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# Litvinenko: Putin 'probably' to blame

- Inquiry points finger at Russian President for murder of outspoken critic in London
- Russians blast report as 'whitewash of British security services' incompetence"

The murder of ex-Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko in 2006 in London was "probably" approved by President Vladimir Putin, an inquiry has found.



**LITVINENKO:** Polonium poisoning

Mr Putin is likely to have signed off the poisoning of Mr Litvinenko with polonium-210 in part due to personal "antagonism" between the pair, it said.

Home Secretary Theresa May said the murder was a "blatant and unacceptable" breach of international law.

But the Russian

Foreign Ministry said the public inquiry was "politicised".

It said: "We regret that the purely criminal case was politicised and overshadowed the general atmosphere of bilateral relations."

Dmitry Peskov, Mr Putin's spokesman, said Moscow's official response to the report will happen through

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## Brits chill in winter wonderland...



**CHILLY UP NORTH:** a lone runner braves the elements at the iconic Angel of the North sculpture in Gateshead this week. Temperatures fell to -15 in some areas of Britain

## News from Britain

# Putin:

cont. from page one

"diplomatic channels", the Russian news agency Interfax was quoted as saying.

Prime Minister David Cameron said the UK would have to go on having "some sort of relationship with them [Russia]" because of the Syria crisis, but it would be done with "clear eyes and a very cold heart".

The long-awaited report into Mr Litvinenko's death found that two Russian men - Andrei Lugovoi and Dmitry Kovtun - deliberately poisoned the 43-year-old in London in 2006 by putting the radioactive substance polonium-210 into his drink at a hotel.

Sir Robert Owen, the public inquiry chairman, said he was "sure" Mr Litvinenko's murder had been carried out by the two men and that they were probably acting under the direction of Moscow's FSB intelligence service, and approved by the organisation's chief, Nikolai Patrushev, as well as the Russian president.

He said Mr Litvinenko's work for British intelligence agencies, his criticism of the FSB and Mr Putin, and his association with other Russian dissidents were possible motives for his killing.

## 'Send a message'

There was also "undoubtedly a personal dimension to the antagonism" between Mr Putin and Mr Litvinenko,

he said.

The use of polonium-210 was "at the very least a strong indicator of state involvement" as it had to be made in a nuclear reactor, the report said.

The inquiry heard evidence that Mr Litvinenko may have been consigned to a slow death from radiation to "send a message".

Giving a statement to the House of Commons, Mrs May said Mr Cameron would raise the findings with President Putin at "the next available opportunity".

She said the UK would impose asset freezes on Mr Lugovoi and Mr Kovtun and that international arrest warrants for the pair remained in place. They both deny killing Mr

Litvinenko.

Both men are wanted in the UK for questioning, but Russia has refused to extradite them.

Speaking earlier outside the High Court, Mr Litvinenko's widow, Marina, said she was "very happy" that "the words my husband spoke on his deathbed when he accused Mr Putin have been proved by an English court".

She urged the UK government to expel all Russian intelligence operatives, impose economic sanctions on Moscow and impose a travel ban on Mr Putin.

For years Moscow rejected allegations of high-level involvement in the murder of Alexander Litvinenko.

The fact President Putin himself is now associated

with this assassination has not changed anything.

One Russian MP, Nikolai Kovalev, himself an ex-FSB boss, pointed out relations between Moscow and London would not be harmed by the report as there was no room for making them any worse.

Responding to the report, Mr Lugovoi, who is now a politician in Russia, said the accusations against him were "absurd", the Russian news agency Interfax was quoted as saying.

"As we expected, there were no surprises," he said.

"The results of the investigation made public today yet again confirm London's anti-Russian position, its blinkeredness and the unwillingness of

the English to establish the true reason of Litvinenko's death."

## 'Harm relations'

London's Metropolitan Police said the investigation into the "cold and calculated murder" remained ongoing.

Alexander Yakovenko, the Russian ambassador in the UK, said Russia would not accept any decisions reached in secret and based on evidence not tested in open court.

The length of time taken to come to these conclusions led them to believe it was "a whitewash of British security services' incompetence", he said.

Mr Yakovenko said these events "can't help but harm our bilateral relations".

# Top Tory blunt over popper use

■ Ex-minister Crispin Blunt said users of the drug were "astonished" by talk of a ban and respect for the law "would fly out of the window" if it happened.

A Conservative MP has told the House of Commons he is a user of the popper recreational drug and a ban on its supply would be "fantastically stupid".

Ex-minister Crispin Blunt said users of the drug were "astonished" by talk of a ban and respect for the law "would fly out of the window" if it happened.

Supplying the drug,

which is popular with gay men, could be outlawed under the forthcoming Psychoactive Substances Bill.

MPs have rejected calls to exempt poppers from the legislation.

Following a debate in the Commons, they voted by 309 to 228 against the move.

The government wants to crack down on the sale

and use of so-called legal highs, psychoactive substances chemically designed to mimic drugs that are already banned. Some 18 deaths in England and Wales in 2014 were linked to so-called legal highs.

But plans to ban the supply of poppers as part of the legislation have caused controversy.

Poppers, the name given to a group of chemicals

called alkyl nitrites, are normally sniffed from a bottle producing a short head-rush. They are used recreationally and are often referred to as a "party drug".

## 'Driven underground'

During a debate on the bill in the Commons, Mr Blunt - who is the uncle of actress Emily Blunt and is a former prisons minister - said he would be




BLUNT: the MP came out as gay in 2010

"directly affected" by the ban.




"There are sometimes

that something is proposed which becomes

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171 Pier Avenue, Ste. 121 • Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Tel (310) 452-2621 • FAX: (310) 314-7653  
E-mail: editor@british-weekly.com  
www.british-weekly.com • twitter.com/BritishWeekly

**MANAGING EDITOR:** Neil Fletcher  
**DEPUTY EDITOR:** Nick Stark  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Alan Darby Drake, John Hiscock, Eileen Lee, Dave Kershaw, Anthony Matthews, Carolan Nathan, Anne Shaw, Bernard Sidman, Nick Stark, Craig Bobby Young  
**SHOWBUSINESS EDITOR:** Sean Borg  
**FEATURES EDITOR:** Gabrielle Pantera  
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## Poppers:

cont. from page two

personal to you and you realise the government is about to do something fantastically stupid and in those circumstances one has a duty to speak up," he said.

"I use poppers. I out myself as a user of poppers. I am astonished to find it (the government) is proposing it to be banned and frankly so would many other gay men."

Mr Blunt, who came out as gay in 2010, said the drug had been used for decades and a ban would "simply serve to bring the whole law into disrepute". He warned that banning it would "drive supply underground into the hands of criminals" and increase the use of Class A and Class B drugs.

He later told BBC Radio 4's PM program that he had not suffered any adverse affects from using the drug and there was no "serious evidence" that it posed such a risk. "I think it was the most powerful argument to make and I didn't want to be a hypocrite," he said of his Commons statement.

### Independent review

Personal possession of poppers will not be criminalised as a result of the proposed legislation but there would be a blanket ban on their production, supply and importation, and the police would be authorised to shut down websites selling them.

Critics say this has not been thought through, pointing to a report by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs which concluded that their misuse is "not seen to be capable of having harmful effects sufficient to constitute a societal problem".

# Tragic poppy seller Olive Cooke faced 'uncontrollable' deluge of charity letters

■ Inquiry finds 92-year-old victim was 'distressed and overwhelmed' by volume of begging letters

Olive Cooke, the 92 year-old poppy seller who took her own life last year, was facing an "almost uncontrollable" tide of begging letters from charities, an inquiry by the UK's fundraising watchdog has found.

Mrs Cooke, a passionate supporter of good causes, had become "distressed and overwhelmed" after receiving what may have been around 3,200 mailings a year, the report by the Fundraising Standards Board (FRSB) suggests.

The vast majority of the letters were unsolicited, sent by groups which had bought or been given her address from third parties, and around a quarter of them in turn passed her details on, the research indicates.

### contact details

And although she did, on occasion, specifically ask to be removed from mailing lists, only about one in seven of the charities which wrote to her offered a box to tick to opt out of future mailings, it shows.

The report concludes that her experience was the "inevitable consequence" of an arrangement where charities traded generous

donors' contact details with each other and commercial groups.

Mrs Cooke, from Bristol, who was thought to be Britain's longest-serving poppy seller, fell to her death in the Avon Gorge on May 6 last year.

An inquest later found that she had taken her own life, disclosing that she suffered from depression and had breast cancer.

But the tragedy also shone a spotlight on charity fundraising tactics after it emerged that she had spoken to her local newspaper, the Bristol Post, six months before her death about how she was besieged with begging letters.

### 'under pressure'

The report makes clear that the charity tactics were not responsible for her death but found that the "cumulative impact" of the growing number of approaches nevertheless caused her distress and that she felt powerless to stop them.

Mrs Cooke, a Methodist and Labour Party activist, dedicated 76 years of her life to raising money for the Royal British Legion and is believed to have sold around 30,000 poppies.



**HEROINE:** Olive Cooke started selling poppies in 1938 when she was just 16. She was inspired by her father's service at Gallipoli during WWI (Photo: SWNS)

In a foreword to the report, Andrew Hind said: "Her experience is a sad but extremely important case as it sheds light on the way in which fundraising activity could escalate and leave a committed donor feeling under pressure to give.

"Mrs Cooke's experience demonstrates the inevitable consequences of a fundraising regime where charities have been willing to exchange or sell the personal details of donors to each other, and to commercial third parties.

"This created a situation where a donor to

a number of charities could find themselves, after a period of time, receiving mail packs and phone calls from an ever-growing, and almost uncontrollable, number of charities."

The inquiry contacted a sample of just over 1,400 charities of which 99 confirmed they possessed Mrs Cooke's details.

Of those, 24 had records of having passed Mrs Cooke's details on to others, almost all of those who did so saying they had believed they had "permission" to share her details.

Yet in virtually all cases

this turned out to be "assumed" permission, meaning she had not actively opted out of having her data shared.

In a statement included in the report Mrs Cooke's family said: "We want Olive to be remembered for her incredibly kind, generous and charitable nature.

"Far from being a victim, she was a strong believer in the importance of charities in UK society and local communities.

"She found great comfort in the knowledge that her support could help someone else live a better life."

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## News From Britain

# Father's fury as son is questioned over his 'terrorist house'

■ Critics say dozens of children have been investigated since schools became obliged to report any suspicious activity

The father of a 10-year-old Muslim boy who was visited by police after he wrote "terrorist house" - instead of "terraced house" during a school lesson has branded it a "joke".

Police called at his home in Accrington, Lancashire, the following day and examined the family laptop, according to the BBC.

Speaking to one of his sons, who acted as translator, the boy's father said: "He [the 10-year-old boy] came from school very sick. When he came back the police arrived and said that the school said the he had been involved in terrorist activity.

"It's because he's a Muslim kid and the parents can't speak much English, they have taken advantage."

"The police just turned up at the door. They were very rude. They took the laptop with them. I was shocked by the policeman's behaviour.

"It's a joke because if a

white kid had said it they would never have acted in this way. It's because he's a Muslim kid and the parents can't speak much English, they have taken advantage.

"After the incident he was so ill that he had to go to an emergency appointment with the doctors. He had bad stress, he was sick and he went to a school nurse.

"He's really worried about going to school. He's stressed. He eats less. It's shocking."

He said they were a "Muslim family which has nothing to do with terrorism".

"It makes me very angry. They [the school] could have asked him first, then asked the parents."

The family want apologies from the school and police.

"You can imagine it happening to a 30-year-old man, but not to a young child," the boy's cousin told the BBC.

"If the teacher had any concerns it should have

been about his spelling. They shouldn't be putting a child through this. He's now scared of writing, using his imagination."

The incident happened during an English lesson last month. Teachers have been obliged to report any suspicious activity ever since the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act became law last year.

Miqdaad Versi, a s s i s t a n t secretary-general of the Muslim Council of Britain, said he was aware of dozens of similar cases.

"There are huge concerns that individuals going about their daily life are being seen through the lens of security and are being seen as potential terrorists rather than students.

"This is a natural consequence of the extension of the 'Prevent Duty' to schools," he said in reference to the g o v e r n m e n t ' s anti-terrorism strategy.



WAR OF WORDS: Terrorist' or 'terraced'? Photo: PA

## Nicked 630 times: but still no bird for 'Rogue n' Nosh'

Being in the same career for 40 years is quite an achievement.

But if that career is petty crime, maybe it's not something you'd want to be shouting about.

Patrick Ryan, believed to be Britain's most convicted criminal, has been spared jail after committing his 630th offence - eating breakfast without paying for it.

Ryan, 60, has cost the taxpayer around £3million over four decades.

Most of the offences are for crimes involving food and drink particularly at Indian restaurants, earning him the nickname rogue 'n' nosh.

Ryan's list is so long that there is a 'do not print' notice on his file because it is nearly 100 pages long and they don't want to waste paper.

Between the ages of 14 and 50 he spent 23 years in prison.

His 630th conviction was committed came just days after he'd been released from Barlinnie Prison.

He went to a cafe in Clevelys, Lancashire, dressed in a hospital gown and white paper suit where he had breakfast before saying he couldn't pay.

Ryan's solicitor Robert



HE LOVES HIS CURRY: the tireless Patrick Ryan

Castle told Blackpool magistrates said: "My client had a travel warrant to get to Preston.

"However, because of the floods, the train stopped at Motherwell and everyone had to get off."

He guzzled alcohol and ended up in hospital before he continued his journey.

When he arrived he downed more booze and failed to pay for a meal and was arrested there.

When he arrived in Blackpool he was

arrested. He admitted failing to pay for his breakfast in a café near Blackpool, then urinating against the wall, as well as breaching the terms of a sex offender order by failing to register his address.

Ryan's record is thought to be the longest by some way. In 2013 it was revealed in Parliament the most prolific criminal at that time had 567 offences to his name, with the second-placed a long way behind on 399.



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## EU turns up the heat on oven gloves

An EU plan to regulate oven gloves is "disappointing" and will cause "frustration" in Britain, the Government said this week.

MEPs on Wednesday voted to regulate kitchen hand protectors for the first time, despite an effort by the British Government to block the move.

### 'bonkers'

Ministers had previously warned the "bonkers" regulation would drive up oven glove prices by 20 per cent.

Under the rules oven gloves will be tested to show they "possess an appropriate coefficient of transmission of incident heat flux and be sufficiently incombustible to preclude any risk of spontaneous ignition under the foreseeable conditions of use".

### 'burdens'

A government spokesman said: "We're fighting hard to fix the aspects of our EU membership that cause so much frustration in Britain – so we get a better deal for our country and secure our future.

"While this particular outcome may be disappointing, we are making good progress working with other members states who share our interest in making Europe more competitive and getting rid of unnecessary burdens for businesses and consumers."

In 2014, the EU banned the sale of powerful vacuum cleaners to tackle climate change.

# Friends reunited to close its doors

## ■ Social network pioneer founded in Hertfordshire bedroom in 1999

Friends Reunited – one of the original social network sites – is to close, one of its original founders has confirmed.

The site was dreamed up in 1999 by the husband-and-wife team of Steve and Julie Pankhurst in their Hertfordshire bedroom, after Julie found herself wondering how to get in touch with former schoolfriends with whom she had lost touch. It was the first online social network to achieve prominence in Britain, and it weathered the dotcom bust. When it first launched users were

charged £7.50 per year for access, although it was later made free of charge.

The site launched in the year 2000, and was bought by ITV for £175m in 2005 – reaching more than 10 million users globally. However, its popularity has suffered due to the rise of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social networks.

### 'messageboard'

Mr Pankhurst said the decision to shut the site, which he had reacquired from comic publisher DC Thompson, came because it could no



**DATED:** in its heyday the site boasted 10m global users

longer cover its own costs.

"I knew it was near impossible to reboot something that was old and in decline," he said, describing user numbers as "a handful". Facebook meanwhile, currently has around 1.4 billion active users.

According to Mr Pankhurst and business partner Jason Porter, the site had become just a "messageboard" for the few users who remained.

"And I also realised, that of the 10m+ users registered, a lot had done so over a decade ago and hence their

contact details were out of date," he said.

"So even if you were coming to the site to find someone and wanted to contact them, how frustrating it must be to see them listed there and try to contact and then get no response.

"Therefore, whilst it's sad, I believe it's time to move on and put Friends Reunited to bed."

Mr Pankhurst added that he now plans to launch a new service Liife, a platform for users to plot the key moments of their lives, but only with those they shared them with rather than a wider audience.

## TV has become 'too crude', says comic legend Jason

TV legend Sir David Jason has slammed today's programmes for being too racy, insisting the reason his *Open All Hours* show has stood the test of time is because it bucks the trend by being suitable for all the family.

Jason, who is best known for his role as Del Boy in the landmark BBC comedy *Only Fools and Horses*, first came to the nation's attention in the original 1970s sitcom *Open All Hours* which starred Ronnie Barker. The series was revived as *Still Open All Hours* in 2014, written by original series writer Roy

Clarke and featuring several of the permanent cast members of the original series, including Jason, Lynda Baron, Stephanie Cole and Maggie Ollerenshaw.

Speaking this week in London, Jason attributed the huge interest in the new version of his show because families can 'feel safe watching'.

"There's too much sex and swearing on TV," he said. "The reaction to *Still Open All Hours* has been amazing. On the recent episode we got seven million viewers which is unbelievable these days."



**GRANVILLE REBORN:** David Jason's *Still Open All Hours* has proved a big hit since it was relaunched by the BBC in 2014

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# War and Peace: Andrew Davies strikes gold in Tolstoy's Russia

**ON THE TELLY**  
with Nick Stark

**NO matter how many years pass we British remain suckers for a good costume drama, with each successive generation learning the joys of watching star-crossed lovers in corsets and riding boots as they yearn and burn with unrequited love.**

From the Forsyte Saga in the 1960s through the original Poldark a decade later and to the Colin Firth *Pride and Prejudice* two decades ago to the latest chapter in the genre, *War and Peace*, there is simply nobody who does these civilized bodice-rippers better.

If, like most of us, you have not read Leo Tolstoy's epic saga of love, war and court intrigue in Tsarist Russia during Napoleonic times, then the new BBC miniseries which debuted Sunday night on A&E may yet provide your best crib sheet.

Adapted by Andrew Davies (the man behind the aforementioned *Pride and Prejudice*) and directed by Tom Harper, this new *War and Peace* is visually ravishing and peopled by a quite superb

cast of established heavyweights and talented newcomers alike. It may only contain a fraction of the epic book's narrative of battles, love and intellectual awakening, but it remains a fine, fast-moving yarn, and what more could we wish for during an El Nino winter?

In essence, *War and Peace* is an epic saga which opens with Napoleon moving his *Grande Armee* eastwards into Mother Russia. As the story unfolds it details the impact of the war and its events on Tsarist society, focusing on five specific Russian aristocratic families. The young men and women – and some of the older ones too – must ponder a future that may bring death or glory, triumph or destruction. And quite possibly a few love affairs in between.

Gillian Anderson gives us a few tantalizing glimpses of her red-headed magnetism as Anna Pavlovna, and Jim Broadbent is as effective as ever playing Prince Bolkonsky. Then there is Brian Cox as the garrulous General Kutuzov and Stephen Rea, as the treacherous and conniving Prince Kuragin, a character for whom the

word sniveling might have been coined.

As you would expect from the BBC, the art direction, costumes and sets are absolutely glorious, providing a level of decadence and finery that even the most ostentatious of new money Russian oligarchs would have trouble reaching. It works at its best as a soap opera writ large, a crowded canvas of young actors generating the required sighs for their love stories, hatred for their misdeeds and frustration as they fail to see the challenge a new age is thrusting upon them.

American actor Paul Dano as Pierre is a hard fellow to like given his feeble approach to life, especially when paired with Tuppence Middleton's horrid Helene. Much more to our liking is the pairing of James Norton as Andrei and *Downton Abbey*'s Lily James, whose Natasha makes the journey from nervous teen to radiant young adult. Then there's Tom Burke's Dolokhov, positively telegraphing his malevolence as he twirls his moustache.

In a recent interview Norton gushed about his



**POWER COUPLE:** James Norton as Andrei and Lily James as Natasha

experience making the show, and the benefits of shooting on location.

"The BBC executives and producers, they all were really adamant to shoot in Russia because they felt like you can't really re-create Russia," said Norton.

"There were endless [memorable] moments. ... I remember standing on this frozen lake with Jim Broadbent. Actually, we were standing on this sort of walkway of a stately home and we kind of veered off and we were

shooting a scene. We didn't realize until we saw these little images in the very far distance that they were ice fishermen.... We didn't realize until that point that we were on a frozen lake and even Jim Broadbent, his breath was taken away and said: 'Wow! This is amazing. This couldn't be anywhere else.' And, similarly, when we were filming in Catherine Palace, Lily and I waltzing with 300 extras and a live orchestra in this beautiful, gold, amber room... It's very difficult

not to lose yourself in those moments. It's so romantic and magical and it transports you perfectly. It does your job for you as an actor, really."

Bosoms heaving, sabers flashing, moustache twirling, deathbed wrangles, all the old tropes are here in compelling fashion. Full marks once more to Andrew Davies, who proves yet again that when it comes to sexing up the classics, he simply has no peer.

**A&E: Mondays at 9pm**

## Sting and Peter Gabriel announce summer tour

Sting and Peter Gabriel will join forces this summer for a month-long co-headlining North American trek dubbed the Rock Paper Scissors Tour.

Rather than simply performing hits from their own catalogs, Gabriel and Sting will also explore each other's tracks both separately and together.

The 19-date tour will open up June 21st at Columbus, Ohio's Nationwide Arena and circle the continent before coming to a close in Edmonton, Alberta on July 24th. The pair previously toured together back in the Eighties in support of Amnesty International.



**GREAT BRITS:** Peter Gabriel and Sting will play the Hollywood Bowl on July 17th

"What intrigues me is that you get a good bunch of musicians together and interesting things will happen," Gabriel said in a statement. Added Sting, "I'm very happy that we're taking the chance to experiment this way. I think people will be intrigued, I certainly am."

Speaking to The Associated Press, Sting

compared the Rock Paper Scissors trek to his 2014 joint tour with Paul Simon. "We traded songs, we traded musicians, we sang together. And the take home that people got from that was they loved it when we did things together," Sting said.

The duo will play their only Southern California date at the Hollywood Bowl on July 17th.

## Burns' Night at the Daily Pint

**THE DAILY Pint in Santa Monica will be celebrating Burns' Night in fine style this Saturday, Jan. 23rd.**

Owner Phil McGovern has lined up some traditional Highland fun with Scottish ales on tap, plus a great selection of Scotch whiskeys, men in kilts get a 10% discount, plus the obligatory parading of the mighty haggis and a reading of Burns' "ode to the Haggis", before

everyone digs in with a free slice. Other traditional dishes available include cock a leekie soup, Orkney clapshot (think 'neeps and tatties' plus butter, chives and seasoning), and Scotch eggs. Even better news for men in kilts: you get a 10% discount on the night.

Phil is a longtime local expat and formerly the owner at British Hairways in Beverly Hills. The Daily Pint is



**PULLING POWER:** The Daily Pint's Phil McGovern

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## London Spy proves capital entertainment

THIS WEEK saw the debut of *London Spy*, a gripping new five part mystery on our small screens, in which a chance romance between two very different men leads one of them into the dark and mysterious twilight of international espionage.

The show opens at dawn with party animal Danny (Ben Whishaw) contemplating life after a heavy night on the party scene. Standing on Lambeth Bridge he's feeling lonely – asking the London skyline if life gets any easier. The endlessly fascinating British capital answers him with a chance encounter, an early morning runner who stops to ask if he's OK, introducing himself as Alex (Edward Holcroft).

An unusual connection forms between these men



**A DARK ROAD:** Broadbent and Whishaw in *London Spy*

who are polar opposites in many ways. Danny – extroverted, self-indulgent and adrift, falls for the anti-social, enigmatic and brilliant Alex. But just as they realize they're perfect for each other, Alex is found dead under circumstances that Danny is sure have been staged. And so begins Danny's descent into the dangerous world of global espionage. Out of his depth, Danny seeks help from his friend and wise mentor, Scottie (Jim

Broadbent). They embark on a journey where no one is who they seem, including the formidable Frances (Charlotte Rampling), a mysterious yet omnipresent figure from Alex's life.

This latest strong outing from BBC America is written by best-selling author Tom Rob Smith and directed by Jakob Verbruggen.

**London Spy, Thursdays at 10:00pm on BBC America.**

# Meet a Member: Amanda Campbell

Meet Amanda Campbell from East London, who moved to LA in 1982 'to pursue a happy life.'

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

The Weather and L.A. just had always intrigued me.

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

The people and good Indian food!

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

It seems more acceptable to be yourself here. Life somehow seems a little easier here, the weather is amazing and I always feel like it's a struggle back home.

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

Witzend (located on Lincoln just north of Venice Boulevard).



**Amanda Campbell:** "It seems more acceptable to be yourself here."

**What would you suggest to others who are thinking about making the move here?**  
Come and check it out for a year first to see if you can live here.

**If your your life was a TV show what would be the theme tune?**  
Always look on the bright side of life!

**out more about you? Are you on the Internet?**  
soundcloud.com/thestrandsofficial  
www.facebook.com/TheStrandsOfficial?ref=br\_tf

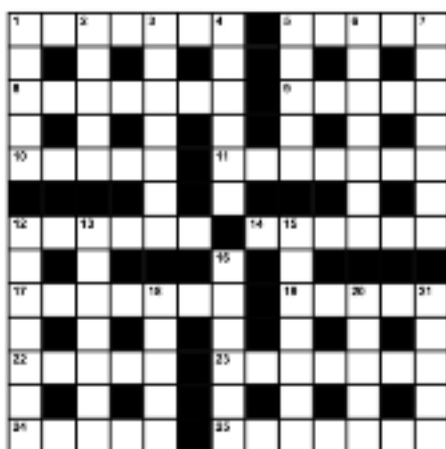
**Lastly, how can we find**

## The British Weekly Crossword #199

**Across**

- 1 Shipping hazard (7)
- 5 Bargain-basement (5)
- 8 Hair cleanser (7)
- 9 Model (5)
- 10 Script direction (5)
- 11 Frisbee material (7)
- 12 Fight back (6)
- 14 Bits of grass (6)
- 17 It's between France and England, with The (7)
- 19 Lion prey (5)
- 22 Milkshake qualification (5)
- 23 Hot spot (7)
- 24 Great fear (5)
- 25 Mistrust (7)

Crossword by Myles Mellor



**Down**

- 1 Point of dispute (5)
- 2 To the letter (5)
- 3 Panel components (7)
- 4 Rock bands, e.g. (6)
- 5 Popular wedding gift (5)
- 6 Chase for office (7)
- 7 King's rhodes (7)
- 12 Rattled off (7)
- 13 Down by the beach (7)
- 15 Geckos et al (7)
- 16 Precipices (6)
- 18 "The \_\_\_ gun" (5)
- 20 Cutting edge (5)
- 21 Ain't right? (5)

**Solution to Puzzle #198**



## The British Weekly Sudoku #199

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 Sudoku #198**







## Stargazing with Annie Shaw

**ARIES:** If life at work is not all it could be look at the positive side of things. As we move into the end of the month your lively boss Mars is in Scorpio, bringing you plenty of energy to get your life flowing well in all areas.

**TAURUS:** Your emotions are probably in a mess in regards to some area of life. It is more than likely a past situation that has brought things up and this will be resolved soon as friendly Jupiter is in your cousin sign until summer.

**GEMINI:** Take time out, maybe with a trusted friend and figure out what direction you need to follow in your life for the best long-term outcome. Your rascally boss Mercury is moving backwards, slowing you down and giving you time to relax.

**CANCER:** Just when you thought all was in order the past can up and bite you. More than likely it's someone you least expected to bite. The fact is that your sign is renowned for holding onto the past, but it's time to let go.

**LEO:** You may be involved in a family drama that has you tearing around in a huff or anger. Stop! Look at what the problems are causing you to feel, health-wise and then decide to carry on or (better still) let go.

**VIRGO:** Remember that everything in life is a lesson and so if you are going through a tough spell find a teacher who can guide you through. Look at someone who has stood firm themselves in difficult situations and you won't go far wrong.

**LIBRA:** Your lovely boss Venus is in your cousin sign and she is preparing you for later in the spring when you will feel ready to tackle anything. In the meantime just enjoy the downtime, sometimes that's all you can do.

**SCORPIO:** A person of interest to you romantically will more than likely turn up. How you treat this situation is important. You have learned many tough lessons in the past year and you hopefully have learned them well. It's time for you to move on pursuing an important career situation, which is coming up soon.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Just watch that temper if things don't always go the way you planned, life is an adventure. Please remember that while your boss Jupiter is in practical Virgo for a few months ahead. Think positive and life will get a very nice boost.

**CAPRICORN:** Listening to your inner voice is the clue to your next move. But whatever area this may be in remember this is your best indicator of stop and go. Lovely Venus is coming to visit you, meaning fun times and romance may be much on your mind.

**AQUARIUS:** You will always get back what you put out and just be careful you don't say too much to another that can set you back a mile or two. Keep your thoughts or judgments to yourself and you will see that nothing is as bad as it could be.

**PISCES:** Jupiter is sitting in your opposite sign for a few more months ahead. This can make you melancholy but also lucky. You decide which is better for your health. Learn to live your life in the moment and go out and buy yourself a treat and have a flutter also.



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## The Violinist of Venice: sweet harmony for the reader

*Exclusive interview  
with author Alyssa  
Plombo and a review  
of her novel about the  
life and loves of  
Vivaldi and his music*

Rating: ★★★★★

**"Strangely enough, the idea came from a dream I had, almost seven years ago now,"** says The Violinist of Venice author Alyssa Plombo. "The dream itself was essentially what became the first chapter of the book, where Adriana shows up at Vivaldi's house and asks him to give her music lessons."

Engrossing. The characters in The Violinist of Venice come to life under Plombo's care. Music is the life force of this novel. You may want to listen to Vivaldi's music in the background while



reading this book. Adriana's life keeps intersecting with Vivaldi's in poignant ways. Readers will be charmed by the times and music.

Adriana D'Amato is the daughter of a wealthy merchant. Cloistered in her father's house for most of her young life, she loves to play the violin and is very talented. Since her mother's death her father has forbidden her to take lessons or to play. Adriana wants Vivaldi to teach her.

Vivaldi breaks his vows as a priest and they become lovers. Their secret affair continues as her father seeks a suitable husband to marry her off. What does her future hold?

"I had no idea why I would have such a seemingly random dream," says Plombo. "But, it was so powerful and vivid that when I woke up that day I couldn't stop thinking about it. By that night I had the first chapter written as well as a vague outline in my head of what I thought the rest of the story would be...though that changed and evolved quite a bit even over the course of the first draft."

Plombo consulted translations of letters Vivaldi had written and read everything she could about him and about Venice. Plombo couldn't

research any primary documents firsthand because she's not fluent in Italian. She says she only speaks Italian enough to follow the plot of an Italian opera. So instead she studied Vivaldi's music, the scores that she describes in the book.

"I listened to a ton of Vivaldi's music," says Plombo. "I took violin lessons for a brief time. Turns out I'm a pretty terrible violinist. But, I had fun, and I learned a lot that helped me in writing the novel." Plombo traveled to Venice as well.

"Overall, writing this book has started me on such an incredible journey," says Plombo, "from the writing of it, in which I learned so much about the craft, and about researching; to going to Venice; to the whole publishing process of finding my agent and

selling the book and going through all the steps in getting it ready for publication."

The Violinist of Venice is Plombo's first novel. Her short fiction has been published in literary magazines such as Black Lantern and The Great Lakes Review. St. Martin's made a two-book deal with Plombo, so another book is coming.

Vicki Lame at St. Martin's is Plombo's editor. "When I first read this book, I was immediately smitten," says Lame. "You can't help but be swept up into the lives of these very complex, very real characters. Plus, I've always been a sucker for a good forbidden romance on the page. I first met Alyssa at a lunch with her agent."

Plombo is currently working on revisions with



**BOOK CORNER with  
Gabrielle Pantera**

her editor for my second novel, historical fiction set in Renaissance Florence. "It's very much about the magnificent artwork of that period," says Plombo. Plombo lives in her home town of Buffalo, New York.

*The Violinist of Venice: A Story of Vivaldi* Paperback  
author Alyssa Plombo.  
Trade Paperback: 448 pages,  
Publisher: St. Martin's  
Griffin (December 15, 2015),  
Language: English, ISBN:  
9781250071491 \$15.99



## Oscar uproar: my two cents...

Greetings Britlings!

Do you ever have those moments where you look at things in the media and shake your head at the attention given to certain issues? Hollywood I love you but sometimes you are just so MESSED UP!

Okay, so I have to be very careful here expressing my opinions, not to hurt anyone's feelings, nor offend anyone with what I'm about to say. I will start by seeing these are my thoughts, and do not reflect that of Brits in LA as a whole.

I'll start with this hashtag #OscarsSoWhite. I'll repeat it #OscarsSoWhite and once more #OscarsSoWhite. And add to it - the uproar of certain individuals in Hollywood, yes I'm talking to you Spike Lee, twice-nominated famed film director of such classics as Do The Right Thing, and Malcolm X who said the following on his instagram he "cannot support" the "lily white" Oscars." which in my opinion is a racist thing to say by the way. And then actress Jada Pinkett-Smith released a video, pretty much inviting other black actors to join her in her non-attendance this year. Is she really that upset that her husband didn't get a nomination? Personally, I didn't get to see 'Concussion', and as a BAFTA member, our rules state you can't vote on something you

haven't seen. I wasn't sent a screener and it came out on Christmas Day -and I was busy living life, paddleboarding in Maui. Sorry, not sorry. I'm sure his performance is top notch - was was his Oscar-nominated performance in Ali.

### modern day blackface

But truth is there are over 300 feature films released each year and people simply don't have time to watch every single movie. So how can this be fair? Does that make me racist? No because I did watch Straight Out Of Compton and I loved it. And I voted for it in the BAFTAs and also for its actor Jason Mitchell, who portrayed Eazy-E. But I didn't vote for the very white cast of "The Big Short" in any categories because I didn't get to see it in time. Them's the rules.

Now I understand the upset and frustration of all these white folks (disclaimer: I am white!) being nominated time after time and winning all the time, it is not fair. It's not a fair representation of today's society. But I will also ask this: Where were the other people of color or the LGBT nominations, and why aren't those 'groups' making noise? Eddie Redmayne gets nominated for doing essentially a modern day black-face playing a struggling transgender. "Such a stretch!" (fine hand acting there by the way, Eds) while the real



**THEY WON'T GO:** Jada Pinkett Smith (above), husband Will Smith (above right) and director Spike Lee will all miss the Oscars this year



transgender actor in Tangerine, Kitana Kiki Rodriguez plays Sin-Dee Rella, a transgender sex-worker was overlooked for her fine work. Why? Because hardly anybody saw it, or because Hollywood is still homophobic and transphobic? (Disclaimer: I'm gay, by the way). Please do, it's a wonderful film, shot all on the iphone! Genius. But these days Mickey Rooney could never play Asian in 'Breakfast At Tiffany's' Dressing up to portray anyone that is not the same colour as yourself is not acceptable, nor should you, there is a wonderful pool of actors of the same color as the characters from which we can now pick - and rightly so, The West End has currently for the first time cast all Asian roles with Asian actors. But where are all the gay actors and should they only be right for gay roles?

### #OscarSoStraight?

Has this all gotten a little out of hand? Acting is acting, pretending to be things you are not. If this theory was to stick, only murderers can play murderers and thieves can play thieves. In drama school you are taught to use your imagination, act with a

chair, or tennis ball, pretend to be a tree. Anyway my point is actors should be able to have the freedom to play all sorts of roles and the better actors to win those roles, regardless of gender, race, occupation. The job is to make you believe.

Straight people playing gay in Hollywood is seen as a huge accomplishment, a push. "Wow, such a brave actor to kiss or touch another member of the same sex.."

Tom Hanks, Denzel, Mark Ruffalo, Cate Blanchett, Paul Rudd and even you, Mr. Will Smith. Listen, you all played your roles very well, and I wonder if these movies would have done so well with (god forbid) real life gay people! - That wouldn't be considered a stretch at all - in fact they probably liked it! I can tell you from experience, any love scene with either man or woman is incredibly difficult. - Wait can I start a new hashtag at this point? #OscarSoStraight"

In the end racism and homophobia are bigger problems than the Academy's voters, who usually end up voting for the people they know, friends, peers, people they want to work with. I heard this myself from an

academy voter, who even took a screenshot of his ballot to a director and sent it over as proof - probably in the hopes of getting a job out of it.

I'm probably gonna get some stick for this article, but I need to let you know that I grew up in a council estate with black, Asian and Indian kids who were my friends. My auntie is married to a black man, my uncle is married to an Indian lady, my niece has just given birth to a beautiful baby girl, whose father happens to be black. I'm gay, my brother is gay. But to us as a family none of this matters, we don't see color or race, we see people. We see love, we see friendships.

Perhaps we should take race and gender out of it for a second and realise this is a stupid

awards show that honors people and pats them on the back for all the hard work they've done on a movie, no matter what we think of it. No one is saving lives here, or starving, or dealing with death and despair, so if you really want to make a difference in the world, perhaps think bigger than the Oscars. And in the words of the youth program from yesteryear: "Why don't you switch off your TV set and go out and do something less boring instead?" Like fighting for what's right, gun control, immigration, starvation, homelessness, abuse, animal rights.... the things that really matter in life.

**Cheers!**

**Craig Young**

(currently STILL trying to watch The Big Short)



**THE BAD OLD DAYS:** Mickey Rooney's notorious turn as Mr. Yunioshi in Breakfast at Tiffany's

# Elt's to the rescue!

I hear Lady Gaga is working day and night on her very own Thriller – with help from the “Rocket Man” himself Sir Elton John!

The poor reception for the 2013 album ARTPOP has forced “Lady G” to let go of songwriting control, with the aim of making an all-out pop record using other big name writers. Step forward Sir Elt!

A source said: “She’s recorded with Nile Rodgers, Mark Ronson and Max Martin, so it’s pop all the way.”

And the latest man to board her collaborative pop space station is the veteran English singer-songwriter.

Elton, 68, said: “I’m writing with Gaga. I’ve heard two songs, which are killer. They’re just great songs. Back to the



early stuff of hers. It’s all about the song.”

Elt's, who made Gaga godmother to his kids, last performed a duet with her for the animated film Gnomeo & Juliet.

And he believes she has got her career back on track. “ARTPOP was not a great idea,” he told Beats 1 radio.

“It was not a good album and I think she would admit that. Then in the midst of that she did three things which were

amazing. She did the album with Tony Bennett, sang the Julie Andrews tribute at the Oscars, and was on American Horror Story.”

Friends believe Gaga’s new album could deliver as many hits as Michael Jackson’s classic Thriller.

But it’s Carole King who Elton thinks she should be aspiring to be.

Gaga will give a first taster at the Grammy Awards on February 15... Can’t wait!



## Could Tilda play Bowie?

DAVID BOWIE may be gone but it seems the great pop chameleon’s legacy is set to live on in a new biopic — which could feature his friend and doppelgänger Tilda Swinton.

Oo-er! “It’s remarkable how much Tilda resembles David in his younger days despite the fact she is female,” a source told the *Daily Express*.

“That and the androgyny that he loved to present as part of his image makes Tilda the perfect choice to play David in the inevitable event of a film being made of his incredible life.



“Tilda will have first refusal on playing a true icon.”

There has long been similarities drawn between the pair due to their androgynous looks, pale skin and matching hair styles.

Tilda is a huge fan of the singing sensation and has even starred as Bowie’s wife in his music video The Stars (Are Out Tonight).

In the actress’s 2015 movie A Bigger Splash, in

which she plays a rock legend, she revealed her biggest inspiration for the role was Bowie.

But let’s not get too excited just yet.

A representative for the actress stated: “I can confirm this is not true.”

Even though I too can’t see it ever happening (though stranger things have) – I reckon Tilda would make a great David Bowie...Let’s keep an open mind!

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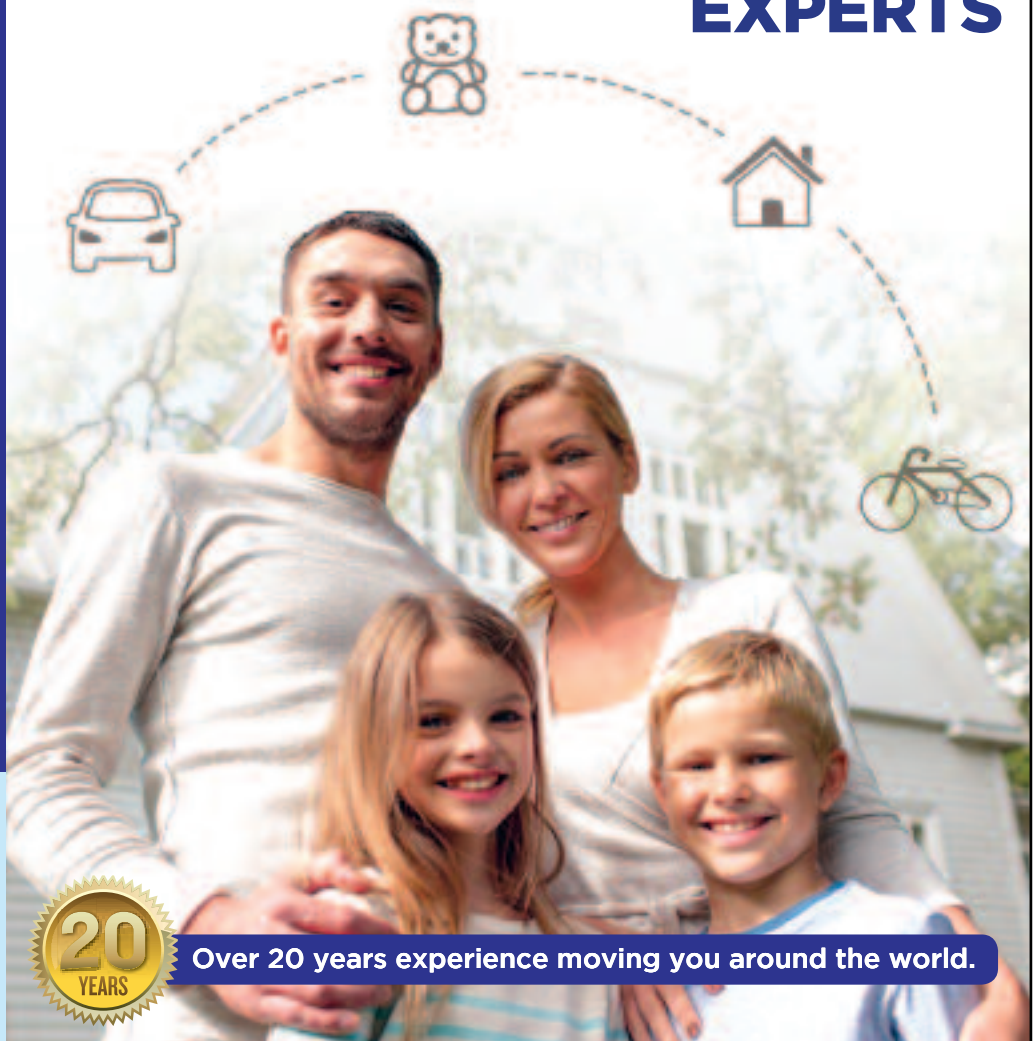


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# British Weekly SPORT

## Cook warns against complacency as England relish Test Series victory

Captain Alastair Cook has challenged his England players to perform well in the fourth and final Test against South Africa to "guarantee" their places.

Cook's team beat their hosts in dramatic fashion at the weekend and hold an unassailable 2-0 lead but he does not want his players to let their standards drop.

"This side has a long way to go and there's a huge amount for the guys to play for personally," he said.

"As long as our attitude is right and people focus on what they can do to help the side then we should be OK."

Nick Compton, James Taylor and Alex Hales have only played in 12, six and three Tests respectively and Cook wants them to impress before a busy summer that includes three Tests against Sri Lanka and four versus Pakistan.

In an interview with BBC Radio 5 live, Cook added: "Alex Hales got a good 60 in Cape Town and will be desperate to make his mark, as will some others, so they are guaranteed picks for the first Test against Sri Lanka at Headingley.

"Hopefully they can go out and show the world how good they are. What a great stage to do that when you're 2-0 up in the series.

"It has been a really good tour, we haven't lost, and we've played some really good cricket.

"Winning in South Africa is another stepping stone but it is not the end of the road for the guys."

Cook needs 117 more runs to become the first Englishman to score 10,000 in Tests.

As so often in the series England has Stuart Broad to thank as his devastating 6-17 spell on the third day ripped the heart out of the South African batting line up.

The match had been finely balanced after England replied to the hosts' 313 first innings total with 323 of their



**TAKING THE PLAUDITS:** Stuart Broad enjoys the moment after his devastating bowling spell brought victory in the Third Test in Johannesburg this week

own in Johannesburg. But then Broad took over to rip apart the hosts with a 5-1 spell in 31 balls with Ben Stokes also claiming 2-24 and James Taylor holding two stunning catches at short leg.

England were taken to their target of 74 by Alastair Cook's 43 for a three-day win.

Cook's men go 2-0 up, with only the fourth Test still to play, for a first overseas series victory

since 2012.

Regardless of the result of the final match in Centurion, South Africa - now without a win in nine Tests - will be replaced by India at the top of the Test rankings.

Broad had taken five wickets in a single spell on six previous occasions, the most famous of which were Ashes-winning hauls at The Oval in 2009, Chester-le-Street in 2013 and Trent Bridge in

2015.

This was just as devastating, not least because the match was finely poised, with England holding only a 10-run first-innings lead.

On a pitch offering bounce and seam movement, and under a grey sky, Broad's hostility and accuracy was too much for a South Africa batting line-up that did little wrong, but had no answers.

## Agent demands inquiry as leak proves Bale was world's priciest player

### ■ Papers reveal Welshman cost Madrid over €100m - even more than Ronaldo

Gareth Bale's agent has called for an investigation after a confidential document relating to his client's world record £85m move to Real Madrid from Tottenham was leaked.

The six-page document, released by the website Football Leaks and widely published in Spain, set out details of the full value of the deal, which has always been disputed.

Real have long claimed they paid €91m (£78m) for Bale in 2013 - less than the €96m they paid

for Cristiano Ronaldo four years earlier. However, the Spanish newspaper AS reported that the document showed the Bale fee amounted to €100,759,418 (£85m) - because Real had opted to pay in instalments - with Tottenham forbidden from disclosing any financial details.

It is widely thought that Real's insistence that Ronaldo was the more expensive of the two players was designed to appease the Portugal forward. Earlier this month the journalist

Jonathan Northcroft told the BBC he was asked by Real not to mention the subject when he interviewed Bale, "because Cristiano Ronaldo doesn't like to see that someone else cost more than him".

In October 2013 the Real president, Florentino Pérez, implied that Ronaldo's fee was higher. Asked by the Spanish TV show Punto Pelota on the channel Intereconomía whether Bale had been insured for €91m, he replied: "Yes, of course."

Bale's agent, Jonathan



**HE WON'T BE HAPPY:** the report suggests Bale's price was falsified to avoid upsetting the previously most expensive transfer, Cristiano Ronaldo

Barnett, called the reports "outrageous", reporters: "There should be an inquiry and an

i n d e p e n d e n t investigation ... I think it's disgraceful that people can get hold of this

sort of stuff. It shows complete disregard for both clubs and the player."

Tuesday's Results

Table of football results for Tuesday's matches, including Emirates FA Cup Third Round Replays and Sky Bet League One.

Table of football results for Wednesday's matches, including FA Cup Third Round Replays and Sky Bet League One.

Table of football results for Monday's matches, including The Emirates FA Cup Third Round and Barclays Premier League.

Table of football results for the Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership.

Table of football results for the Ladbrokes Scottish Championship.

Blues close to Pato deal

Alexandre Pato has agreed to a move to Chelsea and is now just waiting to see if the Stamford Bridge club finalise a deal with Corinthians.

mooted by the player's camp. Pato has already spoken to Willian and third-choice goalkeeper Marco Amelias about moving to England and Chelsea, and the 26-year-old is now hopeful the transfer will be finalized.

Wednesday's Results

Table of football results for Wednesday's matches, including FA Cup Third Round Replays and Sky Bet League One.

Monday's Results

Table of football results for Monday's matches, including The Emirates FA Cup Third Round and Barclays Premier League.

Table of football results for the Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership and Championship.

hoping the arrival of Pato would allow him to leave Stamford Bridge this month, but Chelsea would prefer the former AC Milan star to replace Falcao.

Monaco appeared to rule out taking Falcao back from Chelsea this month, but there is still hope an agreement can be reached for the Colombian's season-long loan to be cut short.

Weekend Premier League

Table of Premier League results for the weekend, including AFC Bournemouth, Norwich, Aston Villa, Leicester, Chelsea, Everton, Manchester City, West Ham, Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, Sunderland, Liverpool, Manchester Utd, Stoke, and Arsenal.

Falcao has a "very, very serious" thigh injury, but the 29-year-old posted pictures of himself working out on Instagram with a message saying he hopes everything will 'return to normal' soon.

Right-back Branislav Ivanovic has also agreed a one-year contract extension at Chelsea.

Liverpool have made an approach to sign Shakhtar Donetsk's Brazilian attacker Alex

Teixeira as Jurgen Klopp attempts to secure his first major signing since becoming manager at Anfield.

The Reds are willing to pay about £24.5m for the 26-year-old, but the Ukrainian club value Teixeira, who has also been linked with Chelsea, at closer to £39m. Klopp is looking to boost his striking options, with Danny Ings, Divock Origi and Daniel Sturridge injured. With £32.5m summer signing Christian Benteke out of sorts, Liverpool have only scored 25 goals in 22 Premier League games this season.

Shakhtar, who are at a winter training camp in Florida, value Teixeira highly. He has scored 22 goals in 15 league games and four goals in 10 Champions League appearances this season.

Klopp has brought in defender Steven Caulker on loan from QPR and completed a £5.1m deal for Red Star Belgrade's 19-year-old midfielder Marko Grujic, who has returned to the Serb club on loan until the summer. But signing Teixeira would represent his first significant move in the transfer market.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Table of football results for the weekend's League One matches.

Table of football results for the weekend's League Two matches.

Table of football results for the weekend's League Three matches.

RANGERS WILL have to do without Spurs starlet Nathan Oduwa, whose loan stint at the Glasgow club has been cut short, according to the Daily Record.

# NICE ONE, SON!

## ■ Scorer for Korean star as Spurs ease past Foxes

FA Cup 3rd Round Replay  
LEICESTER CITY...0  
TOTTENHAM H....2

Son Heung-min scored a stunning goal and set up another as Tottenham booked their place in the FA Cup fourth round at the expense of Leicester Wednesday night.

With both sides flying high in the Premier League, it promised to be a closely fought replay after the sides drew the first match.

But Spurs were barely troubled and took the lead in the 39th minute when Son's 18-yard strike beat Kasper Schmeichel.

Nacer Chadli made it 2-0 when he converted Son's precise through ball.

The north London side travel to League One strugglers Colchester United in the fourth round.

It was probably the best 83 minutes of Son's Tottenham career so far.

The £22m summer signing from Bayer Leverkusen was the one bright spark in attack on a night when both sides lacked bite up front. With Tottenham pairing Harry Kane and Dele Alli and the Foxes' Jamie Vardy

and Riyad Mahrez starting on the bench, it was up to the 'cup players' to prove they were also worthy of a place in their Premier League starting XIs.

For Tottenham, who made eight changes, Son's claim was the strongest. He did what his team-mates struggled to do for almost 40 minutes - penetrate the Leicester backline when he shifted past defender Ben Chilwell before scoring with a ferocious dipping strike.

And his assist for the second was also a thing of beauty. After collecting substitute Kane's pass from the left, Son nutmegged Yohan Benalouane with his ball for Chadli, who fired beyond Schmeichel.

'Tinkerman' Claudio Ranieri repeated much of what he had done before the first match by making nine changes from the previous league match.

As in the first game, his side were content to let Tottenham dominate possession seemingly in the hope of catching them on the break.

However, the plan failed. The Spurs midfield quelled the threat of wingers Demarai Gray and Nathan Dyer, and in doing so cut off the supply line for lone striker Leonardo Ulloa.

Shinji Okazaki and Marc Albrighton were brought on after the break, as in the match at White Hart Lane, and improved matters. Albrighton had the Foxes



**BREAKING THE DEADLOCK:** Son scored the opener for Spurs Wednesday night at Leicester

best chance of the match when he forced a good low save from the otherwise redundant Michel Vorm.

In defence, Chilwell should perhaps have closed down Son for the opener, but he was Leicester's best player. The youngster was exceptional as an attacking full-back - the highlight a mazy first-half run that won his side a free-kick.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino declared himself 'very happy' with his side's performance, telling reporters: "We have also the Premier League and Europa League and I think it is very important to keep the squad fit and working hard, and the FA Cup is very important for this. We are having a fantastic season, we are at a fantastic level.

"It is difficult to be fair to players but there is fantastic spirit in the changing room and in the training ground."



**RESTAURANT:**  
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Watch the Superbowl here! Sun 2/7 - Food & Drink Specials.

**Sat 1/24 English Premier League**  
7am Man. Utd. v Southampton  
7am Crystal P v Spurs  
7am Leicester v stoke  
930am West Ham v Man. City

**Sun 1/25 English Premier League**  
8am Arsenal v Chelsea  
**Tue 1/26 Capital One Cup**  
1145am Liverpool v Stoke  
**Wed 1/27 Capital One Cup**  
1145am Man City v Everton

**6 Nations Rugby begins 2/6**

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FA CUP	
4th Rnd Draw	
Friday, January 29	
Dorset	Man United
Saturday, January 30	
Colchester	Tottenham
West Brom	Peterborough
Bolton	Leeds
Arsenal	Barnley
Reading	Walsall
Aston Villa	Man City
Sheff Wed	Sheff Wed
Milton Forest	Welford
Crystal Palace	Stoke
Oxford	Blackburn
Perthmouth	Bohemians
Bury	Hull
Liverpool	West Ham
Sunday, January 31	
Carlisle	Everton
MK Dons	Chelsea