

★ **Sir Patrick Stewart** finds his celebrity status can be tiresome on occasions. "Sometimes it's awkward," huffs the 77-year-old Star Trek actor. "I can't sit in a bar for an hour on my own any more."

"Tourists are the worst. Something happens to people when they're on holiday - they lose their sense of what's proper." Just as well his father is no longer around to air his views on Patrick's sensitivity. Yorkshireman Fred Stewart was a sergeant-major in the Parachute Regiment, a man of whom it was said that when he strode on to the parade ground, birds stopped singing.

★ **Getting older no longer bothers Dame Angela Lansbury.** "I've found that with age has come a lot of acceptance," says the actress, 92, who stars in the BBC One three-part series *Little Women* from Tuesday. "For years, I had lifts and nips and tucks but I've stopped doing that now. I don't want to look young any more. I just want to look OK for my age - and be able to look at myself in the mirror and say: 'Powder your nose, put on some lipstick... and get on with it.'"

★ **Kate Garraway** will be trying not to cause any disasters at festive gatherings. "I had a hideously embarrassing moment at a friend's New Year's Eve party," giggles the ITV breakfast show broadcaster. "I was chatting in the kitchen, perched on their radiator, when suddenly it came away from the wall and water started gushing everywhere. I had to call a plumber at 3am, and ended up borrowing wellies, desperately trying to mop everything up."



DIARY DATE?: Giles Wood and Mary Killen

★ If there's one gift that **Nadiya Hussain** would like to grant to the nation, it's the return of milk. "There's something so lovely about waking up and finding milk on your doorstep," muses the Bake Off winner, who's 33 tomorrow. "I used to love that as a kid and I've just discovered a milkman in a proper folder where I live. He'll be making regular visits to our house from now on."



★ **Modeling by the endless paparazzi** shots of her long hair being cut into and, more unsteadily, out of the capital's nightclubs, no party is complete without **LOTTIE MOSS**, who is principally famous for being the younger half-sister of Kate Moss.

Striking blonde Lottie was first scouted by a modelling agency at the age of 13 and went on to front campaigns for Calvin Klein and Balmain. But though she's almost 20 and has had endless exposure in front of the cameras, she admits she suffers from a lack of self-confidence.

The 5ft 6in model tells me: "It's really overwhelming when I see people stare at me. I think, 'Oh my God. Do I look really ugly? I don't know how I calm myself down. I just think: 'Breathe, breathe, breathe.'"

But the episodes of self-doubt are worth it, she freely acknowledges, not just for the money but for the goodies she receives from designers keen for her to be snapped wearing their clothes or touting their handbags.

"I get sent so much stuff. Me and my flatmate have a third bedroom where we shows all of our clothes. We just hide everything and shut the door. But I do give away a lot to charity shops." Happily, Lottie is not arrogant - yet - about the advantages of her position. "Modeling has opened so many doors for me, and I'm so happy I've been given this opportunity. I'm really enjoying it and I'm not going to slow down. I feel really blessed."



Picture: JEFF SPICER/Getty

★ **Bickering married couple Giles Wood and Mary Killen** have gained a certain following through their appearances on *Cl's Gogglebox* and have produced a book, entitled (aptly, some of their detractors may think *The Diary Of Two Nobodies*.

"It's about how you can save the pain of living with someone 24/7 without getting divorced," says Mary. "I'd recommend writing, as you pour your venom into the words, you realise it's not as bad as you thought."

As for Giles's view of matrimony, he sighs: "After 30 years of marriage, happiness is having a new tap fitted on the bath."

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★ **Sir David Attenborough** has encountered plenty of scary situations during his global expeditions but one of his most alarming experiences happened in bed in London. The TV naturalist, 91, had returned home after months in Borneo and was relishing the prospect of his first night in crisp, clean sheets. But he woke up drenched in sweat and his first thought was that he had malaria.

"So I woke up my wife, Jane, and said, 'I've got malaria, what do I do?' Then I put my hand on the sheet and it was red-hot. While I was away, she had bought an electric blanket with a dual control. My side had been on all night - I was absolutely parboiled."



★ **Carey Mulligan** has no problem dealing with the trickiest acting scenes but she buckles under the pressure of parallel parking. So much so, that the Westminster-born star has failed her driving test five times.

The Oscar nominee, who is to star in the BBC Two drama *Collateral* in February, can't seem to master the skills required to get her licence, even though she passed the American test first time.

"In the States it's a piece of cake: you drive around the block and they give you a licence," she says. "It's way harder in England. It's a pressure thing. I see someone with a clipboard and my mind explodes. Parking is a major problem. I fall apart."

At her first test, Carey, 31, says she failed within two minutes of getting in the car. "I'm going up the hill and I stall and start rolling back down. There's a Range Rover behind me and the instructor freaks out and steps on the emergency brakes. I went, 'Oh, that's done!'"

For her most recent test, her husband, singer Marcus Mumford (above), was so convinced she would pass that he came to collect her clutching a bottle of champagne. "I was pregnant and I hauled myself out of the car, crying, with my huge baby bump and my test sheet with 'Fail' on it, and he said it was the saddest thing he'd ever seen."

No matter, the Great Gatsby star, who had her second child four months ago, has vowed to try again... after a few more lessons.

★ Irish writer **Marian Keyes**, 54, disapproves of Christmas, because she believes it's a waste of time, particularly for women. "I see my mother terrified by turkeys and the number of people she has to cater for. So I've staged a revolution: I won't go to anyone's house for lunch. Instead I go for a forest walk with my husband Tony. Then we have sandwiches - but not turkey."

# Windsor's makeover for Meghan

IT'S NOT just Meghan Markle who will be looking her best when she marries Prince Harry on May 19 in Windsor. The whole town is getting a £2.8million makeover in time for the big day. Local councillors have sanctioned the acceleration of 17 already-planned schemes to improve the appearance of Windsor in time for the wedding in St George's Chapel.

"The eyes of the world will be on the town and we want to make sure that Windsor looks like a beautiful place," says council leader Simon Dudley.

The improvements, to be carried out a year earlier than planned, include work on parks, footpaths and signs. Completing them ahead of schedule will cost the local authority an extra £70,000 but the increased number of visitors will boost the area's businesses - most hotels are already booked up.

One of the town's newer additions, the unsightly security barriers that were installed near the castle to protect against terrorists, and it is planned to replace them with less ugly but equally effective blocks.

Adds one councillor, Ed Wilson: "These are improvements that will last for years and improve Windsor for everyone, not just the tourists coming on that weekend."

★ **The Queen's long union to Philip** has been sustained by humour, with both liking to share the more amusing sides of their duties (especially Elizabeth, who is a skilled mimic - her impersonation of William Hague is said to be hilarious). One of Philip's favourite anecdotes is of the 1960 state visit by General de Gaulle and his wife Yvonne. During an awkward spot of conversation at Buckingham Palace, a guest asked Madame de Gaulle what she was most looking forward to in her imminent retirement.

With great elaboration (as she didn't speak much English) she replied: "A penis." *Consentation ensued for some time, until the Queen herself came to the rescue. "Ah, happiness," she said with a broad grin.*



★ **Does Noddy Holder** ever get tired of hearing Slade's Merry Xmas Everybody, now playing on a loop almost everywhere? "No. And I don't think I ever will," declares Noddy, 71 (real name Neville).

"It's having its 45th birthday next Christmas and a new generation of kids are singing it in their Nativity plays. It's fantastic to be a part of the culture of our country."

And heartwarming, of course, to be kept on receiving those royalty cheques estimated to bring in £500,000 a year for a song that Holder wrote after a long and meaningful session in a Wolverhampton pub.



SMART MOVE: Windsor will look its best for Harry and Meghan



★ **Alison Steadman** has a vivid memory of sitting on Father Christmas's lap when she was five. "I remember thinking, 'This beard's not real! I got hold of it and started looking underneath to see if it was attached. My mum was saying 'Stop doing that to him, just stop it!' But Father Christmas was laughing."



★ Old habits die hard for **Valerie Singleton**, whose skills with sticky-back plastic and squeeze bottles entertained countless Blue Peter viewers.

It's more than 40 years since her days of "here's one I made earlier" but Miss Singleton still gets excited at the thought of learning something new.

The retired presenter, now 80, relishes the spare time she has to watch television - not dramas (which she finds are often "disappointing") but more "satisfying" documentaries.

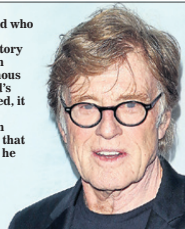
"I'm hooked on factual shows, from wildlife to forensics, but I never plan what to watch," says Valerie. "I just look for tempting titles on networks such as Yesterday, Discovery, Animal Planet and National Geographic."

Ah, if only Val was back on TV to tease the kiddies away from their iPhones. And she used to keep the adults entertained too, with those silly rumours about her canoeing with singer Joan Armatrading (when in fact she had been "making one earlier" with co-host Peter Purves).

★ It's not easy being a living legend. A friend who has just returned from Vail in Colorado reports that he happened to be in a public lavatory when he strode **Robert Redford**. The star began answering the call of nature just as a cacophonous gaggle of five female fans, all shouting Redford's name, burst through the door. What they wanted, it appeared, was his autograph.

Redford, 81, calmly continued his micturition before turning round, zipping up and drawing that if the ladies would just let him wash his hands, he would meet them outside.

"Is it always like this?" my astonished chum asked. "Yep, 'fraid so," replied Redford. "Sometimes they even take their panties off in front of you and beg you to sign 'em."



★ **Guy Garvey**, singer with rock band Elbow, gives his rendition of the Beatles' *Golden Slumbers* on the *John Lewis Christmas* advertisement. But there isn't much seasonal goodwill from Garvey towards Nick Hever, who was Lord Sugar's *boardroom sidekick* on *The Apprentice*.

Mancunian Guy, 43, is still fuming with Hever for the way he once described one of the *Apprentice* contestants as someone who was "all over it like a tramp on chips". *Punes Garvey: "So Hever finds the image of a starving homeless man funny? I thought, you horrible fascist. I hate that bloke."*

★ Thanks to the prospect of more location fees for the coming *Downton Abbey* film, it seems the chateaux of Highclere Castle felt flush enough to splash out on a bigger Christmas tree for the stately home's saloon. But when it arrived, up from 20ft to 32ft, there was a problem with its erection (if Her Ladyship will forgive the phrase). Hugh Bonneville, most practical at such matters, was unavailable, so the **Countess of Carnarvon** had to muster the staff. "We had to lop quite a bit off," she says. "Luckily there were plenty of volunteers to get it up." Should have been there, Hugh!



★ Certain items brought to the Antiques Roadshow have lodged in **Fiona Bruce's** memory. "Someone brought in a tombola used by the 1984 IRA bombing. On the back of the tickets were signatures of people such as Margaret Thatcher and Norman Tebbit. Just as I pulled out Margaret Thatcher's name, the wind whipped it out of my hand. Everyone was frantically hunting for it and the sound person finally found it."

★ **Dawn French** has been looking back, with affection, on her teenage years - a time seemingly dominated by her desire for sex. "At 16 I was virginal," she says. "I thought about sex almost every hour of every day; anticipating it, fearing it and longing for it. "I was at a girls' school and my brother was at a boys' school. So I fell in love with each of his friends in turn, mostly misguided crushes; always asking, when will the moment happen?"

"Before that I'd practised kissing on plums, other girls, pillows..." Thank you, Dawn. I think that's given us all quite enough to think about for now.



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## Cameron builds on his name

**E**VER SINCE his abrupt departure from Downing Street, David Cameron has been dependent on the largesse of friends for places to stay in London. Now he has quietly moved back into the five-bedroom house in Notting Hill which he has owned for 11 years.

The former PM has spent about £100,000 on a revamp of his old home, installing two new bathrooms and a fresh kitchen in the terraced property, which he bought for £1.1m in 2006 and is now worth £3million.

During their tenure at Number 10, the Camerons rented out the red-brick Edwardian house for £7,000 a month. But to fund the improvements they still had to remortgage with HSBC.

Some of that money is also going towards improvements at their £1.4million farmhouse in a Cotswolds hamlet near Chipping Norton, where they are spending £200,000 on replacing a conservatory with an extension.

The couple wanted to remain in London because of their children's education: Nancy, 12, is at a Westminster secondary school, while Ellen, 10, and youngest daughter Florence, five, go to a primary school in Kensington.

The building work at both properties has been overseen by Samantha while



**NOT 'IN IT TOGETHER':** London pad

her husband concentrates on writing his memoirs, in between taking some lucrative speech-making trips abroad. Last week he was in Bahrain talking to business leaders.

His earnings are now channelled through a private firm. The Office of David Cameron Ltd, run by his former political secretary Laurence Mann. The most he has received for a speech so far is £200,000 for addressing a conference in Delhi.

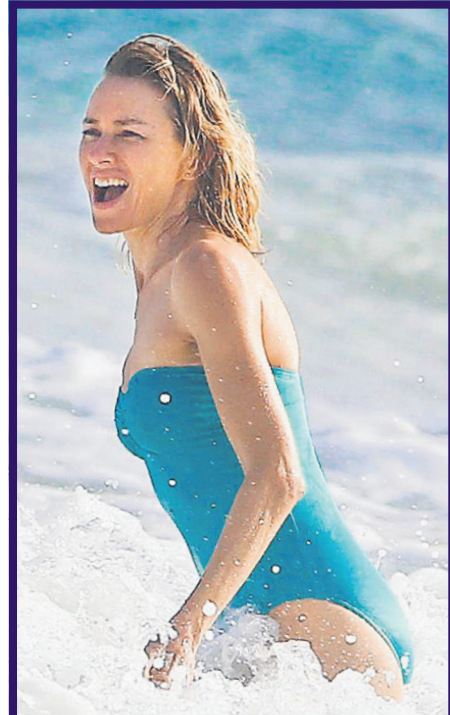
His son, he said, had asked when he left for the flight to India: "Why are you wearing a suit? It's not as though you've got a job."

Despite his narcissistic speech at the Golden Globe Awards, **Tom Hiddleston** has vowed never to let fame go to his head.

The Eton and Cambridge-educated star of *The Night Manager* says: "I remember as a young actor being treated contemptuously by people I hoped would be great. And I thought, 'You've got this amazing life, why are you behaving like a \*\*\*\*?' I knew that if I ever found myself in that position, I'd remember to treat people with equanimity and kindness."

The **Duchess of Cambridge** is noticeably reticent whenever television cameras are anywhere near her but she has agreed to go on-screen for a BBC documentary about mental health. It will follow presenter Nick Knowles as he helps train runners with mental health issues for the London marathon. Joining Kate will be William and Harry, who appeared with Knowles on *DIY SOS* when they helped rebuild homes for injured servicemen in Manchester.

If there's one thing that's guaranteed to get up **Judy Murray's** nose it is people sniffing near her. Says Andy Murray's mother: "I was recently on a flight beside a guy who sniffed constantly. I started off looking at him with my best death stare - which I reserve for people like Novak Djokovic - and it didn't make any difference. So eventually I said, 'Would you like a tissue?' and that drove me mad. Why don't guys just blow their noses?" Maybe it's because most men don't carry handkerchiefs these days.



Picture: XPOSURE

It has been just three months since **Naomi Watts** broke up with her long-term partner **Liev Schreiber**, but already there is showbusiness chatter that she's found a comforting bicep to lean on, in the handsome form of eligible star **Jake Gyllenhaal** (below).

Such a pairing would make for a certain symmetry, given that **Kent-born Naomi, 48**, used to date **Heath Ledger**, the actor who starred with **Jake** in *Brokeback Mountain*.

According to talk in Hollywood, Naomi has "bounced back" from her break-up with the help of **Jake, 36**, who has previously dated **Kirsten Dunst** and **Reese Witherspoon**. Or, as it is phrased in the Hollywood vernacular: "Naomi poured her heart out to **Jake** and he responded with kindness and love."

Whatever the depth of his response, **Jake** was not on hand to assist with Naomi's bounce-back as she holidayed last week in Cancun, Mexico, pictured, with her two boys, **Sam, eight**, and **nine-year-old Sasha**.

There is, incidentally, more to **Miss Watts** than most California-based stars. She is fluent in Welsh, having spent three years at a school near her grandparents' farm in Anglesey. And her late father **Peter Watts** worked as a sound engineer for **Pink Floyd** - his laugh can be heard in the songs *Speak To Me* and *Brain Damage* on their 1973 album *The Dark Side Of The Moon*.



Oh, the stress of being an actor! **Aaron Taylor-Johnson**, who has been lauded for playing a sadistic villain in the film *Nocturnal Animals*, would like everyone to know how much he suffered for the part.

"I had to spend a lot of time watching documentaries on serial killers," moaned Aaron, 26. "Psychologically it was intense. I had sleepless nights."

Fortunately the poor thing was able to recover with help from a therapist and his wife, the director **Sam Taylor-Wood**, who, being 23 years older, knew how to calm down the sensitive soul.

If anyone could have done with therapy it was **Keira Knightley** after being twirled around a ballroom by **Aaron** while making *Anna Karenina*. The two had to stop after **Aaron** felt sick. He said: "I was about to up-chuck all over her." Charming.



Tomorrow is supposed to be the most depressing day in the calendar (according to psychologists who cite the combination of broken resolutions, bleak weather, and the post-Christmas/pre-payday strain on the purse strings).

So hurrah for the uplifting optimism of **Joanna Lumley**. Trills the actress, 70: "As **Noel Coward** said, 'In the nick of time you realise life is for living.' We may believe in reincarnation but this is now. So make it the most memorable time."

"Nobody will remember you after you have gone. Wake up in the morning thinking, 'All I have got to do is one day. You can't control tomorrow and you can't check yesterday. So make now brilliant.'"



Turning 40 was something of an epiphany for **Tom Kerridge**, with the television chef deciding that he would try to lead a healthier life for the sake of his one-year-old son.

"I knew I was overweight and drinking too much and I knew I had to do something about it," says **Kerridge**.

"As an older dad, I'm staying healthy for my son. It's not all about me any more. It's about someone else's future."

Three years since his decision he has shed 11st and has not touched a drop of alcohol - a tricky pledge given that he's the landlord of two pubs in Berkshire.

"Booze was tough to give up socially but sugar was much harder because you get that instant hit. I became really lethargic after giving up sugar. It took me weeks to get through that."

There's a hint of flirtation between the young **Morse**, as he is portrayed by **Shaun Evans** in *Endeavour*, and a policeman called **Shirley Treloove**. Could she be the one who successfully thaws the diffident sleuth, whose heart has plainly been broken by another?

And, more to the point, who is **Dakota Blue Richards**, the actress who plays the perky **WPC**?

Well, for a start she's not American, although the name sounds as if she was raised in a Kentucky trailer park. In fact **Dakota, 22**, comes from Brighton where, until recently she lived with her mother **Michaela**, a social worker specialising in drug rehabilitation.

While in Brighton she went to a theatre school where she was picked, aged 12, to be in the film adaptation of the **Philip Pullman** book *The Golden Compass*.

**Dakota's** name was chosen by her mother while spending a year in the States after reading *American studies* at Sussex University. Says the actress: "She didn't want a place name that had been used before so she thought **Dakota** was quite cool. Then she wanted a colour that went with it so she added **Blue**."



I will miss **Lord Snowdon** with whom I enjoyed many a long lunch (but could not match his propensity for port in the afternoon). He had spoken recently of his pride that his skill behind the lens had been inherited by his son **Jasper, 18**, who has developed a passion for moviemaking.

This month **Jasper**, who went to **King's School, Bruton**, released his first short film, called *Wolves*.

"**Jasper** has a natural eye and people have been impressed by his work," said his mother, writer **Melanie Cable-Alexander**, who gave birth to **Jasper** following an affair with **Tony Snowdon**, which began while she was working for *Country Life*.

Yesterday she said: "I adored **Tony**. He was a great father and gave me the greatest gift in my life - my son."



IN THE FRAME: Jasper

After six seasons as the scheming footman **Thomas** in *Downton Abbey*, **Robert James Collier** was hopeful of landing another rewarding role, which meant keeping his mobile on in case his agent called. But the actor is no fan of phones.

"They're an addiction," he declares. "You look around on the train and everyone is staring at a screen. I'm guilty of it as well, but I think we can be too connected. They interrupt life too much. And they're bad for the eyes."

**Quiz answers**

My monogrammed sack was **Bulldog**, which is the name of the column's annual Quiz. The first three readers with the correct answers to be drawn out were: **Sarah Beaumont** from Dover; **Susan Labrum** of Grantham; and **Louis Spevick** from Bushey, Hertfordshire. **Magnums of Moët** are on their way to you, poppets!

For anyone else who entered, make sure you raise a glass of whatever you fancy to this column's wacky world of narcissistic actors, navel-revealing starlets and priapic politicians.

This year I will continue the diarist's duty - to treat the frivolous things in life seriously and the serious things in life frivolously.

**The answers:** January: 1c 2a 3b; Feb: 1b 2c 3b; March: 1b 2b 3a; April: 1b 2a 3c; May: 1b 2a 3c; June: 1b 2b 3b; July: 1c 2b 3a; Aug: 1a 2b 3b; Sept: 1c 2c 3c; Oct: 1a 2c 3b; Nov: 1c 2a 3c; Dec: 1c 2b 3b.



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## Trump's Blondie ambition

**W**HATEVER else you say about the leader of the free world, he likes to think big. And this was good news for Blondie singer Debbie Harry, who had a lucky escape from the future President Trump when he deemed her too diminutive for his designs.

The petite punk pin-up, still turning heads at 71, has been a sex symbol since she shot to fame in the late 1970s. During a visit to London last week she told how she had caught 'The Donald's eye at the height of her fame.

The 6ft 2in Trump (at least according to his driving licence - he claims an extra inch for good measure) had made a beeline for the 5ft 3in Atomic singer.

However, the tycoon, whose repertoire of "locker-room banter" includes the boast about women that "When you're a star, they let you do it," merely managed a "hello," before turning his attention elsewhere.

"I did meet him briefly and I was too short for him," Debbie smiled.

"I was too short for him to look at and too short for any consideration. It was definitely a good thing."

New Yorker Debbie, who modelled a crown last week before accepting Elle Magazine's Style Icon Award at a salubrious Mayfair bash, pulled your Sunday Express scribe into a lift and pouted as she declared: "I used to be a sex symbol, now I am an icon."

Fellow Blondie member, and Debbie's ex-partner, Chris Stein also used the short lift journey to recall her brush with the controversial mogul.

He said of the close encounter: "It's pretty grim - probably a very lucky escape."

Trump was a regular on the club scene in the late 1970s, although Stein, now 67, had little time for him. "He was an \*\*hole," he states.

Debbie had considerably more time for rock legend David Bowie, thanking him for the part he played in her career. "I feel very fortunate that we were encountered and watched by Bowie.

"He picked us out of the rubble and put us on the road." She also confided that his death last year had spurred her to make new music.

"It makes you appreciate being able to work and it's still a contest to keep going. It's business as usual," purred Debbie, whose next Blondie album, Pollinator, is out on May 5.

Debbie, wearing a fetching Vivienne Westwood suit that the dearly departed Prince would envy, was keen to share her tips (and quips) for longevity. "I take lots of vitamins... and I am about to go back on the acid," she joked.

**Ex-Spice Girl Mel C** will tell you what she wants, what she really, really wants: better mental health care for young pop stars.

Ms Chisholm has spoken out after a slew of pop names, including 1D escapee Zayn Malik, have told of the toll the business exacts from youngsters.

Melanie, who battled an eating disorder and depression, would like to see guidance for those hurled into the limelight.

"There's no book. There needs to be help with mental health," she says, ahead of her spring tour promoting her recent album Version Of Me.

Mel, who notched up nine No 1s with the Spice Girls in the 1990s, says her saviour was becoming a mother to Scarlet, now seven. Reflecting on her own career, she says: "You are quickly thrown in, you are super-successful... and then there's a dark side. You need to be aware of the pitfalls."



**BIG RELIEF:** Debbie Harry at last week's Elle bash

**It's been six years since singer Camilla Kerslake and ex-England rugby captain Chris Robshaw's eyes met across a crowded ballroom at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, where she was scribbling for the hookers and flankers. Now she has written her first song for him. Embarking on a new album away from her classical style, Cam, 28, gushes: "I've just written a song about Chris and I don't normally do that because people can scrutinise your relationship... and I didn't want a Lemonade situation," she says, making a comparison with Beyonce's album, which was believed to be about her marital spats with rapper Jay-Z.**

**Congratulations to TV cook Rachel Khoo, who has produced a bun for her oven. Announcing the event, the new mother, 38, told followers: "Well, the bump is now a baby and I am super-excited about rediscovering the world through new eyes and a hungry little mouth. Don't worry it won't be all mushed-up baby recipes, mummy has got to eat too." She signed off with a most modern ingredient, a cheeky winking emoji.**



**SO PROUD:** Martin Kemp with his son Roman

**George Michael's godson Roman Kemp** says the singer, who died at Christmas, was always supportive of his blossoming TV and radio presenter career... unlike jealous rivals.

The handsome 24-year-old son of Spandau Ballet's **Martin Kemp** and Wham! backing singer **Shirley Holliman** confirms: "He always gave me good advice. He always put across how proud he was of me and that's a lovely thing. Of course people say I don't deserve it and my dad helped me get into the industry. But I go and do my job and if someone wants to hire me, they'll hire me and hopefully I'll do a good job."

And Roman, who co-hosts *Too Awesome on ITV2*, is proud of his father, now a judge on BBC One talent show *Let It Shine*. "It's great. My dad deserves it."

But perhaps his mother doesn't consider *Sr such TV gold*. "If we were on screen at the same time my mother wouldn't watch either of us. She'd watch something else. She's seen enough of my father!"

**Lanky Laurence Fox** has revealed that he missed seeing his beguiling ex-wife **Billie Piper** give birth to their younger son Eugene, now four, as he was in A&E with their older son Winston, now eight, after a "bloody" mishap with a brick.

The former Lewis actor, 38, who divorced from sometime pop star Billie, 34, last year, explained: "We went to get the baby checked out and he was the wrong way round. We were told that they needed to do an emergency caesarean in 20 minutes' time.

"So I went home to get some stuff with my eldest son as I told him to sit in the car while I went inside. But he got out, picked up a brick, threw it in the air and it landed on his head."

Returning from the house to scenes from a horror show, Laurence adds: "I came out and said, 'What happened to your face?' as he was covered in blood."

"So the second child was given birth to in one part of the hospital and I was getting the other son stitched up in A&E!"



**MEDICAL DRAMA:** Laurence Fox and Billie Piper

**She has gone from waving her knickerbockers in The Railway Children to holding up a flag for mature women actors with her role in Call The Midwife. Now Jenny Agutter, 64, admits she has relinquished her dream of playing Shakespeare's romantic lead Juliet. In fact, her days on the stage and in front of the camera may be drawing to a close. The former child star says: "I'd love to play Juliet but I can't. I do find that limiting in a way. It's not about ageism. "I love working, so I can see myself more being behind than in front of the camera. That's something I really have to get on with in the next year or so because time gallops on."**

**Mother-of-one Jenny acknowledges there has been an increase in roles for more mature women. "It's very much more reflective of the society we live in, where women actually are given prominent positions and are taken seriously across the board, from being young to being older. You're seeing that a lot more in film and television."**

**Glastonbury bosses Michael Eavis, 81, and his daughter Emily, 37, remained muddily about, disclosing the whereabouts of their planned offshoot festival Variety Bazaar when I caught up with them at the raucous NME awards last week. Having dismissed the Marquis of Bath's Longleat estate from the running, Downton Abbey's Highclere Castle location is a consideration. "Highclere wouldn't be a bad spot," muses dairy farmer Michael. But what would Carson say?**

**Sporty broadcaster Gabby Logan has taken issue with the internet. The bouncy blonde, who has 11-year-old twins Lois and Reuben, explains: "You wouldn't let your kids wander around a park where you knew there had been a spate of men 'flashing' or weird things going on, yet that's the equivalent to the kind of risky reality on some parts of the internet."**

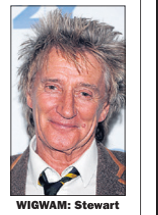
**The 43-year-old former gymnast, left, married to ex-Scotland rugby star Kenny Logan, says: "Our kids understand our decision not to allow them mobile phones and social media accounts. I want to stay on top of their use of the web."**

**The working mother finds her absence from the home tough. "They need me around a lot more these days because they want emotional reassurance."**

**Organisers at this year's Isle Of Wight Festival aim to keep Sir Rod Stewart happy. The headliner has been offered a wigwam and a luxury boat to lure him for a memorable overnight stay after he and his brood go sailing across the Solent for the June 11 gig.**

**Accommodation for the 72-year-old rocker, wife Penny Lancaster, 45, and their two young sons will be furnished in his beloved Celtic FC's green and white colours.**

**Maybe he will be inspired by his new surroundings when slipping into his luxury teepee. If so, Sir Rod could always try singing You're In My Yurt. Or swapping the lines of Hot Legs to Damp Legs if the weather turns.**



**WIGWAM:** Stewart

**Lovely Lulu had her first hit Shout at the tender age of 15 but admits she wouldn't encourage her grandchildren, aged four and seven, to follow her into the music business too early. The yoga practising singer, 68, who recently announced a new tour, mentors youngsters in the arts but says: "I would worry if my grandchildren wanted to go into it. They are too young for The X Factor."**

**TV's inquiring day-time luvvie Lorraine Kelly reckons that being called nosy is a badge of honour. The 57-year-old ITV host says: "My nickname when I was younger was 'But why?', because I asked my parents questions all the time. That's why being a journalist is my perfect job. I've always wanted to find things out. Everyone in the world has got a story."**

Edited by **JULIA KUTNER**



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Picture: DAVID M BENETT/Getty



## Another stay at hotel Hiddleston

**T**HE SMOOTHIE actor Tom Hiddleston has said he is so exhausted by his recent work schedule that he wants to take much of this year off. But he won't be able to relax for long - the BBC will require him for a second series of *The Night Manager*, the spy drama in which he thrilled viewers (well, some of them) by baring his bottom.

"I'm taking a bit of a breather because I've been working relentlessly and I just need to check in with stuff at home. After a while you

realise there are other important things in life like family and friends," says the Eton-educated star, 36.

Yet Tom is central to the BBC's plans for a follow-up to *The Night Manager*, which became a huge hit this time last year, attracting up to 10 million viewers an episode.

Along with Hugh Laurie and Olivia Colman, Tom won a Golden Globe for his performance in the stylish thriller.

The only hiccup is that the author John le Carré, 85, never wrote a sequel to his 1993 novel.

But BBC TV chief Charlotte

Moore says that while there is no book to work from this time, "Le Carré is very involved" in discussions about a follow-up.

Susanne Bier, who directed the first series, said that scripts for another instalment are being developed by "a team of writers". However, she admitted that the makers are worried about conjuring up the same magic twice.

"We all very much want to do another one, but the thing we absolutely do not want is to do something that does not live up to the level of season one."



TAKING TIME OUT: Tom



REFLECTING: Miranda

★ After taking time off last year because she was feeling at a low ebb, **Miranda Hart** is ready to bounce back on the public arena, although the gangly comedienne is feeling a little more sanguine about life.

"I made time to do some reflecting on things," she muses. "I had lost a best friend to cancer and it made me more aware than ever that everyone is struggling to some degree."

"I looked at people and detected tiredness - a sense that our fast-paced lives weren't bringing us joy." This period of navel-gazing has resulted in *Miranda*, 44, coming to her own conclusion about what ensures happiness: "It's relationships and connection, not success and fame and money and all that nonsense."

In the absence of a permanent human playmate, what makes Miss Hart truly happy is her little dog Peggy, a Shih Tzu cross.

"She's also a cross Shih Tzu," says her owner. "She tends to bark. She doesn't like men or other dogs."

★ News that intelligence agencies can hack in to TV sets to spy on suspects won't faze **Pierre White**, who has a healthy disdain for the medium and has banned televisions from the bedrooms of his new Wiltshire hotel, the Rudloe Arms.

Instead of watching the box, the mercurial chef wants to encourage guests to stride out into the countryside to admire his menagerie of chickens, sheep, pigs and cows.

"I don't watch TV, I don't own one," he sniffs. "I want people staying here to feel they can switch off. If you busy to watch TV you can stay at home."

★ Now living a quieter life in a cottage in Dorset, **Kate Adie** can still recall those hairier moments of her career as a BBC foreign correspondent, whether it was dodging bullets in Libya, Iraq or Belfast. She says her camera crew would always know when she was scared as she would emit a strange sound.

"When I'm frightened I would make little yipping noises," says Kate, 71. "But then it isn't a journalist's job to stand there and look bold. You're paid to bring back the news. You aren't there to be a heroine."

★ An engagement is imminent for **James Norton**, according to chatter in Hollywood: news that will pierce the hearts of all those female fans who swoon at the sight of his dog collar in Grantchester.

The romance between the Ampleforth-educated actor and **Jessie Buckley** (who played his sister in *War and Peace*) moved up a gear last year when the 28-year-old actress moved into his boudoir in Peckham.

Now the couple are said to have mooted marriage.

Indeed James, 31, made it clear in a recent interview that he is keen to settle down and start a family.



"I definitely want that," he said, "because my sister and I were raised in a really close family and my parents are still very much in love. That's the kind of endgame that I would like too."

Hopefully Yorkshire-born James can look forward to a lifetime of making sweet music with Jess. Literally, as he is said to play the organ and **Miss Buckley**, who is the daughter of Irish soprano **Marina Cassidy**, plays four instruments.



★ When the young actor **Maxwell Caulfield** married Sir John Mills's daughter **Juliet**, who was 18 years his senior, there were plenty who warned the age gap was too great.

But 37 years later their union is still going strong and Maxwell says proudly: "We're more in love than ever."

He tells me: "People thought I might be some sort of opportunist marrying Juliet, but the greatest thing in my life has been meeting her."

"She's the most young-at-heart person I know. The longer you are with someone, the more life becomes unimaginable without them."

Maxwell, 57, who is starring at the London Palladium tonight in a stage version of the film *Honeymoon in Vegas*, admits to having resisted temptations along the way.

"If you have someone special, you shouldn't take chances on a whim, which happens in so many showbusiness marriages. You just make damn sure you don't get sidetracked."

★ With his fabulous blond wig resembling the tail of My Little Pony and his propensity for spontaneous outbursts, **Michael Fabricant** could certainly be a lively participant in *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Here!*

Which is why producers of the series have been desperate to sign up the ukulele-strumming MP for the jungle. Last year he turned down a fee of £100,000 and now I learn that the Tory has rejected a second offer for what he terms an "astounding" sum.

"It would have been great fun to do, but with key votes coming up on Brexit and a thin majority, I just couldn't take the time off," sighs the bachelor, who shares a Snowdonia holiday home with his close friend Andy Street, the former boss of John Lewis.



GARLIC: Shipton

★ For someone who has played **Nurse Duffy** for the past 30 years in *Casualty*, **Cathy Shipton** doesn't place much faith in conventional medicine.

Indeed such is Cathy's devotion to alternative remedies that her nickname on the set of the hospital soap is "Witchy-poo".

"It's because I believe in natural medicines," says Levensham-born Cathy, 59. "In fact last week I had a bug and I went home and ate three raw cloves of garlic. Over the week I ate a whole bulb raw, and I didn't lose my voice."

But she lost a few friends though.





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★ **Leonardo DiCaprio** is in danger of losing his reputation as Hollywood's most notorious love 'em and leave 'em lothario. He has been dating Danish beauty **Nina Agdal** (above) for nearly three years now, fuelling speculation that the raffish rascal is in danger of becoming – shock, horror – a married man.

The chatter in St Barts, where Leo has been celebrating his girlfriend's 25th birthday in predictable style (aboard a yacht with a thirsty collection of chums, including Orlando Bloom) is that the actor is ready to pop the question to Nina. She is a Victoria's Secret model (no surprise, given Leo's long history of studying lingerie – and how to remove it).

If lusty Leo, 42, is indeed ready to settle down, it will be the end of two decades of swordsmanship with an impressive tally of seductive popties.

His more puerilitudinous paramours have included Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen and Israeli mannequin Bar Refaeli.

For Nina, becoming Mrs DiCaprio would be quite a change in fortune. Only four years ago she flew to America with just \$40 in her pocket and the address of a house shared by other modelling hopefuls.

She recalls: "I arrived from Denmark hardly speaking any English and burst into tears as I couldn't even make myself understood to the taxi driver."

No more taxis now. With Leo it's limos all the way. And not too much need for intellectual conversation either.



**Adam Helliker**

**Hewitt: The final kiss-and-tell-all?**

A CHARITY founded in honour of the late Princess of Wales is to mark this summer's 20th anniversary of her death by launching a campaign to encourage random acts of kindness among strangers. But this spirit of goodwill in Diana's memory is unlikely to be embraced by a jaded figure from her past, James Hewitt.

The princess's former lover, who will be 59 later this month and no longer looks "like a thoroughbred racehorse" as Diana used to call him, is now a reclusive figure living with his widowed mother in a flat in Devon.

He is virtually broke but his fortunes may be about to change if he succumbs to lucrative offers to peddle the "ultimate" tale of his journey from royal lover to penniless pariah.

The former army major has already written one book about the romance – for which he was called a cad and shunned by his fellow officers – but he claims to have left out many details. He still has the 60 letters Diana wrote to him while he was serving in the Gulf War, having found no buyers at the incredible figure of £10million he sought.

For virtually all of the two decades since Diana's death, Hewitt has been in disgrace for having besmirched his former lover's reputation but he still has one compelling story left to tell: about just how ruthlessly he was betrayed by Diana.

Royal biographer Sarah Bradford says that from the moment he was finally rejected by the princess: "The ceiling fell in on him; he became a hate figure."

From then on, the once-proud officer watched his fortunes dwindle away. He never held down another proper job, he never



**TARNISHED GOLDEN BOY:** James Hewitt today and in his days as a dashing army officer, winning Diana's heart as well as the polo trophy she presented to him

married. Business ventures he involved himself in collapsed. With no road-map to lead him out of the minefield, he came to rely upon his mother Shirley, now 87, as the only person left he could trust.

Even with her support he couldn't keep out of hot water. He was cautioned for possession of cocaine and exposed for posting suggestive pictures on an internet dating site.

And never could he escape the claim that he was Prince Harry's biological father (he

isn't). Now he is considering whether to have the final word. Says a senior publishing source: "The offers are there for the waiting and all story from James. He has kept back huge chunks of his relationship with Diana, and with the boys – William, for example, used to write him letters too – and readers would lap it up."

"Quite frankly, he's a busted fluff in the eyes of the British public so he may as well go the whole hog."

The builders have been busy at Balmoral, creating accommodation for thousands of visitors on the Scottish estate. But the "guests" are insects rather than humans. A large wooden edifice, wittily named BUG-ingham Palace, has been made with the help of local schoolchildren. "Our bug hotel will provide a cosy home for wildlife for years to come," declares the estate. Just remember, the Queen hates spiders.



★ There was a time when **Ulrika Jonsson** had a firm grip on the nation's consciousness, with the saucy Swede popping up on everything from *Gladiators* to *Dancing On Ice*.

Her personal life was very public too, as she bestowed her favours quite generously, giving birth to four children (by four different fathers) along the way.

Last year the former TV-weather girl declared that she wasn't doing much television work because she was being "selective" about projects. She reasoned that a break from the spotlight had been no bad thing as "when my career was at its highest I was least happy".

Now, at 49, and safely married to advertising executive Brian Monet, Ulrika is raring to go again: "I'm in my lovely menopausal glory and enjoying it."

So I'm pleased to learn that she has found the right choice for her return to prominence. She is among a clutch of celebrities who will try to impress John Torode and Greg Wallace when *MasteChef* returns to BBC One in June.

As to whether she can actually cook, Ulrika says modestly: "I'm really good but I'm a perfectionist. I always want to do better."

★ It hasn't taken long for Hollywood to beckon for **Martin Compston**, the waistcoat-wearing detective in *Line Of Duty*. However it's not the upward trajectory of his career that has drawn him to California but *Tianna Chanel Flynn*, the actress he married last year.

"My missus is from LA, so we've moved here," says Scottish-born Martin, 32. "I used to hate LA, because you'd go over there and either be auditioning or drinking with your British pals. That's great for a month but then it becomes really depressing. And it's such a cut-throat place."

"Then I did a bit of volunteering in soup kitchens, just to see another side to LA. Now I really like it and we have a nice life here. I have my dog and my hammock in the garden. And my wife has even started making me eat vegetables."



★ Her time as MI5's first female chief means **Stella Rimington** still knows the secrets of the powerful. Shortly after her retirement in she was at a dinner where the guests included some British businessmen and the ambassador of a former Soviet Bloc country.

Dame Stella says: "After watching me throughout the starter course the ambassador suddenly announced to the table, 'She knows the name of all my mistresses'."

"There was a friction that went round the table and I could see all the men looking at me out of the corner of their eyes thinking, 'I wonder if she knows mine?' It's the kind of thing I like to keep them wondering about."



★ As a chap who prides himself on his sensitive olfactory senses, **Richard Grant** was fascinated by the smell of Donald Trump when he interviewed him for his TV series on luxury hotels.

"I have nuclear nostrils," says the actor. "And the moment Trump came through the door what hit me was the smell of Elneht hairspray that I knew from my mother."

As for the president's hair, Grant tells me: "It's a sort of golden pompadour delight. A bit like Wogan's used to be. There's a big section that is combed forward like a Ferrari, every inch in place. It's a real work of art."

★ Some of the happiest days of **Chris Tarrant's** life, long before he found fame as a broadcaster, were working in his university holidays as a truck driver.

"I'd deliver lawn mowers all over the country," recalls Tarrant, now 71. "I was built like a gorilla then, so it was no problem loading the truck by myself early in the mornings. I was quite shy, so I loved being on my own on the road, stopping for a bacon sandwich along the way."



★ Fans of Sir **Alan B'Stard**, the Tory MP played by **Rik Mayall** in the old satirical sitcom *The New Statesman*, will be delighted to learn that there could be a sequel called *The B'Stard Legacy*.

Writers Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran say they feel the nation is aching for a figure of Alan's resourcefulness

"to lead us through the morass of Brexit, Trumpery and smart fridges that order cartons of yoghurt while you're asleep".

But given that Sir Alan (and indeed Rik Mayall) are now dead, the action will revolve around his long-lost son Arron B'Stard who, after being adopted as a child by two Green Party activists in Weylyn Garden City, emerges into public life.

But who is the actor worthy of taking on the B'Stard mantle?



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★ Her last regal role was in *War And Peace* as the seductive mix Princess Helene Kuragin; now **Tuppence Middleton** is to star in another BBC drama about a complex royal figure.

Tuppence is filming *Diana And I*, which will focus on the days after the death of the Princess of Wales and its emotional impact on ordinary people. It will be based around the stories of four figures – a mother, a son, a wife and a boyfriend – whose lives momentarily cross over following the royal funeral in 1997.

Whatever the merits of yet another programme about Diana, what viewers may really want to know is how Tuppence got her name.

"Tuppence is what my grandma called my mother as a little girl and my parents decided to call me it," chirrups the Bristol-born actress, 30. "I haven't met another one – people remember it."

But is this twinkly thespian aware that Tuppence is also a euphemism for a lady's fru-fru?

"Er, I became aware of that when I went to drama school," she says, giggling. "A guy from up north told me. When I informed my mum, she said, 'Oh, sorry, darling. I had no idea!'"

★ It has been more than a decade since **John Prescott** pontificated to the nation as the syntax-mangling deputy prime minister. Now the Labour dinosaur will pop up on our TV screens again in a documentary about ageing. The old booby will join 12 other personages, including Esther Rantzen and Roy Hudd, as they look at changing attitudes among pensioners for the More4 four-part series, *The Baby Boomers' Guide To Growing Old*.

Lord Prescott, 78, will have something in common with another participant, Edwina Currie, 70. She, of course, had an affair with John Major, while Prescott enjoyed a two-year fling with his secretary Tracey Temple, who he ravished on his desk in Whitehall. Such romantics, ageing not so gracefully.

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## Queen tickled by her own series...

**A**LTHOUGH *The Crown* lost out at the Bafta awards last weekend, the makers of the highly praised Netflix series about the Queen's early years can rest assured that their big-budget drama has one influential fan: the monarch herself.

There has been much speculation in court circles, and among the programme's producers, over whether the Queen was among the viewers, and whether she would have approved of its account of deeply personal topics such as her physical relationship with Prince Philip, or Princess Margaret's affair with a divorced man.

Now I can disclose that HM has watched all 10 episodes of the series, having been encouraged to do so by her son and daughter-in-law, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, who arranged for Saturday night viewing sessions in the sovereign's private apartments at Windsor Castle.

"Edward and Sophie love *The Crown*," says a senior royal source. "It has been a long-standing arrangement that they drive to Windsor at the weekend to join the Queen for



ROYAL FAMILY VIEWING: Claire Foy and Matt Smith star in *The Crown* TV series

an informal supper while watching TV or a film. They have a Netflix account and urged her to watch it with them. Happily, she really liked it, although obviously there were some depictions of events that she found too heavily dramatised."

Other members of the Royal Family are also fans of the series. Princess Eugenie enthused at a party last week: "The music is wonderful, the story is beautiful and you feel very proud to watch it."

Mike Tindall has also said he and his wife Zara, the Queen's granddaughter, are "addicted" to it, adding: "She's brilliant, the one who plays the Queen. I think it's a great show in terms of how they delivered it."

The drama, which cost £100million, has been praised for its production values although it has been criticised for taking liberties with the truth, including its portrayal of the Queen's relationship with Lord Porchester, her racing manager.

Filming has just finished on the next series, which will again star Claire Foy as Elizabeth and Matt Smith as Philip, and will cover the Queen's life between 1955 and 1964.



★ Of all the mementos she has collected during her life and racy relationships, the one that **Jane Birkin** treasured most was a felt monkey, given to her by her uncle when she was five.

"I wouldn't move without it, neither would Serge Gainsbourg (her mentor and erstwhile lover), says the breathy chanteuse, 70.

"Once we missed a plane because we had to go back to a hotel and find the monkey before they checked him into a bin, because he looked really hideous.

"When Serge died, in a panic about what to leave with him, like some Pharaoh, I put Monkey in. So now I know exactly where he is."

★ Most might agree that the election, so far, has lacked the levity of a satirical performer such as **Rory Bremner** or, going further back, **Mike Yarwood**.

While Bremner has recently confined himself to low-key stage shows, Yarwood would have once been expected to make the public giggle at the lighter elements of such an important political event.

His impressions of figures such as Harold Wilson (piped, pictured) and Edward Heath (heaving shoulders) commanded an audience of 28million viewers for a Christmas special in 1977.

But Yarwood, 76 next month, is now retired, living in his own in a flat in Surrey. The pressure of his success had led him to heavy drinking and, in 1985, the break-up of his marriage to Sandra, a dancer.

"She put up with a lot from me and it was my drinking that ruined everything," he told the Sunday Express in his only recent interview.

"I enjoy spending my evenings at home now because when I was working it was then that I should have been at home with my wife and children.

"I loved getting laughs, it's a wonderful feeling. I always say to myself when I'm feeling down, 'I could do with a good laugh.'"



★ With their wedding duties over, **Prince George and Princess Charlotte** have a special reason for wanting to hurry back home to Anmer Hall. They want to check on their latest pets: a flock of 36 Cuckoo Marans, a breed of French chicken.

"Every morning they love collecting the eggs, which are a much darker brown than normal ones," cackles my source close to the royal coop.

"The gardener has put some of the eggs in incubators, so the children will soon be able to watch them hatch."

★ **Jeremy Irons** leans to the left politically but his sympathy for a group of striking workers was tested when they interrupted a talk he was giving on TS Eliot's Four Quartets at London University.

Raising his mellifluous voice above the din of their megaphones, Irons, 68, told the disgruntled employees: "Please stop shouting. It's not the way we do things. Those of you from other countries are here because England is reasonable."

He added earnestly: "I would be most grateful if you would let us talk about Eliot." And they did.



★ Step aside, Theresa May, actress **Caroline Quentin** (left) has her own manifesto for the position of PM. Her vision for the nation includes the return of free school milk, a traffic-free "day of peace and quiet", a free Friday flog rub for workers who stand all day and a new national holiday on her birthday, July 11.

Plus a tax on over-50s who don't have an afternoon nap – all proceeds going "towards the chocolate muffin budget."

**John Nettles** is a chap of simple tastes. The Midsomer murder-solver muses: "A man needs three things in his life to make him happy. First is a large bank account, second is a beautiful wife... and third is a very proximate Indian restaurant."

★ When he was in *The Style Council*, **Paul Weller** used to sing about his "ever-changing moods" but it has taken until now for him to admit that he was dogged by depression in his 30s.

Says the Woking-born warbler, 58: "It's taken me a long time to recognise it but depression is something I've suffered with over the years. I know I've always had that reputation of being grumpy but a lot of that really was proper depression."

In 1990, Weller saw a therapist but gave up after a few sessions. "Then I took antidepressants and everything was fine."

Indeed, the singer is feeling so perky he's about to become a father again – his wife Hannah is due to give birth next month. It will be his eighth child.

★ It took **Monty Don** many years before he discovered solace, and success, in horticulture. "I used to be very naughty," says the Gardeners' World presenter, 61. "Too naughty for my nice primary school. They couldn't cope with me and I was asked to leave."

It was also expelled from my secondary school (Malvern College) and I even remember being kicked out of confirmation class because I questioned Christianity.

"I thought that what I wanted was sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll. It took a few years to work out that gardening was something that could be an important part of my life."

★ As usual, **Sting** is pretty pleased with himself. The tantric-loving warbler will make a profit of £27million when his condominium in New York is sold, and he has received an award for Every Breath You Take being played 13million times in the States.

But the Geordie milkman's son, 65, has failed in one respect: to keep his pledge to stick to vegetarianism.

"I know we've got to stop eating meat because it's killing the environment," he says. "But we have livestock on our farm in England, so I thought, 'Well, I'd better eat them!'"



★ Not so long ago, before all the drooling over Aidan Turner's toned torso, it was **Jamie Dornan** who was attracting the heavy breathing as the rascally rascal with a penchant for light sadomasochism in *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

But while admiration for Aidan can be expected to resume when *Poldark* returns tonight, Jamie's reputation has withered somewhat, after a sequel to *Fifty Shades* received a critical drubbing. Not that it has been enough to prevent the actor being signed up for the final instalment of the *EL James* trilogy, which will involve further duvet-rumping between Jamie and his American co-star Dakota Johnson.

When father-of-two Jamie, 35 (right, with wife Amelia Warner), has time off from filming he has not exactly been whooping it up.

As he admits: "I have the quietest family life. My wife and I were watching a movie last night. We'd got the kids to bed and I had a glass of red wine in my hand. I said 'I don't even think I can finish this'. It was 8.30."

"I was like, 'Is it too early to go to bed?' She said, 'We can't go to bed before nine'. We just about scraped it. I was holding my eyelids open."



★ When Sir Tom Jones was pictured with **Priscilla Presley** earlier this year there was a flurry of speculation that the two were enjoying a late-blossoming romance. The Welsh singer has downplayed the rumours and now Priscilla, too, is keen to assert that they are no more than just good friends.

She says she has known Tom for nearly 50 years, thanks to his friendship with her late husband Elvis. "We remain friends. That photograph of us wasn't the first time we've been out. Part of that was, Tom had lost his wife – who was the love of his life – and we all came together as friends to support him. My heart goes out to him."

Recently Sir Tom was spotted with his arm around Priscilla backstage at a Jerry Lee Lewis concert in Los Angeles. Previously he had said of speculation about a romance that he was "not dating" although he only added to the rumours when he mused that Elvis wouldn't have liked him becoming too cosy with Priscilla, saying: "He probably wouldn't have been too sure about me having dinner with her."

Given their respective ages – Tom is 76 and Priscilla 71 – perhaps they should just get on with it.

# Adam Helliker

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★ On being introduced to **Debbie Harry**, the Duchess of Cornwall made the disarming admission that at school (Queen's Gate in South Kensington) she had been known as Growler because of her deep singing voice. Now, a month later, Miss Harry has spoken admiringly of her impression of Camilla, 69. "She has a great voice for rock," purrs the Blondie chanteuse, 71. "She could have a band named Growler! A Leonard Cohen track would suit her."

# Film earns revenge for Lady Lucan

AFTER years of refusing requests to co-operate with filmmaker s e e k i n g the truth behind the mystery of her husband's disappearance, why did the Dowager Countess of Lucan finally agree to make the gripping documentary shown on ITV last week?

A close friend of Lady Lucan says that her decision was in part financial (she claims to have no money) but principally for "revenge" against her son George, to whom she has not spoken for 35 years.

Adds the chum: "She knows George will be so angry about the film. But she believes it's her turn in the limelight and that's why she has also written a book about her life. After all, everyone else seems to have a view on 'the Lucan mystery' but she is the only person who really knows what happened that night."

Veronica Lucan, 79, negotiated a deal with the film-makers herself, after falling out with an agent she had employed. She received the relatively small sum of £56,000 but is said to be "desperate" for the money, telling friends that she has

no savings, although she leads a frugal life.

At her home (around the corner from the house where she nearly died in 1974) there is no television or phone and she walks to the library each morning to use a computer and read the papers.

The home, with unreliable plumbing and no central heating, has not been redecorated for years and parts of the peeling wallpaper are stuck down with Sellotape.

Lady Lucan has said she has no wish for a reconciliation with any of her three children, particularly George, whom she has accused of "pilfering" family possessions. A death certificate was finally issued for the 7th Lord Lucan last year, enabling George to inherit the family title. He is married to Anne-Sofie, daughter of a Danish industrialist, and last year they had a daughter, Lady Daphne.

George, 49, is likely to be unhappy with the documentary. He burnt all his father's papers and photos as "a catharsis" and once told me: "I want to be able to get on with my life and for the myth surrounding my father to finally die... just as I believe he did all that time ago."



★ Might we see the Queen's granddaughter **Zara Phillips** and her husband **Mike Tindall** twirling under the glitterball on *Strictly Come Dancing*?

It's possible, muses Tindall, 38, who has time on his hands now that he has retired as a professional rugby player (and has acquired a taste for reality TV after appearing in *The Jump* and *Bear Grylls: Mission Survive*).

He says: "My wife and I have been asked a couple of times now to do *Strictly*. I'm not sure it's our gig but I would never say never."



★ If he had never chosen broadcasting as a career, **David Attenborough** would have become a teacher. "It's the most important job in our society, particularly educating young children," asserts Sir David, 91, who grew up in Leicester, where his father was principal of the university. "Teachers are undervalued and don't get the credit they should."



★ While she remains open to finding love again 17 years after the death of her husband Desmond Wilcox, **Esther Rantzen** is not tempted to try internet dating.

"I once advertised for a cleaning lady and there was a ring on the door bell and the woman said: 'Oh my God, not you!' and ran down the path!" giggles Esther, 76. "And I can only assume that if I went internet dating, people would have the same response."

★ Asked what makes him happy, **Sir Rod Stewart** replies: "Seeing my gorgeous wife's smile in the morning. And teaching my boys to play football."

But what makes **Old Gravel Voice**, 72, "uncontrollably content" is... a nice cup of tea.

A refreshingly uncomplicated chap, Rod, for a man with eight children by five mothers.

★ **Sir Tony Robinson** admits he used to be a bit of a sneak when he was younger. Says **Edrick**: "I used to break confidences an awful lot but I never felt good about myself afterwards. Now I'm an extremely good confidant. I even kept it a secret from my family when I was offered my knighthood in 2013. I found out while on holiday with my wife and told her but we had to keep shush about it with others."

★ The custom of servants ironing newspapers before giving them to their aristocratic masters has long died out in stately homes. But not at the Queen's residences.

Ex-Buckingham Palace butler Barry Fairhurst reveals that one of his duties was to make sure the papers were crease-free before they were deemed suitable for HM's perusal.

"Ironing the papers makes perfect sense – the heat prevented the ink from smudging," reasons Barry, 41.

"If you want to see the Queen with her fingers covered in ink?"

★ Rehearsals for her role as host of *The Voice Kids* have made **Pixie Lott** a trifle broody. "It's so heart-warming when you see the kids running to their mums for a big hug," sighs the Bromley-born singer. "I would love to be a mum one day. I have really strong family values."

Not that **Pixie**, 26, is planning a pregnancy just yet – she has only just become engaged to fashion model **Oliver Cheshire**, 29.

"We haven't even started planning our wedding yet. I don't want to rush it. I keep thinking I'll have more time next year. But my mum organised my sister's wedding in six weeks so it is achievable."

Incidentally, her real name is **Victoria**. Her mother called her **Pixie** because she was "such a cute baby and looked like a fairy". Bless her.

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★ If there's one good thing to come out of the low-rent television series *Love Island* it could be a film deal for the most sensitive participant, **Camilla Thurlow**. Unlike the rest of the cast in this prurient programme, who spend their time in vacuous exchanges about who will next be rumpling their davet, Miss Thurlow, 27, at least has a background worthy of attention. The Dumfries-born cutie went to the Scottish public school Fettes College and studied Exercise Science (whatever that may be) at Loughborough University. When not fending off the amorous advances of the tattooed oafs in the *Love Island* house, she has a proper job, working for the mine clearance charity Halo. "My proudest achievement was playing lacrosse for Scotland in the junior world championships," she chirrups sweetly. Actually, in tabloid terms, her biggest claim to fame was a date with Prince Harry. In 2014 one paper reported that following his parting from Cressida Bonas, Harry had hooked up for a "cheeky snog" with Camilla after the pair were introduced by Princess Beatrice. Whatever. Her spell in ITV2's tawdry rutting-fest heralds plenty of opportunities for Miss Thurlow. One producer says: "Camilla has been the best of the lot, like an emerald among a pile of gravel. She's got class. I can see her in a Richard Curtis-style rom-com."

★ There has been much speculation over **Nigel Farage's** recent perky appearance, with chatter that he had undergone rejuvenating treatments, including skin-tightening around his eyes and on his forehead, during a break in Germany. "Absolute b\*\*\*\*-craz!" he responded when the subject was broached at a Mayfair party, although he did concede he had made a major health change to his lifestyle. "I'm not smoking so much," he told me, while waving his wine glass for a refill. "I'm down to 50 a day."

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## Queen leads fight to keep hackers at bay



LAPTOP TIP: The Queen

WHILE CYBER attacks are proving a headache for many British institutions, with the NHS and the Palace of Westminster among those whose systems have been recently breached, the Queen has been assured that the Royal Household has so far remained impenetrable to would-be hackers. The fact that members of the Royal Family and their staff have been untouched by the worldwide wave of online crime owes much to the presence of senior aides who last year decreed that every single royal employee in the Queen's six residences (from the lowliest footman to the Lord Chamberlain) would be given security training sessions. "It was a very forward-thinking move," says a senior source at Buckingham Palace. "After a complete security review, the order

was given that everyone underwent training on how to keep both their work and personal computers – and their social media – as secure as possible. "It means that the senior managers were proudly able to report to Prince Philip, who takes a keen interest in this subject, that not a single item of protected data has been lost or breached in the past six months since training began." While their staff have undergone group training sessions, individual members of the Royal Family have been briefed by experts from the new National Cyber Security Centre, and the Secret Intelligence Service (whose HQ was visited by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge last week).

we're talking at a more sophisticated level than just changing her passwords from the names of her favourite corgis." "Stand by for a glut of TV shows about Princess Diana to coincide with the 20th anniversary of her death in August. "To my knowledge there are going to be 16 documentaries," says author Andrew Morton, who has selflessly resuscitated his 1992 biography of Diana. "Among the output are two 'landmark' pieces from the BBC and ITV, along with a BBC drama. But it's the American networks that are really going for it. "Even 20 years after her untimely death, her legacy continues to impact our world," gushes ABC, preparing a four-hour tribute. That's enough Diana!

★ When **Theresa May** was asked about "the naughtiest" thing she did as a child, she responded that she used to "run through fields of wheat". Now **Jeremy Corbyn** has given his earnest view on the PM's mischievous behaviour. "I'm totally shocked that anyone would damage wheat by running through it," is his po-faced response. "I was taught from a very early age that you walk round the edge of a cropped field." This from a chap who must have flattened quite a bit of grass when he courted with Diane Abbott in the countryside. Miss Abbott has recalled her "finest half-hour" as being when she romped with a naked man in a Cotswolds field in the late 1970s. At the time she was the lover of Iohario Corbyn, who was known as the *Sespat Trot*. Bet that's put you off your breakfast.



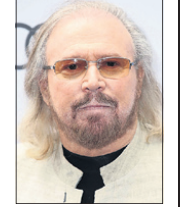
★ Whatever became of **Su Pollard**? I hear you cry. Well, the daffy star of such seminal sitcoms as *Hi-De-Hi!* and *You Rang, M'Lord?* is not quite ready for her place in the care home for faded celebrities. On the contrary, she's about to go for the big time in the States, as part of an ITV show called *Last Laugh in Vegas*. The Nottingham-born actress, 67, will join legends such as Mick Miller (from 1970s TV show *The Comedians*) and Cannon and Ball who will be filmed sharing a house in Vegas while preparing for a variety show. "We hope to see some lovely moments of these household names reminiscing about the highs and lows of their comedy careers," says an ITV source. While Ms Pollard may have had plenty of highs, her lows definitely include the time I said sorry to her after accidentally stepping on her toe in a night club. "So you \*\*\*\*\* well should be, you absolute \*\*\*\*" she replied graciously.

★ Ever since she went out with **George Clooney**, **Lisa Snowdon** has been plagued by pesky questions from those keen to know more about her time with the silver fox. "They always ask me what he was like in bed. It's usually after a few drinks have made them brave. I never tell," sighs the 45-year-old model. After her on-off relationship with George ended a decade ago, Lisa struggled to forge her own identity and lamented that she would never find a man. "I find it hard to meet new people and I'm really fussy," she once told me. How things have now changed for Essex-born Lisa, who last year started going out with George Smart, a friend who she first met ages ago while she was working as a presenter at MTV, where he was head of events. The two are engaged and Lisa is now leading a life of domestic bliss. "After dinner we usually head out to the garden," she coos dreamily. "We're quite garden-obsessed – we go to garden centres together. "If I can get to bed by 10pm, I'm in heaven. I've totally changed from the old days when I was surviving on no sleep. It's a really fulfilling time."



★ Although former Wimbledon hopeful **Tim Henman** began playing tennis at the age of three, he is certainly not pushing his own offspring into the professional game. "They're all sporty but there's no budding tennis player, which I'm happy about because there's a lot of pressure and expectation in tennis," says Tim, 42, of his three daughters, Rose, 14, Olivia, 12, and nine-year-old Grace. Tiger Tim, who reached four Wimbledon semifinals before retiring in 2007, is just happy that his brood is active. "and not spending too much time on their computers."

★ When – and if – **Andy Murray** plays at Wimbledon, his greatest fan will not be among the spectators. "I can't bear to watch, even on television," says his mother **Judy Murray**. "I don't listen on the radio either; it's too stressful. Instead, I clean the house, starting with the bathroom and I just scrub and polish until it's all over. Then I turn on my phone to find out the result."



★ **Barry Gibb** is a little more abstemious now compared to the time he used to spend nights getting drunk at his house in Miami with Michael Jackson... although he does allow himself something stronger to calm his nerves when he's on a plane. "I get a bit neurotic about being up in the air because it's not natural," the septuagenarian singer told me at a lunch for Nordoff Robbins music therapy. "If I have to fly I like vodka, or a glass of sake. I get pleasantly p\*\*\*\*ed."





★ For his role in Victoria as the Queen's cook Charles Francatelli, **Ferdinand Kingsley** is particularly delighted to have received the approval of one fellow actor: his father, Sir Ben Kingsley.

"He was very complimentary," beams Ferdy, 29. "He bought the first series on DVD and we watched it together. Which was weird, because I was half watching the screen, half watching his reaction."

Sir Ben's praise is in contrast to his own parents' attitude towards the future star of Ghandi. Kingsley has said there was an absence of affection from his own father, a heavy drinker, while his mother, herself an actress, felt "jealous" of his success.

"They never praised me or acknowledged a gram of talent in me," he lamented.

Sir Ben said that being made a knight in 2002 finally made him feel that he had received approval, although still not from his family (his mother was not present at the investiture).

Picture: JB LACROIX/WireImage



★ **ISLA FISHER** absolutely adores books. The perky redhead says reading saved her from a lonely childhood when she found it difficult to make new friends because she was constantly moving schools.

"I was born in Oman, raised in Scotland and emigrated to Australia," she tells me. "It was tricky always being the new girl. On the days that no one wanted to sit next to me at lunch I would read. Books propped me up emotionally."

The former Home And Away star is now producing her own books (her third children's tale is called Marge And The Great Train Rescue) in between looking after three youngsters with her husband, the comic genius Sacha Baron Cohen.

Isla, 41, who was named after Islay, the Scottish island which produced her father's favourite whisky, believes it's more important than ever to get children off their screens and into books. She says firmly: "Reading teaches the kids tolerance and encourages their imagination. Child literacy is crucial, especially as we have a barely literate American president."

★ Anyone envious at friends who spend summer holidays in the South of France may draw comfort from **Jenny Eclair's** view of St Tropez. "It's an itchy little hellhole of plastic grape vines and overpriced tat," declares the comedienne, 57, after returning from the Côte d'Azur. "The barefoot beauty has gone, swamped by commercialism and wipe-down menus. Yachts bobbed disconsolately in the harbour, one even sported the cliché cigar-smoking owner sitting on deck necking champagne, but he didn't seem to be having fun." She concludes: "The whole coast is a dump."

★ *The shadow over John Sergeant's time in Strictly Come Dancing* the withdrawn dancer when there was a real danger he might win still hangs above the former BBC political editor. Asked for his feelings about the show, his lip curls as he says: "Two million people stopped watching when I left. I don't watch it now."

# Adam Helliher

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## 'Loyal' Boris is still dreaming of No 10

**D**ESPITE Boris Johnson's pledge of support for Theresa May, and his protestations that he is not after the PM's job, a member of his family tells me that Boris has every intention of making a challenge for the Tory leadership "when the time is right".

Boris was the first cabinet minister to support Mrs May's announcement that she intended to lead the Tories into another election, stating: "I'm giving her my undivided backing, she's ideally placed to deliver a great outcome for our country on Brexit."

But privately he shares the view of George Osborne, who believes Mrs May's rash decision to call the snap election which lost the party its majority has turned her into what the former Chancellor described as a "dead woman walking".

Shortly before her announcement in Japan that she was "not a quitter", Mrs May had been forced to insist that she had "full confidence" in Boris amid claims the Foreign Secretary was viewed as a "joke" on the world stage. So has Bo Jo lost his mojo? One report quoted an unnamed minister saying:



HOPE: Boris would love to succeed Theresa May

"Our counterparts in Europe don't take him seriously. They think he's a clown who can never resist a gag." Another source said that civil servants were "horrified" by his lack of discipline, adding: "Boris thinks he's Winston Churchill but he's more like an

Etonian David Brent." While Boris may be biding his time, he knows that most Tory MPs are, for now, unenthusiastic about a battle for the leadership.

Many hope that delaying a contest could allow younger candidates, such as the defence committee chairman, former army officer Tom Tugendhat, 44, to build up their reputation.

Yet one should never underestimate Boris's ego. When he found out his younger brother Jo had got a First at Oxford he kicked the wall so hard he broke his toe. His sister Rachel admits he once said he "wanted to rule the universe and if that couldn't happen he'd settle for PM".

Meanwhile Boris, 53, continues to dismiss talk of leadership ambitions, as he has before. Remember his previous protestation: "My chances of being PM are about as good as the chances of finding Elvis on Mars, or my being reincarnated as an olive."

But as one of his camp says: "When the party realises Theresa will not win then the next election, Boris will be ready. Behind that mask of Gussie Fink-Nottle there's a Machiavelli who is a super-smart, ultra-ambitious politician."

★ Cold Feet will attract its fair share of online traffic, as viewers prepare their thoughts on the new series which begins this Friday on ITV, but **Hermione Norris**, who plays Karen, will not be peeking at any comments on social media.

"I'm nervous of it: I don't want to read something that I don't want to see. I've witnessed other people being burned by it," says the actress, who also does her best to discourage her son Wilf, 13, and daughter Hero, 10, from too much time online.

"If they're on screen for a long time, you can watch their moods change in front of your eyes. The best thing was when the dog chewed through the cables at home and we had a whole weekend without wi-fi."

Online or not, 50-year-old Hermione will continue to attract comments, if only about her name, which she used to curse.

"I spent my childhood having to repeat my name and then having to spell it. People thought it was ridiculous. So thank God for JK Rowling, because Hermione Granger (in Harry Potter) meant no one laughs at it any more. "Now every pet goldfish and hamster seems to be called Hermione."

★ **The Queen** is encouraging a revival in jousting, a sport much enjoyed by her regal ancestors, by giving permission for a training day for youngsters at Windsor Castle. Yesterday aspiring knights were shown the necessary skills in the castle's quadrangle, where King Edward III first staged jousting tournaments 630 years ago. English Heritage is promoting jousting for inclusion in the next Olympics because it demands "speed, agility, and honour". Not suitable for the Duke of York then.

★ Well, here's shock amid the brouhaha surrounding the 20th anniversary of Diana's death: **Prince Charles** is to end his marriage to Camilla. Er, that's according to New Idea magazine, one of the tawdry publications in Australia which regularly comes up with royal "world exclusives" that have courtiers fuming... or giggling until they fall off their gilded chairs.

The various documentaries on Diana, and the surge in public sympathy for William and Harry, have left Charles "racked with guilt over the hurt and devastation his illicit affair with Camilla had on Diana," gushes the magazine.

"He's negotiating a settlement with Camilla. They've been having problems for years and have been living separate lives." All of which will come as a bit of a shock to the royal couple, who are at Birkhall, their roost on the Balmoral estate, as they prepare for a week of engagements in Scotland... together.



★ As the daughter of the Duke of Westminster, who left £9 billion when he died last year, **Lady Edwina Grosvenor** has few financial worries but her husband, television historian **Dan Snow**, has always been careful with money.

Indeed Dan, 38, son of broadcaster Peter "Swingometer" Snow, admits that he was so concerned by the financial crash in 2008 (two years before he married Edwina) that he panicked and bought some gold sovereigns and hid them in his garden.

"They're still there," he tells me. "I'm not entirely sure I'm going to be able to find them again. I should have done a treasure map."

"At the time I thought that if the whole banking system was going to collapse I wanted to have the coins as a little buffer to last me two days before the zombies come and rip my head off."



★ **Suzi Quatro**, the leather-clad sizzler who stomped her way through the Seventies with hits such as Can The Can and Devil Gate Drive, giggles when she recalls meeting Prince Charles after a charity show.

As she waited in a line-up to be presented to Charles, she was still in the bikini and fishnet stockings she wore for the performance. "He came to me, we shook hands, made small talk, then he walked on and three people down he stopped, turned around and he shouted, and I mean shouted: 'And you have the best legs since Tina Turner!' I turned into this coy little girl, giggling like a six-year-old. Why I'll never know. He caught me completely off guard there."

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★ Here's **John Prescott** enthusing about his wife **Pauline**: "She's a wonderful woman and she has made me a tremendous home. I've had a lot of good luck in my life and being with her is one of those things." No wonder Lord Prescott, who will be 80 in May, is so grateful; it was the pragmatic Pauline, daughter of a Cheshire bricklayer, who told the old booby not to resign as Labour's deputy PM after it was revealed that he had been having an affair with his secretary, Tracy Temple.

This tawdry dalliance, which lasted two years, began at the office Christmas party. In a newspaper interview, Miss Temple described how she was seduced by Prezza on the desk of his office, beneath a portrait of Thomas Cromwell.

Although her boss never took her out for dinner, he "once made me a bacon butty". The romantic old goat.

*A note from the parish magazine in Churchdown, Gloucestershire: "Would the congregation please note that the bowl at the back of the church labelled 'For The Sick' is for monetary donations only."*



★ Fans of nature programmes enjoyed the return of **Michaela Strachan** to the BBC's *Autumnwatch*. But for some viewers the whole series has been less about bunnies and birds, and more about innuendo-watch.

Previous programmes have induced giggles over the levels of saucy references, especially from Chris Packham, but Michaela 51 insists it's almost impossible to avoid *double entendres* when talking live and unscripted about animals.

"Sometimes you say something and people just take it the wrong way. Once on *Springwatch*, we did a piece where this badger was scratching his tummy. I had a badger shirt on and I said, 'That's very cute. Look, I can scratch my badger'. People went mad, they even had T-shirts made. And it was so innocent!"

★ When it comes to setting boundaries between the sexes, **Sir Michael Caine** likes to quote his mother Ellen, a cleaner who had firm views on how much flesh a girl should bare. "She was fascinated by girls wearing short skirts," he muses. "One day I was walking with her down the King's Road in Chelsea and we saw a lovely blonde in a mini-skirt and I said, 'What do you think, Mum?' She replied, 'If it's not for sale, you shouldn't put it in the window!'"

★ It's had enough that the repairs to Big Ben will silence its bongos for years. Now it's been revealed that the huge steel scaffolding around the tower is made in Germany.

**Stephen Kinross**, the Labour MP whose Aberavon constituency is home to Tata's Port Talbot steel plant, asked where the material came from and was told by a Commons official that the "quantity and size" meant it had to be ordered from Germany.

Why not Britain? harrumphed Kinross, adding: "We make the best steel that money can buy. If given sufficient lead-time by the customer, then our steelworkers can always deliver."

**QUOTE**  
"The body is like a car: the older you become the more care you have to take of it - and you don't leave a Ferrari out in the sun." **Jean Collins, 84, who puts her smooth complexion down to avoiding sunbathing.**

★ Although viewers of her series *A Place In The Sun* may have been encouraged to have acquisitive thoughts about buying a little bolthole abroad, **Amanda Lamb**, below, believes wanting more ultimately leads to less happiness.

"I'm a real believer in trying to simplify your life as much as possible," says mother-of-two **Amanda, 45**, who is married to Sean, a cameraman she met while working on the series.

"I think that we're all too focused on being perfect and I believe social media plays a huge part in that.

"I've been guilty of it, too - stressing out over a TV job I didn't get or looking good at the school gates. But my new mantra is: 'I do enough, I am enough, I have enough'."

She remembers filming on the French Riviera and seeing a Russian oligarch's huge yacht coming into the harbour. "I was in awe. Then the harbour master turned to me and said, 'I wouldn't worry about that, tomorrow there will be a better one coming in'."

"It made me think: There will always be someone more successful than you."

★ Host **John Humphrys** would never subject himself to the ordeal of being a contestant on *Mastermind*. He says: "I have nothing but sympathy when these brave souls make a howling error.

"My favourite was when I asked this nice opening question in the general knowledge round, 'What breakfast cereal do you associate with prison?'"

"While the poor chap's eyes glazed over and every viewer in the land shouted 'porridge!', he proudly delivered his answer: 'Cheerios!'"

★ **Jeffrey Archer** is not a believer in looking back on his past and thinking about what might have been. "It's a waste of time!" exclaims the bumptious peer. "I don't go backwards. I'm today!"

"I'm writing my books and praying they'll be better than the one before. The amount of people who think it would be nice to look back... I'd have been captain of the England cricket team, I'd have got a gold medal at the Olympics."

But doesn't the old rascal claim to have done those things anyway?



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## Love nest fit for a Prince



IT IS A truth universally acknowledged that a gentleman who is in possession of both a good fortune and a young woman he intends to marry must be in need of a suitably elegant country seat.

So it is fitting that **Prince Harry**, who has been house hunting in the Cotswolds, took **Meghan Markle** to see **Luckington Court** in Wiltshire, a manor that was used as Elizabeth Bennet's family home in the BBC's series of *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*, starring **Colin Firth** and **Jennifer Ehle**.



**NEARLY HOME:** Harry and Meghan had a good look at Luckington Court

The Regency house, which is up for sale at £7.75million, even has a royal connection: the 156-acre estate was once owned by King Harold. The eight-bedroom property also has a whiff of military intrigue in its history.

In the 1940s, it was rented by **Guy Vansittart**, a member of **Z Unit**, the shadowy guerrilla outfit that operated behind enemy lines in the Second World War.

Luckington Court, surrounded by woodland and with five cottages, was recommended to Harry by his old chum **Thomas van Straubenzon**, whose Mayfair property search company VanHan has drawn up a shortlist of potential royal roosts.

The fact that Harry took Meghan to see the house confirms that he is serious about his future with the actress, with whom he has been going out for 15 months. She is expected to move here from Toronto (with her rescue dogs **Bogart** and **Guy**) after she films her final season of *Suits* next month.

Yesterday **Woolley & Wallis**, the agents in Marlborough marketing the house, declined to elaborate on the Prince's visit, although

they did confirm that the price has been reduced from £8million as its owner, **Jane Pollock**, is keen to move.

But another local estate agent said: "Harry and Meghan spent two hours looking at Luckington, although we understand they haven't made an offer yet."

A source close to Harry acknowledges that the Prince "loved" Luckington, which is only eight miles from Prince Charles's home, Highgrove, but says the search is "ongoing".

"They both definitely want to be in the Cotswolds, they prefer it to Norfolk [where William and Kate have a house] and they are looking at a shortlist of properties - not too big or too showy but obviously with the need for privacy and staff accommodation."

★ It's not a fear of putting on weight that bothers fitness guru **Joe Wicks**. His real worry is going bald.

"I know I'm going to lose my hair one day and I'm scared of that," sighs Wicks, whose lustrous locks have helped make him an online heart-throb.

**Joe, 31**, who has four million fans following his workout routines and healthy eating tips, says his success has been "accidental".

"In the beginning it was just me posting recipes online from my flat in **Surliton** and my girlfriend at the time was, 'Can we please just sit down and eat the food!'"

Not that Joe is above temptation. Last week he admitted to bingeing on burgers and fizzy drinks while on a birthday trip to the States. "I've been lazy," he said ruefully, "I need to get back in the game."

★ Congratulations to **John Cleeve**, who has reached 70 - thanks to medical science. "I'm practically bionic now," preens the much-married beanpole, who had his second hip replacement earlier this year. "I've also got an artificial knee. I've got lenses in both eyes and I've got a hearing aid. And I've had nine dental implants and a hair transplant. When you get to my age, you do running repairs."



★ When **Tamzin Outhwaite** took the call asking her to rejoin *EastEnders* in the New Year, after nearly 16 years away from Albert Square, the actress might naturally have wished to share the good news with someone special back at home.

But Essex-born Tamzin remains single, four years after she parted from **Tom Ellis** who played the hunky chef Gary in *Miranda Hart's* eponymous TV series.

She was devastated when he confessed to a night of illicit rump-pumpy while away filming in America. The couple attempted to patch up their seven-year marriage for the sake of their two daughters but eventually Tom left home and she filed for divorce.

Last year Tamzin, 46, declared that although she was now ready for serious dating, there were few suitable contenders. "There don't seem to be many people around at the moment," she sighed.

Fortunately the ordeal of divorce has not left her too cynical. "I'm not desperate to get married again but I'm not against it," she says. "I never lost faith and I hope I never become anti-men."

Meanwhile **Welshman Tom, 38**, who is now a star in the States in a TV series called *Lester*, has become a suitor with Tulsa-born actress **Meaghan Oppenheimer, 31**. She has described Tom as "my trophy boyfriend, whom I love more than shoes and Second World War documentaries".

★ **Sheena Easton** was bemused by the reaction of her daughter **Skyilar, 21**, after she watched films of mum's heyday as a singer.

"Skyilar said: 'What the hell are you wearing in that, Mum? You but's all shiny!'" "I replied, 'It's called Spandex, darling. And may you never have to experience it in real life!'"

Indeed Sheena, 58, who is starring in the West End production of *42nd Street*, is just relieved that neither of her children has envisaged a future in showbusiness. She observes: "Since they were tiny, I've let them see that what I do is very hard work. I needed them to see it's far from being glamorous and excitement. My son [Jake, 22] plays the guitar - but purely for his own enjoyment."

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