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

OCTOBER 2015



"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."

Quote 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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Background Information

Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth

Her Majesty The Queen has been Head of the Commonwealth throughout her 63 year 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 per cent 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.

Quick Facts about The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

- **41 Commonwealth nations** have been visited by The Prince of Wales.
- **15** Commonwealth nations have been visited by The Duchess of Cornwall since marrying The Prince in 2005.
- **43,036** Letters and cards were received by The Prince of Wales from the public (**April 2014 - March 2015**).
- **75** Towns and Cities have been visited by The Prince and The Duchess in the UK alone.
- **724** Joint and Solo engagements have been undertaken by The Prince and The Duchess in the UK and abroad (**April 2014-March 2015**).
- **64,380** miles have been travelled by The Prince and The Duchess to and from official engagements in the UK and abroad (**April 2014-March 2015**).
- **£143**million has been raised by The Prince's charities last year (**April 2014-March 2015**).
- **98** official overseas visits have been undertaken by The Prince of Wales in the past ten years on behalf of the Government.
- **30** regiments and units in the UK and abroad in which The Prince and The Duchess hold senior positions.
- **Over 400** organisations of which The Prince is Patron or President.
- **89** organisations of which The Duchess is either Patron or President.
- **14** charities have been personally founded by The Prince.
- **4** of The Prince's Charities work in the Commonwealth.
- **1,000,000** people helped by The British Asian Trust, founded in 2007 by The Prince of Wales.
- **1,970** people are employed by The Prince's Charities.
- **750,000** young people helped by The Prince's Trust, The Prince's first charity, which he set up at the age of 26.

Online resources

www.princeofwales.gov.uk

www.royal.gov.uk

Social Media: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [The Royal Channel on YouTube](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Google+](#) | [Storify](#) | [Soundcloud](#) |

Useful Weblinks

<https://www.twitter.com/ClarenceHouse>

www.instagram.com/clarencehouse

<http://www.facebook.com/BritishMonarchy>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheRoyalChannel>

<http://storify.com/ClarenceHouse>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/britishmonarchy>

<https://plus.google.com/+ClarenceHouse/posts#+ClarenceHouse/posts>

www.soundcloud.com/clarence-house

Commonwealth Timeline

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/timelines/realms-and-commonwealth-timeline>

Videos of Commonwealth themed events attended by The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbuk918zl4193qVuiHPsCB1tBKaxvyrRi>

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

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/news-and-diary/the-prince-of-wales-makes-speech-open-the-commonwealth-heads-of-government-meeting/speech>

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 incidently 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

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-dinner-hosted-their-royal-highnesses-the-commonwealth>

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 waterskied 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

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-titled-the-commonwealth-the-new-millennium-the>

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

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) three times – Edinburgh in 1997, Uganda in 2007 and Sri Lanka in 2013 where The Prince represented Her Majesty The Queen.

Since 1969, The Prince has visited 41 Commonwealth countries, many of them on several occasions. The Duchess has visited 15 Commonwealth countries since marrying The Prince in 2005. Most recently The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited Canada in May 2014.

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

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

The Prince of Wales's Biography

Childhood and Education

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.

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. It was announced later that the baby Prince weighed 7lb 6oz.

On 15th December, Charles Philip Arthur George 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, The Prince – 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 Buckingham Palace. 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.

Military Training

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.

Military Appointments

The Prince has over 20 military appointments in the UK and the Commonwealth. Some of them are:

- Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps
- Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Regiment of Canada
- Colonel-in-Chief of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada
- Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles
- Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment
- Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Gurkha Rifles
- Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Royal New Zealand Air Force

Marriage and Family

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 of her grandfather, the 7th Earl, in 1975, 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 were at the time second and third 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 of Cornwall plays an important and supportive role in The Prince's life, joining him on the majority of his public engagements and state and ceremonial duties. More information about The Duchess is available later in this document.

Interests

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

The group is the largest multi-cause charitable enterprise in the United Kingdom, raising over £100million annually. The organisations are active across a broad range of areas including education and young people, environmental sustainability, the built environment, responsible business and enterprise and international.

The charities reflect The Prince of Wales's long-term and innovative perspective, and seek to address areas of previously unmet need.

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.

For more information visit www.princeofwales.gov.uk

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry

In January 2009, when The Duke of Cambridge was 27 years old and Prince Harry was 25 years old, their new Household was set up at St James's Palace to reflect their growing public lives. On the 29th April 2011 The Duke of Cambridge married Catherine Middleton at Westminster Abbey. On marriage she became The Duchess of Cambridge.

On 22nd July 2013 The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were delighted to announce the birth of a son, George Alexander Louis, born at the Lindo Wing, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington and weighing eight pounds and six ounces.

On 2nd May 2015 The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were delighted to announce the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, born at the Lindo Wing, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington and weighing eight pounds and three ounces.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, whose Royal Household is now based at Kensington Palace, also conduct public engagements and support charities and other organizations. This year, following the birth of Princess Charlotte, The Duke returned to work in a new position as pilot for the Air Ambulance Service. Prince Harry, until recently, was with the Army Air Corps.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry's official duties are funded by their father, The Prince of Wales, through his income from the landed estate, The Duchy of Cornwall.

For more information visit www.dukeandduchessofcambridge.org

The Prince of Wales's Role and Work

While there is no established constitutional role for The Heir to The Throne, The Prince seeks, with the support of his wife The Duchess of Cornwall, to do all he can to make a difference for the better in the United Kingdom and internationally. The way in which His Royal Highness does so can, in simple terms, be divided into two parts.

- **Undertaking royal duties in support of The Queen**

This involves The Prince supporting The Queen in her role as a focal point for national pride, unity and allegiance and in bringing people together across all sections of society, representing stability and continuity, highlighting achievement, and emphasizing the importance of service and the voluntary sector by encouragement and example. The Prince regularly conducts investitures in Buckingham Palace on behalf of The Queen.

Their Royal Highnesses recent [Annual Review \(April 2014- March 2015\)](#) shows that between them The Prince and The Duchess undertook 724 joint and solo official engagements in the UK and abroad last year, visited 10 overseas countries and travelled over 64,000 miles at home and abroad in the course of their work on behalf of The Queen and the country. To read the Annual Review, go to <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/annual-review>

In 2013 The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on behalf of The Queen. In 2012, in support of The Queen, Their Royal Highnesses played a significant role in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations as well as conducting very successful visits to Canada, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

Earlier this year, Their Royal Highnesses accompanied The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh to the State Opening of Parliament.

- **Supporting charitable activities and civil causes**

This includes supporting The Prince's own and others' charitable and civil causes that promote positive social and environmental outcomes. For nearly 40 years The Prince of Wales has worked to identify charitable need and to set up and drive forward charities to meet it. The Prince established The Prince's Trust in 1976, when he was in his twenties. It was in the aftermath of the 1981 riots in Brixton, London and Toxteth in Liverpool that The Trust first began to help disadvantaged young people into self-employment.

Since then, The Prince has established a number of other charities focused on a variety of areas. Additionally, The Prince has created a group of social enterprises, the profits of which are donated to charity.

In addition The Prince of Wales is also President or Patron of 400 other charities including **WaterAid, ActionAid, British Red Cross, AMREF Health Africa, The AMAR International Charitable Foundation** and others. **For more information on The Prince's Patronages visit <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/the-prince-of-wales/patronages>**

The Prince's Charities

The Prince's Charities work to transform lives and build sustainable communities. For nearly 40 years The Prince of Wales has been a leader in identifying charitable need and setting up and driving forward charities to meet those needs. There are 14 Prince's Charities and the focus of their work falls into four main categories:

1. **Young People and Education** – empowering young people by providing academic, practical and vocational support;
2. **The Built Environment** – working with communities to use the heritage of the past to regenerate and to build sustainably for the future;
3. **Global Sustainability** – protecting the environment, promoting healthy communities and building sound economies around the world.
4. **Responsible Business and Enterprise** – Creating positive social and economic impact through business engagement, employment, enterprise and culture.

Much of The Prince's charitable work and areas of focus are relevant in the Commonwealth today. In fact, many of His Royal Highness's own Charities and Patronages have, at The Prince's behest, a longstanding engagement in Commonwealth countries. Wherever possible, in his official travel through the Commonwealth, The Prince of Wales seeks to support the work of his Charities in supporting local efforts.

1. Young People and Education

One of the main objectives of The Prince of Wales's working life has been his ambition to help young people realise their full potential. The Prince of Wales has for many years tried, through his charities, to achieve that. For example, in 1976 The Prince founded [The Prince's Trust](#) with his severance pay from the Navy. Since then it has supported 825,000 young people in the UK and continues to grow stronger. The Prince's Trust is now looking forward to launching an International charity called Prince's Trust International.

Case Study – Duane Jackson

Throughout the life of his Trust, The Prince has met many inspiring young people who have been helped by The Trust to achieve great things. Duane Jackson is one of these people and he recently won a Pride of Britain award, for Prince's Trust Achiever of The Year.

At the age of 19 Duane was convicted of a serious crime and imprisoned. On his release, he found himself unemployed with no qualifications. He joined The Trust who nurtured his ambition to start his own business and Duane went on to establish a tech company called Kashflow. 10 successful years on Duane has now sold Kashflow and donates his time, money and advice back into The Trust to support other young people in fulfilling their potential.

2. The Built Environment

The Prince's desire to protect and sustain the natural environment is matched by his interest in the built environment and how it affects the quality of people's lives.

The Prince believes more can be done to create urban areas that encourage a sense of community and pride of place, and 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](#), transforms lives through engaging, educating and empowering 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.

Case Study – Freetown, Sierra Leone

On a visit to Freetown in Sierra Leone in 2006 The Prince of Wales was struck by the poor living conditions endured by some communities and asked his charity, The Prince's Foundation for Building Community, to help improve local living conditions. Since then, The Prince's Foundation has done extensive work with the local residents in Coconut Farm, a small community in Freetown. The charity ran a series of community engagement events to find out what the local people felt they needed most. Using this local input and together with the community The Prince's Foundation helped to design a new community centre. The eco-friendly design uses basic and traditional methods, including the shade offered by the local coconut trees, to limit its dependency on expensive cooling methods such as air conditioning. The Prince's Foundation helped to set up a training programme, run in collaboration with the Royal Engineers, to train 23 local people and give them the skills they needed to build and maintain this structure. In June 2012 the new community centre, featuring a health clinic and learning centre, was officially opened by Hon. Alimamy Kamara, Minister of Youth Affairs

For more information about the Foundation and their international work visit www.princes-foundation.org

3. Global Sustainability

The Prince of Wales has been an environmental leader for over 40 years, working with businesses, charities, governments and other organizations to help promote sustainable ways of living and working.

The Prince of Wales continues to address many of today's most significant environmental challenges, including climate change, sustainable agriculture, fisheries and depletion of Natural Capital, through the work of various initiatives and projects. He does this often in partnership with governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. [The Prince's International Sustainability Unit \(ISU\)](#) evolved from [The Prince's Rainforest Project](#) and was established to facilitate consensus on how to resolve some of the key environmental challenges facing the world.

Case Study – The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit protecting the Marine Environment

A vast area of our global ocean lies within the jurisdiction of Commonwealth countries. The Prince of Wales has, for many years, been interested in the conservation of the marine environment and has supported numerous initiatives in pursuit of that cause. On World Oceans Day 2015 (8th June) The Prince of Wales launched a new photography competition for Commonwealth citizens to celebrate the beauty and importance of our oceans and seas, as well as our dependency on them.

The competition called ***Out of the Blue: The Prince of Wales's Commonwealth Environmental Photography Awards*** is a collaboration between The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit (ISU), The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) and National Geographic, and aims to highlight the value and importance of the marine environment to Commonwealth countries. Winning photographs will be exhibited at various CHOGM events in Malta in November 2015. The Prince of Wales will announce the winner at a special awards ceremony in Valetta, Malta. Watch The Prince of Wales's message to launch the Out of the Blue competition here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXplvpNlgZk>

The ISU Marine Programme – Making Sustainable Fishing Profitable

Overfishing occurs when more fish are caught than the population can replace through natural reproduction. Gathering as many fish as possible may seem like a profitable practice, but overfishing has serious consequences on the balance of life in the oceans, and also the social and economic well-being of the coastal communities who depend on fish for their livelihood.

The ISU established a Marine Programme to build international consensus on how the world's fish stocks can be managed in a more sustainable way. They have been working directly with Commonwealth countries and financial institutions to understand the types of financing frameworks required to make a transition to marine-based economic development that improves communities, while significantly

reducing environmental damage and ecological scarcities which can occur as a result of overfishing – also known as the 'Blue Economy'.

A part of the financing programme to support the Blue Economy a new mechanism, a **'Blue Bond', will be developed**, which will enable new sources of money to support sustainable fisheries. The aim is to make sustainable fisheries more profitable than overfishing.

Reports written by the ISU can be found here: <http://www.pcfisu.org/resources/>.

4. Responsible Business Enterprise

The Prince has spent decades encouraging businesses to help tackle social problems in their communities. The Prince encourages businesses to act responsibly and so ensure a sustainable future for all.

Founded in 2007 by British Asian business leaders at the suggestion of The Prince of Wales, the [British Asian Trust](#) has touched the lives of **one million people**, helping them overcome poverty across **Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**.

The British Asian Trust brings lasting change to the lives of poor people in South Asia through access to education, health and livelihoods.

The Trust's main priorities are: Livelihoods, Education (especially for girls) and Health and has a particular focus on researching, identifying and then supporting high-impact programmes creating lasting change. Through pioneering delivery partners in the field, the Trust reaches out to some of the poorest communities across South Asia.

Case Study – Mumbai Mobile Crèches

The British Asian Trust supports Mumbai Mobile Crèches (MMC). MMC has been running day care centres for children of migrant workers on construction sites since 1972. These child development centres are set up on the construction site itself, in finished or unused rooms allotted by the builder and are run by specially trained staff. There is a crèche for the under three's, a preschool for the three to five-year-olds, a bridge course to support older children and an after-school programme to assist children with their homework and studies. Nutritious lunches and snacks are served every day and doctors visit weekly to monitor the children's growth and ensure their basic good health.

The centres also train women from these communities to become teachers so that they can run centres themselves. The idea is for MMC to be a demonstration model of quality childcare for construction sites across India.

For more information about the British Asian Trust and charities they support visit www.britishasiantrust.org

The Duchess of Cornwall

The Duchess of Cornwall's Biography

Childhood and Education

The Duchess of Cornwall is the daughter of Major Bruce Middleton Hope Shand and the Hon Rosalind Maud Shand (nee Cubitt). She was born Camilla Rosemary Shand on 17th July 1947 at King's College Hospital, London, the eldest of three children. Her Royal Highness has a sister, Annabel Elliot. Sadly their brother, Mark Shand, passed away in 2014. 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.

Her parents, Major Shand and the Hon Rosalind Cubitt, the daughter of the 3rd Baron Ashcombe, married on 2nd January 1946 at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. After the birth of their children, 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 on Sunday 11th June 2006 aged 89 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, a co-ed school in Sussex, and then attended Queen's Gate School in South Kensington. She also attended Mon Fertile finishing school in Switzerland and studied at the Institut Britannique in Paris.

Marriage and Family

Her Royal Highness married Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on 4th July 1973. The couple had two children, Thomas Henry and Laura Rose, born in 1974 and 1978 respectively. The marriage was dissolved in 1995.

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 hosted by Her Majesty The Queen.

Her Royal Highness has five grandchildren.

The Duchess of Cornwall's Role and Work

The Duchess of Cornwall, as she became known on marriage, plays an important and supportive role in The Prince's life, joining him on the majority of his public engagements and state and ceremonial duties. On 9th April 2012, Buckingham Palace announced that Her Majesty The Queen had appointed The Duchess of Cornwall to be a Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO). Since becoming The Duchess of Cornwall, Her Royal Highness has travelled widely with The Prince and on her own solo engagements, meeting people from all over the world and all walks of life. The Duchess has accompanied The Prince on visits to over 40 countries most recently to Colombia and Mexico in November 2014 and The United States of America and Ireland in March 2015. Since 2005 The Duchess has officially visited 15 Commonwealth nations.

Her Royal Highness has close links to [89 charities](#) and works to support these organisations, in her role as Patron or President, in whatever way she can through attending events, writing messages of support and visiting projects. These charities include the National Osteoporosis Society, the children's charity Barnardo's, Shelterbox and Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. Recently, Her Royal Highness has developed a particular focus on literacy and for supporting the victims of rape and sexual assault.

Supporting victims of rape and sexual abuse

Over the past few years, The Duchess of Cornwall has travelled the country meeting victims of sexual violence and listening to personal accounts of their experiences during visits to Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Referral Centres around the UK.

These visits, which began with the Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centre in Croydon in 2009, have provided Her Royal Highness with an opportunity to learn about the services and support provided by professionals who work in this area, many of whom offer a lifeline to vulnerable people who have been victims of rape and sexual abuse.

Hearing experiences first-hand from victims has left The Duchess with a real desire to raise awareness about the issues facing those affected. Her Royal Highness gave a keynote speech at Clarence House in February 2013 in which she reflected:

"I have spoken to so many of these victims whose bravery in speaking out and sharing their stories has been truly humbling – this, as many of you here know is, both for the speaker and for the listener, a harrowing experience."

In cooperation with a network of organisations, Her Royal Highness is working towards ending the social taboo that surrounds this complex and emotive issue.

Promoting and Supporting Literacy

The Duchess of Cornwall is an avid reader and is keen to promote the importance of supporting literacy.

During the final of BBC Radio 2's 500 words competition in May 2015, The Duchess told the audience: "Like climbing through the wardrobe into Narnia, stories open doors into different worlds. They stretch our imagination and get our brains buzzing. We fall in love with heroes and heroines and can't turn the pages fast enough to find out what happens."

Her Royal Highness is Patron of a number of organisations aimed at promoting and supporting literacy throughout the United Kingdom including The National Literacy Trust, Booktrust, First Story, The Wicked Young Writers' Award and Beanstalk.

Each year, The Duchess attends many engagements which encourage people to highlight the importance of reading and writing, as well as taking part in annual events such as the [Man Booker Prize for Fiction](#), Wicked Young Writers' Award and she regularly represents The Queen at The Queens Commonwealth Essay Prize. A passionate reader herself, The Duchess quite often reads to children during events. In Sweden, during The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall's tour in March 2012, The Duchess visited the British International School where she read "The Gruffalo" by Julia Donaldson, revealing that she quite often reads the book to her own grandchildren. The Duchess also declared "Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy", written by New Zealand children's author Lynley Dodd was one of her favourite books to read to her grandchildren.

To see images or videos on The Duchess' work to support literacy go to <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/focus/literacy>

Link to video of The Duchess reading to school children
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZ9gAKta7d8>

Health

Her Royal Highness has a number of key health patronages and in particular has been a big campaigner on osteoporosis for many years.

Her Royal Highness, President of the National Osteoporosis Society since 2001, has a personal connection to the disease. Her mother Rosalind Shand was 72 when she died in 1994 as a result of osteoporosis. The Duchess's grandmother also died from the same condition eight years earlier. As a result The Duchess understands the condition, the issues involved in research and engages compassionately with those who are suffering from the disease. The Duchess spoke out about her personal experiences of this "devastating disease" in the UK's Daily Mail newspaper on World Osteoporosis Day in 2011:

“Seeing someone you love die slowly, in agony, and knowing nothing about the disease that killed them, is heart-breaking. This was my mother 17 years ago, and the disease was called osteoporosis”

Her Royal Highness is also interested in the research to find solutions to Type 1 Diabetes, through her Presidency of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and has undertaken numerous engagements as President of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. She recently officially opened their new centre in Aberdeen with The Queen of Norway. The Duchess has also recently become Patron of Arthritis Research UK. The Duchess is also Patron of several hospices, including Helen & Douglas House, the first children's hospice.

For a link to all The Duchess' patronages go to <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/the-duchess-of-cornwall/patronages>

Military Appointments

Her Royal Highness has eight military appointments and, with The Prince, supports the work of the Armed Forces whenever possible. The Duchess became Colonel-in-Chief of Royal Australian Corps of Military Police in October 2012 and Colonel-in-Chief of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 2011.

APPENDIX

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. For more information about The Prince of Wales's views on Faith please visit <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/the-prince-of-wales/promoting-and-protecting/faith>

- 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>

- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales titled “East and West: Parables of the Soul”, Konya, Turke – November 2007

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-titled-east-and-west-parables-of-the-soul-konya-turkey>

- 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 about the Book of Common Prayer at the opening of “Royal Devotion: Monarchy and the Book of Common Prayer” exhibition at the Lambeth Palace Library – May 2012.

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-lambeth-palace>

Health

The Prince of Wales has long believed that complementary approaches are an essential part of any healthcare system, as long as they are safely and effectively delivered, are evidence-based, and are properly integrated with any conventional treatments.

- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales on integrated healthcare at the World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland – 22nd May 2006

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-integrated-healthcare-the-world-health-assembly-geneva>

- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales titled “Integrated Health: Coming of Age”, to Royal Society of Medicine conference, London – 17th May 2005

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-titled-integrated-health-coming-of-age-royal-society>

- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at the College of Medicine – 3rd May 2012

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-the-college-of-medicine>

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 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>

- A speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at a tree planting to honour the life of Wangari Maathai – 27th March 2013

<http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/speeches/speech-hrh-the-prince-of-wales-tree-planting-honour-the-life-of-wangari-maathai>

Built Environment

As said previously, 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

Why is The Prince accompanying The Queen to CHOGM?

The Queen asked The Prince of Wales to accompany her. The Prince of Wales represented HMTQ at CHOGM in Sri Lanka in 2013.

How many CHOGMs has The Prince attended?

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

How many Commonwealth countries has The Prince visited?

Since 1969, The Prince has visited 41 Commonwealth countries, many of them on several occasions. The Duchess has visited 15 Commonwealth countries since marrying The Prince in 2005. Most recently, in May 2014, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited Canada; in November 2013 Their Royal Highnesses visited India and Sri Lanka, where The Prince represented Her Majesty The Queen at the 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Will The Prince become the Head of the Commonwealth when he becomes King?

That is a matter for the Commonwealth.

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 Delhi, India.

Does The Prince of Wales intend to have a multi-faith Coronation?

Contrary to some press reports claiming that The Prince wants to hold a multi-faith Coronation when he becomes King, His Royal Highness has not been involved in any such discussions or planning.

Where do The Prince and The Duchess live?

Their Royal Highnesses have four residences in the UK. They are

- Clarence House, their official residence in London;
- Highgrove, their family home in Gloucestershire;
- Birkhall, their private residence on the Balmoral estate in Scotland;
- Llwynywermod, their official residence in Wales.

How old is The Prince of Wales?

66. His next birthday is on 14th November 2015.

How old is The Duchess of Cornwall?

68. Her next birthday is on 17th July 2016.

How many countries in the Commonwealth has The Prince of Wales visited?

41

How many countries in the Commonwealth has The Duchess of Cornwall visited since marrying The Prince of Wales in 2005?

The Duchess of Cornwall has visited 15 Commonwealth countries since marrying The Prince of Wales in 2005.

How many people work for The Prince of Wales's Household?

The Prince of Wales employs 145 full-time equivalent staff. Of these, 126.2 support Their Royal Highnesses in undertaking official duties and charitable activities and 18.8 are personal, garden and farm staff.

What do all The Prince's staff do?

Given the range of The Prince and The Duchess's interests and charitable work they have a household to support them in that work. Their staff includes advisers known as Private Secretaries; researchers; a communications office to work with the world's media who have an interest in all Their Royal Highnesses' work and duties; a Finance department; events staff to arrange the hundreds of receptions Their Royal Highnesses host every year; a correspondence department to answer the tens of thousands of letters Their Royal Highnesses receive annually and various house and garden management staff to maintain Their Royal Highnesses' residences.

What does the personal staff do?

The majority of the personal staff work on the farm, estate and gardens at Highgrove and other residences. The remainder ensure the smooth running of the Royal Household.

How many charities is The Prince Patron or President of?

Over 400. To see the full list visit <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/the-prince-of-wales/patronages>

How many of those charities are part of the official “Prince’s Charities”?

14, listed here:

1. The Prince’s Trust (and subsidiary, Prince's Trust International)
2. The British Asian Trust
3. Business in the Community
4. Scottish Business in the Community
5. In Kind Direct
6. PRIME-Cymru
7. The Royal Drawing School
8. The Prince’s School of Traditional Arts
9. The Prince’s Teaching Institute
10. The Prince’s Foundation Building Community
11. The Prince’s Regeneration Trust
12. The Great Steward of Scotland Dumfries House Trust
13. University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
14. The Prince of Wales’s Charitable Foundation

Which charities work in the Commonwealth?

1. The British Asian Trust
2. The Prince’s Foundation for Building Community
3. University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
4. The Prince’s School of Traditional Arts

The Prince has also established Foundations in Commonwealth nations such as The Prince’s Charities Canada and The Prince’s Charities Australia.

How many charities is The Duchess Patron or President of?

89. To see the full list visit <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/the-duchess-of-cornwall/patronages>

Why did The Prince establish so many charities?

For nearly four decades, The Prince of Wales has been a leader in identifying charitable need and setting up and driving forward charities to meet those needs. The Prince’s 14 charities work to transform lives and build communities.

Why does The Prince meet with Government Ministers?

The Prince of Wales has a right, indeed it is his duty as Heir to The Throne, to communicate privately with the Government on any matter he chooses, to bring his unique perspective and reflect the many issues people raise with him personally on his extensive engagements around the UK. The Prince often receives visiting dignitaries from around the world and the Commonwealth at Clarence House.

Do The Prince and The Duchess attend church?

As Christians and as members of the Church of England, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall regularly attend church. When in Scotland, Their Royal Highnesses attend the Church of Scotland.

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.

Does The Prince advocate untested and dangerous alternative medical therapies?

Not at all. The Prince of Wales has long believed that complementary approaches are an essential part of any healthcare system, as long as they are safely and effectively delivered, are evidence-based, and are properly integrated with any conventional treatments.

How are The Prince and The Duchess's official activities funded?

The vast majority of Their Royal Highnesses' activities are paid for out of The Prince's income from the Duchy of Cornwall, the private estate which historically has always provided financial support for the Heir to The Throne since it was founded in 1337.

In three specific areas, public money is used to support The Prince and The Duchess. These are: security costs; Their Royal Highnesses' travel when they fly or go by train to and from official engagements; property maintenance on royal residences.

These and other financial figures are published every year in the annual review.

What is Duchy Originals? Is it anything to do with the Duchy of Cornwall?

Set up by The Prince of Wales in 1990, Duchy Originals is a leading organic and natural food brand that gives all its profits to charity. The brand went into partnership with Waitrose in 2010 and has, to date, raised £11 million.

Duchy Originals has, from the beginning, aimed to help small and medium sized producers. It operates entirely separately from the Duchy of Cornwall, which is the private estate from which The Prince of Wales derives his annual income.

Who pays for the work of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry?

The Prince of Wales uses the income from The Duchy of Cornwall to pay for the official activities of his immediate family – The Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry.

Does The Prince of Wales pay tax?

The Prince of Wales voluntarily pays tax at the higher rate of 50 per cent on his income from The Duchy of Cornwall, after his business-related costs are deducted. His taxes are checked by Inland Revenue, like anyone else, which reviews all his business reductions.

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.

In The Queen's reign to date, CHOGMs have been held as follows:

1. 1953 – London
2. 1955 – London
3. 1957 – London
4. 1960 – London
5. 1961 – London
6. 1962 – London
7. 1964 – London
8. 1965 – London
9. 1966 (January) – Nigeria
10. 1966 (September) – London
11. 1969 – London
12. 1971 – Singapore
13. 1973 – Ottawa
14. 1975 – Jamaica
15. 1977 – London
16. 1979 – Zambia

17. 1981 – Australia
18. 1983 – India
19. 1985 – Bahamas
20. 1987 – Canada
21. 1989 – Malaysia
22. 1991 – Zimbabwe
23. 1993 – Cyprus
24. 1995 – New Zealand
25. 1997 – Edinburgh (also attended by The Prince of Wales)
26. 1999 – South Africa
27. 2002 – Australia (this took place in 2002, as 2001 conference was postponed)
28. 2003 – Nigeria
29. 2005 – Malta
30. 2007 – Uganda (The Prince of Wales was at The Queen's Banquet and the President's Dinner)
31. 2009 – Trinidad and Tobago
32. 2011 – Australia (Perth)
33. 2013 – Sri Lanka (The Prince of Wales represented The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth)