

HELLO!

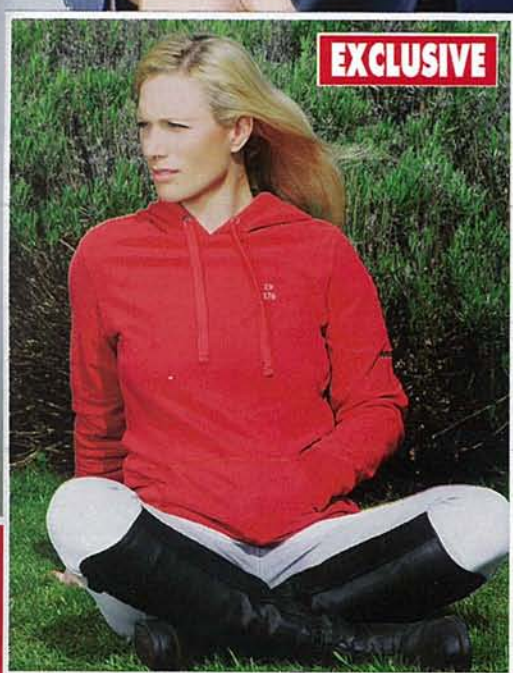
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THE ROYAL WEDDING COUNTDOWN STARTS HERE!

NEW PHOTOS

WILLIAM AND KATE LAST-MINUTE PREPARATIONS, NERVES AND REHEARSALS



EXCLUSIVE

ZARA PHILLIPS: OUR NEXT ROYAL BRIDE TURNS MODEL PLUS SIMON COWELL ON HIS DREAM JUDGES

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Meg's own wallpaper designs decorate the walls of both her and Anais's bedrooms – though her daughter has accessorised hers (left) with a picture of her father, former Oasis star Noel Gallagher. Meg recently teamed up with interior designer Sean Cochrane to create a new design company, called S&M. "Our style is Ralph Lauren with a rock'n'roll twist," she says

Both Meg and Noel, who split up shortly after Anais was born (they divorced in 2001), are keen to make sure their daughter is exposed to some normality. "I do spoil Anais but I'm also very strict and she has to be in bed before 9pm. Everyone says she has lovely manners and she would never brag at school about going to this premiere or that.

NORTHERN ROOTS

"At half term, when all her friends from school were jetting off here and there, she went to stay with Grandma Peggy [Noel's mother] in Manchester, in the same council house where she brought up her boys," Meg explains. "Then she went to Southport to Sara's [Noel's girlfriend and mother of their two boys, Donovan, three and

Sonny, five months] before staying with my parents in Liverpool, who are very ordinary and down to earth.

"She loves staying with Grandma Peggy and has never commented on whether her house is much smaller or anything like that, so I know she is grounded – although she did once say she hoped we were flying first class and going to the lovely Virgin lounge, but I immediately gave her short shrift about that!" laughs Meg.

Anais clearly has a good relationship with her dad too, although Meg says she tries not to probe too much. "I had eight girls from boarding school staying here in January for Anais's birthday and Noel came in a minibus and took them off to give me a break, which I thought was really



'Prince Harry said "hello" when I walked past and that he loved my dad's music' - Anais



Anais was thrilled to share a burger backstage with Prince Harry when they met at Wireless 2009, but usually the girls eat healthily – in the dining area (above) they tuck into some salads prepared by Meg's chef Sean Paul before taking the aptly named Pugalicious and Oscar, a Boston terrier, for a walk in the park (right)

she recalls. "It's only when you look back that you appreciate how unique a time it was."

Does she miss all that? "I think I still have it. I feel very fulfilled. It is a different time now. I'm 45 and I couldn't be doing all that now. I don't have the energy."

Energy, however, seems to be one asset Meg is not short of. She speaks at relentless speed, flitting from one subject to the next, and has numerous projects on the go. She has forged a successful career for herself as an interior dresser (she doesn't like the term designer as she is not formally trained), designs wallpaper and furniture for Liberty and has been asked by Topman to design a line of scarves.

She has also recently teamed up with interior designer Sean Cochrane to create a new company called S & M (Sean and Meg) which launched last month at the Ideal Home Exhibition.

"Our style is Ralph Lauren with a rock'n'roll twist," she explains. "I teamed up with Sean because I needed to move out of my comfort zone and now I'm with someone who encourages me to take more of a risk."

Her first leap of faith, she reveals as she presents the drawings to **HELLO!**, is a massive building project in Beijing for five skyscrapers, for which she and Sean will be designing the interiors. It's a daunting undertaking to say the least.

SMART AND SOBER

It hasn't been lost on Meg that her recent success has coincided with sobriety. And she denies that it's a struggle to stay on course.

"I still go to [AA] meetings about four times a week, but I love it. My lifestyle has changed and some of my friends too. I went to an opening party this week and had a great time, but I was ready to go home by 12.30."

"Am I having as much fun? Of course I am, because it's not fun nursing a hangover, being sick and having to say sorry for doing something you can't even remember. I was always the one who would fall over, say something stupid or go to take my top off – and I got fed up apologising."

"Nine times out of ten you're much better without that glass of champagne you're just about to drink. I thought I was the funniest and loudest, but really I was just a pain. I have a lot more friends since I became sober."

"You have a drink because you feel you need ▶

