

The enduring influence of royal patronages

The new King and Queen Consort have supported many charities here in the county. How they support these organisations in the future as they embark on their new roles is uncertain, but as charity groups explain, their patronage over the years has had a positive impact in helping so many people.

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

JENNIE SHAW recalls how in her early days with the charity, Her Majesty The Queen Consort took her under her wing, making all the difference:

Everyone has read about her wonderful sense of humour and that she cooks an excellent roast chicken but what they may not know is her commitment to her charities, believe me when it comes to her patronages, she is serious. She is interested, questioning and she rightly expects detail.

On joining the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, I had the privilege to meet Her Majesty at Clarence House. My career to that point had been in retail and I think she quickly realised the limitations of my fund raising experience.

On returning home I received a telephone call from one of her team to confirm that Her Majesty had asked Sir Tom Shebbeare KCVO DL, then CEO of the Princes Trust (who incidentally managed an income of

£72million and at that stage I need to raise £170k) to advise me. He drove from London to Wiltshire. Sir Tom couldn't have been more helpful and many of the tips he shared I use in my daily activity to seek funding for this small but special Wiltshire charity

I can clearly remember his arrival at my home here in Wiltshire, he grasped my limited skills and set about helping me structure a solid fund-raising strategy. His supportive nature helped me succeed, but all because of Her Majesty's interest in her charity's success.

Suddenly I realised it was lunch time, we shared cottage pie with my husband. How bizarre!

Recently her team rang to say that on a certain day and time Her Majesty would like to talk to me. I was in Scotland and ran around the house to find the best phone signal – I found myself sitting in a window seat with the phone touching the glass. Her concern was that charities often work in isolation and

that she wanted me to investigate Wiltshire's approach, particularly around people experiencing domestic violence, I contacted the Police Crime Commissioner's office and was given details of people I should liaise with. I was obviously aware of some, but not all and after numerous conversations, emails etc I could report that our approach to domestic violence was indeed joined up, with perhaps the shortfall arising in new safeguarding technology and that was mainly due to cost

But HRH's determination to ensure the wellbeing of people experiencing domestic violence did not stop there. Her team introduced me to a potential supporter donor, The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust. We secured £16,000 so that 200 of the most vulnerable people in Wiltshire have access to Hollie Guard a telephone app which offers a 24 / 7 dedicated emergency response team.

I feel absolutely honoured to be able to support this vital charity and be one of Her Majesty's many charities.

As for our King, I received an email from one of his private secretaries, The King wanted to know if the trust liaised with the British Red Cross and Age UK, at the time I believe he was patron of both.

I stayed up all night to write to him explaining our relationship (checking the spelling and punctuation) and that I would arrange appointments to meet with both charities' local representatives, which I duly did, we all squeezed into a small office in Devizes. We have as a result strengthened the bond with both charities.

Through that meeting I met Jane Stitchbury who was representing the British Red Cross and a previous chief constable in Dorset, I went on to support Dorset Police with their launch of the Dorset Bobby Van Trust. **WL**

• www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk

Jennie Shaw from the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.



Wiltshire Air Ambulance

ADAM BAKER from the charity explains that Her Majesty The Queen Consort, has been Wiltshire Air Ambulance's patron since July 2009, and that as a Wiltshire resident she likes to look out for the helicopter when she is at home:

In December 2018, then as the Duchess of Cornwall, she officially opened the charity's new airbase in Semington, near Trowbridge.

Her Majesty met with guests, including former patients whose lives were saved, celebrity ambassadors as well as pilots, paramedics, trustees and charity staff.

She then cut the ribbon to officially open the purpose-built facility.

At the official opening she told attendees that "Wiltshire is particularly lucky to have a very, very special air ambulance."

With a home based in Lacock, Her Majesty says she always gives the charity's Bell 429 helicopter a "cheery wave" whenever it flies over her property.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance announced in October 2019 that Camilla had agreed to extend her patronage of the charity.

It costs £4 million a year to operate the lifesaving service. Wiltshire Air Ambulance relies solely on generous donations as it doesn't receive any regular direct government funding or National Lottery grants.

On average Wiltshire Air Ambulance is called to three potentially lifesaving incidents a day across Wiltshire, Bath and surrounding areas. WL

• www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk

The Queen Consort with the Air Ambulance .team.



The King and Queen Consort in Salisbury.

Nicky Alberry Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire

AS HIGH Sheriff of Wiltshire 2018-19, Nicky recalls the support from both His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort, particularly at times when the county needed it most:

King Charles III and The Queen Consort Camilla have a strong relationship with our beautiful county, and dare I say a deep affection for Wiltshire too. I was extremely fortunate during my year as High Sheriff to meet them on a number of occasions. They both came to Salisbury in June 2018 following the Novichok poisoning as part of the "economic recovery" of the city. I attended Royal visits with the then Duchess of Cornwall at Aldbourne W I, Wiltshire Air Ambulance headquarters and to a reading event at Swindon library.

I held a fundraising evening at Bowood to raise monies for a number of domestic abuse support charities in the county and she very kindly wrote an introduction to the programme where she talked about raising awareness of domestic abuse and "that the voices of those living with abuse in Wiltshire today are not silenced but clearly heard." I do so hope that as our Queen Consort now she will continue to talk widely about domestic abuse in all its forms and continue to support those charities that are working with victims and their families. WL

• www.swadomesticabuse.org

Inner Flame

WE ARE a Swindon based charity running programmes for young people who find themselves at a disadvantage. The passion is to give young people the tools and mind-set to thrive in their future lives. Our programmes are based around experiential learning; challenging the young people and inspiring them to grab life and run with it.

In 2012 our paths crossed with the Prince's Trust and ever since we have been honoured to work with them; delivering the Prince's Trust Team and Achieve Programmes in Swindon and surrounding areas.

The Prince's Trust began in 1976, when the then Prince of Wales had a bold idea. Having completed his duty in the Royal Navy, His Majesty The King became dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged young people in the UK. He founded his trust to deliver on that commitment. These are incredible programmes and can be genuinely life-changing. We have worked with hundreds of young people over the years, who were at a crossroads in their life. The programmes give them the chance and opportunity to dream a bigger dream and the skills to set about achieving it. We look forward to continuing into the future. WL

• www.innerflame.org.uk



Inner Flame encourages and inspires young people.