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Three red roses, neatly wrapped after being picked from her garden at the Bangalou, Rogart, on Sunday morning, were the gift of 10-year-old Donna Cowie, who will treasure the memory for the rest of her life.

# Oh, What a Princely Day!

Everyone who met the Prince of Wales in Dornoch and Golspie last Sunday was captivated by his charm and gentle caring attitude.

He was visiting Sutherland on the third formal occasion in 12 years — though he knows the county well from frequent fishing and stalking trips over the years. This became clear from references he made to places and people, even asking for his "old friend" Miss Megan Boyd of Brora, who used to tie his fishing flies.

Shows threatened to spoil the morning for which to many people had meticulously prepared, but the sun came out at the right times and spread warmth and cheerfulness into every greeting.

A shooting guest of his hostess, Anne Duchess of Westminster on the Royal Forest, looking tanned, fit and smartly dressed in Gordon kilt, tweed waistcoat and jacket, he arrived ten minutes early at Dornoch Cathedral to be greeted by a small crowd, outnumbered by press and security men.

He was met by Sutherland's Lord Lieutenant, Col Allan Gilmore, with his wife Jean, at the South gate of the 750-year-old cathedral,

remarking to them how good it was to see them again. Exactly a year

### Picture: Ian Ribald

Story:  
James Henderson  
Allison Cameron  
Judith Napier

### MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 9

ago, they had met at Kinlochberrie when the Prince opened the new harbour works there.

He was also introduced to Chief Constable Hugh MacMillan of the Northern Constabulary, along with his wife, then hurried into the cathedral as a heavy downpour soaked these standing outside.

In the chance of the packed parish church of Dornoch, Col Gilmore introduced its minister, the Rev James Simpson and his wife Helen, Lord Strathnaver, convener of the 750th Anniversary celebrations committee, and Lady Strathnaver. Prince Charles recalled meeting Mr Simpson at Balmoral

eight years ago when, just returned from his honeymoon with Princess Diana, he attended morning service at Craibhe Kirr and heard Mr Simpson preach.

Before the start of worship, Mr Simpson introduced the Prince to the conveners of all the committees which had contributed to the Cathedral's celebrations, which started in June. Presented to him, and with whom he earnestly conversed, were session clerk Hugh Steel, principal committee secretary Hughina Davidson, treasurer Isabel Fenslon, Police Chief Inspector James Wilson, pageant convener Michael Burnett and producer Allan Barclay, Vaughan Shaw (town and gardens), Harriet Murray (tapestry designer), Margaret Alford (tapestry committee), Etta Hayward (Medieval Fair), and central com-

mittee members Morag Sutherland, Susan Wright, John Calder, David Richardson, and Margaret Thomson. Music committee convener Donald Gookirk was unavoidably absent.

Apologising for the Cathedral organ "playing up — today of all days," Mr Simpson led the congregation in worship, with prayers and in the hymns "How lovely is Thy Dwelling Place," "Lord of Beauty, Thine the splendour" and a special hymn dedicated to the Cathedral and written by retired schoolteacher Meta Wright and Mr Simpson.

He invited the Prince to read the Lesson, which gave the theme of Mr Simpson's later sermon (see Page 9). At the close, Mr Simpson said a prayer of dedication for the stained-glass window installed to commemorate the founder of the 13th Century church, Bishop Gilbert. The Prince of Wales then stepped forward and unveiled a memorial plaque marking the occasion. Here he was introduced to the window designer, Great McCartney and to local tradesman Nelson Patterson,

a church elder, who had helped to install it. Mr Simpson also took the opportunity of presenting the church organist Miss Eleanor Gray, with whom Prince Charles commiserated over the "grumbling" organ.

After he was introduced to the recipients of Cathedral Appeal Fund cheques, the Prince watched Lord Strathnaver hand them over to the Rev F Chingota (£15,000 for the Malanje Hospital, Malawi), the Rev Andrew Maclean (£15,500 for Oversteps Home, Dornoch) and Mr Andrew Betts-Brown (£1700 for the Sutherland branch of the Mentally Handicapped Society). Mrs Gwen Melville, matron of Oversteps, received a clock for the church.

The congregation left the church as the Prince had a further chat about the Bishop Gilbert window with its designer and when he came out into the sunshine the crowd had been swelled by visitors and holidaymakers from touring coaches. He stopped to chat to around 20 people, many of whom wanted to shake his hand. He spotted the golf sweater of Robert Mackay, Lower Brora, who suggested he should take up the game.

"Maybe when I get a bit older," he said the salmon angling Prince. He asked Hong Kong researcher Sue Lai (36) if she was in Dornoch to play golf, but she said she was simply on holiday — and thrilled to meet him. Having met so many visitors, the Prince was delighted, just before he entered the sleek Rolls-Royce organised by the Lord Lieutenant for the occasion, to be greeted by a group of ladies from Bonar Bridge and Dornoch.

His conveyer quickly sped the 12 miles North to Golspie, for the second engagement of his morning — the opening of the £750,000 Cambusavie Wing of the Lawson Hospital, which replaces the old "tin-hut" former infectious diseases hospital and geriatric unit of that name.

Through a misunderstanding, few Golspie people showed up for his arrival, believing that the hospital gates would be barred to all but dignitaries and staff. This was a pity, for the crush barriers erected in the grounds — and the strong police presence — were quite unnecessary. The Prince was met at the door of the new wing — regrettably named "unit" in contrast to the hospital's Cambusavie Wing, opened in 1937 — by Highland Health Board chairman John MacWilliam.

Nursing manager Margaret Macrae was invited to show the Prince of Wales the attractions of her new charge — and introduce him to her elderly patients.

Twenty four residents, transferred from the former Cambusavie and Migdale hospitals just five days earlier, were eagerly looking forward to meeting "Bonnie Prince Charlie" and he managed to chat

(Continued on Page 9)

## What?

Internal political anaesthetist being Hospital vacanc Board at their an council.

The Board — "on words of chairm McWilliam — was v during a tour of Sutherland local he Health council cha

## No Joy

The benefits of their disadvantaged told Sutherland

When he met the last week, he rejected Mr David Macrae a Scottish Office's Hagimog loans. Bonar David Mackenzie compensation for bypassed by the s Bridge was also turn

Mr Macrae said "uncare" over the pound loan. "It would you could give us an the ratepayers will ta the cost of the s pounds."

## Tongue R

The fourth in together charged tes and cash to il was jailed for 16

Derek McCash, Dryburgh Place, Dugully to the charges to a further charge of pear at Dornoch with accused last month.

Fiscal Henry West court that McCash, a fishing holiday with had driven the van w South before being in at Aviemore. He told police, he was arrested, "That's my ing career finished."

Defending McCash, In solicitor Gordon Fleetwood a client had missed his earlier appearance because he had was sitting, illegally, in the bush. He had given himself the police as soon as he return Britain and had been in c since September 17.

AN INVERNESS youth his friend in a trip to Lairg stealing enough money from a tique shop and butcher's sh money to pay for his m funeral.

John McKinnon, (24), Telford Gardens, Inverness Blair Peter Sinclair, (22) Kilmorack, Bally, had taken without permission last Ju McKinnon, driving with

## Noise Nuisanc

People affected by th for the Town boi for the disturbance by

This was said this week Charles Kennedy, Democrat

## Rescued

Golspie boatman Tommy resued another sea-angling off Brora on Sunday when small craft was in danger of a Eddie Cousins, Ross 1 Golspie, his teenage son an visiting sea anglers were almost killed from Brora wh were hit by strong winds an seas. The waves knocked ou engine and they began to and take in water.

"We had been keeping an the smaller boat because i worsening conditions," said cian Tommy, also of Ross Golspie. "One of my party s then waving for help when about half a mile off. When there, the boat was filling wi — I reckon they could have only about an hour more."

Safely back on shore, technician Eddie Cousins s would like to say thanks to T for being so quick in coming rescue. It became quite na there all of a sudden."



Just before entering his limousine in Cathedral Square for the drive to Golspie, the Prince stopped to chat to these ladies from Bonar Bridge and Dornoch.

## No Support for SAND

Sutherland district councillors have given an emphatic "no" to joining the SAND (Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping) campaign — because they are an independent council.

Said chairman Mr David Macrae to his members at Dornoch: "I am very reluctant that this council should align itself with any particular group who take a stance on any issue, because I prefer that we should keep an open mind on all sorts of controversies."

Mrs Mary Fielding of Brora seconded that proposal. The rejection of the letter from Anne Baxter, secretary of SAND was unanimous.

In her letter, Mrs Baxter said that SAND was an "umbrella grouping" of organisations opposed to radioactive waste dumping in Scotland.

At their AGM in June they had agreed to ask all district and regional councils in Scotland if they wanted to affiliate at a cost to district councils of £20 and to regional councils of £50.

"Many of the public appear to be opposed to the Nirex plans to build a radio-active waste repository at Dornoch, or elsewhere in Scotland. We hope that you will feel justified in supporting us in our work in opposing these plans," she wrote.

At the close, Mr Simpson said a prayer of dedication for the stained-glass window installed to commemorate the founder of the 13th Century church, Bishop Gilbert.

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The Lord Lieutenant, Colonel Allan Gilmore and PC Callum McLeod watch as the Prince delights teenage girls at Golspie.

## Seen and Heard

Club singer Billy Jack will have to learn new words for "Show me the Way to Go Home..." like "I'm tired and emotional and cannot find my own bed."

Memo to Moray Fifth Radio: Learn your geography, chaps! Recent gaffes — Bonar Bridge in Ross-shire, Golspie between Dornoch and Bonar, Barabam-on-Sea is in Somerset, not Dorset.

Jimmy the butcher, drinking alternately from a coke can in either hand in the early hours, was heard to be saying: "She loves me... she loves me not..."

Head waitress in Brora's Links Hotel phoned her gardener husband to collect her from work. "OK," he said, "only you've got the car."

Head that the pound coin is being called a Thatcher? Hard and brassy — and longing to be a sovereign!

It was "Good morning, Irene" when the flying postie came home, not with the milk but on the scaffy cart.

## Praise for Hospital Cooks

(Continued from Page 1)  
with each of the 11 patients waiting to meet him in the day dining room. He told former Dornoch schools piping instructor Mr Kenny Macrae (69) that he was sorry not to have heard him play a tune: "I tried to learn the pipes myself at Gordons-toun. I wish I could have heard you play."

He discussed malt whiskies with Joseph Macdonald (79), Golspie, previously of Seaforth House, saying his own favourite was Laphroig, and that he regretted smaller distilleries closing down.

Continuing on a private tour of the wards, the Prince listened as 98-year-old Georgina Baillie from Brora sang "The Rowan Tree" to him. And his visit made the day even more special for Miss Mary Barclay, Rogart, celebrating her 92nd birthday.

After unveiling a commemorative plaque in the foyer of the new wing, Prince Charles walked over to the Lawson Memorial Hospital's

surgical unit, where he visited the kitchens. There, he was introduced to cooks Mrs Gena Macdonald, previously of Cambusvie, and Mrs Cathie Murray, by Mrs Molly Baikie, support services manager for Caithness and Sutherland. By now after 1pm, and running more than 90 minutes late in his planned schedule, he said the patients must be starving. He praised the cooks for producing Sunday lunch without the aid of a microwave.

Among topics discussed in the wards with the patients was horse racing and the complexities of "betting on a sure winner". The Prince's tip? Always back the jockey, not the horse!

Staff were impressed by his apparent caring nature and thoughtfulness. Said one: "He had time for everyone and seemed genuinely interested."

One man who will never forget the Prince of Wales' visit is the ironically-named Willie Hamilton of Golspie. Proudly hoisting aloft his

plastered arm, he asked his distinguished visitor to sign it in the traditional manner. The Prince obliged — obviously unaware of the patient's name!

Taking him on a tour of the surgical facilities was consultant surgeon Mr Mervyn Rosenberg, who did not trouble him with the sorry situation of not having a regular anaesthetist to stand by him during operations. "We have no permanent anaesthetist cover as from today," he said after the visit.

On his way between the two hospital blocks, the smiling Prince took time to chat to the useful group of spectators, including Jason Nicolson of Golspie, who, with friends, had cycled to the hospital. The Prince asked if they were part of the local "bike brigade" and whether they ever "did wheelies"?

A football fan advised him that Dundee United were "rubbish." And a little girl said it all with red roses.

We love you, Charlie.



The Prince shakes hands with Mr Tom Fleming from Lochinver, a patient in the new Cambusvie Wing of the Lawson Hospital.

## "Window No Extravagance"

During his short sermon, based on the Prince's reading of St Mark 14: 4-7, the Rev James Simpson said:

"The pictures which the media show us from time to time of children and grown-ups dying in their thousands for lack of food and medical supplies, are heart-rending. I am sure they break God's heart. Too. The shame and injustice of it is heightened by the fact that after a century of unparalleled technological advances, the number of people who are ill-fed and poorly housed, is greater than ever before. I am told there is sufficient food in the world for human need, but not for human greed. There are sufficient resources to wage war on want, but not at the same time to wage war on each other.

One charge we cannot lay against Jesus is that He was unconcerned about the poor and the needy. How then are we to understand His reply, "Let her alone. It is a beautiful thing she has done. You have the poor among you always, and you can help them whenever you like; but you will not always have me." I feel certain that Jesus is here reminding us that intangible things — love, admiration, and thankfulness are as essential ingredients of a full life as bread, shelter and money. Full barns may satisfy cattle, but not people. The main reason why most of us want to live tomorrow is not that we have a well stocked refrigerator, or a dream house, or that there are people who love us, and whom we want to see tomorrow and love in return. If we really believed that no one loved us, not even God, would we want to go on living? Admiration and love are basic to life that is worth calling life, and one thing you cannot do is confine admiration and love within the bounds of what is prudent. There is a spaciousness and extravagance about the way they express themselves.

Beauty and harmony can add zest to life. Surely there is a place also for the love communicated through birthday cards, get well cards and engagement rings. Surely there is also a place for giving flowers to one's wife or to an invalid in hospital. Because in a few days they will be withered, is it all waste? Would the money always have been better given to the poor.

I think it is significant that Jesus who was passionately concerned about the poor said that what Mary had done was a beautiful thing — and that Judas who was not nearly as concerned about the poor said, "Why this waste?" The trouble was that the only real world for Judas was the world of silver and gold. There was little or no place in his world for beauty or sentiment.

Why this waste? People still ask this question when they hear of a beautiful church being built or a new stained glass window being installed. Would not the money have been better given to the poor and the hungry? I am told that in 1650 the people of Norwich tired of their beautiful Cathedral. They described it as "vast and altogether useless". They petitioned the British Parliament for permission to demolish it.

They wanted to use the great stones and beams to build workhouses for the poor and to repair the harbour. The British Parliament fortunately did not give permission. Beautiful buildings are as important as useful buildings. Great Churches where people's thoughts can be ennobled and spirits lifted, where people are reminded of the eternal dimension there is to life, these are as necessary as soup kitchens and night shelters. Poverty is a great curse, but so too is aimlessness and hopelessness. People need bread, but people also need purpose and meaning, comfort and challenge, faith, hope and love. Without the faith, hope and values which the church keeps alive, without the caring love which true religion can inspire, life would be impoverished.

Why this waste? There are still people and businesses for whom the only real world is the world of silver and gold, profit and loss. Crear and gold, profit and loss. Crear McCartney who designed our window was telling me recently of the difficulty he now has of getting quality coloured glass. Apparently a few years ago one of our biggest glass manufacturing companies bought over Hartley and Wood the specialists in antique and handblown glass, the firm that provided most of the stained glass for British artists. Having taken over the firm, the new owners then did a cost-effective study on handblown glass. Being so labour intensive they found it did not yield large profits. The result is that they have recently decided to close down this part of their operations and sell the factory site to property developers. Not only have several skilled craftsmen lost their jobs, but now our British artists have to go abroad to get the quality glass they need.

The stress in our day on quantity rather than quality, on mass production rather than craftsmanship, on functional buildings rather than lovely buildings, on profits rather than people, is one of the less attractive trends in modern society.

In planning for our 750th we tried as a central committee to keep a balance between doing the useful and creating beautiful things, between loving our neighbours and ourselves. The new Cathedral floodlighting, the tapestry cushions, and the new ante-room built in pitch pine to match the organ woodwork — these have added to the attractiveness of our lovely old church. Crear McCartney's magnificent new window greatly enhances our chance, and at the same time gives long overdue honour to the founder of this church.

As a committee we believed such extravagance was justified, provided like Jesus we also had a profound concern for the poor, for those whose needs are greater than our own. This is why we rejoice today that on this great occasion, when we dedicate this window, we are also presenting cheques to the value of £32,000 to support important charitable work — a programme for undernourished children in Malawi, a programme of accommodation improvement in our local eventide home, and the work being done within Sutherland for the mentally handicapped.

To the Central Committee under the convesnership of Lord Strathnaver, and to all who have given so generously of their time, talents and money to make these celebrations such memorable ones, and to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for kindly agreeing to be present today, I would like to say a very big thank you.

### Cathedral's Own Hymn

The last hymn of the service, sung with great feeling, was one specially composed for the occasion by Miss Meta Wright of Dornoch and the minister. To the tune of Crasselius, the words were:

Sea-mew, sea wrack, the moving tide  
Sun gleam and stars above white sand,  
Far off the hills majestic stand  
This, the first image of our land.

Traces of stone-age man there are  
Hut circle, broch, cairn burial place.  
Race followed race, all mingled they  
Till Finn Barr crowned this site with grace.

St Gilbert's name is also blest  
He planned and built this lovely church.  
The walls reared high in praise of God  
The chancel crowned in glorious arch.

Servant of Christ, he taught God's word  
Brought light to many a wondering glens  
Light that spread through the straths and glens  
From this our quiet and hallowed place.

This day O God we offer thanks  
Enrich our lives with grace and peace.  
Christ in our midst will guide our paths  
His gracious love will never cease.

M Wright and J Simpson



Hospital kitchen contact with cooks Gena Macdonald (left) and Cathie Murray.



The Prince, like his mother and father before him, and his grand aunt the late Princess Royal, signs the Lawson Hospital visitors' book which dates back to 1901.



This was the Guide Party who raised the Prince's Scottish standard on his arrival in Golspie — Leader Myra Mackay (left) and Guides Caroline Bonner, Nicola Mackay and Fionaidh Carrol.

The Prince asks Mr Nelson Patterson about the stained-glass window he assisted in installing in memory of Bishop Gilbert de Moravia.



Four-year-old Sally MacAskill, grand-daughter of the Rev James Simpson, hands over a bound copy of his book The Mastermind to Prince Charles at the end of the service.



Mr Andrew Betts-Brown of Brora, chairman of the Sutherland branch of the Scottish Society for Mentally Handicapped, receives a cheque for its work from Lord Strathnaver, the Cathedral Appeal's convener.

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