

# Ladies' circle gives Charles a few tips on being a good grandparent ahead of the royal birth

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## PRINCE PRAISES QUEEN MOTHER

THE Prince of Wales stunned a ladies' circle when he asked them for advice on his own impending grandfatherhood.

The women meeting in the village of Kenfig, near Bridgend, offered plenty of tips, which Charles was happy to hear.

Amid much mirth, he was advised to spoil his grandchild, but make sure he returned them at the end of the day.

The Prince spoke of the importance of creating a "bond" while they are young and praised the Queen Mother, his own grandmother, for her efforts in his youth.

His comments came as the Duchess of Cambridge is believed to be just days away from giving birth to a future monarch. Kate's baby is thought to be due on July 13 and will arrive at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London, where William was born in 1982.

Charles concluded his week-long annual summer tour of the principality with a visit to the 16th century Prince of Wales Inn in Kenfig.

The Prince tucked in to tea and cakes with a group called the Tuesday Ladies, who first got together to throw a party for his investiture in 1969. They have met every Tuesday ever since and now plan to change their name to Charlie's Angels after meeting the Prince in person.

A relaxed Charles stirred honey into his tea as some members casually mentioned that they were grandmothers.

"Any hints on grandparenthood?" the Prince asked. "Spoil them and enjoy it, but give them back at the end of the day," advised Eileen Joseph, 74, to laughter.

"It's true," agreed Charles, smiling. "You tend to have more time for your grandchildren than you had for your children," Mrs Joseph added.

"Yes, it's a different part of your life," the Prince said. "The great thing is to encourage them. Show them things to take their interest. My grandmother did that, she was wonderful."

"Are you looking forward to your baby?" one of the party asked.

"Oh, yes," Charles said, adding: "It is very important to create a bond when they are very young."

"Wait until they come to you and say 'Dad, can you look after him for the night?'" Mrs Joseph said.

"Oh yes, oh yes," said Charles, nodding in agreement. "The great thing is to try and pull their legs before they pull yours."

The Prince told them he was "touched" their group had been meeting for so many years. Before leaving, he invited them to visit his garden at Highgrove, his home near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, saying: "I am sure we can arrange that."

Several hundred children and adults



Prince Charles has tea with the Tuesday Ladies Tea Club at the Prince of Wales Inn, Kenfig

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gave the Prince a rapturous welcome as he arrived at his namesake pub.

Blazing sun shone down as he walked around the crowd outside, chatting with children, posing for pictures and shaking hands. The Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir sang out as Charles inspected a line of local dignitaries.

Inside, he rubbed shoulders with bar staff and sipped on half a pint of Bass after a local said it was a "nice tittle".

Landlord Gareth Maund took the Prince on a tour of the premises, aided by actor Owen Teale, also a local.

The Prince began the final day of his week-long summer tour of Wales with a visit to the Coed Darcy Development.

The scheme, backed by the Prince's Foundation for Building Community, aims to transform a former BP oil refinery site.

Partners BP, Neath Port Talbot council and the Welsh Government hope to turn one of Europe's biggest brownfield sites into a thriving community.



Prince Charles enjoys a beer with actor Owen Teale at the Prince of Wales Inn

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\*Cylchgrawn Which?, Tachwedd 2012 | Which? Magazine, Mwy 2012