal Bath.

Active Older Age

Another of Her Royal Highness's key focuses is Active Older Age – encouraging and inspiring an older generation to keep fit, active and engaged, tackling the isolation and seclusion that many older people face. Her Royal Highness enjoys walking her dogs, hiking and swimming.

The Duchess has also been taking an active interest in organisations focused on supporting an older generation such as The Royal Voluntary Service – an organisation dedicated to helping older people stay active, and to feel valued and independent. Another of Her Royal Highness's most recent Patronages is The Silver Line – the only confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that offers information, friendship and advice.

APPENDIX

A selection of speeches delivered by The Prince of Wales

Faith

The Prince of Wales has worked for many years to encourage inter-faith dialogue and a greater understanding of different religions. HRH is particularly well-known and respected internationally for his work in encouraging understanding between Islam and the West. Below is a list of some of the many speeches made by The Prince on Faith.

- HRH The Prince of Wales delivers an Easter Message to persecuted Christians around the world, March 2018 <https://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/prince-wales-sends-message-support-persecuted-christians-around-world>
- HRH The Prince of Wales presents "Thought for the Day" on BBC Radio 4, December 2016 <https://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speech/hrh-prince-wales-presents-thought-day-bbc-radio-4>
- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales titled "Islam and the Environment", Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford – June 2010 <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-titled-islam-and-the-environment-sheldonian-theatre>
- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales titled "Unity in Faith" at Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt – March 2006 (His Royal Highness addressed over 800 Islamic scholars at the Al-Azhar University and called for greater dialogue between the three Abrahamic faiths: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The Prince was awarded an honorary doctorate from the university for his work to encourage inter-faith dialogue and was the first Western man to receive this honour.) <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-titled-unity-faith-al-azhar-university-cairo-egypt>

Natural Environment

For more than 40 years The Prince of Wales has been a prominent leader in sustainability and is passionate to conserve the natural world for future generations.

The Prince of Wales believes that everyone has a role to play in tackling even the most complex sustainability challenges facing the world. From Heads of State to individuals in their own homes, and from Chief Executives to local community projects, his unique ability to bring these people together has proved a powerful way to find positive solutions and inspire people and organisations at all levels.

- A speech delivered by HRH The Prince of Wales at a Meeting of the International Sustainability Unit on "Keeping Plastics and Their Value in the Economy and Out of the Ocean" <https://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speech/speech-delivered-hrh-prince-wales-meeting-international-sustainability-unit-keeping-plastics>

- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at the International Sustainability Unit's meeting: "International Year of the Reef 2018 – An Opportunity for Increasing Coral Reef Resilience through New Collaborative Models"
<https://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speech/speech-hrh-prince-wales-international-sustainability-units-meeting-international-year-reef>
- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales to the WWF/ Global Forest Trade Network – 8th September 2011 <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-the-wwf-global-forest-trade-network>
- A speech by The Prince of Wales at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference – 21st May 2013
<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/focus/end-wildlife-crime-conference>
- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales for the WWF dinner to launch the Amazon Initiative – 25th October 2007
<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-the-wwf-dinner-launch-the-amazon-initiative>

Built Environment

The Prince believes communities should have more of a say in what is built around them. The Prince's desire to protect and sustain the natural environment is matched by his interest in the built environment and heritage-led regeneration and how it affects the quality of people's lives. The Prince believes more can be done to create urban areas that truly belong to people and encourage a sense of community and pride of place, which foster the well-being of those who live there and alleviate social problems. One of The Prince's charities, The Prince's Foundation for Building Community, works to engage, educate and empower people. It teaches and demonstrates sustainable development placing community engagement at the heart of its work; believing that listening to the wisdom of local people is crucial to successful sustainable development.

- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales for the Royal Institute of British Architects Trust Annual Lecture, London – 12th May 2009
<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-the-riba-trust-annual-lecture-london>
- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at the Traditional Urbanism in Contemporary Practice Conference at The Prince's Foundation, London – 20th November 2003
<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-the-traditional-urbanism-contemporary-practice>
- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales for the Stephen Lawrence Memorial Lecture, The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, Shoreditch, London – 7th September 2000
<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-the-stephen-lawrence-memorial-lecture-the-princes>

Frequently Asked Questions

How many CHOGMs has The Prince attended?

He has also attended CHOGM events four times – Edinburgh in 1997, Uganda in 2007, Sri Lanka in 2013 and Malta in 2015.

How many Commonwealth countries has The Prince visited?

Since 1969, The Prince has visited 44 Commonwealth countries, many of them on several occasions. The Duchess has visited 18 Commonwealth countries since marrying The Prince in 2005. Most recently, in April 2018, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited Australia and The Prince visited Vanuatu; in November 2017 Their Royal Highnesses visited Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and India.

What does The Prince think of the Commonwealth?

The Prince of Wales has been an active supporter of the Commonwealth for over 40 years. In a speech made at The University of the West Indies in Trinidad in 2000 titled 'The Commonwealth in The New Millennium', The Prince of Wales described the uniqueness and relevance of the Commonwealth:

"I have long had an instinctive sense of the value of the Commonwealth. It encourages and celebrates cultural diversity and makes no attempt to homogenise."

In the same speech The Prince said:

"For me the Commonwealth is something rather special – and worth cherishing. It is as old as I am, and so has been present throughout my life, as something to which The Queen and other members of my family attach great value."

The Prince went on to praise the "voluntary commitment" and shared values of the Commonwealth member states.

Together with The Duchess of Cornwall, His Royal Highness shows his support through official visits, military links, charitable activities and other special events such as the opening of the Commonwealth Games in Australia's Gold Coast.

Does The Prince dislike all modern architecture?

No. The Prince believes buildings should be designed on a human scale, the buildings should be sustainable, should respect the character of local surroundings, and should be able to cope with a variety of uses over their lifetime.

The Prince of Wales established his education and built environment charity, The Prince's Foundation for Building Community (formerly The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment) over twenty years ago. It aims to promote sustainable urbanism and improve the way in which communities are designed and built. His Royal Highness has long been concerned about the way in which communities are designed. He believes strongly that local people must be consulted on proposed developments in their communities.

What does The Prince of Wales do to reduce his own carbon footprint?

The Prince of Wales has been an environmental leader for over 40 years, working with businesses, charities, governments and other organisations to help promote sustainable ways of living and working. The Household strives to minimise its environmental impact across its activities. This includes its greenhouse gas emissions, which are subject to independent assurance each year.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings

A meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government is normally held once every two years. The Queen (since 1997) attends the opening ceremony, but not the sessions; Her Majesty is normally present in the host country at the time of the conference.

The records show that in the early part of the reign, meetings always took place in London, with other Commonwealth countries being favoured increasingly from the 1970s. The first time the term 'CHOGM' was used was for the 1971 gathering in Singapore.