



THE NEXT GENERATION

# MODERN FAMILY

Younger members of the Windsor dynasty are just now hitting their stride in the wider world. Who's in this new tribe of royals? And what are they up to?

After William and Catherine became man and wife and the duke and duchess of Cambridge on April 29, and after the last partiers straggled home from their “knees-up” reception that night at Buckingham Palace, life went back to what passes for normal for the royal family. The Pippa Middleton-inspired disco-dance hall reverted back to the throne room. The older members of the Firm went back to their ceaseless toil. And the young royals—William and Catherine, Prince Harry, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, and the rest of the tribe—returned to a kind of new normal they have created: a hybrid life where they cut the lesser ribbons, but also have occupations the younger subjects can more or less relate to: shovelling horse manure, buying groceries, nightclubbing to all hours, planning an armed air assault on Libya, plucking distressed people off mountainsides. That sort of thing.

With the wedding behind them, the older generation was soon back in the traces. The next day, Prince Charles, the father of the groom, attended a gala performance of *Macbeth* to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Royal Shakespeare Company, of which he is president. Anne, the princess royal, plunged into her usual full agenda, spending a busy day touring sites on the Channel island of Jersey. The Queen, take May 3 as an example, visited Newmarket Day Centre, meeting volunteers and staff. As always, she would have read the day's brief on significant activities in all her realms. That evening she and her husband, the duke of Edinburgh, days before his 90th birthday, attended a banquet in the historic town hall, in King's Lynn. And so it goes. The toil of the traditional royal was defined thusly by the late Queen Mary, wife of King George V, who combined a sense of duty with a dry wit: “You are a member of the British royal family. We are never tired, and we all love hospitals.”

By contrast, there is no evidence that any of the young royals were banqueting, opening schools or visiting hospitals in

**EPSOM DERBY** William, Harry and Kate at their first public appearance together since the wedding; no one was watching the horses







**THOROUGHBREDS** Jake Warren (left), son of the Queen's racing adviser John Warren, with William, Harry, Kate and Edward

recent weeks. Or if they did, it was overshadowed by their livelier day-to-day activities—some noble, others less so—all ruthlessly critiqued for their potential impact on, variously, the monarchy, the Olympic movement, the British society as a whole and its fashion industry, American-U.K. relations, the nutritional needs of William's evening meal and the tortured sleep of neighbours of a rollicking club on London's King's Road favoured by the royals and their wealthy friends.

It's complicated living in the real world, but not quite of it, as the new generation of royals attempt to do. They are better educated and more worldly in the main than their elders were, and all the more restless for it. They've gone off to board at university. They do "gap years" as a matter of course, a kind of global-village finishing school where they perform good deeds in exotic locales, and escape the scrutiny of their families. They choose edgy charities in the manner of the late Diana's work with AIDS patients and land-mine victims. They're out and about in restaurants and clubs, living out loud, living outside marriage, granted a licence by a more permissive society to test the limits of public propriety in ways their parents couldn't have imagined.

"We've seen these people grow as kids," says Robert Finch, chairman of the Monarchist League of Canada. "Now is the time to say this is their role, this is what they're going to do,

embrace a charity, embrace a cause, represent the Queen or what have you and help alleviate some of her workload—God, she's 85."

There'll be ribbons enough to cut. For now they seem intent on gathering experiences, profound and mundane, activities that carry both reward and risk. Not much goes wrong when christening a boat or visiting a children's ward—but flying a helicopter gun ship or choosing a dress, these are fraught with peril. In an Internet age of ruthless instant analysis, no deed goes unpublished or unpunished.

So, who's in this new tribe of royals, and what are they up to?

## William and Catherine

Married on a Friday. Back at his Royal Air Force base at Anglesey, North Wales, on Tuesday. And in the air that shift co-piloting a search and rescue helicopter after 70-year-old retired judge Nick Barnett collapsed with a heart attack while hiking a local mountain trail with his son. Barnett only found out later from a nurse that William was among the crew that had him winched up to the hovering craft and flew him to hospital within the crucial "golden hour" after his attack. Days earlier he'd watched the wedding on TV. "I didn't set out to be rescued by Prince William," the judge said. But then, who does?



**ENDLESS ATTENTION** *Playing polo or grocery shopping, William and Kate live in the real world, but not quite of it*

By week's end, William also airlifted an off-duty policeman with vertigo and flew a challenging mission in low cloud and turbulence to pluck a 46-year-old man who'd tumbled partway down a rocky mountain slope. All this was done in the week before he and Catherine departed for 10 days at an ultra-private retreat in the Seychelles. For some critics, rescue or not, William's honeymoon was over before it began. "Well, that is his job, is it not?" said one of several snide posts on the *Daily Mail* website.

Back on the home front, Catherine, accompanied by five security officers, pushed a shopping cart around her local Waitrose supermarket in Anglesey gathering the week's groceries, an event analyzed with an attention to detail not seen since the moon landing, or, well, her wedding. She "skated" on the back of her cart in the parking lot. *Who says shopping isn't fun?* She wore skinny jeans, flat shoes and a green sweater. *Suburban chic.* She used a shopping list. *Foresight!* "She was taking her time," reported a fellow shopper, "checking the prices." *Fru-gal.* She lingered in the fruit and vegetable aisle. "It seemed like her selection of food was pretty healthy." *Lucky William.*

That mundane act emphasized the couple's desire to live without the retinue of servants that Prince Charles, for example,

They're living out loud, outside marriage, testing the limits of propriety in ways their parents couldn't have imagined

can't do without. It also unleashed a torrent of discussion, notes Carolyn Harris, a Queen's University Ph.D. history student who's done extensive research on the modern and historical perceptions of the monarchy and of women royals and mothers. Some applauded Catherine for not putting on airs. Others questioned her role in the relationship and the lack of an outside job, she says. That engendered a larger debate "concerning the role of women in their families in the 21st century," Harris says, "and the symbolism of the image of her with the shopping cart." As if grocery shopping isn't tiring enough.

Of course, their lives as a flying officer and his bride are a long way from normal. They trekked in from Anglesey in late May to meet visiting U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle. For this, the duchess wore an off-the-rack dress from the British retailer Reiss. Priced at the equivalent of US\$340, it was "a frock any commoner could buy," the *New York Post* noted with approval, if with a dubious grasp of everyday economics. Michelle's outfit, created by American designer Barbara Tfank and worth at least \$2,000, was universally panned on both sides of the pond. Score one for Britannia in the style summit.





**SECOND SON** Harry can freely pursue a military career, as soon as Kate produces an heir to replace him as William's successor

All this only heightens the stakes, fashion and otherwise, for the newlyweds' first major international event, the June 30 start of the nine-day, eight-city official tour of Canada and a brief visit to California. The trip spans 22,530 km, will cost Canadian taxpayers less than \$2 million, and apparently requires Catherine to pack some 40 outfits. As the style section of *New York* magazine put it: "They'll meet the people and attend a rodeo; she'll wear clothes, he'll fly a helicopter; she'll wear more clothes, he'll continue being less interesting than those clothes."

By the standards of most royal tours this is purported to be a budget affair. William, no fan of unnecessary protocol, will travel with a bare minimum of staff. Catherine reportedly picked out her own travel wear. She'll do without a hairstylist or lady-in-waiting, dressing herself as she's managed to do all her adult life. They'll take a commercial British Airways flight on the return from California.

The measures are expected to save the British taxpayer an estimated \$350,000, and burnish the couple's responsible, independent image. "I think it's very noble for her to do that, if you'll pardon the pun," says Finch. "People do want to see restraint. That's a reflection of a modern monarchy."

Few doubt their reception in Canada will be huge at most stops. In 1998, 15-year-old William was treated like a rock star by screaming female fans who staked out his events and hotels during a visit to Vancouver and Whistler with his father and his bemused brother Harry. This time, while his celebrity has only grown, he's likely to be upstaged by Catherine.

The fact the couple will spend two days in Quebec reflects the organizers' faith that their star power will trump nationalist anti-monarchy sentiment, and that the couple is comfortable enough in their own skin to handle any protests they face.

Their visit to Prince Edward Island, by contrast, is likely to be a walk in the park. The province was apparently put in the tour to allow Catherine to follow the footsteps of one of her childhood literary heroines, Lucy Maud Montgomery's spunky Anne of Green Gables. At first glance, the fictional Anne Shirley, whose early days are marked with a fierce temper, social gaffes and a rebellious streak, seems an unlikely model for the composed and conventional Catherine. Harris, who is also a fan of Montgomery's books, doesn't see it that way. Anne, at the end of the first book, puts ambitions for higher education on hold to tend to the ailing Marilla, the woman who raised her. "Anne has a rebellious spirit to some degree," says Harris. "But there's also a great deal of devotion to those she loves."

## Prince Harry

If William's path was predestined by birth order, Harry's is more complex, and open to definition. He has fewer academic smarts than his brother (though he did graduate from Eton) but he has a sharper wit, and a greater sense of fun. This has got him into trouble over the years, none worse than by wearing a Nazi uniform to a party in early 2005. Beyond doubt, the death of his mother, Diana, when he was 12, cut him deeply. It was his heartbreaking card, addressed to "Mummy" that rode with her casket on the gun carriage to her funeral.

His extended gap year after Eton saw him working as a ranch hand in Australia, and visiting Argentina and Africa. He made

a documentary about the orphans of Lesotho and, together with Prince Seeiso of Lesotho, founded a charity to help the country's orphans. His mother would approve.

He entered Sandhurst military academy as an officer cadet in mid-2005, and found a sense of discipline and purpose that has served him well. In 2008 he deployed as a soldier to a dangerous forward operating post in Afghanistan. He was yanked back after 10 weeks, to his consternation, when word leaked in the U.S. media, escalating the risk for him and his fellow soldiers.

He went on to qualify for training as an elite pilot of Apache helicopter gunships, no small feat. He's said to be itching to join British combat pilots in Libya to support rebels attempting to overthrow the regime of Moammar Gadhafi. That wish seems unlikely to be met anytime soon, and not just because his training is still incomplete.

Few people are more anxious for Catherine to sport a regal baby bump than her brother-in-law, Harry. William has already warned royal romantics that he and Catherine want to settle into marriage before starting a family, and the next generation of royal heirs. Until then, Harry remains third in line to the throne after his father and brother, and a potential source of an heir.

"The issue with Prince Harry is that while William and Kate are childless, his dynastic significance is extremely important," says Harris, the historian. "If you go back in British history it's interesting how many times it is the second son who ends up succeeding to the throne due to various unforeseen circumstances." If the duke and duchess produce an heir, some of the pressure is off. "There may be less focus on Prince Harry and that may enable him to pursue his military goals, or otherwise shape his own future," she says.

Meantime, Harry has moved to No. 1 on the list of Britain's eligible bachelors. Chelsy Davy, the pretty South African who has been his girlfriend on and off since 2004, was Harry's guest at his brother's wedding, but there are mixed signals as to how serious that relationship is. Gossips also have him smitten with Catherine's sister Pippa Middleton (hardly an exclusive club) and even 35-year-old South African actress Charlize Theron, after they were seen chatting at a polo match. (Both are active in charities fighting the spread of HIV in Africa.)

At age 26, Harry has lost none of his sense of adventure and fun, but he's not the loose cannon some had feared.

## The Phillips kids

The best way to track royal pairings is when the clan gathers for weddings and funerals. The next assembly of the tribe is the July 30 nuptials of Zara Phillips, the daughter of the Queen's second child, Anne, and her ex-husband Mark Phillips. She is marrying Mike Tindall, 32, a popular English rugby star at a pared-down, by royal standards, service in Edinburgh. While a story in the local *Scotsman* newspaper bemoaned the estimated \$1-million expense of the wedding to taxpayers, that was a mere rounding error in the cost of her cousin William's wedding.

Anne did what she saw as a favour to her children Zara and Peter: she requested they not get royal titles, though they are respectively 13th and 11th in line to the throne. This frees them



**DUTY FREE** Princess Anne's daughter Zara Phillips, an Olympic equestrian training for 2012, is exempt from royal obligations





**RELATIVELY ROYAL** Autumn and Peter Phillips (left); Prince Andrew's daughters Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice

of royal duties and let them find their own way. Zara is a world-class equestrian, as both her parents were. Barring bad luck, she is likely to qualify for the Olympic Summer Games in London next year.

She is a free spirit but with a laser focus and a sharp business sense. She's not above mucking stables and doing the other dirty work of an equestrian. After debate at the top levels of the Firm, she was allowed to be the first royal to gain corporate sponsorship to underwrite the astronomical expenses of her sport. She also started a clothing line. Eyebrows were raised when her engagement was marked with a photo in *Country Life*, where the pending nuptials of aristocratic women are usually announced. Instead of the traditional "girls in pearls" photo, she posed, beautiful and strong, with her black Labrador against a wood pile. She wore jeans and a \$90 fleece from her fashion line. A Rolex, one of her sponsors, poked out from one sleeve.

The story of Peter Phillips's courtship of Autumn Kelly, a management consultant from Pointe-Claire, Que., is well known to any Canadian who tracks the monarchy. The two met at the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal where Phillips was marketing the Williams Formula One race team. Phillips was so low-key about his royal ties that Kelly only discovered he was the eldest grandchild of the Queen when she saw him

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on television six weeks into their relationship.

Kelly, as a middle-class commoner, and a foreigner at that, put some traditionalist noses out of joint. When British reporters went searching for background, they found little beyond that she was accomplished, well-liked and outdoorsy. Her one previous mention in the local media came in 1993 when she was hit in the head with a hockey puck, which only burnished her Canuck credentials.

The two were married in May 2008 at St. George's Chapel before 300 guests, including all senior royals. The Queen was reportedly distraught upon learning the couple had sold their wedding pictures to *Hello!* magazine for a substantial sum. Of course, royals who aren't supported by the taxpayer still have bills to pay, and weddings in that circle don't come cheap.

All was soon forgiven. The couple moved to Hong Kong, where he worked in banking, returning to Britain shortly before Autumn gave birth in December to their daughter, Savannah. She is the Queen's first great-grandchild, 12th in line to the throne.

## Andrew's and Sarah's daughters

There's more to Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson's daughters Beatrice and Eugenie than the silly hats and dubious dresses they wore to their cousin William's wedding. They've



**SINGULAR SIBLINGS** Lady Amelia Spencer (left) and her twin sister Lady Eliza attract attention for beauty as much as bloodlines

had to endure the very public breakup of their parents' marriage, and their subsequent cringeworthy romantic entanglements and sketchy business dealings. Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, fifth and sixth in line to the throne, remain fiercely loyal to their parents, who have succeeded in raising the girls without the rancour and dramatics that marked the relationship of Andrew's brother Charles and the late Diana. One interesting, if unlikely, theory about Beatrice's outlandish wedding headgear was that she used it to broadcast her displeasure that her mother wasn't invited to the event. If so, point taken. Regardless, she turned a fashion disaster into a public relations win by auctioning off the hat, raising some \$130,000 for two international charities. "I'm amazed by the amount of attention the hat has attracted," Beatrice said, perhaps disingenuously.

Both girls excelled in school, in Beatrice's case despite a struggle with dyslexia. Both are now in university, and, as is often the case, are also accomplished partiers. Eugenie, 21, and her cousin Harry, sporting drink-stained clothes, were recently seen leaving Public, the raucous West London club that nearby residents want shut down because of the traffic and noise it generates. Since Guy Pelly, the young club owner, is a friend of Harry and helped organize William's stag, that will take some doing.

The future royal role of the young princesses is unclear. There are reports their security details have been drastically scaled back, which some interpret as a sign they're expected to forge

their own careers and have more limited royal responsibilities. Public sentiment seems to favour a more focused royal contingent, says Finch. "They want a smaller royal family, with fewer players in clearly defined roles."

## The Earl's girls

The daughters of Earl Spencer, Diana's brother, were raised in South Africa. That, and being on the outs with the Windsors after the Earl's angry broadside at the royal family during Diana's funeral, conspired to keep Lady Kitty, 21, and 18-year-old twins Lady Amelia and Lady Eliza out of the spotlight. So it was a shock to many, and a delight to photographers everywhere, when the three spectacular beauties arrived for William's wedding. A "photogenic triple-dose of society dynamite," said the *Daily Mail*.

While reports labelled the wedding as the Spencers' introduction to London society, that's hardly the case. Royal watchers concluded the rift between the Spencers and the Windsors was healed by 2007, when William and Harry were seen giving kisses of condolence to cousin Kitty at her late aunt's memorial service. Kitty has also graced the cover of *Tatler* magazine. The society bible called her one of Britain's most eligible singletons.

The young royals, along with Pippa Middleton as an honorary member of the tribe, won't be ignored. They've blown the dust off the monarchy, making it shine for their celebrity-driven generation. KEN MACQUEEN