



Republic Magazine

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Republic announces “historic” anti-jubilee protests



Scene of protest: jubilee protests will be held at the Thames pageant and St Pauls service

Republic has announced a series of protests and events to counter the official diamond jubilee celebrations next year.

Thousands of Republic supporters are expected to attend a protest in central London on the afternoon of Sunday June 3, when a flotilla of up to a thousand boats – headed by the Queen and senior politicians – will travel along the Thames from Battersea to Tower Bridge. Additional demonstrations will be held outside the BBC diamond jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace on June 4 and the service of thanksgiving at St Paul’s Cathedral on June 5.

Cardiff, Edinburgh, Manchester and other cities across the country will also host Republic events and supporters will be encouraged to hold their own anti-jubilee parties at home. In the run up to the jubilee weekend, Republic will hold activist meetings, launch new publications and work with the media on a series of news stories and features.

A special team of Republic staff, activists and campaigning specialists has been formed to co-ordinate the events and lead Republic’s response to the jubilee.

“The jubilee is a celebration of inherited power and privilege and those celebrations have no place in a modern democracy,” explains Republic’s campaign manager Graham Smith. “These historic protests and events will

send a powerful message that 60 years without democracy is not something to celebrate – and that Britain can have a much brighter future without the royals.”

“During the royal wedding we doubled our supporter base and gained unprecedented media exposure. The jubilee gives us an even better opportunity to challenge the royal PR machine, recruit new supporters and get people talking about the future of the monarchy. I’ll be doing everything in my power to ensure our jubilee campaign makes the headlines, recruits record levels of supporters and really sets us on the road to success.”

Republic has launched an urgent jubilee fundraising appeal, with the aim of raising £20,000 by the end of the year, so that its ambitious plans can be fully realised.

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Republic meets VisitBritain

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Republican round-up

- ✘ Following news that Prince Andrew is to step down as UK trade ambassador, Republic has called on the Government to pledge that any future appointments will be based on merit, not status.
- ✘ Republic members in the Midlands have formed a new activist group to plan campaigning activity in the area. All Midlander republicans are invited to the group's next meeting on Wednesday December 7 at Bennett's Bar, Birmingham from 7pm. For more details visit www.republic.org.uk/whatson.
- ✘ The republican message is spreading quickly online thanks to Republic's use of social media to communicate with supporters. Republic now has over 3,200 followers on Twitter (@republicstaff) and almost 12,000 "likes" on Facebook (facebook.com/republiccampaign).
- ✘ Republic urged politicians and the media to be more sceptical of royal PR after the Office for National Statistics revealed the royal wedding had a negative effect on economic growth. Shortly after the wedding was announced last year several media outlets – including the BBC and *The Daily Telegraph* – predicted the event would provide a "shot in the arm" for Britain's economy.
- ✘ Proposed reforms to the Act of Succession, which would allow a first born daughter to inherit the throne, have been dismissed by Republic. "The monarchy discriminates against every man, woman and child who isn't born into the Windsor family," Republic told journalists. "To suggest that this has anything to do with equality is utterly absurd. It fails the equality test both in practice and in principle."
- ✘ Republic has started work on a schools pack to encourage pupils to critically examine the monarchy in class. The pack will be launched next year to coincide with Republic's jubilee campaigning.

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There's a revolution brewing



Get the debate started at home and work with the new Republic mug. It's a collector's item – and a great way to show support for the cause.

Just £5.99, available from www.republic.org.uk/shop. All proceeds go to support our campaigning into jubilee year and beyond.

A great Xmas gift!

Are you signed up to Republic's email list?

If not you could be missing out on important updates, invitations and campaign actions.

Sign up at www.republic.org.uk or contact us with your email address.

Republic holds royal finances protest outside Buckingham Palace

Republic activists defied a ban on protesting outside Buckingham Palace by holding a flashmob demonstration highlighting the “morally and economically indefensible” cost of the monarchy. Protestors held placards saying “Tiaras or Teachers?” and “Get your hands out of my pockets!”. Police officers chose to let the protest go ahead, despite the royal parks agency attempting to ban the event.

The demonstration in June followed publication of a new report by Republic which found the annual cost of the royal family to be more than the entire annual Ministry of Defence food budget and the equivalent of thousands of nurses, police officers and teachers. The report, called ‘The “Value for Money Monarchy” Myth’, revealed that the total annual cost of the British monarchy could be over £200 million, more than five times the official figure published by Buckingham Palace.



‘The “Value for Money Monarchy” Myth’ can be downloaded from www.republic.org.uk/valueformonemyth.pdf

Bill veto betrays Charles’s “utter contempt for the British people”

Republic has demanded that Clarence House and the Government publish details of all legislation altered as a result of Prince Charles’s lobbying, after *The Guardian* revealed that Ministers have been forced to seek his permission to pass government bills.

Under ancient royal and parliamentary rules, Charles has a veto over Bills affecting his private interests. The power has applied to more than 30 bills in the last decade, covering a wide range of policy areas including planning, energy, coroners courts and the Olympics.

“That such a loophole exists shows our constitution is fundamentally anti-democratic, but Charles’s decision to exploit it betrays his utter contempt for the British people,” Republic’s

Graham Smith told the paper. “Charles is quite capable of doing the right thing by refusing to exploit his position for personal gain – yet he refuses to do so.”

“It’s quite clear that he yearns for an age of feudal autocracy, believing in his God-given right to influence our

government – and it seems that Ministers simply don’t have the courage to stand up to him.”



Michael Mansfield QC attacks royal secrecy at inaugural John Campbell Lecture

Campaigning lawyer and longstanding Republic supporter Michael Mansfield QC delivered the inaugural John Campbell Lecture on October 4 at the Bishopsgate Institute in London. The lecture was the first of an annual event launched by Republic's board of directors as a tribute to former Chair John Campbell, who died last year.

Mr Mansfield discussed the role of the monarchy in contemporary financial, environmental and political crises, putting the case for a politically active but fully accountable head of state. Focusing on the monarchy's total exemption from freedom of information rules, he asked: "If you have a head of state who is not subject to the forces of inquiry then what kind of head of state have you got? If any other country in the world did this we would call it a form of totalitarianism."



See Michael Mansfield's lecture online at youtube.com/republiccampaign

Republic meets tourism bosses to discuss monarchy myths

Republic representatives have met with senior management at VisitBritain to discuss the tourism agency's use of statistics relating to the monarchy

In the run up to the royal wedding, freedom of information requests submitted by Republic revealed that VisitBritain's spokespeople had greatly exaggerated the event's impact on inbound tourism. The agency also suggested that the royal family personally generated £500m annually for the tourist industry – a figure which includes receipts for all attractions related to "Britain's monarchical heritage", including St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

VisitBritain's chief executive Sandie Dawe and chair Christopher Rodrigues accepted many

of Republic's concerns and agreed to be clearer in their presentation of such statistics. They also offered Republic the opportunity to give feedback on the agency's work during the Queen's diamond jubilee events.

"This was a really positive, constructive meeting," said Republic's Graham Smith. "We're pleased that Sandie and Christopher took these concerns seriously and agreed to make important changes as a result."

"The palace has made a habit of trying to excuse its extravagant costs by claiming credit for tourism revenue. We want to ensure that VisitBritain doesn't become embroiled in a highly controversial political debate."

Republic tells Met: "You must protect our right to protest."

Republic has discussed its jubilee protest plans with senior members of the Metropolitan Police's public order unit.

The meeting at New Scotland Yard, attended by the campaign team and human rights lawyer Sarah McSherry, followed Republic's letter to commander Christine Jones criticising heavy-handed policing during the royal wedding. The Met accepted their duty to protect the rights of republicans and to facilitate peaceful protest against the monarchy.

"The behaviour of the Met during the royal wedding was questionable at best and in some cases unlawful," explained Graham Smith, Republic's campaign manager. "We cannot have a repeat of those scenes."

"We had a constructive, forthright meeting and we're glad we've opened up a dialogue. The police are there to protect our right to protest, just as much as ensuring monarchists can demonstrate their political views."



Shortly after the meeting, the Met gave £5,000 compensation and an official apology to a Republic supporter who was held in police cells for six hours on the day of the royal wedding.

Queen gets bumper pay rise as public services are stripped back

The Sovereign Grant Act, which will give the royal household a limitless annual payment each year, has been signed into law by the Queen.

The legislation introduces a new consolidated "sovereign support grant" rounding together the civil list and various grants-in-aid which currently fund the Queen and the royal family. The level of the grant will be set at 15 per cent of the surplus revenue from the Crown Estate, a publicly-owned property portfolio which severed all links to the monarchy in the 18th century.

The new grant – disingenuously spun by Buckingham Palace as a cut – has no upper limit, but does have a floor to prevent it ever falling below what was paid in the previous year. As the *Financial Times* put it, "When the Crown Estate does well, royals win; when it does not, taxpayers lose."

The Act also introduces a new format for the royal household's annual financial reports, which excludes the Duke of Edinburgh's expenses and costs incurred by government departments.

Republic described the funding arrangement as an "historic stitch up" that could divert millions of pounds from public services. "The office of head of state should be funded like every other public body - through an annual budget, based on need and approved by Parliament," said Republic in a media statement.

"We know that the royals are unable to keep their spending under control. The new grant is likely to lead to greater waste with less accountability. It will give the royal household even more freedom over its finances at exactly the time when its expenditure should be more tightly controlled."

Republic takes royal security fight to tribunal

A Republic activist's campaign to reveal the cost of royal security will go to a tribunal in the new year.

William Summers submitted a freedom of information request to the Metropolitan Police in 2008, asking how much public money is spent protecting the royals each year. The request was refused on the grounds of national security, but Mr Summers appealed the decision and has continued to reject the Met's arguments.

The case will now go to an information tribunal, a specialist judicial body which decides disputes between public authorities and information requesters. Republic will be supported by expert witnesses, including constitutional law Professor Adam Tomkins from the University of Glasgow.

The total royal security bill is widely rumoured to be more than £100m each year, with some reports suggesting minor royals such as Beatrice and Eugenie receive an excessive level of protection. The cost met by SO14, the Met's protection squad, accounts for roughly a third of the estimated total cost.






"There is no good reason why taxpayers should not be able to know how much of their money is being spent on royal protection," says Mr Summers, "particularly when security costs for the House of Commons have already been disclosed."

"We are not asking for detailed security information, merely the overall cost. The arguments put forward by the Met Police against releasing this information are spurious and misinformed, and will be tackled head-on at the Tribunal hearing. The release of this information is long overdue."

Get active!

Do you want to ...

-  Get more involved in Republic?
-  Play your part in our jubilee campaign?
-  Find out more about republicanism?

Republic is organising a series of activist meetings around the country, giving you the chance to meet Republic activists, find out more about the campaign and sign up for volunteering opportunities. The meetings are also an informal opportunity to ask questions about Republic or republicanism more generally.

Meetings have already been held in Cardiff, Glasgow, Nottingham, Birmingham, Manchester and Norwich. In the new year we'll be organising meetings in Bristol, Newcastle, Plymouth, Southampton, Hull and Sheffield, as well as returning to Wales and Scotland.

DIY Republic Meetings. It's easy, just follow 3 steps: 1 – Book a free venue, such as a pub room, for an evening or Saturday afternoon. 2 – Tell us the date and venue, giving us at least three weeks notice. 3 – We'll promote the meeting and you simply have to turn up.

We'll provide you with some ideas about discussion topics and what to aim for with the event. Be sure to let us know how it went!

All our events will be listed at www.republic.org.uk/whatson.

Help us raise £20,000 to beat the jubilee PR machine

“Please give whatever you can to help us reach our target. A donation of £35 – or whatever you can afford – will make a huge difference.”

Dear supporter,

The republican movement isn't short on passion and ideas. But as Republic's Treasurer, I know that's not enough to achieve lasting change. We need cold, hard cash if we're to make our vision a reality.

Republic's staff and volunteers have put together a fantastic plan to make sure the republican voice is heard during the jubilee events next year. Now we need your help to put that plan into action.

We need to raise at least £20,000 to ensure we have the resources to make the biggest possible impact next June.

The word “historic” is overused. But with your support we can organise a series of momentous events that make the modern republican case more forcefully than ever before. That would be genuinely historic.

Please give whatever you can to help us reach our target. A donation of £35 – or whatever you can afford – will make a huge difference.

The royal wedding proved that big royal occasions are good news for Republic. I was amazed by the record levels of new supporters and really excited about the huge media interest. I want us to do even better in 2012.

Please visit www.republic.org.uk/jubileeappeal today and make your donation.

Best wishes

Tim Sharp
Treasurer, Republic

Your donation could pay for ... leaflets, posters, banners, merchandise, press packs, parliamentary briefings, travel costs, office rental, online campaigning tools, venue hire ... and much more!

over 20%
raised
already

Bishopsgate to host monarchy debates in run up to jubilee

Bishopsgate Institute, a historic centre of learning and debate in the city of London, is to host a series of talks and discussions exploring issues raised by the diamond jubilee.

Republic has worked with curators to shape a programme of events that examines the history and role of the monarchy as well as the republican movement. Prominent academics, campaigners and writers will debate the monarchy's political and cultural influence and its chances of survival.

“The series starts at the brief point in history when England was a Republic and moves right up to the royal family today,” explains Kira Milmo, programmes manager at the Institute. “It will culminate in a debate over who should be head of state in Britain.”

The series runs from February to May 2012 and bookings will be available on www.bishopsgate.org.uk from January.

Introducing Republic

Republicans are people like you who simply want what's best for Britain. Our campaign is supported by ordinary hard working people from all corners of the country and from all walks of life. We are united in a belief in responsibility, aspiration and, above all, democracy.

We want a democratically accountable head of state and an end to any constitutional role for the royal family.

We advocate keeping our parliamentary democracy but replacing the unelected monarch with a directly elected, ceremonial and constitutional head of state.

Republic is a campaigning pressure group. Everything we do is aimed at persuading ordinary people – and our politicians – to support a democratic alternative to the monarchy.



Republic's publications

Find out more about the arguments in favour of real constitutional change.



Find out more at www.republic.org.uk/shop

REPUBLIC MEMBERSHIP FORM

1. YOUR DETAILS

Name

Address and postcode

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2. YOUR MEMBERSHIP RATE

Our standard membership rate is £24 but you can pay anything above our minimum of £8 (£5 for students).

I wish to pay £24 £50 £100 £.....

3. YOUR PAYMENT METHOD

We accept payment by credit/debit card or cheque. Please make all cheques payable to 'Republic'.

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Card type Visa (Delta/Electron) MasterCard Switch Solo JCB (no Amex or Diners)

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