



Glorious royal show of unity

SEE PAGES 6-7

White tie and tiaras: The King and Queen with the Prince and Princess of Wales at a reception last night

As junior doctors announce longest walkout in NHS history...

THE CRUELLEST AND MOST INDEFENSIBLE DOCTORS' STRIKE YET

JUNIOR doctors will stage the longest strike in NHS history – putting patients at risk and piling more strain on hospitals at their busiest time of year.

They will again abandon their posts for three days this month and

By **Shaun Wooller** Health Editor

six more at the start of January. The move came after British Medical Association chiefs rejected a pay offer in their long-running row with the Government.

Health Secretary Victoria Atkins warned of huge disruption and danger to patient safety. Her concerns were

echoed by health chiefs who described the BMA's 'hasty' decision to quit talks as the outcome they were dreading.

The walkouts are likely to coincide with a surge in winter viruses as well as casualties from Christmas parties.

Nurses, physiotherapists and paramedics have all called off strikes following pay deals, while consultants are to vote on an offer their leaders have accepted.

Lee Anderson, Conservative Party

deputy chairman, said that junior doctors should read the Hippocratic oath and end their industrial action now.

The Ashfield MP added: 'This is nothing but a slap in the face for patients.'

'Millions of appointments have already been cancelled thanks to strikes – and the BMA knows exactly the harm they're causing by walking out over the busiest

Turn to Page 2