

KING CHARLES III

Born in 14th November 1948, Charles took the throne after his mother Queen Elizabeth II abdicated in his favour. Despite expectations that he would take a different name to the ill-fated earlier monarch of the name, Charles retained his given name on his ascension. A modern king, Charles was determined to serve his people.

After attending University, Charles undertook his training in the RAF at RAF Cranwell as a jet pilot. Qualified, he then spent six weeks at the Royal Naval College Dartmouth before serving a tour in the Royal Navy as a helicopter pilot from 1971 to 1976.

Initially not popular, his work, particularly with charities and ethnic minorities gradually won admiration. He was the first monarch since George I to attend a cabinet meeting when he was invited in the 1970s to see the workings of government. Under Sir Ian Burton has a standing invitation to attend as a guest and he frequently attends and is invited to give his opinion.

Married to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981, they had an unhappy marriage although this was not apparent to the public initially and the couple remained together for the sake of the two children William and Harry until 1992 when they separated. They had not divorced however and his grief shown during his radio address to the nation after Diana's death and the destruction of Central London in November 1997 by a Soviet MIRV further enhanced his popularity.



Illustration 1: King Charles III (wearing his Army Air Corps beret) inspecting the staff during a visit to the tri-service helicopter school in early 1997 (Times)



Illustration 2: The King inspects members of the 253 Provost Coy, RMP (TA) prior to attending the formal mess dinner when he granted the right to drink the loyal toast sat down (BBC)

He is known to be a strong advocate of the unity of the United Kingdom and it is believed that he will push for Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom when the time is right. A strong supporter of architecture that is suited for living in, he has acted as an advisor on the sub-committee on housing. He has a strong following in both Canada and Romania (it is rumoured that exiles had offered him the throne in the 1970s) and has done much to support their armed forces (the Romanian Armed Forces received a personal letter from him when they declared for NATO).

His personal love for Austin Martin cars has resulted in him still having one (with suitable security modifications) as his personal car. As a keen environmentalist and gardener it has even been known for his car to pull up and him assist a farmer in the fields.

His military service in the Royal Navy after completing RAF training has given him a good insight into the military and his famous anecdote that he always thought that marines were so keen to fly with him was down to his skill – until one revealed that it was because they thought his helicopter

would be the best maintained is still told at mess dinners. He is particularly keen on the Parachute Regiment (and is their Colonel-in-Chief) and is still known to appear in an old pattern Denison smock when visiting them (despite this not being issued since the start of the 1980s). His links to the Canadian Armed Forces entitle him to be told of Canadian troop movements and this has often been used as an excuse to entertain the Canadian Ambassador George Miller.

During the war he escaped the destruction of London when he was visiting troops in Aldershot. Escorted through the dangers of the post-nuclear UK by his RMP escort he granted the Corps the right to drink the loyal toast sat down as they no longer needed to prove their loyalty to the royal family. Meeting up with an army patrol he was eventually taken to the highest ranking military officer General (later Field Marshal) Paul Simpson who took to him. Understanding the need for control the King authorised them military rule until the worst danger had passed.

He is a close personal friend of Sir Ian Burton (indeed joking comments on the “airborne mafia” abound). He has an official residence in Portsmouth but will frequently be found visiting all parts of England with his Royal Military Police bodyguards. He is very vocal on the subject of architecture and sustainable farming and regularly gives subsidies to initiatives to promote them.

He is an experienced NPC, he speaks English (10) and Welsh (2) and can read speeches in many languages.