

The "Wrong Date" Wedding Commemoratives

Williamson gained national media attention in April 2005 due to a production mishap related to the **wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles:**

Aynsley China had manufactured a commemorative collection embossed with the original wedding date of **April 8, 2005.**

When the wedding was postponed by one day to allow Prince Charles to attend the funeral of Pope John Paul II, Williamson reported a "phenomenal" surge in orders from collectors seeking the "incorrect" items.

He famously noted that customers were "literally fighting" in factory shops over the last plates, viewing them as future "pension" investments.

Political Transition

Williamson left the pottery industry to pursue a full-time career in politics, being elected as the MP for South Staffordshire in **2010**. Even as an MP, he continued to advocate for the sector, notably securing a House of Commons debate in 2011 to push for "Made in Britain" labelling laws to protect UK manufacturers.

In 2014 the factory closed at Longton. The Aynsley brand was transferred to Northern Ireland to the sister company Belleek.

