

imagine

a democratic alternative to the monarchy

SCOTLAND CAMPAIGN

Republic's Scottish ambitions
Scottish attitudes to the monarchy
'Republic Scotland'

see page 5

Republic

The Campaign for an
Elected Head of State

REPUBLIC DAY 2ND JUNE

June 2nd is to be declared *Republic Day*, a new annual event, celebrated by Republic members and supporters around the country with a day of campaigning and promotional events.

June 2nd is also the anniversary of the day the Queen was officially given her job-for-life as our unelected Head of State.

Republic is going to reclaim June 2nd and use it to celebrate the cause of democracy and republicanism, and to promote our campaign.

HITTING THE STREETS

On Saturday June 3rd Republic will be canvassing and leafleting in streets and shopping centres around the country. We plan to have people in boroughs across London, promoting Republic and recruiting new supporters. New promotional material and give-aways will be available for members to hand out to passers-by and supporters.

Republic is asking all members and supporters to back Republic Day. This is a first for Republic and it is intended to be an annual day to mark the continuing campaign for a democratic head of state.

JUNE 2ND

On the day itself, Friday June 2nd, Republic will be issuing press releases, and sending letters to the national press and to the government. Supporters and members will be



asked to send their own letters to their local press and to their MPs.

"We want this to be a key date in the republican calendar," said Graham Smith, "We want June 2nd to become known as *Republic Day* by everyone, so each year we get an excellent opportunity to promote the cause."

William Summers, Local Campaigns Officer, added, "We're very keen to get our network of local groups involved in *Republic Day*. They are best placed to promote Republic in towns and cities across the country."

DETAILS

If you want to support Republic Day by joining and organising a local event please visit www.republic.org.uk/rday or call 08708 508 825 for more details. You can also find details of local groups by visiting www.republic.org.uk/groups or by calling William on 07870 928 789. ■

Republic remembers long time supporter and former minister, Tony Banks.

The recent death of Tony Banks has robbed Republic of a good friend and long time supporter. Mr Banks, who died after suffering a stroke while on holiday in the US, never kept his republican views secret.

One of the few republican MPs to make it to ministerial level (he was Sports Minister after the 1997 Labour landslide) he famously caused a row by crossing his fingers while taking the parliamentary oath.

Although also opposed to an unelected Lords Mr Banks took a seat in the upper house, reportedly wanting to take the title Lord Banks of the Thames. Instead he opted for Lord Stratford. He will be sorely missed. ■

Volunteers Needed for Republic Day

Can you help on the day? We would like to hear from you if you're free on Saturday June 3rd, to help hand out promotional items or run stalls in your local area.

If you can help please call Graham Smith on 07747 608 770 or email g.smith@republic.org.uk. ■

support the action

www.republic.org.uk/rday

Inevitable?

▪ CHRIS WHITE

At the time of writing, a poll of English national icons places the Monarchy at number 36. One of the last remaining justifications regularly trotted out by supporters of privilege by birth is the symbol of national unity that the Queen represents. Some unity that is, being placed 36th.

Such a lowly spot on a list of English icons – particularly bearing in mind that the royals have always been much less popular in the rest of the UK – is surely a sign that the reasoning that ‘the Monarchy has traditionally been a feature of British life and so should remain’ is waning. So is a republic inevitable?

Parliamentary support for Tony Benn’s 1991 Commonwealth of Britain Bill was pitiful, in large part due to the simple fact that the majority of MPs are of an age at which support for the Monarchy is typically higher. Certainly a great number of younger people view the institution as more and more anachronistic.

Amongst this age group, the greatest pro-Monarchism tends to



▪ Charles at Madame Tussauds: Is the monarchy losing national icon status?

come from right-leaning members of the middle class, who view the royals if not through rose-tinted spectacles then at least through novelty Union Flag lenses. Yet they are open to argument: I am slowly but surely convincing a friend, who fits the above description, that an hereditary Head of State is incompatible with the democratic principle that sovereignty flows up from the people, not down from one individual.

There is another factor that suggests the inevitability of a Republic. The Monarchy is tolerated largely because the Queen’s position

is relatively inoffensive. Even those with an ideological aversion to power inherited rather than acquired on merit will concede that the Sovereign’s potential power is never used.

The Queen doesn’t actually do much at all: her legislative role is principally ceremonial and consists of giving Royal Assent to Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament. But what if Royal Assent were refused?

Most Parliamentarians would take umbrage at an unelected Queen or King interfering with their democratically reached decisions. But it is not unthinkable. Prince Charles recently hinted that, had he been King, he would have refused Assent to the anti-Hunting legislation. Had he done so, he would likely have followed the first King of that name in being replaced by a republic.

The Monarchy’s future as a symbol of national unity is inevitably one of a nation united against it. ■

Republic

PO Box 69
Brighton
BN50 9GS
Tel/Fax: 08708 508 825
www.republic.org.uk
enquiries@republic.org.uk

Letters

It is surprising someone who hopes to be prime minister, Gordon Brown does not realise there cannot be a British equivalent to the American and French Independence Days (4 July and 14 July) as these days both mark the discarding of the shackles of monarchy and becoming modern republican democracies. This country still awaits becoming a modern democracy. Our parliamentary representatives have to swear allegiance to an elderly woman and her dysfunctional but unmeritedly rich and over-privileged family rather than promise to work for the good of the country! Oh for a British Independence Day, to celebrate when royalty is retired (no need for bloodshed) and we mere subjects achieve the status of French and

American citizenry and are able to vote for an elected head of state.

Jennifer Jeynes
London

My own view is that we should campaign quite clearly for a non-executive, largely ceremonial, role – simply replacing the present hereditary monarchy by an elected President. There is a much greater chance of support if we go for the minimum change; fighting two battles – the hereditary principle and the form of Government - is much too difficult a task, and will frighten many people off. What we are proposing is a simple, democratic evolution, not anarchy or revolution.

Malcolm Carpenter
York

I’ve been planning to start a new group in Brighton for the past few months, and now I’ve had my first meeting I’m really optimistic about

what we can do. With some support from Republic we will be doing some leafleting in the town centre and we plan to support the new Republic Day in June. If you live in or near Brighton please get in touch with me and help support Republic.

Alex Pitt
Brighton
07747 013912

We’d like to hear from you. Are you organising any local activities or do you have some views on the campaign or the issues that you’d like to share? Send your letters to imagine@republic.org.uk or to *Imagine*, PO Box 69, Brighton, BN50 9GS.

If you would like to contribute to Imagine email imagine@republic.org.uk or call Graham Smith on 08708 508 825 and ask for a copy of the Writer’s Guidelines.

Republic's 1st Spring Conference

Republic is pleased to announce its very first Spring Conference will be held on Saturday April 29th.

The conference, which will be held in Leeds, is a chance for members to come together to debate the issues, discuss policy and work on campaign ideas and activities.

Graham Smith explained, "Republic is growing fast, and because of this the Executive Committee feels it is right to give members more opportunity to get involved in formulating our campaign."

The Spring Conference is not a General Meeting, but is instead a consultative conference, designed to formulate policy ideas, which can then be taken to the Annual General Meeting in October. There will also be opportunities to listen to speakers and to join workshop groups to discuss campaign issues in more detail.

Further information will be sent to all members nearer the time. To reserve your place right away you can either email sc@republic.org.uk or call the office on 08708 508 825. You can also visit www.republic.org.uk/spring. ■

The Two Million Pound Grab

• BURT KEIMACH

This is the stuff of dreams ... well, mine anyway.

Have you ever wondered what you'd do if the Chancellor suddenly handed you £2 million from the public purse because there was concern over your safety?

Wow! A new overpriced house; a yacht; a holiday; a car with all the gadgets; or if you're more modest how about a mobile with unlimited worldwide calls? If you're of a more altruistic frame of mind, maybe the loot would let you jack in your job to work full time for world peace.

So that's why I get just a bit miffed when I hear that it's going to cost us taxpayers £2 million to keep Prince William at Sandhurst to join his brother Harry for a 44 week military course. What's that? The world really needs two more soldiers doing such useful stuff.

Well, consider the costs:

Two teams of Ghurkhas at the ready. Together with royal protection officers

Continued on page 6

Will Self joins growing list of high profile supporters

The journalist and writer, and occasional panellist on *Have I Got News For You*, Will Self, has come on board as a supporter of Republic.

Stating that one of his strongest convictions was his opposition to the monarchy, Mr Self is the latest of a string of journalists and politicians to join Republic.

In the past twelve months a number of backbench Labour MPs have come on board, joined by leading Lib Dem MEP Graham Watson and Plaid Cymru Welsh Assembly Member Leanne Wood AM (right). John Cole, former BBC political editor, has also added his support to the campaign in recent months, along with Labour Lord George Foulkes.



"We are hoping to expand our list of high profile supporters," Graham Smith explained. "Such support helps to give us greater credibility in the eyes of the media." ■

A Message from the Chair



RUBY
LESCOTT

No outfit likes being stuck with a brand name that has unpleasant resonances – remember Windscale, and how quickly Townsend Thoresen disappeared from the hulls of cross-Channel

ferries after the appalling Zeebrugge disaster. Prince Charles is on to this, and has been considering what title, rather than Charles III, he might adopt when (or 'if', as we members of Republic prefer to think) he ascends the throne.

The problem is, however, that all the alternatives that he may be mulling over in his mind are tainted. It's understandable that he doesn't like 'Charles'. Charles I was an arrogant, petulant, deluded bungler who lost his head and throne after plunging England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales into a civil war that cost 300,000 lives. Charles II was a dilettante rake who

was little more than a front-man for a cabal of cunning politicians. So the Prince of Wales understandably wishes to look elsewhere.

He has considered 'George'. Well, yes – George VI, the present Queen's father, was a kind, well-meaning man, utterly devoid of leadership qualities, but at least better than his own cold, bullying father who treated his children with about as much affection as one might an unwanted goldfish. But the rest of the Georges are decidedly short on the 'wow' factor. George I spoke no English, didn't like the English, and made war on the Scots. George II did speak English but also made war on the Scots. George III was so barmy that he merited a feature film on his madness. George IV was foul to his wife, greedy, selfish and neurotic.

How about 'William'? Well, that might lead to confusion. His loyal subjects might be uncertain as to whether Charles himself was king, or whether some game of royal leap-frog had resulted in the crown passing to his own son. Isn't 'Henry' a possibility

then? Not really, for it conjures up the idea that there might be four more wives after Camilla. 'Edward'? Great Uncle Eddie ruled that out of court with his confounded abdication and subsequent nuzzling up to the Nazis.

Desperate times call for desperate measures – 'Stephen'? Sorry, not possible, he was another king who brought England to civil war. That really only leaves 'Richard', which might work if the Prince of Wales was married to someone called Judy, but as a royal name is as tainted as the rest. Richard I was an absentee king who cost his country a fortune. Richard II was so weak he had to be deposed, his downfall, so the history books tell us, 'being inevitable'. Richard III? Yet another civil war.

It's a shame Charles isn't a woman. He could choose 'Elizabeth', but while the name's ok, what number would he take? Elizabeth III for England, or Elizabeth II for Scotland?

Perhaps he should simply give up, for all the evidence shows that, whatever the name, kings and queens make rotten heads of state. ■

2006 is 'Scotland Year' for Republic

PLANS FOR 2006

Republic is to focus on building support for the campaign in Scotland, throughout 2006.

Plans for north of the border include:

- Exhibiting at the Scottish Liberal Democrat Conference
- Exhibiting at the SNP conference
- Launching *Republic Scotland*, a branch of Republic which will carry the campaign forward in the future
- Holding members' meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Visits to groups in other parts of Scotland
- Public meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Media promotions

Campaign Coordinator Graham Smith told *Imagine*, "Scotland has historically been very supportive of

Charles' poll ratings go down Down Under

A recent opinion poll published in Australia has shown that Charles could personally be responsible for that country becoming a republic. The poll, carried out by the *Australian* newspaper, shows support for a republic jumping from 46% to 52% when people were asked about the prospect of King Charles.

Graham Smith, Campaign Coordinator for Republic told the *Australian*, "Australia is an important country with a similar system to ours and if it does get rid of the monarchy there will be a lot of hard questions asked in Britain."

Australians were surprised to discover that the very thought of a future King Charles could lead to an outright majority in favour of a republic.

It is commonly felt that once monarchist Prime Minister John Howard leaves office a republican will take his place, either his own Treasurer or the leader of the Labor Party, paving the way to Australia ditching the monarchy for good. ■

the idea of a republic. It is about time we tapped into that public mood and turned it into real action."

William Summers, newly appointed Assistant Coordinator, and Local Campaigns Officer, added, "We are calling on all Scots to join us in campaigning actively for an end to the monarchy. Scotland has led the way on this issue, just as it does on many other issues."

SCOTTISH ATTITUDES TO THE MONARCHY

The Scots have long been less enthusiastic about the monarchy, and in April 2005 opinion polls put opposition to the Crown at 49%.

During the party conferences which Republic attended late last year many Scots from both the Liberal Democrats and Labour urged Republic to do more north of the border, telling us that support for a republic was strong.

For some reason the SNP has not

yet come out in favour of a Scottish Republic, although the Scottish Socialists have. The SNP do however support a referendum on the issue.

CALL FOR SUPPORT

The Republic campaign team is calling on all republican Scots to join up, lend a hand and support the campaign in Scotland. Graham Smith added, "It is vital we build a strong team of campaigners and volunteers in Scotland, so we can continue to build support for Republic and demonstrate the public mood among all Scots."

One of Republic's main aims in 2006 is to establish *Republic Scotland*, an active Scottish-wide branch which will be able to work throughout the year, in tandem with the national team, to promote the campaign and the cause. If you can help call us on 08708 508 825. ■

What's in a name?

• KELLY SHAW

Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland - together they make up the complex nation state of the United Kingdom. But what happens to this United Kingdom when we have no King, or Queen?

This raises the question, what's in a name? How important is the name of a country? And how attached are we to the name *UK*?

When asked our nationality, none of us would seriously call ourselves UKish. We're British, or English/Scottish/Welsh etc. Many people abroad see us as England, Scotland or Wales, rather than *Britain*.

So how important is a name? Prince Charles reportedly wants to change his name, preferring to become King George, to avoid associations with the unfortunate reigns of Charles I and II. And similarly the UK will need to be renamed when its people decide they'd rather not have a King George VII any more than a King Charles III.

The renaming of countries is hardly new or even that rare. Numerous

countries, both old and new, have changed or altered their names, particularly those which have been freed from colonial rule. Most recently the remnants of Yugoslavia became Serbia and Montenegro. Burma has, more controversially, become Myanmar, Malaya is now Malaysia, Ceylon is Sri Lanka, East Pakistan is Bangladesh, Persia is Iran, Zaire is Congo. Even in Europe many names have changed, appeared and vanished. Czechoslovakia didn't exist 100 years ago, and no longer exists now. Even the UK is, in historical terms, relatively new.

So the names of countries are not as permanent as we might sometimes think. So what would this union of nations be called once we are a republic?

Perhaps simply the *Union of Britain and Northern Ireland*? Or just *Britain and Northern Ireland*? Of course some may prefer the constituent parts be separated, but that is not Republic's goal. And for as long as England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland remain as one, we will need a new name for our new republic. Any ideas? ■

New Plans Agreed by EC

Just before Christmas Republic's Executive Committee approved a campaign plan for 2006.

The plan, which is set to become the template for future years, includes events, better media management, membership development, fundraising, a re-branding exercise and conferences.

The set-piece event of the year will be *Republic Day*, details of which are contained in this issue of *Imagine*.

Following on from the success of our conference exhibition stands in 2005, Republic will this year be attending the SNP and Scottish Liberal Democrat conferences. This marks a renewed commitment to campaigning in Scotland.

Reaching for less traditional audiences Republic will also be attending the Conservative Party conference. Although we won't be exhibiting there, Republic will be hosting a fringe meeting, asking Conservative party members and delegates to think about the future of the monarchy.

In an exciting new development for members Republic will launch its very first Spring Conference in April. The conference, to be held in Leeds, will be an excellent opportunity for members to discuss the issues, debate policy and strategy, and to meet other supporters of Republic.

It is being held in Leeds to give people who live further from London a chance to come to a members' meeting.

A series of fundraising initiatives will be launched over the next few months, including a new *Republic 100 Club*, which is not only a chance for Republic to raise funds, but also gives supporters a chance to win cash prizes.

With the Queen turning 80 in April there will be some good opportunities for Republic to get some media attention. We will be making the case that the Queen should retire, particularly if there is continued talk of Prince Charles taking over some of her duties. Republic will continue to make the point that we only have one Head of State, not two. It is the Queen's job, and if she is no longer able to perform it she should go.

June promises to be a busy month,

with *Republic Day* being followed by the release of the annual financial reports by Buckingham Palace and Clarence House. This year we plan to be there to draw attention to the extravagance of royal finances, and to raise awareness of our campaign.

Throughout 2006 William Summers, Republic's Local Campaigns Officer, will be visiting local groups around the country, offering support and ideas and helping them get established. Road Shows and other events are also being planned to promote local groups where they have not yet been started.

More research will be conducted during 2006, designed to help inform a more effective campaign strategy.

Republic has also begun a twelve month re-branding exercise, involving questionnaires, consultation, and new design work, aimed at giving Republic a new image, including a new logo and slogan.

Our lobbying will continue, with new projects being drawn up to target political parties and politicians.

Republic is very keen to put in place an active programme of events and to quickly improve its own management and organisation. We have an ambitious goal, and to achieve it we will need more money, members and media exposure. We hope the 2006 plan will get us moving in the right direction. ■

NEW ADDRESS FOR REPUBLIC

Republic has a new postal address. The address has been moved as part of our continuing effort to improve efficiency and the speed with which we deal with correspondence and postal membership applications.

The old address will be redirected for six months before being cancelled. The new Republic address is:

**PO BOX 69
BRIGHTON
BN50 9GS**

The Two Million Pound Grab

Continued from page 4

they'll guard the ends of the corridors where the duo will be sleeping. (Remember last summer when our money was being so wisely spent when a Sun reporter gained access to Harry's room with a fake bomb).

Then there was Harry's trip to Australia for his three month holiday that cost us all a mere £600,000. The cost to the locals in dollars came to \$35,000 just for food, drink, and travelling for the bodyguards. As if that weren't enough protection, they shelled out \$31,000 for the Police.

Then his father, Charles Windsor, in spite of his so-called "personal" wealth, (that hard-earned stash based on land rents, and other expropriations over centuries) decided to stick it to the Australian taxpayers for his little jaunt. He invited himself there for seven days, so the Federal Government forked out \$1 million for fares, accommodation, and security. The air fare alone for the whole "team" was \$230,000!

Charles is extra keen to get tax money to allay his costs at home too. When he switched the site of his wedding from Windsor Castle to the Registry Office of the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, the extra police burden weighed in at £1 million.

Maybe we should get rid of the culture of deference and stop the gargantuan hand outs to people who don't deserve it, and indeed only manage to embarrass us at every turn. ■

Students Needed

The University of East Anglia is leading the way in establishing an active student Republic society.

We're looking for other students to follow their lead and set up student Republic societies around the country.

If you'd like to find out more about how to do this give us a call on 08708 508 825 or email g.smith@republic.org.uk ■

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily the view or policy of Republic, its staff or its Executive Committee.

Local groups: Where they are

East Midlands

Nottinghamshire
Mr Kieran Byrne
01636 671 741

Northamptonshire
Mr Steve Aylard
07958 601 241

East England

Bedford
Mr Dedwydd Jones
01234 301 718

Peterborough
Mr Nick Sandford
07905 015 572

Suffolk-Essex Border
Prof Alan Crowe
01787 227 280

London

Central
Mrs Nina Coten
0207 588 1854

East
Mr Scott Reeve
0208 503 7077

South East
Don Pennell
0208 473 6431

West
Mr Cullen Henshaw
0208 560 9099

North East

There are no groups in the North East. Can you help to change that? Call William Summers on 0787 092 8789.

North West

Lancaster & Surrounds
Mr John Reynolds
0781 311 7462

Manchester
Mr Colin Melvin
0161 959 2129

Scotland

Glasgow
Mr Thomas Burns
07962 139 032

Scottish Borders
Mr Lee Brown
01750 20484

South East

Brighton & West Sussex
Mr Alex Pitt
07747 013 912

Gillingham & Medway
Mr Vince Maple
07981 661 451

Havant & Waterlooville
Ms Marie Johnston
07963 848 091

Hertfordshire
Mr John Tarrington
01763 848 870

Milton Keynes & Surrounds
Mr Lloyd Cartey
07866 006 884

South West

Bristol & Surrounds
Mr Andrew Withers
07720 059 725

Christchurch to Poole
Mr Jake Hirst
07903 990 067

Plymouth & Cornwall
Mr Peter Edwards
01752 240 779

Somerset
Mr Simon Marshall
07837 384 556

Torbay, Exeter & Surrounds
Mr John Macadie
01803 849 494

Wales

Cardiff
Mr John Campbell
01222 595 901

Swansea
Mr Mark Griffiths
01792 232 847

West Midlands

Birmingham
Mr John Dillon
0121 444 3009

Yorkshire & Humberside

Hull & Surrounds
Mr Phil Smith
07967 059 204

Leeds
Mr Ray Arber
01132 697 652

Scunthorpe
Mr John Flemming
01724 351 697

Sheffield & South Yorkshire
Mr Jeff Cowley
0114 237 2326

CAN YOU ADD TO THE LIST?

Why not start a group in your area? To find out more, and to get your *FREE* copy of our Local Groups Guide, call William Summers on 0787 092 8789. Or you can email him at w.summers@republic.org.uk

Our local groups network is being promoted and supported as a way of spreading the campaign message, getting people in towns and cities around the country to learn about Republic. If you can help in this vital area of campaigning, give us a call.

- **Group details are kept up-to-date on our website at www.republic.org.uk/groups.**
- Republic can help groups with small start up grants. Contact William for further details.



The Pen is Mightier... (Part I)

Is your local MP a republican? If you don't know for sure, maybe you should find out, says Local Campaigns Officer WILLIAM SUMMERS.

To date, eighteen MPs have given their official backing to Republic's campaign. So that means 18 of the 646 sitting MPs, or just under 3% of them, believe Britain should move towards a republic, right?

It's hard to believe, of course. When opinion polls consistently put support for a republic around 20% - that's a fifth of the population - there is no logical reason to believe this proportion doesn't equally apply to our elected parliamentarians. Statistically that means at least 129 MPs currently support our cause for a democratic alternative to the monarchy.

So why don't those with republican sympathies come out of the political closet and add their name to our growing supporter list? Primarily there are two reasons. The first is political anxiety. MPs are often reluctant to support contentious campaigns for fear of upsetting their voters. Therefore an MP with sympathies for our campaign may understandably want to keep those views under wraps for fear of upsetting monarchists in their constituency - especially if they are clinging on to a small majority.

At last year's party conferences we encountered several MPs who told us they supported our campaign but were not willing to do so publicly. You may think that republicanism is a matter of principal and so all sympathetic MPs should just come out of the political closet, but the reality is most will take more persuading to reassure them that supporting us won't be politically

damaging (though it's worth pointing out that many MPs who officially support us were actually returned with an *increased* majority in the 2005 election!).

It's not Republic's job to 'out' high profile republicans. Instead we need to put forward a rational and professional case for abolishing the monarchy and work hard to swing public opinion in our favour. Greater public support for our cause should then make it easier for MPs to back us, knowing their voters do too.

The second reason sympathetic MPs don't yet officially support us is much simpler to deal with. Though Republic regularly lobbies MPs, and

I would urge you to undertake one small but important task this week - write to your MP...

has just recently written to all Lib Dem and Labour politicians, many will not be sufficiently aware of the work Republic does or the support we have. Moreover, sympathetic MPs may not see lending their name to our campaign as a high priority until they are urged to do so by their electors.

And that's where YOU come in!

In our parliamentary system, constituents have as much, if not more, influence over their own MPs than do lobbyists. Lobbyists can be ignored, but most MPs will respond to correspondence from their constituents. Republic campaigns all year round, but we can't possibly attain direct contact with all MPs no matter how many letters we send or how many phone calls we make. But *you can*.

Whether you are part of an established local group or a supporter who has never had any interaction with Republic beyond paying your subscription and reading this magazine, I would urge you to undertake one small but important task this week - write to your MP expressing your feelings about

republicanism and asking them to support our campaign.

All letters addressed to your MP at "House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA" will find their way to the right person. Alternatively, you can send a message to your MP via the wonder of the internet by logging on to www.writetothem.com.

Finally, I would be grateful to hear any responses, positive or negative, from your elected representatives. I am optimistic we can increase our numbers significantly from the nineteen MPs already listed, but we need your help. So before you sit down to write that letter, remember your lobbying power!

Below is a list of MPs who currently back us. If your MP is on this list it is still important to write to them to express your support for their position. If your MP doesn't appear on the list it is *vital* you contact them to tell them about the campaign.

I am absolutely certain there are dozens of MPs in Westminster who support the cause of republicanism. It's our job to find them. ■

MPs Who Support Republic

Norman Baker MP
 Russell Brown MP
 Michael Clapham MP
 Jeremy Corbyn MP
 David Crausby MP
 Ian Davidson MP
 Paul Flynn MP
 Roger Godsiff MP
 Kelvin Hopkins MP
 Brian Iddon MP
 Glenda Jackson MP
 Andrew Mackinlay MP
 Robert Marshall-Andrews MP
 Ann McKechnie MP
 Chris Mullin MP
 Doug Naysmith MP
 Stephen Pound MP
 Gordon Prentice MP

www.republic.org.uk/groups