

London Evening Standard

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**Kate spotted
on her last
solo duty
before baby**

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■ **MAN HELD AFTER JUBILEE PICTURE IS SPRAYED WITH PAINT**

QUEEN'S PORTRAIT ATTACKED IN ABBEY

Kiran Randhawa and Joseph Watts

AN OFFICIAL portrait of the Queen in Westminster Abbey was today defaced with spray paint.

The work had only been on display for a few weeks before being vandalised.

The portrait by artist Ralph Heimans, the only official one of the Queen in her Diamond Jubilee year, was first unveiled last year. A spokesman for the Abbey, where she was crowned in 1953, said the painting, put up last month, has been removed from public view.

"In an incident at lunchtime today, a visitor to the Abbey sprayed paint on the Ralph Heimans portrait of the Queen presently on display in the Chapter

House," he said. "Until work can be done to remedy the damage it will, very regrettably, not be possible to have the painting on public view."

The Queen sat for an hour for London-based Australian Mr Heimans at Buckingham Palace last year, leaving him to use his imagination to "place" her in the Abbey in the almost lifesize oil-on-canvas portrait. The painting was due to remain on display until September 27.

A man aged 41 was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage, Scotland Yard said. The attack came as five protesters were arrested during Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper's visit to Parliament. The Met said they were held after a protest at the Sovereign's Entrance.



Target: portrait of the Queen in Westminster Abbey by Ralph Heimans

**Hester's exit
wipes £1.5bn
off RBS stake**

Jonathan Prynne, Joe Murphy and Nicholas Cecil

MORE than £1.5 billion was wiped off the value of the taxpayers' stake in RBS today as the City reacted with dismay to the "politically motivated" departure of chief executive Stephen Hester. Shares in the banking giant, which is 81 per cent publicly owned, slumped almost six per cent following Mr Hester's surprise announcement that he will quit by the end of the year.

The drop came as the political fall-out from his decision to leave – with a cash and shares payout worth up to £5.6 million – deepened. There has been speculation that the move followed a disagreement with Chancellor George Osborne over the timing of any privatisation. But in the Commons, Treasury minister Sajid Javid said that RBS would now move to a new phase in which it would focus on helping

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**'Floating garden'
Thames bridge**

THE Thames is set to get a £60 million bridge in the shape of a floating garden linking Covent Garden to the South Bank. Boris Johnson and Transport for London have backed the scheme by designer Thomas Heatherwick.

Full story Page 7

**Bar punch Aussie
can play in Ashes**

AUSTRALIAN batsman David Warner has been fined £7,000 and suspended until the first Ashes Test after punching England star Joe Root. The 26-year-old had faced being sent home for the attack in the Walkabout bar in Birmingham.

Full story Pages 74 & 75

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