

Charles, Prince of Wales


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The Prince Charles, Prince of Wales (Charles Philip Arthur George,^[N 1] born 14 November 1948) is the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, making him heir apparent, equally and separately, to the thrones of 16 independent states. He is resident in and most directly involved with the United Kingdom, the oldest realm, while also carrying out duties in and on behalf of the other states of which his mother is sovereign. He is also heir to the positions of Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Duke of Normandy, Lord of Mann, and Paramount Chief of Fiji, though he will not necessarily become Head of the Commonwealth.^[2] Since 1958, Charles has held the title *Prince of Wales*, though in Scotland he is instead titled as *Duke of Rothesay*; he may also be referred to as the *Duke of Cornwall*.

Though the Prince has been well known for his charity work throughout the Commonwealth, his personal life and relationships were always a point of tabloid focus, increasing greatly on his engagement to Lady Diana Spencer, and dissipating with his marriage to Camilla Parker Bowles. Some of the publicly revealed indiscretions caused the relationship between Charles and the media to sour considerably. Regardless, Charles continues to carry out a full schedule of royal duties, and is increasingly taking on more charges from his parents as official representative of the Queen and deputy for his father.^[3]

Contents

- 1 Early life
- 2 Youth
 - 2.1 Education
 - 2.2 Created Prince of Wales
 - 2.3 Military training and career
- 3 Early romances
- 4 First marriage
 - 4.1 Engagement and wedding to Diana
 - 4.2 Separation and divorce
- 5 Second marriage
 - 5.1 Engagement and wedding to Camilla
- 6 Personal interests
 - 6.1 The built environment
 - 6.2 The natural environment
 - 6.3 Philosophies and religious beliefs
 - 6.4 Humanitarian issues
 - 6.5 Hobbies and sports
- 7 Official duties
- 8 Media
- 9 Residences
- 10 Titles, styles, honours and arms
 - 10.1 Titles and styles
 - 10.2 Honours and honorary military appointments
 - 10.3 Arms
- 11 Ancestry
- 12 Issue
- 13 See also
- 14 Notes
- 15 References

Charles	
<i>Prince of Wales; Duke of Rothesay (more)</i>	
	
Spouse	Lady Diana Spencer (m. 1981, div. 1996 d.1997) Camilla Parker Bowles (m. 2005)
Issue	Prince William of Wales Prince Henry of Wales
Full name	Charles Philip Arthur George ^[N 1]
Titles and styles	<i>Detail</i>
	<i>HRH</i> The Prince of Wales/Duke of Rothesay
	<i>HRH</i> The Duke of Cornwall
	<i>HRH</i> Prince Charles of Edinburgh
Father	Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
Mother	Elizabeth II
Born	14 November 1948 Buckingham Palace, London
Baptised	15 December 1948 Buckingham Palace, London

- 16 Bibliography
- 17 External links

Early life

Charles was born at Buckingham Palace on 14 November 1948, the first child of then Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and first grandchild of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Baptised in the palace's Music Room on 15 December 1948, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, the Prince's godparents were his maternal grandfather; his maternal-line great-grandmother, Queen Mary; his maternal aunt, Princess Margaret; his paternal-line great-grandmother, the Dowager Marchioness of Milford Haven; his maternal-line great-uncle, David Bowes-Lyon; his father's cousin, Lady Brabourne; his grandfather's cousin, King Haakon VII of Norway (for whom Alexander Cambridge, Earl of Athlone stood proxy); and his paternal-line great-uncle, Prince George of Greece (for whom Prince Philip stood proxy). By letters patent of Charles' great-grandfather, King George V, the titles of a British prince or princess, and the style *Royal Highness*, were only to be conferred on male-line children and grandchildren of the sovereign, as well as the children of the eldest son of the Prince of Wales. However, on 22 October 1948, George VI issued new letters patent granting these honours to any children of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip; otherwise, Charles would have merely taken his father's title, and been titled by courtesy as Earl of Merioneth. In this way, the children of the heiress presumptive had a royal and princely status not thought necessary for the children of the King's other daughter.

By the time Charles was four years old, his mother assumed the throne as Queen Elizabeth II, thereby immediately making him the heir apparent to the then seven countries over which the new queen reigned, and automatically elevating him to the position of Duke of Cornwall (by a charter of King Edward III that gave said title to the sovereign's eldest son), and, in the Scottish peerage, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland. Though he moved to first in line to the thrones, in the United Kingdom order of precedence he is third, after his parents, and is typically fourth or fifth in other realms' precedence orders, following his mother, the relevant vice-regal representative(s), and his father. He attended his mother's coronation at Westminster Abbey in 1953, sitting with his grandmother and aunt. As with royal children before him, a governess, Catherine Peebles, was appointed to look after the Prince and was responsible for educating him between the ages of 5 and 8. In a break with tradition, though, Buckingham Palace announced in 1955 that Charles would attend school, rather than have a private tutor, making him the first heir apparent ever to be educated in that manner.

Youth

Education

Charles first attended Hill House School in West London; then the Cheam Preparatory School in Berkshire, England, which his father had also attended; and was finally moved to Gordonstoun, in the north-east of Scotland. It was reported that the Prince despised his time at the latter school, – "Colditz in kilts", as Charles put it – though he did spend two of his terms at the Timbertop campus of Geelong Grammar School in Geelong, Australia, during which time he visited Papua New Guinea on a history trip with his tutor, Michael Collins Perse. Upon his return to Gordonstoun, Charles followed in his father's footsteps in becoming Head Boy, and left in 1967 with two A Levels in History and French.

Tradition was broken again when Charles went straight from secondary school into university, as opposed to joining the military. On the recommendation of Robin Woods, Dean of Windsor, and despite only gaining grades of B and C in his A Levels,^[4] the Prince was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read anthropology, archaeology, and history, earning a lower second class Bachelor of Arts on 23 June 1970, making him the third member of the Royal Family to earn a university degree.^[5] On 2 August 1975, he was subsequently awarded a Master of Arts Degree from Cambridge, per the university's tradition.^[5] During his time at post-secondary school, Charles also attended the Old College (part of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth), where he studied the Welsh language and Welsh history, also making him the first Prince of Wales born outside of Wales to ever attempt to learn the language of the principality.

British Royal Family



HM The Queen

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

- **HRH The Prince of Wales**
 - HRH The Duchess of Cornwall
 - HRH Prince William of Wales
 - HRH Prince Henry of Wales
- HRH The Duke of York
 - HRH Princess Beatrice of York
 - HRH Princess Eugenie of York
- HRH The Earl of Wessex
 - HRH The Countess of Wessex
 - Viscount Severn
 - Lady Louise Windsor
- HRH The Princess Royal

- HRH The Duke of Gloucester
 - HRH The Duchess of Gloucester
- HRH The Duke of Kent
 - HRH The Duchess of Kent
- HRH Prince Michael of Kent
 - HRH Princess Michael of Kent
- HRH Princess Alexandra

Created Prince of Wales

Charles was created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester on 26 July 1958,^{[6][7]} though his investiture as such was not conducted until 1 July 1969, wherein he was crowned by his mother in a televised ceremony held at Caernarfon Castle, and gave his replies and speech in both Welsh and English.^[8] The following year he took his seat in the House of Lords,^[4] and later in the decade became the first member of the Royal Family since King George I to attend a British Cabinet meeting, having been invited by Prime Minister James Callaghan so that the Prince might see the workings of the British government and Cabinet at first hand. Charles also began to take on more public duties, founding his The Prince's Trust in 1976,^[9] and travelling to the United States in 1981.

Around the same time, the Prince expressed an interest in serving as Governor-General of Australia; Commander Michael Parker explained: "The idea behind the appointment was for him to put a foot on the ladder of monarchy, or being the future King and start learning the trade." However, because of a combination of nationalist feeling in Australia and the dismissal of the government by the Governor-General in 1975, nothing came of the proposal. Charles accepted the decision of the Australian ministers, if not without some regret; he reportedly stated: "What are you supposed to think when you are prepared to do something to help and you are told you are not wanted?"^[10] Conversely, Tom Gallagher wrote that Charles had been offered the Romanian throne by monarchists in that country; an offer that was reportedly turned down.^{[11][12]}

The Prince is presently the oldest man to hold the title of Prince of Wales since it became one that is granted to the heir apparent, as well as the oldest heir apparent in Commonwealth realms' history, the third longest serving heir apparent, and the third longest serving Prince of Wales in British history, in each of the latter cases behind Edward VII and George IV. If he ascends to the throne after 18 September 2013, Charles would be the eldest successor to do so; only William IV was older when he became monarch of the United Kingdom than Charles is now, having acceded at 64 years and 299 days of age in 1830.

Military training and career

Following in the tradition of Princes of Wales before him, Charles spent time in the navy and air force. After Royal Air Force training that he requested and received during his second year at Cambridge, on 8 March 1971 the Prince flew himself to the Royal Air Force College Cranwell to train as a jet pilot. After the passing out parade in September of that year, he then embarked on a naval career, enrolling in a six week course at the Royal Naval College Dartmouth and then serving on the guided missile destroyer HMS *Norfolk* (1971-1972) and the frigates HMS *Minerva* (1972-1973) and HMS *Jupiter* (1974). Charles also qualified as a helicopter pilot at RNAS Yeovilton in 1974, just prior to joining 845 Naval Air Squadron, operating from HMS *Hermes*, and on 9 February 1976, the Prince took command of the coastal minehunter HMS *Bronington* for his last nine months in the navy. In total, Prince Charles has qualified to fly a Chipmunk basic pilot trainer, a Harrier T Mk.4 V/STOL fighter, a BAC Jet Provost jet pilot trainer, a Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft, a F-4 Phantom II fighter jet, an Avro Vulcan jet bomber, and a Spitfire classic WWII fighter.

Early romances

Prince Charles' love life was always the subject of speculation and press fodder. In his youth, he was linked to a number of women, including Georgina Russell, daughter of the British Ambassador to Spain; Lady Jane Wellesley, daughter of Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington; Davina Sheffield; Fiona Watson, a *Penthouse* model; Susan George; Lady Sarah Spencer; Princess Marie Astrid of Luxembourg; Dale, Baroness Tryon; Janet Jenkins; and Jane Ward. Irrespective of the truth of the romantic rumours, the hurdles of marriage made some of these matches manifestly implausible; as the heir apparent to the Commonwealth realms' thrones, Charles was expected to father future monarchs. Also, like other members of the Royal Family, he was legally obliged to obtain his mother's approval under the Royal Marriages Act 1772 before he could marry,^[N 2] and his choice would have to survive the immense popular interest any marriage proposal would immediately arouse.

Charles was given written advice on dating and the selection of a future consort from his father's "Uncle Dickie", Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma: "In a case like yours, the man should sow his wild oats and have as many affairs as he can before settling down, but for a wife he should choose a suitable, attractive, and sweet-charactered girl before she has met anyone else she might fall for... It is disturbing for women to have experiences if they have to remain on a pedestal after marriage".^[14] Mountbatten had a unique qualification for offering advice to this particular heir to the throne: he had invited George VI, Queen Elizabeth, and their daughters to visit Dartmouth Royal Naval College on 22 July 1939, having also detailed Cadet Prince Philip to keep the young princesses company, creating the first documented meeting of Charles' future parents.^[15] In early 1974, Mountbatten began corresponding with Elizabeth and Philip's eldest son about a potential marriage to Mountbatten's granddaughter, Hon. Amanda Knatchbull (b. 26 June 1957),^[16] and recommended that the twenty-five year old prince get done with his bachelor's experimentation. Charles dutifully wrote to Amanda's mother, Patricia Brabourne (who was also his godmother), about his interest in her daughter, to which she replied approvingly, though



Queen Elizabeth II formally invests The Prince of Wales with the Prince of Wales crown, in 1969.

suggesting that a courtship was premature.^[17]

This did not daunt Mountbatten, who, four years later, obtained an invitation for himself and Amanda to accompany Charles on his 1980 tour of India. Both fathers, however, objected; Philip complaining that the Prince of Wales would be eclipsed by his famous uncle (who had served as the last British Viceroy and first Governor-General of India), while John, Baron Brabourne warned that a joint visit would rivet media attention on the cousins before they could decide on becoming a couple, thereby potentially dashing the very prospect for which Mountbatten hoped.^[18] However, before Charles was to depart alone for India, Mountbatten was assassinated in August 1979. When Charles returned, he proposed to Amanda. However, in addition to her grandfather, she had lost her paternal grandmother and youngest brother Nicholas in the attack and now recoiled from the prospect of becoming a core member of the Royal Family.^[18] In June 1980, Charles officially turned down Chevening House, placed at his disposal since 1974, as his future residence. Chevening, a stately home in Kent, was bequeathed, along with an endowment, to the Crown by the last Earl Stanhope, Amanda's childless great-uncle, in the hope that Charles would eventually occupy it.^[19]

First marriage

Although Charles first met Lady Diana Spencer in 1977 – while visiting Diana's home, Althorp, as the companion of her elder sister, Sarah – he did not consider her romantically until the summer of 1980. While sitting together on a bale of hay at a friend's barbecue in July, he mentioned Mountbatten's death, to which Diana replied that Charles had looked forlorn and in need of care during his uncle's funeral. Soon, according to Charles' chosen biographer, Jonathan Dimbleby, "without any apparent surge in feeling, he began to think seriously of her as a potential bride."^[20] She accompanied the Prince on visits to Balmoral and Sandringham, eliciting enthusiastic responses from most of the Royal Family.

Although the Queen offered Charles no direct counsel, his cousin Hon. Norton Knatchbull (Amanda's eldest brother) and his wife, Penny, did. But their objections that Charles did not seem in love with Diana and that she seemed too awestruck by his position, angered him.^[21] Meanwhile, the couple continued dating, amidst constant press speculation and paparazzi coverage. When Prince Philip told him that the intrusive media attention would injure her reputation if he did not come to a decision about marrying her soon, and realising that Diana met the Mountbatten criteria (and, apparently, the public's) for a proper royal bride, Charles construed his father's advice as a warning to proceed without further delay.^[22]

Engagement and wedding to Diana

Prince Charles proposed to Diana in February 1981, she accepted, and when he asked her father for her hand, he consented. After the British and Canadian privy councils gave their approval for the union (which was sought as the couple was expected to produce an heir to those countries' thrones), the Queen-in-Council gave the legally required assent, and, 29 July, Charles and Diana were married at St. Paul's Cathedral, before 3,500 invited guests and an estimated worldwide television audience of 750 million people. All of the Queen's Governors-General, as well as Europe's crowned heads, attended (save for King Juan Carlos I of Spain, who was advised not to attend because the newlyweds' honeymoon would involve a stop over in the disputed territory of Gibraltar). Most of Europe's elected heads of state were also amongst the guests, with the exceptions of the President of Greece, Constantine Karamanlis (who declined because Greece's exiled monarch, Constantine II, a kinsman and friend of the bridegroom, had been invited as "King of the Hellenes"), and the President of Ireland, Patrick Hillery (who was advised by taoiseach Charles Haughey not to attend because of the dispute over the status of Northern Ireland).^[N 3]



Charles and Diana's wedding commemorated on a 1981 British Crown (25 pence).

The couple made their homes at Highgrove, near Tetbury, and Kensington Palace. Almost immediately, the new Princess of Wales became a star attraction, chased by the *paparazzi*, and her every move followed by millions through the mass media. The couple had two children:

- Prince William Arthur Philip Louis of Wales (born 21 June 1982)
- Prince Henry Charles Albert David of Wales (born 15 September 1984)

Separation and divorce

The union between the Prince and Princess of Wales soon became troubled; despite their similarities, such as their mutual devotion to charity work – Diana focusing on AIDS sufferers, while Charles devoted his efforts to marginalised groups in urban centres – within five years, the "fairytale" marriage was on the brink of collapse. The continued presence of Camilla Parker-Bowles in events and circumstances that also involved the royal couple became intolerable to Diana. Allies of Charles who spoke publicly, if anonymously, against Diana alleged that she was unstable and temperamental; one by one, she apparently dismissed each of Charles' long-standing staff members and fell out with his friends, as well as members of her own family – her father, mother, and brother – as well as members of the

Royal Family, such as Sarah, Duchess of York. The Princess sought counsel outside of the generally accepted sources of advice, to the chagrin of the palace. In response to the succour sought by the Prince, Diana responded in kind. Charles, however, was also blamed for the marital troubles, as he resumed his adulterous affair with Parker-Bowles.

Though they remained a couple in public, Charles and Diana had effectively separated by the late 1980s, the Prince living in Highgrove and the Princess at Kensington Palace. Their increased periods apart and obvious discomfort in each other's presence began to be noticed by the media, and this, plus evidence and recriminations of infidelity, were broadcast in tabloids and the news. By 1992 the marriage was over in all but name; in December of that year, then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, John Major, announced in the British parliament the Prince and Princess' formal separation, after which the media began to take sides, starting what came to be known as the *War of the Waleses*. In October 1993, Diana wrote to a friend that she believed her husband was now in love with Tiggy Legge-Bourke and wanted to marry her.^[23] The marriage of Charles and Diana was formally ended in divorce on 28 August 1996.^[24]

Second marriage

In 1993, the British tabloids came into the possession of recordings of a 1989 mobile telephone conversation allegedly between the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker-Bowles, in which Charles expressed regret for the indignities she had endured because of her relationship with him, and which revealed graphic expressions of a physical intimacy between the two.^[25] In a television interview the following year, Charles admitted that he had committed adultery "once it was clear the marriage had broken down," and said in the same interview that his father had approved of the taking of a mistress. This assertion, however, was vehemently denied by the Duke of Edinburgh, and the implication of condoned adultery caused a significant rift between father and son. When it was later confirmed that it had been Camilla Parker-Bowles with whom Charles was having an affair, her husband, Andrew, immediately demanded a divorce from his wife and thereafter remained silent on the subject of his wife's ongoing affair with the Prince.

On 31 August 1997, a year after the Prince and Princess divorced, Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris, along with her companion Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul. The Prince of Wales over-ruled the palace protocol experts – who argued that as Diana was no longer a member of the Royal Family, the responsibility for her funeral arrangements belonged to her blood relatives, the Spencers – and flew to Paris, with Diana's sisters, to accompany his ex-wife's body home. He also insisted that she be given a formal royal funeral; a new category of formal funeral was especially created for her.

Charles attempted to make his relationship with Parker-Bowles more public and accepted, having her become his unofficial, occasional companion at events. This coming out temporarily ceased at the time of the Princess of Wales' death, but Charles and Parker-Bowles were photographed in public together in 1999, following a birthday party for Parker-Bowles' sister, Annabel Elliott; this was regarded as a sign that the relationship was now official, a feeling that was further enhanced when Parker-Bowles met the Queen in June 2000. Parker-Bowles moved into Charles' household in 2003, resulting in decorative changes to both homes, though Buckingham Palace was explicit in pointing out that public funds had not been used for the renovations. Marriage between the Prince of Wales and Parker-Bowles remained elusive, however: As the future Supreme Governor of the Church of England, the prospect of Charles marrying a divorcée, and one with whom he had conducted an illicit relationship, was seen as controversial. Opinion – of both the public and the church – shifted, though, to a point where civil marriage was seen as an agreeable solution.

Engagement and wedding to Camilla

Clarence House announced on 10 February 2005 that Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles were engaged; the Prince presented Parker-Bowles with an engagement ring that had belonged to his grandmother. In a Privy Council meeting on 2 March, the Queen's consent to the marriage (as required by the Royal Marriages Act 1772) was recorded^[26]. The marriage was to have been on 8 April of that year, and was to take place in a civil ceremony at Windsor Castle, with a subsequent religious blessing at St George's Chapel. But, because the conduct of a civil marriage at Windsor Castle would oblige the venue to thereafter be available to anyone wishing to be married there, the location was changed to the Windsor Guildhall. On 4 April it was announced that the marriage would be delayed by one day to allow for the Prince of Wales and some of the invited dignitaries to attend the funeral of Pope John Paul II. Charles' parents did not attend the marriage ceremony; the Queen's reluctance to attend arising from her position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England.^[27] The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh did, however, attend the service of blessing, and held a reception for the newlyweds at Windsor Castle, afterwards.^[28] The wedding made Charles the first member of the Royal Family to be civilly wed in England; there were claims that such a marriage was illegal,^[29] though these were denounced by both Clarence House and the sitting government.^[30]

Personal interests



Charles and Camilla in Jamaica, 13 March 2008.

In his years as heir apparent, the Prince of Wales has taken on a wide array of interests and activities, and devoted his time and effort to charity work and collaborating with local communities. Since founding The Prince's Trust, he established fifteen more charitable organisations, and now serves as president of all of those, plus two others; together, these form a loose alliance called *The Prince's Charities*, which claim to raise over £110 million annually.^[31] Charles is also patron of over 350 other charities and organisations,^[32] and carries out duties related to these throughout the Commonwealth realms; for example, he uses his tours of Canada as a way to help draw attention to youth, the disabled, the environment, the arts, medicine, the elderly, heritage conservation, and education.^[33] The Prince was described by his ex-private secretary as a dissident who works against majority political opinions.^[34]

The built environment

The Prince of Wales has frequently shared his views on architecture and urban planning in public forums, claiming to "care deeply about issues such as the environment, architecture, inner-city renewal, and the quality of life." He is known to be an advocate of neo-traditional ideas, such as those of Christopher Alexander and Leon Krier, which were illustrated in his 1984 attack on the British architectural community in a speech given to the Royal Institute of British Architects, describing a proposed extension to the National Gallery in London as a "monstrous carbuncle". Charles also published a book and created a documentary entitled *A Vision for Britain*, which critiqued some aspects of modern architecture. Despite criticism from the professional architectural press, the Prince has continued to put forward his views, stressing traditional urbanism, the need for human scale, and the restoration of historic buildings as an integrated element of new development and sustainable design. Two of the Charles' charities in particular forward his theories on design: The Prince's Regeneration Trust (formed by a merger of Regeneration Through Heritage and the Phoenix Trust in 2006) and The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment (which absorbed The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture in 2001). Further, the village of Poundbury was created at the instigation of Prince Charles, with a master plan by Krier.

Charles assisted with the establishment of a National Trust for the built environment in Canada, after lamenting, in 1996, the unbridled destruction of many of the country's historic urban cores. He offered his assistance to the Department of Canadian Heritage in the creation of a trust modelled on the British variant, and, with the passing of the 2007 federal budget by his mother's representative in Canada, a Canadian national trust was finally fully implemented. In 1999, the Prince also agreed to offer the use of his title to the Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership, awarded by the Heritage Canada Foundation to municipal governments that have shown sustained commitment to the conservation of historic places.^[35] Charles has also been the recipient of awards for his efforts in regard to architecture, such as the National Building Museum's Vincent Scully Prize he received in 2005, while visiting the United States and touring southern Mississippi and New Orleans to survey the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina; he donated \$25,000 of the prize money to help restore communities damaged by the storm.

Starting in 1997, the Prince of Wales also visited Romania to view and draw attention to some of the destruction caused during the Communist rule of Nicolae Ceaușescu, particularly Orthodox monasteries and Saxon villages of Transylvania,^{[36][37][38]} where he purchased a house.^{[39][40]} Charles also became patron of two Romanian built environment organisations: the Mihai Eminescu Trust and the International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture, and Urbanism),^[41] an advocate of architecture that respects cultural tradition and identity. Charles also has "a deep understanding of Islamic art and architecture", and has been involved in the construction of a building and garden at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies which combine Islamic and Oxford architectural styles.^[42]

The natural environment

Since the early 1980s, Charles has taken a keen interest in environmental issues, taking a leadership role in promoting environmentally sensitive thinking. Upon his moving into his Highgrove estate, he became increasingly focused on organic farming, an attention that culminated in the 1990 launch of his own organic brand: Duchy Originals,^[43] which now sells more than 200 different sustainably produced products, from food to garden furniture, the profits from which (£6 million, as of 2008) are donated to The Prince's Charities.^[44] Documenting this work on his estate, Charles co-authored (with Charles Clover, environment editor of the *Daily Telegraph*) *Highgrove: An Experiment in Organic Gardening and Farming*, published in 1993, and offers his patronage to Garden Organic. Along similar lines, the Prince of Wales became involved with farming and various industries within it, regularly meeting with farmers to discuss their trade; though the 2001 foot-and-mouth epidemic in the UK prevented Charles from visiting farmers in Saskatchewan, organic farmers there came to meet him at the Assiniboia town hall. In 2004, he also founded the Mutton

Renaissance Campaign, which aims to support British sheep farmers and make mutton more attractive to Britons.^[45] His organic farming efforts, however, attracted media criticism: According to *The Independent* in October, 2006 "...the story of Duchy Originals has involved compromises and ethical blips, wedded to a determined merchandising programme."^[46] and, in February 2007, Duchy products



The Prince of Wales attending the royal launch of the Revolve Eco-Rally, 2007.

themselves came under attack, with the tabloid *Daily Mail* claiming that the food was "unhealthier than Big Macs."^[47]

An announcement was made by Clarence House in December 2006 that the Prince of Wales would make his household's travel arrangements more eco-friendly, and, in 2007, Charles published in his annual accounts the details of his own carbon footprint, as well as targets for reducing his household's carbon emissions.^[48] That same year, he received the 10th annual Global Environmental Citizen Award from the Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment, the director of which, Eric Chivian, stated: "For decades The Prince of Wales has been a champion of the natural world... He has been a world leader in efforts to improve energy efficiency and in reducing the discharge of toxic substances on land, and into the air and the oceans".^[49] However, Charles' travel by commercial airliner to the United States to attend the award ceremony drew criticism from some environmental activists, such as the Plane climate change action group's campaigner Joss Garman, who said: "It is frustrating and disappointing that someone who styles himself as a green leader and should be leading an example, behaves in such a manner when everyone else is doing their best to cut emissions."^[48] Charles gave a speech to the European Parliament on 14 February 2008, in which he called for European Union leadership in the war against climate change. During the standing ovation that followed, Nigel Farage, the leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), was the only MEP to remain seated and went on to describe Charles's advisers as "naive and foolish at best." Farage continued: "How can somebody like Prince Charles be allowed to come to the European Parliament at this time to announce he thinks it should have more powers? It would have been better for the country he wants to rule one day if he had stayed home and tried to persuade Gordon Brown to give the people the promised referendum [on the Treaty of Lisbon]."^[50]

Philosophies and religious beliefs

Sir Laurens van der Post became a friend of Charles in 1977, a relationship that lasted until van der Post's death in 1996, and which led him to be dubbed the "guru to Prince Charles", and made godfather to Charles' son, Prince William. From him, the Prince of Wales developed a focus on philosophy, especially that of Asian and Middle Eastern nations, and New Age theology, praising Kabbalistic artworks,^[51] and penning a memorial for Kathleen Raine, the Neoplatonist poet, who died in 2003.^[52] As such, Charles has also been known to have interest in alternative medicine,^[53] which drew fire from the medical establishment. In 2004, doctors spoke out against Charles' endorsement of coffee enemas as a treatment for cancer,^[54] and, in April 2008, *The Times* published a letter from Edzard Ernst, a professor of Complementary Medicine, that asked Charles and his Foundation for Integrated Health to recall two guides promoting "alternative medicine", saying: "the majority of alternative therapies appear to be clinically ineffective, and many are downright dangerous."^[55]

The Prince is known to attend services at several different Anglican churches near his home at Highgrove, Gloucestershire^[56] and is known to regularly worship at Crathie Kirk when staying at Balmoral Castle. In 2000, he was appointed as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The Prince of Wales also travels each year to Mount Athos to spend time in the Orthodox monasteries there,^[57] as well as in Romania,^[36] demonstrating his interest in Orthodox Christianity.^{[58][59][60]} Along with his father, who was born and raised as Greek Orthodox, Charles is patron of The Friends of Mount Athos, as well as the 21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies.^[61] Charles is also patron of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies at the University of Oxford.^{[42][62]}

Humanitarian issues

The plight of various peoples has been a target of Charles' efforts, predominantly the long-term unemployed, people who have been in trouble with the law, people who are in difficulty at school, and people who have been in care. The Prince's Trust is the main outlet through which Charles works with young people, offering loans to groups, business people, and others who've had difficulty receiving outside support. Fundraising concerts are regularly held in benefit of the trust, with leading pop, rock, and classical musicians taking part. In Canada, Charles has also supported humanitarian projects, taking part, along with his two sons, in the ceremonies marking the 1998 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,^[33] and helping to launch the Canadian Youth Business Foundation in Saskatchewan in 2001, when he also visited Scott Collegiate, an inner-city school in Regina.

After spending time in the Northwest Territories in 1975, Charles formed a special interest in the Canadian north, as well as Canada's Aboriginal Peoples, the leaders of which he met and sometimes took time to walk and meditate with. Reflecting this association, the Prince of Wales has been conferred with special titles from First Nations communities: in 1996, Cree and Ojibway students in Winnipeg named the Prince *Leading Star*, and in 2001 he was dubbed *Pisimwa Kamiwohkitahpamikohk*, or "the sun looks at him in a good way", during his first visit to the province of Saskatchewan. He was also one of the first world leaders to express strong concerns about the human rights record of Nicolae Ceaușescu, initiating objections in the international arena,^[63] and subsequently supported the FARA Foundation,^[64] which runs Romanian orphanages.

Hobbies and sports

Since his youth, the Prince was an avid player of polo, as a part of competitive teams until 1992, and strictly for charity from then until

2005, after which he ceased to participate because of two notable injuries he suffered during play: in 1990 he broke his arm, and in 2001 was briefly unconscious after a fall.^[65] Charles also frequently took part in fox hunting, before the sport was banned in the United Kingdom in 2005. By the late 1990s, as opposition to the activity was growing, the Prince of Wales' participation in this activity was viewed as a "political statement" by those opposed it, such as the League Against Cruel Sports, which launched the attack against Charles after he took his sons on the Beaufort Hunt in 1999, at a time when the government was trying to ban the hunting of foxes with hounds.^{[66][67]}

Charles has also pursued the visual arts, focusing on watercolour, and exhibiting and selling a number of his paintings, as well as publishing books on the subject. In university he dabbled in acting, appearing in amateur productions of a comedic nature, an enjoyment of which continued later into the Prince's life, as evidenced by his organising of a comedy gala to celebrate his 60th birthday.^[68] He also has an interest in illusionism, becoming a member of The Magic Circle after passing his audition by performing the cups and balls effect.^[69] The Prince acts today as patron of a number of theatres, acting troupes, and orchestral ensembles, including the Regina Symphony Orchestra, and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and is reportedly a fan of Canadian singer and song writer Leonard Cohen.^[70] He is also a collector of automobiles, particularly the British marque Aston Martin, having acquired numerous models and such tight connections with the brand – being a frequent visitor to the factory and its service department, and a guest of honour at most of the company's special launch events – that special *Prince of Wales* edition Aston Martins have been created on occasion. He is known to like Ipswich Town Football Club, after a visit to Portman Road after they were the first football club in England to support his supported charity.

Official duties

As Prince of Wales, Prince Charles undertakes a number of official duties on behalf of his mother, in her role as sovereign of any of the Commonwealth realms. He will frequently stand in for the Queen at the funerals of foreign dignitaries (which the Queen customarily does not attend), and at investitures into British orders. It was when he attended the funeral of Pope John Paul II that Charles caused controversy: when shaking hands with other guests, Charles was surprised to find himself shaking that of Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe, who had been seated next to the Prince. Charles' office subsequently released a statement saying: "The Prince of Wales was caught by surprise and not in a position to avoid shaking Mr. Mugabe's hand. The Prince finds the current Zimbabwean regime abhorrent. He has supported the Zimbabwe Defence and Aid Fund which works with those being oppressed by the regime. The Prince also recently met Pius Ncube, the Archbishop of Bulawayo, an outspoken critic of the government."^[71]



The Prince of Wales visiting British troops in Basra, Iraq, 2005.

Both Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall travel abroad on behalf of the United Kingdom. The Prince has been regarded as an effective advocate of the country, with his visit to the Republic of Ireland, where he delivered a personally researched and written speech on Anglo-Irish affairs that was warmly received by Irish politicians and the media, being cited as an example. His service to the Canadian Armed Forces permits him to be informed of troop activities, and allows him to visit these troops while in Canada or overseas, taking part in ceremonial occasions. For instance, in 2001, the Prince placed a specially commissioned wreath, made from vegetation taken from French battlefields, at the Canadian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and in 1981 he became the patron of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

Prince Charles makes regular tours of Wales, going there for a week of engagements each summer, attending important national occasions, such as opening the Senedd. In 2000, Charles revived the tradition of the Prince of Wales having an official harpist, in order to foster Welsh talent at playing the harp, the national instrument of Wales. He and the Duchess of Cornwall also spend one week each year in Scotland, where the Prince is patron of a number of Scottish organisations.

Prince Charles visited the town Abergavenny in 2008 to open the Saint Mary's Priory visitor centre which is in a converted tithe barn over 600 years old.^[72]

Media

Sometimes referred to as *Chazza* (along the lines of *Gazza*, *Hezza*, and similar coinages), and parodied, such as on Spitting Image, and by Craig Ferguson on *The Late Late Show*, Prince Charles has been a focus of the world media since his birth, attention that increased as he matured. Prior to his first marriage, he was presented as the world's most eligible bachelor on the cover of *Time*, and his various affairs and exploits were followed and reported. With his marriage to Diana Spencer, the attention increased, though predominantly towards the Princess of Wales, who became a star attraction, chased by the paparazzi, and her every move (including every change in hairstyle) closely followed by millions. As their relationship began to deteriorate, Diana began to use the media to her advantage, and became closely involved in placing stories about the royal marriage in the press, thenceforth splitting the media's support, with Charles having *The Mirror* and the *Telegraph* on his side.

In their quest to gain ever more stories on the Prince of Wales, the media breached Charles' privacy on a number of occasions. In 2006, the Prince filed a court case against the *Mail on Sunday*, after excerpts of his personal journals were published, revealing his opinions on matters, such as the takeover of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China in 1997, in which Charles described the Chinese government officials as "appalling old waxworks."^[34] Others have used their past connections with the Prince to profit from the media, such as when an ex-member of Charles' household took to the press an internal memo in which Charles commented on ambition and opportunity, and which was widely interpreted as blaming meritocracy for creating a combative atmosphere in society. In retort, Charles stated: "In my view, it is just as great an achievement to be a plumber or a bricklayer as it is to be a lawyer or a doctor,"^[73] and the memo was cited in Lynne Truss' critique of British manners, *Talk to the Hand*, as a valid observation on how the positive motivational impact of meritocracy might be balanced against the negative impact of a competitive society.

Overall, Charles developed a dislike for the popular press, which was accidentally revealed when his comments to his son, William, during a press photo-call in 2005 was caught on a nearby microphone: "I hate doing this... These bloody people,"^[74] and about the BBC's royal reporter, Nicholas Witchell, in particular: "I can't bear that man. I mean, he's so awful, he really is."^[74] The Prince of Wales, though, remained friendly with produced entertainment media, appearing as himself on the UK soap opera *Coronation Street* as part of the show's 40th anniversary in 2000,^[75] and on the New Zealand adult cartoon series *bro'Town*, after attending a performance from the show's creators during a tour of the country. He did, however, reportedly turn down an invitation to appear in a cameo role in an episode of *Doctor Who*.^[76] Charles has also continued to give interviews, such as that which was conducted by Ant and Dec for the 30th anniversary of The Prince's Trust in 2006, and he read his children's book, *The Old Man of Lochnagar*, on the BBC's *Jackanory* programme.

Residences

Clarence House, the former London residence of the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, is the Prince of Wales' current official residence. Previously, he resided in an apartment at St James's Palace. Charles also holds a private estate in Gloucestershire, Highgrove, and one in Scotland, the Birkhall estate near Balmoral Castle and also previously owned by the Queen Mother.

In 2007, the Prince purchased a 192 acre (150 acres of grazing and parkland, and 40 acres (160,000 m²) of woodland) property in Carmarthenshire, and applied for permission to convert the farm into a Welsh home for him and the Duchess of Cornwall, to be rented out as holiday flats when the royal couple is not in residence.^[77] Though neighbours said the proposed alterations flouted local planning regulations, the application was put on hold while a report was drafted on how the alterations would affect the local bat population.^[78] Charles and Camilla took residence at the new property, called *Llwynywermod*, in June 2008.^[79]

Titles, styles, honours and arms

Titles and styles

Charles has held a number of titles throughout his life, as the grandson of the monarch, the son of the monarch and, later, honoured in his own right with princely and noble titles. When in conversation with the Prince of Wales, the practice is to initially address him as *Your Royal Highness* and thereafter as *Sir*.

There has been speculation as to what regnal name the Prince will choose upon his succession to the throne. If he keeps his current first name, he will be known as *Charles III*. It has been suggested that, in honour of his maternal grandfather, he will choose to reign as *George VII*.

Honours and honorary military appointments

On his 58th birthday, the Prince of Wales was appointed by his mother as a General in the British Army, an Admiral in the Royal Navy, and an Air Chief Marshal of the Royal Air Force. His first honorary appointment was as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Regiment of Wales, in 1969; since that time, the Prince has also been installed as Colonel-in-Chief, Colonel, Honorary Air Commodore, Air-Commodore-in-Chief, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Honorary Colonel, Royal Colonel, and Honorary Commodore of at least 36 military formations throughout the Commonwealth.

Charles has also been the recipient of a number of honours and awards from various countries around the world, whether from his own or foreign. He has been inducted into eight orders and received five decorations from amongst the Commonwealth realms, and has been the recipient of 17 different appointments and decorations by foreign states, as well as nine honorary degrees from universities in the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

Arms

Ancestry

Through his father's line, his patrilineal descent, Charles is descended from the House of Oldenburg/Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg.^[80] It should be noted, however, that absent any future decrees to the contrary Charles will reign as a member of the House of Windsor per Letters Patent issued by his mother.^[N 1]

Issue

Name	Birth	Marriage	Issue
Prince William of Wales	21 June 1982		
Prince Henry of Wales	15 September 1984		

See also

- Bibliography of Charles, Prince of Wales
- Order of the Oak Crown

Notes

- [^] ^{*a b c*} As a titled royal, Charles holds no surname, but, when one *is* used, it is **Mountbatten-Windsor**, although, according to letters patent dated February 1960, his official surname is **Windsor**.^[1]
- [^] Marriage to a Roman Catholic, furthermore, would automatically debar him and the marriage's Catholic issue from succession.^[13]
- [^] The period when the advice was given coincided with a change of government. Traditionally Irish presidents and British royalty did not meet publicly because of the Northern Ireland issue.

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- [^] Dimpleby, pp. 204-206
- [^] Dimpleby
- [^] ^{*a b*} Dimpleby, pp. 263-265
- [^] Dimpleby, pp. 299-300
- [^] Dimpleby, p. 279
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- [^] Rosalind Ryan and agencies. [http://www.guardian.co.uk/monarchy/story/0,,2236744,00.html "Diana affair over before crash, inquest told |Edward VIII (Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David; later The Duke of Windsor; 23 June 1894 – 28 May 1972) was King of the United Kingdom and the British dominions, and Emperor of India from 20 January 1936, following the death of his father, George V, until his abdication on 11 December 1936. He was the second monarch of the House of Windsor, his father having changed the name of the royal house from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in 1917. Before his accession to the throne, Edward VIII held the titles of Prince Edward of York, Prince Edward of Cornwall and York, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, and Prince of Wales. As a young man, he served in World War I, undertook several foreign

- tours on behalf of his father, and was associated with a succession of older, married women. Only months into his reign, Edward caused a constitutional crisis by proposing marriage to the American divorcée Wallis Simpson. Although legally Edward could have married Mrs. Simpson and remained king, the prime ministers of his various realms opposed the marriage, arguing that the people would never accept her as queen. Edward knew that the ministry of British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin would resign if the marriage went ahead; this could have dragged the King into a general election, thus ruining irreparably his status as a politically neutral constitutional monarch. Rather than give up Mrs. Simpson, Edward chose to abdicate, making him the only monarch of Britain, and indeed any Commonwealth realm, to have voluntarily relinquished the throne.[1] With a reign of 325 days, he is one of the shortest-reigning monarchs in the history of any of his countries, and was never crowned World news | guardian.co.uk". guardian.co.uk. http://www.guardian.co.uk/monarchy/story/0,,2236744,00.html. Retrieved on 2008-10-12.
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External links

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- Official Duchy of Cornwall Cottages website (<http://www.duchyofcornwallholidaycottages.co.uk>)
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- Official website of 'The Prince's Trust' (<http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/>)
- View an image of an official portrait of Prince Charles by David Griffiths (<http://www.david-griffiths.co.uk/>)
- The Prince's Official Canadian Visit (2001) (<http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/royalvisit/english.htm>)
- "Saskatchewan Honours Future King" (2001) (<http://www.monarchist.ca/cmn/summer017.htm>)
- Significance of Treaties Reaffirmed Through Historic Royal Visit (2001) (<http://www.sicc.sk.ca/saskindian/a01fal03.htm>)
- View clip from Prince Charles interview by David Frost in 1969 (<http://video.google.co.uk/videoplay?docid=3295860392688412292&hl=en-GB/>)
- Sympathetic appraisal of the Prince's contributions to architecture (<http://www.math.utsa.edu/sphere/salingar/Charles.html>)
- Text of the Prince's 1984 speech criticizing Modern architecture (http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speeches/architecture_30051984.html)
- Charles, Prince of Wales (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0697608/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- The Prince of Wales brushes up on first aid skills (<http://www.redcross.org.uk/news.asp?id=88053>)
- Is HRH the Prince of Wales considering entering the Orthodox Church? (<http://www.orthodoxengland.org.uk/hrh.htm>)

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