



The first official photocall at St George's Hall, Windsor Castle

Royal Baby Fever

Harry and Meghan welcome their new baby Archie Mountbatten-Windsor into the royal family

Words by Rachel Avery

After their unforgettable wedding at Windsor Castle on 19th May 2018, there was a great amount of anticipation about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle starting a family together. Months of speculation followed, with the public eagerly awaiting baby news and on 15th October 2018, it was announced that Meghan was expecting their first child. As the latest addition to the royal family and Prince Harry's first-born child, the world wanted to know everything about baby Archie...

THE BABY SHOWER

Meghan celebrated the imminent birth of her first child with a pretty extravagant soirée in New York, organised by her close friends Serena Williams and Amal Clooney (both can now add party planners to their already extensive CVs). The baby shower was held at The Mark Hotel, a venue that's *au fait* with high-profile guests as it is often used for pre-Met Gala preparations and has hosted many United Nations Summit attendees. Flower-arranging and dessert-tasting were the activities on the agenda for Meghan's baby shower guests, and as they departed they were gifted a designer suitcase each (now, that's what you call a party favour).

IT'S A BOY!

On 6th May 2019, Harry and Meghan welcomed their first-born into the world – The Queen's eighth great-grandchild. He was born at exactly 5:26am, weighing 7lb 3oz. In true Sussex-fashion, this was announced to the public on social media – with a post on the @sussexroyal Instagram account to their nine million followers revealing that the baby was a boy. This was exciting news as the couple decided not to find out the sex of the baby during the pregnancy. Tradition was still kept though, and the ornate golden easel was displayed proudly outside the gates of Buckingham Palace to declare the important news.

As many modern fathers choose to be, The Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry was present for the birth. The rumour mill had speculated that Meghan preferred a home birth – however, when a copy of the birth certificate was circulated, it formally confirmed the baby's place of birth as Portland Hospital in

London. Meghan and Harry didn't opt for the Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital where many royal babies have been born, (including Harry, as well as Prince William and all three of Catherine and William's children). However, both Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, the daughters of The Duke and Duchess of York, were born at Portland Hospital.

THE NAME GAME

After many months of speculation, the baby's name was finally revealed to be Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor and with odds of 100/1, it's likely that a lot of money was made when this was announced! Archie is short for Archibald, but the couple have opted for Archie as the baby's forename. It is a name of German origin, but what does the name Archie mean? Well, it means 'genuine', 'bold' and 'brave', which sound like fine attributes to us. Harrison means 'son of Harry', as well as being a popular name in the USA, while Mountbatten-Windsor is Harry's beloved grandfather's surname. Archie has not been granted

NAN'S THE WORD

With two very special matriarchal figures in his life, both Archie's grandmother, Doria and great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth are thrilled with the latest addition to their families. On the 8th May, shortly after the public photocall, his great-grandmother met the little bundle of joy for the first time and grandmother Doria was there too, sharing this extra-special moment. Doria spent five weeks with the new parents, lending a helping hand before returning back to America – and it is thought that The Queen hosted Archie, Meghan and Harry over the summer at her Scottish retreat, Balmoral.

Queen Elizabeth II

Occupation: Monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the The Church of England, and Head of The Armed Forces

Relation: Great grandmother

Family tree: 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren

Doria Loyce Ragland

Occupation: Former mental health social worker and qualified yoga teacher

Relation: Grandmother

Family tree: 1 grandchild



The proud parents with their new son



ABOVE The Sussex Royal Instagram account announces the happy news

LEFT The Duke and Duchess of Sussex with their baby son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor

the title of a prince – and although he could have been bestowed one of Prince Harry's lesser titles, the proud parents have opted not to do this and he will be known as Master Archie. It is thought that perhaps this decision not to make him a prince or duke is to bring some equilibrium to Archie's life, without the added pressure of the official duties and responsibilities a title brings.

NEW PARENTS

After the baby was born and the official announcements had been made, the public were keen to hear all about the royal newborn – and with this in mind, Harry came out to speak to the media in a short press conference. In the interview, he lovingly announced that he was “over the moon” with the arrival of his healthy baby boy and described it as “the most amazing experience”. As well as saying how proud of his wife he was, he also thanked the public for their support with a huge smile on his face – the interviewer even commented on the fact that Harry literally could not stop smiling. As word spread of the latest royal baby, many high profile royals and celebrities flocked to send their well wishes. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge expressed that they were “absolutely thrilled” with the latest royal addition and also made a joke by adding they are happy to welcome them to “the sleep deprivation society.”

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Although Harry and Meghan did not choose to show the new baby to the world at the doors of the hospital, as many royals do, the new parents did ensure the public got a look at the little cherub when he was just two days old. A photocall was held inside St. George's Chapel at Windsor

DID YOU KNOW?

- As Meghan is American, Archie automatically has dual-citizenship
- Archie was christened in the same Lily Font that has been used for royalty since 1841
- Traditionally, the monarch should be the first person to see a newborn heir to the throne
- The Honiton christening gown Archie wore is actually a replica of the original. In 2008, a new one replaced the gown from 1841 as it was deemed too fragile to wear
- Before 2013, when the law was changed, Archie would have actually superseded his cousin Princess Charlotte in the line of succession



A first glimpse of the newest royal



A sweet personalised baseball shirt for Archie



Meghan's mother Doria Ragland and Princess Diana's sisters also attended the private affair

Castle where the proud parents showed off their bundle of joy. Harry showed his paternal love, cradling the baby in his arms, while Meghan looked fondly at them both, saying “I have the two best guys in the world”. She went on to reveal that baby Archie has the “sweetest temperament”, describing him as a calm, dream baby.

THE CHRISTENING & BEYOND

Archie received the same royal treatment as the many royal babies that have come before him, being officially christened. On the 6th July, when baby Archie was just two months old, friends and family gathered round for this special moment. It was back to St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, the same venue where the couple married in back in 2018. However, unlike the wedding where the public were invited to join in the celebrations, this was a private affair. It was an intimate gathering with no more than 25 guests in attendance. The Archbishop of Canterbury christened Archie using water from the River Jordan, as he has done for all three of Prince William's children and it has been reported,

also Meghan herself before she married Harry. The couple released an official photograph that showed Archie in his gorgeous Honiton christening gown.

Since then, little Archie has been kept out of the spotlight, as the couple were busy enjoying the private joys of parenthood, but there have been some utterly adorable glimpses on the official Instagram for Harry and Meghan, (@sussexroyal). May 12th marked Mother's Day in America and a message was posted to “honour and celebrate each and every one”, and it was accompanied by a super-sweet photograph of what appears to be baby Archie's feet cupped in his mother's hand. Father's Day was another opportunity for us to see more of the royal baby, and the couple shared a black and white image of Archie clasping what's thought to be Harry's finger.

Other than through the lens of Instagram, we briefly caught glimpses of Archie swaddled in blankets, in the arms of his mother on various outings and trips, but you'll see how much he's grown in our feature on page 108, as he accompanies his parents to South Africa. 