

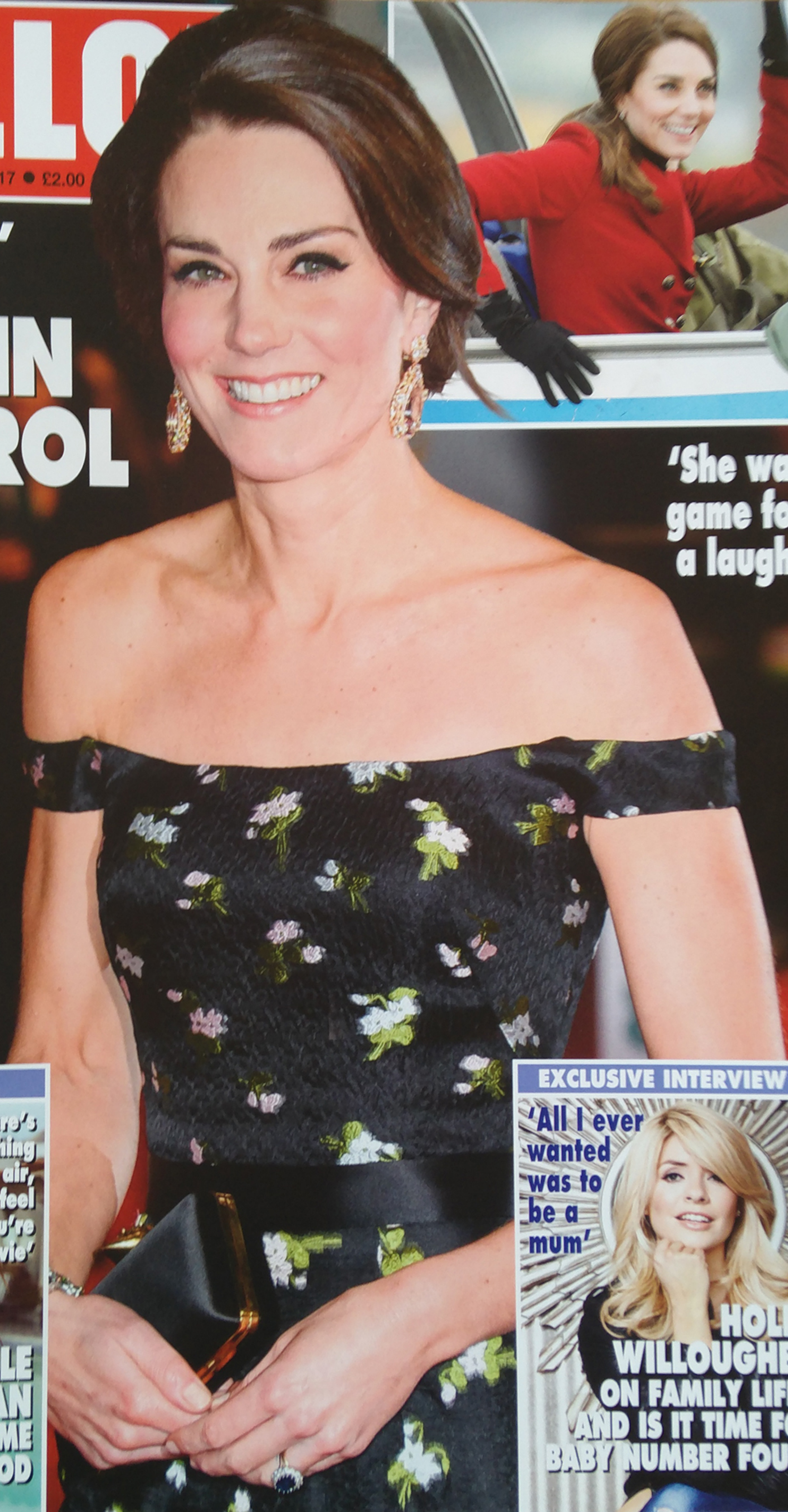
HELLO

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'HOT SHOT' DUCHESS KATE IN CONTROL

FLYING SOLO AFTER A NIGHT OF HIGH DRAMA WITH WILLIAM

'She was
game for
a laugh'



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

'All I ever wanted was to be a mum'

HOLLY WILLOUGHBY
ON FAMILY LIFE -
AND IS IT TIME FOR
BABY NUMBER FOUR?

'I was always passionate about this place and I knew one day it would be my responsibility'
The Duke of Argyll

POMP, PAGEANTRY AND PILLOW FIGHTS THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF ARGYLL GIVE US AN INTIMATE GLIMPSE OF FAMILY LIFE INSIDE THEIR MAGNIFICENT ANCESTRAL HOME

Fishing rods, tennis racquets and bows in the family entrance to the magnificent Inveraray Castle, at the gateway to the Highlands, are evidence of the active country lifestyle of its owners, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll. We're given a very warm welcome by Torquhil and Eleanor Campbell, as they are also known, and their children – Archie, 12, Rory, ten,

and Charlotte, eight – who have just been swimming in the river with their grandmother Iona, the Dowager Duchess, who lives nearby.

The Duke and Duchess take us on a tour of the house while the children giggle as they slide down the banisters.

We start in the private part of the castle, which includes a wonderful big dining room, a modern yet cosy

kitchen with an amazing view of Loch Fyne, and the family's so-called Yellow Drawing Room, which has a painting of Eleanor above the open fireplace.

The public rooms are even more impressive. In the State Dining Room, the table is set for a lavish dinner. The walls are painted with elaborate gilding, dating from 1784, by French artists Girard and ▶



The Duke and Duchess of Argyll with their children Archie, Charlotte and Rory in front of Inveraray Castle, all wearing Campbell tartan – the Duke is also the Chief of Clan Campbell

'No book tells you how to become a Duke. It always has to be relevant at the time'



The Duke and the Duchess – known also as Torquhil and Eleanor Campbell – in the State Dining Room (above), where the china bears the Argyll arms. The baton (left) goes to Torquhil's role of Hereditary Master of the Royal Household in Scotland. The family has strong links with the royals (below left, with the Queen and the Princess Royal at Ascot last year)



Guinand. In the Tapestry Drawing Room hang precious French tapestries, specially made for this room more than 200 years ago.

The Armoury Hall, meanwhile, true to its name, has hundreds of antique muskets, swords, axes, pikes and other arms on display.

The Duchess uses her keys to let us into the beautiful private family library; a smaller library next to it is Torquhil's study.

The children start an impromptu pillow fight on the sofa before their father intervenes. "They love the house," says Eleanor.

"To them it's like a huge playground."

Torquhil was a child himself when Inveraray Castle became his home. "I moved here when I was five, when my grandfather died in 1973," he recalls.

Only two years later, a fire destroyed much of the roof and left many paintings and furniture badly damaged by water from the fire hoses.

Torquhil's father Ian, the 12th Duke, and his mother Iona

spent many years restoring the castle. His parents' strong bond with it lives on in the current Duke. "I was always very passionate about this place and I knew one day it would be my responsibility," he says.

That day came too soon. His father died in 2001 after heart surgery, making the 33-year-old Torquhil the 13th Duke of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, Hereditary Master of the Royal Household in Scotland and owner of Inveraray Castle and its 60,000-acre estate.

THE START OF A NEW ERA

Though the 12th Duke passed away before his son married, he did know Eleanor. "When his father died, we had just got back together again," she says. "So my father-in-law knew I would probably be the one."

Torquhil and Eleanor had been going out for a couple of years before breaking up. He moved to Asia to work for a whisky company while she started a career in PR in London.

The couple met when Eleanor – part of the Cadbury chocolate dynasty – came to visit her friend Lady Louise, Torquhil's sister. "Louise and I were debs together when we were 18," says Eleanor. "We weren't very good at that. We found the whole thing wasn't really for us. We would hide behind a sofa and chat rather than dance.

"Then she said, 'Come and stay,' and that's how we met."

Torquhil and Eleanor married soon



Torquhil and Eleanor in the Armoury Hall, where the impressive collection of arms dates to the 16th century



The fabric of family life: The Campbell tartan appears in kilts and carpets alike (above) throughout the house, as well as in Eleanor's shawl (left). She is posing with Charlotte before her portrait in the Yellow Drawing Room – one of the family's private rooms



attractions, with up to 100,000 visitors a year.

This is partly due to its prominent appearance in *Downton Abbey's* 2012 Christmas episode, in which it was used as Lady Rose's family seat. The Argylls moved out during filming, but they knew their house was in safe hands. "The series' historical adviser was a friend of the family, so he kept us in the picture of what was happening back home," says the Duchess.

The castle also attracts Campbells from all over the world. "They are really excited to come here and meet their clan Chief, but I hold no sway or responsibility over them. I just am who I am. But it's nice to see they really appreciate you going to talk to them," says Torquhil, the 28th *Mac Cailin Mór*, Gaelic for Son of Colin the Great, the first of the Campbells, who was knighted in 1280.

The title of Master of the Royal Household in Scotland dates to the 1490s. "Great Britain does pomp and pageantry very, very well," says the Duke.

"We have our Queen and all the ceremonies are brilliant and if you can be a small part of this and add a

bit, I think it's great and it would be a great shame to lose it."

In this role, three or four times a year Torquhil carries his elaborate ceremonial baton at processions for the Queen or other members of the royal family.

THE TURN OF A NEW PAGE

Both Torquhil and Archie have been pages of honour to the Queen. Recalls the Duke: "I was ten years old when my family received a letter from Buckingham Palace with 'ER' stamped on it, formally asking if I wanted to be a page to Her Majesty the Queen. A huge honour."

Almost 30 years later, his son was asked. Says the Duchess: "Before the official letter, we received an informal phone call from Buckingham Palace enquiring about our son's height – as a page, apparently you're not meant to be bigger than the Queen."

Archie luckily qualified; his first appearance was carrying the Queen's heavy train for the State Opening of Parliament in May 2015.

The Queen asked the Duke to join her in her carriage at Royal Ascot last summer and both the Duke and Duchess were invited

'The children love the house. To them it's like a huge playground'



A young Irish harpist was supposedly murdered on this bed in 1644. When it was moved to Inveraray Castle's MacArthur Room, the boy's ghost apparently came with it. When a member of the Duke's family is about to die, it's said that harp music can be heard coming from the room



'My father did a great job and hopefully I do too' Torquhil

to the service at St Paul's Cathedral for her 90th birthday last June.

Last year Torquhil was also guest of honour at the Sentebale Royal Salute Polo Cup match in Florida, held in aid of Prince Harry's Sentebale children's charity, and presented Harry's team with the winner's trophy.

Eleanor has been a lady-in-waiting to Prince Andrew and Prince Edward. "That was fascinating," she says. "You get to work quite closely with them, for example at the High Commissioner's [General Assembly] week in Edinburgh. It's amazing what they're doing – they're hard workers." As are the Duke and

Duchess. For instance, two years ago Eleanor started the Best of the West Festival, a family-friendly weekend held in the castle grounds in September, celebrating local food, drink and music.

But despite such commercial successes, Inveraray Castle is at its heart a family home. As Eleanor says: "We instil the children with a passion for the place. It is very much their home." **H**

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HAIR & MAKE-UP: AINSLIE CURRIE

For further information on the castle,
visit inveraray-castle.com



Letting her hair down: The Duchess greets the Duke from a turret of the castle, which was completed in 1789. They strike another romantic pose in the Tapestry Drawing Room (inset, top left) – living on such a beautiful estate, they are spoilt for choice when it comes to wonderful backdrops

