

Flooding's over... now here comes the snow

THERE was no respite for weather-weary Britain this week as the New Year gales and floods were replaced with Arctic winds, snow, frost, ice and fog.

Wind and rain have blighted the country for weeks as thousands of homes have flooded and wet and windy conditions and brought chaos to roads and transport systems.

There is finally an end to the downpour in sight, but the change will bring the wintry conditions which have been held off by the storms, forecasters predict.

wintry conditions

Until then the country is at risk of further flooding as "slow responding rivers" are hit by further the heavy rain, although the worst is over.

On Wednesday a pensioner became the eighth person killed by the bad weather when he fell from his bicycle trying to pedal though four feet of flood water.

And by Monday wintry conditions are expected throughout the

country, with cold air coming in from the US, which has been gripped by a polar vortex.

The Met Office predicts an increasing risk of snow, mainly over hills, and ice.

'very mild start'

Spokesperson Laura Young said: "Into the weekend and next week we are going to see temperatures return to normal levels for this time of year which will make it feel a lot colder and bring a risk of frost, fog, and wintry showers."

December 1st is officially the beginning of winter, but the last six weeks have proved unseasonable, with temperatures in double figures and last month the eight warmest December on record.

"We have had a very mild start to our winter and I think that people might get a bit of a shock next week," Miss Young

■ Snow, frost and ice forecast as British winter goes from bad to worse



WAVE GOODBYE? sightseers in Porthcawl got a front row seat as giant waves battered the Welsh town

said. The mercury is expected to drop to average for January – around 4C.

In southern parts of the UK more than a month's worth of rain has fallen in the last

seven days and the Environment Agency has warned that people in the area are not out of danger.

flood warnings

Eight people have died and more than

1,700 homes and businesses have been flooded in England since the beginning of the Christmas period, with around 550 properties flooded since the new year.

The River Stour in

Hampshire burst its banks just before Christmas and it is predicted to rise again.

Levels of the River Avon, which runs through Hampshire and Wiltshire, and the River

Cont. on page 3, Col. 1

New official protection for genuine Scotch whisky



A new scheme has been launched to protect the Scotch whisky industry from fake or sub-standard products.

The Spirit Drinks Verification Scheme has been set up by the UK government to help consumers identify genuine UK-made products.

Producers will have to sign up for the scheme if they want to sell within the European Union. Scotch Whisky is the first drink to be covered.

The industry said the measure would be "warmly welcomed".

Protection under the new rules will in future be extended to other drinks with a geographical origin, such as Somerset Cider Brandy and whiskey from Northern Ireland.

Producers, blenders, bottlers, labellers and bulk importers will need to apply to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) if they want to be verified.

HMRC will carry out checks on all businesses involved in the production of the spirits to make sure they meet strict EU requirements.

Scotch Whisky Association chief executive David Frost said: "This is a step change in the protection of Scotch whisky and should be warmly welcomed.

"We fully support the introduction of the verification scheme by the UK government. It will give even more protection to consumers of Scotch whisky.

"It will greatly improve the industry's ability to stop the sale of adulterated Scotch whiskies bottled abroad."

Launching the scheme, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander said:

"The verification scheme will make sure people who buy Scotch get what they pay for - the finest spirit in the world."

Blair's best year ever!

■ Bumper 2013 sees former PM's net worth rocket to £70m

Tony Blair has banked over £13 million to mark his most financially successful year since stepping down as prime minister.

Blair's wealth, including a London home, a country estate and numerous other properties, is estimated to come to £70m. The former PM has built up his fortune over the years as an official adviser to investment bank JP Morgan and Swiss-based global insurance giant Zurich International.

private speeches

Blair also advises governments such as the Kazakhstan regime and earns as much as £250,000 a time for private speeches and appearances.

The bumper financial results for the 12 months to April 2013 have been revealed in the latest accounts for Blair's two firms, Windrush Ventures and Firerush Ventures, which were lodged with Companies House last week.

Windrush Ventures, which employs 35 people, posted a £14.9m turnover and a post-tax profit of nearly £2m,



SITTING PRETTY: Speaking engagements like this one, at the World Economic Forum, allowed the former Prime Minister to trouser £13m in 2013

marking a £650,000 rise over the previous year. It paid corporation tax on its profits of £653,000, the accounts show.

'very good year'

Windrush also paid out £12.1 million in expenses, to cover the cost of office rents, travel and hotel bills for Blair and his entourage.

Blair's staff are

estimated to earn an average of £86,000, with the company's highest paid director getting £273,000.

One City accountant told the *Sunday Telegraph*: "These numbers are a big improvement on last year. Mr Blair has had a very good year. This is a bumper year - his best year yet."

A statement on Tony

Blair's website said: "The latest annual financial statement s...[are]...the financial statements of the two companies through which the operating costs of the Tony Blair group's global activities are paid. They do not represent his earnings or the earnings or the profit of his businesses and are not referable to them."



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HELPING HAND: A tractor pulls out a car that has been affected by flooding in Runnymede, which sits alongside the River Thames in Surrey



MAKING THE MOST OF IT: A mother and children play on picnic tables at Mill Meadows in the posh town of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire



DAMAGE: Iconic beach huts that sell for more than £100,000 on the North Wales coastline have been devastated by the ferocious storms



MISERY IN MARLOW: A worried couple look at out at the floodwater approaching their property in the Thames-side Buckinghamshire town

Floods:

where a number of their homes, a total of people have been forced four inches of rain fell in to live upstairs or leave eight days – more than

cont. from page one

Thames throughout Surrey, Berkshire and Oxfordshire are also predicted to continue to rise this week creating a flood risk.

There were more than 100 flood warnings in place on Wednesday which are expected to last the rest of the week.

The man in his 70s who died after he falling from his bicycle in floods in Oxon was killed only a few miles where Gabriel Stocks drowned at the weekend when he fell from his mobility scooter.

In Hurn in Dorset,

the average for the entire month.

And the ancient coastline of Cornwall and Dorset has been forever altered by 30ft

waves which caused

including the Pom Pom rock in Portland, Dorset, to crumble into the sea.

The storms have also

caused problems for

wildlife, with a rescue mission under way as more than 40 seal pups

have been washed ashore in Cornwall.



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England cricketers save bridge suicide man

England cricketers Matt Prior and Stuart Broad (above) finally got some positive press this week after helping rescue a man preparing to jump off a bridge in Sydney, Australia.

The pair found the man on the edge of a bridge in Darling Harbour and Prior helped to pull him down.

The 31-year-old wicketkeeper told The Daily Telegraph: "We just did what anyone would do in that situation."

"It all happened very quickly and we acted on impulse"

"We were trying to help a bloke who was struggling and in a bad way. I look back and I'm just glad we left the bar when we did and we were there for him."

Broad and Prior, who both featured in England's 5-0 Ashes defeat by Australia, were returning to their team hotel from a

Barmy Army fundraising event when they found the man, who said he was from Cheltenham.

After speaking to him for over an hour, Prior pulled the man down from the bridge before New South Wales police arrived.

"Matt Prior is a best friend of mine and I'm very proud of him. It was a tough situation but so glad he was there," tweeted Broad, 27.

Terry Minish, the team's security officer, was with the England duo and claimed the man had indicated he wanted to drown.

"Walking back to the hotel we spotted a young man on the edge of the bridge about to jump," Minish said.

"He was saying he just wanted to drown. Matt helped to pull him down off the edge of the bridge and sat with him until the police arrived."

David Jason calls for campaign to bring back Only Fools and Horses

Stars of British comedy classic says if enough people tweet their support another series might be commissioned

DAVID JASON has revived hopes for a return of the classic British sitcom *Only Fools and Horses* after calling for a public campaign to bring the show back.

Interest in the show was revived recently when Jim Sullivan, whose late father, John, created the show,

The "UK's largest eruv" became operational on Friday for the Jewish community in Greater Manchester.

The Manchester Community Eruv has a perimeter of more than 13 miles and covers parts of Prestwich, Crumpsall and Higher Broughton.

An eruv is a symbolic boundary that allows orthodox religious Jews to carry or push certain items outside of their homes on the Sabbath.

Planning of the eruv, which has taken 10 years, has cost £350,000.

Under Jewish law (Torah), it is forbidden to push or carry everyday items such as a mobile phone, umbrella, house keys, or a pushchair between sundown on Friday and sundown on Saturday.

announced that the show's stars would reunite for a one-off special for Sport Relief – although he insisted it just a one-off.

But Jason, who played Derek "Del Boy" Trotter in the much-loved BBC series, has other ideas, telling reporters: "Yeah, maybe, if we get enough tweets we might bring it back."

Jason adds that the characters had a timeless quality about them, which would mean that they would still work on screen



FLOGGING A DEAD HORSE? David Jason will appear in the Sport Relief episode

today. "Of course it would. The trouble is it's the material that we lack - we need John Sullivan back."

Still, he is staying tight-lipped on the Sport Relief episode. "Ah no,

that's a secret I can't let you into that. You know more than I do," he added.

The Sport Relief episode is expected to see Jason reunited with Nicholas Lyndhurst, who played Del Boy's brother, Rodney.



LUVVLY JUBBLY: Nicholas Lyndhurst and David Jason as Rodney and Del Boy

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News from Britain

Four dead as 'safest ever' US chopper comes down in Norfolk

An investigation is underway after four crew members were killed when a US military helicopter on a training mission crashed near the north Norfolk coast this week.

The HH-60 Pave Hawk, a derivative of the Sikorsky Black Hawk aircraft, plunged into marshland at Cley-next-the-Sea at about 6pm on Tuesday.

Emergency services worked throughout the night with the help of military personnel and volunteers to secure the crash site, with some

debris threatened by tidal waters.

The US Air Force said the helicopter went down between a beach car park at Cley and Eastbank, near Salthouse - an area which remains flooded following the recent tidal surge.

An investigation has now been launched into how the aircraft, described as having "the best safety record of any helicopter that the US has ever owned", could have crashed during a routine low-level training exercise.

The Pave Hawk was

stationed with the 48th Air Wing at the US Air Force base at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, which issued a statement saying: "US military officials are coordinating the recovery efforts with the UK police and the Ministry of Defence.

"The authorities have secured the crash site and established a cordon.

"The aircraft, assigned to the 48th Fighter Wing, was performing a low-level training mission along the coast when the crash occurred."

Police said all four crew members on board the



MYSTERY: The helicopter was one of two on a low-altitude training exercise when it plunged into flooded marshland yards from a beach

helicopter at the time were killed in the crash, and that wreckage including live munitions had been scattered across an area the size of a football pitch.

Speaking near the scene, Chief Superintendent Bob Scully of Norfolk Police said it was too early to say what caused the crash.

birdwatching

He said the aircraft had contained ammunition, and that a 400 metre-wide area had been closed off because the scattering of bullets made the site "hazardous to members of the public".

A second helicopter from RAF Lakenheath was also in the area at the time of the crash and set

down on the marshes to try to assist.

Richard Kelham, the chairman of Cley Parish Council, told ITV News that the helicopter was thought to have landed in a bird reserve. North Norfolk is famous as a birdwatching area and is popular with walkers and tourists.

But speaking to BBC News, retired colonel and former Pave Hawk pilot Rick Davis said it was highly unlikely that a so-called bird-strike would have caused any problems for the aircraft.

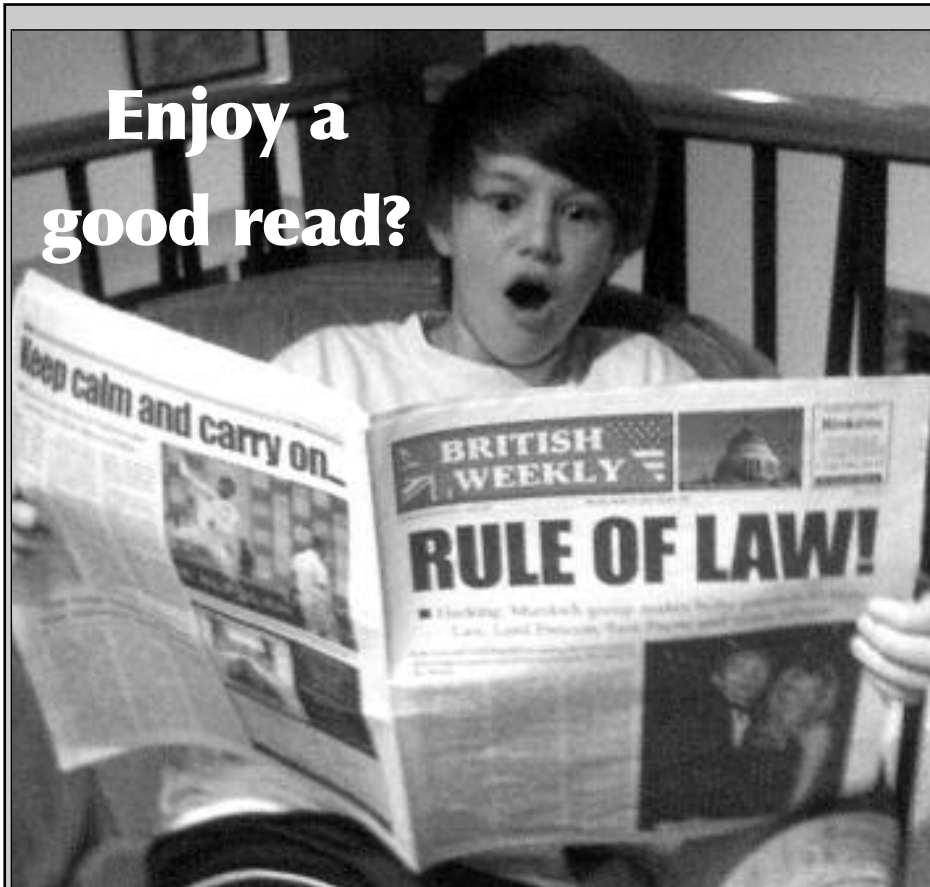
He said one possible explanation, based on the presence of live ammunition on board the helicopter, could be that the crew got into difficulties while going

through strenuous "battle-ready" preparations.

He added that the crash was particularly unusual given the fact that "the Pave Hawk may have the best safety record of any helicopter that the United States military has ever owned".

Peter and Sue McKnespiey, who run Cookies crab shop in Salthouse, live near the crash site and said they heard the helicopter come over "very fast and very low".

Mrs McKnespiey said: "I don't know about engines but I am used to the sound of helicopters and this sounded very heavy and very unusual. My gut instinct was there was something wrong."



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Lapdancers take revenge after being stiffed over £42k debt

- Nightclub boss 'kidnapped by three lapdancers' after he failed to pay them hefty sum for entertaining punters during upscale horse racing meet
- Victim refused to pay the women 'because they broke the rules'; He claims they ignored strict instructions not to remove bikinis and nipple tassels'

Three lapdancers and their manager kidnapped a club boss after he failed to pay them more than £42,000, a court has been told.

The women had been hired to work at a pop-up nightclub to provide entertainment for customers during the Cheltenham Festival in March 2012.

Curtis Woodman, who had set up the club was driven to a remote field and beaten up, it was claimed.

Three lapdancers and their agent Charlotte Devaney, 34, are alleged to have enlisted the help of two male friends to strongarm him.

A court heard that Mr Woodman, 34, hired the girls around the time of the festival but fell out with them when he accused them of breaching the Embassy Club's strict licence conditions by stripping off.

contracts

Bristol Crown Court heard the club failed to secure a lapdancing licence and the girls signed contracts agreeing they would wear 'bikinis and nipple tassels at all times'.

But when the club opened some of the women, who were paid £150 per night to work there, 'insisted on taking their clothes off' and it was shut down by officials.

The women claimed they were promised 50 per cent of any card takings which included £42,000 spent by one excited punter.

In a taped police interview played to the jury, Mr Woodman said that he struggled to get the women to keep their clothes on.

'A lot of the girls earned a lot of money from working that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.'

Mr Woodman said the problem between him and the girls arose on the Tuesday night, when a customer began spending money on his debit card.

'He was obviously a big spender, he was spending a lot of money, I mean in the region of £40,000.'

'Throughout all of the week, we had just one night which was a full nude lapdancing night, the rest of the nights were running as a hostess business fully clothed.'

'If you have ever asked a stripper to keep her clothes on when she is working, it doesn't happen.'

'I was constantly bombarding them 'put your clothes back on we are going to get shut down'.'

'You try and keep 60 girls in check. On the Wednesday we had a

team meeting before we started, we told the girls to go into town and buy clothes.'

Devaney spent months chasing Mr Woodman for the 'debt' before visiting a police station in Cheltenham on September 3, where she was advised to take civil action.

Stanley knife

Later that day, Devaney, along with dancers Mandy Cool, 29, Stephanie Pye, 31, and Rachel Goodchild, 24, met with brothers Alexander, 23, and Robert Morris, 27.

The group headed to Mr Woodman's work in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, in two cars, where they 'kidnapped him', the jury of seven men and five women was told.

Prosecuting, Martin Steen said: 'Miss Devaney made clear she thought that there would need to be a discussion with Mr Woodman.'

'He was helped into Miss Devaney's car by the Morrises, who sat either side of him in the back of the vehicle.'

'Mr Woodman was wearing a Breitling watch. It was seen by the Morrises and he was required to hand it over.'

'They had in their possession a Stanley knife. He was under threat. He had no choice but to hand over that watch, worth £4,800, and he did so.'

Mr Steen said that when Alexander Morris was later arrested, the watch was found to be in his possession.

During the drive, Mr Woodman was sat in Devaney's BMW One Series with her, the Morris brothers and Stephanie Pye. Cool, in her BMW Three Series, with Goodchild, followed.

released with threats

Mr Woodman was allegedly struck twice in the face by Robert Morris as the car drove onto the M5 and left at junction 10.

His phone was confiscated and attempts were made to transfer money using a banking app, which were unsuccessful, Mr Steen said.

'He was then persuaded to ring the bank and arrange for a transfer using the details of Charlotte Devaney's bank card,' he told the jury.

'£4,800 was transferred into Charlotte Devaney's account.'

Mr Woodman was then taken 100 metres down an agricultural track, where he was taken out of the vehicle by the Morris brothers, it was alleged.

'They told him they were going to have some fun,' Mr Steen said. 'That



'Kidnappers': Lapdancers Stephanie Pye, 31, and Mandy Cool, 29, who are accused of kidnapping Curtis Woodman after claiming they had not been paid

involved hitting him to the face and kicking him to the face, causing him to bleed.

'It was suggested that they should pay a visit to his parents, perhaps to encourage satisfaction of the debt that was owed.'

Mr Woodman directed the vehicles to an empty property he claimed was his home - stating he had left the keys in his office - before the cars set off again.

He was then driven to a fish and chip shop and left him in the car, Mr Steen said.

'Mr Woodman was later released with threats that if he didn't pay the rest of the money, they would be back,' Mr Steen said.

Police had already been tipped off because Mr Woodman rung a business partner during the drive and they were able to trace the two BMWs.

The Morris brothers, Cool and Goodchild were arrested when Cool's BMW was stopped on the A34 in Hampshire at 8.30pm that evening.

Devaney was arrested at an address the

following day, while Pye handed herself into a police station later.

Mr Steen said Devaney and the girls hatched a plan to kidnap Mr Woodman after months of chasing him for payment.

'As far as the girls were concerned, they were hoping to have their share of the credit card payment of £42,000,' Mr Steen said.

'Mr Woodman felt that the girls had broken their contracts and were not entitled to keep the money.'

Earlier, Alexander Morris, from Southampton, admitted carrying a bladed article, namely a Stanley knife, on September 3, 2012, the day of the alleged kidnap.

Morris and his brother Robert, also from Southampton deny robbery of Mr Woodman's Breitling watch.

Devaney, from London; Pye, from Sutton Coldfield; Cool, of Southampton; and Goodchild, of Southampton, each deny a charge of kidnap on September 3 2012.

The trial, in front of judge Geoffrey Mercer, continues.



Nightclub: The women were performing at a 'pop up' lapdancing club called the Embassy (pictured) in Cheltenham during the horse-racing festival

It's Rod Nose Day! Mr Stewart is game for a laugh on eve of his 69th birthday

ROD Stewart has long teased his fans with the question: Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?

And, celebrating his impending 69th birthday, he shows he still has a good nose for some self-deprecating fun.

The veteran singer's daughter Ruby, 26, posted a photograph of her father sporting a bright red hooter on her online Instagram picture-sharing account.

She claimed Stewart had asked her to send the picture "around the world", but warned him that she had fewer than 2,000 followers who would see it.

Ruby, whose mother is model Kelly Emberg, captioned the picture: "My dad asked me to capture this moment and to 'send it around the world' for his 69th birthday...Hope he is not disappointed with a

mere 1,823 people..."

But as the picture began to circulate, fans loved it, with one from Australia commenting: "Hot nose, you're making me a fool - I love you honeeeeey! Happy Birthday Rod, you are awesome! PS: Please come back to Australia soon."

tartan waistcoat

The red nose snap was taken on Tuesday, during the crooner's birthday celebrations at a restaurant on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Clutching what looked like a gift-wrapped bottle, the father-of-eight was joined by his wife Penny Lancaster, son Sean, 33, and daughter Kimberly, 34. Stewart, who turned 69 this week, showed off his snappy dress sense with a trademark tartan

waistcoat, skinny tie, leather jacket and leopardskin shoes.

'really happy'

Penny, 42, complemented his footwear with a leopardskin jacket.

An onlooker said: "They all looked really happy and were clearly having a great family time together."

As he approaches 70, Stewart has cemented his place as one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 100 million records worldwide.

In the UK, he has achieved six consecutive No 1 albums, and his tally of 62 hit singles include 31 that reached the top 10, six of which gained the No 1 position. He has had 16 top 10 singles in the United States, with four of these reaching No 1.



YOU WEAR IT WELL? Rod Stewart was snapped by his daughter wearing the novelty red nose [INSTAGRAM]

Thief who evaded police for almost a year arrested after posting LOCATION on Facebook

A THIEF who went on the run for almost a year after stealing £8,000 from his workplace was arrested ...after posting his location on Facebook.

Officers said they almost fell off their chair after Craig Munnerley led them right to him after bragging about his job on the social networking site.

The 33-year-old stole thousands from the safe at a travel agents in Warrington before running off to Scotland for 10 months.

He was arrested after posting his location on Facebook and was jailed for a year at Chester Crown Court.

catering position

PC Graham Davies from Cheshire Police said: "I nearly fell off the chair when I saw that he had decided to not only leave his Facebook profile unprotected but also list his new employer. It was very rewarding to get this offender."

The court heard Munnerley changed his name to Hilton to evade capture but after creating a new Facebook



NOT TOO BRIGHT: small time thief Craig Munnerley

page failed to make his account private.

Munnerley, who stole from a Co-op Travel on 7 January 2013, had started work in a catering position at First Scot Rail in Glasgow.

Officers searching for his name found the profile and a status update which said he had started working at First Scot Rail in Glasgow. Police arrested Munnerley when he started an induction week and arrested him as he arrived at the head office.

PC Davies and PC Kate Hall, made the arrest following the lengthy investigation.

PC Davies added: "Theft from an employer is a fundamental breach of

trust and Munnerley had clearly thought himself beyond the reach of the law.

"With his new name and new job it must have been pushed to the back of his mind."

abusive relationship

The court, who sentenced him on December 23 2013, heard Munnerley had been working at the store for three months when he stole the cash.

The defendant did not show up for work having already left Widnes without telling anyone and his then partner reported him missing to police.

The court was told the defendant stole the money to escape an abusive relationship.

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Brits in LA Meet a Member: Dawn Bowery

Meet Dawn Bowery who moved to LA from Kingston Upon Thames three years ago to pursue her photography career.

"One of my favourite things is to simply take a stroll up the road and have a chat over coffee with....my fellow Laurel Canyonites. The place has such a creative vibe and is full of history."

Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

I chose LA because I had lived here before from 1998-2000 while I was working as a flame artist/compositor for Rhythm and Hues studios and loved it. After moving back to London I found that I really missed the Californian spirit and vowed to return.

What one thing do you miss from home?

I miss my family more than anything and it is a huge emotional pull. Most material things that I miss I can find in LA quite easily. My local Laurel Canyon Country Store has a British Section!

What do you find the biggest difference is living here versus the UK?

The biggest difference other than the sunny climate is that people seem to be more encouraging and supportive of others following their own dreams. In LA many people tend to wear several hats rather than in England where they tend to have one full time job. Here people tend to have part time jobs to fund their dream or a particular project. When I returned to LA in 2011 I was fascinated to hear the stories of my fellow Brits who had followed their own dreams to the City of Angels. This inspired me to combine my photography and curiosity and create my photography book "California Dreaming: Real life stories of Brits in LA" which features

many Brits in LA members. Check out www.britsinlabook.com. I am currently raising the funding to print this book on [indiegogo](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/california-dreaming-real-life-stories-of-brits-in-la).

<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/california-dreaming-real-life-stories-of-brits-in-la>

Do you have a hidden gem in LA that you want to share with us?

I am very lucky to live in Laurel Canyon and my hidden gem is my local "Lily's Coffee" at the historic Laurel Canyon Country store. Lily not only serves delicious coffee and croissants but has created a friendly community which is hard to find in a big city like LA. One of my favourite things is to simply take a stroll up the road and have a chat over coffee with her and my fellow Laurel Canyonites. The place has such a creative vibe and is full of history. The Doors wrote songs about this place and Jim Morrison lived right here. Laurel Canyon is a

great place to live - I am surrounded by trees and wonderful hiking trails yet I am just five minutes from Sunset Blvd and Hollywood Blvd.

What would you suggest to others who are thinking about making the move here?

For anyone thinking of moving here I would recommend that you make sure you have your work visa sorted out ahead of time. It's tough setting up a new life 6000 miles away from home so don't expect everything to fit into place immediately. It takes time. To help with the transition have some savings to see you through the first few months. If you don't already have a network of friends here, I highly recommend you come along to Brits breakfast at Cecconi's on Tuesday morning and meet some fellow Brits. We are a friendly bunch ready to welcome you to LA. If you are a BAFTA member I highly



Photo credit: Aubrey Keating

DAWN BOWERY: recommends the Brits breakfast, every Tuesday at Cecconi's

recommend coming along to the events and screenings. Surprisingly, there are more going on in LA than in London.

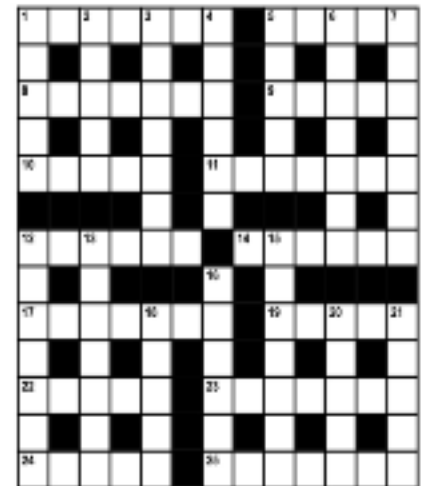
Lastly, how can we find you on the Internet?

- www.indiegogo.com/projects/california-dreaming-real-life-stories-of-brits-in-la
- www.britsinlabook.com
- www.dawnboweryphotography.com
- www.facebook.com/dawnboweryphotography
- www.facebook.com/californiadreamingbook
- twitter: dawnbowery

The British Weekly Crossword #98

Across

- 1 Holds to firmly (7)
- 5 Sir Toby of "Twelfth Night" (5)
- 8 Prattle (7)
- 9 Newlywed acquisition (2-3)
- 10 "Cheers" alternative, in a letter (5)
- 11 Calm (7)
- 12 Ptero suffix (6)
- 14 Enclose in a ssc (6)
- 17 Hair cleanser (7)
- 19 Simple narrative piece (5)
- 22 Found a new tenant for (2-3)
- 23 Anonymous guy in court (4,3)
- 24 Much read web home page (5)
- 25 In a virtuous manner (7)



Down

- 1 Restless (5)
- 2 Major mess (5)
- 3 Meet expectations (7)
- 4 Bare a lot at Lords, say (6)
- 5 Airship (5)
- 6 Sleep song (7)
- 7 Be it as it may (7)
- 12 Reduce to smithereens (7)
- 13 Traditional Jewish bread (7)
- 15 Negative alternative word (7)
- 16 Deadlock (6)
- 18 Garden terrace (5)
- 20 The sound in "Sound of Music" (5)
- 21 Guarded (5)

Solution to Puzzle #87



compiled by Myles Mellor

su | do | ku

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For solution, go to: www.sudoku.com and click on solutions, pick British Weekly from publication list

	5	7	2			6	8	
					9	5		2
					6			
	5						3	7
		6					9	
	2	8						5
				4				
	3			6	7			
		6	2			8	4	1

HARD

#94

Stargazing with Annie Shaw

ARIES: If life at work is not all it could be look at the positive side of things; as we move into mid-month the planets will open doors which you would not had time or patience to open before. Your Boss Mars is in a resting mode until spring.

TAURUS: Your emotions are probably in a mess regarding some area of life. It is more than likely a past situation has brought things to the surface. Be prepared to dig deeper to resolve it.

GEMINI: The past few months have not been the best of times - maybe because you are not looking at the truth of things. Take time out and use your intuition to allow you to move forward in the right direction.

CANCER: There is an old saying "Karma will catch you if nothing else does". Remember this when letting go of what you consider the past...it will come up again until you resolve it.

LEO: You may be in the mood to get away for a few days (or even hours) and you will as soon as you take care of some outstanding issue. It is a good weekend to have a gamble of sorts.

VIRGO: Since the year has just started you may not have caught up yet. Last year life was not always kind, but the best way to resolve this is to let the past go and be positive.

LIBRA: The planets are lined up in Capricorn - another ruler sign like you - however this can leave you in a fog of sorts and its best to keep a low profile until February. After that life gets easier.

SCORPIO: Life is slowly but surely becoming more settled than for some months past. If you keep positive things will improve even quicker. You can then expect long-awaited plans to blossom before the end of the month.

SAGITTARIUS: Your boss Jupiter is sitting in a water sign sleeping and this can cause you to feel like you are wading against the tide. Therefore all the things you want to finish up will take longer than you expect. Or not...depends on your mindset.

CAPRICORN: The sun in your sign brings more action for your attention this week ahead and can assist you to get the job done. This month is a great opportunity to look at what you want for the coming year and as you have Venus resting beside you it is not the time for sudden decisions...Happy Birthday!

AQUARIUS: You are probably feeling like a break away, so even if you can't get out of town take time out in the garden or have a stroll on the beach. But this is not the time to neglect your duty or work. Next month will be better overall.

PISCES: Jupiter is assisting you all the way through the end of this month and in order to experience happier days it's time to be honest about any feelings much on your mind and let others know too. Learn to live in the moment.



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Panto and Burns night coming to the Mayflower

■ Little Jack Horner opens January 19th

THE VENERABLE Mayflower Club in North Hollywood will be hosting a Robert Burns celebration on Sunday, January 19th in conjunction with the Celtic Arts Center.

In honor of Scotland's greatest poet food and drink will be served, including a whisky toast, as well as entertainment, reading of Burns' poetry, dancing and a good Scottish time. Doors open at 5pm and the event begins at 6pm. The cost is \$15 for Celtic Arts Center and Mayflower club members, and \$20 for non-members. Make your reservations now.

Also upcoming at the Mayflower Club is their popular annual panto. This year it is **Little Jack**

Horner, which opens Sat. January 25th at 8pm and plays for four additional performances through Sat. Feb. 8th. Audience members can boo the villains and cheer the heroes, laugh at the corny jokes and enjoy all the fun of a traditional British panto. And it's all in a good cause too, because the show is the year's major fund raiser for the club, which has been serving the local British expat community since it was founded in 1965 by Pat and Frank Jackson and Eileen and Tom Selby. The Club served as a gathering place for British expatriates living in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding areas, to meet and have fun in an atmosphere of

friendship and mutual support. The predominantly English clientele of the early years has now evolved to include participants from many other cultural backgrounds, and those that simply enjoy good company and "things British".

The Mayflower club is located at 11110 Victory Boulevard. Tel: 818-769-9805 or email: mayflowerclub@gmail.com.

United Scottish Society

THE Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles is holding its annual Robert Burns supper on Saturday, January 25th at 6pm, at Altadena Town & Country Club, 2290 Country Club



QUITE AN INSTITUTION: The Mayflower Club first opened in 1965

Drive in Altadena.

This celebration of Scotland's favourite son on the very day of his birth in Alloway, will include the traditional toasts to the Lasses and the response as well as the time-honoured toast to "The Immortal Memory". Together with uisge beatha, haggis,



music by "Speyside" and dancing. For Scots and those who wish they were, this is the one event in the year you will not want to miss. Reservations are required. For more details email rees1@mac.com. If you are unable to attend please consider a tax-deductible donation to the society instead.

2014 BAFTAS: Gravity, 12 years A Slave lead nominations

If you haven't seen Gravity yet, now is the time! The Alfonso Cuaron-directed film starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney earned the most nominations - 11 total - for the 2014 BAFTA Awards.

The EE British Academy Film Awards announced the complete list of nominees on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Gravity earned nominations in Leading Actress, Best Film, Outstanding British Film, Director, Original Screenplay, Original Music, Cinematography, Editing, Production Design and Sound and Special Visual Effects.

12 Years a Slave (starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Lupita Nyong'o, Michael Fassbender and Brad Pitt) and American Hustle (starring Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence) each earned ten nominations, and Captain Phillips (starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi) earned nine.

Trailing behind, Saving Mr. Banks (starring Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson) and Behind the Candelabra (starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon) earned five nominations each. Here is a list of the major nominations:

BEST FILM

12 Years A Slave, Anthony Katagas, Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner, Jeremy Kleiner, Steve McQueen
American Hustle, Charles Roven, Richard Suckle, Megan Ellison, Jonathan Gordon
Captain Phillips, Scott Rudin, Dana Brunetti, Michael De Luca
Gravity, Alfonso Cuaron, David Heyman
Philomena, Gabrielle Tana, Steve Coogan, Tracey Seaward



PULLING POWER: the Gravity team of George Clooney, Sandra Bullock and Alfonso Cuaron

OUTSTANDING BRITISH FILM

Gravity, Alfonso Cuaron, David Heyman, Jonas Cuaron
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, Justin Chadwick, Anant Singh, David M. Thompson, William Nicholson
Philomena, Stephen Frears, Gabrielle Tana, Steve Coogan, Tracey Seaward, Jeff Pope
Rush, Ron Howard, Andrew Eaton, Peter Morgan
Saving Mr. Banks, John Lee Hancock, Alison Owen, Ian Collie, Philip Steuer, Kelly Marcel, Sue Smith
The Selfish Giant, Clio Barnard, Tracy O'Riordan

OUTSTANDING DEBUT BY A BRITISH WRITER, DIRECTOR OR PRODUCER

Colin Carberry and Glenn Patterson (Good Vibrations), Kelly Marcel (Saving Mr. Banks), Keiran Evans (Kelly + Victor), Paul Wright, Polly Stokes (For Those in Peril), Scott Graham (Shell),

BEST FILM NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The Act Of Killing, Joshua Oppenheimer, Signe Byrge Sorensen
Blue Is The Warmest Colour, Abdellatif Kechiche, Brahim Chioua, Vincent Maraval
The Great Beauty, Paolo Sorrentino, Nicola Giuliano, Francesca Cima

Metro Manila, Sean Ellis, Mathilde Charpentier
Wadjda, Haifaa Al-Mansour, Gerhard Meixner, Roman Paul

BEST DOCUMENTARY

The Act Of Killing, Joshua Oppenheimer
The Armstrong Lie, Alex Gibney
Blackfish, Gabriela Cowperthwaite
Tim's Vermeer Teller, Penn Jillette, Farley Ziegler
We Steal Secrets: The Story Of Wikileaks, Alex Gibney

BEST ANIMATED FILM

Despicable Me 2, Chris Renaud, Pierre Coffin
Frozen, Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee,
Monsters University, Dan Scanlon

BEST DIRECTOR

12 Years A Slave, Steve McQueen
American Hustle, David O. Russell
Captain Phillips, Paul Greengrass
Gravity, Alfonso Cuaron
The Wolf Of Wall Street, Martin Scorsese

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

American Hustle, Eric Warren Singer, David O. Russell
Blue Jasmine, Woody Allen
Gravity, Alfonso Cuaron, Jonas Cuaron
Inside Llewyn Davis, Joel Coen, Ethan Coen
Nebraska, Bob Nelson



Cheryl set for £2m X Factor comeback!

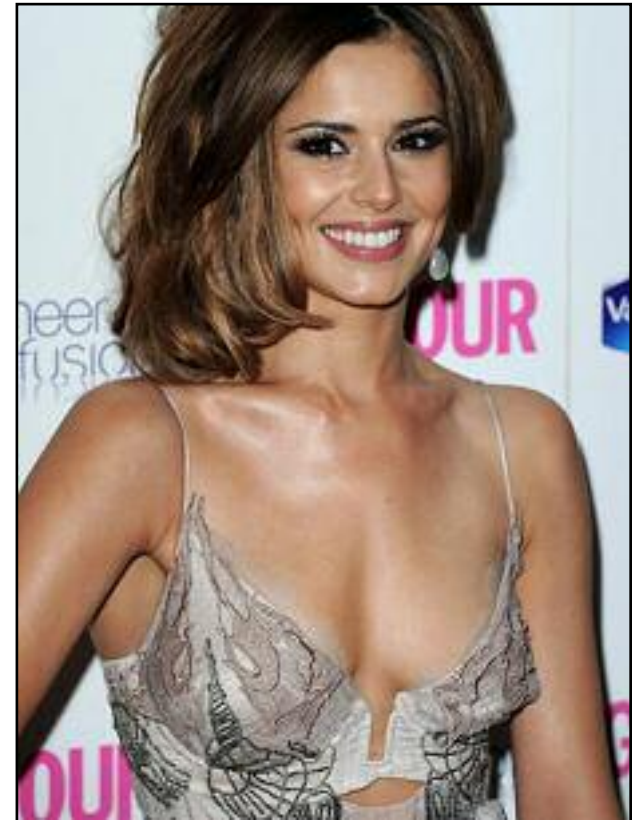
Good news for Cheryl Cole fans; the former Girls Aloud singer has landed a whopping £2million deal to make a sensational return to The X Factor.

The Geordie lass is the only star to have thrashed out a contract with boss Simon Cowell for the UK version of the next series.

Rumors that ex-Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger is continuing on the panel have been dismissed as "wishful thinking" according to my moles in the 'X Factor' camp.

Take That star Gary Barlow has quit and I hear that Louis Walsh, 61, and Sharon Osbourne, 61, are unlikely to return... Oo-er...

My well-placed source hinted that Chezza's comeback had been Simon's "main priority" in a total revamp of ITV's



BACK ON TV: Our Chezza...

talent show.

The insider revealed: "All this talk of Nicole's deal is premature. The only judge in talks is Cheryl.

"Talks have been going on for weeks and Simon has been doing everything to persuade her. Finally, she has agreed. Simon believed Cheryl's return was the key to his new ideas for the show.

"Nicole's not been completely ruled out - but not for the £3m some have suggested. Only Simon earns that."

Cheryl was a massive hit during her three years as a judge, but she quit in 2011 to join the US version, only for producers to worry that American viewers would struggle with her accent.

Welcome back Chezza!





Fun at the Consulate; New Ace Hotel and Theater is just that...

Hi Everyone!

I hope 2014 is treating you well so far? We are not even halfway through the month and Brits in LA have already hosted 4 events!

Pub Quiz at the Pikey was back in full swing this week. Co-hosted by Sandro Monetti, who puzzled the teams with his Golden Globe and Los Angeles landmark trivia questions. I learned that Chris Grauman's Chinese Theater has been renamed TCL Chinese Theatre! Congratulations to Michael Greco for scooping the raffle prize. Michael is best known for playing Beppe Di Marco in EastEnders.

For a fun diversion or if you have guests in town, I really recommend you go on Sandro's Movie Locations Tour of LA. It's the number-one rated Hollywood tour on Trip Advisor. Brits in LA members can get half price



This week's
exchange rate:
£1 = \$1.64
updated 6pm
1/10/14

tickets for the next tour on Sat Jan 18 at 2pm by booking in advance at www.tourificescapes.com and using the special code SALE50 - Sandro will be hosting our pub quiz again on February 11th, along with Brit presenter, Caroline Feraday.

Back on June Street...

It is always a treat to be invited to the British Residence. The British Consul-General **Chris O'Connor** and his wife **Martha Nelems** have certainly kept the 'best hosts' reputation intact. The house looked particularly stunning this week, all lit up as a giant Union Jack. Sadly the occasion was to say farewell to **Fiona and Eric Francois** - Fiona has been a great asset to the UKTI and among her many achievements, she helped create about 20,000 jobs during her posting here! It was really touching to see how so many people took time out of their busy schedules for their send-off. I chatted with **Donald Haber** (BAFTA/LA) who has the BAFTA Film Tea coming up this weekend, **Nigel Lythgoe** was also in attendance, as was **Bob and Sharron Pierce** (ex-British Consul General) who are all very excited about this year's BritWeek. I also caught up with one of our biggest supporters and long time Brit in LA, **Bernard Sidman** who was telling me all about his new ventures - so watch this

space! Fiona & Eric, we wish you luck in Florida, and hope you come back for a visit soon!

Blooming downtown

Craig and I popped down for a preview of the newly opened **Ace Hotel & Theater** (929 Broadway, Downtown LA) - a lot of you may know it as the United Artists Theater or as 'that building with the giant Jesus Saves sign atop it'. This is going to be a fantastic addition to the blooming downtown scene - it was originally built by a company owned Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford. The people at the Ace have thankfully done their best to preserve as much as they can from the original 1927 structure. I even got to sit in one of the original seats! British space rock band Spiritualized have the honor of launching the theater space on February 14th. Unfortunately their shows sold out immediately, but make sure to subscribe to our Brits in LA gigging page - to catch them next time they are in town. Visit our website at Britsin.LA for more info.

Toscars coming up

As you may have heard about next week's launch of our annual short film competition, The Toscars, it is set for January 16th, at Bedford & Burns in Beverly Hills. If you want to join in the fun or just see what its all about come join us on the night or visit our website TheToscars.com. We hope to see some of you at over the next month, either at our weekly Breakfast Club, Pub Quiz or our Burns Night Celebration on January 25th!

Feel free to drop me a line at eileen@britsin.la if you have any questions about this or anything else I have mentioned. Always a pleasure to hear from you!
Cheers!
Eileen



Photo: Nicholas Hosking

BEAUTY AND THE BEST? Eileen Lee pictured with Bernard Sidman, longtime BW immigration columnist, at the Consul-General's residence this week

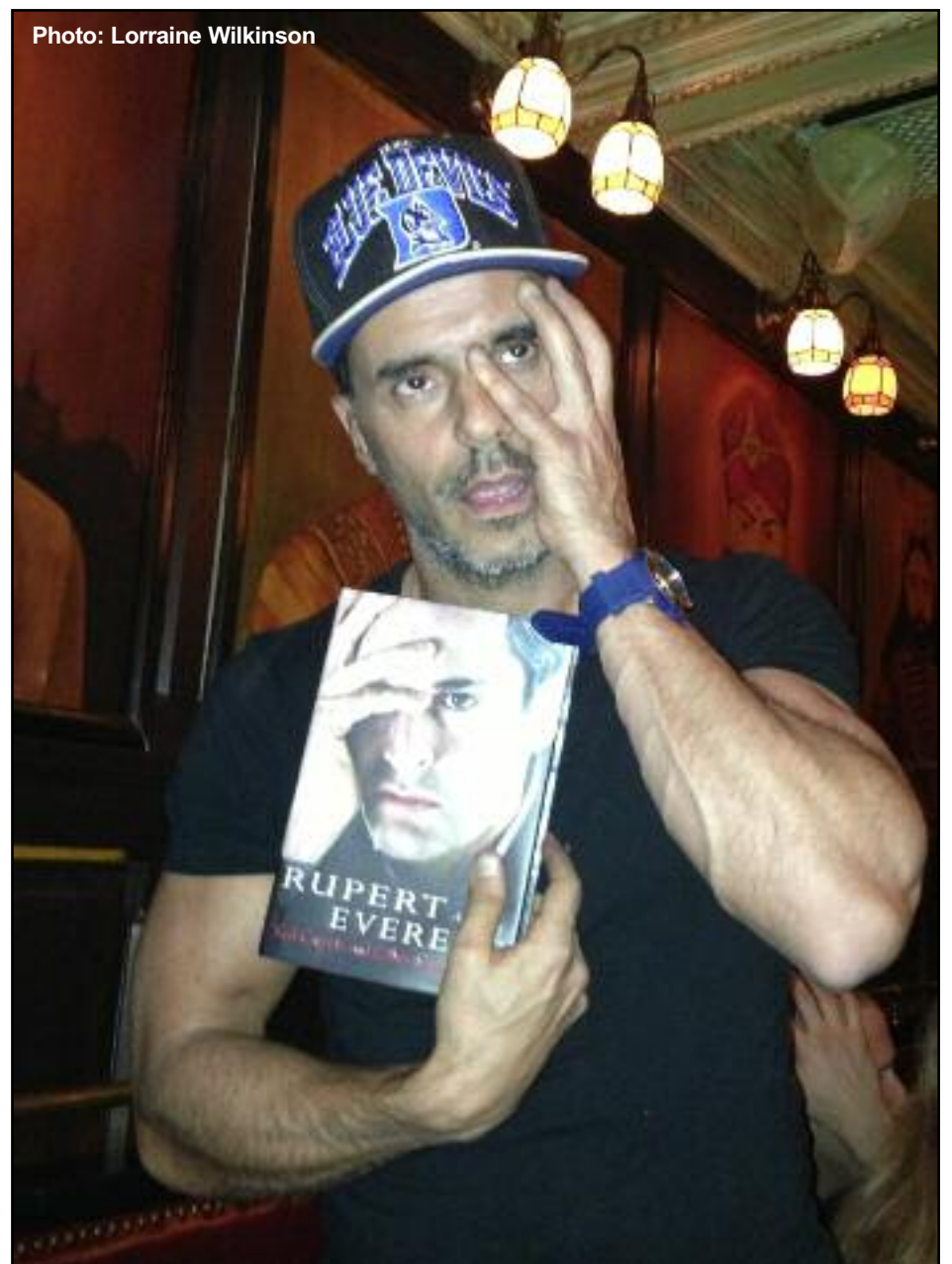


Photo: Lorraine Wilkinson

THRILLED TO BITS? Brits in LA Member (and former EastEnders regular) Michael Greco scooped the raffle prize at this week's Pub Quiz at the Pikey

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British Weekly SPORT

Flower vows new start as England left in Ashes

■ England plan for life without KP after shocking 5-0 reverse Down Under

A BATTERED and shell-shocked England team can expect drastic changes this year following their humiliating whitewash in the Ashes series.

And the most high-profile casualty is expected to be volatile batsman Kevin Pietersen, who is widely seen within the camp as a disruptive presence – despite his obvious talent with the bat.

Team manager Andy Flower boarded a flight home on Wednesday 'determined to rebuild the team around captain Alastair Cook', according to sources close to the England camp.

Flower was furious on Wednesday at claims he had given the English Cricket Board (ECB) an ultimatum over Pietersen, especially because such a move would go against his insistence that a period of reflection is needed before any major decisions are taken.

He also knows that a similar tactic cost Pietersen his job as captain when he



BLUE SKY THINKING? Andy Flower, the England team director, is expected to plan for the future without Kevin Pietersen (below)

demanding the removal of then-coach Peter Moores in 2008.

But it is understood Flower recognises the need to reinforce team discipline, particularly with an emerging younger element to the England side, and he believes it will be tough to do that with Pietersen in the dressing room.

Pietersen remains professional in training and his work ethic has never been questioned but the management have become exasperated by what they perceive to be a lackadaisical approach to warm-up matches, the manner of his dismissals in the first three Tests when they needed him to bat responsibly, and the influence he is having



over younger members of the side.

When the England team contained senior figures such as Andrew Strauss, Paul Collingwood and Graeme Swann it was able to absorb the less positive aspects of Pietersen's character, but with Cook struggling as a captain

and young cricketers such as Joe Root and Ben Stokes becoming important members of the side it has become harder to manage the team's most mercurial player.

According to at least one report Pietersen knows if the ECB back Flower his time will be up and he is

not willing to go quietly. To add to the problem Pietersen is a skilful user of social media to advance his own PR agenda and relies on the advice of Piers Morgan, his friend and former editor of the Daily Mirror, who has more than 5 million followers on Twitter.

Morgan tweeted his support for Pietersen moments after the player himself wrote he was "shocked and saddened" by reports about his England future and repeated his "strong desire to continue playing for my country, and to help us regain the Ashes in 2015."

Pietersen's tweets emerged around an hour after the ECB put out a statement on behalf of Flower, who on Wednesday flew home leaving the England team under the control of Ashley Giles, the one-day coach.

Flower said: "It would be sensible and responsible to review the tour in a calm and logical manner before assessing our options for the future and planning ahead. I repeat that neither I nor the wider ECB leadership group have made any

decisions as to the future involvement of any individuals in the playing group or in the support staff. The reports that I have issued an ultimatum of some description to the ECB are totally inaccurate."

Australia wrapped up the Fifth Test in Sydney by 281 runs on Sunday. Alistair Cook won his first toss of the series but it had no bearing on the result. Australia made 326 and 276, while England suffered two batting collapses to finish with 155 and 166.

"If it was a boxing match it would have been stopped," admitted Cook during the post-match ceremonies and he was hardly exaggerating.

This is only the third time England have suffered a whitewash in 100 years of Ashes tours – the other two were in 1920-21 and 2006-07, but statistically this tour will go down as the worst in Ashes history. Three times the margin of defeat was more than 200 runs, while the manner in which they succumbed inside three days at the SCG was enough to persuade coach Andy Flower that it was the "end of an era".

Martinez blasts Qatar winter world cup scheme

Everton boss Roberto Martinez claims players would find it difficult to cope with a winter World Cup in the middle of their domestic club season.

His words were in response to Fifa's secretary general Jerome Valcke, who this week hinted the 2022 event Qatar will be played between November and January due to the desert heat.

"I find it very difficult to find a way that would work," said Martinez.

Martinez revealed his concerns for a winter World Cup after experiencing issues with

players leaving for the African Nations Cup in the middle of the season.

He added: "We had many problems with that because you're going in to a different climate, you come back from a different coach. It was difficult to find continuity in players' performances.

"I can't see how a player's mentality would be fine for going into a season, then starting the World Cup and then coming back and picking up where they left it. I find it very difficult to find a way that would work."

Defoe 'on brink' of MLS move

Jermain Defoe is on the brink of joining Toronto FC in Major League Soccer, with the Canadian club hoping to formally unveil the England striker as early as Monday.

Roy Hodgson, the England manager, is understood to have discussed the move with Defoe and, although it is unlikely to help his longer-term international prospects, more regular football in the build-up to the World Cup could be valuable.

Defoe has become peripheral at Tottenham, with new head coach Tim Sherwood generally starting with both Emmanuel Adebayor and Roberto Soldado in attack.

It is expected that Defoe will agree a deal worth around £90,000 a week and that Tottenham will be paid around £6million for a 31-year-old player who has only 18 months remaining on his contract.

It is also likely that Tottenham and Toronto will agree a loan-back option that will mean Defoe remains at Spurs until the middle of March before travelling to Canada ahead of the start of the MLS season.

Toronto are managed by Ryan Nelsen, the former Tottenham defender, who has described Defoe as "one of the most natural goalscorers" he has ever seen.

His arrival would also underline the ambition of Tim Leiweke's Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment, the company which owns Toronto FC. Leiweke also helped bring David Beckham to Los Angeles Galaxy.

The likely loss of Defoe will only harden Tottenham



DEFOE: relegated to the bench at Tottenham since Tim Sherwood's promotion

determination to keep club record signing Erik Lamela, despite his apparent desire to move back to Italy this month.

Lamela's father was quoted on ESPN saying that his son is "not happy" at Spurs and would like to return to Serie A. Tottenham, though, remain adamant that Lamela will not be leaving this month either

permanently or on loan.

Lamela was signed from Roma – the former club of technical director Franco Baldini – for £30 million last summer but there was always an expectation that he would need time to settle in the Premier League.

Sherwood is not pushing for new signings, although the club will explore replacements for

Defoe with Juventus forward Mirko Vucinic and Rubin Kazan's Jose Salomon Rondon regarded as options.

"I don't think we need players here," said Sherwood. "We need to get them fit, the ones we have got, and then if anyone springs up who could really make us better, our 11, then possibly we will go in."

West Brom: Pepe Mel appointed as new Baggies head coach

West Brom have appointed former Real Betis manager Pepe Mel as their new head coach on an 18-month deal.

The Premier League club have been looking for a new manager since sacking Steve Clarke on 14 December.

Spaniard Mel, 50, held talks with West Brom in December but was initially ruled out after it became clear he wanted to bring his own backroom staff.

He will now work with Baggies assistant head coach Keith Downing and goalkeeper coach Dean Kiely.

Downing, caretaker manager for the past five matches, will remain in charge for Saturday's game at Southampton, with Mel watching from



New man: Pepe Mel

the stands.

Mel, sacked by Betis in December after three years in charge, will take charge of the team for the first time for the home game against Everton on 20 January.

West Brom, who then face Aston Villa, Liverpool and Crystal Palace, are 14th in the table, four points above the relegation zone.

Sporting and technical director Richard Garlick said: "I'm delighted to welcome Pepe to the club.

"His appointment concludes an extensive recruitment process during which we have cast the net far and wide to identify the most suitable candidate to take the club forward.

"Pepe was a strong contender from the outset due to his impressive achievements and has emerged as our number one candidate.

"He is a forward-thinking coach whose teams are renowned for playing an attractive and positive style of football."

Former Betis striker Mel was appointed manager of the club in 2010 and guided them back into La Liga as Segunda Division champions 12 months later.

West Ham:

cont. from back page

the directors' box.

Negredo's treble was the centrepiece of another dazzling attacking display by City, who have effectively secured a place at Wembley by making the second leg at Upton Park a formality.

The Spanish striker scored twice early on and Yaya Toure added a third before half-time. Negredo completed his treble shortly after half-time and Edin Dzeko deservedly added two more to complete West Ham's misery.

West Ham may be short on numbers but there can be no excuses for a performance that fell short in every respect. It was a betrayal of the fans who travelled to the Etihad Stadium expecting much more than they saw at the City Ground on Sunday.

And it was a sobering night for Allardyce as he was booed by West Ham's fans, who look to have lost faith in their manager after this latest heavy beating.

The Hammers made eight changes from the Forest debacle, giving an instant debut to defensive loan signing Roger Johnson - but it was the same old miserable story.

City started the rout with a goal of simplicity and brilliance. Toure's long pass dropped perfectly over Negredo's shoulder and the Spanish striker demonstrated supreme technique to take it on the volley with his left foot and beat goalkeeper Adrian.

West Ham were negligent in all areas. City possessed the superior talent but were aided by a lack of anything resembling a competitive edge from their hapless opponents.

Allardyce's defence

had no answer to City's attacking variety and the second goal was only a matter of time. Negredo was the scorer again, the recipient of Dzeko's fine pass before sending an angled finish past Adrian.

Toure had required lengthy treatment, and a spell off the pitch, after injuring his ankle - but he recovered well enough to expose more dreadful defending and effectively seal this semi-final before half-time.

He advanced through the centre of the pitch, with Johnson retreating alarmingly until it was too late, before rolling a shot past a badly-exposed keeper.

Any suggestion City might consolidate was dismissed within four minutes of the restart when Negredo

completed his hat-trick with another moment of real quality, sweeping a precise shot past Adrian after David Silva's shot had been half-blocked.

The scale of West Ham's ineptitude can be measured by the fact that City were not even required to go anywhere near top gear to demolish them.

Dzeko had worked hard in support of Negredo and was rewarded with a goal of his own on the hour, turning in Silva's cross at the near post.

It was the signal for the start of loud anti-Allardyce chanting from West Ham's fans, who had supported their team until that point.

The only West Ham player to emerge with a semblance of credit was Adrian, who made some fine saves to keep the score down.

He was powerless, however, to anything about the final flourish from City as Dzeko thrashed home a thunderous finish from Aleksandar Kolarov's cross.

More misery for Moyes

■ We are 'laughing at refs' says United boss after latest reverse

David Moyes says Manchester United are "beginning to laugh at referees" for their "terrible" decisions following a third successive loss.

Fabio Borini scored from the spot to give Sunderland a 2-1 win in the first leg of their Capital One Cup semi-final Tuesday night after Adam Johnson tumbled in the area.

The United manager, 50, said his team were "playing referees as well as the opposition".

"We're actually beginning to laugh at them, that's the thing", he said.

"It's really terrible, it really is. We're having to play them as well as the

opposition at the moment."

Andre Marriner awarded the hosts a 64th-minute penalty on the advice of one of his assistants after Johnson had gone down under Tom Cleverley's challenge.

Earlier, Sunderland had taken a 45th-minute lead when Ryan Giggs scored an own goal before Nemanja Vidic's header levelled matters soon after the restart.

Borini's penalty gives the Black Cats the upper hand going into the second leg at Old Trafford on 22 January.

Earlier this month, Moyes said it was "scandalous" United were not awarded a late

penalty in their Premier League defeat by Tottenham at Old Trafford.

"How could the linesman give that?" he complained following the latest defeat at the Stadium of Light.

"The ref was looking straight at it but the linesman would have to have seen straight through Patrice Evra to give it.

"We had a player booked the other day for a similar thing that they got a penalty for.

"The decision for the first goal, I don't see how it was a free-kick. That doesn't take away our poor defending from the free-kick, though."

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"They realise we are having a difficult time right now and they are not used to this, but good supporters stick with their team, they stick with their manager"- David Moyes following Manchester United's 2-1 midweek loss

Hammered again!

■ Big Sam at the brink after another cup humiliation

**MAN. CITY.....6
WEST HAM UTD...0**

WEST HAM'S misery deepened in midweek as they were battered by Manchester City in a humiliating 6-0 reverse in the first leg of their Carling Cup semi-final.

The rout came just days after the Hammers' astonishing 5-0 FA Cup capitulation to Championship side Notts Forest at the weekend.

At the final whistle angry United fans turned their fury on manager Sam Allardyce, who was



SEEKING INSPIRATION? Allardyce had no answer to another dominant display from City Wednesday night

given the public support of co-owners David Gold and David Sullivan following the Forest debacle.

Alvaro Negredo scored a hat-trick as City made it 59 goals in 15 home games this season, while rain-soaked West Ham supporters chanted venomously against Allardyce after showing commendable patience in the face of this latest

fiasco.

City were, as usual on their own ground, irresistible in attack but West Ham's lack of resistance or passion was nothing short of pathetic.

It was eventually all too much for the Hammers' fans, whose views will have been heard loud and clear by Sullivan as he sat looking thoroughly miserable in

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