An animal lover since childhood, The Queen takes a keen and highly knowledgeable interest in horses. **Other interests include** walking in the countryside and working her Labradors, which were bred at andringham.

A lesser known interest is **Scottish country dancing.** Each year during her stay at Balmoral Castle, The Queen gives dances known as **Gillies'** Balls, for neighbours, estate and Castle staff and members of the local community.