

So, Kate,  
no baby  
on the  
way,  
then?  
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# HILLSBOROUGH: A CITY REMEMBERS

- Bells ring out on Merseyside as the 96 victims are remembered
- City comes together on 25th anniversary of football tragedy

**Bells have been rung 96 times across Merseyside on Tuesday to mark the 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster.**

The bells of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, Liverpool Town Hall and churches in Merseyside rang at 15:06 BST on Tuesday during a one-minute silence.

It marked the moment Liverpool's FA Cup semi-final at the Sheffield ground was halted on 15 April 1989 after a crush that led to the deaths of 96 fans.

An annual memorial service was held at Anfield stadium.

**Seats left empty**

Campaigner Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, and other families of victims were clapped as they arrived for the service.

Fans, players and club officials also gathered in the ground. Ninety-six seats, which



**UNITY:** young Everton and Liverpool fans pay tribute

were draped in scarves, were left empty.

The service began with the singing of the hymn, Abide With Me, which is synonymous with the FA Cup and has been sung at every final since 1927. It was also recorded as part of a charity single in memory of the victims in 1989.

A ring of lights called the Band of Life, with each light inscribed with the name of a victim, was

lit as the names of those who died were read out by the Reverend Kelvin Bolton, the Reverend David Smith and Father Stephen Maloney.

A minute's silence followed, which Rev Bolton ended with the words "a time never to forget".

Taking the first reading, Everton manager Roberto Martinez said he was only 15 when the

disaster happened and that "as a family, we couldn't believe the pain and horror".

He said he was there representing his club,

adding that "Everton remembers - we always will".

The service was also screened at Everton's ground, Goodison Park,

for fans to pay their respects.

Martinez was followed by Liverpool manager Brendan

**cont. on page 2, col. 1**

## Fighting back in Santa Monica....

Photo: Ian Webb



**TWO LEGENDS** of the musical world, DJ Danny and Tom Jones, captured ringside at the 'Boxing at Barker' event in Santa Monica on Wednesday night (story, page 5)

## Hillsborough: a city remembers

cont. from page one

Rodgers, who said that while “you don’t struggle for inspiration [at] this great football club, the single biggest source for me is when I arrive each match day and see the Hillsborough memorial”.

Speaking to the families of the victims, Rodgers said they had “all stood for 25 years together [and] the love for the people you lost inspires me every day as manager”.

“I really do feel inadequate in your company. You will never walk alone.”

This year’s commemorations were tinged with a feeling of hope and optimism for the future.

Leigh MP Andy Burnham, who had been booed at a Hillsborough memorial service in 2009 while delivering a speech as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, thanked the families of the victims.

In a speech which saw several standing ovations for the people he mentioned, including campaigner Anne Williams who died shortly after the memorial service last April, he said he had asked his mother what



**BRIDGING THE DIVIDE:** Everton manager Roberto Martinez gave a moving speech at Anfield

he should speak about.

He said she “told me to wish you all the best for the league and to say how fitting it would be if you won it in this of all years”.

He also praised former Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish for his work with the families over the last 25 years, adding, “what leadership, what loyalty he has shown on your behalf”.

Trevor Hicks, the president of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, said the 25 years since the disaster had been “a very long road”.

### ‘Spirit of 96’

Mr Hicks, who lost two daughters at Hillsborough, thanked Liverpool Football Club for their support and the Hillsborough Independent Panel.

“The spirit of the 96 burns in our hearts and drives us on,” he said.

He also paid tribute to the families of the victims, who he said had “made it all happen”.

“We stood together. We pulled, we pushed, we refused to lie down, we refused to go away, which is something that annoyed an awful lot of people.”

His words were echoed by Mrs Aspinall, whose son died at the Sheffield stadium.

She said the families had been “fighting for 25 years”.

“No matter how much dirt they tried to throw at us, Liverpoolians, Scousers, we don’t lie down and take it.”

Their speeches were followed by a rendition of You’ll Never Walk Alone, led by the singer Gerry Marsden, during which 96 balloons were released.

In Sheffield, the city’s cathedral held a two-minute silence at 15:07 BST.

At the Hillsborough

ground, a short service and a wreath-laying ceremony also took place at the memorial garden and the stadium was opened to allow people to lay flowers and remember those who died at the match against Nottingham Forest.

A minute’s silence was observed at Old Market Square in Nottingham for the victims.

Liverpool mayor Joe Anderson said the city “will never forget those who died at Hillsborough, and this is a day for us to unite and remember each and every supporter and the friends and families left behind”.

Tuesday’s events follow a weekend of tributes to the 96 fans, which saw wreaths left at Anfield’s and Hillsborough’s memorials to those who died and football matches in leagues across England kick-off seven minutes late.

The commemorations come as fresh inquests into the deaths of the fans are held in Warrington. The inquests have been adjourned until 22 April.

They were ordered after the original accidental death inquest verdicts were quashed in 2012 following an independent report.

## Tories exult as Britain booms

■ Wages rise, jobs up and housing soars with cheapest-ever mortgages

**BRITAIN is powering out of recession with employment soaring, wages rising and the cheapest-ever home loans.**

David Cameron and George Osborne hailed official figures Wednesday as proof that their plans are working.

The figures show that unemployment has fallen by 167,000 – the biggest reduction since 1997.

Average earnings are rising while inflation drops and Government borrowing is down by £2.1 billion.

The Bank of England, meanwhile, said it saw “no immediate need” to raise interest rates.

In the Commons, a delighted Prime Minister taunted Ed Miliband that Labour was miserable about the upturn and that most people were better off this year thanks to Coalition tax cuts boosting take-home pay.

The positive data came a day after the International Monetary Fund sharply raised its growth forecasts for Britain in 2014 to 2.4 per cent, outpacing European rivals including Germany and France.

The Government hopes Office for National Statistics



**HAPPY DAYS:** George Osborne hailed official figures as proof that his plans are working

figures next week will confirm that the economy maintained its momentum throughout the final three months of 2013.

On Monday it announced that after a 167,000 fall in the three months to November, unemployment stands at a near five-year low of 2.32 million.

The number of people claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance in December fell for a 14th month in a row, by 24,000 to 1.25 million, also the lowest for nearly five years.

It took the proportion of working age people who are unemployed down to 7.1 per cent – just 0.1 above the level at which the Bank of England had said it would consider finally raising its historic low 0.5 per cent interest rate.



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# So, one's not expecting then, Kate?

- Wine-loving Duchess crushes pregnancy rumors
- Daredevil Kate also shoots the rapids on a whitewater jet boat

The Duchess of Cambridge appeared to scotch pregnancy rumours this week by enjoying several glasses of New Zealand wine with the Duke, before heading off for a white-knuckle thrill ride on a jet boat in leafy Queenstown.

Kate told wine-makers at a local vineyard she 'was really enjoying being able to drink again after having baby George.'

Hannah Armstrong, from Mudhouse Wines, said: 'Kate said she hadn't drunk whilst pregnant with George and although she doesn't drink much she was really enjoying the odd glass.'

Kate, 32, tried a couple of glasses of Aurum pinot gris and Remarkable dry Riesling.

John Darby, owner of Amisfield vineyard in Queenstown, showed the royal couple around the vineyard - where Kate nearly fell over in her massive wedge heels.

John, 57, offered the couple a glass of 2011 Amisfield pinot noir in the sunshine.

As he chatted to the couple about the grapes and the climate, he said: 'When it gets very cold we use helicopters to stop the frost over the vines by hovering above and stirring up the cold air.'

William exclaimed: 'You're joking? That's an expensive way to do it! Wow! If you ever need a spare pilot, I'm here!'

'That is an expensive way to make wine.'

'But we should stop talking and start drinking.'

In glorious sunshine, with the mountains as backdrop, Kate swirled

her glass and repeated her husband's comments, before taking a tiny sip.

She immediately handed the glass to William's private secretary Miguel Head, telling him to 'enjoy it'.

John said: 'The Duchess did take a little sip - but I don't think she's a big drinker.'

'We nearly moved on without the Duke or Duchess having a glass of our wine, but the Duke was keen to try it.'

'He said "Hang on, let's enjoy a glass of wine - we can't pass up the opportunity".'

## jet boat ride

'They both picked some grapes as we were walking through the vineyard and William in particular seemed to know about red wine - I think that's his favourite.'

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge later yelled with delight as they took a thrilling jet boat ride on the local rapids in Queenstown.

William and Kate were passengers on the



**PERKS OF THE JOB:** The Duke and Duchess (above) enjoy a glass of Amisfield Pinot Noir in New Zealand and (below) the couple enjoy a thrilling jet boat ride on the local rapids in Queenstown

white-knuckle Shotover jet, racing at 75 mph through tiny mountain passes on the Shotover River.

After donning lifejackets and undertaking a safety briefing, the couple and their entourage enjoyed a half hour, breath-taking ride.

Their driver, Wayne Paton took them perilously close to boulders, shallows and upturned trees during the nerve-jangling journey.

Mr Paton, 43, who has



driven the jet boats for 12 years, said: 'William kept on shouting at me "go closer, Wayne, go closer"'. Kate was amazed that the

boats could go over such shallow water but the prince was very knowledgeable about how they worked.

'They screamed and shouted at some of the more hair-raising bits and seemed to have a great time.'



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# It's Fergie wine as former United manager auctions off his £3m wine collection

To take his mind off the pressure of "the beautiful game", retired Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson collected vintage wines that will be sold at auction starting in Hong Kong in May, Christie's said on Wednesday.

The collection of about 5,000 bottles assembled by one of football's most successful managers will be sold along with memorabilia signed by Ferguson and has a pre-sale estimated value of £3 million, the auction house said.

The cellar consists almost 75 per cent of Domaine de la Romanee-Conti, a French Burgundy which Christie's International Director of Wine David Elswood said "is probably the wine in vogue, the wine of the moment in terms of demand.

"So hopefully that's going to draw the attention of not just Alex Ferguson fans but wine fans too," he told Reuters.

He expects big interest among Asian buyers, who have been snapping up top-flight wines for years and where about 60 per cent of the lots will be on offer on May 24. About a



**RED AND WHITE?** The cellar spans every year of Ferguson's career with United from 1986

third of the cellar will be offered in London in June and about 10 per cent through Internet sales later that month.

The cellar spans every year of Ferguson's career

with United from 1986 until he retired in 2013. It includes lots from 1999, the year United won a treble of the English Premier League, the Champions League and



**QUITE A SCORE:** Sir Alex has signed several of the bottles in his collection, including a Sassicaia 'Super Tuscan' (above)

the FA Cup, a feat never previously accomplished and not duplicated since.

"People keep saying, 'What was the best moment of your life as a manager?' and '99 is without question," Ferguson is quoted as

saying in an interview with Elswood to promote the sale.

"There was always this thing about my career that I never had won the Champions League, so to win it in the way we did win it was absolutely

fantastically special. And it coincided with a vintage; you were talking about Romanee-Conti '99, a really special year. I think we deserved that," Ferguson is quoted as saying in the conversation with Elswood.

## Veteran actress Lansbury 'very proud' as she is made a Dame

Actress Angela Lansbury said she was "very proud" to be recognised by the country of her birth, as she was made a Dame by the Queen this week.

The 88-year-old, who played Jessica Fletcher in *Murder, She Wrote* and is currently acting on the West End stage, received the honour at Windsor Castle.

"To meet the Queen under these circumstances is a rare and lovely occasion,"

Dame Angela said.

She was honoured for her lifetime of acting and her charity work.

Dame Angela's film roles have included family film *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Blue Hawaii* alongside Elvis Presley.

She is best known to millions as crime writer-turned-amateur sleuth Fletcher in long-running US series *Murder, She Wrote*, but recently returned to the

London stage for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Her starring role in a revival of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* at the Gielgud Theatre, playing eccentric medium Madame Arcati, was lavished with praise by the critics when it opened last month.

Dame Angela left the UK for the US as a child during World War Two, after the death of her father.

She now joins a group of acting Dames

including Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Penelope Keith.

She has been nominated for an Oscar three times, including for her debut in 1944 thriller *Gaslight*, and was presented with an honorary Oscar last year.

However she said being honoured by the Queen felt completely different.

"[The Oscar] is for my work in motion pictures and this is for the overall accomplishments of my

life as an actress," she said.

"It has afforded me the joy of working in America and also in England a great deal."

Also honored was veteran TV presenter Nicholas Parsons, 90, given a CBE for his work with children's charities, in addition to the OBE he already has for his broadcasting career.

He later revealed the Queen had told him his hard work was "greatly admired".

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## Multiple Oscar-winner Sandy Powell to speak at the Getty

Academy Award-winning British costume designer Sandy Powell OBE will be visiting the Getty Center on April 27th to discuss photography, Victorian fashion, and costume concepts from her films, including *The Young Victoria*.

Powell will be joined in conversation with Professor Deborah Nadoolman Landis, director of the David C. Copley Center for the Study of Costume Design at UCLA. They will discuss the role of photographs and other visual sources in costume design, with particular reference to *A Royal Passion: Queen*



**POWELL:** Oscar winner for *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Aviator* and *The Young Victoria*

*Victoria* and Photography, currently on view at the Getty Museum.

Powell attended St. Martin's School of Art in London and began working in films on *Edward II* in 1991. Her other credits include *Orlando*, *The Crying Game*, *Interview with the Vampire*, *Rob Roy*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Gangs of New York*, *Far From Heaven*, *The Departed*, and *The Other Boleyn Girl*. Powell has

been nominated for an Academy Award ten times and has walked away with the statuette three times for *Shakespeare in Love* (1999), *The Aviator* (2005), and *The Young Victoria* (2010).

Date: Sunday, April 27th at 3pm in the Harold M. Williams Auditorium at the Getty Center. Admission is free. Reservations recommended. Call 310 440-7300 or visit [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu)

## Local Brits out in force for 'Boxing at Barker'

LOCAL BRITS and fight fans were out in force Wednesday night for the first of four quarterly boxing events at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica.

The "Boxing at the Barker" event featured a collection exciting new talent from countries including Ireland, United States, South Africa, Cuba and Georgia.

Actor/comic Kevin Pollack served as MC for the event and among the celebrities and sportsmen in attendance were ageless Welsh singer Tom Jones, former Sex Pistol Steve Jones, who delivered a stunning, Hendrix-like rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, boxing greats Thomas Hearn, Sugar Ray Leonard, Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini and Wayne McCullough, former Chelsea defender Mario Melchiot, reality TV star Kelly Osbourne, and a host of local British demi-celebs including Santa Monica's legendary DJ Danny Winter.

The event is the brainchild of King World Productions former President and CEO Michael King and Paul Cain, Liverpudlian expat



**KNOCKOUT:** Steve Jones performs the Star Spangled Banner and (below) Sons of Anarchy actor, Glaswegian Tommy Flanagan



and part-owner of the popular Britannia Pub in Santa Monica. King is best known for distributing and marketing popular TV shows including *Wheel of Fortune*, *Jeopardy* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. King has parlayed his passion for boxing into this new venture, which plans to produce quarterly boxing events at the

Barker Hangar, which is located at 3021 Airport Avenue.

"I have a passion for boxing," said King. "Without question boxing is one of the most exhilarating sports in the world, and I am going to utilize everything I have learned in my career to develop exciting programs that will build stars..."



## Independent British film included in BH Film Festival

An independent British film, 'Common People' will be in town for a one-off screening on Thursday April 24th at 2pm as part of the Beverly Hills Film Festival.

"Common People" is a bittersweet British comedy entirely set on a London common. It features six stories of disparate Londoners, whose lives become intertwined when they encounter an escaped parrot.

The film premiered at the Sedona International Film Festival last year where it was honoured with the Independent Spirit Award.

It's a small micro-budget film, with no marketing, advertising budget or distributor attached to it. It had its British Premiere on January 19th for what was supposed to be a one-off screening in London at the Clapham Picturehouse. In the

end, it proved so popular that it played to 18 packed houses over nine weeks.

Picturehouse Cinemas (the last independent chain left in the UK) were so overwhelmed with the response from audiences, that they are now going to give the film a nationwide release in 17 of their cinemas on June 10th.

For more details visit the festival website at [www.beverlyhillsmfestival.com](http://www.beverlyhillsmfestival.com)

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## St Andrews society member lunch

Local expatriate Scottish group the Saint Andrew's Society will hold a member lunch on Sunday, April 27th from 12.30pm at Ye Olde King's Head, 12969 Ventura Boulevard in Studio City, in what is the first of what organizers plan to be a monthly opportunity for members to get together informally.

The initial gathering will be an opportunity to discuss future meetings and how the Society can make this an attractive and worthwhile social occasion.

Readers planning to attend should contact Marc Gibson (marc.g@verizon.net) and let him know by April 20th so he can notify the venue of many will be attending. All attendees are encouraged to wear highland dress - kilts for men, sashes etc. for ladies.

Those wishing to be added to the Society's mailings should contact Ian Skone-Rees at rees1@mac.com

## BABC OC golf tourney set for May 16

The British American Business Council Orange County will host their Annual Golf tournament in association with BritWeek on Friday May 16th at the Monarch Beach links course.

The event opens at 10am with registration and the driving range, followed by a putting contest at 10.30, with the scramble format tournament starting at 12.30pm. BBQ Awards Dinner to follow.

Tickets are priced at \$250 per entrant. For more details visit [www.babccoc.org](http://www.babccoc.org)

# Globetrotting DJ Paul Oakenfold honored as part of BritWeek



On April 23rd at 6.30pm the UKTI Business innovation awards will honor recipient Paul Oakenfold, (above) the internationally acclaimed, globe-trotting DJ recorder producer and remixer, with a Creative Fusion Award at the Four Four Seasons in Beverly Hills, at 300 South Doheny Drive.

The 5th Annual Business Innovation Awards, presented by Virgin Atlantic, celebrates outstanding achievement and innovation in Technology, Social Impact, Product Design and Business Services, and Oakenfold certainly qualifies. From his early years as a DJ in a Covent

## What is BritWeek?

**BritWeek is a celebration of all things British in Los Angeles, Miami, Orange County and San Francisco, highlighting the amazing depth and breadth of British connections in those cities.**

The annual BritWeek program is a series of events in each city that highlights the rich and varied creative relationship between the UK and US, through which Brits and Americans working together have changed the way we live, work and play.

There are dozens of events during BritWeek, some of which are by invitation only and others that are open to the public. Some events require tickets and others are free to attend. The BritWeek website and calendar will have complete information.

BritWeek is a non-profit organization, started in Los Angeles in 2007 by Nigel Lythgoe and the then Consul General Bob Peirce, to highlight the creative fusion between the United Kingdom and California, and now Miami.

Garden Wine Bar in the late 1970s, Oakenfold

international dance genre. Oakenfold also pioneered large-scale global dance events, including Cyberfest, a dance event in San Francisco that drew over 80,000 fans. He was also the first DJ to perform at both the Glastonbury Festival and the

Hollywood Bowl and has remixed numerous tracks from artists as diverse as Madonna, Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake. He is widely considered to be the world's most famous and influential DJ. Keynote speaker for the event is **Andy Bird** CBE, a British film producer and executive who is currently chairman of Walt Disney International.

Staying with the world of British DJs, on April 24th at 9pm at the Palihouse in West Hollywood leading British DJ and Producer **Evil Twin** will be joined by a selection of LA's finest DJs for a five hour celebration of Electronic Music. Evil Twin, Jamie Charles, Chris Samba and Jordan Epperson will be spinning in a can't-miss event for contemporary music lovers.

Running three nights (April 24-27th) at the ComedySportz space at 733 Seward Avenue in Hollywood are two

alternative troupes, Mannerhouse Manor and Chickspeare.

**Mannerhouse Manor** (April 24, 10pm & April 26, 9pm) are described as "A fully improvised Edwardian comedy in the style of Downton Abbey or Upstairs, Downstairs. The show takes place on an English country estate during the 1910s, and every show presents the family who lives there, the servants who tend to them, and the comedy and drama that unite their lives. Each episode is entirely unscripted. Mannerhouse Manor contains love, honor, and tea... so much tea."

**Chickspeare** (April 26, 7pm & April 27, 5pm) is an all-female, improvised Shakespeare-style group from Charlotte, North Carolina, performing on the ComedySports patio. Attendees are encouraged to "Come early and bring a picnic....Our cast of verbose vixens will keep you laughing until the sun has set."

## Three British films showcased at Newport Beach Film Fest

The 15th annual Newport Beach Film Festival will dedicate an evening to celebrating British cinema, automobiles, and fashion as part of its UK Spotlight.

The event will feature the West Coast Premieres of three new UK films, Belle, God Help the Girl and Jadoo and a gala reception hosted by BritWeek - OC and Ted Baker London at Jaguar/Land Rover Newport Beach.

**Belle**, directed by Amma Asante, is inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), the illegitimate mixed race daughter of Admiral Sir

John Lindsay (Matthew Goode). Raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord Mansfield (Tom Wilkinson) and his wife (Emily Watson), Belle's lineage affords her certain privileges, yet her status prevents her from the traditions of noble social standing.

In **God Help the Girl**, writer/director Stuart Murdoch (Belle and Sebastian) creates a coming-of-age story that doubles as an indie-pop musical. Set in Glasgow, Scotland, the film follows Eve (Emily Browning) who is in the hospital dealing with emotional problems. She starts writing songs as a way to heal. Songwriting

becomes her passion, leading her to the city where she meets James (Olly Alexander) and Cassie (Hannah Murray), two musicians each at crossroads of their own. What follows is a story of a personal renaissance over the course of a long, dream-like summer.

**Jadoo**, written and directed by filmmaker Amit Gupta, tells the story of two brothers, Raja (Harish Patel) and Jagi (Kulvinder Ghir) both wonderful chefs, who fall out catastrophically. At the climax of their dispute they rip the family recipe book in half - one brother gets the starters

and the other gets the main courses. They set up rival restaurants, on opposite sides of the same road, and spend the next twenty years trying to outdo each other. Neither brother will admit it but they both know they are not entirely successful in the 'other half' of the menu. It takes a daughter - a successful London lawyer, Shalini (Amara Karan), marrying a man from a different ethnic background - to reunite them.

The UK Spotlight films will screen on Friday April 25th, 2014 at the Starlight Triangle Theaters, 1870 Harbor Boulevard in Costa Mesa. Belle screens at

7.30pm, God Help the Girl at 8.15pm and Jadoo at 8pm.

A gala after party will follow immediately after the movies at **Jaguar/Land Rover Newport Beach**, 1540 Jamboree Road in Newport Beach. The evening will include a hosted bar courtesy of **Tito's Vodka** and **Stella Artois Beer**, several top Orange County restaurants serving signature tastings, multiple DJs and a fashion presentation by Ted Baker London. Admission to the film and gala is \$45.

For tickets, information and updates please visit the festival website, [www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com](http://www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com)

**Brit-Weekend in Channel Island Harbor**

BRITWEEK events are not limited to just Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

The growing British presence a little to the north can also get in on the act with a "BritWeekend" scheduled next weekend (April 26-27th, from 11am-5pm) in the Channel Islands Harbor in Ventura County.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will highlight British culture, art, music, high tea, swordplay and Shakespeare, classic cars and motorcycles, soccer, food and an Open Air Pub Garden. The Channel Islands Maritime Museum hosts this event, which complements their international collection of five centuries of art that sails, including a very large selection of magnificent British ship models with an entire section devoted to Lord Nelson and HMS Victory.

Activities will include a chance to win a two-year Jaguar lease courtesy of Ventura Jaguar; a classic British car and motorcycle show Saturday and Sunday; an open air Pub Garden with beer and a variety of English food, British and Indian food trucks, a large display of English art and ship models inside the Museum, British cover band Masters of the Past on Saturday and Saturday, high tea with a gorgeous harbor view on Sunday afternoon.

Channel Islands Harbor is a combined shore-protection project and small craft harbor located at the southern end of the Santa Barbara Channel in the town of Oxnard, about an hour's drive north of Los Angeles.

For more details visit [www.britweek.org](http://www.britweek.org)

# The Vortex: You can't help getting sucked in...

**What do Keith Richards and Noel Coward have in common?**

No, it's not the allusion to drugs, or that they're both singer/song-writers. For director **Gene Franklin Smith**, Keith's observations, in his autobiography *Life*, of the changing societal landscape in Britain in the mid-60s, mirrored Coward's England of the 1920s, when the lines separating the classes were swept away post-war by youth and popular culture.

Smith has edited the text, removing several supporting roles to focus more directly on the main protagonists. The play opens in keeping with this rebellious nature, with the cast looking as though they are on the cover of a Bert Kaempfert album, dancing. Greg Chun's sound design perfectly evokes the new wildness of this time.

**neglectful and abusive**

In a kitsch London apartment, groovily designed by Erin Walley, newly engaged Nicky Lancaster, after a debauched year in Paris, has returned to England to gain approval for his future bride, Bunty Mainwaring, from his celebrated mother Florence, a faded stage actress and learns she is being squired by Tom, a man Nicky's own age, who is too well acquainted with his fiancée for comfort. During the ensuing weekend party at the Lancaster's stylish Danish Modern country home, both Nicky and Florence are dumped, creating a crisis that exposes Nicky's addiction inspired by the neglectful and abusive nature of their family history.

Victoria Hoffman is exceptional as a witty,

genuine, insightful Helen, as she tries but ultimately knows she can only fail to help her much-loved friends. Skye LaFontaine, delightful as uncomplicated It-girl, Bunty, with Daniel Jimenez, recalling a young Prince Philip, as the strappingly regimental Tom Veryan, are perfect foils to Nicky and Florence.

Will Carney gives a touching performance as Nicky's defeated and withdrawn father, David Lancaster. And it is left to Cameron Mitchell Jr., as Pawnie, to supply the requisite flamboyance and facetiousness of Coward's funniest characters, which he does with élan. Pawnie's struggle over the chocolates was sublime.

With the battle cry, "It's never too early for a cocktail", Shannon Holt gives a stunning performance, playing Florence with relish. As dazzling as the costume she wears, with a kaleidoscope of colors and tones she creates a multi-faceted woman, we also see the flaws at the heart of this jewel, the isolation, desperate need for validation and denial.

**bravura performance**

As Nicky Lancaster, Craig Robert Young gives a bravura performance. He shifts beautifully between the funny, expressive, an outwardly confident young man to the little boy, who needs care. Utterly believable and heartbreaking, he shows Nicky's struggle, disappointment, hope, yearning. With a real sense of desperation and impending violence, he had me on the edge of my seat.

The whole cast are superb and have

By Catherine Siggins  
Brits in LA Theatre  
Reviewer

succeeded in making these roles very much their own. If the applause at the end came rather late, as the cast returned to the stage, it was because we were all recovering our composure.

The cast is helped by fabulous costumes, hair and make-up by Brian Primeaux, Christina Culinski and Dale Johnson.

When I lived in London, I made the pilgrimage to



**IN VINO VERITAS?** (Victoria Hoffman as Helen shares more than a knowing look over a cocktail with Cameron Mitchell, Jr.'s, Pawnie.)

Stratford to see great theatre. I can assure you a trip to Malibu Playhouse, though minus the swans, is easier, way warmer, has ocean views, shrimp shacks en route and is just as enriching for your

artistic soul. The Malibu Playhouse is located at 29243 Pacific Coast Hwy in Malibu. For more details and tickets, visit [www.malibuplayhouse.org](http://www.malibuplayhouse.org) or [www.plays411.com](http://www.plays411.com)



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# BritWeek Shopping Stroll

Some of the best British retailers can be enjoyed during BritWeek's Shopping Stroll on Robertston and Beverly Boulevards, on Saturday, April 26th from 11am-5pm.

This event is sponsored by the Southern California Mini Dealers, and will feature exciting in-store events, special and exclusive BritWeek discounts, fashion previews, and more. Highlights of the stroll include: special offers at **Ted Baker** and afternoon tea in the store courtesy of **The London Hotel**; Beauty Britannia at MAKE UP FOR EVER: Learn tips and tricks inspired by British beauty icons; a preview of the latest collections from **Joseph** and exclusive gifts with purchase, refreshments at luxury British accessories brand **Anya Hindmarch**, a classic British Tea in the Tuscan Garden at **Eskandar**, fashion previews and refreshments at Michael Kors, fun tips, tricks and samples at MAC Cosmetics and express manicures at **Kitson Studio** courtesy of famed British brand Nails Inc.

## Let There Be Light...at the Griffith Observatory

If celebrity watching is not your thing, perhaps a different kind of stargazing should be on the menu next week, specifically the BritWeek event **Let There Be Light: Finding the earliest galaxies with Richard Ellis, taking place at the Griffith Observatory on Monday, April 21st at 7.30pm.**

This is a ticketed event and reservations are required.

An exciting evening exploring the universe's greatest depths with one of the worlds leading astronomers, at one of the worlds most stunning observatories, it promises to be a spell binding evening for novice astronomers, enthusiasts and anyone seeking a deeper insight into the universe around us alike.

Awarded with the 2011 Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical

Society, Richard Ellis, is also a member of the Thirty Meter Telescope's (TMT) Board of Directors and Science Advisory Committee. He will address the progress and challenges of this fundamental quest for our origins, and discuss the future prospects with the next generation of giant 30 meter aperture ground-based telescopes.

For more details and tickets, visit [www.britweek.org](http://www.britweek.org)

## The British Weekly Crossword #111

Crossword by Myles Mellor

**Across**

- 1 Peaceful (7)
- 5 Seconds (5)
- 8 Pain after a day on the beach (7)
- 9 Heading (5)
- 10 Leaves for lunch? (5)
- 11 They're not popular in offices (7)
- 13 Stadium sections (6)
- 15 Swords (6)
- 18 Asylum seeker (7)
- 20 Has graceful continuity (5)
- 23 Choices (5)
- 24 From Beijing (7)
- 25 Records (5)
- 26 "A green and pleasant land" (7)

**Down**

- 1 Fence poles (5)
- 2 Suez has one (5)
- 3 Established (7)
- 4 Hollywood industry (6)
- 5 Packed away (5)
- 6 End (3)
- 7 Finds fault with (7)
- 12 Boost (3)
- 13 Like a zebra (7)
- 14 Touches (7)
- 16 Possible backache cause (7)
- 17 Liberate (6)
- 19 Anesthetizes (5)
- 21 Diva's setting (5)
- 22 Hurry (5)

**Solution to Puzzle #110**

1	D	R	I	N	K	S	2	S	L	O	W	E	R
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3	P	L	A	T	E	A	U	10	T	R	E	E	S
	A	L	P	T	E	T	I						
11	R	H	Y	M	E	T	O	R	C	H	E	S	
	T	R	E	E	T								
13	S	K	Y	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	S		
14	U	E	F	U	H								
15	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	20	N	O	O	N	E
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	A	E	A	S	E	V	H						
18	D	I	S	A	R	M	21	A	S	P	E	C	T

# Meet A Member: Victoria Fratz

Meet Victoria from Baltimore who moved to LA 2 months ago to pursue that great American pasttime - entrepreneurship!



**VICTORIA FRATZ: She's not in Baltimore, anymore**

### Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

Yes, funny story, I came home from Thanksgiving dinner last November to find that my house had been destroyed from a huge fire on our block, I took it as a sign from the universe that it was time to head out west. Ok, so that didn't sound very funny but I swear it was a blessing in disguise!

### What one thing do you miss from home?

Baltimore has a lot of things to miss - rooftop decks, Camden Yards, crab pretzels, Old Bay. I mostly miss being able to walk anywhere. Seriously, you could walk anywhere you needed to go, take a \$5 cab if you were wearing heels, or grab the water taxi if you needed to get on the other side of town.

### What do you find the biggest difference is living here versus your hometown?

The people! There's a lot of positive energy out here and a ton of "go-getters".

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

Yes! I'm obsessed with all Mexican food and quickly discovered El Cholo. Highly recommended, but I'll only tell you where it is if you bring me with you.

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

100,000,000% do it! LA is an amazing place where if you can dream it, you can do it. And you'll meet amazing people along the way!

### Lastly, how can we find you on the Internet?

Glad you asked!  
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				9			
	7	8				2	1

MEDIUM # 96



## Stargazing with Annie Shaw

**ARIES:** Your financial situation could be getting a boost as early as next week, so look for a change to get dressed and out and about. It's a good week for a connecting with people in the know for business.

**TAURUS:** You can expect your boss Venus to bring a situation that is unresolved to a head, and although you probably want to ignore it, it's not going to be ignored. Regardless go out and get a new outfit for your birthday celebration. Have a happy Birthday

**GEMINI:** You will be travelling (emotionally or otherwise) to a place where you can put things to rest in the next two weeks. This situation in your life is due to the planets surrounding you in very rare line up and should bring you peace.

**CANCER:** Movement is good for you and this week it's all around you and is due to a rare lineup of planets. Be strong and understand you are not everything to everybody and others may perceive this as a bit arrogant.

**LEO:** Due to the planets activity that affect you this week ahead is good for you to take plenty of rest and sleep, make it your priority and spend time away from stressing about things you cannot change. You should lay low for a few days.

**VIRGO:** As this coming month brings the start of new situations be sure you are ready and willing to get going on your particular one. No matter what others think or are expecting it will work well but you must be aware of the mind and body connections.

**LIBRA:** Mars is going in a backward stroll as your guest in the next couple of months so what transpires in the financial part of your life will be life changing. As you MAY still have areas to work on that can hold this movement back, get it resolved soonest.

**SCORPIO:** With Mars your boss going backwards in your work area you will be feeling a bit blue and before this gets too much for you take time out with good friends and relax this weekend. You will also be on a new lifestyle change (or should be!)

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your boss Jupiter is sitting in a water sign and can be making you more than a little emotional. So be open to what this brings up as it is an area you need to work on. You will be moving forward and feeling better end of the month.

**CAPRICORN:** The sun in Aries currently will assist you to get the job done as this week ahead is a great opportunity to complete an overdue project that has been neglected. This week ahead brings a very rare line-up of planets and as it is affecting you more than most, be careful in any area.

**AQUARIUS:** You are probably feeling like a break away so even if you can get out of town take time for some downtime since the rare array of planets can make you somewhat cranky.

**PISCES:** The family is much on your mind and if you learn to live in the moment things will work out quicker and with less stress. You will also find your spirits lifted like nothing for a long time.



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## Precious Thing: an old friendship poked and prodded

■ Exclusive interview with author Colette McBeth and a review of her new psychological thriller

Rating: ★★★

"I worked as a TV news reporter covering a lot of big crime stories for ten years," says Precious Things author Colette McBeth, about her time with the BBC. "That's the job my main character has, so in that sense I knew what I was doing and was aware of how police investigations run and how they deal with the media. I first got the idea for one of characters in 1998. I had just finished university and was working in Ibiza for the summer, meeting lots of



new people and generally having a great time partying. It's a magical kind of place and the club scene was populated by larger than life characters."

Precious Thing starts slowly, then builds into a compelling story that after a few chapters you must continue reading to find out what happens to Rachel and Clara. McBeth writes of two women who are more than

friends. At times the story gets confusing because it's all told by Rachel. We learn of the girls past and what is actually lies between the two. If you like psychological suspense this book is for you.

Rachel, a shy teen who grew into a strong independent woman, is a television reporter. Rachel goes to a reunion put on by Clara, but Clara is a no show. Rachel needs to find her. But, Clara isn't missing. She's trying to draw former best friend Rachel into a trap.

"My main character wouldn't do what I had planned for her," says McBeth. "She had a mind of her own, and once I started listening to her it all made sense. But we had a few battles early on. Even now that I've finished it, she's still

surprising me. I love the way one reader views her in an entirely different way to the next. I did have a bit of fun creating my fictitious newsroom, let's just say I had plenty of material to work with."

"In terms of research for my character's personality, I did do a lot of work on this over the years," says McBeth. "A good friend of mine is a forensic psychiatrist and we often chatted about how she would react in certain situations and what character traits she would have."

McBeth also had her experiences from partying in Ibiza. "It got me thinking how I could ever really know all these people properly," says McBeth. "Those thoughts were turning over in my mind one day as I drove through the mountains.

That's when the picture of a woman who had done something terrible in her past, yet had no remorse and no conscience appeared in my head. She was beautiful and charming and fun, and that was all anyone saw, right up until the very end."

Precious Thing is McBeth's first novel. McBeth says her next book has required much more research. Called *The Life I Left Behind*, it's about two women who were attacked by the same man years apart. One survives, one is killed.

"I could have easily been one of those people who say they want to write a book but never get around it," says McBeth. "In the end I asked myself what I'd be most likely to regret not having achieved by the time I



BY  
**Gabrielle Pantera**

reached seventy; writing a novel was at the top of my list. That's when I decided to go for it."

McBeth was born in Scotland and now lives in London.

*Precious Thing* by Colette McBeth. Hardcover, 304 pages, Publisher: Minotaur Books; First Edition edition (March 4, 2014). Language: English, ISBN-13: 978-1250041197 \$24.99

# Quite an institution: the Kings Head turns 40

**YE OLDE KING'S HEAD, probably the most famous British pub in California, is celebrating its 40th Birthday this month.**

The Santa Monica institution, founded by Phil and Ruth Elwell in 1973, has long been not just the first stop for British expats arriving in Los Angeles, but a magnet that brings them back time and again, for good food and drink and - of course - some civilized conversation with the regulars.

### watering hole

Soon after its debut the pub quickly became the watering-hole of choice for Fleet Street's LA correspondents, as a consequence of which it was soon immortalized in numerous newspaper

articles and cartoons back in the UK. Readers with long memories may also remember the pub being the model for the thinly-disguised Nag's Head, which was a staple of Sean Thomas's *California Diary* section in this newspaper from 1984 to 1989. And the pub's popularity meant it quickly outgrew its original space - what is now the front bar - to expand eastwards to its current size, which includes the restaurant, the back bar and private dining room, and the King's Head Shoppe, which sells British food and those other essentials from home that we simply can't do without.

Phil and Ruth retired to the desert almost a decade ago, passing the torch of ownership to

Paul Boetcher and Donal Tavey, and the energetic pair have expanded operations to include the Kings Head II in Studio City. But Phil and Ruth will be back on April 23rd to celebrate the pub's 40th birthday. Fittingly enough, April 23rd celebrates two other British icons, it is St. George's Day, and the 450th birthday of a talented writer by the name of William Shakespeare, so it will be something of a triple celebration for local Brits. Food and drink specials will be offered, and there will be music from DJ Stubbsy from 7pm onwards.

**Ye Olde Kings Head is located at 116 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica. Tel: (310) 451-1402.**



**GETTING BETTER WITH AGE:** Everyone knows Ye Olde Kings Head

**Amanda Eliasch's award-winning film The Gun, The Cake and The Butterfly, will screen exclusively as part of BritWeek on Monday, April 28th at 7.30 pm with a cocktail reception to follow at 9pm at the ArcLight Hollywood, 6360 W. Sunset Boulevard.**

Socialite Eliasch is the granddaughter of St Trinian's film director Sidney Gilliat and the daughter of journalist and writer Anthony Cave Brown. She made headlines in the UK a few years back with her high-profile divorce from sportswear tycoon Johan Eliasch. Like so many of us, she has since reinvented herself in Los Angeles as a filmmaker, and in her new film she pulls the skeletons out of her closet, dresses them

in designer couture, and mesmerizing life. For tickets, visit [www.britweek.org](http://www.britweek.org)

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\*Some rates available

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## LA: plenty of great theatre and lunar tics...

This week's lunar eclipse seemed to have turned much of this star-obsessed city into stargazers of another sort – although I'm not crazy about the moniker 'blood moon'.

But it was such a nice change to have everyone looking up at the sky for once, and not down at their incoming texts or emails! Although I must admit I did get out my camera a few times to try and capture this natural wonder; as I am sure did most of you, judging by my Facebook newsfeed. I think I need a lesson in

photography, as the twenty photographs that I took were quite pitiful.

Easter is only a couple of sleeps away and I have already had my fair share of Cadbury's Creme Eggs! To make up for it, my vow for Lent was to give up not exercising, so for the last two weeks I have been taking advantage of the YogaWorks free trial for Brits in LA members. They have locations all over town and classes all day, which makes it really easy to fit in with everyone's busy schedules. I must admit I was a little afraid at first that I wouldn't be

able to keep up, but the teachers are fantastic at encouraging you to work at your own pace; if you have any doubts throw them out the window!

It used to be said that theater in LA was pretty nonexistent, but now it seems we are spoiled for choice. I saw not one but three plays over the last ten days. Each one was completely different from the other, all had fantastic casts (except for the common denominator of a token Brits in LA member in the cast) and very compelling stories. Visit our website Britsin.LA for discount codes for **The Vortex** with our very own Craig Young and also Dr Anonymous, starring Matt Crabtree. Unfortunately **Memorandum** with BLA member Ewan Chung as the deadpan but hilarious and incessantly hungry office assistant, closes on April 20th - but will let you all know if they plan to extend the run, as it was



**WINNERS, HOSTS AND LOSERS:** Sandro monetti, Rob Pait and John Mawson at our recent Brits in LA pub quiz (Photo: Marina Pagnuucci)

incredibly different to any theatre production I have seen (in a very good way!).

There are also some great British comedians coming to town, including **Jane Bussman** (Drop The Dead Donkey) at Largo on May 1st, then **Russell Howard** will be there on May 9th. I am planning to go to both, so feel free to come along.

Brits in LA Pub Quiz is still every Tuesday - pop

along next week to the Pikey on Tuesday if you are free, as **Sandro Monetti** will be hosting a very special St George's Day Quiz along with this week's Meet a Member, **Victoria Fratz!** We have also added #TBT Bingo to our weekly calendar. You will find Craig, his Bingo balls and dabbers down at the Parlor on Melrose, any given Thursday.

Back to Easter Sunday - if you have no plans we

are hosting an Easter lunch at Palihouse in West Hollywood. Don't hesitate to come alone as we really are a friendly bunch! Drop me a line at info@britsin.la if you would like me to save you a seat.

For all information on any events I have mentioned, please either visit us on Facebook or at our website [www.Britsin.LA](http://www.Britsin.LA)

**Cheers!**  
**Eileen**

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# Pellegrini blames Reds 'hangover'

■ Black Cats prove unlucky as City suffer surprise title setback

Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini blamed Sunday's defeat at leaders Liverpool after his title-chasing side dropped crucial points by drawing with Premier League strugglers Sunderland on Wednesday night.

City salvaged a 2-2 draw after Samir Nasri's late goal but sit six points behind Liverpool with a game in hand.

Pellegrini said: "We did not play well but we had in our mind the game against Liverpool. We did not deserve to win.

"We needed a win. We will see what happens but our chances are less."

Fernandinho scored after 114 seconds but two second-half goals from Connor Wickham earned the Black Cats a 2-1 lead before keeper Vito Mannone fumbled a Nasri shot over the line.

Pellegrini's side are still to host West Brom, followed by trips to Crystal Palace and Everton. They finish with home games against Aston Villa and West Ham.

Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho said he still believed City could repeat their title triumph of 2012.

He added: "It's really very hard. We have to keep our head up and



**SHOCKING MISS:** Samir Nasri's reaction after fluffing a simple late chance for City on Wednesday night

now need to look at our next game against West Brom here at home.

"We pressed high and won a lot of balls but we

let our performance win the title. Chelsea and drop some points. We Liverpool have four think we can still win the

"We believe we can games and they may title."

## Nerves got the better of us, admits Martinez

■ High-flying Toffees come unstuck at home to Palace

Everton manager Roberto Martinez hinted the pressure of trying to seal a top-four Premier League place was a reason for his team's loss to Crystal Palace Wednesday night.

A 3-2 defeat left the Toffees fifth, a point behind Arsenal, with four matches left and Champions League qualification still up for grabs.

'hurtful'

"It's a real disappointment, a result which is hurtful," Martinez said.

"We wanted to win so much that we stopped being ourselves and that is what we have to learn from."

Everton still have the two Manchester clubs to

face at home as well as away trips to Southampton and Hull, while all of the Gunners' matches come against sides outside the Premier League's top eight.

'incredible potential'

Martinez added: "We will try to get as many points as we can. It doesn't change anything. We have had a magnificent season and we have incredible potential in this squad.

"It is not in our hands, but you have to be as strong as you can be.

"There will be twists and turns because it is that stage of the season. There will always be surprises at this stage of the season."

Goals from Jason Puncheon and Scott

Dann put the visitors in control before substitute Steven Naismith halved the deficit just after the hour mark. Cameron Jerome restored Palace's two-goal cushion before Kevin Mirallas scored a late consolation.

'clinical'

Martinez continued: "In the first half, we were fearful, we conceded bad goals.

"The reaction in the second half was ourselves. That was perfect and we were unfortunate not to get something out of the game. But we get ready for the next four games.

"They scored three goals from four shots on target. The breaks went Palace's way and we congratulate them. They were clinical."



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7am Aston Villa v Southampton  
7am Cardiff v Stoke City  
7am Newcastle v Swansea  
7am West Ham v Crystal Palace  
930am Chelsea v Sunderland  
Sun 4/20 Everton vs Man. Utd. (8.10am)  
Mon 4/21 Man City v West Brom (Noon)

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1145am Atletico Madrid v Chelsea  
**Wed 4/23 Champions League Semi Final:**  
1145am Real Madrid v Bayern Munich  
Thurs 4/24  
**Europa League**  
12.05pm Sevilla v Valencia  
12.05pm Benfica v Juventus

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Visit our Shoppe for all your British favorites.....  
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