



# Royal Welsh

Where does Prince Charles go on his summer holidays? Where did William and Kate spend their first blissful years of married life? And where did Queen Victoria buy her knickers? We celebrate some of our greatest royal Welsh connections.

## Last stand

**Llywelyn ap Gruffydd** was the last prince of an independent Wales before its conquest by Edward I. From his Gwynedd powerbase he controlled most of Wales, until he was killed in 1282 by English soldiers at Cilmeri. There's a memorial stone commemorating *Ein Llyw Olaf* ('Our Last Leader') where an annual ceremony is still held on the anniversary of his death. [visitsnowdonia.info](http://visitsnowdonia.info)

## Battle royal

Born in Monmouth Castle in 1386, **Henry V** spent much of his youth in Wales, fighting against the rebellion of Owain Glyndŵr. By the time Henry succeeded his father to the throne in 1413, he was a hard-bitten veteran of battle, which helped him to defeat the French at the Battle of Agincourt, at which Welsh archers played a crucial role. [visitwyvealley.com](http://visitwyvealley.com)

## Tudor rose

Henry Tudor was born at Pembroke Castle in 1457, a descendant of several Welsh royal houses. During the War of the Roses he fled to Brittany, returning with a small army which landed near Milford Haven. He gathered 5,000 more soldiers on his march through Wales, and defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth to become **Henry VII**. The Tudors reigned for the next 120 years. [visitpembrokeshire.com](http://visitpembrokeshire.com)

## Union official

Despite his Welsh ancestry, **Henry VIII** kept an iron grip on Wales. He passed

the 1536 Act of Union, which legally incorporated Wales into England. The Act banned Welsh-only speakers from public office, but he didn't manage to suppress the Welsh language, even in his own family: his daughter **Queen Elizabeth I** apparently spoke fluent Welsh! [visitpembrokeshire.com](http://visitpembrokeshire.com)

## Royal retainers

**Queen Victoria's** knickers were supplied by Sir Pryce Pryce-Jones, who founded the world's first mail-order company in Newtown, capital of the Welsh flannel industry. His soft flannel knickers were favoured by many of the crowned heads (and bottoms) of Europe, including the Queen of Norway and the Empress of Russia. Queen Victoria no doubt wore hers on visits to her Welsh estate, Ynyshir Hall, which is now a luxurious country hotel. [midwalesmyway.com](http://midwalesmyway.com)

## Bertie's bolthole

The film *The King's Speech* told of **King George VI's** struggle with his stammer. But in 1917 the 22-year-old Prince Bertie retreated to the country estate of Clochfaen, just outside Llangurig, to recuperate from a stomach ulcer. [midwalesmyway.com](http://midwalesmyway.com)

## Driving reign

**Edward VII** was a passionate golfer, and he granted Royal status to his two favourite golf courses in Wales: Royal Porthcawl and Royal St David's. The King's grandson, the future **Edward VIII**, was also a keen golfer, captaining Royal St David's in 1934. [visitsnowdonia.info](http://visitsnowdonia.info),

[royalporthcawl.com](http://royalporthcawl.com), [royalstdavids.co.uk](http://royalstdavids.co.uk)  
**Cheeky mare**

In 1955 the young **Queen Elizabeth II** made a royal tour of Wales which included a trip to the Brecknock Agricultural Society show. BBC TV footage shows the Queen being introduced to a white Welsh mountain pony called Owain Glyndŵr ... who tried to eat her bouquet of flowers. [midwalesmyway.com](http://midwalesmyway.com)

## Gold standard

When **Prince William** slipped a wedding ring onto Kate Middleton's finger in 2011, it was a band of pure Welsh gold, following in a tradition founded by The Queen Mother in 1923. Since then, all major royal weddings have been sealed with Welsh gold. For the early years of their marriage, William and Kate lived on Anglesey, where the prince worked as a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot. [visitanglesey.co.uk](http://visitanglesey.co.uk)

## Home Farm, Llwynywermod

When **Prince Charles** and the Duchess of Cornwall come to Wales on their annual summer tour, they stay at their Welsh farmhouse residence, Llwynywermod, near the village of Myddfai in Carmarthenshire. The 192-acre smallholding was renovated by skilled Welsh craftsmen and women, using local stone, slate and textiles, and the gardens and grounds are managed under organic principles. When the Prince and Duchess are not there, Llwynywermod becomes a highly desirable holiday let. [discovercarmarthenshire.com](http://discovercarmarthenshire.com)