



**"King" James too touchy? (p3)**

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# Britain battered by rare 'weather bomb'

**FIFTY-FOOT waves, high winds and surge tides left thousands of homes without power as a "weather bomb" rolled across the UK this week.**

As well as disruption to energy supplies, the severe storm caused ferry and train cancellations and school closures in the north of Britain on Wednesday.

The Met Office earlier issued amber "be prepared" weather alerts for western Scotland, the Highlands, Northern Ireland, Orkney and Shetland and Strathclyde regions, which have since been

downgraded to yellow "be aware" warnings.

The same warnings have also been issued across England's South East, South West, North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, as well as in northern Wales and several other areas.

More southerly areas of the UK were also hit by a second storm which rolled in from the Atlantic on Thursday

night.

Waves 52ft high - measured as "phenomenal" on the Douglas Sea Scale - were recorded off the Outer Hebrides.

Gale-force gusts of more than 80mph also struck some northern coastal areas.

Wind speeds of 144mph were recorded on St Kilda, an uninhabited archipelago which is 41 miles west of Benbecula

in the Outer Hebrides.

According to the Met Office, the highest recorded wind speed at low level sites was 81mph on Tiree.

Off the coast of Orkney, a rescue operation was launched to help a British-registered fishing vessel which issued a Mayday call after getting into difficulties.

The 33ft trawler, with 16 Spanish crew, had one of its bridge windows smashed and some equipment damaged in the stormy conditions.

The O'Genita was escorted to Westray in Orkney by the Stromness lifeboat.

Twenty vehicles had to be freed after becoming stuck in icy conditions on

Cairn O' Mount, a high mountain pass, in Aberdeenshire.

And there were delays on the Forth Road Bridge, which connects Edinburgh and Fife, after a lorry driver failed to heed signs warning it is closed to high-sided vehicles.

At press time Scottish **cont. on page 2, col. 3**



**HERE COMES TROUBLE:** (left) a graphic shows the extent of the high winds which battered Britain this week, bringing misery (right) to roads and rural areas

## But the outlook is sunny for Golden Globe nominees Eddie and Felicity



**IT WAS A GOOD WEEK** for Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne. The British pair were nominated for SAG Awards AND Golden Globes for their performances in the critically-acclaimed Stephen Hawking biopic, *The Theory of Everything* (see page 7)

News From Britain

## Twitter goes into meltdown as the #weatherbomb hits

■ Social media quickly becoming the favorite way for Brits to get their weather...

**FORGET the perfect storm. The current buzzword for weather-conscious Brits is #weatherbomb.**

The term was coined by weathermen to describe a rare meteorological condition which saw Britain battered by snow, ice and plunging temperatures – and thunderstorms – during the week.

Also known as an ‘explosive cyclogenesis’, it is characterised by a rapid fall in the central pressure of a storm system.

Brits on Twitter embraced the term, mentioning it in 30,000 tweets as #weatherbomb trended in 22 locations across the UK. And the social media platform is gaining respect as the new tool of choice for organizations like the Met Office and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, which both used Twitter to post crucial live updates about the developing storm.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) said the social networking site was pivotal in helping them reach out to people in affected areas.

Ross MacLeod, their Coastal Safety Manager, said: “We support anything that raises awareness of dangerous coastal conditions.

“We’re pushing prevention to the front of what the RNLI does as UK coastal fatalities remain consistently high, so we need to keep our approach fresh and innovative.

“We can react to events happening in real time – like this storm – and use channels like Twitter to get our safety messages out to a wide audience exactly when it’s most relevant.

“We also use our #RespectTheWater to flag these messages.”

The Met Office used Twitter to keep people up-to-date regularly on their latest weather warnings.

Their social media manager Anna Slingo said: “Twitter has become an important way for us to share information and advice with our followers, especially in severe conditions such as we are seeing this week.

“We’ll use those accounts to share live information and advice the moment it becomes available.”

## UK battered:

cont. from page one

Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) engineers said it has restored power to more than 28,000 homes which were earlier without power, but that 2,800 customers remain cut off.

Gale-force winds also battered the northern coast of Ireland, with the counties of Donegal, Londonderry and Antrim the worst hit.

Power shortages were reported on both sides of the border, and ferry travel to Scotland was disrupted, with a number of sailings cancelled or delayed.



**FEROCIOUS:** Waves crash over the promenade wall in Prestwick, Scotland. The public were warned to stay away from the coast in northern parts of the UK including Scotland. Meanwhile, more than 17,500 homes lost electricity on Wednesday morning in the Fort William area of the Highlands.

The extreme conditions colloquially as a “weather slowly eastwards bomb” - a deep low between Scotland and cyclogenesis - known pressure system moving Iceland.

## Clash of the titans: Brand and Farage go at it

**IT WAS DUBBED the fight of the century.** But in the end it turned into little more than a food fight with a fiercely divided audience. But either way, when Russell Brand took on Nigel Farage on the BBC’s Question Time this week, it was certainly compelling viewing.

The showdown between two of the most visible men in the country quickly got off to an undignified start when comedian Mr Brand was slammed as a hypocrite by one audience member after he admitted he was too ‘scared’ to stand for



“As much as I enjoy seeing Nigel Farage in a boozier with a pint and a fag laughing off his latest scandals, this man is not a cartoon character. He ain’t Del Boy, he ain’t Arthur Daley. He’s a pound shop Enoch Powell and we gotta watch him- Russell Brand on Nigel Farage

Parliament because ‘I’d become one of them’ - while another audience member branded Mr Farage a ‘racist scumbag’. Then the pair turned on each other - with the comedian calling Mr Farage a ‘pound shop Enoch Powell’ while the MEP pointed fingers over Mr Brand’s wealth.

This week’s episode of the flagship debating show in Canterbury, Kent - near the South Thanet seat where Mr Farage will stand in the general election featured other panellists including Tory MP Penny Mordaunt, Labour’s Mary Creagh and Times columnist Camilla Cavendish - a rare occasion when there were more women on the show than men.

But it was the two men who often dominated the debate, cutting over each other and their female counterparts.

Mr Brand was forced

cont. on page 3, col. 1



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## Clash:

to apologise for 'sexism' after he told Penny Mordaunt, who was praising firefighters: 'Pay their pensions then love'.

Ms Creagh fired back: 'Could you let her finish because one thing that people really don't like is men talking over women on these sorts of shows.'

The audience broke out into shouting after one disabled member told Mr Brand: I don't like people preaching that I'm in any part responsible for anything... You are a campaigner...'

'I'm a comedian mate,' the comedian butted in.

'Stand,' the man replied. 'Stand for parliament. If you're gonna campaign, then stand.'

Mr Brand said: 'I'd stand for parliament but I'd be scared that I'd become one of them.'

But the audience member cut over and shouted: 'You're full of diction. You cannot preach that. You've attacked [Nigel Farage] and attacked everyone that stands for his party. They are people on the street.'

The debate opened with a question over whether politics was too petty - before descending into what many audience members described as petty politics.

Mr Brand said Mr Farage 'had the perfect training to be a politician because he spent most of his time in the city in a business - which is what most of us think politicians work for.'

But when asked by the audience how his millions could help him stand up for Kent's poor, Mr Farage replied: 'Sadly for you I'm not the wealthy one on this panel this evening.'

# LeBron nets some flack for too much royal contact

**BASKETBALL** Star LeBron James is finally gaining some fame in Britain - as the man who ignored royal protocol by putting his arm around the Duchess of Cambridge.

Prince William and wife Kate made a brief trip to the east coast this week where highlights included an Oval Office meeting with President Obama.

But it was the royal couple's appearance in New York on Monday night for an NBA basketball game that really made headlines.

Following the match between the James's team, the Cleveland Cavaliers and Brooklyn Nets, William and Kate posed for a photograph with the star player and James put his right hand on the Duchess of Cambridge's right shoulder.

Such familiarity might be the norm in America, but in Britain of course it is considered a break of royal protocol.

Photos of the meeting quickly spread appeared

throughout the British media, with many commentators highlighting the breach - and getting downright sniffy about James' sweaty post-game shirt.

"He may be known as 'King James' stateside but LeBron James raised more than a few eyebrows when he got up close with Kate, still dressed in a soggy sweater," the Daily Mirror noted.

Kate, who is five months pregnant with the couple's second child, stood between James and her husband and smiled for the cameras, but the Independent newspaper said she appeared "somewhat awkward as photographers snapped away merrily."

The official website of the British Monarchy says "there are no obligatory codes of behavior" for meeting a member of the royal family, "but many people wish to observe the traditional forms."

"For men this is a neck bow (from the head only) whilst women do a



**GOOD SPORTS:** The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge meet with basketball superstar LeBron James in New York on Monday night

small curtsy," the website says.

Breaches of royal protocol are becoming something of a theme for the royals. Over the summer a teenage boy caused a minor storm after snapping a selfie of Queen Elizabeth at a walkabout.

And back in 2009 First Lady Michelle Obama was roundly criticized by the British broadsheets with another breach of the "no-touch" rule

when she put her arm on Queen Elizabeth II's back at Buckingham Palace.

During the meeting with James, the American player presented the royals with two Cleveland jerseys. One was yellow and had the name "Cambridge" on the back with the No. 7 under it, and the other was red and much smaller with "George" printed over the No. 1 for their 1-year-old son, Prince George.



**WISHFUL THINKING:** James later posted this Photoshopped image of George wearing his gift



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## Luton mum jailed for Facebook terror posts

A mother-of-six has been jailed for five years and three months for promoting terrorism on Facebook.

Runa Khan, from Luton, had previously admitted inciting terrorism in Syria.

Khan, 35, of Maple Road West, had posted a picture of a suicide vest and unwittingly passed details of a route into the country to an undercover police officer.

During sentencing, Kingston Crown Court heard police had found photos of Khan's children holding guns and swords.

Mohammed Nahin Ahmed sent details of a route into Syria to Khan, the court heard.

Judge Peter Birts QC said the "only fair interpretation" of those pictures was that Khan had intended to radicalise others.

In an interview with BBC Newsnight, she said: "I was posting up my belief."

She said the UK was "the last place I would want to live in... the majority of people with my mindset are actually behind bars because they don't want to stay in Britain".

Khan added when she

talked about jihad she was not suggesting the killing innocent people.

She told the programme: "I have always said I don't believe in going and blowing myself up in a shopping centre where there are going to be innocent children.

"And when I spoke about suicide missions, I only spoke about it because it's a much feared war tactic, which should only be used in a battlefield, not anywhere else."

In September 2013, Khan had re-posted an article entitled "Raising Mujahid Children", intended for Islamist mothers, the court heard.

The judge said the article amounted to "a manual in encouraging women to carry out jihad".

Khan had also posted a message on an extremist website, saying she wished her son would one day become a jihadi.

"I pictured the future while I was zipping up his jacket, in sha Allah i'll be tying the shahada bandana round his forehead and hand him his rifle and send him out to play the big boys game," she wrote.

# Cameron flies in for Ulster talks as storm clouds gather

The British and Irish prime ministers were in crisis talks late Thursday in a desperate bid to break political deadlock between the parties in Northern Ireland's fragile unity government.

David Cameron (right) and his Irish counterpart Enda Kenny held the talks amid increasing concern over whether the joint administration of unionists and nationalists is at risk of collapse.

The Democratic Unionist Party and Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party are deadlocked over welfare reform, as well as issues such as flags and parades that remain deeply divisive 16 years since a landmark peace deal.

### 'complex and difficult'

In a statement, Kenny's office said that the meetings represent "an intensification of the efforts to reach agreement", and said the prime minister was cautiously optimistic.

"While recognising the complex and difficult issues to be addressed, the parties have engaged constructively," Kenny said in a statement.

"With a renewed effort,



an agreement could be reached which would offer a brighter future for the people of Northern Ireland."

Both Sinn Fein and the DUP have warned that a deal must be reached before Christmas, or it will be postponed until after the general election in May 2015.

Similar talks led by US diplomat Richard Haass collapsed in December of last year without agreement.

"These talks have reached a crucial phase," Cameron wrote in the Belfast Telegraph on Thursday.

"The UK Government, along with our very close colleagues in the Irish Government, will be pushing hard to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion this week."

"If we fail to reach an



COUNTERPART: Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny

agreement now, with a cycle of elections approaching, a great opportunity will have been lost."

### private sector

Mr Cameron is also expected to be asked for a financial package to ease Northern Ireland's financial woes. He has given no hint of what that might be, but writing off fines we have already accrued for failing to introduce welfare reform may be part of it, according to local political sources.

Another carrot the Prime Minister is offering is the devolution of corporation tax-setting powers to Northern Ireland. The

Executive parties want this because they believe that lowering the tax on business profits will build up the region's flagging private sector by attracting foreign multinationals seeking a base in Europe.

Mr Cameron says: "There is an enormous amount at stake as we roll up our sleeves for what we hope will be the conclusion of this process. I want to see a Northern Ireland where politics works, the economy grows and society is strong; a Northern Ireland for the whole community. "Yet today, the credibility and effectiveness of the devolved institutions is on the line."

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## Hearts become official living-wage employer

**HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN** is the first football club in Scotland to become an official living-wage employer.

All staff will be paid at least the living wage of £7.85 - £1.35 per hour more than the national minimum wage.

The living wage is aimed at reflecting the actual cost of living, and is paid voluntarily by some employers, while the minimum wage is a legal requirement.

The Scottish Government has guaranteed the living wage to its own staff and encourages employers across the public and private sector to adopt it.

The Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative provides support and advice to organisations that wish to pay the living wage.

Hearts has joined a further 70 employers in Scotland who are now accredited.

Peter Kelly, director of the Poverty Alliance, which delivers the accreditation initiative, said: "Congratulations to Heart of Midlothian on becoming Scotland's first living wage-accredited football club.

"Football clubs have an important role in communities across Scotland.

"With thousands of people turning out every week to support their local clubs, they can play an important leadership role, not only for fans but for the businesses they work with.

"I hope that more clubs will follow Heart of Midlothian's example by not only giving their staff a pay rise this Christmas, but by showing real leadership on this issue on and off the pitch."

# World's fattest man, Londoner Keith Martin dies, aged 44

■ Weight-loss surgery could not save the man, who died from pneumonia following a lengthy battle with his weight

**A Londoner who was officially the fattest man in the world has died.**

Keith Martin, 44, died from pneumonia following a lengthy battle with his weight.

It happened just eight months after Mr Martin - who weighed 980lbs at his heaviest - had undergone a successful gastric sleeve which removed three-quarters of his stomach.

Now the surgeon who tried to save him with life-changing weight-loss surgery is calling for the government to swiftly impose a fast-food tax as he backed NHS plans to offer more gastric surgeries to high-risk patients.

If he had lived he would have lost hundreds of pounds and regained his ability to walk and live a normal life, according to head surgeon Kesava Mannur who operated on Mr Martin at Homerton Hospital last year.

### surgery

Mr Mannur supports new NHS guidelines which encourage doctors to suggest weight-loss surgery for anyone with a Body Mass Index (BMI) higher than 30 and type 2 diabetes.

That means up to two million people could be eligible - and if they all agreed to surgery it would cost the NHS £12billion.

In the wake of Chancellor George Osborne's tax reform revelations in this week's autumn statement, Mr Mannur said: "The government needs to make unhealthy fast food more expensive.

"Otherwise we'll continue to see more and more people like Keith. In the past few years I have treated several people who weighed between 45 to 60 stone.

"In Keith's case, it's a shame because he'd had successful surgery despite being high-risk because of his size. It was unlucky he then caught pneumonia.

"Bariatric surgery can be a very good thing for the people who need it.

"We can't ignore they are here and they need help. Once a patient hits a BMI of 30-35 it is extremely difficult for them to lose weight on their own. If they are not treated they can require a lot of medical help which can be very costly.

"If they can get the weight off they can improve their health and mobility and maybe contribute to society rather than being a burden.

"But the thing that does need to change quickly is how easy it is for people to access very cheap, unhealthy fast food.

### 'outdoor spaces'

"Society needs to do more to encourage children to be healthy from a young age. They need to learn early about physical activity and a healthy diet.

"People need access to gyms and outdoor spaces where they can walk and play while feeling safe. It will be much better for everyone in the long run."

Before he died in March, unemployed Mr Martin admitted much of the weight had come from



"I know the only person to blame is me. All those years wasted. I'm not going to waste anymore of it." - Keith Martin, who died this week in London

eating huge amounts of super-cheap fast food.

He would gorge on 20,000 calories a day - almost 10 times the recommended amount - having six-egg fry-ups for breakfast then pizzas, kebabs, Chinese takeaways and Big Macs for lunch and dinner all washed down with six pints of coffee and two litres of fizzy drinks.

He'd also snack on sandwiches, chocolate, crisps, sweets and biscuits.

Mr Mannur added: "Keith, like many people, had some emotional issues and he turned to food for comfort.

"That type of behaviour is nothing new, but what is new is how easy it is for people in that situation to buy a lot of cheap junk food."

Mr Martin left behind his two sisters - Sharon and Tina - who cared for him for many years leading up to his death.

Speaking from the home they shared in west London, Tina Martin

said: "We're still grieving. We miss him very much."

### 'up and walking'

Mr Martin's surgery was filmed for a Channel 5 documentary *70 Stone & Almost Dead*.

A hopeful Mr Martin said beforehand: "I'd resigned myself that either I was going to die in my bed or I was going to kill myself. But now I think 'you stupid person'.

"I'm a lot more confident than I used to be. I feel a lot happier.

"In a few months' time I want to be up and walking

"I know the only person to blame is me. All those years wasted. I'm not going to waste anymore of it."

Having been stuck in his house for ten years and bedridden for several years due to his size, Mr Martin was able to drop 350lbs in order to qualify for the surgery after switching to a 2,000 calorie a day diet.

But just a week after the

procedure he discharged himself from the hospital, against doctors' orders, because he was homesick.

By October 2013 he was back in hospital with septic shock and dehydration. Two weeks later he contracted pneumonia.

Mr Martin spent four months in hospital before he was released in February 2014, having been deemed medically fit. His weight had dropped to 550lbs.

After being transported home he said: "I feel great about surviving the operation.

"It gives me a chance now to go do some of the things I wanted to do - to get myself up and walking, take my dog Benji out for a walk.

"This is the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new chapter. Where it takes me I don't know, but it's going to be fun finding out."

But just a month later he was dead.

# Retired builder, 72, turns 'pothole vigilante' by mending craters - and gets job offer from council

A retired builder who became a 'pothole vigilante' by repairing road craters on his own has been signed up by his council to fix them full-time.

Resourceful Reg Winsor, 72, got so fed up waiting for a huge pothole on his street in Devon to be repaired that he took matters into his own hands and fixed the hole himself.

Reg, from Ilsington on Dartmoor, decided to do it as he had had enough of people moaning but doing nothing.

He said: 'I'd been complaining about this pothole for months and even though I was going through the right means, nothing was done about it.

## 'impressed'

'It's simple really - they haven't got the money to do it, so I just decided to do it myself. The tarmac was given to me by local labourers and the rest I had myself.'

The job took him just 15 minutes - and council roadworkers were so impressed by his handiwork they offered him a full-time position fixing problem potholes.

Reg is about to take part in a two-hour 'course' on how to fill in potholes before he is let loose on the rutted roads of county Devon - and he has already mustered up a team of around 50 volunteers, dubbed 'Reg's Army', who will help him fix holes as they are reported.

Devon County Council have agreed to provide him with all the tarmac he needs although he will be using his own tools - and doing the work for free.

Reg said: 'I'm a



**LOCAL HERO:** Devon builder Reg Winsor has been offered a full-time post by his local authority - and he's agreed to do it for free

volunteer, I don't get paid for it. The highway guys came to my house and asked me to do it.

Reg used tarmac and a thumper given to him by a friend to fill a pothole on his street - nicknamed

'The Crater' by residents - after contractors failed to fix it.

The following day he was visited by two men from Devon County Council's highways department, who

suggested he should go on a course.

Reg, a local parish councillor, said of his new charitable endeavour: 'We're saying that we are happy to fix any pot holes in the area.'

## Father's agony as daughter is taken to US

**The father of an eight-year-old girl who was unlawfully taken to live in America by her mother says he will not stop until he is reunited with his daughter.**

Nathan Lawrence from Birmingham has been fighting for his daughter's return in the Family Courts for months in private but in an unusual step by a judge, he's been given permission to make his case public.

Mr Lawrence told Sky

News that he has tried everything to get his ex-partner Natalie Lewis to bring eight-year-old Jessica Monkman home since they moved without warning in March.

It's believed the mother and daughter are living in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr Lawrence said: "The first I heard about the disappearance was from the school.

"I dropped Jessica off on the Friday and later

the next week her teacher called me to ask why she had missed school.

"I couldn't believe it, I didn't even get a chance to say goodbye. I'm heartbroken, I feel like life has just paused."

West Midlands Police has been working with local police in Ohio to investigate the 'abduction' but since a 'safe and well' check was carried out with the mother and daughter, nothing has happened.



**NEW PROJECT:** the Python star has directed a new movie, *Absolutely Anything*

## Terry Jones makes rare local appearance to plug new movie

**THE AERO Theatre in Santa Monica on Sat. Dec. 13th will feature a rare local appearance by a man best known for portraying lower-class British housewives, Spanish Inquisitors and naked organists. Step forward, Terry Jones.**

The Monty Python star will appear at the Montana Avenue theatre for a theatrical double bill of **The Life of Brian** and **Erik the Viking**, sponsored by the American Cinematheque. Between shows Jones will provide a very special early first look at his new directorial effort, **Absolutely Anything**, described as a raucous comedy starring Simon Pegg, Kate Beckinsale, Rob Riggle, The Monty Pythons and the late Robin Williams, where a group of aliens empower an earthling to be able to do "absolutely anything" in order to see how badly he'll screw things up. As chaos ensues, the fate of the world lies in

the balance. The film is written by local expat and former BBC documentary maker Gavin Scott, who lives and works in Sunset Park, Santa Monica.

**Absolutely Anything** is far from Jones's first foray into the director's chair. He was the credited co-director (with Terry Gilliam) of Monty Python and the Holy Grail, and took sole possession of the director's chair for later Python outings including **The Life of Brian** and **The Meaning of Life**.

The following day, Sunday Dec. 14th the format of the evening will be repeated, but this time between showings of **The Meaning of Life** and Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Special Ticket Prices: \$16 General, \$14 Students/Seniors, \$12 Members. Screening format: 35mm.

The Aero Theatre is located at 1328 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica. Tel: (310) 260-1528.

# Here come the Brits!

■ Golden Globe nominations put Redmayne, Cumberbatch and Oyelowo into Oscar contention

A TRIO OF British stars established themselves as early Oscar favorites on Thursday following the release of the Golden Globe nominations.

Benedict Cumberbatch, Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones are among a host of British stars in contention for the baubles, which are handed out by the often-derided but still hugely influential Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Cumberbatch, Redmayne and fellow Briton David Oyelowo make up three of the nominees for best actor in a drama.

Felicity Jones, Redmayne's co-star in Stephen Hawking biopic *The Theory of Everything*, is up for best actress in a drama, as is *Gone Girl*'s Rosamund Pike.

The 72nd Golden Globes will be held in Beverly Hills on 11 January.



**NOMINATED:** David Oyelowo gets a nod for his portrayal of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in *Selma*

Cumberbatch's citation comes for his role as World War II code breaker Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game*, for which Keira Knightley gets a best supporting actress nod.

Bookmakers William Hill make Redmayne their 10/11 favourite to win the best actor in a drama award, with Cumberbatch just behind at 6/4.

Redmayne said he was "beyond thrilled" and would "have a few mulled wines to celebrate", while Jones, who plays Hawking's first wife Jane in *The*

*Theory of Everything*, said it was "a tremendous moment to get the news".

Oyelowo, who got his start in the British spy drama *Spooks*, got the nod for his portrayal of Martin Luther King Jr. in the civil rights saga *Selma*, which is also up for a best drama prize, competing with *Boyhood*, *The Imitation Game*, *The Theory of Everything* and *Foxcatcher*.

Other British names in the mix include Ralph Fiennes, nominated for his comic turn at the center of *The Grand*



**BEAUTIFUL MIND:** Redmayne as Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*



**HOT STREAK:** Benedict Cumberbatch is nominated for *The Imitation Game*

*Budapest Hotel*. The Wes Anderson directed film comedy or musical shortlisted for best comedy joins *Birdman* and the redoubtable *Into the Woods*, *St Vincent* and oft-nominated *The Hundred-Foot Journey*, *Dame Helen Mirren* is also in with a shout, as is *Emily Blunt* for *Into the Woods*.

# Local Brits do their bit for 'Football Remembers'

British Consul-General Chris O'Connor, TV presenter Ross King, former *Gladiators* star Mark "Rhino" Smith and TV writer/producer Kris Lythgoe were just a few of the eminent Brits who gathered for a friendly game of football last week to commemorate the centenary of the famous Christmas truce of World War One.

A BAFTA-backed team lined up on one side against a team comprised of the business and diplomatic community on the other, as local Brits did their part for the Football Remembers

campaign, which his being led by Prince William and in which embassies and consulates around the world have organized football matches and seminars to spread the message of peace, unity and goodwill. The campaign culminated in Belgium this week when UEFA boss Michel Platini unveiled a statue in remembrance of the combatants from both sides, German and the Allies, who put aside war on Christmas Day, 1914, and left their trenches to celebrate with each other. Defying the orders of their officers, the troops

ceased hostilities for a few brief hours to play a football match in the mud of no-man's land, as well as to sing carols, swap gifts and share a drink or two. The Germans won the match 3-2, according to the journal of Kurt Zehmisch, a soldier from the 134th Saxon Regiment.

This week's contest began with a reading of excerpts of the Poet Laureate's Christmas Truce poem before the (friendly) hostilities commenced. Other participants included Xan Rufus-Isaacs, Jamie Donovan, Kris Lythgoe,



**NOT JUST FUN AND GAMES:** the crowded field at this week's football friendly to commemorate the Christmas Truce of 1914 (photo: Kevin Parry)

Julian Stone, TJ Summerfield, Matthew Griggs, Muru Subra, Jim Ramini, Bobby Wiseman, Jon Piddock and Kevin Parry.

**Brits in LA**

# Meet a Member: Bazza J. Holmes

Meet Bazza J Holmes. He moved his photography business from London to Los Angeles 13 years ago.

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

It's almost like LA chose me. My first trip to the US was to LA in '92. I was Time Out magazine's staff photographer. They sent me to photograph Van Halen in a rehearsal studio in Burbank and at The Whiskey A Go-Go on Sunset. I was 21 years old on assignment, driving a T-top rental car along Sunset Blvd. listening to Hotel California. It was a great first taste of this sprawling collection of neighborhoods. While I didn't immediately connect with the city, it

certainly hooked my attention. After a motorcycle accident and multiple trips to the sun, I realized I could live here and my leg didn't need to worry too much about forecasting the rain.

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

Naturally my family, but outside of that big miss, I have an odd one for you. The US boasts about its power as a world leader with their Constitution, big cars and large servings of food. However, they run a measly 110-120 volts out of their regular wall sockets. In the UK I could run a bunch of 2k lights on any property I rent for a shoot due to our much more capable

220-240 volts. You'd think that the US would puff up and run 480 Volts.

**What do you find the biggest difference is living here versus Hoxton, London.**

While I lived in a loft in London, the biggest difference might still apply. Generally we have a bathroom for each bedroom along with built in closets, rather than wardrobes, which never seem big enough.

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

While it's not quite hidden, I have a favorite view which everyone should look from, behind the Hollywood sign. Seeing LA from here is a

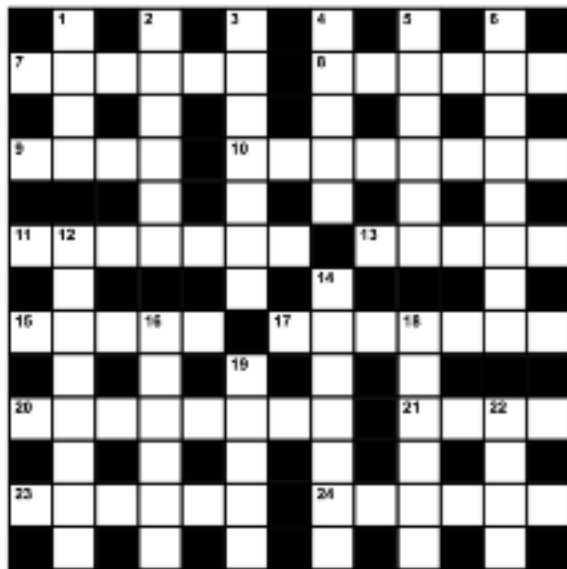


vast contrast to any view you may find, be it from the Dolby Theatre, Beachwood Canyon or Griffith Park. **And where can we find you online?** Find me at [www.barryjholmes.com](http://www.barryjholmes.com)

## The British Weekly Crossword #144

Crossword by Myles Mellor

- Across**
- 7 Famous English clock (6)
  - 8 Unaged brandy (6)
  - 9 For \_\_\_ (4)
  - 10 Mirror (8)
  - 11 Innovation (7)
  - 13 Provide some quality (5)
  - 15 Kind of butterfly (5)
  - 17 Minuscule amount (7)
  - 20 Croaky (8)
  - 21 Not yours (4)
  - 23 Box-in (6)
  - 24 50/50 proposition (4-2)



- Down**
- 1 Old audio system (2-2)
  - 2 Acquire (6)
  - 3 Straighten (7)
  - 4 Prejudice against old people (5)
  - 5 One who sets up shots (6)
  - 6 Sign of appreciation (8)
  - 12 Silver-tongued (8)
  - 14 Imitate (7)
  - 16 Full grown (6)
  - 18 End (6)
  - 19 Fruit for wine (5)
  - 22 Proper \_\_\_ (4)

Solution to Puzzle #143



## The British Weekly Sudoku #12

SUDOKU by Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.



Solution to Puzzle #11





## Stargazing with Annie Shaw

**ARIES:** In any relationship situation you will find that whatever was a problem will soon begin to ease as Mars your boss moves into your money area of life. Then at last you will see the truth of it all.

**TAURUS:** Your priority should be taking care of YOU in any area that requires attention and start with what you can handle right now. Be aware that Mercury, the planet of all communications will be on your case by mid-month if you resist.

**GEMINI:** The sun in your opposite sign Sagittarius can bring out a very creative side of you and it also favors getting a handle on any part of life or person that is causing you emotional upset. He who hesitates is the loser!

**CANCER:** The consequences will be long-reaching if fall out with another - especially if it's a close friend or family. It's best to say only what you have to in this situation. An apology of sorts is overdue here.

**LEO:** Your health issues or those of someone close are stopping you from participating in life. Be sure to get enough rest and things will pick up in a positive way by mid-month. You are starting to let go of any past upsets.

**VIRGO:** It's time you took time out for you in whatever area is stressing you out. The holidays are nearly here and you should be feeling ready at least.

**LIBRA:** If you have anything you need to be working on get it done by mid-month as Mercury will hold you back until January and with all the holiday rush you could forget or delay doing something important.

**SCORPIO:** Financial situations leave a lot to be desired this year past; however starting mid-month an opportunity will arise to bring all to completion. Then a lot of these issues will start to be resolved.

**SAGITTARIUS:** If you want to change anything waiting around for others to make the first move is not a good idea. Family situations will be a priority these next couple of weeks so take care of this area soonest. Have a great Happy Birthday!

**CAPRICORN:** You may be feeling confused or angry or even melancholy; don't fret it's the end of your old year and as we are all part of nature it is a natural way of being. Good news is it's not long until the new one begins on the 21st.

**AQUARIUS:** You are probably feeling a bit frustrated this week as life has not been as you would wish. And as we move into mid-month unfinished business will get done. A family situation will come to a head in some way.

**PISCES:** Why are you relying on others to show you the way? With Jupiter in your sign of power this month its upward and onward for you lucky fish. It's a good time to have any kind of business meeting this month.



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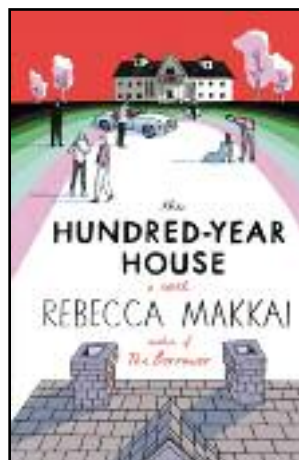
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# The Hundred-Year House: a ton of tales

■ Exclusive interview with author Rebecca Makkai and a review of her novel about a house haunted by one hundred years of history  
Rating: ★★★



BY  
**Gabrielle Pantera**

"I had very strange good luck as I wrote," says **The Hundred Year House** author Rebecca Makkai.

"There's a ladybug infestation in the first part of the novel, and as I was reading the page proofs, a ladybug flew down and landed on the manuscript, on the word ladybug. Prior to that, when I was writing the section set in 1955, I picked an old cookbook off the shelf at the artists' residency where I was staying, and a letter

written in 1955 fell out of the book. It was all about how this woman had fired her cook, something I incorporated into the novel."

Houses are like people. They go through changes and take on the personalities of those who live in them. Makkai goes backwards in time to the beginning of Laurelfeld House. Her plot twists and turns reveal the secrets of the house and those who lived there. Ghosts both real and

imagined.

Laurelfeld's first owner, Violet Devohr, a Marxist English professor, is thought to have committed suicide. Then the house is turned into an artists' colony in 1906, until later it's turned back into a private residence. At the turn of the twenty first century, Zee, the grand daughter of Violet, moves back to Laurelfeld. She and her husband Doug move into the coach house. Doug, an unemployed writer, is

working on a book about one of the former residents, the poet Edwin Parffit. Can you ever really move back home, especially when it's haunted?

Makkai began writing *The Hundred Year House* as a short story about two couples living together in the coach house of a large estate. "Other than that, it had nothing in common with the book I wound up writing," says Makkai. "It took several years to see that it wasn't meant to be a story but a novel, and longer than that to realize that the narration could, and should, move backwards through time."

The book is set in four different years: 1999, 1955, 1929, and 1900. For the middle two in particular, Makkai had to do a lot of historical research. "I remembered 1999 well, it was the year I graduated

college, and the 1900 section is very brief. Some of this research I did through immersion in the books and movies of the time, and of course the Internet is helpful for things like finding photographs of file cabinets manufactured in 1949. But I accomplished most of my research by ordering old magazines and Sears catalogs off eBay."

This is Makkai's second book. Her first, *The Borrower*, came out in 2011. She's received awards for her short stories, particularly *The Best American Short Stories*.

"Several editors were interested in my first novel," says Makkai. "So, I was able to choose someone who really got the book, but who was also willing to push me. Editing on a schedule is a challenge, as I have

young children at home [4 and 6], and their plans do not always jibe with the plans of the New York publishing world."

Makkai's story collection, *Music for Wartime*, is coming out next July. She's getting started on her next novel, which is set in the 1980s art world, against the backdrop of the AIDS epidemic.

Makkai says she loves traveling to promote her books. "Especially to places like Little Rock, Arkansas, or Manhattan, Kansas, that I'd never have known were so lovely."

Makkai was born and still lives in Chicago.

*The Hundred Year House*  
by Rebecca Makkai.  
Hardcover: 352 pages,  
Publisher: Viking Adult  
(July 10, 2014), Language:  
English ISBN-13:  
978-0525426684 \$26.95



## Lisa V lights up the night at Palm Springs Festival of Lights

Lisa Vanderpump spent last weekend in her favorite getaway town, Palm Springs - where the TV personality served as Grand Marshall of the Palm Springs Festival Of Lights Parade.

The event took place on Saturday night and Lisa looking stunning wearing a diamond encrusted Marc Bouwer faux fur.

The star was joined by her *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* husband, Ken Todd and their trusty pooch Giggy, who looked characteristically adorable in his little white formal wear as all three were escorted around town in a cream Bentley convertible.

Though Lisa is famously a resident of Beverly Hills, the restaurateur's history with Palm Springs makes her an excellent candidate to lead the 23rd annual parade.

Last summer the reality star was honored with a place on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars and has provided fundraising for the community's organization, the Desert AIDS Project.

The British personality has also developed quite a local following as a steadfast advocate for the LGBT Community and a spokesperson for

GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). She was named Queen of the White Party Palm Springs and received an ICON Award from event producer Jeffrey Sanker, and she fundraises locally for charities such as Desert AIDS Project.

"Palm Springs is so welcoming and wonderful," Vanderpump says. "I just love the fact that the city embraces the LGBT community."

Lisa posted pictures from the event to her Instagram, where she noted she was "honored" to be the leading lady of the night.



**GOOD DEEDS:** Lisa Vanderpump's charitable works have made the expat Brit a popular visitor to the desert playground of Palm Springs

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**Brits in LA**



# Christmas Shopping tips, festive theatre and Toscar time...

**Greetings Breeps!**

How's the Christmas shopping going? If the mall is starting to pall following Black Friday, you may want to follow my lead in terms of doing your gifting online; I've been visiting the UK stores and shipping the goodies directly to loved ones in the UK. I've been doing it this way after one painful year when I bought gifts here and had them shipped them over .....only for my family to pay gift tax on the items - Don't copy my mistake the hard way!

**Last drop of Vortex...**

If you don't have plans for tonight (Saturday) you might (just) be able to

snag a ticket for the final performance of **The Vortex**. This is our last weekend and what a journey it was. For those who came to see us or support us one way or another this wonderful Noel Coward play, I can't thank you all enough. And I shall miss my onstage family.

Speaking of Coward, the unstoppable Angela Lansbury is bringing **Blithe Spirit** to The Ahmanson Theatre downtown this week and a whole bunch of us are going along on the 16th - See if you can get some discounted tickets and join us for drinks beforehand at **Kendal's Bistro**. Visit [www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets](http://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets)

ckets. And just to prove that when it rains, it pours – at least when it comes to fun theatre – it's panto season back home but you can get your fix locally with a new production of **Sleeping Beauty** at the Pasadena Playhouse starring **Lucy Lawless**. So for plenty of 'he's behind you', and a bit of "Oh, no he didn't" get your tickets now. Check out the link at the top of the BW website: [www.british-weekly.com](http://www.british-weekly.com)

**Breakfast goodies**

Those clever folks at **Air New Zealand** surprised some lucky Breakfast club goers this week with tickets to see **The Hobbit** at the IMAX and two limited edition Hobbit model planes. Our breakfast club is always great fun and has a good turnout and next week we're doing a pre-Christmas a toy drive at breakfast club to benefit **ADOPT-A-LETTER** - so if you plan on coming (as always, our breakfast will be held at **Cecconi's** in West Hollywood at the junction of Robertson and Melrose) please consider bringing an unwrapped



**IT'S ALL FIRST CLASS HERE:** This week's British Breakfast featured good reads, good grub and Air New Zealand-sponsored giveaways

toy or two. The local kids will appreciate it greatly. Another festive and fun

thing to do to get into the Christmas spirit around the hols is to visit

downtown LA's **Pershing Square** where they build a fabulous outdoor ice-rink. We paid them a visit one of our very first Brits in LA trips about 7 years ago. And after you've made like Sonja Henie or Robin Cousins, head over to The Biltmore Hotel for some spiked cider or hot chocolate.

Another winter tradition is also underway – yes the **Toscars!** Alumni members are signing up – fast and by the time you read this the remainder of the participation tickets will have gone on sale- so make sure to join our Facebook page to find out how to sign up!

Anyway I wish you all a great holiday season, safe travels to all those heading home, keep warm and say hello to the motherland for us!

**Cheers!**  
**Craig**

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Legal Notices

on, in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014335451. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: The Elf Tailor, 458 E. Tujunga Ave., Apt. F, Burbank CA 91501.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014336065. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: 420 Warehouse, 21146 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills CA 91364.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014336074. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Dynamic Flow Sales, 1607 W. Benbow St., San Dimas CA 91773.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014336076. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: William Rau Automotive Woodwork, Rau Automotive Woodwork, Rau Restoration, 2027 Pontius Ave., Los Angeles CA 90025.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014336078. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: MSSD Management Group, 3811 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach CA 90807.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014336159. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Fitzgerald Financial Services, 15315 Magnolia Blvd., Suite 415, Sherman Oaks CA 91403.

authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.)

Statement of Withdrawal From Partnership Operating under Fictitious Business Name: 2014336182. Current file: 2014201429. The following person has withdrawn as a general partner from the partnership operating under the fictitious business name of Soundrite Events, located at: 1304 N. Highland Ave., Suite 265, Los Angeles CA 90028.

Order to Show Cause for Change of Name. SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766

In the Matter of the Petition of ANGEL MARTINEZ GARCIA, an adult over the age of 18 years.

Date: 01/30/15. Time: 8:30am in Dept. J, 4th Floor

It appearing that the following person whose name is to be changed is over 18 years of age: ANGEL MARTINEZ GARCIA. And a petition for change of names having been duly filed with the clerk of this Court, and it appearing from said petition that said petitioners desire to have their name changed from ANGEL MARTINEZ GARCIA to ANGEL MARTINEZ.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all persons interested in the above entitled matter of change of names appear before the above entitled court to show cause why the petition for change of name(s) should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described must file a written petition that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Dan T. Oki Judge of the Superior Court

KSO18517 Published: 12/06/14, 12/13/14, 12/20/14 and 12/27/14

Order to Show Cause for Change of Name. SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 200 West Compton Blvd., Compton CA 90220

In the Matter of the Petition of JUANITA LETICIA ALVAREZ, an adult over the age of 18 years.

Date: 01/06/15. Time: 8:30am, in Dept. B, Room 906

It appearing that the following person whose name is to be changed is over 18 years of age: JUANITA LETICIA ALVAREZ. And a petition for change of names having been duly filed with the clerk of this Court, and it appearing from said petition that said petitioners desire to have their name changed from JUANITA LETICIA ALVAREZ to LETIZIA ALVAREZ.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all persons interested in the above entitled matter of change of names appear before the above entitled court to show cause why the petition for change of name(s) should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described must file a written petition that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the British Weekly, a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of said petition. Dated: Nov. 13th, 2014.

William Barry Judge of the Superior Court

TSO17402 Published: 12/06/14, 12/13/14, 12/20/14 and 12/27/14

NOTICE Pursuant To California Self-Storage Facility Act (B & P Code 21700 ET SEQ) the Undersigned Will Sell At Public Auction. Notice Of Public Sale Of Personal Property: The Personal Property Including, But Not Limited To Listed Items Stored By The Following Persons Or Their Persons On The 17th day of December, 2014 At: 1:00pm At: AA Olympic U-Store SS 3250 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404, (310) 829-2525

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014317751. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Lakeshore Learning Store, 2695 East Dominguez Street, Carson CA 90895.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014319720. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Co-Pilot Arts Documentation, 1028 Stanley Ave., Los Angeles CA 90019.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014320658. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Little Composers Academy, 850 Main St., Apt. L, El Segundo CA 90245.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014329113. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: 4m Services, 1841 East Workman Ave., Apt. 48, West Covina CA 91791.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014321172. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Arereh Company, 15348 Penilla Avenue, Paramount CA 90723.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014324130. The

following person(s) is/are doing business as: Y & G Investment Company, 6919 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys CA 91406.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014325462. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Graham&Co., 2240 Cambridge Street, Los Angeles CA 90006.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014325804. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Buildingbooks, 1621 Barry Ave., #104, Los Angeles CA 90025.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014327031. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Spirit Capture, 9422 Harrell St., Pico Rivera CA 90660.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014327697. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Mi Canton Property Investments, LLC, 2078 WesleyGrove Ave., Duarte CA 91010.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014329113. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: 4m Services, 1841 East Workman Ave., Apt. 48, West Covina CA 91791.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014329197. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Qi Yuan TCM & Tea Time, 13211 Whittier Blvd. Unit F, Whittier CA 90602.

statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 11/18/2014. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the County Clerk.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014329554. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Table Topit, 3420 Military Ave., Los Angeles CA 90034.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014330307. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Pure Vitality Rejuvenation Center, 11640 San Vicente Blvd., Suite 103, Los Angeles CA 90049.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014330431. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Ready Set To Go, Bar on the Fly, 5611 Carlton Way #402, Los Angeles CA 90028.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014330605. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: S2DIO, 420 S. San Pedro Street, Suite 523, Los Angeles CA 90013.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014331120. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Continuous Santa Monica, 5405 Wilshire Bl., Suite 386, Los Angeles CA 90036.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014331549. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Sexy In Private, 4748 W. 173rd Street Apt. E, Lawndale CA 90260.

statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014331964. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Madcapra, 317 S. Broadway, Los Angeles CA 90013.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014332000. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Law Offices of John S. Hinman, 3730 E. Broadway, Suite E, Long Beach CA 90803.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 20143331795. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: Balzhi Farm, 256 S. Alexandria Ave., Los Angeles CA 90004-5504.

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name: 2014333436. Current file: 2014316492. The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: Cypress Tree Services, 5051 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne CA 90250.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014333864. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: PT Professional Services, 10138 Garvey Ave., E3, El Monte CA 91733.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014334450. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: A.B.U.S., 981 W. Arrow Hwy, #118, San Dimas CA 91773.

Fictitious Business Name Statement: 2014335020. The following person(s) is/are doing business as: The Phone Spa; Phone Spa Ss, 22750 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills CA 91364.









BW Sport

Monday Results

Barclays Premier League SOUTHPTN (1)...1 MAN UTD (3)....2 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

Tuesday Results

UEFA Champions Lge Group A JUVENTUS (0)...0 AT MIDD (0)....0 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

UEFA Champions Lge Group B LIVERPOOL (0)...1 BASLE (3)....1 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

UEFA Champions Lge Group C BENFICA (0)...0 BAYER LEV (0)....0 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

UEFA Champions Lge Group D B DORTMUND (0)...1 ANDERLECHT (1) Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

William Hill Scottish Cup Fourth Round Replays ALBION (0)...0 BERTWICK (0)....1 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

Wednesday Results

UEFA Champions Lge Group E BYN MUNICH (1)...3 CSKA MCON (0)....0 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

UEFA Champions Lge Group F AJAX (1)...4 A NICOSIA (0)....0 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

UEFA Champions Lge Group G CHELSEA (2)...3 SPORTING (0)....1 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

UEFA Champions Lge Group H ATH BILBAO (0)...2 BATE (0)....0 Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

Celtic edged in Zagreb thriller

Poor defending cost Celtic away to Dinamo Zagreb as a Marko Pjaca hat-trick ensured they finished Europa League Group D with a defeat on Thursday.

Kris Commons and Stefan Scepovic scored in-between two first-half Pjaca strikes, who netted again following Marcelo Brozovic's curling shot.

Josip Pivacic's late own goal gave Celtic hope of an equaliser.

But they fell short of a fourth but took away the consolation of having already qualified for the last 32.

With a place in the knock-out stages already secured, Ronny Deila picked a makeshift team with captain Scott Brown and Scotland team-mate James Forrest both rested.

However, the defending will concern the Norwegian manager with Celtic continuing to ship goals in Europe.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino bemoaned two "laughable" stoppages due to floodlight failure as his side slipped to a decisive defeat against Besiktas.

The 1-0 loss relegated Spurs to second place in their Europa League

group and means they face a tougher draw in the next round.

Pochettino described the stoppages as "difficult to explain", adding: "We had a chat with the referee and you need to accept the situation.

"It's frustrating if that happens, it was laughable. It's not good for reputation of the competition."

Spurs dominated the first period, with Nacer Chadli having a goal ruled out and Roberto Soldado missing an excellent chance.

But the hosts improved in the second half and Cenk Tosun scored the decisive goal from Olcay Sahar's low cross.

It was the second straight Europa League match in which Spurs have had to contend with temporary abandonments, after their game against Partizan was halted three times due to pitch invasions.

On that occasion, Tottenham kept their composure to win, but in Istanbul they could not find the goals needed to retain their advantage at the top of the group.

It means they could

Europa League Round-up

face one of the Europa League group winners or seeded Champions League teams in the next round - including Zenit St Petersburg, managed by former Spurs boss Andre Villas-Boas.

EVERTON'S much-changed side fell to a Europa League defeat as Krasnodar's Ricardo Laborde took advantage of a Joel Robles error to score the winner.

England Under-18 captain Ryan Ledson was one of four debutants as Roberto Martinez - whose side had already won Group H - gave his youngsters a chance.

Laborde ran on to a through ball and checked to score at the near post, with keeper Joel badly positioned.

Striker Arouna Kone played 90 minutes as he ended a 14-month injury absence.

We deserve more credit - Pellegrini

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini believes his depleted side deserve more credit after progressing to the Champions League last 16.

A 2-0 win in Roma, combined with Bayern Munich's 3-0 victory over CSKA Moscow, secured City's place in Monday's draw despite the absence of key players.

"This team deserves a little bit more credit than the press gives us," Pellegrini told Sky Sports. "Trust has been key. I had a lot of trust in what we could do."

City's sixth victory in succession was secured despite the absence of captain Vincent Kompany and top goalscorer Sergio Aguero through injury, plus suspended midfielder Yaya Toure.

Weekend Premier League

Table of Premier League results and tables for the weekend, including teams like Hull, Liverpool, Manchester City, Newcastle, QPR, Stoke, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, West Ham, West Brom, Sunderland, Everton, Chelsea, Burnley, Arsenal, Crystal Palace, Leicester, and Swansea.

Weekend Skybet Results & Tables

Large section containing Skybet results and tables for various football leagues including the Premier League, Championship, League One, League Two, and the FA Cup. It includes team names, scores, and league tables.

SCOTLAND Scottish Premiership table listing teams like Aberdeen, Hamilton, Dundee, Motherwell, Partick, St Mirren, Celtic, Hearts, Rangers, and others with their respective league positions and statistics.

# Lawro blasts 'rudderless' Reds

■ **Rodgers feels the heat as Basel draw ensures quick end to Champions League campaign**

Liverpool are "rudderless" and "going backwards just as fast as they went forwards last season", according to former player Mark Lawrenson.

Lawrenson says he is baffled by some of the team selections and accuses manager Brendan Rodgers of changing his side "like he does his socks".

The veteran BBC pundit also says Daniel Sturridge will not prove to be the "saviour" of the Anfield club.

Yet he feels the Reds can still qualify for next season's Champions League.

Liverpool went out of the Champions League at the group stage following Tuesday's 1-1 home draw with Basel and lie ninth in the Premier League ahead of Sunday's visit to Old Trafford to face Manchester United.

Lawrenson believes the club have regressed since the fixture between the sides last March, when Steven Gerrard scored two penalties and missed a third in a 3-0 victory over the then Premier League champions, and worries that Rodgers seems unsure of how to set up his team tactically.

**'all over the place'**

"It is eight months since Liverpool blew Manchester United away to win 3-0 at Old Trafford but it seems an awful lot longer than that," he said.

"To be frank, Liverpool are all over the place at the moment. They are rudderless, low on confidence and do not seem to have a definitive way of playing."

The former Liverpool and Republic of Ireland defender was particularly scathing

about Rodgers' team selection for the must-win match against Basel at Anfield, feeling that England international Adam Lallana, 26, should have started in midfield and questioning the inclusion of Jose Enrique at left-back.

"I do not understand some of Brendan Rodgers' selections - leaving Lallana out against Basel mystified me, as did the inclusion of Enrique, who looked overweight," he said.

Liverpool finished runners-up to Manchester City in the Premier League last season, in large part thanks to Luis Suarez's 31 goals in 33 matches, and Lawrenson feels that Rodgers has failed to adequately replace the Uruguay international, who joined Barcelona in July in a £75m deal.

"Some of Liverpool's key players have lost



**UNDER PRESSURE:** Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has seen his Champions League ambitions come to an early end this season

form but what has happened this season shows how much they relied on Suarez and Sturridge - those lads were clearly more than just 50% of the goals, they were 50% of the whole team," he continued.

"That's the only

conclusion you can draw from what has happened without them."

Sturridge has not featured in the first team since the start of September after suffering thigh and calf injuries and Lawrenson warns that the England striker may take time to

match the form he showed last term in partnership with Suarez.

"Sturridge is getting built up as Liverpool's saviour because they have struggled in his absence. But he won't be. We don't even know when he will be back," he said.

## Wrath of Khan or Alexander the Great?



**GETTING READY TO RUMBLE:** Britain's Amir Khan and his opponent Devon Alexander flank promoter Oscar de la Hoya in Las Vegas on Thursday ahead of Saturday's WBC Silver Welterweight title bout at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. The fight can be seen on Showtime. (©HoganPhotos)



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7am Chelsea v Hull  
7am Leicester v Man City  
7am Sunderland v West Ham  
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**Sun 12/14**

530am Man Utd v Liverpool  
8am Swansea v Tottenham

**Mon 12/15**

Noon Everton v QPR



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