

Imagine

The voice of modern republicanism

2009 | Issue 1

Free

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A New Home

Republic gets a new online home,
featuring news, video and much more

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C4 exposes the princes

In a hard-hitting documentary serious questions were raised about prince Andrew's financial dealings and Buckingham palace's lack of transparency, while William was accused of being lazy.

The *Dispatches* programme, which featured interviews with Republic's Graham Smith and Republic supporter Ian Davidson MP also looked at how William was failing to take his military career seriously.

The normally loyal royal commentator James Whitaker told the programme: "I'm sorry, but as second in line to the throne, he (William) really should be doing more."



- The programme accused William of laziness and using RAF as PR stunt.

"William will also be head of the Church of England but he's not going to go off and spend five years as a parish priest."

the few he did many were little more than attending rugby matches as a spectator. Thompson also raised more serious questions about prince Andrew's financial dealings.

Republic's own investigations into William's abuse of RAF aircraft, reported in the last edition of *Imagine*, was explained in detail in the *Dispatches* episode. Graham Smith replied to claims that William had to serve in the armed forces because one day he will be Commander-in-Chief by saying: "It's nonsense. William will also be head of the Church of England but he's not going to go off and spend five years as a parish priest."

Channel 4 News presenter Alex Thompson, who fronted the show, detailed the nature of prince William's public engagements, showing that of



ONLINE @
republic.org.uk/news

One of the central allegations was that there were question marks over how the Windsor family were able to acquire and build on the land where Andrew's former house, Sunninghill, now stands. The sale of the house to a wealthy tycoon for £3m over the market price also raised eyebrows and questions about possible corruption.

The programme generated significant interest in Republic and helped to push up our membership. ■

REPUBLIC
SPRING CONFERENCE
BRISTOL
2009

NOW FULLY BOOKED

Republic's 2009 Spring Conference is set to take place in Bristol on Saturday April 18th.

The conference, to be held in the City Council House, will feature the launch of our new Standards in Public Life campaign. The new project will focus on the way in which the monarchy is organised and managed, and will highlight the lack of transparency and accountability in the royal household.

Full details of the agenda can be found online at www.republic.org.uk/spring.

Next year's event will be in Hull. ■

Do we have your email address?



If we haven't you could be missing out on important campaign news and regular opportunities to help us spread the word and tell the world about what Republic is doing and saying. Email enquiries@republic.org.uk.

a point of view

Send your letters to imagine@republic.org.uk

Well done to everyone involved in the re-launch of the Republic website. The design is clean, all the issues are clearly presented, and I think it strikes exactly the right tone of straightforward, rational argument.

I'm really looking forward to seeing more Republic TV. Getting high-profile supporters in front of the camera should help a lot in nudging a lot of nascent supporters into becoming members.

The "I'm a Monarchist" section is a stroke of genius. It clearly sends out the message that we are prepared to engage with those who take a contrary view to our own, safe in the knowledge that the monarchist position is completely indefensible.

I sense that the republican cause is now beginning to gain an unstoppable momentum. Keep up the good work!

Steve Smedley
Suffolk

I was fascinated to read about Bona Vacantia on your new website. I can't believe Charles and the Queen take money and property left by those who have died on Duchy land while intestate. We need to do something about this... it's a disgrace.

Peter Henson
Liverpool

I enjoyed reading the new page on monarchy and tourism on the new website. Like Republic, I find it baffling that anyone thinks tourism is a good reason to keep the monarchy, or that tourism would not be just fine without it. Just look at Versailles!

Jim Hill
Taunton

Great new site. Can we have a page on the royal household?

Angela English
London

So they say...



The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government - lest it come to dominate our lives and interests.

Patrick Henry

Bernard Woolley: "Of course in the service, CMG stands for Call Me God. And KCMG for Kindly Call Me God."

James Hacker: "What does GCMG stand for?"

Bernard Woolley: "God Calls Me God."

Yes Minister

The position is inherited, which means that someone who is mad, bad or a complete waste of taxpayers' money can become queen or king. I think that brings the whole purpose of having a head of state into disrepute.

Louise Christian

Art has never been more respected and yet the Royal Collection would only be tolerated by a deeply ignorant culture that thought paintings were just decorations for palaces.

Jonathan Jones

Nominate a quote by emailing imagine@republic.org.uk



For the first time Republic is holding a newly styled Annual Conference open to everyone, members and non-members alike. The conference is being held separately from our Annual General Meeting, which will continue to be a members and guests only event in late October.

We are delighted to announce that long-standing Republic supporter and veteran journalist Roy Greenslade will be chairing the conference. We are also pleased to welcome guest speakers Johann Hari and Yasmin Alibhai-Brown. ■

1pm - 5pm • Saturday June 20th
Charity Centre
24 Stephenson Way London NW1 2DP

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
£5 for members / £8 for non-members

www.republic.org.uk/annualconference

Imagine

The magazine of Republic

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Back issues of *Imagine* and more information about the magazine can be found online at www.republic.org.uk/imagine.

Members

Let us know if you would prefer your copy by post or email.

Republic's new online home offers much more

ver story ... cover story ... cover story ... cover story ... cove

Bona Vacantia



There is no justification for the Queen or Charles to be given money and property left by those who have died without a will simply because they lived on Duchy land. If the Duchies claim not to benefit from this deal they won't mind if it were brought to an end.

Did you know that if you die without a will there's a chance your property will end up in the hands of Prince Charles?

In Britain everything must be owned by someone - that's the law. If no rightful owners of property can be traced then it is claimed by the Treasury. That is unless the property happens to be on land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall or the Duchy of Lancaster, in which case it goes to them.

It's called Bona Vacantia, but could more accurately be described as a 'nice little earner' not only for the Crown, but also for the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall - the profits of which are handed to the Queen and Prince Charles respectively. ■

Find out more at:
www.republic.org.uk/bonavacantia

- New site: The blog, Republic TV and Twitter offer opportunities to engage.

After months of work Republic's new website went live on Saturday 14th March.

The new site now boasts video, a new look blog and a Twitter account, all aimed at providing supporters more opportunities to debate the issues and keep up with what's happening with the campaign.

News and blog posts are now more prominently displayed on the home page, and the site greets visitors with a main title picture which leads to the hot topic of the moment.

The new site has been designed to cater for all the various kinds of visitors, whether staunch republicans, journalists or people who just want to find out more. Even our opponents are catered for with the *I'm a monarchist... Get me Out of Here!* feature, which allows monarchists to send us their views, with a promise to post their email and our reply on the site.

The website is split into four clear sections, *Who we are*, *What we do*, *What we believe* and *Take Action*.

Joining, donating and signing up for our e-Bulletin have all been made simpler and more prominent on the site.

"We have also added a lot more information and content covering a wide range of related topics."

We have also added a lot more information and content covering a wide range of related topics, including pages on tourism, the royal art collection, the constitution, public opinion and much more.

Visitor statistics are already showing visits and visit times jumping up since the launch. ■

Republican Round-up

Just before Christmas **Phillipa Gregory**, the British historical novelist, best known for *The Other Boleyn Girl* joined our ever growing list of high profile supporters.

The new year got off to a bad start for the royals, with **Harry** being accused of being racist. Republic's response was widely reported, particularly following similar allegations about Charles.

Later that month Republic called for **Buckingham palace** to be "fully nationalised" following reports that it is struggling to pay for maintenance and repairs.

We were in the news again when the Mail on Sunday reported that **prince Andrew** was refusing to release an audit report into his role as trade ambassador. Republic's Graham Smith told the Mail: "I am sure that if

the report was full of praise for Andrew's role he would be the first to make it public. We can only draw our own conclusions about why he is keeping this secret."

Republic attended the Convention on Modern Liberty in February and has continued to make it onto the airwaves, with interviews and debates on radio and TV.

Ex-footballer **Stan Collymore** joined the campaign after inviting Graham onto his Talk Sport radio show for a debate on the monarchy.

Despite the **new website** dominating our time recently we have continued to take the campaign to an ever wider audience.

Don't forget, all events information can be found online at www.republic.org.uk/whatson. ■



Republic continues to visit schools, clubs and societies to give talks and presentations on what we do and what we stand for. We also participate in organised debates.

If you would like to invite Republic to give a talk please call Graham Smith on 07747 608 770.

In the talks we cover the key issues, why we campaign for the abolition of the monarchy and what the alternatives are.

We also talk about what Republic does, how we campaign and what plans we have for the future. ■

New site a hit but much more to do

Message from the Chair
JOHN CAMPBELL



What a hectic few months it's been at Republic!

First came 'The Problem Princes', the

Dispatches documentary which critically examined the roles of princes Andrew, William and Edward. The campaign team were inundated with new supporters and donations as a result. It goes to show that there are many thousands of republicans out there who are looking for an organisation like Republic. Our task is to reach out to them.

One key way of doing that is with our website, which was recently re-launched after a full-scale review and re-design.

The Board of Directors and I are thrilled with the new site, which is much easier to navigate and includes

a wealth of new information and analysis. Crucially, it is very easy to add new content so it can grow with the campaign.

"This is a fight between two rival campaigns. We know we can win the argument, but only if our voice is loud enough."

But it's not just the staff and Directors who love the new site - hundreds of you contacted us to say how much you liked it. Thank you for your messages of support.

As our public profile grows, so does the need to develop and expand. As James Gray points out on Page 8, this is a fight between two rival campaigns. We know we can win the argument, but only if our voice is loud

enough. You can help us turn up the volume by making a donation today - it's easier than ever to contribute to our campaign fund at www.republic.org.uk/fundraising.

The Republic team is looking forward to another busy few months: our Spring and Annual conferences are scheduled for April and June, Republic Day is back on the republican calendar, an exciting new fundraising campaign is set for imminent launch and various talks and debates are planned across the country. And the Scottish campaign is being actively developed with a series of meetings scheduled which I'm confident will lead to an active new organising committee being established.

We simply couldn't do all this without your support. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you! ■

Our case for a republic

This is your country. It is your future. Your democracy. Your choice. The case for a republic is clear - aspiration, responsibility and democracy, or an unaccountable political system at the heart of which is an institution based on inheritance and exclusive privilege.

Britain deserves the best. That means the best democracy we can create, a democracy that genuinely puts you, us, in charge. Our children should be inspired to believe they can achieve anything they want and our democracy should reflect that sense of aspiration. We should all be encouraged to take responsibility for our own political affairs, and our democracy should embody that responsibility.

“The monarchy is the heart of the British constitution and as such it denies us the best democracy we could have.”

The monarchy does none of these things. It embodies a spirit of deference and dependence on others. It robs us of aspiration, telling us that even the wisest and most talented commoner is no match for even the most unpleasant and immoral royal. Most crucially though, the monarchy is the heart of the British constitution and as such it denies us the best democracy we could have. It keeps from us the power to rule ourselves, it crushes the democratic spirit in order to justify its own existence.

Our case for a republic comes in two forms. There is the issue of power and politics, how the monarchy is the centre of our constitution and what it means for our democracy. And there



is the issue of princes and palaces, the accountability of the tax-funded royal household, what a hereditary head of state means for Britain and the problems with leaving such an important office to chance. Both these sides of the debate raise serious questions about Britain and our constitution. For both issues republicanism provides powerful and persuasive answers.

Our constitution is fundamentally undemocratic. Sure, it has some features of a democracy - for example we are permitted to elect just under half of our parliament - but at its core British politics concentrates unaccountable and unlimited power in the hands of a few, at the top.

Some people will tell you that the monarchy is little more than a harmless decoration, a novelty left over from our past. It isn't. It is the basis and the heart of our constitution. This is why the abolition of the monarchy is the most important of all possible political reforms. It will lead to a unique opportunity to deal with all the problems in our political system.

Continued opposite



@republic.org.uk

A quick look at what's happening at www.republic.org.uk and around the internet.

Of course the big news online is the launch of our new website. Some of the content from the website has been reproduced in this edition of *Imagine*.

Features include the all-new **Republic TV**, a series of video blogs providing you with the latest news, views and commentary, as well as interviews with our high profile and eminent supporters.

We have also improved the **payment forms** for new and renewing members, with a focus on asking supporters to make monthly contributions rather than single annual payments.

The **Blog** and **In the News** posts are now featured on the home page, and we've set up a **Twitter** account, which allows you to follow what we're doing online.

A lot more information has been added and you can find this by using the **Find out more** menu which is featured on most pages. You can also easily print any page, or choose to print all the 'find out more' pages as a single document - perfect for using as an information sheet for talks and presentations.

The site is not cast in stone - we will continue to review and develop our online presence and **suggestions** are most welcome - just send an email to the usual address. ■

Continued from opposite

We will also then address the issue of the monarchy itself, the question of what a hereditary head of state says about Britain, the way we leave the important choice of head of state to chance and how accountable and transparent the royal household really is.

We have a choice. We can leave things as they are and face the prospect of a politically active King Charles residing in an unaccountable and wasteful palace. We can continue to tolerate nepotism, corruption and abuse of privilege at the heart of our constitution, we can continue to tell our children they will never be good enough to be our head of state... or we can opt for the change this country needs.

Britain deserves the best, and its in

your power the give it the best. This is our country, these decisions are ours to make. Do you want your children and grandchildren to still be living with the monarchy in 100 years time? Or will we together make the decision to end this now and give Britain the democracy it deserves?

Some will tell you that this is all too difficult, that we should accept the monarchy as fact and just look to smaller, more achievable reforms. We don't believe in surrendering to those who benefit the most from our undemocratic constitution. We mustn't abandon our responsibility to improve our country for future generations.

This is our country and our democracy. If a reform is important - and this is the most important reform of all - then is it worth fighting for. We believe it is a fight that can be won, and won soon, with your help. ■

Monarchy doesn't work

The monarchy is damaging to those caught up in it, it is unaccountable and it acts as a drag on our democratic process. This is a broken institution that long ago abdicated all responsibility for power but continues to take what it can from the taxpayer.

The monarchy is a 'broke' institution. Constitutionally it has abdicated all responsibility. For most of the time the Queen is both powerless and pointless.

There is a cosy arrangement in place which allows the government of the day to exercise the Queen's power in return for political support for the monarchy. Officials use euphemisms to hide the true nature of this deal - they say the Queen acts "on the advice of the prime minister", meaning she does what she is told. We hear debate about the "royal prerogatives", which can be more accurately described as "prime ministerial powers". They talk



"The most talented and accomplished commoner is expected to defer to princes Harry and William."

about the Queen owning land, palaces and priceless art "in trust for the nation", which simply means we pay for them and she keeps them.

Politically the monarch serves little



Formerly the *100 Club*

The Winners Are

A Davies - £102.00 (Nov)

E Newbigging - £106.80 (Dec)

D Bennington - £109.60 (Jan)

Since 2006 members have been winning cash prizes in Republic's very own lottery fundraiser.

It's very easy to do, just complete the form which came with your *Welcome Pack* when you joined or request a form and we'll pop one in the post for you.

Every month a prize ticket is drawn. You can enter as many times as you like by setting up a standing order to purchase regular tickets - each pound paid is equal to a ticket in the draw.

Remember, the more tickets sold the bigger the prizes!

BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

purpose. There are some powers she can and has used, but on these occasions we are reminded why the monarchy is unacceptable in a modern democracy. The Queen can, for example, play a role in choosing our prime minister. It's a job an elected president could play if we had a hung parliament, but an unelected, unaccountable monarch has no right to interfere in our political process.

It's not just the institution that is dysfunctional. In it we have a family of fairly ordinary, uninspiring individuals who represent the very worst of Britain - snobbish, elitist and utterly out of

Continued on page 9

'Standards' campaign set for launch at conference

Republic is to launch a campaign on 'standards in public life' at this year's Spring Conference. The aim is to apply the same standards which are demanded of politicians, public officials and other public authorities to the royal household.

The official standards, which are monitored by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, are summed up in what the Committee calls its



'Seven Principles' of Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

The purpose of the campaign is to expose the monarchy's waste, extravagance, lack of accountability, self-serving secrecy and dishonest financial reporting.

We will be using Freedom of Information requests and other research methods to illustrate how the royal household falls short on every one of the seven principles of standards in public life. ■

Fundraising news

from **JAMES GRAY**



The last month has seen two major events in the life of our campaign. The airing of the highly-critical Dispatches

documentary 'The Problem Princes' and the re-launch of our website.

The surge in support that resulted from these events highlights the importance of communication – getting our message across to the right people at the right time.

"For every £1 Republic spends on getting our message across, the monarchy currently spends at least £33."

This is something the monarchy has known for many years, of course: a team of twenty PR people work full-time to promote the royals, at a cost of around £1 million every year.

We tend to think of the monarchy as a passive institution, something that is simply there. Even some republicans believe that monarchy is so deeply embedded in British society and culture that the chances of shifting it

are minimal.

And who can blame them? After all, the monarchy works very, very hard to give that impression.

But the monarchy isn't still here because the British public are inherently anti-democratic or because we truly adore the royals. The monarchy is still here because it spends hundreds of thousands of pounds campaigning.



ONLINE @
republic.org.uk/fundraising

And make no mistake, the royals and their PR team are running a relentless campaign. Think of Charles' recent jaunt to South America where he lectured us on climate change and bothered elderly tortoises. Think of William and Harry going on an African adventure to raise a few quid for charity (while charging the taxpayer many times that amount for security). Think of the Queen visiting Google or telling Lewis Hamilton what a fan of F1 she is.

These stunts make the evening news because of months of expensive behind-the-scenes manoeuvring.

For every £1 Republic spends on getting our message across, the monarchy currently spends at least £33. Over the next few weeks and months we're going to be asking you to help close that gap.

"We have thousands of hugely committed and enthusiastic supporters prepared to dip into their own pockets."

Think of the monarchy and Republic as two rival presidential campaigns. Ultimately, it's a battle of ideas, principles and values. But often it's who can outspend the other that decides the result.

If our marketing budgets were that bit closer, the fight would really be on.

The monarchy may have an almost unlimited source of funds – you, the taxpayer. But we have thousands of hugely committed and enthusiastic supporters like you who are prepared to dip into their own pockets and help drive forward change. ■

James Gray is Republic's full-time Development Manager, with particular responsibility for fundraising and membership development.

Monarchy doesn't work

Continued from page 7

touch with the rest of the country. The Windsors just keep on taking from the taxpayer and give very little back. Despite doing little and achieving even less, they demand respect and deference from everyone. The most talented and accomplished commoner is expected to defer to princes Harry and William. Scientists, architects and a host of other professionals, who have earned doctorates and professorships, are lectured and patronised by Charles, who demands he be heard and taken seriously for no reason other than his rank.

"The Windsors employ a huge PR team who work around the clock to promote the royal brand."

Desperate to defend their privilege the Windsors employ a huge PR team who work around the clock to promote the royal brand. Unable to point to any meaningful purpose the Windsors claim simply to "work hard", despite the evidence. They repeatedly remind us of what they do for charity, although what they do is of questionable value and could be done without the royal titles and the hundreds of servants.

It's not all their fault though. Let us spare a sympathetic thought for the Windsor family. They are dysfunctional and eccentric because of the bizarre institution into which they have been born. It is a cruel abuse that starts from birth, always being told what they cannot do, who they cannot marry, what careers they cannot pursue. Always being surrounded by sycophants and lackeys who never say 'no' or offer them any criticism or honest guidance. No wonder Charles believes he has the answers to the world's problems - he's always been told how brilliant he is, regardless of

The British Constitution



We enjoy some features of a democracy, but our constitution is profoundly undemocratic. It is "not worth the paper it's not written on" according to one MP. Professor Stephen Haseler once described it as "whatever the government wants it to be".

The British constitution is unwritten or, to be more precise, 'uncodified'. This means that, unlike in most modern democracies, there is no single document which explains how we are governed.

Instead constitutional experts point to a number of treaties, laws and conventions (another word for 'habits') which together make up the constitution. These include:

- * Acts of Parliament
- * Treaties
- * EU law

- * Common Law
- * Conventions
- * Royal Prerogative
- * Works of authority

This means it requires a considerable amount of study and probably a degree in politics or law to fully understand how Britain is governed. It is one of the least intelligible, least democratic and least accountable constitutions in the democratic world. Contrast this with, say, Ireland, which has a simple and readable written constitution, clearly setting out who has what power, how they got it and how they can be removed from office.

In any constitution, power has to come from somewhere and must reside with someone. In Britain it comes from the Crown and resides with the government and parliament. The people barely get a look-in, being given only the occasional chance to participate in the formal political process.

One key feature of the constitution is the continuation of arbitrary, unlimited and unaccountable power - all of which derive from the Crown. Most of these are exercised by the government, some continue to be exercised by the Queen. ■

Read more at www.republic.org.uk/britishconstitution

Republic Day '09 - June 2nd

Republic Day is back! This year we'll be asking you to take just one campaign action on June 2nd, to mark the day when we celebrate the republican tradition and the contemporary campaign. More details will be posted online soon and sent to you in a Campaign Alert email. ■

the evidence of his own academic record. The monarchy is as damaging to the Windsors as it is to our democracy. ■

Read more at www.republic.org.uk/monarchy

"REPUBLIC TOWN" coming soon

A new community campaign scheme - Republic Town - is being developed. The scheme is aimed at providing opportunities for members to get involved, wherever you live. ■

Republic Replies

Republic answers the most common monarchist arguments.

They say: "The Windsors work hard for Britain!"

REPUBLIC REPLIES

Let's assume for a moment that the Windsors do work hard, is this an argument for the monarchy? Should we appoint a head of state, MPs or other officials based on who works the most hours in the year?

Nurses, teachers, manual workers, police officers and even City bankers - these are people who work hard. To compare the royals' lifestyle with theirs is absurd. The royals are paid astronomic hourly rates for their

"Windsors are very good at working three days a week, five months of a year and making it look as though they work hard."

"work" and yet accept none of the risks of redundancy or formal performance appraisals, and do not have the same chores and responsibilities the rest of us face at home.

The simple truth is that they do very little. Mark Bolland, former press officer for Prince Charles, was quoted on Janet Street Porter's BBC programme in 2005 as saying "the



- 'Engagements' are not hard work.

Windsors are very good at working three days a week, five months of a year and making it look as though they work hard." More recently the Channel 4 Dispatches programme showed just how little work the royals do. They tell us they do lots of 'engagements' each year, but as the documentary showed, those engagements amount to very little actual work. Many are sporting or cultural events, such as watching a rugby game. Few last for more than an hour.

Importantly, at no time do the Windsors have to do anything for which they will be held accountable. Every detail of every engagement is planned and organised for them - all they have to do is turn up. If they say or do the wrong thing there are no consequences for them. They are never required to make serious decisions affecting the lives of others. They play at working, much like children play at 'doctors and nurses'. The idea the Windsors actually work hard is an insult to those who do. ■

Stan Collymore joins live on air

Sports commentator and former footballer Stan Collymore publicly backed Republic during a live debate on Talk Sport radio. Stan had invited Graham Smith onto his radio show to debate the monarchy and made his own views clear during the discussion. When he pointed out a number of our high profile supporters listed on our

website Graham asked if he would like to be added to the list. Stan agreed immediately and the lively debate continued. ■



The new website prominently features the all-new Republic TV. The online TV series will include comment and analysis from Republic staff, vox-pops on the street and interviews with our high profile and eminent supporters.

We received an excellent response from members and supporters earlier in the year, when we asked for suggestions for who we could invite onto Republic TV for interviews. Republicans and non-republicans alike were suggested, including: Michael Rosen, Tony Benn, Eddie Izzard, Boris Johnson, Benjamin Zephaniah, Jack Straw and Richard Dawkins.

The very first interview was with author and journalist Joan Smith, who talked about her republicanism and why she refused an OBE. That interview and one with John Cole are now online. ■

WIN A MUG

Q Which of the three armed services does not swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen?

A Answers to the usual address or email by April 20th.



Swedish take on their monarchy

Republicans in Sweden launched a new campaign in January, with a striking advert carried in the national press contrasting their head of state with the election of Obama.

The republican group has been in touch with Republic and we will be working on building an alliance in due course, similar to the *Common Cause* alliance we have with our counterparts in the Commonwealth.

Sweden is facing a renewed debate about their monarchy as they gear up for an expensive and high profile royal wedding in 2010.

The republicans explain the nature of their monarchy on their website (www.repf.se - in English as well as Swedish). They say:

“According to the Instrument of Government from 1974, the Swedish monarch should fulfil the following duties:

- The monarch is the head of state.
- He or she heads the special cabinet council held when there is a change of government, and also the regular "information councils" with the members of the Government.
- He or she opens the Riksdag, the Swedish parliament, every year.
- He or she chairs meetings of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs, the members of which are appointed by the Riksdag to hold consultations with the Government



• **No we can't: The Swedish advert.**

on foreign affairs.

- He or she is the foremost representative of the Swedish defence establishment and holds supreme rank in each of the service arms, as well as being honorary commander (Colonel-in-Chief) of certain military units.
- As Sweden's foremost representative in relation to other countries, the monarch receives the credentials of foreign ambassadors and signs those of Sweden's ambassadors.

The formal authorities of the Swedish monarch are greatly restricted, but looking at the list above that does not mean that the head of state lacks political significance.” ■

palace couldn't be more open to tourists. Conservative Edward Leigh MP told the palace officials: "you cannot close the entire Palace because the Duke of York is sitting in his flat upstairs.” ■

www.republic.org.uk/royalproperty



by Gareth Robson

Scotland, Canada and Sweden were all topics of discussion at our last Board meeting. The Republic Scotland project continues with a parliamentary reception in late March and plans for a new organising committee to be set up in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

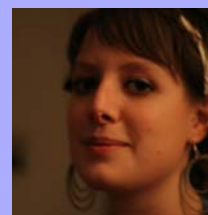
We were delighted to hear the Swedish campaign had been in touch and fully supported any joint projects our teams think will further our common cause. We were also more than happy to show solidarity with our counterparts in Canada and welcomed the idea of asking members to email messages of support for the Canadian legal challenge against their oath of allegiance for citizenship. I understand this scheme attracted a lot of interest from our supporters.

The Board continues to keep a close eye on our finances and I hope you will all take particular notice of the fundraising section in this edition of *Imagine*. ■

DIRECTOR PROFILE

NAME: Naomi Phillips
DIRECTOR SINCE: Oct 2008

Naomi works for the British Humanist Association, following a spell working in a policy team at the Ministry of Justice.



She has gained awards from both the University of Manchester and the LSE for her academic achievements in the fields of Social Policy and Gender.

Naomi joined the Board at last year's Annual General Meeting.

Commons questions Buck House

The Public Accounts Committee recently grilled managers from Buckingham palace over the state of their finances and their recent demands for more cash.

Ian Davidson MP and others were not pleased with excuses as to why the

Campaign action page

Republic is a campaigning organisation supported by thousands of British citizens around the country. It's easy to get involved. This regular page shows you some of the simple things you can do to help promote Republic and make the case for change.



ONLINE @
republic.org.uk/takeaction

Joining Facebook can spread the word far and wide

Facebook is one of the major phenomena of the internet age. With over 175 million active users, and with each user on average linking their profiles with 120 other 'friends' it is no wonder the site has attracted the attention of campaigners and politicians.

Republic signed up to Facebook eighteen months ago and has an active page and a number of groups set up.

While there is a lot we can do to continue to promote Republic via Facebook, there is a lot more you can do too.

Tell the World

Visit our "On Facebook" page at www.republic.org.uk/onfacebook to find out more about how you can use the site to promote our campaign.

Some of the ideas are pretty simple and allow you to tell all your Facebook friends about us at the click of a button.

Every page on Republic's website has its own 'Share' button, allowing you to instantly post the page on your Facebook profile. You can also lend us your status updates - next time we're launching a campaign or we're in the news, why not tell the world about it with your Facebook status update?

Find out more online at www.republic.org.uk/onfacebook



JOINING IS EASY

Republic's campaign work relies on the support of people like you, citizens who are committed to the idea of a republic. If you're not a member already you can join online or over the phone.

www.republic.org.uk - 08708 508 825

TOP TIP

Sign up to Twitter, the new social networking site. It's easy to do from the Republic website... then 'follow' what Republic is doing online and 're-tweet' the latest news.

From Kim Thomas
Republic member

Send your Top Tip to
imagine@republic.org.uk



Imagine: how far can yours go?

Did you know, this magazine is a valuable promotional opportunity waiting to happen?

Once you've read it, don't file it in the bin, pass it on to friends, family or work colleagues.

You could even leave it lying around in waiting rooms or staff canteens.

Help spread the word and promote Republic with your copy of *Imagine*. Leave your copy around for someone to discover.