



## PRESS RELEASE

**THIS PRESS RELEASE IS STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 3.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH**

### **ROYAL MEMBER FOR TETBURY WI**

The Duchess of Cornwall is to join the Women's Institute. She will become a member of Tetbury WI in Gloucestershire, near to Highgrove.

Judi Mason-Smith, President of Tetbury WI, says: "We are honoured that Her Royal Highness is joining us. We would be very pleased to welcome her at any of our meetings and to keep her in touch with everything we are doing."

The Duchess became interested in the WI when she met former National Chairman, Barbara Gill, and some of the women who inspired the Calendar Girls film, at a function at Clarence House. She was so impressed that she decided she wanted to become a WI member herself.

The Duchess of Cornwall will be the latest in a line of Royal WI members, who have always taken their membership seriously. Queen Alexandra, Queen Mary and the Queen Mother were longstanding members of Sandringham WI and the Queen is their current President, attending a meeting once a year.

The Princess Royal was the first royal member in Gloucestershire and spoke at the Annual County Meeting in Cheltenham last year about her involvement with food standards.

Chairman of Gloucestershire Federation of WIs, Gill Thomas, says: "The WI is the largest independent women's organisation in the country. We strive to improve the world around us and having Her Royal Highness as a member in Gloucestershire will only help us to further our aims. We are both delighted and honoured that she is keen to be involved with us."

**ENDS**  
**17/03/06**

**NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

- 1. THIS PRESS RELEASE IS STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 3.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH.**
2. The official announcement will be made at 3.00pm at the Gloucestershire Federation of WIs Annual Council Meeting at Cheltenham Town Hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The meeting runs from 10.30am to 3.15pm.
3. The WI in Gloucestershire has 160 institutes and 5000 members. You can find out more from our website at [www.gfwi.org.uk](http://www.gfwi.org.uk).
4. The WI nationally is the largest women's organisation in the UK with 215,000 members in 7,000 WIs. More information at [www.nfwi.org.uk](http://www.nfwi.org.uk).

**For further information please contact Sue Wilson, Press Officer for Gloucestershire Federation of WIs:**

**E-mail: [wilsons.wanderers@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:wilsons.wanderers@blueyonder.co.uk), Tel: 01452 423257,  
Mobile: 07759 134813.**

**(I will be at the meeting all day on Wednesday and will be available on my mobile.)**