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Robbers net up to £200m in audacious gem heist

■ Meticulously planned robbery in Hatton Garden may be Britain's biggest-ever

LONDON'S famed jewelry district Hatton Garden was left stunned this week by a daring raid that may have netted in excess of £200m in precious gems.

In what may ultimately become Britain's biggest-ever heist, the robbers concocted a sophisticated scheme in which they appear to have started a major underground fire at Holborn tube station before the raid to disable alarm and communications equipment.

Power and phone lines went down leaving 5,000 homes and businesses without electricity during what investigators said was an electrical fire.

The gang is understood to have broken into offices above the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit company before cutting through the roof, abseiling down a lift shaft, and using heavy equipment to break through 18-inch-thick metal doors to access the vaults.

They managed to disarm the sophisticated alarm and steal the CCTV system's hard drive before spending the Bank Holiday weekend

drilling into up to 70 security boxes and plundering their contents.

The gang was almost caught out when an alarm went off on Friday afternoon, but a security guard checked the main doors and left "because he didn't get paid enough" to investigate further.

'dust and debris'

A Metropolitan police spokesperson described the "chaotic" scenes that greeted officers when they entered the vault of Hatton Garden Safety Deposit Ltd on Tuesday, discovering scores of the empty boxes "strewn" over the floor.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Johnson of the Flying Squad, which is heading the investigation into the theft, told reporters that forensic experts found no sign of forced entry on the outside of the building, which houses a number of other businesses and has a

communal entrance.

The Met spokesperson said the unidentified thieves used a heavy duty Hilti DD350 drill to bore holes in the two-metre thick re-enforced concrete wall of the vault.

A local jeweller said that residents had been prepared for the sound of drilling after many received a letter informing them of works related to an ongoing construction project on the City's Underground. Officers arriving on Tuesday found a vault "covered in dust and debris," with the floor "strewn with discarded safety deposit boxes," Det Chf Insp Johnson said.

Scotland Yard confirmed that as many as 70 safe deposit boxes had been opened. The thieves had also discarded "numerous" power tools, including an angle grinder, concrete drills and crowbars, some of which are believed to

cont. on page 7, col. 1



HEAVY LOSSES: The Hatton Garden Safe Deposit facility was used by many local jewelers to store uninsured gems over the bank holiday weekend

Redheads Rule! Harry woos 'em down under...



Prince Harry proved a big hit on walkabout in Canberra this week (page 5)

This Week at Westminster

Labour 'too weak' to handle SNP alliance claim nervous Tories

NICOLA Sturgeon would be the dominant player in any post-election alliance between Labour and the SNP, the Conservatives claimed this week as their opponents inched ahead in the polls.

Chancellor George Osborne said the SNP leadership is "much stronger" than "weak" Labour leader Ed Miliband and that Ms Sturgeon would be "running the government" in any pact between the two parties.

In his starkest warning yet on the potential influence of the SNP, Mr Osborne spoke of a "deeply disturbing" threat to the UK as the main parties clashed over the likelihood of an anti-Tory alliance in the event of a hung

parliament.

A minority Labour government dependent on SNP MPs for its survival would be forced to make policy concessions to the Nationalists in order to remain in office, the Chancellor said.

Mr Osborne stepped up the Tory attack on the prospect of such a pact after Ms Sturgeon, who replaced Alex Salmond as First Minister of Scotland in November, offered a new deal to Mr Miliband to be part of an anti-austerity alliance of Labour and the SNP to "lock David Cameron out of Downing Street".

Meanwhile, Labour's shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, Chris Leslie, said the SNP was "playing political games" and wanted the

Conservatives to win the election so that the Nationalists could force a second referendum. Mr Leslie said the SNP "believes in totally different things" to Labour.

Ms Sturgeon issued her fresh appeal to the Labour leader after she strenuously denied making comments contained in a leaked memo at the weekend that Mr Miliband was "not prime ministerial material".

Liberal Democrat Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael has confirmed that the leaked memo, which contained an account of a private meeting between Ms Sturgeon and the French ambassador, was written in the Scotland Office.

Opposition edge into four point lead

IN THE CLEAREST sign yet that the upcoming General Election will bring about a change of government in Westminster, the Labour Party has taken a small but possibly decisive lead in the opinion polls.

With less than a month to go before the May 7th election, the survey by polling firm Survation and conducted for the Daily Mirror newspaper, put Labour four points head of the Tories, with Labour leader Ed

Miliband also overtaking Prime Minister David Cameron in terms of net personal approval ratings.

It was the first time Miliband had outpolled Cameron since Survation began asking voters about personal approval ratings



SITTING PRETTY? new polls suggest Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is poised to hold the balance of power following the General Election on May 7th

in January, the company said.

The poll put support for Labour on 35 percent, up from 33 percent since the firm's last poll on April 3, while the Conservatives dipped 1 percentage point to 31 percent.

Support for the anti-EU United Kingdom Independence Party fell 3 percentage points to 15 percent, while the Liberal Democrats were unchanged at 9 percent, and the Scottish Nationalists and Greens had 4 percent each.


The poll surveyed 1,111 people on Wednesday and Thursday. Miliband announced on



VICTORY AT HAND? Ed Miliband has edged ahead of David Cameron in the personal approval ratings

Wednesday that he wanted to scrap tax rules that allow wealthy individuals to legally reduce the amount of tax they pay on money earned overseas.




The Survation poll found 59 percent of respondents supported the idea. A separate poll, by Yougov for The Sun newspaper on Wednesday, gave Labour a one percentage point lead over the Conservatives.



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DISTRIBUTION: Mirelle Woolf, Mercedes Grey
SUBSCRIPTIONS: 6 months: \$33; 1 year \$54 (1st Class)

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Royal relief as judge orders Andrew sex allegations struck from court record

■ Allegations a 17-year-old was forced to sleep with Prince Andrew erased

■ Virginia Roberts had attempted to join lawsuit against the U.S. government

Allegations that a 17-year-old was forced to have sex with Prince Andrew, which prompted a crisis at Buckingham Palace earlier this year, have been removed from a federal court case by a judge in the US.

Judge Kenneth Marra ordered Virginia Roberts's accusations about Andrew, the Duke of York, to be struck from the record and denied her attempt to join a lawsuit against Jeffrey Epstein, a friend of the prince and a convicted sex offender.

"At this juncture in the proceedings, these lurid details are unnecessary," Marra wrote in his order, issued at the US district court in southern Florida on Tuesday morning. "These unnecessary details shall be stricken."

'immaterial'

Andrew and Buckingham Palace vehemently deny Roberts's allegations.

Marra made no ruling or statement about the veracity of Roberts's allegations. He said the "factual details regarding with whom and where" she had sex were "immaterial and impertinent" to her argument that she should be allowed to join the lawsuit.

However, Marra noted that Roberts may yet appear as a witness when the long-running case finally goes to trial.

Brad Edwards, an attorney for Roberts, said in a statement that her legal team "absolutely

respect" the judge's ruling, which had recognised Roberts's right to take part in the case as a witness. Roberts said: "I'm happy to get to participate in this important case."

A Buckingham Palace official said the Duke had been informed of the Florida court's ruling and was spending this week in private, before resuming his schedule of public engagements next week.

intense pressure

His spokesman declined to comment further but referred back to repeated palace denials of Roberts claims, including a 3 January statement that "it is emphatically denied that the Duke of York had any form of sexual contact or relationship with Virginia Roberts. Any claim to the contrary is false and without foundation."

Five court filings in the Florida case, including a document filed on December 30 last year in which Andrew was first accused, were immediately sealed from the public.

The filing at that time placed Andrew under intense pressure, forcing him to return to his home at Windsor from Verbier in Switzerland where he was on a skiing holiday with a party including his daughter Princess Beatrice.

The duke only resumed public engagements at the World Economic Forum in Davos in late January where he was pursued by reporters and used a short speech "to reiterate and to

reaffirm" the existing emphatic Buckingham Palace denials of what courtiers described as "lurid and deeply personal" claims.

plea agreement

Buckingham Palace broke with convention to directly address the sex claims, and Andrew approved a statement which vehemently denied "any form of sexual contact or relationship with Virginia Roberts". It continued: "The allegations made are false and without any foundation."

Roberts, who is referred to in the case only as Jane Doe 3, and a fourth woman were seeking to join two other alleged victims of Epstein in suing the US government over a plea deal that federal prosecutors struck with the hedge fund tycoon in 2008.

Under the plea agreement, Epstein pleaded guilty to soliciting prostitution from an underage girl. He received an 18-month jail sentence and served 13 months before being released. He remains a registered sex offender in Florida and the US Virgin Islands, where he lives on a private island.

The agreement was criticised as being extraordinarily lenient by attorneys for a series of women who allege that Epstein sexually abused them when they were under the age of consent. The FBI, which took over the investigation into Epstein, said it had identified dozens of



FEELING THE STRAIN: Andrew vehemently denied "any form of sexual contact or relationship with Virginia Roberts".

potential victims.

Roberts has for years alleged that she travelled around the world with Epstein as his "sex slave" and was made to have sex with some of his influential associates, including prominent politicians and royalty.

defamation lawsuit

Miss Roberts now faces legal action for defamation by another high-profile target of her allegations.

Alan Dershowitz, the prominent US lawyer whose clients have included Mike Tyson and OJ Simpson, has said that he will pursue a defamation case against Roberts and her legal team.



HEAVY PRICE: Virginia Roberts, pictured with the prince, is now facing a defamation suit from high-powered attorney Alan Dershowitz

Mr Dershowitz, who was named in the same court filings, has said that he will pursue a defamation suit and hoped that Ms Roberts would be jailed for perjury if she repeated the allegations under oath. "I'm confident that at the end I'll be vindicated and everybody will understand this is a completely made-up story," he told the New York Daily News.

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News From Britain

Could black gold make Gatwick the new Dallas?

■ Over £300bn worth of oil 'discovered' in West Sussex site has potential to be "world class resource"

WEST SUSSEX could become the Texas of the home counties following the discovery of a significant oil field close to Gatwick Airport.

The exploration company UK Oil & Gas Investments made the bombshell claim this week, saying analysis

conducted on the site means the site could yield up to 158 million barrels of oil per square mile. The company's licenses cover 55 square miles of the Weald Basin, a region spanning Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire.

This suggests that the site could hold over 8.6

billion barrels of oil - just under a fifth of the amount that has been pumped out of the North Sea in the past 40 years.

At the current oil price of around \$58 a barrel, the amount of oil UK Oil & Gas Investments claims is lying under the West Sussex countryside



NOT QUITE READY FOR TAKE-OFF: the low price of oil means that Gatwick's oil potential may not be unlocked for some years to come....

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would be worth just under \$500bn, or £336bn. However, the company cautioned that it may only be able to extract a fraction of those reserves from the site.

'complicating factor'

A number of industry experts have expressed scepticism about the size of the discovery. Mike Jakeman, a global commodities analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit, said: "The bargain price of oil

at the moment means that only the cheapest oilfields are being exploited.

"Higher-cost ventures, such as Canada's oil sands and off the coast of Brazil, are not economically viable at the current price level. And this discovery in the UK would almost certainly fall into this category, regardless of whether there was the additional complicating factor of fracking involved."

the potential to be a "world class potential resource".

News of the discovery has raised concern among environmentalists. Dr Doug Parr, the UK chief scientist of Greenpeace, said: "To gleefully rub your hands at a new fossil fuel discovery you need to turn the clock back to the 19th century and ignore everything we have learnt about climate change since.

Stephen Sanderson, the chief executive of UKOG, said that his company had drilled the deepest well in the region in 30 years. It has also been able to call on cutting-edge technology and data interpretation techniques. This had "comprehensively change the understanding of the area's potential oil resources".

'alarm'

"We already have more than enough coal, oil and gas reserves to fry the planet. Dotting the English countryside with drilling rigs and pipelines to squeeze the last drop of oil out of Britain doesn't make any sense."

Brenda Pollack, a Friends of the Earth South East campaigner, said: "The prospect of dirty oil extraction in southern England will greatly alarm local communities and put fracking firmly on the region's election agenda."

concern

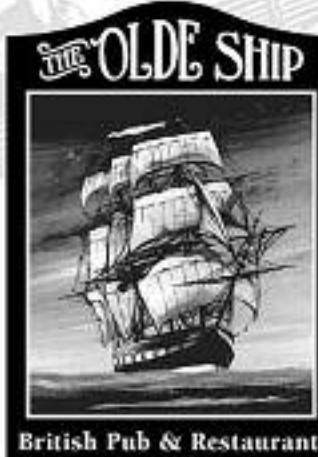
He added: "Appraisal drilling and well testing will be required to prove its commerciality, but this 'Weald hybrid play' has the potential for significant daily oil production."

UKOG said the area near Gatwick, sometimes dubbed "Britain's Dallas", had

Shares in UK Oil & Gas Investments surged as much as 325.3pc to 4.7p on the news amid ferocious demand for the stock from private investors.

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'Redheads RULE!' - Harry enjoys a hero's welcome in Australia

PRINCE HARRY enjoyed a right royal welcome this week when he took part in a walkabout in the Australian capital, Canberra - and was even greeted with a banner proclaiming: "Redheads RULE!!!"

The sign, which was held up by 12-year-old Ethan Toscan, who said Harry had told him that being a redhead 'has to be the number one thing a person can ever be'.

He said: "He said that I was fabulous in making the sign and it's awesome to be a redhead."

"I'm over the moon - it's just wow! I got to shake his hand!"

Harry's meet and greet came after he laid a wreath at Australia's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Canberra before he reported for duty.

Harry is in Australia as part of a month-long tour of duty with the Australian Defence Force.

The Prince, who is known as Captain Wales



STAR ATTRACTION: Harry is on a month-long tour of duty with the Australian Defence Force

in the Army, is due to leave the military later this year.

He started his Army career as an officer cadet at Sandhurst in 2005.

He has served in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he served as the co-pilot of

an Apache helicopter.

After he leaves the Army, he will volunteer supporting Case Officers in the MoD's Recovery capability programme, which works with people receiving and giving care in the London area.



GINGER SOLIDARITY: Harry mugs for the cameras in Canberra

The Queen sent a message to Australia's Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin.

She wrote: "I am delighted that the long and enduring association between the Australian and British armies will be joined by the military secondment of my grandson, Prince Harry."

"Together, our armed forces share skills, resources and resolve in order to uphold and defend our common values."

"In 2015, when together we commemorate the many sacrifices of our

countrymen at Gallipoli a century ago, it is fitting that we can also reflect on the strength and persistence today of those common values and our professional military ties."

"I know that Captain Wales will benefit greatly from spending time with the Australian Diggers and I thank you for welcoming him into your ranks. Elizabeth R."

During his time in the country the Prince will spend time at army barracks in Sydney, training on helicopter simulators in Perth, where he will train with the Special Air Service, and

Darwin where he will work with members of Norforce, the mostly indigenous unit that patrols the remote northern Australia territory.

He is also looking forward to learning how wounded servicemen and women are supported in Australia, having worked with the Ministry of Defence's Personnel Recovery Unit in the UK, Kensington Palace added.

Harry will join his father the Prince of Wales at the Gallipoli commemorations in Turkey on April 24 and 25.

Wills on alert for baby number two

WITH THE BIRTH of his second child scheduled for the next two weeks, the Duke of Cambridge has ensured he is ready to rush to wife Kate's bedside at a moment's notice.

Prince William (pictured, right) is currently training for his new job as a helicopter pilot with East Anglian Air Ambulance - but he will never be more than two hours away in case he needs to dash back to London.

The duke and duchess still do not know if Prince George's sibling - which Kate has said is due in the

second half of April - will be a boy or a girl, according to a royal source.

The couple are planning to return to the Lindo Wing, the private maternity department of St Mary's Hospital in Paddington where Prince George was born, for the birth.

But contingency plans are in place for hospitals in Norfolk or Berkshire in case Kate goes into labour outside London, according to sources.

The duke will take two weeks paternity leave and join his family at Kensington Palace

immediately after the birth, where they will spend a few days before travelling to Anmer Hall, their Norfolk home.

A royal source said: "The Duke and Duchess are hugely grateful for the warm wishes they have received from people throughout the UK and indeed around the world and over the last few months."

"They know that people are excited that Prince George will soon have a little brother or sister, it means a great deal to them that so many will be celebrating this important moment for

their family and sharing their excitement."

The delivery team will be led by Guy Thorpe-Beeston, surgeon gynaecologist to the Royal Household, who is a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

The birth of the child will be announced on the official Kensington Palace Twitter account and also in the traditional manner - with a royal bulletin displayed in Buckingham Palace's forecourt on the same ornate easel used when George was born.



News From Britain

Top Gear will continue...with Sue Perkins hot favorite to take over from Clarkson

■ Great British Bake Off host considered rising star at the Beeb

A flurry of bets has seen Great British Bake Off host Sue Perkins installed as favourite to replace the ousted Jeremy Clarkson in hit motoring show Top Gear.

The star, who also presents an afternoon chatshow on ITV with Bake Off co-star Mel Giedroyc, is the front-runner for the job according to bookmakers Coral.

They make her evens to take the job, ahead of Dermot O'Leary who is 2-1, with Jodie Kidd third favourite at 5-2.

The firm's spokeswoman Nicola McGeady said: "This latest gamble suggests that Sue Perkins is being

lined up to replace Jeremy Clarkson on Top Gear. When betting first opened on Clarkson's successor, it was one-way traffic for Jodie Kidd and now today's flutter has convinced us that a female is in the driving seat".

Clarkson's future remains uncertain, and on Thursday it emerged he had backed out of plans to return to on the BBC later this month hosting the satirical quiz show Have I Got News For You.

He was the subject of an internal BBC investigation after he attacked Top Gear producer Oisin Tymon, splitting his lip and verbally abusing him in a 30-second assault on 4

March. He was suspended by the broadcaster on 10 March before it announced his contract would not be renewed.

But in better news for the controversial star, local police have announced they will not be taking any further action on the incident.

It emerged last week that Clarkson will appear on stage with his former Top Gear colleagues, Richard Hammond and James May, later this year to fulfil a series of shows planned before he left the BBC.

The move has sparked rumours the three men intend to team up to continue their careers together after Clarkson's



IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT? the BBC are said to be determined to give Sue Perkins the lead role at Top Gear to help restore the tarnished luster of their biggest hit exit from the corporation, other two presenters - Hammond and May - is unconfirmed report in the Sun this week, the trio in negotiations for a new auto show with the popular streaming service Netflix.

Craig has surgery for Bond damage

Daniel Craig has had surgery to repair a knee injury sustained while filming scenes for the new James Bond film.

Eon Productions said he had had a "minor procedure" in New York during a break in production over Easter.

A spokeswoman denied reports the 47-year-old had missed several days of filming on the 24th Bond film, Spectre.

"During a scheduled break, Daniel Craig had arthroscopic surgery to repair his knee injury. He will rejoin production on April 22nd at Pinewood," she said.

Filming on Spectre began at Pinewood Studios, in Buckinghamshire, last December, and has since moved to Rome and Mexico.

It is Craig's fourth



HAZARDOUS PROFESSION: Craig as James Bond

outing as the secret service agent, and follows the success of 2012's Skyfall, which made \$1.1 billion (£737 million) worldwide.

The film features Christoph Waltz playing a character called Oberhauser - which, in the novels, is the name of Bond's former skiing instructor. However, it has been rumoured the actor will be revealed as Bond's old nemesis, Ernst Stavro Blofeld.

Blofeld was the "number one" in Spectre, an international crime syndicate which last featured in the Sean Connery-era films.

The shady organisation also counted the metal-handed scientist Dr Julius No and eyepatch-wearing Emilio Largo amongst its villainous ranks.

Spectre will be released on 6 November 2015.



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96 year-old sex offender becomes Britain's oldest serving prisoner

A 96-year-old man has become the oldest serving prisoner in the British Isles after he was jailed for a series of sexual offences.

Gaston John Pinsard was sentenced to 18 months after admitting nine charges of indecent assault in which he attacked two young girls in the 1950s and 1960s.

He was first questioned by Guernsey Police officers last year

and immediately confessed to the abuse.

Since then Pinsard has been on bail but has now been sent to Les Nicolles prison on Guernsey for what Judge Russell Finch described as "serious, troubling offences" with "distressing and unpleasant facts".

The Prison Officers Association told Sky News they believed it made Pinsard the oldest serving prisoner in the

British Isles.

The Guernsey court heard how Pinsard touched the first girl on numerous occasions between 1951 and 1955, and the second between 1964 and 1969.

The girls were both between five and nine years old when the offences took place.

The assaults all took place at his home address in St Sampson's, Guernsey.

crime.

"If you know how to bypass all the security devices you're going to have a detailed layout of the whole of the business so clearly they got that from somebody on the inside," the ex-detective said.

Barry Phillips, former operational head of the Flying Squad, said it was "inconceivable" that the gang did not have inside information.

He said: "The raid was well planned and well executed. They must have had inside information to be able to get into a premises like that, to know the routes, the vulnerabilities, the lift shaft, and to defeat a state-of-the-art security system."

Mr Phillips said police would never know the true value of what was stolen due to the inherently secretive nature of the safety deposit box industry.

He added: "A number of people use them to hide their assets from family or for tax purposes or because they are hiding ill-gotten gains."

Former Flying Squad chief Roy Ramm said he "would not be surprised" if the stolen gems were worth £200 million,

although he said the figure would probably never be declared in full.

He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "There's a sort of old-fashioned audacity about it. The amount of money and the goods that are taken is never fully revealed... and there's a good chance that not everybody would declare."

not insured

Local jewellers said the victims would be small, independent business and workshop owners who used the boxes to store their stock overnight and who did not have their own safes.

Michael Miller, a jeweller from Knightsbridge, London, faces the prospect of losing up to £50,000 as the contents of his safety box were not insured. But he said some boxes would be worth several million pounds.

"I have a collection of watches I was going to give my son and that is irreplaceable," he said. "I bought an IWC GST Aquatimer on the day my son was born and I was going to give it to him when he turns 18. They don't make them anymore."



OLD LAG: Gaston John Pinsard of Guernsey said he was ashamed of himself and described himself as a "filthy devil".

Pinsard told police he knew what he was doing was wrong but he had urged he could not resist. He said he was ashamed of himself and described himself as a "filthy devil".

Pinsard's legal

representative told the court on Thursday about his own horrific childhood, which included being sexually assaulted at Haut de la Garenne boy's school in Jersey where he was born.

The judge said he had no choice but to impose a custodial sentence and said he had considered that Pinsard may die or become ill while in prison, despite being in good health for a 96-year-old.

Robbery:

cont. from page one

have been used to drill through the concrete wall.

During the press conference Det Chf Insp Johnson emphatically refused to answer many questions concerning the boxes, telling reporters that the forensic examination of the crime site was still on going.

"Officers are in the process of identifying the owners of the safety deposit boxes and as we do, we are contacting them to take statements and find out what has been stolen," a later statement read.

The details come amid claims that Premiership footballers are among the victims of the heist, believed to be the largest ever successfully carried off in the UK, and further speculation surrounding the perpetrators.

inside information

Spokesman John O'Connor suggested that the robbers would have likely needed inside information to carry out the elaborate raid – and said the high degree of organisation is a clue to who committed the

Drug resistant superbugs 'could kill 80,000', government warns

Up to 80,000 people could die in an outbreak of a drug-resistant infection because of new superbugs, a Government forecast has warned.

The report estimates that a total of 200,000 people would be expected to be infected by a widespread bacterial blood infection that could not be treated effectively with existing drugs.

Over the next two decades the number of infections complicated by superbugs are expected to rise significantly, according

to a Cabinet Office document.

The National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies, which provides guidance on potential threats such as terror, flu and natural disasters, notes that routine medical treatments could become "high-risk" because of the growing resistance to antibiotics. The report states: "Much of modern medicine (for example, organ transplantation, bowel surgery and some cancer treatments) may become unsafe due to the risk of infection. In addition, influenza

pandemics would become more serious without effective treatments."

The assessment continues: "The numbers of infections complicated by AMR (antimicrobial resistance) are expected to increase markedly over the next 20 years.

"If a widespread outbreak were to occur, we could expect around 200,000 people to be affected by a bacterial blood infection that could not be treated effectively with existing drugs, and around 80,000 of these people might die."

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Local News

BritWeek is back!

It's that time of year again. BritWeek is almost upon us and as usual the organizers have put together a dazzling display of the very best in British business, arts and culture. Below is a complete list of the events we can all enjoy over the coming few weeks. For more details and tickets, visit www.britweek.org

Apr 17 | Quinn Archer At The Silverlake Lounge
 Apr 17 | British Music Night at Whisky a GoGo –
 Apr 17 | Grammy-winning British guitarist Albert Lee at the Baked Potato -
 Apr 19 | BritCode: Coding for Kids - Invite Only
 Apr 20 | Simon Amstell: To Be Free -
 Apr 21 | BritWeek 2015 Launch Party (Invite Only)
 Apr 21 | London Transplants Exhibition
 Apr 22 | Aynhoe Park arrives at Shangrila
 Apr 22 | Battersea Power Station Development Company Luncheon in partnership with BritWeek
 Apr 22 | 'British Subjects' Rock Photography Exhibition curated by Julian Lennon and Timothy White – (Invite-Only)
 Apr 23 | Suite 700 DJ Party
 Apr 23 | BritWeek UKTI Business Innovation Awards
 Apr 24 | BritWeek 'Visual Artist of The Year' Q&A with Greg Escalante - a founder of Juxtapoz Art Magazine (Invite Only)
 Apr 25 | BritWeek Presents Kaiser Chiefs
 Apr 25 | Santa Monica Rugby Club - Open to the Public
 Apr 25 | BritWeek's 'Visual Artist of The Year' Exhibition Opening - Open to the Public
 Apr 25 | BritWeek Robertson Blvd Shopping Stroll - Open to the Public
 Apr 26 | 'Village Green Preservation Society Tea Party' - Hotel Shangri-la Courtyard
 Apr 26 | Skybar Celebrates Britweek! Playa Escondida Pool Party Featuring EVIL TWIN + Surprise British Guest - RSVP
 Apr 26 | British Sunday Roast at ChefDance
 Apr 27 | NewFilmmakers Los Angeles and BritWeek Present a Focus on British Short Film -
 Apr 29 | BritWeek Christopher Guy Design Icon Award and Reception
 Apr 30 | University of Kent Innovation in Academia Award
 Apr 30 | 'Puccini meets Sinatra' - Tenor Gus Farwell & TV & recording star Richard Shelton at the Sofitel' - Open to the Public
 Apr 30 | Artist Talk: Thomas Heatherwick
 Apr 30 | Digital LA Panel: Growing Your Startup in LA and UK
 Apr 30 | Novation and Dublab Present: The Second Summer of Love
 Apr 30 | London Calling at LAB ART
 Apr 30 | Fox Searchlight and NewFilmmakers Los Angeles Present a Screening of "Far From the Madding Crowd"
 May 01 | Film and Television Summit
 May 01 | BritWeek Scotch Tasting at The Pikey -
 May 01 | "A Lad Insane" By Brian Duffy at Mr. Musichead
 May 02 | Play Rugby USA Childrens Tournament - Open to the Public
 May 02 | Steve Cooke & Steve Ferrone celebrating British Rock'n Roll at the Sayers club - Open to the Public
 May 03 | Rugby After Party and Awards (Invite Only)
 May 03 | LA Theatre Works and The National Theatre present The NT Live screening of Tom Stoppard's "The Hard Problem"

Brits telling great stories: the classical past comes to life at the Getty Villa this weekend



GLORIOUS SETTING: the Getty Villa is modeled closely after a first-century Roman country house, the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, Italy.

■ Master storytellers Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden return with captivating tales of Ancient Greece

Imagine being transported back to ancient Greece through the power of suggestion alone.

Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden, British storytellers renowned for their passionate, evocative and accessible retellings of Greek myths will return to the Getty Villa, bringing these ancient stories to life on April 10th, 11th and 12th at the Getty Villa Auditorium.

Drawing inspiration from the current exhibition **Dangerous Perfection: Funerary Vases from Southern Italy**, Lupton and Morden will animate the images from the Apulian vases in the exhibition, such as the depiction of



CAPTIVATING: Hugh Lupton and Daneil Morden will weave some magical tales at the Getty Villa this weekend

Jason, the leader of the Argonauts and his hunt for the Golden Fleece. Lupton and Morden last appeared together at the Getty Villa in 2007 to great critical acclaim. They have performed all over the world on the radio, at festivals, at schools and in theatres, and their work as a pair includes the celebrated retelling of the Greek

epics, as well as a book titled *Demeter and Persephone*. At the Villa they will recount "The Calydonian Boar-hunt," a Greek episode of heroism told and re-told throughout antiquity that follows the great Meleager who sets out to slay a monstrous boar in the forest. A tale of revenge, fate and competition,

appropriate for ages 12 and over, the moving story also touches on love and disappointment.

These myths still have the power to charm and chill us today, remaining part of our consciousness millennia after they were first created.

Master Storytellers with Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden are scheduled for Friday, April 10, at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 11, 2015, at 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, April 12, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available by calling 310-440-7300 or visiting www.getty.edu. The running time is approximately 90 minutes.

Meet A Member: Andrew de Burgh

Meet Andrew de Burgh from Berkshire, England who moved to LA 3 years ago to pursue acting and filmmaking.

I miss taking walks in the English countryside and pretending I'm a Hobbit in the Shire.

Robertson Boulevard is my favorite Thai restaurant in LA. Check it out if you're in the mood!

Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

I came with my parents to Orange County in 2006 when my Dad was offered a job out here. I finished two years of high school in the OC, then did my studies at Pepperdine University then decided to make the move to LA after to pursue acting and directing. Los Angeles is the Film and TV capital of the world and there is no better place for me. But the traffic definitely gets on my nerves!

What one thing do you miss from home?

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

It's a completely different world to be honest. The pace of life is probably the biggest difference.

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

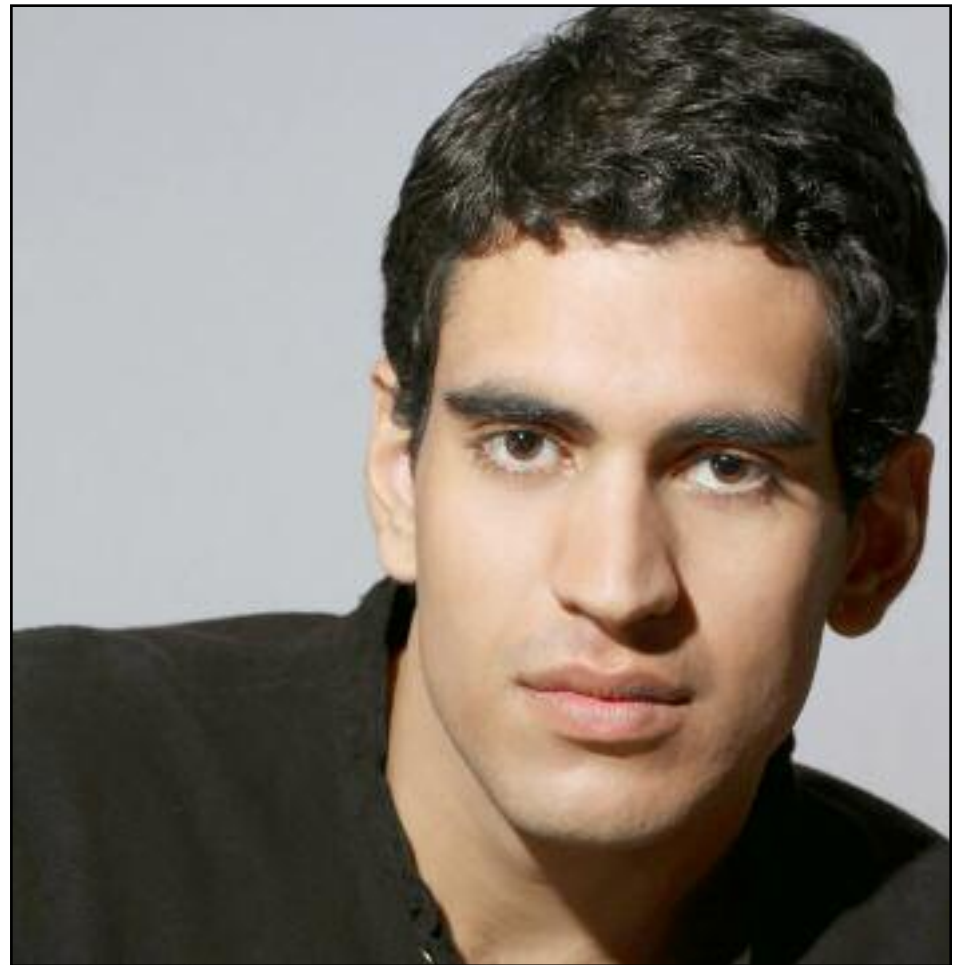
It's not exactly hidden, but Urth Caffe on Melrose is one of my favorite places. Partly because I love the TV show 'Entourage' (many scenes were filmed there) but the Green Tea Boba drink they serve is phenomenal. And Natalee Thai on

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

Go for it! Sometimes in life, it's important to throw yourself in the deep end and just make it happen.

If your your life was a TV show what would be the theme tune and why?

The theme tune would be "Hard work conquers all". Though there are other factors that dictate success in life, I believe that hard work should be emphasized more than others simply because it is one of the only things



GONE NATIVE: Andrew de Burgh loves his Greeh Tea Boba from Urth Caffe (photo - Harrison Yager)

you're in control of and is the key to a successful career, whatever industry it may be in.

Lastly, how can we find out more about you?

You can check me out on

IMDb and for the last year I've dedicated the majority of my time to a film that I wrote, directed, produced, and acted in 'Just One Drink'. Check it out on youtube or at twitter.com

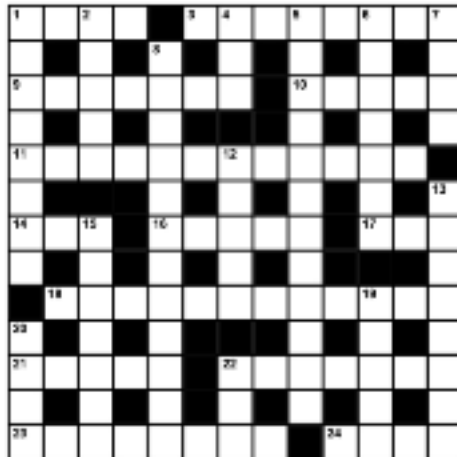
/ShortFilm_2015 In addition to the above, Andrew also keeps Brits in LA up to date on all the football news. Check out his column at britsinla.blogspot.com

The British Weekly Crossword #159

Crossword by Myles Mellor

Across

- 1 "___ Springs Eternal" (Pope poem) (4)
- 3 Showed dissent in court (8)
- 9 Used-car datum (7)
- 10 Collect slowly (5)
- 11 Military commander's assistant (5,7)
- 14 Scoundrel (3)
- 16 Insecticide target (5)
- 17 Physicist Georg (3)
- 18 It's already done (4,8)
- 21 Disentangle (5)
- 22 Latin American coin (7)
- 23 Pedigree (8)
- 24 Abandon (4)



Down

- 1 Nostalgic, in a way (8)
- 2 Dance (5)
- 4 "Moves like a butterfly, stings like a ___" (3)
- 5 Woodwinds used in "The Philosopher" Symphony by Haydn (7,5)
- 6 To that matter (7)
- 7 Musty (4)
- 8 They are related, in a way (4-8)
- 12 Swiss capital (5)
- 13 Person who eats all kinds of foods (8)
- 15 Severe (7)
- 19 A ___ in the sun (5)
- 20 Big brass (4)
- 22 Dirty dog (3)

Solution to Puzzle #158

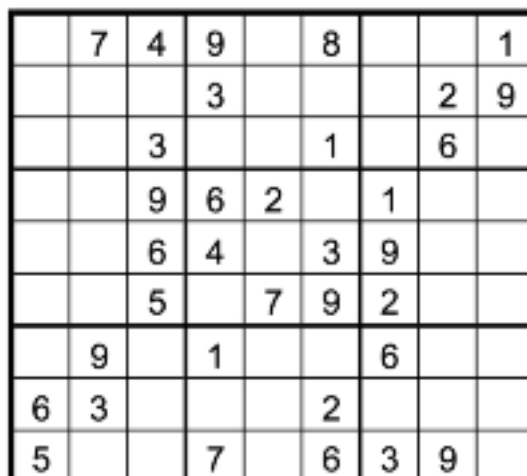


The British Weekly Sudoku #159

SUDOKU by Myles Mellor and Susun 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.

Level: Medium



Solution to Last Week's Sudoku



Stargazing with Annie Shaw



ARIES: With all planets possible lined up in your life there are good and no-so-good outcomes possible. Those that are positive will show up this month; the rest is out of your control, so no need to worry.

TAURUS: On the upside you can expect a call from someone from the past and this time you need to be upfront, honest and speak very frankly about your feelings. You will likely want a holiday soon...wait until mid May.

GEMINI: The sun in your cousin sign of Aries will bring out your mellow side and it favors getting a handle on any part of life that you have not resolved. Be open as you can be as this is the right time to deal with it.

CANCER: The consequences will be long-reaching for you if you do not reconcile with one whom you have had a longstanding dispute. The self-deceiving Neptune in your cousin's sign of Pisces can make you somewhat melancholy for a few days this week.

LEO: This is a time for the inner artist to show him/herself for some of you who are not participating in life as you know you can. This month could end on a note of self pity if you don't take action now.

VIRGO: It's time for a trip, and short or long, near or far matters not as you benefit from the change of scenery. Just make sure you wait until mid-month as the planets will be better lined up then for you.

LIBRA: One of the universe's big beasts, Uranus, is in your opposite sign of Aries right now so first do not travel before end of the month if possible. If someone asks for financial help be sure you get the repayment terms in writing.

SCORPIO: Jupiter in your career and power area is moving forward now after several months sleeping so don't plan too far forward on any plans you thought you had. Expect all sorts of opportunities to come into your life.

SAGITTARIUS: If you are worried about finances and are not doing anything to change the situation then expect to feel crazy. The good news is that Jupiter is going to start revving up his engines this coming week.

CAPRICORN: You may be feeling a bit restless or not in balance. This due to your boss Saturn in the fire sign of Sagittarius. He is letting you know something in your life is out of balance. Expect to be busier than usual this coming month.

AQUARIUS: Your judgment in a long-term situation is way off and if you follow the same path you did recently expect nothing but a waste of time. Be cool and wait to see how you can change your attitude and THEN you will change the outcome.

PISCES: Your ruler Neptune is in your life for several years ahead and at times you will be both emotional and angry. This is merely a passing away of the old feelings you have lived with all your life. It's time to release and move on now.

Jolly Good

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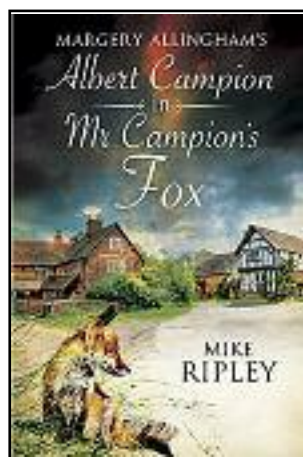
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Mr Champion's Fox: in Margery's footsteps

Exclusive interview with author Mike Ripley and a review of the latest Mr Champion mystery
Rating: ★★★★★



"In 2012 I was given the chance to complete a Mr Champion novel left unfinished on the death of Margery Allingham's widower, Youngman Carter, in 1969," says author Mike Ripley. Youngman Carter had written three Champion novels after his wife's death.

"The reception for that book, Mr Champion's Farewell, from dedicated Allingham fans was so kind and so enthusiastic that I embarked on Mr Champion's Fox", says Ripley. "It features much-loved Allingham characters but is an entirely new story of my

own making. Albert Champion was one of the great detectives of the Golden Age of English crime-writing in the 1930s and ranks alongside Hercule Poirot and Lord Peter Wimsey in the pantheon of famous fictional sleuths."

Mr Champion's Fox is a welcome return to classic British detective novels. The book is humorous, witty and

very engaging. The wry British humour in the dialogue will make you laugh. If you love old movies, think of the repartee between Nick and Nora Charles in The Thin Man.

In Mr Champion's Fox, Albert Champion has retired. That doesn't stop the Danish ambassador asking him to keep an eye on his daughter's boyfriend Frank Tate. Because Albert's retired, he has his son Rupert follow Frank. However, Albert keeps an eye on his son to make sure nothing happens to him. The ambassador's daughter disappears and Frank is found dead. Rupert and his wife Perdita go to stay with their friends the Sandymans, where the ambassador's daughter was an au pair. Can Rupert become the

detective his father is?

"I was introduced to the detective stories of Margery Allingham in 1967, when aged 14 and living in Cambridge, by a philosophy lecturer at the university who insisted I read them," says Ripley. "More than 40 years after I last saw him, I was able to track down that philosopher, now a retired professor, and invite him to the launch of Mr Champion's Fox in Cambridge."

Margery Allingham wrote first Champion book in the series, The Crime at Black Dudley, in 1929. In that first book, Albert Champion is not a main character. In her second novel, Mystery Mile, Albert takes on a much bigger role. Allingham's American publishers preferred this character above the others.

Allingham wrote 17 novels and over 20 short stories featuring Champion.

After Allingham's death, her husband Philip Youngman Carter completed Allingham's novel Cargo of Eagles (published 1968), and two further Champion books: Mr Champion's Farthing and Mr Champion's Falcon.

Mr Champion's Fox is Ripley's 21st published book. He may be best known for the Fitzroy Maclean Angel comedy crime novel series, with a roguish hero who is mostly honest and drives a de-licensed London black cab. "Early fans of the Angel novels, in the 1990s, were Lord Ted Willis, the creator of Dixon of Dock Green, who took me for many splendid lunches in the House of Lords,



Book Corner with
Gabrielle Pantera

and Pierce Brosnan, who went on to play James Bond," says Ripley, "and who invited me on to the set of the film Tomorrow Never Dies."

Ripley is based in East Anglia. He was born in West Riding of Yorkshire.

Margery Allingham's Mr Champion's Fox (Albert Champion Mysteries) Series: Albert Champion Mysteries, Hardcover: 288 pages, Publisher: Severn House Publishers; First World Publication edition (June 1, 2015), Language: English, ISBN: 9780727884787 \$28.95

Love blooming again for Miranda and Orlando?

British film hunk Orlando Bloom is set to rekindle his romance with supermodel ex-wife Miranda Kerr, my sources tell me....

Friends claim the gorgeous couple have grown close again two years after they reportedly split over Orlando's partying...

Ooo-er!

One friend said Orlando and former Victoria's Secret babe Miranda looked like a happy couple during a day at the beach with four-year-old son Flynn recently.

The pal explained: "They get on better now than any time since they first got married.

"They chilled and had fun, just like any other young family.

"They spent the day together and enjoyed each other's company.

"It made them realise



they still have feelings for each other."

Orlando and Aussie Miranda's reunion in Malibu came just weeks after speculation of their revitalised romance mounted after they left the Vanity Fair Oscars after party in Los Angeles together in late February.

The couple, who have not divorced, also spent Christmas together in Britain, with Miranda branding the experience "magical."

A source close to the pair

said they were keen to remain good friends for the sake of Flynn, but that romance could now blossom again.

Miranda is said to have avoided dating anyone else. She has denied a fling with pop star Justin Bieber that saw Orlando almost come to blows with the pop brat.

They are now rumoured to be considering renewing their wedding vows this July, on what would be their fifth wedding anniversary.

Will this new situation of friendly hook-ups convince them to call off their divorce?

Or have Orlando and Miranda found the arrangement that works out best for them?

Either way, you can't imagine either of this lovely couple being left on the 'elf' for long....!



Splitsville for Garfield and Stone?

British star Andrew Garfield and U.S actress Emma Stone are reportedly taking a break from their three-year romance, according to internet gossips....

Long distance appears to be the super-villain in this particular saga...

Really?

According to a People magazine source the "Amazing Spider-Man" co-stars are said to be going on a honey hiatus while Garfield shoots Martin Scorsese's historical drama "Silence" in Taiwan through May, and while the Oscar-nominated



actress finishes production on "Aloha" in Los Angeles - at least that's the story several news outlets were peddling this week.

"Emma understands his work anxieties - it's why she originally pulled out of 'Cabaret' last year and only did it this year - but they're taking a break from seeing each other," an unnamed source said. "They're both a slave to their schedules. This time last year they were privately

discussing marriage."

Despite being in relationship limbo, there is still reason to believe that the duo will work things out once they are in the same place again."

"It's one of those situations where only Andrew and Emma quite know if they'll pick up where they left off or they've separated. They are just separated for work," another source added.

The couple ignited rumors of a split after Stone appeared at numerous awards shows earlier this year sans Garfield, who was born in Los Angeles but raised in Epsom, Surrey.

Another insider confirms that the split is temporary and not an official breakup.

Aww... Let's hope so!

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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

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From the pub quiz to Nelson, this week it was all about the Victory....

I suspected this week would be fairly eventful due to the Blood Moon eclipse last weekend - I find every eclipse always seems to cause a shake up so the colorful red tinge probably only adds to it.

It started off with a 3.1 tremor over in Granada Hills - then we woke up to read the news that one Brits in LA member and regular pub quizzier had gone off to fight against ISIS in Syria! Whether we agree with his decision or not I am sure you will join me in wishing him a safe passage and return.

Boarding Victoria

Monday was eventful in a very pleasant way - It was a day we at Brits in LA had been looking forward to for months - a few of us went along to Long Beach for a fundraising luncheon aboard Cunard's Queen Victoria for HMS Victory. She was kindly donated to the National Museum of the Royal Navy back in 2012, but sadly is not in the best shape and therefore needs our help in raising money to restore her - I was lucky enough as a teen to pay a visit to the HMS Victory at her Portsmouth home. So I can honestly vouch for her beauty and worthiness in being preserved for the next generation. Victory was Admiral Nelson's flagship at the pivotal Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and also the place where he died from his wounds with victory secured. Launched in 1765, at 250

years old it is understandable that this venerable old ship needs a bit of a touch up to enable her to last another 250 years.

The highlight of the day was a viewing of Lord Nelson's life mask - there are only four in existence and the one we got to see is believed to be the oldest! I suppose it could be considered the original 'selfie' - it made me realize how thankful we should be to Lord Nelson and Royal Navy for their fight for Britain's freedom - so by rights the least we can do is donate a few dollars to help preserve this 'living legend' . You can either visit www.nmrn.org.uk or our blog The Anglo Files at britsinla.blogspot.com

for information on how you can help and also attend other events they have coming up over the next few months.

Winning!

Tuesday was jam packed for Brits in LA - kicking off with (literally) Brit Fit Club - then immediately followed by Brits in LA Breakfast presented by Air New Zealand. That evening we were back at the Pikey for Pub Quiz - my team won again! Fix! I hear you cry - but I swear it isn't so. So if you are feeling lucky, come and knock us off our pedestal - I promise we aren't particularly clever as we only beat the team behind us by about half a point! Don't be shy about coming alone, just drop me a line at BritsinLA@gmail.com and I will put you on a team - we are back on April 21st with Sandro Monetti as our quizmaster - visit our website BritsinLA.com for all the details on this and all our other events.

My sister Sally is in town for a flying visit - so I get to see LA through the eyes of a visitor and fall in love all over

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS: special visitor Chico (of X Factor fame) popped in to our weekly British Breakfast at Cecconi's on Tuesday (l to r): JC Mac, Kara Miller, Chico, Craig Young



The original 'selfie'? Eileen with the Lord Nelson life mask (Photo by Sandra McClean)

again! Will report back on any new LA crushes next time...

Don't forget to keep an eye on your water use as we are in a **serious drought**, in spite of the downpour we had earlier this week - simple things like turning off your taps whilst you brush your teeth or not flushing if it is only a wee, can make all the difference!

If you have any good conservation tips you can share them with us on Twitter @BritsinLA

Cheers!
Eileen

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British Weekly

Sport

It's a good time to face our rivals, claims Kompany

■ City skipper upbeat, despite poor run of results that sees team slump to fourth

Vincent Kompany says it is a good time for Manchester City to play local rivals United, despite being overtaken by Louis van Gaal's side in the table.

City's recent record of three defeats in five games, coupled with United's five successive wins, has seen the champions slip from second to fourth.

Before Sunday's meeting, the City skipper said: "It's a good moment to go into a derby.

"It's the perfect place for us to go and try to rectify what we've had."

He added: "A derby is a derby. It doesn't matter what place you are in the league, it's a derby."

Following Monday's 2-1 defeat at Crystal Palace, Manuel Pellegrini's side are fourth, a point behind United and two points behind second-placed Arsenal. Before the weekend, City had been second.

They are now 66-1 for the title, with the gap to leaders Chelsea, who have a game in hand over their rivals, now nine points.

Despite the huge setback to their hopes of retaining the title, Kompany said it was important for City to get



"I think it's our general form that we have to improve - Vincent Kompany

back on to the winning trail.

"My only concern is we get back to our best form," he said.

"I think it's our general form that we have to improve. I've learnt from the past seasons as well that finishing a season strongly can have an impact on your next season as well."

Former Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Corrigan believes some players in the City squad are not fully committed to the cause.

"A manager can tell the team what he wants on pitch, but it's the players who go out and it's their pride at stake," he told BBC Radio 5 live.

"Not all players, but there doesn't seem to be

PREMIERSHIP TABLE						
	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Chelsea	39	21	7	2	63	70
Arsenal	38	19	6	6	62	63
Man Utd	38	18	8	3	58	62
Man City	38	18	7	6	63	61
Liverpool	38	16	6	9	45	54
Tottenham	38	16	6	9	50	54
Southampton	38	16	5	10	42	53
Swansea	38	13	7	11	37	46
West Ham	38	11	9	11	41	42
Stoke	38	12	6	13	35	42
Crystal Palace	38	10	9	12	38	42
Everton	38	9	10	12	39	42
Newcastle	38	9	8	14	33	40
West Brom	38	8	9	14	28	43
Sunderland	38	5	14	12	24	44
Hull	38	6	10	15	29	43
Aston Villa	38	7	7	17	20	42
Burnley	38	5	11	15	26	49
QPR	38	7	4	20	33	35
Leicester	38	5	7	18	29	49

the passion to go out and win."

And City's poor finish to the season has prompted one leading pundit to predict manager Manuel Pellegrini will be fired at the end of the season.

"I think Pellegrini's time will be up," said former Wales midfielder Robbie Savage on BBC's 5 Live.

Fifa rankings: Wales rise 15 places to highest level of 22nd

Wales have reached their highest-ever world ranking after climbing to 22nd in the latest standings released by world governing body Fifa.

Chris Coleman's side have risen 15 places thanks to their unbeaten start to their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign.

Scotland are up 10 places to 29th and England - the highest ranked of the home nations - are up three to 14th, with Northern

Ireland up one to 42nd.

Wales' Euro 2016 qualification rivals Belgium are up to a best-ever third.

Wales topped Group B after beating Israel 3-0 in March but are now second on goal difference behind Belgium, who they face at home in June.

Wales' previous best ranking was 27th, when Terry Yorath's Wales side just failed to reach the 1994 World Cup, but in March 2011 they were as low as 116th.

"It's a fantastic achievement and if it's the highest ever then it shows we're doing something right," said Wales full-back Chris Gunter.

"Chris Coleman said last week that we've lost one game in 18 months so we probably deserve to be there and we're on a good run.

"But as high as we are in the rankings, we want to make sure that come next October we're where we want to be."

Cricket legend Benaud dead at 84

Former Australia captain and legendary cricket commentator Richie Benaud has died at the age of 84.

A pioneering leg-spin bowler, Benaud played in 63 Tests, 28 as captain, before retiring in 1964 to pursue a career in journalism and broadcasting.

His final commentary in England came during the 2005 Ashes series but he continued to work for Channel Nine in Australia until 2013.

In November, he revealed he was being treated for skin cancer.

Benaud took 945 wickets in 259 first-class matches and made 11,719 first-class runs, scoring 23 centuries at an average of 36.50.

He was the first man to achieve 2,000 runs and

200 wickets at Test level.

He was also a highly regarded tactician and never lost a Test series as Australia captain, winning five and drawing two.

After such an impressive playing career, he became even better known as a prolific author, columnist and commentator on cricket.

Following the 1956 Ashes tour in England, he completed a BBC training course while still a player, marking the beginning of 40-year association with the corporation.

His first BBC radio commentary came in 1960, followed by his first television appearance three years later.

With his mellifluous,

light delivery, enthusiastically imitated by comedians and cricket fans alike, Benaud also became the lead commentator on Australian television's Channel Nine from 1977.

At the age of 83, he crushed two vertebrae when his 1963 Sunbeam vintage sports car hit a brick wall near to his Coogee home in Sydney.

Benaud often spoke of a return to commentary, but, to the great sadness of his legions of admirers, it did not materialise.

Benaud, who was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1961 for services to cricket, leaves a wife of 48 years, Daphne, and two children from his first marriage.

Sherwood insists: I was a success at Spurs

Tim Sherwood has insisted his time at Tottenham was a success as he looks forward to his first return to the club since his sacking in May.

The 46-year-old, who takes his Aston Villa side to White Hart Lane on Saturday, was dismissed by Spurs two days after leading them to a sixth-place finish last

season.

"I knew it would be a tough job at Tottenham and it proved that," he said.

"But I was very successful, both as a development coach and as a manager."

Sherwood took over at Spurs in December 2013, after a period running the under-21 side, and went

on to record a 59% top-flight win record, the best of any Tottenham boss in Premier League history.

His replacement, Mauricio Pochettino, added five players to the squad in the summer, at a reported cost of around £35m, but Spurs are currently in the same position they finished last season.

Coutinho:

cont. from back page

Conway in before the Frenchman recovered to rescue his own mistake.

Sakho's evening was about to be cut short by a hamstring injury and the France international was replaced by Kolo Toure.

Liverpool, missing suspended trio Steven Gerrard, Martin Skrtel and Emre Can, enjoyed plenty of possession but did little with it and Eastwood's only moment of serious concern came when he clawed Coutinho's effort around the post.

Blackburn, encouraged by how they had contained the Reds, started on the front foot after the break and Mignolet was called into action to save athletically from Cairney then low to his left from Marshall's header.

Rovers cult hero Rudy Gestede was unable to start because of a slight hamstring problem but Ewood Park rocked as he was introduced for Conway after 64 minutes, instantly creating an opening for Rhodes that came to nothing.

It was the visitors who finally made the breakthrough, though as Coutinho rounded off a one-two with Henderson by hitting a low, driven finish that gave Eastwood no chance.

The Blackburn keeper almost rescued his side with that dramatic late intervention but it is Liverpool who are still alive. And captain Gerrard can still hope for a dream Reds farewell in the final on his birthday, 30 May.

Semi Final Dates:
Reading vs Arsenal (Sat. Apr. 18)
Aston Villa vs Liverpool (Sun. Apr. 19)

City chase Reds trio

Manchester City want to sign three players from Liverpool - 22-year-old playmaker Philippe Coutinho, 20-year-old forward Raheem Sterling and midfielder Jordan Henderson, 24 says the Daily Star. Meanwhile former Reds defender Stephane Henchoz told Talksport that the club are struggling to keep players such as Sterling and Henderson because they cannot compete financially with several other Premier League clubs.

The Guardian claims Southampton right-back Nathaniel Clyne, 24, and midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin, 25, are being watched by Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal.

West Brom are reportedly lining up a move for 29-year-old Marseille striker Andre-Pierre Gignac and will offer him £75,000 a week to move at the end of his contract.

Valencia's Portuguese defender Andres Gomes, 21, has denied

he is on the verge of agreeing a move to Chelsea.

Barcelona are to open talks about a new contract with veteran midfielder Xavi but the 35-year-old has "practically made his mind up" to join Al Sadd in Qatar.

Manager Dick Advocaat will be given a one-year contract by Sunderland if he keeps them in the Premier League.

Meanwhile, United manager Louis van Gaal has got his way over the schedule for their pre-season tour of the United States, basing it on the west coast. The Dutchman was unhappy with last year's tour, which he had no say in planning.

Manchester City left-back Gael Clichy, 29, says criticism of his side's faltering Premier League title defence is

deserved.

Disgruntled Newcastle United supporters are planning a boycott of their televised home game against Tottenham.

Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas, 27, will wear a mask to protect his nose from further damage after it was broken in a challenge

with Stoke's Charlie Adam.

And Aston Villa manager Tim Sherwood says his old club Tottenham were "telling porkies" last season when they say they did not contact other potential managers while Sherwood was still in charge at White Hart Lane.

Tuesday's Results

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Barclays Premier League (Aston Villa 3-0 QPR) and Sky Bet Championship (Blackpool 1-1 Reading).

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Sky Bet Championship (Barnsley 3-1 Reading) and Sky Bet League One (Bristol City 3-0 Swindon).

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Sky Bet League One (MK Dons 2-2 Scunthorpe) and Sky Bet League Two (Barnsley 0-2 Sheff Utd).

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Wednesday's Results

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes FA Cup Sixth Round Replay (Blackburn 0-0 Liverpool), Scottish Premiership (Aberdeen 0-1 Inverness), and Scottish League Two (Barnsley 0-2 Sheff Utd).

Weekend Skybet

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Skybet Championship (Bolton 0-1 Blackpool) and Skybet League One (Barnsley 0-2 Sheff Utd).

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Weekend Scotland

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Scottish Premiership (Aberdeen 0-1 Partick) and Scottish League Two (Barnsley 0-2 Sheff Utd).

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Scottish Championship (Cowdenby 1-3 Dumbarton) and Scottish League One (Falrig 1-1 Raith).

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Monday's Results

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Barclays Premier League (Crystal Pal 1-2 Man City) and Sky Bet Championship (Bournemouth 2-4 Birmingham).

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Weekend Premiership

Table with 3 columns: Match, Score, Attendance. Includes Arsenal 4-0 Liverpool, Chelsea 2-1 Stoke, Everton 1-0 Southampton, Leicester 1-1 West Ham, Manchester Utd 3-0 Aston Villa, Swansea 2-1 Hull, West Brom 0-1 QPR, Burnley 0-0 Tottenham Hotspur, Sunderland 1-1 Newcastle.

No gaffes from Prince Philippe!

**FA Cup Quarter Final
BLACKBURN R.....0
LIVERPOOL.....1**

Liverpool's FA Cup talisman Philippe Coutinho worked his magic again to defeat Blackburn Rovers Wednesday night and set up a semi-final meeting with Aston Villa at Wembley.

The mercurial Brazilian scored a spectacular late winner in Liverpool's fourth-round replay win at Bolton and broke the deadlock at Ewood Park with 20 minutes left to put Brendan Rodgers's side into the last four.

It was a performance short on quality from Liverpool in a quarter-final replay played out on a scruffy surface but all that

mattered was the victory required to keep hopes of success alive this term after successive Premier League losses to top four rivals Manchester United and Arsenal had damaged their hopes of a place in next season's Champions League.

Rodgers insists the Reds can still make the top four - but the FA Cup remains the more realistic success and would be his first trophy in his third season in charge at Anfield.

Liverpool, who will face Villa on Sunday, 19 April in the semi-finals, endured a night of hard toil in the face of a stirring challenge from Gary Bowyer's Championship side.

Blackburn had earned this second chance with a

goalless draw at Anfield last month and will feel hard done by to have not earned a place at Wembley.

The Premier League side were indebted to goalkeeper Simon Mignolet for two outstanding saves early in the second half from Tom Cairney and Ben Marshall - then even more dramatically in the closing seconds as he stopped his opposite number Simon Eastwood from forcing extra time as he came up for a corner.

Liverpool produced the moment of class that mattered when Coutinho exchanged passes with Jordan Henderson before driving in from the angle in front of the elated travelling support



STAR MAN: the Brazilian scored Wednesday to secure Liverpool's semi-final spot

massed into Ewood's Darwen End.

The victory will ease the disappointment of those two crucial losses and Rodgers will hope it

provides fresh impetus for the final seven league games of the season.

On a pitch that hardly lent itself to quality, it was an optimistic long

punt forward that created the first opportunity, Mamadou Sakhó's confusion almost letting Craig

cont. on page 23, col. 1

MARCH 17 - APRIL 12, 2015

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Sun 4/12 English Premier League 8am Man Utd v Man City	Wed 4/15 Champions League 11.45am Porto v Bayern 11.45am PSG v Barcelona
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