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HOUSE PRICES ARE UP AGAIN

THE property market is growing again with house prices rising at a rate of £100 a week, Britain's biggest building society reported yesterday. The surge in values since the start of the year is thanks to record low mortgage

By **Sarah O'Grady** Property Correspondent
rates and an £80billion Government lending scheme. House prices were up 0.2 per cent month-on-month in February and a typical three-bed semi now costs

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The Prince of Wales with Countryfile presenter Julia Bradbury

PRINCE CHARLES: NEW STAR OF COUNTRYFILE

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Charles ploughs ahead on hit BBC show

PRINCE Charles is to try out television editing later this month for a special edition of the BBC's flagship rural affairs programme Countryfile. The Prince, a fan of organic farming, will star in and guest edit the 25th anniversary show. He is expected to visit a London school where results improved after pupils grew their own vegetables and be asked by presenters Julia Bradbury and Matt Baker about the future of farming. Charles and his wife the Duchess of Cornwall are regular viewers of the Sunday show which attracts an audience of seven million. Children in

By **Richard Palmer** Royal Correspondent

national dress were among hundreds cheering as the royal couple toured Cardiff yesterday for St David's Day. On their trip they met theatre design student Martin Mahoney who used recycled materials for a costume for a character in the opera The Magic Flute. "The Prince was very struck by the designs and was very complimentary about how hard everyone was working," he said. Fellow student Sebastian Noel said: "The Prince liked how I had used random items to make the costume."



Pictures: JOHN WELLINGS/DEMOTIX & BEN BIRCHALL/PA

Charles and Camilla meeting design student Martin Mahoney

ILLNESS FORCES QUEEN TO CANCEL VISIT



Her Majesty earlier this week

THE Queen has cancelled a visit to Swansea today because she is suffering from gastroenteritis. The 86-year-old will spend the weekend recuperating at Windsor. She was due to present St David's Day looks to the 3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh, some of whom have just returned from duty in Afghanistan. It is not yet known whether the illness will force her to postpone an official visit to Rome with Prince Philip, 91, scheduled for Wednesday. She showed none of the symptoms of the illness on Thursday at the investiture ceremony for the Olympics stars of London 2012, including heptathlon winner Jessica Ennis. Buckingham Palace said: "She will be assessed in the coming days." At Christmas a cold forced the Queen to miss a service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Sandringham.

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