

THE BEST IN RECIPES, HOROSCOPES, PUZZLES

The Lady

17 FEBRUARY

WEEKLY

WIN
TICKETS TO
RHS GARDENS
See inside

*'Love is
lovelier
second
time
around'*

**BARBRA
STREISAND**

How to deep
clean a stately
*and spring
clean a semi*

**From Dorset
to Dundee...
BRITISH
HOLIDAYS
SPECIAL**

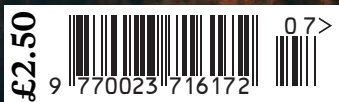
**TOP TEN
SPRING
GARDENS**

*PLUS the new
must-have
gardening
books*

*'I am almost a
professional nosy
parker!'*

**Mary from
Gogglebox**

**Keith Floyd and me by
JAMES MARTIN**



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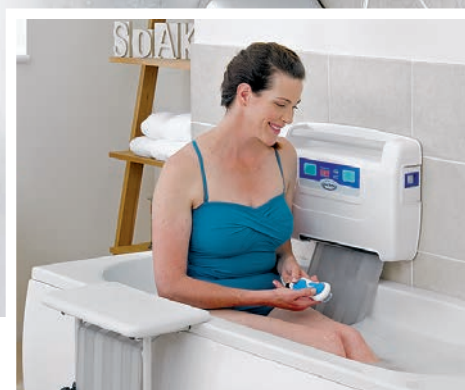
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Cover: Barbra Streisand



Dear Readers,

Remarkably, Barbra Streisand is going to be 75 this year, not that she really looks very different. As Richard Barber discovered when he went to visit her in her Malibu home, hers is a talent, and a style, that transcends generations. Our

cover portrait of her looks as *in vogue* as it did in the 1960s. Part of her ability to keep as vital and vibrant as ever, she reveals, is due to finding long-lasting, second-time love with her husband James Brolin and her love of roses. James Martin has also fallen in love again – but in his case, it was with Keith Floyd's old 2CV. This battered old jalopy caused him to stop and take stock, pack up

his bags, give up Saturday Kitchen and head off in search of Gallic adventure.

But as our holidays special this week shows, why run away to the continent when there are so many chances to find inspiration here in the British Isles? And for the gardeners among us, there are the beautiful English gardens in spring to visit. This week, we have chosen our top 10 choices and are also tempting you with the chance to win five pairs of tickets to one of the glorious RHS gardens this year...

Until next week, best wishes.

Sam Taylor

Sam Taylor, Editor

What's new on lady.co.uk

WIN: A five-night holiday for two at Media Rotana in Dubai

WIN: A pair of tickets to see five-star play *Travesties* in the West End



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THE LADY LOVES...



Large giraffe vase,
£55, by Quail at Liberty:
020-7734 1234,
www.libertylondon.com



Cameron Street snake-embossed small Byrdie bag, £245, Kate Spade:
0800-240 4320,
www.katespade.co.uk



12-piece Giraffe praline chocolate selection,
£39, by Roberto Cavalli at Harrods:
0333-300 1000,
www.harrods.com



Blue animal print candle,
£17.99, Zara Home:
0800-026 0091,
www.zarahome.com



Zebra print cowhide cushion,
£70, Amara:
0800-587 7645,
www.amara.com



Africa Queen earrings,
£289, by Misis at Wolf & Badger:
020-7229 4848,
www.wolfandbadger.com



Leopard print velvet ankle boots,
£248 (was £495), by Saint Laurent at
Net-a-Porter: 0330-022 5700,
www.net-a-porter.com



Giraffe print luxury fleece blanket, £14.99, by Micro-Pro:
www.amazon.co.uk



Tigre De Beauvoir screen,
£2,250, House of Hackney:
020-7613 5559, www.houseofhackney.com



Tiger print cat-eye sunglasses,
£170, by Jeremy Scott at Selfridges:
0800-123400, www.selfridges.com



Animalier Glow bronzing powder, £47, by Dolce & Gabbana
at Harrods: as before



Leopard print cosmetic bags, set of four, £19.50, Marks & Spencer: 0333-014 8000,
www.marksandspencer.com



Cheetah lamp with Isabella Wild Card lampshade set,
£819, House of Hackney:
as before



Square leopard silk scarf,
£180, Jenny Collicott:
07526-179810,
www.jennycollicott.com



Jenner zebra chair,
£900, by Eichholtz at Houseology:
0141-280 4533, www.houseology.com



Purple leopard print silk eye mask, £50, Otis Batterbee:
020-7431 8563,
www.otisbatterbee.com



Kofun mottled twisted ring pendant necklace, £22,
Oliver Bonas: 020-8974 0110,
www.oliverbonas.com



Leopard iPhone sleeve,
£53.99, N'Damus London:
020-3637 5178,
www.ndamus.com



Champagne snake coffee cups, set of six,
£272.59 (was £545),
by Halcyon Days at Amara:
as before



Zebras five-piece dinnerware set,
£175, by Lenox Scalamandré at
LuxDeco: 020-3322 8665,
www.luxdeco.com



Leopard hairbrush,
£20-30, Rock & Ruddle:
07774-236599
www.rockandruddle.co.uk



Crocodile porcelain stapler,
£75, by Nach at The Conran Shop:
0844-848 4000,
www.conranshop.co.uk



Snake print silk dress,
£95 (was £160), Whistles:
020-7391 0923
www.whistles.com



Wild Card Waverly sofa,
from £4,495, House of Hackney: as before



Two-tone fringed leather pumps,
£555, by Gucci at Harvey Nichols:
020-7201 8088,
www.harveynichols.com

THE LADY BRIEFING

Our pick of the week's colourful news and views



Ticket to ride

Chelsea pensioners and veterans of the Second World War, George (left) and Bill celebrated the launch of the Veterans Black Cab ride at Wellington Barracks. Up to 150 veterans will be driven by London Black Cab drivers to the Normandy beaches in June 2017 on behalf of the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans.

ENGLAND 1 FRANCE 0

Gordon Ramsay is the first Briton to win two Michelin stars in France for Le Pressoir d'Argent restaurant in Bordeaux. 'It's great for Britain to shine in places where, 15 years ago, we felt we had no right to be,' he says.



A GOOD WEEK FOR...



SAVING PAPER

BBC shows will no longer use paper scripts in a bid to cut down carbon footprints. From April, all programming must meet environmental impact targets. Casualty already uses an opt-in scheme leaving the choice of using paper scripts up to actors.

A BAD WEEK FOR...



PUBS

A revaluation of business rates for the first time in seven years will see rates increase across the country with pubs and independent businesses being the worst hit. Half of the independent businesses in Ludlow see this as a threat to their survival.

ARETHA TAKES A BREAK

At age 74 and after a career spanning nearly 60 years, Aretha Franklin has decided to retire. She is planning to use her retirement to spend more time with her grandchildren. The Queen of Soul has sold 75 million records worldwide.



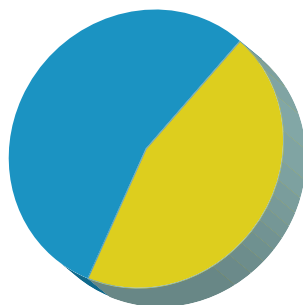
VC award up for auction

Nine Victoria Cross medals were awarded on the first day of the Somme, one of which is now being sold by the winner's family. Corporal George Sanders led 30 men into battle and held their ground for nearly two days without any food or water, enduring two bombardments. His First World War medals have been passed down through the family and are now set to be sold on 1 March at Dix Noonan Webb auctioneers, with a pre-sale estimate of £220,000.

STATISTIC OF THE WEEK

45%

A total of 45 per cent of working Londoners believe that they will never be able to retire according to market research by Mintel.



RARE APPLE SALVATION

The Royal Horticultural Society is planning to plant rare apple varieties at its Rosemoor garden in north Devon to ensure some of the older varieties do not die out. Pig's nose, sugar blush, and grand sultan are a few of the types that will be planted in the orchard.

Dear Jackie

Correspondence between Lord Harlech and Jackie Kennedy reveals why she overlooked his proposal in favour of Aristotle Onassis: 'If ever I can find some healing... it has to be with someone who is not part of all my world of past and pain.' Lord Harlech was a childhood friend of JFK. He and Jackie grew close after JFK's death.



A CUTE NEW ARRIVAL AT CHESTER

Chester Zoo has welcomed a very cute new arrival to its fold - a Kirk's dik-dik antelope. Standing just 7.5in tall, the little animal was orphaned when its mother died soon after giving birth.

Handlers at the zoo have been bottle-feeding the small antelope. It has been named Thanos, which means 'noble' in Greek.



FRENCH BULLDOG MANIA

The Labrador has been the nation's most popular breed for 27 years, but that could all be set to change as the French Bulldog was ranked the third most popular dog in 2015, with 21,470 of them registered with the Kennel Club.



BAFTAS

The biggest win at this year's Baftas was *La La Land*, which scooped five awards in total including Best Film and Best Leading Actress for Emma Stone (above). Dev Patel flew the flag for Britain winning Best Supporting Actor for his role in *Lion*. Ken Loach won his first Bafta for *I, Daniel Blake*, which took the Outstanding British Film award.

GETTY, ISTOCK

THE POWER OF THE INTERNET

When Tess Newall's 150-year-old inherited wedding dress (made by her great, great grandmother) went missing after being taken to a dry cleaners which then closed down, she turned to the internet for help. The appeal went worldwide, but the dry cleaners' landlord found the dress in a pile in its old premises in Edinburgh.



Blame it on the boogie

If you're looking for love, the next time you hit the dancefloor try these scientifically proven moves to find a partner: wiggle your hips, arms and thighs - these are apparently the most attractive moves to men and signal your fertility and availability to the opposite sex. Anything too wild was deemed 'pathological', though.

Same old, same old

When it comes to lunch it appears we are incredibly boring, with one in six people admitting to having had the same thing every day for the past two years. According to a survey of 2,000 people, the ham sandwich is the most popular, closely followed by cheese, chicken or egg.



Better late than never

Alan Dower Blumlein is to receive a posthumous Grammy award for transforming the way we listen to music after he invented stereo sound. In the Second World War, he worked on top-secret radar technology so important that despite dying at a young age of 38, his death was kept very quiet.



LETTERS



DIVINE LOVE

Reading your article, Divine Love (20 January issue) lifted my spirits on what was a grey and drizzly day. Sister Agatha has not only got a cracking sense of humour but at a very young age this lady knew her calling in life and courageously acted on it. Calling off an engagement with someone you love to choose an existence that is completely devoted to God is a life-changing decision (one she hasn't come to regret).

It was inspiring to read that Sister Agatha feels 'in love' every day, despite leading a convent life. Love comes in many different shapes and forms and all too often we assume that we need a spouse in order to experience this divine feeling. Living in a male-dominated household all my life, I am coming to think that perhaps I should have become a

nun myself! It does sound like a splendid place.
Veronika Chadwick, Kent

PERFECT PRESENT

Last summer may seem a long time ago now, but I loved the 29 July 2016 edition cover picture so much that I was delighted to receive this illustration of it from my daughter, Poppy, this Christmas.
Trish Tudhope, Monmouthshire



GOOD TIMES

Congratulations on the superb cover photograph (Rise of the Super Agers, 27 January issue). It was gorgeous and stood out uniquely on the newsstands.

I am 75, so I, and hundreds of post-youth women, am interested anyway, but I can't imagine any age group failing to enjoy it.

The model's make-up



LETTER OF THE WEEK

DRESS SENSE

After reading What Has Happened to Dress Codes? (3 February issue), I was moved to write to you. I am proud to think that all the men in my life have a capsule wardrobe of formal suit, dinner jacket, blazer, tweed sports jacket and morning suit, along with all the necessary accessories.

Even in my small wardrobe I can nip into a little black dress, evening gown or smart outfit, according to the occasion.

If I had been the winner of a dinner for two at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons and I didn't own a dinner jacket or evening gown, I would ensure my partner and I had the correct dress to enjoy the experience. With access to hire shops and high street stores, your writer and her guest could have been sparkling their way through a delicious dinner.

I do hope Liz Hodgkinson will be correcting her wardrobe soon so she doesn't have to turn down any more delightful invitations. If she does, I am more than happy to attend in her place.

Emily Hayward-Humphrey, Abthorpe, Northants.

THIS WEEK'S PRIZE

The writer of our letter of the week wins a beautiful Black Regal Peacock teapot from Burleigh. The pattern was originated by Burleigh in 1913. HM

Queen Mary much admired the design and a Regal Peacock jug was presented to HRH the Prince of Wales when he visited Middleport Pottery, home of Burleigh, 100 years later.

Details: Harrods or 01773-740740, www.burleigh.co.uk

is superb - but beauty counters are never populated by women who understand older skin. We have the buying power, as the feature mentioned, but where is the beauty industry's interest in us?

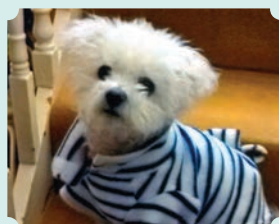
I hope in future issues to see a return to the subject of older women gloriously enjoying themselves, having survived pre-fitness, pre-jogging, pre-diets, health and safety, as well as advice on skin and cosmetics and where best to purchase them.

Valerie Pyott, London

RAIN IN SPAIN

When I woke up a couple of weeks ago, I began to think there was a war on. The headline news was about food rationing! Not quite as drastic as it first sounded, it seemed that

Pet of the week...



Name: Poppy
Breed: Bichon Bolognese
Age: 7 years
Owner: Fenella Riseley
Likes: Car rides and raw carrots
Dislikes: Walking in the rain

Do you have a special pet? Send a picture (and their name, age and likes and dislikes) along with your name to the address or email printed opposite, and they could star here.



If you have a comment on this week's issue, would like to share something, or need our help answering a question, please do write to **Letters, The Lady, 39-40 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9ER** or email **letters@lady.co.uk**

certain supermarkets were limiting the purchase of iceberg lettuces and broccoli due to the rain in Spain being too wet. Still, *The Lady* had it covered with the Archive Recipes and Welcome to Vegan Heaven (3 February issue). All we need now is Him on the Farm to give us some tips on how to grow our own vegetables, otherwise the sales in food extractors and blenders could plummet!
Christine Swann, Leigh-on-Sea

PIGEON

I loved the Letter of the Week which questioned the size of a pigeon's brain (Letters, Bathing Birds, 3 February issue).

According to a professor of psychological and brain sciences (University of Iowa) the brain of a pigeon is no bigger than the tip of an index finger. However, the pigeon has a tremendous capacity to discriminate and categorise a wide range of objects and images. Given pathology slides a pigeon can even learn to discriminate cancerous from non-cancerous images.

Given this well documented and proven information - then how come the pigeon is so daft when in our back garden?

We have a big bird bath and a smaller one. The pigeon always chooses the smaller of the two, quickly disposes of the water, sits in the empty bath, tail hanging over the edge - the picture of contentment!
Jill Bernhardt, Old Dalby, Leicestershire

TOO MUCH FAMILIARITY...

Possibly I watch too much television. Like all good things, 'familiarity breeds contempt' and I find myself questioning everything from theme songs to production values.

My current pet hate is seeing celebrity chefs fill their faces with the food they have just prepared. We don't need a demonstration. Having to watch chefs put the (usually red-hot) food straight into their mouths is nauseating. Of course they are going to make 'yum-yum' noises.

Even the wonderful Mary Berry has to suffer the indignity of being filmed shovelling in cream cake - difficult to achieve elegantly at the best of times. A picture of the finished dish would suffice to end the piece.

Marie James, Brierley, Barnsley

READ IT BETTER

On being told of the date for planned surgery at our local NHS hospital, I made plans to ensure that my recovery afterwards would be as pleasant and speedy as possible. *The Lady* featured prominently. I was told that I would need to rest at home for at least a week afterwards so I saved up three recent issues which I hoped would see me through. I am very pleased to report that they have helped me enormously through the first week of my recovery by taking my mind off the pain and helping me to focus, instead, on much more pleasant things.
Cathy Coates, Churchill, Somerset

ANOTHER ADVOCAT

I am another fan of Advocaat - contrary to Liz Hodgkinson's thinking that no one could ever drink it (A Regift is No Gift!, 16 December issue).

I love it with a dash of cherry brandy and a Morello cherry. Or in a champagne glass with

lemonade plus cherry - a Snowball. I thought it very daring when I was young.
Cathy Fowke-Hallett, Leicestershire

THE LADY reserves the right to edit letters as necessary. Please provide your full name, address and telephone number or email.

THE LADY & I

A reader tells us how she acquired a whole new wardrobe during wartime clothes rationing - thanks to *The Lady*

It was 1940, rationing was introduced and clothes coupons were thrust upon us.

One day I came home from work to find my mother reading an advertisement for clothing disposal in *The Lady*. It went something like, 'A mother is replacing her daughter's wardrobe as she has outgrown her clothes and her boarding school is being evacuated from London to an unknown destination.' Luckily, the sizes were close enough to those of my mother and me.

When I arrived home from work a few days later, I was excited to see my mother dressed in a new outfit. She looked beautiful. Left out for me was a brown paper parcel tied up with string. Inside were skirts with matching long coats and blouses in lovely shades of lavender - all in a tweed effect in a fine quality then unknown to me.

There were afternoon dresses of Shantung Chinese silk for mother as well as day dresses of a similar material. Such fabrics were not available during the war. I particularly loved a light grey wool coat with mauve buttons I was given, which I wore with a black velvet beret.

As a civil servant on war work my colleagues were interested in my sudden 'quality' wardrobe (I hope they were similarly successful with their own copies of *The Lady*). My mother and the 'clothes seller' mother corresponded for some time and found great interest in their respective sons who were both on active service. I wore a special 'parcel' green velvet dress to the subsequent party on VE Day.

When I recall that incident, I often think what would my days be like today without my copy of *The Lady*?

Grace V. Loach, Abingdon

The writer of *The Lady & I* wins a delicious Traybake Selection from Meg Rivers Artisan Bakery. Classic lemon drizzle; rich, moist brownies; wholesome flapjack and sticky ginger cake make a tasty treat. Based in

the Cotswolds, Meg Rivers' products are handbaked and delivered straight to your door. For more details: 01608-682858 or www.megrivers.co.uk Send your stories, of 350 words, to our Bedford Street address (above), marked The Lady & I.



Main pic: *Funny Girl*, 1967
 Opposite: Barbra Streisand
 with Robert Redford in
The Way We Were, 1972



Love is lovelier the

Smart, funny, astute, awarded more accolades than any other female artist and five decades as a superstar, Barbra Streisand long ago earned the title of icon.

She's been a global star for five decades. She's the first person ever to receive a Grammy, an Emmy, a Tony and an Oscar. For once, the word 'icon' seems entirely appropriate when applied to Barbra Streisand's professional persona. But then, so does the word 'diva'. Or that, at least, is the received wisdom.

I shan't easily forget the day I met her in California, in what is known as Grandma's House, one of many buildings scattered across her Malibu estate. As wooden structures go, they don't come much more down-home. There were real roses round the door of the single-storey building, its slats painted red and green.

'The astrologer turned out to be right, because that's when I met Jim'

Suddenly, she was at the front door. 'Please call me Barbra,' she said, ushering me in. It was the first of many surprises. She looked somehow softer than in all those meticulously air-brushed publicity shots. The hair was cut in a simple bob. The nails would have little trouble

negotiating the average computer keyboard. The famous nose remained endearingly bumpy. The oversized lumberjack shirt was worn outside the plain, blue trousers.

But it was more than that. As she settled contentedly into the high-backed wicker chair, there might as well have been a neon sign attached to the top of her head. Mimicking one of her most enduring hits, it would repeatedly flash: 'I am a woman in love.'

For all her seamless success, personal happiness had been a bit more elusive for Barbra Streisand. She has a son, Jason, now 50, from her famously tempestuous marriage to actor Elliott Gould. And there have been many high-profile love affairs along the way: Andre Agassi, Ryan O'Neal, and Don Johnson among them.

Then she met actor James Brolin in 1996 when she was mixing the music for *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, the film she directed and in which she starred alongside Jeff Bridges and Lauren Bacall. 'That movie,' said Barbra, 'was a deliberate attempt to break the pattern of all those others - *The Way We Were*, *Funny Girl*, *The Prince of Tides* - in which I never got the man.'

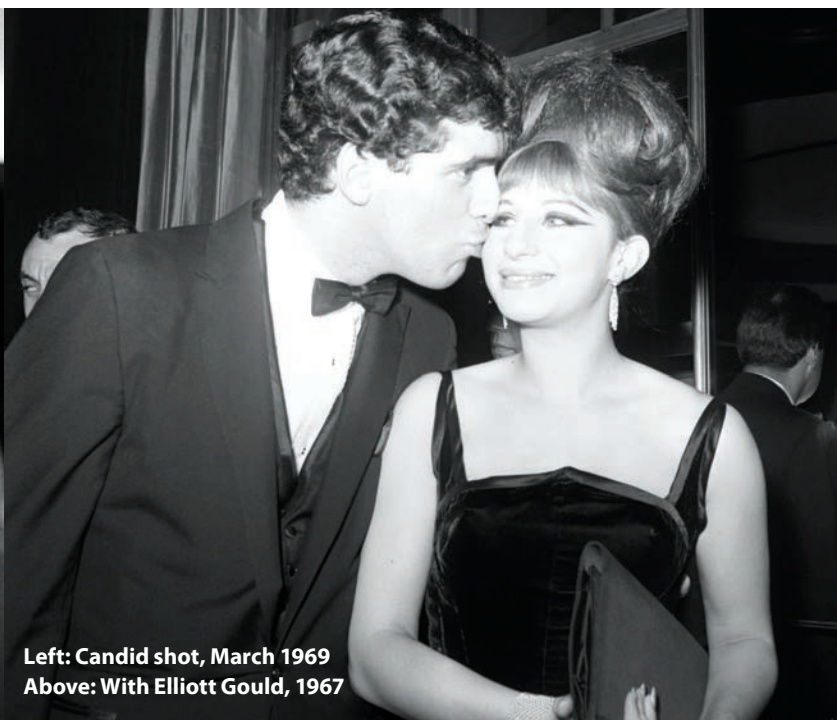
'Well, you know what they say? Fake it till you make it. And, as it turned out, that movie was almost a ▽

GETTY, STEVE SCHAPIRO/TASCHEN, LAWRENCE SCHILLER/
POLARIS COMMUNICATIONS/TASCHEN



second time it calls

consistently voted one of the most beautiful women in the world, after more than
But, as she tells Richard Barber, finding love in later life has been her greatest gift



Left: Candid shot, March 1969
Above: With Elliott Gould, 1967

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TINA MALHAMÉ
BEAUTIFUL CLOTHING - TIMELESS ELEGANCE



PINK



PALE BLUE

**HAND BLOCK
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NIGHTSHIRT**

PURE COTTON
Length 97cms
S/M M/L L/XL

£55



PINK



LIME

**CRUISE
MAXI_JEWEL
KAFTAN**

PURE LINEN
Length 132cms
S/M M/L

£105





Above: Barbra and James Brolin, 2006
Right: Romantic comedy musical Hello, Dolly! 1969

rehearsal for life. Because it's true: life *can* imitate art, something, deep inside, I truly believed. But who'd ever have thought it?

She had been in the habit of consulting an astrologer. 'I kept being told that I was going to get married the next year. I thought, "What do you mean? I haven't been married in years and years. And I haven't met anyone I've wanted to marry." But the astrologer turned out to be right because that's when I met Jim.'

Brolin started coming to watch Barbra at work in the studio. 'He loved the whole experience and kept bringing me cups of tea. And that's how the relationship bloomed. So the film laid the groundwork for my life. Now I feel that, in some strange way, my getting married again came out of playing the woman in the movie who got the guy.'

'Anyone who's ever been through a failed relationship and then is lucky enough to find love again in their life will appreciate the lyrics of *The Second Time Around*. Love is lovelier the second time it calls. I know because, from the time I first met Jim, my life has been all about discovering the joy of finding love again - a real bonus at that stage, at that age.'

So, it takes little prompting to get her to admit that this is the best time ever. 'I've worked hard since I was 11 years old, making my own money to buy my own clothes and go to acting school.' She remembers standing in the doorway of her tiny apartment in New York. 'I hated making

'If a man is a perfectionist, he's commanding. In a woman, demanding'

my bed. And I thought, "I've got to become successful in order to have someone else make my bed."

What she originally wanted was to be an actress. 'I was not having a happy childhood with my stepfather, so I'd escape by going to the movies. I'm still not sure whether I wanted to be the actress or the part she was playing; in other words, Vivien Leigh or Scarlett O'Hara. Probably a bit of both. These women, real or imagined, seemed to live such exciting lives.'

As it happens, she eventually broke into acting through winning a singing competition and gravitated, first, to the Broadway stage where her first-night performance in *Funny Girl* was



The Mirror Has Two Faces with Jeff Bridges, 1996



rewarded with 23 curtain calls, and then to Hollywood. But by the time she reached LA, it is said, she had acquired that Big Star reputation.

'All I've ever wanted is to be the best I could be. If a man is a perfectionist, he's seen as commanding. In a woman, it's deemed demanding. He's assertive. She's a pain. It's not a level playing field.'

So, what about 10 years from now, I asked? 'It's a meaningless question. I can think about tomorrow but not much beyond that. One day at a time: that's what I believe. But have as good a time each day as you possibly can. And always try to do something positive.'

For example? 'I have 1,200 species of rose on my estate. Gardening is another of my passions. I'm always on the lookout for a new species. Wednesday is the day I set aside each week for the garden,' said the surprising Barbra Streisand, with a hint of that enigmatic smile. ■

♦ A new book of portraits, *Barbra Streisand*, by Steve Schapiro & Lawrence Schiller, is out now, published by Taschen, priced £44.99.

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Phew! Who turned up the heating?



A Novel idea

Jane Green is too hot for the first time in her life, works up a sweat at tap dancing class and learns how to befriend a group of women

Hours spent putting sweaters back in the closet: 3

Hours spent fantasising about stepping into the fridge: 8

Hours spent changing into T-shirts: 2

Hours spent writing: 0

I have spent a good half my life hearing about hot flushes (here in America we call them hot flashes), but I haven't really known what they felt like. I am almost always freezing. I sleep with an electric blanket every night, and spend my life with my arms crossed in front of me, shivering.

Partly this is because I have one of the boring old auto-immune diseases - Hashimoto's - which means I don't produce enough thyroid hormone. Even though I take medication for it every day, I am still cold.

Not lately. Lately I have found myself sitting in restaurants, lifting the hair from the nape of my neck as I exhale loudly, fanning myself with menus. Every time I announce

that it's very hot in here, my husband tells me it's actually cold.

I spent the entire weekend in London wondering why everyone had the central heating on so high. It turns out they didn't. I had packed all these beautiful cashmere sweaters, and found they were far too heavy. In fact, my winter wardrobe consists largely of thick, chunky sweaters, none of which I am currently able to wear.

I'm sitting here today wearing a summer T-shirt and a thin cardigan, and the cardigan is about to come off, because my office is boiling, although today I may be overheating because I have just got back from my tap dancing class.

I am still not very good. I can just about keep up, but I feel I am

different circumstances, I don't think this particular group of women would have ever found each other. We are all different ages, with children ranging from babies to adults. As this class continues, we often find ourselves sitting in the changing room afterwards chatting, sometimes for almost an hour.

As a seasoned introvert who is more than a little anxious around groups of women I don't know, I have found the gradual getting-to-knowness of this delightful. However different we may all be, we seem to all like each other, and there is something lovely about seeing each other once a week, taking our time and letting these friendships evolve naturally

'As a seasoned introvert, the most unexpected surprise is finding a group of women I really, really like'

the least graceful person in the room. I don't know for sure, because I am so busy looking at our teacher's feet, I don't notice anyone else. I do know that it's a far better workout than I ever anticipated. Halfway through the class I had worked up a decent sweat, was bright red, and yes, you guessed it, boiling.

Perhaps the most unexpected surprise is finding a group of women I really, really like. Under

rather than forcing extra coffees or lunches.

And I am getting more and more used to seeing myself in the mirror dressed only in leggings and a T-shirt. I can't say I am particularly thrilled with my reflection right now, but I am getting used to it, which, given my state of permanent overheating, is a pretty good thing. ♦ *Falling: A Love Story*, Jane Green's new novel, is published by Macmillan, priced £14.99.

Keeping up *appearances*

Ever wondered how we keep our stately homes looking pristine? Melonie Clarke grabs her pinny and heads to Blenheim Palace for their annual deep clean

The start of the year is a great time to deep clean your home, and it's a tradition that has been upheld at Blenheim Palace, in Woodstock, near Oxford, since it opened its state rooms to the public in 1950. Normally, however, the team of cleaners would don their Marigolds and pinnies behind closed doors, but this year the secrets of the deep clean at the palace were revealed for all to see.

Built in the 18th century, the land was given to the 1st Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill, by Queen Anne (along with £240,000 to build a house) as thanks for his military conquest of the French at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. The palace is now a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Kate Ballenger is the house manager at Blenheim and has worked at the palace for 11 years. As well as looking after the day-to-day running, she is also at the fore when it comes to the yearly deep clean.

'It's a pretty well-oiled machine because we've done it for so many years. We fine tune, and I look at the plan each year and try and adapt it so it works better, but then we also research all of the best methods to use, because

that changes as more information comes around, so we adapt to that, too,' she explains.

This is the first year that the house will remain open all year round, which includes the eight weeks usually closed for deep cleaning the state rooms. 'This year it's completely different, because it's the first time we've had to do the deep clean while the public were here, so we had to change the methods of doing things to make sure that it was safe. In the state rooms, the visitor side of the room is cleaned when the visitors aren't here, and then we do everything behind the rope when they are here, so they can see everything that's going on. We do narrow visitor routes outside of opening hours.'

'We put everything in the Great Hall, as it's a large open space, and then the visitors can see what we're doing as well.' Because of this, the 65ft-high Great Hall is the last room to be cleaned.

With 70 busts and sculptures, 50 marble tables, 10,000 books, 30 clocks, 7 chandeliers, 300 silver objects and 500 pieces of porcelain around the public rooms of the palace that need to be cleaned over the course of eight weeks, where on earth do the cleaning team start? ▷

ALEX MORTON/BLUE PITCH MEDIA, BLENHEIM ARCHIVE, iSTOCK



A low suction museum vac picks up dust



The imposing façade of Blenheim Palace

Melanie dons her pinny and gets busy



Using the same cleaning method 50 years ago



Cleaning a silver sculpture



Cleaning one of the seven chandeliers





Below: Marble items are the most robust, unlike porcelain, left

'We start at the top of the room, remove all the artefacts, work our way down - ceilings, walls, everything - and then finally we clean the furniture, the floors, feed the wood and then put everything back and move on to the next room.'

The only thing the cleaning team do not deal with are the tapestries, nine of which are on display in the state rooms and are more than three centuries old.

'They are separate from the deep clean; we don't touch them because our conservation programme is fortunately so good that they don't need us to intervene. The conservator in the UK uses a company in Belgium and they have a huge bath and put them in there and gently wash and dry them.'

When a tapestry is being cleaned, a reproduction is hung in its place.

'We send one tapestry every year in a rolling programme, so every time one goes away I get a reproduction made so the visitors can still see what it looks like, but the guides explain why it's there.'

The cleaning team consists of around 12 people and the operations staff are also trained for the deep clean so they can offer a helping hand.

'The longest-serving member has been here nearly 13 years, a lot of them have been here a long time and are very passionate about what they do, and they're just so well trained. They are taught all of the methods and whenever we bring someone else in they are trained by the cleaning team and obviously not let loose until we know they won't do any damage, because that's the biggest risk.'

Have there ever been any breakages?

'Accidents happen and you have to be prepared when you're dealing with items some of which are 400 to 500 years old. [The oldest is a Roman marble sarcophagus from the 3rd century AD.] We've got some pottery which is centuries old and it's so fragile, but staff are all trained in how to handle the objects, because that's the first risk.'

'We've got a good insurance policy,' Kate laughs. 'They are so used to it now and know exactly what they are doing, and as long as they're trained well then it takes some of the fear out of it.'

As we walk around the Grade I listed building I ask Kate what the easiest and hardest things are to clean.

The marble items pose the least challenge. 'It's one of the more robust surfaces, so it's very hard to damage. There's risk of damage when you move or clean anything, but marble is probably the easiest. The chandeliers are the most difficult because there are so many individual pieces of crystal,' she adds. With that in mind, it's with extra nerves (I'm scared of heights!) that I find myself face-to-face with one of the chandeliers.

Climbing up the ladder, brush in hand, I couldn't help but think of the classic *Only Fools And Horses* scene (in which the Trotters are removing two chandeliers to be cleaned - Del and Rodney are under one, ready to catch it, as Grandad lowers the other one and it smashes it to bits, should you not remember!)

Thankfully Kate tells me they are cleaned *in situ*, so no worry there. As I gaze upon the Louis XV chandelier, dated circa 1740, Kate explains how they are cleaned each year: 'We brush the dust off [hogshair brushes are used because they are softer than acrylic brushes], then use a tiny bit of distilled water and dry it immediately. We have photos from the early part of the last century where they're cleaning the chandeliers in almost the exact same way.'

The tools used include a museum vac, which is a low-suction vacuum cleaner that picks up the dust as it is brushed off, to stop it from spreading. Polishes are kept to a minimum as they can build up over time, so stubborn dirt is removed with distilled water. Silver is polished lightly with silver cloths and textiles are vacuumed through a net. Despite new products that come onto the market, many of the methods used today are similar to, if not the same as, those that have been used for years, proving that sometimes the old ways are still the best.

'We still use vinegar and water on the mirrors because it's still the best today.'

So, although I may not have any tapestries or fine silver, when it comes to my mirrors at home, at least I can put some of my cleaning tips from Blenheim to good use. ■

♦ *Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire: 0800-849 6500, www.blenheimpalace.com. Open daily except Christmas day.*

♦ *Doing your own spring clean? See our spring cleaning special on page 57 for top tips.*

CLEANING BY NUMBERS

10,000 books

500 pieces of porcelain

300 pieces of silver

100 paintings

70 busts and sculptures

50 marble tables

50 carpets

38 pieces of armour



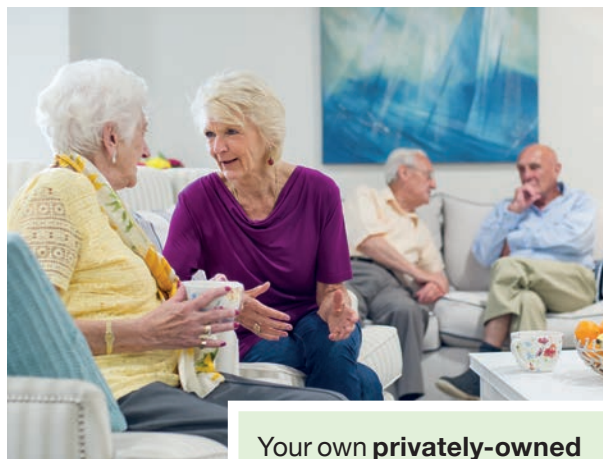
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SHOWS

A DAY OUT IN LEAFY PARADISE

The Royal Horticultural Society is offering readers a chance to attend their spectacular events at Chatsworth House, Hampton Court and Tatton Park

In an exclusive offer, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is giving away five pairs of tickets to their world-famous flower shows at Chatsworth House, Hampton Court and Tatton Park. This year, the shows will include new inspiring features focusing on young, fresh talent and opportunities to reflect on the future of our wildlife.

RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, 7-11 June

For the first time in more than a decade, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is embarking on a new show set within the stunning parkland of the Chatsworth Estate, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

Its overarching theme is 'Design Revolutionaries' and will celebrate the creative genius of gardeners and designers from the past – especially Joseph Paxton (once the estate's gardener) – and present.

RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, 4-9 July (preview night, 3 July)

RHS Hampton boasts an eclectic mix of gardens, displays and shopping opportunities spanning either side of the dramatic Long Water with the stunning façade of the historical palace in the background. It is the best place for budding and expert gardeners who want ideas, inspiration and plants and gardening merchandise to enhance their outside spaces.

RHS Flower Show Tatton Park, 19-23 July

Set in the heart of Cheshire, this show is the staple of the North West's gardening calendar with a reputation for innovative and cutting-edge design celebrating outdoor living. This year, youth is at the heart of the stunning event with the RHS Young Designer and RHS Planting and Landscape competitions showcasing their skills and designs.



Chatsworth House Estate



HOW TO ENTER

To win tickets, send your details on a postcard to RHS Competition, *The Lady*, 39-40 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9ER, email editors@lady.co.uk or enter online at www.lady.co.uk/competitions. Entries close on 10 March 2017 and the winner will be announced in *The Lady* 17 March 2017 issue.

The diary of Miss Darcy Bustle

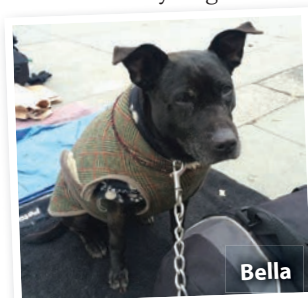


Monday

Its official, a study by the Neuroscience & Biobehavioural review has discovered that dogs can tell the difference between whether a human is a 'goody' or a 'baddie' just by looking at them. So if someone isn't very nice to our owners, we tend to ignore them even if they try to bribe us with treats. We're not called man's (and woman's) best friend for nothing.

Tuesday

Today, I went for stroll around Trafalgar Square, which is always a good



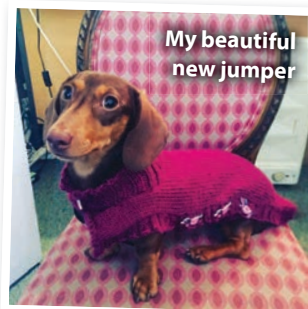
Bella

The Lady's lovable office dog tells all

excuse to try and chase the pigeons. Apparently, according to Bella - a Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross who visits regularly - there used to be more pigeons but she thinks someone told them all to leave and the ones that are left are the naughty ones who just wouldn't listen. Bella sits with her owner, Leonard, a pavement artist who encourages visitors going to the National Gallery to pick up chalks and draw their very own masterpieces outside. Bella and her owner are homeless, but she says she doesn't mind. But I think she does and is just being brave.

Wednesday

Kath has knitted me a new jumper which is so gorgeous that two ladies in St James's Park stopped me to admire it and even take a photo so they could go home and copy it for their own doggies - they were on a day visit from Oxford. My new jumper has beautiful buttons - in the shape of tiny mini dachshunds -



My beautiful new jumper

perhaps the tiniest you can get. Their dogs are Labradors, I think, so they'll need bigger buttons. And a lot more wool.

Thursday

This morning, I got a note to warn me not to eat chewing gum. I don't actually eat chewing gum (its not a nice habit), but there is so much of it on the ground that it's tempting to give it a sniff. But vets are warning owners that it contains Xylitol which is used as a sweetener in gum as well as in soft drinks and cakes for humans. It doesn't do them any harm - except perhaps make them eat a lot - but if dogs ate just 0.1g per kg of their body weight of it, they could become gravely ill.

Friday

This morning, the editor got a letter from Sara Williams from CMS Advertising in Leeds saying she might like to know that I am not the only office 'pet' - they have a peacock called Pedro. Yes, a peacock, which I think is just showing off, but which the editor thinks is amazing. Not as amazing as me, surely? Sara said that Pedro isn't very cuddly (and his claws are too long for typing) but he will come up to their French windows if they offer him lettuce and cucumber. They also think he is lonely and needs a girlfriend. I said I was sorry, but I think they might be barking up the wrong tree with me.



Pedro the peacock

♦ See you next week
Instagram@missdarcybustle

SOCIAL MEDEA

K.J.Lamb





Lace appliqué cardigan, £235, Boutique Moschino at Harrods



Blazer, £193 (was £623), by Emanuel Ungaro at Yoox



Citrine infinity ring, £95 (was £175), by Astley Clarke



Hari degrade guipure lace dress, £2,785, by Erdem at Matches



Naomi skirt, £160, by Vjera Vilicnik

Yellow gorgeous!

Start dreaming of spring with transitional pieces in bright daffodil hues.

By Juanita Coulson



Trixie headpiece, £280, by Justine Bradley Hill at Lovehats



Frill detail top, £36, by Oasis



1960s yellow and gold floral brocade vintage dress, £280, by Vinchi at Open For Vintage



Penelope leather gloves, £75, by Gizelle Renee



Rivington clutch bag, £85, by Whistles



Rosita blouse, £95,
by Max Mara Studio
at John Lewis



Textures knit cardigan,
£99, by Karen Millen



Soleil crystal earrings,
£48, by J Crew



Pleated trim skirt,
£432, by Daizy Shely
at Farfetch



Pendant ring in yellow, £980, by
James Ganhi at
Wolf & Badger



Cashmere cropped jumper,
£99, by Pure



Stella twill wide-leg trousers, £550, by Tibi
at Net-a-Porter



Bay yellow gold coat,
£325, by LK Bennett



Flirty Kitty slippers,
£360, by Charlotte
Olympia at Farfetch



STOCKISTS

Astley Clarke: 020-7706 0060,
www.astleyclarke.com

Farfetch: 020-3510 0670,
www.farfetch.com

Gizelle Renee: 020-3352 7459,
www.gizellerenee.com

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www.harrods.com

J Crew: 0808-234 3686,
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My brother THE REBEL

Joe Orton gave us jet-black comedies *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, *Loot* and *What The Butler Saw* before his life was brutally cut short 50 years ago. His sister, Leonie, tells Maureen Paton what family life was really like

She looks astonishingly like her famous brother, the playwright Joe Orton, with the same defiant hint of devilment in her smile. She has writing talent, too, as proved by her sparky and perceptive memoir, the recently published *I Had It In Me*, whose title refers to her triumphant transition from working-class factory fodder and unhappy wife to university-educated librarian, literary custodian of her brother's estate and happy mother and grandmother.

Yet Leonie Orton's transformation as a late developer came about through the most tragic and unforeseen of circumstances: the murder of her brother Joe on 9 August 1967, by his envious, neurotic and possessive lover Kenneth Halliwell, who bludgeoned him to death before taking his own life. At the time, the Orton family, including Leonie, had no idea that the straight-acting Joe, known to them as John, was gay; he led a double life, although, ironically, homosexual activity was to be finally decriminalised in the UK less than two weeks [27 July] before he died.

His relationship with Halliwell, the former mentor eclipsed by Joe's



What The Butler Saw, 2012

success, was destructive from the start – even extending to such pranks as defacing library books, for which they both served six months in different jails. ‘One librarian told me that I would never have got a job in a library if they had known I was Joe Orton’s sister,’ admits Leonie. Yet, separated from the oppressive influence of Kenneth for the first time in 11 years, prison enabled him to find his own voice as a playwright.

He was 34 at the time of his death and – at the height of his fame as the impudent young leather-clad rebel – turned the traditional British farce into the darkest satire at the expense of the Establishment with such jet-black comedies as *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, *Loot* and *What The Butler Saw*. Joe had taken Leonie to see several of them; and when she found herself in demand for posthumous interviews about him, she began to find her own voice, too, by educating herself with the help of the money from Joe's literary estate, which she runs.

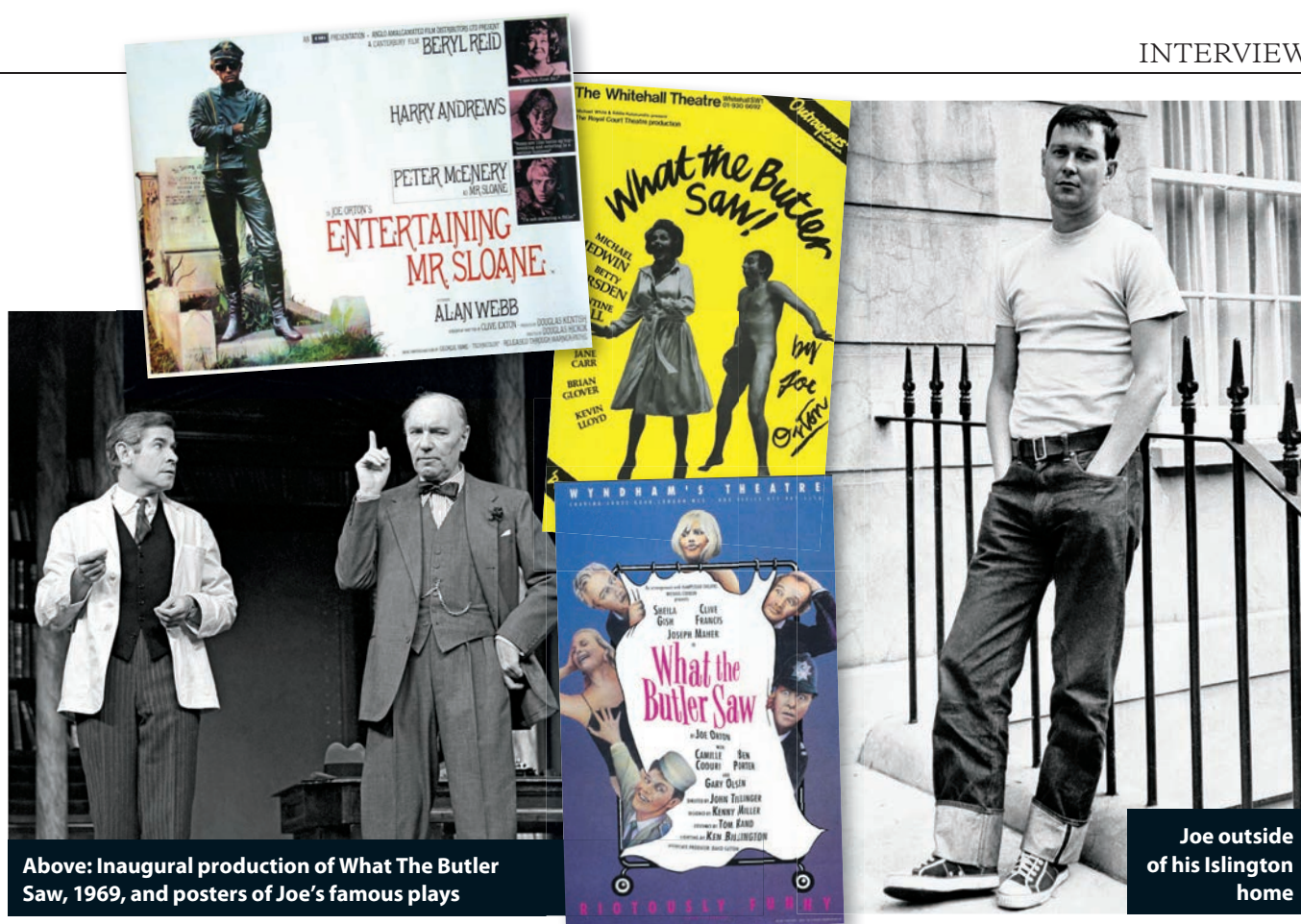
This year marks the 50th anniversary of Joe's demise, yet his plays are still performed all over the world. A revival of his final, posthumously produced play *What The Butler Saw* is about to begin a run in Leicester, Joe and Leonie's home town, and then in Bath. With a cast headed by comedian Rufus Hound and Dakota Blue Richards from the television series *Endeavour*, the comedy features mad and lecherous psychiatrists, a blackmail plot and a cross-dressing policeman in the gleeful tradition of trouser-dropping Whitehall farces – yet with trademark twists from the writer who bequeathed the word Ortonesque to the language.

There's no greater tribute to his legacy, yet for Leonie, his death meant primarily that she lost any chance to have an in-depth adult relationship with the brother she hero-worshipped. ‘For me, his murder was a massive act of selfishness by Kenneth. Joe would have been 84 now,’ muses Leonie, herself now 72. ‘At the time of his death, I was naïve about [the clues to his new lifestyle in] the plays; society was so repressed in those days. Now, of course, I would be able to talk to him on all sorts of levels; but it will never happen, that's the great sadness.’

Joe had left home for a place at RADA in London when Leonie was only six, although he continued to have a special bond with his baby sister Leonie, who suffered most from their frustrated mother Elsie's vicious temper. ‘When a character in *What The Butler Saw* says, “I lived in a normal family, I had no love for my father,” that, to me, was straight out of the Orton household,’ admits Leonie. ‘My father was this really insignificant shadow; he never played with us



Bill and Elsie, parents to Joe and his sister Leonie, right



Above: Inaugural production of *What The Butler Saw*, 1969, and posters of Joe's famous plays

Joe outside of his Islington home

or gave us a hug. My mother would lash out at me and my sister Marilyn, but never our two brothers.'

So Leonie's family knowledge gives her a unique insight into Joe's plays, based as they were on the characters and dialogue he grew up with – especially his mother Elsie, who inspired the landlady Kath in *Entertaining Mr Sloane*. As for *What The Butler Saw*, Leonie sees it as 'a serious statement about society, since the doctors are madder than the patients' she says, explaining how he turned the psychiatric experiences of his partner Kenneth at the time into playwriting gold.

Meanwhile, there's a still-unsolved detective story revealed in *I Had It In Me*: what happened to the missing pages from the loose-leaf binder that housed Joe's diary in the final week of his life between 2 and 9 August? Kenneth's suicide note had specifically stated: 'If you read his diary, all will be explained. KH. PS, Especially the latter part.' It was the 'latter part' that has never been found. According to the theatre and film critic Michael Thornton, who knew Joe and Kenneth, the police had told him the missing pages contained 'sensitive information about persons still living'.

Conspiracy theorists will pounce on the fact that Brian Epstein, the closeted gay manager of The Beatles, took what was ruled to be an accidental overdose of sleeping pills on 27

August, 18 days after Joe's murder. Orton certainly knew Epstein, having been commissioned to write a script for The Beatles' third film as a follow-up to *Help!* In the end, his screenplay was considered too risqué to be used. Yet rumours persist that Joe and Brian may have been secret lovers – and that it had provoked Kenneth's jealous rage.

Leonie, however, thinks it is unlikely, pointing out that an earlier diary entry by Joe had dismissively depicted Epstein as 'a mousey-haired, slight young man. Washed-out in a way'. As she puts it, 'This doesn't sound to me like a man Joe would leave Kenneth for.' She thinks the final pages were destroyed, otherwise

so miserable growing up, I was determined that my girls didn't suffer as I did. I never hit them, ever; I would sit down with them and talk through their problems instead. But in the 1940s and 1950s it was so common to beat the living hell out of your kids,' she adds with a sigh.

Yet she managed to rise above it all. 'You can't go through your life blaming your parents for every misfortune. And after you reach a certain age, a controlling parent becomes a paper tiger in a way – and they don't frighten you any more,' she concludes.

These days, she lives in north Norfolk with her dogs and revels in the role of benign matriarch to her two

'After you reach a certain age, a controlling parent becomes a paper tiger and they no longer frighten you'

they would have inevitably been auctioned. For Leonie, however, their value would first and foremost have been a personal one that shed light on her brother's last days.

There are many examples in her memoir of Joe's tenderness towards his little sister. 'My background didn't destroy my capacity for love. What's important is that it doesn't have to be self-perpetuating; you can escape from it,' she says. 'I could have been just as unkind and unfeeling towards my two daughters as my mother was towards me, but because it made me

daughters, Lois and Rachel, and her five grandchildren: Joe (named after his uncle), Frances, Charlie, Evie and Lily – whose ages range from 26 to 11.

'The older ones think it's really cool that their grandmother is Joe Orton's sister. And I say, "Yes, but I'm still your grandmother first."' ■

◆ *What The Butler Saw* runs from 3 to 18 March at the Leicester Curve Theatre and then at the Theatre Royal Bath from 27 March to 1 April.

◆ *I Had It In Me* by Leonie Orton is published by Quirky Press, priced £12.99. www.quirkypress.co.uk

Modern manners



There's a fine line between neighbourly interest and being nosy. Thomas Blaikie advises on the best approach...

Dear Thomas,
Passing my next-door neighbour in the street the other day, I was surprised to see that she was pushing a pram. I said hello but did not comment on the fact that she appeared to have taken possession of a baby. Since then I have noticed her coming and going with the pram and her car has a baby seat on the back seat.

She appears to have acquired a baby somehow. I do not see her very often and was not aware she was even pregnant. Should I say anything? It is rather awkward to say the least. What should I say next time we come face to face – me, her and the baby? Should I just say hello as usual, or say something like: 'Oh, I didn't know you had a baby!' It isn't really something you can ignore.
Adrian Monks, East London

Dear Adrian,
 How intriguing – a mystery baby in your street! Of course you don't want to appear nosy so you're scrupulously holding back. Curiosity is all very well, but if you come across as being nothing but ravenous for information it will be off-putting.

On the other hand, what if there's something fishy going on? What if this baby was 'found' in a handbag at one of London's leading

railway stations – I'm thinking of 'Jack' Worthing in *The Importance Of Being Earnest*. Or otherwise improperly purloined? It's not unreasonable to wish to be certain of the poor creature's origins.

There's also a neighbour dynamic at play here. Some neighbours are neighbourly, others are not. How close should we get? It was years before my neighbour would tell me what his work is, and even when he did divulge, I was not convinced. What are these strange bleeping sounds coming through the wall at the exact same time each day? He's getting messages from somewhere. It could be Morse code. Some neighbours keep themselves to themselves for a reason.

This baby might be adopted or have been rescued from some crisis. Or the mother just might

not have 'shown' very much while pregnant. It does happen. I recommend that the next time you encounter the pram, peer in as you would anyway. Put all the mystery out of your mind.

You can ask how old the baby is, how he/she is getting on in general, whether sleeping well, etc. Just assume the scenario you see before you is what it appears to be – a mother with her newborn baby. Once a flow of conversation is started, it's very likely that the woman will be more forthcoming and you will feel more comfortable as you start to be interested in the actual baby, not just its origins. Maybe he/she really will look just like his/her mother?

Do please tell if there are any further developments. We're dying to know.



Please send your questions to thomas.blaikie@lady.co.uk or write to him at The Lady, 39-40 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9ER

WHAT TO DO ABOUT... BEING NICE

Well, nothing, of course. I just wanted to mention the scene in the breakfast room of the Blakeney Hotel, where I stayed in Norfolk the weekend before last. Breakfast attendance was at a high peak, even though it was January. The room was 'rammed' as we should say now, to be modern. Guests are often not at their best first thing in morning. I certainly wasn't. Somehow, I got it into my head that it was going to be a

haddock kedgeree with additional salmon on the side rather than mixed in with. The waiter was very patient. All around, other guests were saying to the staff: 'Is it all right if we sit here?' 'Maybe we could move to that table over there if it isn't too much trouble?' 'Yes, I slept marvellously, thank you. What a good dinner we had here last night.' Not a hint of grandeur or carry-on from anyone but not craven and pathetic either. And just the right degree of banter – not too intrusive or loud. If people are measured by their treatment of staff, these ones were brilliant.

Just assume the scenario you see before you is what it appears to be – a mother with her baby'

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Calamity in Kent

Things get dangerous for Jimmy when he investigates the back rooms of the Smithy pub

CHAPTER 26: In Which I Penetrate Behind A Curtain

The story so far...

In Broadgate, journalist Jimmy London is working with Inspector Shelley to investigate the mysterious murder of John Tilsley. The pair have deduced that drug-smuggling is at the heart of the matter. To find the perpetrators and clear the name of local man Tim Foster, Jimmy heads to a pub near Deal where something shady is going on in the back rooms hidden behind a chintz curtain

I peered down the corridor that lay behind the curtain. It was dim in there. The corridor looked a long one. There were a number of rooms running off it on either side. I thought that this was a tougher business than I had anticipated, since one could not tell which of the half a dozen or so rooms was the one that I was after.

I hesitated opposite the first door on the left. I turned the handle very gently, but the door did not give to pressure. Just opposite it was another one. This time it turned and the door gave slightly. Inside the room it was dim. I glanced inside. It was furnished like an ordinary lounge, but the curtains were drawn. There were a couple of armchairs and a settee. A table stood in the middle of the room. On it was a picture. I tried to see from the doorway who was in the picture, but I was too far away to see in that dim light.

I slipped out into the corridor again, glancing around me. No one was yet in sight. A little further on was another door. This was likewise unlocked. And it looked as if it might be

a bit more promising. At one end, underneath the window, was an open bureau. On it was a pile of papers.

I was not silly enough to think that these gentry would commit to paper much of what they were doing, but at the same time I guessed that some details of their business must be written down – if only some sort of financial account. And I thought that here might be something worthwhile.

I shut the door gently behind me. I couldn't afford to have anyone else snooping into what I was doing. I glanced at the mass of papers on the bureau. There were a lot of letters. Mostly they were typewritten, and they came from addresses scattered all over the east and south coast, from Herne Bay to Eastbourne and Brighton. They seemed for the most part to refer to deals in something totally unspecified. They merely said this sort of thing: 'I was very well satisfied with the last consignment. I enclose five pounds in cash. Will you please send a repeat order, and arrange for delivery as before?' That was one of the letters, from Hove. It might, on the surface, look harmless enough.

Anything at all in the way of raw materials or other goods might, indeed, be covered by the letter. But equally possibly the letter might refer to cocaine or hashish, or some such dangerous drug.

I realised, of course, that I could not expect to find here a letter which said, in as many words, that the money was for a drug. But I thought that the gentry we were up against had obviously worked out a sort of formula for the letters. They were couched in practically identical terms.

There did not seem to be much to learn here. Apart from these letters there was nothing really suspicious. There were a few letters that seemed to be purely personal – references to holidays, relations, weddings, and all the other usual adjuncts of personal correspondence abounded. I had hoped that there might be something in the nature of account books, but there was nothing of the kind. No doubt these would be kept somewhere safely under lock and key.

I edged my way towards the door again. This time I knew well enough that I had a rather dangerous move ahead of me. I put my hand on the door-knob, turned it silently, and opened the door just a crack. Then I paused. It was just as well that I did so, for I could hear footsteps coming down the corridor.

I stood still, as if rooted to the spot. Just what I should do if the stranger came into the room I was in, I did not know. I just hoped that he would pass by... and pass by he did. The footsteps, firm and decisive, went on past the door. I hadn't opened it widely enough to be able to look out – indeed, if I had done so, I should probably have invited the attention of the man outside. But I could listen, and when I heard those firm footsteps I was sure in my own mind that this was the big white chief we were after. Certainly the steps were not those of one of the drug addicts.

The footsteps went some distance along the corridor. A door opened and then closed with a slam. Then all was silent once more. The man had gone into a room further along, though I had no way of determining which.

I was now more or less at liberty to get out into the corridor again. There was no one in sight, and no indication that the corridor had in any way changed while I had been exploring in the room. But I thought that I was becoming aware of a change in the



psychological atmosphere, almost as if I knew that I was being watched.

I moved a little further along, in the direction which those firm footsteps had taken. The only way I could get on with my work of exploration was to work steadily along the rooms as I passed them. This I proceeded to do. Many of the doors were locked.

Here, as before, I was completely stumped. Those which were unlocked opened into rooms that seemed to be innocuous enough. One was a lounge. Another was a dining room, with a fine old round oak table, set out ready for a dinner for four – and a dinner which was intended to be a pretty big meal. I wondered who was intending to dine there that night.

Still working my way along the lengthy and silent corridor, I was, indeed, more than a little surprised that I had been allowed to get that far without any sort of interruption. When I remembered that previously there had been almost a continuous flow of customers, in and out of the curtained doorway that now lay some distance behind me, it seemed to me queer that none – except the one man I had heard, and I was sure that he was not a customer – had come into the corridor since my first entry.

To admit defeat is something no one likes to do. Besides, there was the

undoubted fact that this might be the only way that I could get the information that would save Tim Foster from the gallows.

I reckoned that, by now, I should be somewhere near the spot at which the man I had heard had gone into a room. Just opposite me was a door. Was this the room that hid the secrets we were after? My heart thumped in my chest. I put my hand on the knob and paused. Everything was silent. From the saloon bar I could hear a faint sound of laughter. It was not easy to envisage the happy cheerfulness that I had left behind. I pushed the door gently. The hinges creaked slightly as it opened.

I looked inside. The room was a rather cosy little study. Bookshelves lined the walls, and in one corner there was a curtained alcove which

I stood still, as if rooted to the spot. Just what I should do if the stranger came into the room I was in, I did not know'

no doubt hid the window. The room was in complete darkness save for a solitary desk lamp which stood on a table on the far side. No one was there, but I could smell the smoke of a Turkish cigarette which had very recently been smoked in there.

I took a pace forward. My nerves were tingling now. That consciousness of being watched had increased

until I thought it was a practical certainty. But I could still see no one. That, indeed, was not surprising. The room was so dim.

I shut the door quietly behind me. This was the crucial moment, I told myself. I made my way over to the table on which the desk lamp was standing. With every pace my apprehension increased, though I could still see no one there. I grasped the cold butt of the revolver in my blazer pocket. That weapon gave me the only touch of reassurance I had.

On the table there were some papers, kept in place by means of a stone sphinx. I lifted it silently and put it on one side. Lifting the top layer of papers, I glanced below. I was very surprised to see that they consisted of newspaper clippings of my contributions to The Daily Wire. This at once resolved all the doubts that had been in my mind. There could be no question that this was the place where the murderer had been hiding. He was reading what I had written about the crimes. I felt subtly flattered that he had thought it worthwhile keeping my hastily-telephoned material.

Then, a hard metal tube, no doubt the barrel of a weapon of some sort, was pressed into the small of my back. I had, in glancing at those clippings,

for a moment relaxed my vigilance. 'Put your hands high into the air, Mr. London!' said a pleasant voice.

I obeyed. There was nothing else I could do. A hand reached into my blazer pocket and removed my pistol. I was caught like a rat in a trap. ■

♦ Edited extract from *Calamity In Kent* by John Rowland (British Library Crime Classics, £8.99).

Living *la vie en rose*

James Martin returned to France, where he first learned to cook as a boy, and toured the country in Keith Floyd's old 2CV. He tells Kate Whiting about his Galic adventure and how he was unimpressed with St Tropez and its prices

I've fallen in love with a 2CV!' declares James Martin. And not just any 2CV – the classic red and white Citroën he's posing beside on the cover of his new cookbook once belonged to the legendary TV cook Keith Floyd.

If it weren't for the little French car, his latest TV show, James Martin's French Adventure, as well as the accompanying book, might never have come about.

Knowing Martin was a fan of her late dad, Floyd's daughter Poppy called Martin and asked if he wanted to buy his old car.

He said 'Yes' immediately and within 72 hours it was in his garage, with the idea bubbling away in his

French love them so much,' he says. 'When you're travelling to where we were – the chateaux and vineyards and down the back roads with all the potholes and everything – it's the perfect car to have, it was brilliant!'

In the 20-episode series, Martin and the crew cook and eat their way through some of the most famous foodie regions of France, heading north from Provence to Burgundy, taking in the floating market at L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, where Floyd made his home, and on to Brittany.

He was unimpressed by St Tropez ('I went to the bar and ordered a Coke. It was €50 and I went, "I'm not going to like it here!"') but fell for Lake

'The 2CV initially failed its MOT on 32 points, but it performed like a dream on his trip around France'

head of returning to France to make a cookery show in homage to Keith.

A labour of love ensued – the 2CV failed its MOT on 32 points, meaning Martin, a motor enthusiast, had to overhaul the breaks, electrics and exhaust, but it performed like a dream on his road trip round France.

'You can understand why the

Annecy ('Just stunning, the water's so clear') and hopes to inspire Brits to venture further afield than 'the traditional route' when they hop across the Channel this summer.

The 44-year-old, who grew up on a farm on the Castle Howard estate in North Yorkshire, began his adventure in Saint-Émilion, home to some of the

James Martin in France
with Keith Floyd's car.
Below: Cooking au
naturel, à la Floyd



best wine in the world, and where he first fell in love with France on family holidays. It was here, in the kitchen of the Hostellerie de Plaisance on the town's central square, that he first learned to cook.

'I blame my family for getting me involved in food, but I blame that place for me wanting to be a chef. I think I was about 12 years old when I ventured into that kitchen.

'It's still the same. When we were in there filming, I was re-enacting what it was like to work there and we didn't realise that on camera there was an Australian kid who was training. He basically said, "Yeah, I agree with that, nothing's changed!"'

It was nine years ago, further north, when I first interviewed Martin as he was cooking a succulent veal steak over a barbecue on a beach near St Malo in Brittany, in front of a shining silver Airstream caravan.

A different TV show and a different Martin – he was very focused on perfection and today he seems a lot more mellow and content.



It could be down to a life-changing experience he had in Dubai in 2015, when a man he'd been chatting to dropped dead in front of him.

'He was a successful guy in Dubai, the same age as me. He got up from our table and did a speech, and just collapsed. Instantly passed away in front of me and I went, "Jesus Christ!"

could spend more time working in his restaurants (one in his hometown, the Talbot Hotel in Malton, North Yorkshire, and James Martin Manchester, which opened in 2013).

'All I was doing was TV, TV, TV, and trying to fit in everything else, and it was taking over my life. Whereas now I've got a nice balance, I can now

'I've never had time to walk my dog and watch TV on a Saturday night - I thought, "Something's got to change"'

And then you think, "What's this lot all about?"

'I'd had about four days off that year... you carry on and you're working, working, working. My mates, even Tom Kerridge said, "Mate, you look like s**t!" And I did.

'I've never had time in my life to actually walk my dog and go to the osteopath and watch TV on a Saturday night. So [in Dubai], that was the moment when I thought, "Something's got to change."

Martin decided to cut down on his TV commitments, which meant bowing out of fronting BBC One's Saturday Kitchen after 10 years, so he

go into my restaurants and then just dabble in TV every now and then.'

No longer getting up at 5 o'clock on Saturday morning means he can train



James Martin (right) on the BBC's Saturday Kitchen, which he presented for 10 years

The late, great Keith Floyd in France



the latest additions to the home he shares with girlfriend Louise and dog Ralph - new puppies Pablo the Boston terrier and Cooper the cocker spaniel, who are proving a hit with his Twitter and Instagram followers. And he can get out in the garden. 'For the first time ever I've gone out in my garden, lit a fire and gone, "Bloody hell! That's my garden!" It sounds ridiculous, it sounds crazy, but that was the reality.'

So could there be wedding bells and children on the cards, now Martin's had a reality check? 'All my mates of my age [are having kids] and they keep trying to tell me,' he says coyly.

'I'm very happy at the moment, so who knows what's going to happen.' ■

♦ James Martin's *French Adventure* is on ITV on weekdays. The book of the same name is published in hardback by Quadrille, priced £20.

JAMES MARTIN'S FRENCH ADVENTURE

Following in the footsteps of one of his icons, Keith Floyd, the TV chef hops across the Channel for a culinary adventure

It's been over 35 years since I went to France as a young chef and, in a way, I owe it all to France. It was those early trips that set the course of my career – from the unforgettable taste of my first croissant to seeing a steak cooked 'blue', not burnt to a cinder.

While I'd wanted to go back for a long time, what led to my latest trip was a phone call from Keith Floyd's daughter, Poppy. She wanted to know if I'd be interested in her dad's much-loved Citroën 2CV. My answer was never really in any doubt, and 72 hours later a battered and bruised 2CV was in my garage.

Even better, it had been left untouched and smelt like a spit bucket at Oddbins, a heady combination of musk and good Burgundy. It provided the inspiration for a very special road trip.

I first came across Keith Floyd on TV, but while I was at catering college he came to host a gourmet dinner. He was supposed to stand up between courses to announce each dish, but Keith being Keith, at the beginning of the meal he strode up to the

lectern, uttered a few words and then promptly fell off the stage!

Now, as a TV chef myself, I've been lucky enough to cook with some of the best chefs in the world, but if you asked me to name the greatest of all, I'd have to say Keith Floyd.

Some 30 years since *Floyd On France* first screened, the chance to follow in his footsteps, and to return to the places that have shaped my own life and career, was too good to resist.

♦ *James Martin's French Adventure: 80 Classic French Recipes* is published by Quadrille, £20. ▷



Rib-eye steak with
mushroom sauce and frites



Rib-eye steak with mushroom sauce and frites

Serves two

For the sauce

- ◆ 750ml chicken stock
- ◆ 2 shallots, thinly sliced
- ◆ 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- ◆ 50g butter, diced
- ◆ 150g button mushrooms, sliced
- ◆ 100ml white wine
- ◆ Small bunch of tarragon, leaves picked

For the steaks

- ◆ 2 x 250g rib-eye steaks
- ◆ 1 tbsp olive oil
- ◆ 50g unsalted butter
- ◆ Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the frites

- ◆ Vegetable oil, for deep frying
- ◆ 4 large baking potatoes, peeled and cut into matchsticks
- ◆ Sea salt

To make the sauce, place the stock in a saucepan over medium heat and reduce it until there is about 250ml left.

In a frying pan, sauté the shallots and garlic in a knob of the butter over medium heat until golden. Add the mushrooms, then quickly add the wine, half of the tarragon and the reduced stock. Simmer until reduced by half again and thickened, then remove from the heat and whisk in the remaining butter. Add the rest of the tarragon, season and keep warm.

Place a frying pan over high heat. Rub the steaks with the olive oil, place them in the hot pan and allow to cook for 6 minutes before turning over. Add the butter and continue to cook, spooning the butter over the steaks, for a further 6 minutes. (If you like your steak well done, cook for another minute or so on each side.) Remove the steaks from the pan and leave in a warm place to rest for about 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, for the frites, heat the oil in a deep-fat fryer to 190C or in a deep heavy-based saucepan until a breadcrumb sizzles and turns brown when dropped into it (note: hot oil can be dangerous; do not leave unattended).



Iced blackberry soufflés

Deep-fry the frites in the hot vegetable oil until golden brown, then remove and drain on kitchen paper. Sprinkle with sea salt.

Season the steaks with salt and pepper, then serve with the frites and the sauce on the side.

Confit duck with bean stew

Serves four

For the confit duck legs

- ◆ 4 duck legs
 - ◆ 500g duck fat, at room temperature
 - ◆ 2 bay leaves
 - ◆ Small bunch of thyme
- ### For the bean stew
- ◆ 50ml olive oil
 - ◆ 1 large onion, finely diced
 - ◆ 4 garlic cloves, crushed
 - ◆ 200g chestnut mushrooms, sliced
 - ◆ 400g tin borlotti beans, drained and rinsed
 - ◆ 400g tin butter beans, drained and rinsed
 - ◆ 400g tin chopped tomatoes
 - ◆ 25g tomato purée
 - ◆ Large bunch of flat-leaf parsley,

leaves picked and chopped

- ◆ Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 150C/gas mark 2.

For the confit duck, place the duck legs in a large ovenproof dish with a lid and cover with the duck fat. Add the bay leaves and thyme, cover and cook in the oven for 3 hours until the duck is very tender.

For the bean stew, place a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add the olive oil, onions, garlic and mushrooms and cook for 5 minutes until softened. Add the beans and tomatoes and stir in the tomato purée. Bring to the boil and cook over medium heat for another 5 minutes, then stir in the parsley.

Carefully remove the confit duck legs from the dish and drain on kitchen paper. Place a non-stick frying pan over high heat, add the duck legs and fry until browned and crispy. Season with salt and pepper and serve with the bean stew.

Iced blackberry soufflés

Serves six

- ◆ 200g blackberries
- ◆ 3 large egg whites
- ◆ 100g caster sugar
- ◆ 300ml double cream

Wrap a strip of baking parchment around the outside of six ramekins, ensuring you have at least a 3cm 'collar' at the top. Tie securely with string to hold the parchment in place.

Purée the blackberries in a food processor or blender until smooth. Using an electric mixer, whisk the egg whites and sugar to firm peaks. In a separate bowl, whip the cream to soft peaks.

Gently fold the blackberry purée, egg whites and cream together using a metal spoon until evenly mixed, then divide between the prepared ramekins and freeze for at least 2 hours.

Remove the soufflés from the freezer, carefully take off the parchment and leave at room temperature for 30 minutes before serving.

The Lady

ARCHIVE RECIPES

From one of our earliest recipes for soup in 1885 to unique concoctions for savouries and sweets, for 131 years *The Lady* has been inspiring cooks. No other magazine has an archive as rich, varied and reliable, which is why we are often asked for tasty reminders from our

past. So now we have decided to reproduce a recipe every week from *The Lady* Archive Recipes. This one is from 1938. Try it and send us a snap to the usual Bedford Street address or Twitter @TheLadyMagazine using #LadyArchiveRecipes

Until next week...



DISH OF THE WEEK : *Kidneys and Rice*

INGREDIENTS.—Four sheep's kidneys; four ounces of Patna rice; one pint of stock or water; salt; pepper; one ounce of butter; flour; a little port wine (optional); browning.

METHOD.—Wash the rice and sprinkle into the boiling stock or water. Boil until cooked through, about fifteen minutes. Strain off any liquid and pack the rice tightly into a well-buttered ring mould. Place in the oven. Skin the kidneys, remove the cores and cut them small. Place in a casserole with salt and pepper, the butter, and about a tablespoonful of stock. Cover the dish and cook slowly in the oven or on a low flame for half an hour. Thicken the gravy with flour, add about a wineglassful of port, if liked; add also a little browning to improve the colour; taste and correct the seasoning. Turn out the rice ring on to a hot dish, loosening round the sides with a palette knife. Fill the centre with the kidney mixture.

England's Top 10 Spring Gardens

Welcome the season of growth and rejuvenation with a visit to one of English Heritage's stunning gardens

There's no better way to enjoy the first throes of spring than wandering through gardens of the past.

As the frost abates and the first small buds stick their heads above the ground, shake off the winter blues with English Heritage's list of top 10 gardens to see in spring. From Charles Darwin's experimental flower beds at Down House to Queen Victoria's favourite Parma violets at Osborne, the gardens offer nature's beauty with a historical twist.

Here are English Heritage's top 10:

1 Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens, Northumberland

The Grecian-inspired Belsay Hall is surrounded by vast gardens, with the unique quarry gardens providing seasonal interest all year round. Early spring brings out the deep blue glory-of-the-snow chionodoxa, as well as striped squill hyacinths with their pale blue flowers and dark blue stripes down each petal. Daffodils flower in abundance, providing a carpet of rich buttery yellow, while dog's tooth violets and spring snowdrops bring light to the surrounding wood.

2 Witley Court and Gardens, Worcestershire

Despite the devastating fire in 1937, Witley Court remains a fascinating historical site to explore, with its spectacularly restored gardens. Spring is the perfect time to see camellias grow as you wander in the ruins of the Orangery, while the wooded area of the Ornamental Walks is bursting with pink, purple,

Brodsworth Hall's bright floral display



white and red rhododendrons, as well as magnolias and many ferns and bulbs including daffodils, bluebells and fritillaries.

3 Audley End House and Gardens, Essex

In spring colour is abundant at Audley End. Stroll across Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's sweeping lawns and see the thousands of daffodils. The Parterre and Pond Garden are also awash with colourful beds of hyacinths, primroses, tulips, daffodils and forget-me-nots, while in the Kitchen Garden glasshouses the young buds on the peach trees swell and you can see pink blossom by early March. By late spring the trained fruit trees around the Walled Kitchen Garden, especially the plums and pears, are covered in blossom.

4 Wrest Park, Bedfordshire

Inspired by the great gardens of Versailles in France, Wrest Park

provides a fascinating history of garden styles over the past 150 years. In the woodland areas, snowdrops raise their heads above ground while daffodils and primroses also flower and the spicy scent of the witch hazel fills the air. Head to the Rose Garden border and look out for the chocolate-scented Azara microphylla. The formal gardens include a riot of colour with a mixture of hyacinths, violas, narcissus, scilla and wisteria.

5 Eltham Palace and Gardens, London

Explore 19 acres of beautiful gardens, including a rare example of a 1930s Arts and Crafts garden, and take time to view the Rock Garden, with its pockets of small alpine plants like jewels within the rocks and scree. In spring, beyond the top of the moat is awash with bulbs such as cyclamen, snowdrops, yellow aconites, primroses and sky-blue wood anemones. In

A splash of colour at Audley End





Eltham Palace stands proud in its gardens
Inset: Witley Court



8 Osborne, Isle of Wight

In spring Osborne is awash with one of Queen Victoria's favourite flowers – the Parma violets, while the wild daffodils flower in the grass meadows. The walled garden is neat and tidy with the trained fruit ready to burst into flower and in the glasshouse, the Parma violets start to bloom in the frames, along with a collection of historic daffodils. At Swiss Cottage, built by Prince Albert for his nine children, the royal children's plots are being sown with early vegetable seeds, and in the adjacent woodland, bluebells and wild garlic create a sea of blue and swathes of white.

9 Brodsworth Hall and Gardens, South Yorkshire

At the start of the new growing season, Brodsworth's daffodils, bluebells, aconites and 500,000 snowdrops adorn the wildflower lawns and woodland floors. The Fern Dell's fine collection of dwarf bulbs begin to put on a show as the temperature rises with the magenta flowers of cyclamen poking through fresh new leaves as well as irises. As you enter the flower garden, 15,000

'Shake off the winter blues as the frost abates and the first small buds stick their heads above the ground'

the garden rooms, the wide borders under the Chinese privet trees are home to drifts and clusters of hellebores, variously coloured pink, ivory and ruby, as well as delicate epimediums.

6 Walmer Castle and Gardens, Kent

Spring often comes early at Walmer Castle with large terracotta pots full of brightly coloured tulips and blooms in the Queen Mother's Garden, along with hellebores in the Woodland Garden. In the Paddock, cherry blossom and daffodils entice you, while apple blossom fills the Orchard and Kitchen Garden. The heated glasshouse has a striking display of Bird of Paradise flowers which

brighten the display benches heading into summer.

7 Home of Charles Darwin: Down House, Kent

In early spring the glasshouse at Down House is filled with many flowering orchid species, including the Comet orchid, a plant for which Charles Darwin predicted the pollinator 40 years ahead of its discovery. Beside the glasshouse, his primula experiment bed bursts into life and cowslips and primroses are planted in rows to compare the effect the shapes of their flowers have on pollination. Take a stroll through the meadows in late spring as they start to burst into colour with the reds and yellows of sorrel and buttercups. Visit the Sandwalk wood to see the swathes of bluebells.

spring bedding plants including primula, erysimum, polyanthus, forget-me-not, hyacinths, tulips and daffodils dazzle. Look out for the odd early rose in the Rose Dell.

10 Kenwood, London

The Kenwood landscape was designed to be seen from the circuit walk, particularly in spring when native bluebells carpet the woodland. Clumps of foxgloves provide bright splashes of pink, purple and white amongst the trees. West of the house, the lawn with side borders of rhododendrons and azaleas contrasts with the star of the show, a mature handkerchief tree, *Davidia involucrata*, with its white bracts hanging like handkerchiefs. ♦ For full English Heritage property details, please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places

Romantic LIVING...

Robert O'Byrne celebrates the enduring appeal of England's most stunning and inspirational homes

The room had its bright, durable, sociable air, the air that Laura liked in so many English things,' wrote Henry James in his 1888 novella, *A London Life*, before mentioning well-worn carpets, crisp chintz, bright wallpaper

and 'fresh flowers wherever flowers could be put'.

If an Englishman's home is his castle, it is, as James suggests, a meticulously decorated one. From Dorset to Suffolk and London to Northumberland, *Romantic English Homes* reveals a unique collection ▷



Above: 19th-century 28-light French crystal chandelier hanging from a ceiling rose at Port Eliot, Cornwall. Right: 18th-century painted Italian bed at Wembury Estate, Devon





Left: Original elm floorboards have survived for more than 200 years and 18th-century glass pharmacy bottles line the window sill at Manor Farm, Somerset. Right: The south side of Temple of Diana, Staffordshire





Top: Vaulted basement kitchen at the Temple of Diana, Staffordshire. **Above:** Oak-grain dresser with crockery at High Hall, Suffolk

of houses – most of which have never been revealed to the public before.

In houses like Barrow Farm or Euridge Manor, Classical is placed next to Gothic, tartan mingled with floral print, one clashing colour beside the other. There is a defiance in this eclecticism, evidence of an English self-belief that challenges the observer. At Mapperton, pieces are gathered by successive generations, while collections at Restoration House are recent – the result of diligent attendance at auction houses and antiques fairs.

An explanation for the widespread interest in the interior as a historical pageant lies in the history of England, a country that has experienced little civil disruption in around 350 years. It is a nation unaccustomed to social upheaval: change comes slowly. Romantic English Homes showcases the enduring beauty of English style. ■

◆ *Romantic English Homes* by Robert O'Byrne, with photography by Simon Brown, is published by Cico Books, priced £29.99.

HOME HELP

by Hugh St Clair

Q Robin Page's recent column was illustrated with an attractive bird feeder. Is it something you'd be able to help me find?
MB, email

A I bought my own generous-sized bird feeder from the local pet-food store in our country town. It is painted green metal with a roof and hook so it can be suspended from a tree. Otherwise, Pets at Home, a huge warehouse-style shop in many retail parks, has a large selection of bird feeders and some of them are squirrel proof, too.
◆ 0800-328 4204,
www.petsathome.com

Q We are anxious to help a neighbour, aged 89, who sadly lost her husband, John, 91, who used to faithfully take tea up to her every morning until last year. Our Teasmade has been our dear companion for many years. Please could you help us track down one with a radio for our friend. The radio is such a companion.
JL, Herefordshire

A I wonder if you have a Goblin Teasmade from the 1970s? Sadly, they fell out of fashion and Goblin sold out to Swan who have reproduced the Teasmades in the original style. However, the model including the radio seems to be out of stock everywhere. Robert Dyas do sell a Swan Teasmade without a radio. You could look on eBay for a restored vintage one or ask Swan's head office why the Teasmade with a radio seems to be out of stock.
◆ 0800-707 6677,
www.robertdyas.co.uk

Q Our new oak floor has been marked by a dragging chair. How can we remove the mark?
PV, email

A Clean it with Dr Bronner's Castile oil-based soap using a soft rag. Then add mayonnaise with a spatula. Leave for five minutes, then wipe clean.
◆ 02890-709219,
www.healthstuff.co.uk

Send your queries to the usual Bedford Street address or email hughstclair@googlemail.com



THE ANTIQUES LADY

Fiona Shoop, antiques expert and author of *How To Deal In Antiques*, answers your queries

Q In the 1970s, my father purchased a set of 60 prints from a museum in Münster, Germany (Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte Münster). They are particularly good and a couple of examples are Karl Schmidt-Rottluff and Eberhard Viegener. They are in perfect condition and, although I could have framed a few of them I have been reluctant to do so because of breaking up the set. I neither know where to try and sell them, nor of any estimated value. I think they could go in a specialist sale, but I am not sure whether that should be a regional auction or something more national.
SP, by email

A The State Museum of Art and Cultural History of Münster in Westphalia is now known as the LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur (Art and Culture). Your set of prints representing 'works of art from ten centuries' were published in 1966. The more modern art,

such as that by the German Expressionist and co-founder of Die Brücke, Schmidt-Rottluff (1884-1976), will be of most interest to buyers. The reality is that they are most profitable split up and sold as framed pictures, which is what a dealer will do. Their value is not reflected in their appeal, sadly – around £50-80 for the set, unless split and framed. I would recommend selling them in a fine art auction in your local auction house, not their general sale, as they will get lost. Speak to two or three auction houses and see which one has the most knowledge and interest.

Q I have a watercolour by SJ Nash with Canterbury Cathedral in the background. I love the picture, so would not be interested in selling, but I would like to know more about his work.
KV, by email

A Kent artist SJ 'Toby' Nash (1891-1960) predominantly painted in and around Canterbury, but also went



Canterbury Cathedral by SJ Nash

further afield, including the Pyramids. He often sketched in people in his work to give an idea of size, as well as for interest, such as a member of the clergy next to Canterbury Cathedral, where Nash could be seen regularly, sketchbook in hand. His work is especially popular in Kent. If you're looking for more pictures by him, expect to pay £100-200 at auction, or more for larger paintings, including those in pen.
♦ Contact Fiona at antiques@lady.co.uk or at The Lady's usual Bedford Street address.



HOROSCOPES

17 to 23 February 2017 by Victor Olliver

♊ PISCES 20 February to 20 March

Though renewal is your sign's theme, remain clam-like and keep thoughts and plans to yourself. Such discretion plays a big part in improving cash or property matters.

♈ ARIES 21 March to 20 April

Power struggles must be negotiated with care. The best strategy is not to lock horns with someone: meet any provocation with toothpaste smiles.

♉ TAURUS 21 April to 21 May

People are listening to

you – new, unorthodox ideas or any initiative to improve the workplace is well-starred. Seek out people you've ignored.

♊ GEMINI 22 May to 21 June

It will be a rare Gemini who does not shine brightly, no matter the life situation. An overseas publishing or study plan is central to striking progress.

♋ CANCER 22 June to 22 July

Whatever's going on in your life, at the heart of it is your determination to self-improve, materially, emotionally or spiritually. This is a week to make strides.

♌ LEO 23 July to 23 August

The next four weeks are dominated by shared property concerns and/or a debate about a close bond. The instinct is to understand something before you act.

♍ VIRGO 24 August to 22 September

Life brings an opportunity to put income and asset management on a better footing. The cosmic clue is to take an independent line, or go your own way.

♎ LIBRA 23 September to 23 October

One key relationship is a

source of delight this week, and largely thanks to your sensitive anticipation. Going out on a limb for someone brings its own reward.

♏ SCORPIO 24 October to 22 November

Rather like Aries this week, frustrations or workplace power games need careful handling. Scorps can deflect by doing physical exercise diverting excess energy.

♐ SAGITTARIUS 23 November to 21 December

What you write or say is the key to breaking people's perceptions of what you're capable of. Bold sincerity cannot

fail to influence careful listeners.

♑ CAPRICORN 22 December to 20 January

If a home improvement plan has tested your material limits, Mercury helps you find another way. Good news, too, in your career – a pay rise?

♒ AQUARIUS 21 January to 19 February

Your gift to stand out is the reason why an opportunity is presented, perhaps to speak or write. This has the capacity to take you further afield.

♦ www.victorolliver.com
♦ Twitter: @VictorOlliver



HIM ON THE FARM by Robin Page



The water vole is back

In my article on voles in the 13 January issue, I excluded the water vole and promised to return to this charming, endangered animal soon. Well, here it is. It is very different from the other voles – more attractive – and, as the name suggests, the water vole lives near water and relies on water; it is a very good swimmer and diver. It is also famous as it was one of the stars of Kenneth Grahame's book *The Wind In The Willows*, published first in 1908 and reprinted many times since. In the book, the water vole appears as much-loved Ratty – far more attractive than a rat, I have to say – and displays mostly good manners.

In my childhood our little brook had a wonderful dace pool surrounded by reeds. Fishing on a summer evening for dace, as the sun went down (catching fish was almost an irrelevance), it was such a pleasure just sitting and watching. Soon there would be ripples and the sound of munching reeds – water voles would sit on the bank eating their supper. In those days water voles were one of the most common animals to be seen in the parish.

Then disaster struck. Some mink escaped from mink farms – fur farms – and the first record of mink breeding in the wild was in 1956. The mink for fur farms came from North America – making it an alien animal that started to breed in its adopted country. Numbers of wild mink were then boosted as a result of raids on fur farms

by misguided animal rights activists who released hundreds more into the general countryside.

At first this new 'wild animal' was astonishingly welcomed by some scientists saying that mink had found a 'perfect niche' in rural Britain. It was nonsense of course. What they had failed to realise was that the mink – a rather fierce little carnivore – found the water vole easy prey to catch and eat: when coupled with disastrous river drainage policies, the water vole population of Britain plummeted. It became so serious that there was even talk of extinction until a wonderful Scotsman, living in Devon, Derek Gow, began breeding them in captivity for reintroduction once the mink threat had been removed.

The Countryside Restoration Trust (CRT) successfully reintroduced Derek's water voles to the River Dore as it flowed through the Trust's farm in Herefordshire. On my childhood brook the CRT decided that it would remove the mink

to see if little pockets of water voles remained and Ratty would re-colonise naturally.

Eureka – that has now happened. And how did we find out that Ratty was back? While checking a barn-owl box, we found that a water vole had been caught and cached, and was due to be fed to a barn-owl chick for supper. Yes, it's a hard and dangerous life being a water vole. ■

*'The water vole
appears as
much-loved
Ratty in Wind
In The Willows'*



HER INDOORS by Mary Killen

Love knows no age for a new front-runner for the French presidency

I was thrilled to read about the personal life of Emmanuel Macron, the 39-year-old who has suddenly come into the French public gaze as head of the En Marche (On The Move) political movement, and who stands a sporting chance of becoming the next president of France.

Not only does the former civil servant, banker and economist have a vision that seems workable to both pro-market socialists and centre-right voters, but his biggest group of supporters, Les Jeunes Avec Macron, has an average age of 33.

As an almost professional nosy parker, however, my chief interest in him is that he is not just dating Brigitte Trogneux, a woman 20 years his senior he met when she was his schoolteacher, he's actually married to her and has been for 10 years.

They met when he was 15 and she 35. They began their affair when he was 18 and she 38. In Britain this might be cause for concern but the French have never ruled out the possibility of affairs between older women and young men being romantic, rather than 'pervy'. Their greatest female writer, Colette, was famed for her quasi-autobiographical novels *Chéri* (1920) and *Le Blé En Herbe* (1923), which both deal with love between

an ageing woman and a very young man. If Macron gets in, I predict we'll see a lot more news items on the day-to-day life of the president and his wife, and I, for one, will be watching them with inappropriate interest.

But how does such a relationship work when your friends and contemporaries don't overlap, you can't have children and your families disapprove? Many such couples

confine their lives to so-called bubble relationships, wherein they hardly see anyone else so no one can disapprove. (Macron's parents, both doctors, originally disapproved of Trogneux). Not seeing others helps preserve the illusion of youth. That's the problem with socialising with your grey-haired contemporaries on Zimmer frames when your partner is young and thrusting.

Even without her contemporaries alongside, the woman is ageing in front of the

husband rather than with him. But, as sexpert Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy has observed, 'These age-gap affairs are more often about relationships than sex.'

Whatever – it's none of our business. But it's good for the Macrons that they have not bothered to hide within a bubble relationship but have been brazening it out for 10 years – with huge smiles on their faces. ■

Many such couples confine their lives to bubble relationships'

HIM INDOORS by Ivo Dawnay

Good manners are effortless, argues Ivo – in the good old-fashioned way...

Older people have better manners. In the main, that is a fact and not, as is now fashionable, an 'alternative fact.' But why?

In part, the answer, of course, is because they were taught them, by their nannies or by their nans. The clip over the earhole – now forbidden by public opinion and various courts of Human Rights – was an excellent tutor. So was lofty disapproval.

But my theory is that they may well have been quite badly mannered in, say, their thirties and forties. Good manners evolve as we grow older, partly out of necessity – one doesn't want a clip over the earhole from a 6ft 6in tattooed teenager on the Tube – and partly because it takes such an effort to be rude.

As a general rule, it is the thrusting and ambitious who exude bad behaviour. They are in such a rush to get to the top of the greasy pole, they tend to trample on the rest of us at the bottom. (I was always rather appalled by those keen kids at the front of the class with their hands up shouting 'Me, Sir' as they competed to answer some banal question).

My father, who was an old-fashioned gent, and so a bit of a snob, regarded any manifestation of keenness as embarrassingly vulgar. A gentleman (or lady), he believed, was almost defined by his/her self-deprecating manner. And if he/she happened to be clever, he/she

did their utmost to hide it. Cleverness had to be effortless.

But then my father had the huge advantage of achieving all he wanted to achieve by the age of about 25. Having landed on D-Day plus 10 in Normandy, he survived the battle for the Falaise Gap in a tank that was the equivalent of a Fiat 500 up against the Germans' BMW-quality Panzers. His lifetime achievement was staying alive – something not all his comrades pulled off.

He no longer felt any need to compete to prove himself.

Nor would he have ever considered himself a member of one of those 'hard-working families' that the politicians keep going on about. He left for work in a bowler hat at around 9am and was home by six – usually after a decent, claret-flavoured lunch.

I have tried to maintain the family tradition by lunching properly and trying not to overstretch my mental sinews. Mrs D thinks my brain is still 'box-fresh' for lack of use. Maybe this is a sound defence against Alzheimer's.

The really clever people I know – as opposed to the quite bright – treat one as equals (even if they don't believe it). They ask questions of us less educated and informed people, and pretend to be interested in our replies, if only to take a mental note not to share our point of view.

They have excellent manners. And, like the gents (and ladies) they are, it is effortless. ■



A gentleman behaves



FITNESS & WELLBEING

with Diana Moran

Many of us have fallen victim to the common cold this winter but there are a few things you can do to fight back

A 'tishoo, atishoo, we all fall down.' This winter has seen many of us succumbing to the common cold, and I was one of them. Colds are the most common infectious disease, caused by a number of viruses. There is no cure, but they usually clear up within a week or two. Painkillers like paracetamol or ibuprofen can reduce fever, and decongestant sprays and tablets can relieve a blocked nose. We can also help ourselves by resting, sucking menthol sweets, gargling salt water, drinking lots of fluids and eating healthily.

Colds spread easily and we are contagious a few days before our symptoms begin and until all symptoms have gone, meaning we are infectious for around two weeks. The virus is picked up by touching something or someone contaminated with it, then touching our mouth, nose or eyes, or from inhaling droplets sneezed or coughed out by an infected person. Colds are easily spread among people in close contact, such as families and school friends, and, sadly, we can catch one cold after another because there are several different cold viruses. Washing our hands helps avoid transmission, and not touching our nose and eyes.

Many people believe vitamin C, zinc, echinacea and garlic supplements reduce the risk of getting a cold. However, in 2013 a new review of studies concluded that 'regular ingestion of vitamin C had no effect ... and research found no evidence that it prevents colds', though it found that a daily dose of vitamin C did slightly reduce the length and severity. An echinacea review found it was not shown to provide overall benefit, but there may be a weak benefit from some products. There is some evidence that zinc (in lozenges, tablets or syrup) taken within 24 hours of symptoms starting may reduce the duration and severity of a cold. Getting chilly or wet doesn't cause a cold.



Q Hi Diana, I lead such a busy life juggling my home, family and a career. Time is short in the mornings, so I tend to skip breakfast – is missing breakfast such a sin?
Sallie Aitkins, Colchester.

A Sallie, speaking personally, I cannot operate efficiently without my breakfast, which refuels my body and kick-starts my day. Every morning I have freshly squeezed orange juice, muesli and yogurt, plus assorted fresh fruit, with vitamins to boost my immune system, antioxidants to fight cancer and disease, bananas (potassium), figs and prunes (lower cholesterol and ensure regularity). Some years ago a study failed to settle the debate on the importance of breakfast, but concluded it seemed to be linked to health. Dr Betts, senior lecturer in nutrition, metabolism and statistics, said: 'People who regularly eat breakfast tend to be slimmer and healthier, but also typically follow most recommendations for a healthy lifestyle, so have more balanced diets and take more physical exercise.'

Missing breakfast would have a negative impact on my mood. Breakfast raises my blood sugar level, helping my brain and muscles function properly, and sets me up for the day, providing my body with energy and aiding my concentration to tackle the day ahead. And it provides an opportunity to get together with family to help them prepare for their day. Give it a try; it's never too late to break a habit!

If you have a problem and would like Diana's advice, please email health@lady.co.uk or write to Diana Moran at the usual Bedford Street address. Unfortunately Diana cannot enter into personal correspondence.

Q Hello Diana, I am in my late 50s and following a recent health check-up was found to have a high level of cholesterol. Should I be concerned, and how can I help myself to lower my cholesterol level?
Andrea Price, Swansea

A Cholesterol, a fatty substance known as a lipid, is mainly made by the liver, but is also found in some foods. It is carried in your blood by proteins called lipoproteins. It is vital for the normal functioning of the body, but having an excessively high level of lipids in our blood (hyperlipidaemia) runs the risk of serious health conditions. Evidence shows high cholesterol can cause narrowing of the arteries (atherosclerosis), heart attack, stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA or 'mini stroke') and peripheral arterial disease (PAD). It also increases the risk of blood clots, and as blood cholesterol levels increase, so does the risk of coronary heart disease.

To help reduce your cholesterol level, check out what you eat and keep your diet low in fatty foods. Swap foods containing saturated fat for lean meats, fish, fruit, vegetables and wholegrain cereals. Take regular exercise and if you smoke – give up! Lowering levels is important if you have diabetes, high blood pressure (hypertension), or a family history of stroke or heart disease. Your GP may prescribe cholesterol-lowering medication such as statins, which can have side effects, so discuss the benefits to ensure they outweigh any risks.



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REVIEWS

Books



OUT NOW
THE WILD OTHER:
A memoir by Clover Stroud (Hodder & Stoughton, £20)
★★★★★

This memoir charts the willing descent of its lovely young narrator into various underworlds as she tries to process the grief of having her beloved mother neither dead nor alive. Clover's mother, Charlotte Stroud, came off her horse onto her head at 52 and was present thereafter only physically as she descended into a proper underworld, her hellish and deteriorating condition confining her to the barracks of a series of care homes.

Simultaneously, her daughter, 16 at the time of the accident and who shared Charlotte's obsessional love of horses, began to 'live for two' as she tested her physical and mental endurance and her personal safety around Ireland, America and Russia. Clover courts mayhem with a series of horse-world men, including cowboys, acrobats and mavericks.

The writing is mesmerising and so high-octane that you gallop through the book, gasping in disbelief that a young woman could be so brave and physically strong, and take so many risks. It

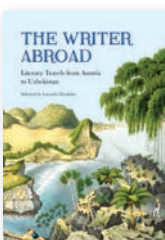
is emotionally exhausting, but worth accompanying Clover to the end.
Mary Killen

FIRST LOVE by Gwendoline Riley (Granta, £12.99)
★★★★★

You could hardly call First Love a love story, although it is in part the anatomy of a marriage. Neve has been with the much older Edwyn for 18 months, but the two have enjoyed precious little in the way of a honeymoon period. Instead, the couple's relationship is overshadowed by a drunken incident that took place shortly before their wedding, one which Edwyn – a terrible compound of self-pity and venom – seems hell-bent on holding over his wife.

Why these two have ended up together becomes clearer as we learn more about Neve's own family: her ghastly mother and bullying father who, like Edwyn, seems more toddler than man. But Riley is too intelligent a writer to serve up reductive cod-Freudianisms, even as Edwyn reaches for them.

This is a book of extraordinary potency that does full justice to the appalling tangles into which the heart can lead us. 'It's strange what we expect from other people, isn't it?' muses Neve at one point. Too true.
Stephanie Cross

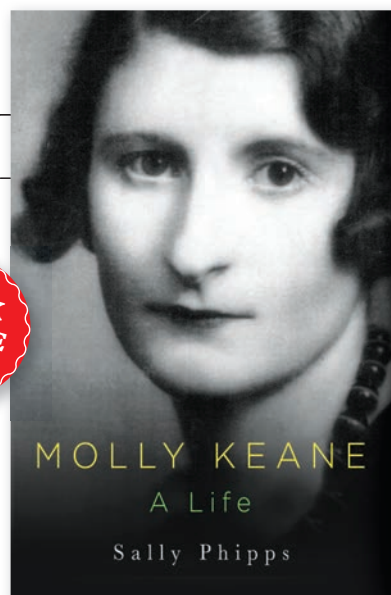


WHICH BOOK BEGINS...

'When he was nearly 13, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow.'

Answer on page 89

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Pluck of the Irish

MOLLY KEANE: A life by Sally Phipps (Virago, £20)

Anglo-Irish writer Molly Keane (1904-1996) is best known for her darkly funny Booker-shortlisted novel *Good Behaviour*, about a dysfunctional mother-daughter relationship. This elegantly written new biography by Keane's eldest daughter tells the story of the writer's 'enchanted' and 'troubled' life. Now regarded as the Irish Nancy Mitford, Keane was born into the horse-loving world of crumbling Anglo-Irish gentility, which provided plentiful material for her novels: grand houses with threadbare silk curtains, 'no heat', 'poor food', few books – but plenty of sparkling conversation and love affairs.

Red-haired and vivacious, with 'expressive, dark eyes that flashed with amusement or fury,' Keane broke many hearts. Although she inherited her mother's literary gifts, she felt closer to the Irish servants than her parents. She hid her early playwright success behind a pseudonym, even after John Gielgud directed her plays, fearing derision from the hunting, shooting and fishing set. Phipps writes movingly about the tragic death of her father, Bobby, which caused Keane to stop writing for years.

Phipps has triumphantly brought her complex mother back to life. A delightful read that provides a riveting glimpse into a lost world and its colourful characters.

Rebecca Wallersteiner

PAPERBACKS
SYBIL, OR THE TWO NATIONS by Benjamin Disraeli, edited by Nicholas Shrimpton (OUP, £10.99)
★★★★★

With a double career as a writer and politician,

former prime minister Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) epitomised a long-gone era when our governing class was learned, creative and intellectual. First published in 1845, his novel of socioeconomic inequality and love

COFFEE TABLE BOOK

THENFORD: THE CREATION OF AN ENGLISH GARDEN

by Michael and Anne Heseltine (Head of Zeus, £40) ★★★★★

Former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine and his wife have spent 40 years developing the gardens at Thenford, their Northamptonshire Georgian house. This staggering project once inspired the Duke of Devonshire to take his gardening team from Chatsworth on an educational visit there. In this delightful book, illustrated with professional photography and family snapshots, Lord and Lady Heseltine recount the joys and headaches of transforming what was once overgrown woodland into the magnificent gardens they are today. They include a sculpture garden, a water garden and a lake, but the arboretum, with more than 3,500 species of tree, is Heseltine's proudest achievement. A must for gardening enthusiasts. JC



Left: an early stone arch by the leat pond. Above: Thenford House

across the widening gulf between rich and poor is still resonant and relevant today, when the rise of super-rich enclaves and the increasingly dire predicament of the less well-off are once again creating a two-tier society – the ‘two nations’ of the title. So it’s perfect timing for this new edition, the most comprehensively annotated one to date, with a brilliant introduction that throws fresh light on Disraeli’s political views, explains the novel’s cultural roots and defends its place as an accomplished work of fiction in its own right, aside from its value as an insightful record of Victorian England.

Juanita Coulson

THE WRITER ABROAD: Literary Travels from Austria to Uzbekistan selected by Lucinda Hawksley (British Library, £12.99)

★★★★★

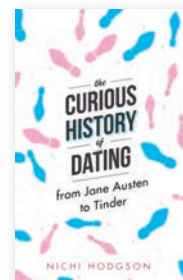
For centuries, great men and women of

letters have embraced their wanderlust and penned enthralling accounts of their travels. Some remain popular classics of the genre; others, long out of print, have drifted from the public consciousness. Award-winning travel writer

Lucinda Hawksley has scoured the British Library’s archives to compile this beautifully produced and illustrated literary world tour. Excerpts range in date from 440 BC to AD 1986. In addition to the undoubted delights of Charles Dickens on

Venice, Ian Fleming on New York and DH Lawrence on Mexico, the book is perhaps at its most surprising and interesting when the writers in question interpret a destination through the prism of their own politics, philosophy or prejudice – George Orwell reflecting on the ‘invisibility’ of human suffering in Morocco, for example. Though one or two selections are a little hard to fathom, this is a charmingly eclectic and endlessly readable volume. Richard Tarrant

ALSO ON THE SHELF



THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF DATING: From Jane Austen To Tinder by Nichi Hodgson (Robinson, £12.99)

★★★★★

Anyone who has negotiated the thrills of the chase for romance will smile with recognition and sigh in sympathy while reading this entertaining and well researched history: from demurely waiting for Mr Right to swiping right, the niceties may have changed, but the anxieties haven’t. JC



GUESS THE COVER
Answer on page 89

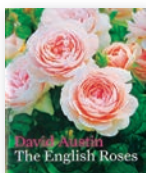


AUDIO
BOOK OF
THE WEEK

IN ANOTHER COUNTRY: SELECTED STORIES by David Constantine, narrated by Derek Jacobi and Juliet Stevenson (Audible, £18.99) Compelling characters struggling under the weight of memories or unspoken desires inhabit vividly evoked landscapes. Expressively read by two of our best-loved actors. JC

THE LADY'S GARDENING READS

Our pick of this year's bumper crop of gardening books. By Juanita Coulson

**THE ENGLISH ROSES**

by David Austin (Conran Octopus, £30)

An updated and beautifully illustrated guide to more than 20 new rose varieties from the man behind the leading rose nurseries, packed with advice on how to grow and maintain them. Essential reference. *Out in March*

**RHS GARDENING FOR MINDFULNESS** by Holly Farrell (Mitchell Beazley, £14.99)

Step into spring by getting your garden into shape in a contemplative way. Spring-cleaning for the mind, if you like, plus great projects, from tree planting to mindfulness-enhancing designs. *Out in April*

**SOW HOW: A Modern guide to Grow-Your-Own Veg** by Paul Matson and Lucy Anna Scott (Pavilion, £12.99)

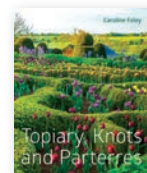
With clear instructions and a zinging, colourful design, this great little confidence-giving book has everything you need to get started, and includes cooking suggestions. *Out in March*

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THIS WEEK I AM READING...

Colette Dartford

The novelist and former political researcher on reading widely – and in bed



Tell us about what you're reading... I don't read many crime novels but stayed up late last night to finish *Broken Harbour* by Tana French. Writers are

supposed to read widely and well beyond their own genre, and I chose *Broken Harbour* because it's a critically acclaimed, prize-winning debut. Despite

it being well over 500 pages long, French manages to keep the pace fast and the tension high. I will certainly look out for more by this author. I balance my love of fiction with a good dose of non-fiction, and have just started reading *The Price Of Prosperity* by Todd G Buchholz. With the western world in flux right now, it comforts me to try to comprehend the underlying factors. I'm only three chapters in but so far it's very enlightening.

Do you have a favourite reading spot? I can read anywhere but my favourite spot would have to be my comfy, cosy bed.

Kindle or heaving bookshelves? Both, but I love the feel of a book in my hand. Also, you can tell a lot about a person from their bookshelves.

What will you be reading these dark winter evenings?

Nutshell by Ian McEwan is my book group choice, and after that *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty and *Hot Milk* by Deborah Levy.

Which authors have influenced you most?

The Secret History by Donna Tartt is probably my favourite book. I enjoy anything by Ian McEwan and Anne Tyler.

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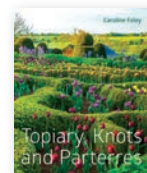
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Film

DON'T GO BACK TO THE 70s

It is difficult to know what the audience are supposed to feel from this hippy film



Jason Solomons

20TH CENTURY WOMEN

★★★★★
'Yes, ah yes, the novel tells a story,' wrote EM Forster with a sigh. It's amazing how often I think film-makers would do well to pay heed to the great man.

The thought came flooding back to me during 20th Century Women, when after about an hour I caught myself glancing at my watch, wondering when something, anything, might actually happen. Reader, it never does.

As it was highly touted and already well-loved by some on the festival circuit, I was really looking forward to this new film from director Mike Mills, boasting a fine cast including Annette Bening, Elle Fanning and Greta Gerwig (my, that's a lot of -ings and -igs).

Alas, I was disappointed by a torpor of self-indulgent film-making that forgot to do the basics, like telling a story or working out what or who the hell the film was supposed to be about.

An ensemble piece, certainly, it's set in a renovated mansion/commune in 1979 Santa Barbara, where free-spirit single Mom Dorothea (Bening) is bringing up her teenage son Jamie by enlisting the help of her female lodgers, including kooky, purple-haired art student Gerwig (is this actress ever anything other than kooky?) and bruised local teenage beauty Fanning, who climbs into Jamie's bed at night but insists on keeping it platonic while she bonks half the other boys in the neighbourhood.



Mother and son (Annette Bening and Lucas Jade Zumann)



Dorothea (Annette Bening) and William (Billy Crudup)



Elle Fanning as Julie

Poor Jamie has to suffer these hippy-fied indignities, with only the hapless, feckless Billy Crudup as moustachioed, male support. Meanwhile we, the audience, are supposed to feel... I'm not sure what. Though the script has some elegant phrases, it's rarely funny - there's even a moment where Bening stares at the dullard Crudup and remarks: 'You don't have many funny lines, do you?'

I think the director Mills knows it, otherwise he wouldn't keep speeding the film up with irritating

time-lapse photography and langorous shots of Jamie skateboarding to, like, remind us it's the 70s. Other than a Jimmy Carter speech on the telly and some Talking Heads on the soundtrack, neither is there much fun had with the period setting.

Now, I like Annette Bening most of the time, but her Dorothea has a sanctimonious air and the character feels forced, as if the mere fact that she's being played by Bening were enough for us to earn our admiration and sympathy. Bening's 2010 film for Lisa Cholodenko *The Kids Are All Right*, with which this shares similar California roots and feminist themes, was far superior, warmer, funnier and more characterful.

The house, too, should become a character in these sorts of films, but Mills fails to map out its geography or the influence it exerts on its inhabitants. But even in the sharpest character studies, something needs to happen. Harsh to say it, but it's surely an insult that this alleged tribute to strong women is actually about nothing at all.



Theatre

SILVER SURFERS GOING NOWHERE

Despite a terrific cast of golden girls, Sandi Toksvig's play looking at life inside a care home fails to shine



Georgina Brown

SILVER LINING



It may not be official but, as far as I'm concerned, Sandi Toksvig is a National Treasure. As if cheering us all up with her wicked wit were not enough, she recently got serious and set up the Women's Equality Party. Tireless, her very latest project has been 'to write a play for the wonderful mature actresses in this country'. The witless result, *Silver Lining*, set in an old people's home in, er, Gravesend is, frankly, a fate worse than death.

The day room of the Silver Retirement Home is nice and airy, with huge sash windows, through which mighty lightning flashes and thunder claps. Gloria (Sheila Reid) is evidently refusing to grow old gracefully. She sports a leopard-print jumpsuit, pink trainers and matching iPhone with which she keeps her nephew, Nathan, abreast of the river rising outside. 'Just think, if I hadn't given up drinking and smoking, I'd have missed all this,' she quips, ever the rebel. Possibly the one-liners sounded livelier on the page.

The flooding, it seems, is of Archers proportions. And

possibly as interminable. The residents prepare for being evacuated. When a young black woman named Hope (Keziah Joseph), rushes in, it seems their wishes have come true. But she is merely seeking shelter from the storm. As we wait (*Waiting For Godot* is action-packed by comparison) for someone to turn up, we get to know the women.

'I'd like one last shag,' says Gloria. 'I don't even sleep with my teeth,' says May (Maggie McCarthy), the most engaging character. She worked for BBC radio, and fell in love with Peggy, 'half a century too soon'.

'Where were you when Peggy died?' May asks her sister, June (Joanna Monro), with whom she shares a room at the home. It turns out that June's life with Ronald, and her daughter Alyson, was not the happy one she had pretended it to be: Ronald had bullied her; Alyson never liked her. Still, not quite enough to explain why she is a racist, kleptomaniac Christian.

Gloria, who is hoarding tablets so that she can finish herself off, wishes she had had kids; Maureen (Rachel Davies) wishes she hadn't. A spectral woman (Amanda Walker) in a wheelchair suffering from dementia whom nobody knows (they call her St Michael, the label on her dressing gown) suddenly discovers her voice and announces she can 'fart the Marseilles'. Oh dear.

A terrific cast prove splendidly game. But by the time one of the ludicrous ideas of building a raft using the water containers and the coffee table, I was praying for a tsunami to whoosh away the lot of them.

All clouds, no silver lining.
♦ On tour until 11 April, *English Touring Theatre*: 020-7450 1990, www.ett.org.uk



Amanda Walker, Joanna Munro and Rachel Davies are in care



CD OF THE WEEK

THE CLASSICAL ALBUM DOUBLE CD £7.00 www.amazon.co.uk
This double album features some of the world's best-loved classics from composers and artists such as Beethoven, Handel, Vivaldi and Chopin. All musical moods are catered for, from the lively momentum of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto* to Elgar's stirring *Nimrod* variation to the uplifting *Benedictus* from Karl Jenkins' *A Mass for Peace*. GS

BOOK AHEAD

100: A TRIBUTE TO DAME VERA LYNN

A celebration of Lynn's centenary year featuring many of her hits. On 18 March at London Palladium, London W1: 0871-220 0260, www.seetickets.com

VISIONS OF THE ROYAL PAVILION ESTATE

Rarely-seen views of the Royal Pavilion Estate dating back to the 1760s. From 14 March to 3 September at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery: 03000-290900, www.brightonmuseums.org.uk

A PASSION FOR FASHION - 300 YEARS OF STYLE AT BLENHEIM PALACE

A look at the clothes which would have been worn by some of the colourful characters in the palace's 300-year history. Until 23 April, Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire: 0800-849 6500, www.blenheimpalace.com



Art

A MOVEMENT IN RED

A landmark exhibition charting the influence of the Bolshevik regime is breathtaking and thought provoking



**Thomas
Blaikie**

REVOLUTION: RUSSIAN ART 1917 - 1932



'Why are we being asked to admire art that celebrates genocidal tyrants?' The Royal Academy has already had stick for mounting this ambitious exhibition of more than 200 paintings, photographs, sculptures and porcelain pieces to mark 100 years since the October Revolution of 1917. The accusations are absurd. With great clarity, the show places what is on view very firmly in its context of terror, starvation and suppression. Lenin didn't like art: it made him soft, he announced chillingly. Like many brutes, he was given to appalling sentimentality, but his calling was to beat the ideals of Communism into the people - this was how he put it. The Russian Revolution was never anything of the kind. It simply replaced one tyranny with another, far worse. Compared to the Bolsheviks, the Tsars look charming. This ruthlessness is reflected even in art that is supposed to celebrate the brilliant new dawn, such as Kustodiev's

Bolshevik, where a giant worker strides, monstrous, over a town, trampling the blob-like masses in the streets below. Portraits of Lenin, conventional in manner, falsely suggest an avuncular figure, but the one of Stalin is terrifying, maybe because of what we now know.

The avant-garde style was tolerated up to a point, but finally stamped out in 1932. Only what the illiterate workers could understand was permitted

thereafter. Superb artists such as Kandinsky and Chagall had left Russia, in despair, by 1921. Chagall's *The Promenade* of 1917 in which his wife flies through the air is one of the highlights of the show, but it has to be seen with that knowledge. Kandinsky was more prescient: his *Troubled* of 1917 has a burst of light and energy at the centre, but darkness all around the edges. Deineka somehow managed to continue in a powerful Modernist style, with distorted perspectives and out of scale human figures, but his paintings are propaganda all the same for Stalin's murderous industrial schemes.

Only Kazimir Malevich seems to have survived in a regime where the State owned everything including the soul of the artist. A group of his works is hung in the same configuration as it was in a massive retrospective of Soviet art in Leningrad in 1932. This is another highlight. How did he get away with it? I can only imagine that with his skittish, almost child-like version of the avant-garde, old Stalin didn't notice. But those faceless, collectivised 'Peasants' are saying something, as are the 'Sportsmen' who look comical, like figures on playing cards.

Lack of chronology in the hanging can be disconcerting, but the show is presented in an illuminating and unobtrusive fashion, with rooms devoted to topics such as peasants, factory work, eternal Russia (nostalgia essentially to escape the present horror) and sport (more Deineka: sporty men in chiffon shorts displaying Soviet heroism - odd). This is not an art show so much as an insight into history. For once, the audio-guide is essential.

♦ *Until 17 April at the Royal Academy of Arts, London W1: 020-7300 8090, www.royalacademy.org.uk*



**V.I. Lenin and Manifestation, 1919,
by Isaak Brodsky**

...AND LAST CHANCE

THE SAILORTOWN SEA SHANTY FESTIVAL

Stories of work, love and travel fill Wilton's for this weekend hosted by the Trad Academy Sea Shanty Choir, celebrating the songs of maritime history and culture. On 25 and 26 February, Wilton's Music Hall, London E1: **020-7702 2789, www.wiltons.org.uk**



LINES OF THOUGHT

Key works from the British Museum's prestigious graphic collection are brought together to highlight the significant role drawing has played in artistic practice. Until 28 February, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, East Riding East Yorkshire: **01482-465440, www.culturenet.co.uk**

HENRY V

Antic Disposition's production of Shakespeare's play tours eight of England's most historic and beautiful cathedrals, marking the ongoing centenary of the First World War. Final performance at Southwark Cathedral, London SE1: **0333-666 3366, www.anticdisposition.co.uk**

**WHICH
PLAY BEGINS...**
*'Septimus,
what is carnal
embrace?'*

Answer on
page 89

Television

WHAT IF THE NAZIS HAD WON?

Blighty is under German rule in this taut thriller



Ben Felsenburg

Oh goodo, a wartime drama. Cue wide-brimmed hats and vampish frocks, staccato dialogue, lots of smoking and heroic derring-do against the Nazis. Only in **SS-GB** (Sunday, BBC1, 9pm) the heroics are over and the Nazis have won. The BBC brings Len Deighton's alternate-history thriller to life with imagination and the occasional arresting, sensational shock, most of all the sight of a bombed-out Buckingham Palace as the story opens in 1941. Police detective Douglas Archer (Sam Riley) would in ordinary times be



Sam Riley and Kate Bosworth are caught up in wartime politics

the dashing embodiment of Brit grit, but 'Archer of the Yard' has fallen into the uncomfortable position of solving crimes while answering to his German masters. To make matters stickier still, he is caught between two different bosses, each the mortal enemy of the other: Kellerman is the relaxed sort of Nazi who seems less interested in ideology than a constant supply of cigars, booze and girls; while Huth is the heel-clicking type from Berlin who embodies teutonic perfectionism.

Archer is torn, too, between two women: a resistance fighter, and an American journalist who knows far more than she's letting on about the murder in Shepherd's Market that sets the mystery rolling. Swathed in seductive style and rich with twists and turns and speculation, the five-part series is instantly addictive, and there are moments to chill the bone, not least two blase British schoolboys as eager to be given Gestapo badges as if they were simply collecting stamps.

NOT TO BE MISSED

THE LAKE DISTRICT: A WILD YEAR BBC2, Fri, 9pm
Snow, sun and the lambing season: a year is caught on camera in a beautiful film that makes magical use of time-lapse cinematography.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? BBC1, Weds, 8pm
Actress Sunetra Sarker (below) travels from her birthplace of Liverpool to discover her family roots in Bangladesh.

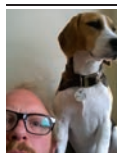


HAS POLITICAL CORRECTNESS GONE MAD? C4, Thurs, 9pm
A provocative polemic from racial campaigner Trevor Phillips, railing for freedom of speech against the censorious spirit of our age.

Radio

FIRST-CLASS YAKETY YAPP

Jake Yapp dissects Radio 4's idiosyncrasies



Louis Barfe

A while back, the disgustingly talented Jake Yapp – best known for his turns as the innuendo-laden old trouper Dora Dale, his appearances on Charlie Brooker's Screenwipe and his Sunday morning show on talkRADIO – went viral on YouTube. No, I don't mean he was ill. Going viral now is a good thing.

He did it with a video in which

he summarised, to considerable comic effect, a day's output on Radio 4 in just two minutes. All of the foibles of Today, In Our Time, You and Yours, 'The sodding Archers', Poetry Please and the Shipping Forecast ('Fisher, Dogger, jim-jams, good.') nailed with pinpoint accuracy and succinctness.

Now Radio 4 has returned the compliment by giving Yapp his own show, Jake Yapp Saves Humanity In 28 Minutes (available on iPlayer), in which he is aided by George Fouracres and Susan Wokoma. Are the extra 26 minutes well-used? Definitely. The pilot, first transmitted in January and repeated last week, covered the subject of TV advertising.

The standout bit of the show sprang from Yapp's observation that ukulele and glockenspiel are

often used to make toxic products seem nice and fluffy. For example, an energy company that actually burns dolphins, and financial monoliths that use 'ordinary employees' in their ads rather than featuring CEOs sitting in jacuzzis 'full of caviar'. It's bracing stuff and a series must surely follow.

Yapp and Laura Shavin's Sunday Best (talkRADIO, Sundays, 8am-11am) is also worth a listen, with silly features such as Who Wants To Eat A Chilli On Air?, and a refreshingly irreverent attitude to the news of the day.

Meanwhile, I must mark the passing of Alan Simpson, co-writer, with Ray Galton, of some of the most indestructible radio (and TV comedy) ever. A lovely man, as well as being one of the funniest.

♦ *Louis on Twitter: @LFBBarfe or email: wireless@cheeseford.net*



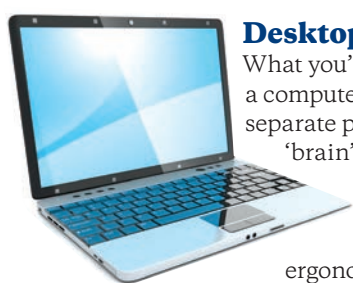


THE TECH DOCTOR

**NEW
WEEKLY
COLUMN**

Expert Miles Waghorn gives you an introduction to the digital world and what it all means

Tablets to tethering, Wi-Fi to wearables, it's easy to become overwhelmed by the abundance of techy terms in use today. You may already be familiar with the benefits technology has to offer, but knowing where to start is often difficult. As an expert in helping people with technology, I'll attempt to guide you through...



Desktop vs Laptop

What you'd traditionally associate with a computer, desktops are made up of separate parts. A tower (the computer's 'brain'), a monitor (viewing screen), a keyboard, and mouse.

Having an external keyboard makes them more ergonomic for typing than laptops, while being able to interchange accessories (such as a more comfortable mouse or bigger screen) means they're easier to be customised for a specific need, such as sensory impairment. However, as desktops are fixed to one location, this makes them less convenient for quick tasks, so they are better suited to jobs that will take longer to complete.

Sometimes called notepads, laptops are computers that can be folded up and taken with you, made up of a screen on one half, and a mouse and keyboard on the other. Their portability allows you to carry out tasks wherever you please, making them more convenient than desktops for typing a quick email or booking a hotel. Although portable, they're often still too cumbersome for your handbag, so may be more than you need if you rarely type for long periods.

Tablet vs Smartphone

One of the differences between computers and portable 'smart' devices (like smartphones and tablets) is the ability to install 'apps' or applications - downloadable computer programs ranging from travel and puzzles to news and music, providing information and entertainment at your fingertips. Smart gadgets rely on a touchscreen for interaction instead of a mouse and keyboard.

Tablet computers (such as iPads from market leader Apple), have become popular due to their thin and lightweight design. They're perfect for curling up on the sofa or long travels, offering all the



A neat, portable laptop is a boon

features of a computer with added convenience. Ideal for leisure use, looking up info online, ordering gifts for the family or unwinding with your favourite crossword.

The fact tablets have a camera on both the front and rear means that, thanks to video calling, the faces of your loved ones are just a few taps away (I'll cover this in more detail next week). The main downside of tablets is typing via a touchscreen, so writing long emails is slower, (although you can pick up accessories like a keyboard).

The days of mobile phones resembling a brick are long gone, with smartphones offering transportable access to the digital world. As their screens are small, they're better suited to communication and navigation rather than admin or typing. They've got near enough the same choice of apps as a tablet, although smartphone-only apps like 'WhatsApp' have brought my family closer, with three generations sharing pictures, videos and messages from anywhere in the world.

You may be asking 'why would you want a smartphone and a tablet?'. The answer is simply portability and the ability to call people. Furthermore, with excellent cameras, a smartphone in your bag means you'll never miss snapping that beautiful sunset or family moment.

Which one is best for me?

With the lines between these devices blurring by the day, you can carry out most digital tasks with any of the above. The best for you depends on your lifestyle, budget and requirement for portability and luckily there's an increasing number of devices designed specifically to be easy and intuitive. Technophobes fear not, access to the digital world may be simpler than you think...

♦ *Next week: How to do video calling.*

If you have any questions for Miles, write in to the usual Bedford Street address or email editors@lady.co.uk. Miles Waghorn runs techsilver.co.uk, a website for those new to technology.

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Spice up your carpets

A great way to freshen carpets and make your home smell sweet is to sprinkle two to three tablespoons of cinnamon onto any rugs or carpets and then Hoover it up. 'Using cinnamon to fight unpleasant odours is a great frugal idea,' says cleaning expert Pippa Ashman of RugTraders.co.uk. 'Cinnamon doesn't actually leave any smell in your house. It works by masking odours, and since it's organic, it can be used safely without any harmful side effects.'



Throw in the sponge

Saturate sponges in water and then blast them in the microwave for one minute to kill any bacteria. 'Don't throw away old sponges,' advises Pippa Ashman. 'Pour a little lemon juice into a bowl of water, soak the sponge in the solution, and put it in the microwave on high for one minute - job done.'



I never would have thought of that!

Spring cleaning tips and tricks that might surprise you...

By Melonie Clarke



Keep it clean and fog-free
Using shaving foam to clean mirrors will not only remove any dirt and smears but it will also stop them fogging up when you have a bath or shower. The magic behind this is simply the soap in the shaving foam, explains Pippa: 'It creates a protective film over the glass or mirror that keeps it from fogging.'



Rub some oil into it

To remove smears and fingerprints from stainless steel use a touch of olive oil.

'Olive oil helps to give everything a nice smooth look,' says Pippa. 'After that, use a clean dry towel and re-wipe it. It will pick up any extra oil, so it doesn't dull the surface.'



Hair removal

One easy way to remove pet hair is to dust down your furniture while wearing rubber gloves, as the hair sticks to the rubber. This method also stops your Hoover from blocking. Pippa recommends: 'Then wash your hands and the hair will unstick and float on top of the water for you to gather and dispose of.'



The easy way to dust a lampshade

'Thanks to the sometimes odd shapes of lampshades they can be difficult to clean,' says Pippa. 'Especially because the dust collects on the outside of lampshades as well as the inside. Sticky lint rollers work like magic. Simply roll it all over the fabric to collect the unwanted dust.' ▸

Pop those toys in the dishwasher
Non-battery operated plastic toys can be easily cleaned in the dishwasher, as can many other objects. 'Collect items around the house, such as kids' plastic toys, wellies, or garden tools (those without wooden handles), to clean them thoroughly without much effort,' advises Pippa.



Take your detergent outside

Wood and concrete paving can be cleaned using unbleached laundry detergent in your pressure washer along with water. 'Create a mixture of water and laundry detergent, keep it in a squirt bottle and use it as a handy cleaner,' says Pippa. Some surfaces might be too fragile for this, so test a small area first.

Dishwasher tablets in the wash

Pop a dishwasher tablet in an empty washing machine and run a 60-degree cycle to help kill bacteria and help prevent limescale. 'You won't actually do any harm to your washing machine if you use a dishwasher tablet to clean it,' says Pippa. 'I would recommend that you place the dishwasher tablet into the drawer of your washing machine, that way, if it doesn't dissolve properly, you can easily wipe it off, instead of dealing with leftovers in the drum.'



'Baking soda sprinkled on a mattress, left for up to eight hours then hoovered up will deodorise it'

Baking soda in the oven

'Avoid harsh chemicals and clean your oven naturally with a little vinegar, baking soda and good old elbow grease,' advises Pippa.

'Spread a mix of water and soda all over the interior surfaces of your oven, steering clear of the heating elements. Allow it to rest overnight and then wipe it off with a damp cloth. If you can see any remaining soda, spray vinegar over it. The vinegar will react with the baking soda and gently foam. Then give it a final wipe.'

Vinegar on tap

'As vinegar is an acid, it easily dissolves limescale, leaving you with shiny taps,' recommends Pippa.

She adds: 'You can use cotton wool pads or the even easier version is to wrap kitchen paper, soaked in vinegar, around your taps, and leave them to descale all by themselves.'



Freshen your mattress

Baking soda sprinkled on a mattress, left for up to eight hours then hoovered up will deodorise it. 'The best thing about this cleaning method is that you don't need to move your mattress while cleaning it,' says Pippa.



Finally, a Shine That Lasts

(Here's the latest from the US about a phenomenon now available in the UK)

Miracle Polish Ends Struggle With Tarnishing Metals

By D.H Wagner



Lately, I have noticed quite a few newspapers and magazines praising a polish formulated by a housewife. The articles report that Donna Maas grew frustrated with rubbing and scrubbing her silver, brass and other metals only to see them quickly become dull and tarnished again. Determined to put an end to her constant battle with tarnish, Donna formulated a metal cleaner and it's transforming the industry.

Anita Gold, nationally syndicated columnist and expert on the restoration of antiques calls MAAS (named after its inventor) "The best and most amazing polish in the world." Ms. Gold wrote in her column, "A truly miraculous polish referred to as 'miracle polish' that'll turn the most disastrous pieces into the most debrightful is MAAS Fine Polishing Creme For All Metals, which cleans, restores, preserves and polishes to perfection any brass, copper, chrome, silver, stainless steel, aluminum, gold or any other metal with amazing results - no matter how badly stained, spotted, discoloured, food-damaged, weathered, dirty, dingy, drab, or dull they may be."

Since I had an old brass lamp in desperate need of restoration, this journalist decided to put MAAS to the test. The lamp had been stored in the garage and was in far worse condition than I remembered. I was flabbergasted as I watched the polish wipe away layers and years of tarnish. Never have I used anything so easy. The lamp actually looks better than when I purchased it. Better yet,



months later it's still glowing! The polish worked so effortlessly, I decided to refurbish my mother's antique brass and copper cookware. The badly stained pots and pans developed black spots that had been impossible to remove. MAAS wiped away years of built-up residue even from the most discoloured pieces. While polishing, I noticed MAAS applying a shine on the stainless steel sink. WOW! The shine is unbelievable and although I wash dishes every day, the shine keeps on shining. And it's no longer covered with ugly waterspots - water just rolls off the protective finish and down the drain.

A consumer study of 28 metal polishes reports, "MAAS Polishing Creme has no equals in all around polishing performance..." "MAAS retained its shine longer than every polish tested. The Miami Herald says, "Polishing product can renew old silver." And The Chicago Tribune headline sums it all up by



proclaiming "One Amazing Polish Is The Best At Everything."

How did a housewife come up with something the industry's experts couldn't? The reporter in me had to find out.

During our interview Donna explained, "I enjoy

the warmth that beautifully polished metals add to a home. However, not the hours it took to keep them tarnish free. The harsh cleaners left my hands dry and burning - one instant silver dip smelled so bad I felt sick. That's when I became determined to find a better way to care for the metals in my home."

And that she did. Her formula developed with a chemist friend, has a mild scent and feels like a hand cream. It's nonflammable, highly concentrated and leaves a deep, rich one-of-a-kind lustre beyond anything I've ever seen.

"To my surprise," Donna reveals, "the formula far exceeded my original goal. MAAS completely renovated a sundamaged fiberglass boat, removed residue from glass fireplace doors, polished up clouded crystal and glass vases, wiped scuffs and stains from linoleum, plastic lawn furniture - it even reconditioned a Plexiglas windshield. The restorations were so remarkable everyone suggested that I sell my invention on television". Donna sent samples of her polish to televised shopping channels and both QVC and Home Shopping Network asked Donna to personally appear on TV to



demonstrate her product. Within minutes of Donna's first appearance the phones lit up with hundreds waiting on line to place their orders. As soon as viewers saw how effortlessly MAAS removed tarnish, stubborn spots, and stains from the piles of badly oxidised metals on stage - MAAS hit big time. 17,000 viewers called during MAAS' debut and encore performances quickly brought a million dollars in record-breaking sales. Sheila Otting in Florida wrote Donna saying, "Thank you, for a wonderful product! Family treasures with 30 years of tarnish, grime and corrosion are gleaming. I'm so thrilled to see the beauty that had been hidden all those years."

Leona Toppel, was about to throw away a brass chandelier. "No amount of elbow grease could shine it up. With very little effort (a big plus since I suffer from arthritis) MAAS made that chandelier look like new. It's been years and to everyone's surprise it's still glowing."

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas tested and approved the polish for use on jet aircraft. The Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Department of Defence worldwide have ordered MAAS. If every branch of our military is using this polish to pass inspection, imagine what it will do for your home.

"MAAS outperforms every cleaning product I've tried," Donna beams with satisfaction. "So if you're as tired as I was of cleaning metals just to see tarnish reappear a few weeks later, MAAS it!"

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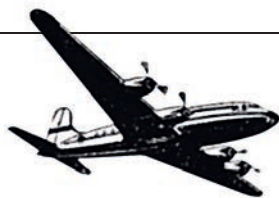


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THE GLOBETROTTER



Whitsand Bay
in Cornwall.
Below: Looe

Holidays in *Britain*

A glorious family holiday doesn't require a plane or ferry to get there, simple jump in the car and head for somewhere right on our own shores, says Melonie Clarke



Cornwall

With its mild climate, stunning beaches and picture-perfect villages, Cornwall is ideal for a short break or longer holiday.

For sweeping coastlines there's Whitsand Bay with its hidden coves and golden beaches. If high-octane fun takes your fancy, any of the

spots from Sennen to Newquay, dubbed the surfing capital of the UK, provide perfect wave-catching opportunities. Or you could head to Gwihian Beach, which is a haven for those who love windsurfing.

Then there are the pretty fishing villages of St Mawes, Mevagissey, Looe and

Polperro with both sea angling and pleasure boat trips available.

You'll never be short of places to enjoy delicious seafood in Cornwall. Head to Padstow, where Rick Stein's restaurants and cookery school have made the fishing village into a bit of a foodie heaven.

Some great attractions include the cathedral in Truro, Cornwall's only city; the Eden Project, dubbed the eighth wonder of the world; the National Seal Sanctuary, which is Europe's busiest seal rescue centre; and Newquay Zoo, home to more than 1,000 of the world's rarest and endangered animals. ▷

Brent Tor with St Michael's Church at its peak in Dartmoor



Durdle Door is a magnificent limestone arch in Lulworth

Steephill Cove on the Isle of Wight



'For those who prefer rugged landscapes, windswept Dartmoor or Exmoor are the places to head'

Devon

A trip to Devon, the land of cream teas, is certainly a sweet affair. The county's coastline is a huge pull for tourists with some of the best beaches in the UK and the highest concentrations of Blue Flag beaches in the country too.

On the north coast, the waves are perfect for surfing, whereas in the south the calmer waters are ideal for families and sun worshippers. Those with a love of sailing can't go far wrong with a visit to Dartmouth or Salcombe.

For those who prefer rugged landscapes, windswept Dartmoor or Exmoor are the places to head, or for a hive of activity visit the bigger settlements of Exeter, Totnes, Plymouth, or Torquay.

Visitors to Devon will be spoilt for choice with many National Trust properties

including Agatha Christie's beloved holiday home, Greenway, near Brixham. In the Broomhill Sculpture Gardens, near Barnstaple, you'll find 300 quirky statues across ten acres of ground. Another interesting place to visit is Kents Cavern in Torquay, one of Europe's most important Stone Age sites.

Dorset

With rolling countryside and chalk downlands, Dorset offers visitors a quintessentially English landscape. Most famous of all is the Jurassic Coast, which was awarded World Heritage status by UNESCO. Covering 95 miles and 185 million years of history, the Jurassic Coast is perfect for fossil hunters, particularly Lyme Regis where the museum boasts fossil hunter Mary Anning's discoveries.

The coastline also has some famous landmarks and beaches such as Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove, and

Chesil Beach. For history of a different kind, catch a glimpse of the Cerne Abbas Giant, which was carved into the chalk hillside and, at 180 foot, is the largest hill figure in Britain. Another famous landmark is the Iron Age hill fort of Maiden Castle, the biggest in Britain.

Over half of Dorset is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, so get ready with your camera and do buy a sizable family album for your return from this trip.

Isle of Wight

A stone's throw from Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight is perfect for a seaside holiday. It was a favourite of Queen Victoria who spent many happy hours with her family there in East Cowes, where she and Prince Albert built Osborne House, now managed by English Heritage, as a summer home and rural retreat.

With a mild climate, 67 miles of coastal path and

plenty of outdoor activities, a trip to the Isle of Wight has so much to offer.

You could head to Carisbrooke Castle, where Charles I stayed – and was later imprisoned – after escaping from Hampton Court Palace in 1647. Or there's Yarmouth Castle, one of the last coastal fortifications to be built by Henry VIII and completed after his death in 1547.

Other popular tourist destinations include the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, where the rescued donkeys have over 60 acres to roam, and the Bembridge Lifeboat Station founded in 1867.

Norfolk

With 90 miles of coastline, forests and nature reserves, there isn't much Norfolk doesn't have, and for a complete contrast Norwich is perfect for a city break, offering plenty in the way of culture and shopping.

For sand castles and ice cream, explore the resorts ▶

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Kirker's first exclusive Music Festival to be held in the capital, will be based at the Royal Over-seas League's London club in St James', with a series of concerts held in the Princess Alexandra Concert Hall.

Performers will include Sarah-Jane Lewis, soprano; Simon Lepper, piano; Simon Rowland-Jones, viola; The Castalian String Quartet and The Marmen Quartet. We shall also visit some of London's major spring exhibitions – *Portrait of the Artist* at the Queen's Gallery, *Revolution: Russian Art 1917* at the Royal Academy of Arts and *David Hockney* at 80 at Tate Britain. There will also be an excursion to Dulwich Village to see the country's oldest public gallery.



Price from £1,486 for five nights including accommodation with breakfast, five dinners, four concerts, all sightseeing and gratuities and the services of the Kirker Tour Leader.

THE KIRKER MUSIC FESTIVAL AT THE GRAND, EASTBOURNE

A THREE NIGHT HOLIDAY | 7 APRIL 2017

We will travel to Sussex in spring 2017 for a new Kirker chamber music festival based at the aptly named Grand Hotel facing the sea in the centre of Eastbourne.

This splendid hotel has every comfort including a spa and an impressive room for our three private concerts. The series of performances will be given by the fast-rising Piatti Quartet, and will be accompanied by a talk by Simon Rowland-Jones on Claude Debussy, who stayed at The Grand in the summer of 1905.



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THE KIRKER MUSIC FESTIVAL IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A FOUR NIGHT HOLIDAY | 17 JULY 2017

We return to the pretty market town of Oundle on the River Nene for our third Kirker Music Festival. Joining us will be The Castalian String Quartet, who will be making their debut at one of our Music Festivals, and Olivier Stankiewicz, oboe.

We stay at the 3* Talbot Hotel for the duration of our stay and here we shall enjoy three concerts. Our programme of sightseeing includes visits to Cottesbrooke, a magnificent Queen Anne house and Boughton, the grand house of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. At Elton Hall, the much loved family home of Sir William and Lady Proby, we will see an important collection of art and furniture and personal family memorabilia. We stay on for a concert in the house before returning to Oundle.



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A FOUR NIGHT HOLIDAY | 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

Enjoy three concerts given by the Gould Piano Trio during our third Kirker Music Festival in Suffolk. This year's programme includes works by Beethoven, Mozart, Dvorak and local icon Benjamin Britten.

We will stay at Seckford Hall, a magnificent Tudor building set in impressive gardens and located close to Woodbridge. This part of Suffolk has close associations with Benjamin Britten and our programme of sightseeing includes visits to the Red House in Aldeburgh where Britten and Peter Pears lived from 1957 until their deaths, and the magnificent garden created by Giles and Sonia Coode-Adams at their Elizabethan manor house.



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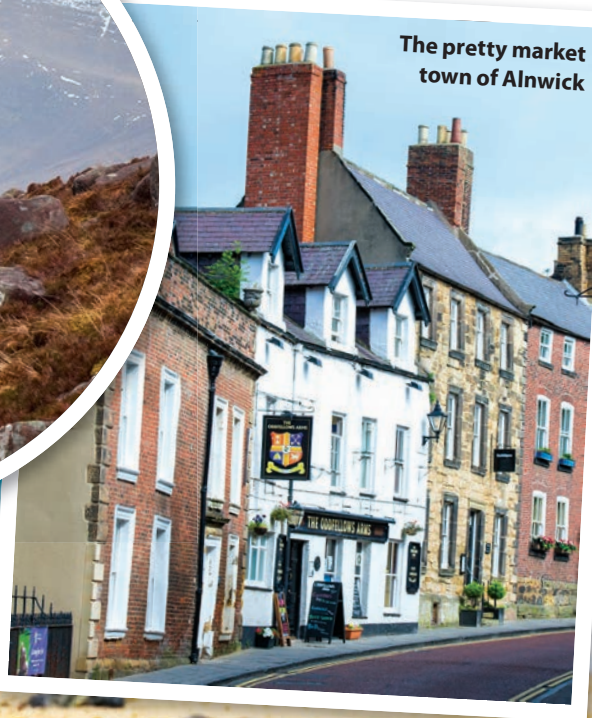
South Uist in
the Outer
Hebrides



The stunning
Scottish Highlands



The pretty market
town of Alnwick



'Norfolk takes the award for the combined sunniest and driest county in the UK'

of Great Yarmouth, Cromer and Hunstanton. As well as old-fashioned seaside fun, Norfolk's coast has also yielded some exciting discoveries such as the best-preserved mammoth skeleton ever found and 900,000-year-old footprints.

You could head to the Broads National Park and glide along some of the 125 miles of navigable lock-free waterways set in beautiful countryside, also giving you a perfect opportunity for wildlife watching. If the latter is your thing, you could also take a trip to see the seals at Blakeney National Nature Reserve in spring.

Best of all, Norfolk takes the award for the combined sunniest and driest county in the UK, so you can expect good weather.

Northumberland

The land of coastline and castles, Northumberland has more than 30 miles of beaches and more castles than any other county in

England, including Warkworth, Dunstanburgh, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne.

In addition to its wealth of castles, Norfolk is rich in other historical places such as the medieval market town of Alnwick, which, again, boasts a castle, as well as a number of vintage shops and gardens to visit.

Tea lovers can't visit this part of the world without dropping in to Howick Hall Gardens, the home of Earl Grey tea, which was specially blended for the 2nd Earl Grey to suit the water from the well at Howick, using bergamot to offset the taste of the lime in it.

Some great seaside spots for fish and chips and strolls along the prom include the fishing community of Newton-by-the-Sea, Seahouses and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, where you'll find Couple, Britain's first permanent coastal sculpture. And do visit the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, the birthplace of the Lindisfarne Gospels.

Scotland

From its cities to its famous Highlands, Scotland is steeped in history. Castles and moors that were once scenes of bloody battles reveal traces of the country's turbulent past, with famous sites such as Bannockburn and Culloden bringing history to life with their visitor centres.

With some of the largest areas of wilderness in Europe, Scotland is the ultimate destination for those who not only love the great outdoors but also have a love of wildlife, with golden eagles, deer, and many other species. Adventure can be found on foot or on water; sea-kayaking is a popular sport and you could head to the Outer Hebrides and experience some of the incredible wildlife there.

The bright lights of the city can be enjoyed in Edinburgh, Dundee, or Glasgow to name but a few. And if you're heading for Edinburgh, try to tie in your

visit with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the largest arts festival in the world. There is some great vintage shopping in Edinburgh too: W Armstrong & Son, in the Grassmarket, is a particular treasure trove.

Somerset

With more than 100 reserves, parks and protected areas, for nature lovers and twitchers Somerset is perfect. There are also four Areas of Outstanding Beauty: Cranborne Chase and the Quantock, Blackdown and Mendip Hills.

As well as the landscapes of Exmoor and the Somerset Levels, there is also more than 60km of coast to discover where you'll find one of the longest stretches of sandy beach in Europe at Berrow Beach. Or explore Somerset's own Jurassic coast, which constantly yields exciting finds. In the Cheddar Caves you'll also find the earliest evidence of human settlement in Britain. ▶

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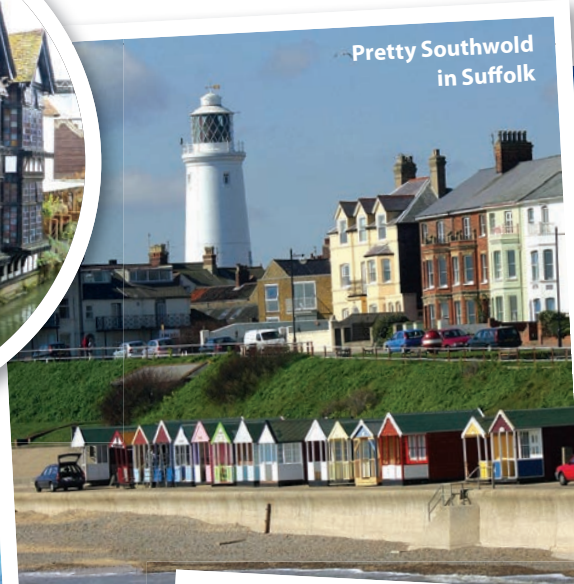


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A sunny view from
Somerset's
Quantock Hills



The Old Weavers' House
in Canterbury



Pretty Southwold
in Suffolk



Lake Windermere

The Willows and Wetlands Visitor Centre, where the Coate family has been working with willow since 1819, and Dunster Castle, which started life as a motte and bailey castle over 1,000 years ago, are also highlights.

Suffolk

With breathtaking skies and glorious coastline, Suffolk on the east coast of England is idyllic. Visit the seaside town of Aldeburgh which hosts the yearly Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts in June.

Dunwich Heath, adjacent to the RSPB reserve at Minsmere, is home to warblers, nightjars and woodlarks. Go on a guided walks with a National Trust ranger or explore yourself.

No trip to Suffolk is complete without a trip to Flatford Mill, the heart of Constable Country. Pop into the exhibition in Bridge Cottage, which tells the famous painter's story and features in two Constable paintings, while you're there.

Suffolk has many wool towns but Lavenham is perhaps the prettiest with an abundance of 15th-century timbered houses.

If you love architecture, Southwold with its fishermen's cottages and Georgian townhouses won't disappoint. Do take a look at the historic graffiti on the choir stalls of St Edmund's church, some of which dates back to the 17th century.

Lake District

The introduction of a railway to Windermere in 1847 saw the beginning of the tourist boom in the Lake District, where today over 16 million people visit each year.

A trip on one of the lakes is a must while here. There are many tour companies that run day trips or you could hire a small boat yourself.

Culture fans should explore Ullswater which is said to be where Wordsworth was inspired to write his most famous poem, Daffodils. Other literary

greats from this part of the world include Beatrix Potter whose 17th-century farmhouse, Hill Top, featured in her books and is now owned by the National Trust and open to the public.

Enjoy a trip on the oldest and longest narrow gauge steam railway, the Ravenglass and Eskdale Steam Railway.

Kent

A trip to the Garden of England has the best of coastal and countryside fun. Rochester and Canterbury are great for heritage breaks. You'll find the second oldest cathedral in England in Rochester and the city also hosts the annual Rochester Dickens Festival, celebrating its most famous writer.

With marshes, wildlife reserves and woods, nature lovers won't be disappointed. You'll find two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in this county: the Kent Downs and the High Weald. Foodies are well catered for in Kent, thanks to an abundance

of fresh fish, Romney Marsh lamb, vegetables and fruit, as well as wine, cider and beer.

Sussex

If exploring the South Downs leaves you thirsty, be sure to sample one of the 100 ciders from Middle Farm in Fittlehampton near Lewes.

The coastline is great to explore too: the chalk cliffs are perfect for fossil hunting and the shoreline ideal for rock pooling. For shopping head to the Lanes of Brighton. The Old Town in Hastings is also a great spot to pick up vintage and antique goodies.

St Clement's Church, where the poet and artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti married Elizabeth Siddall in 1860, is fascinating to visit, as are literary landmarks Charleston, home of the Bloomsbury Group, or Bateman's, where Rudyard Kipling and his wife lived. ■

◆ Turn to Classified section for a selection of British holidays and holiday lets



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CATERING
STAY
FOR 6-8 PEOPLE



WIN

a holiday in CORNWALL

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Forgotten Houses offers unusual self-catering holiday houses, cottages and homes in Cornwall, Wales and Ireland.

Whether you are looking for a large house overlooking the Helford River, a romantic thatched cottage in the woods, or a castle next to the beach in Wales, there's the perfect place for you. Each property has been handpicked for its unique location, architecture and history. ■

◆ For further information visit www.forgottenhouses.co.uk or telephone 01326-340153.

HOW TO ENTER

To win a break at Bosbenna enter online at www.lady.co.uk/competitions or email your details to editors@lady.co.uk. Entries close on 10 March 2017 and the winner will be announced in *The Lady* 17 March 2017 issue.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS The prize is for one week only, week beginning 22 July 2017, and there is no cash or other alternative. The house accommodates from six to eight people, eight people being the maximum. The holiday is for the cottage called Bosbenna at Constantine near Falmouth and cannot be changed for another property.



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Rates

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Timing

An advertisement received on Monday morning will normally appear in the Friday issue. We regret that insertions in any Particular issue cannot be guaranteed.

Issues just before and after public holidays have earlier press times, details of these are published in advance.

Unless contrary instructions are given, advertisements arriving late will be put in the next available issue.

When it is necessary to indicate in an advertisement that a home will be unoccupied for any period, we advise using a Box Number only.

Terms & Conditions

All advertisements are subject to our approval or revision and we reserve the right to decline to insert any advertisement without explanation.

Whether or not any such loss is due to negligence or other causes, we regret that we cannot accept liability for any loss caused by the non-appearance or wrongful insertion of an advertisement, nor can we accept liability for any loss caused by any error in the wording of an advertisement as it appears in The Lady.

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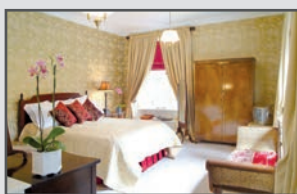
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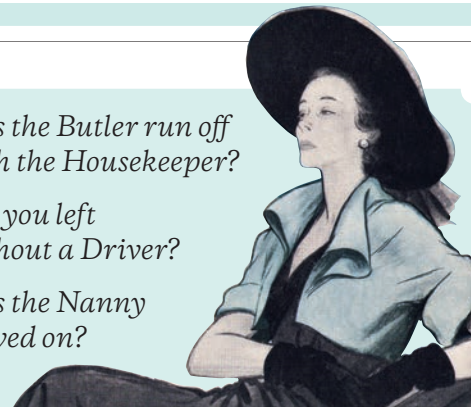
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FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to spend the Spring/Summer in The South of France!!! I am looking for an experienced House Attendant for a 6 month contract working at a beautiful holiday home near Nice. Joining a supportive team, providing daily cleaning of the 7 bed property, as well as helping with laundry care & assisting with food and beverage/ serving. Live out. Candidates must be able to drive. Salary between 2600 to 3100 euro per month dependent on experience. Applicants must have worked in similar position (private household, yacht, luxury hotel) & speak fluent English. (AGY.) Please write to Box 26128

LIVE-IN NANNY based in New York and Central London. Our Client is looking for an experienced, energetic nanny to care for their 3 month old baby. This is a live in position based in New York and Central London. Accommodation comprises at first sleep with baby. In both NY and London separate rooms available for down time and privacy. The successful candidate must have experience with young babies and be familiar with all nursery duties. The baby is currently sleeping through the night and it will be up to you to take charge, establish routines and development. Encourage and support language growth through storytelling, reading and establish communication tuned to child's needs as well as movement and physical activities. Duties include light housekeeping, laundry and ironing for the baby (if need be). Coordinating with PA and front office medical appointments, travel planning including baby's travel details/conditions and daily errands. The family travel regularly and although they do not want the baby moving around too much you will be expected to travel with the family for up to one month at a time. This could be to USA and other destinations. This is a 5 day week position with some flexibility as the days off are not always the same. Salary negotiable. Start ASAP. (AGY.)

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Please apply with a covering letter, full CV and photograph to Box 26165

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Our clients, a high-end bakery in Devon, are looking to recruit a committed, enthusiastic and ambitious General Manager to head up their successful and expanding team.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record in operating a high volume and fast moving business, and have a passion for artisan products.

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Contact Box 26172

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Salary: up to £30,000 (AGY.)

Contact Box 26158

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Please post each reply separately, correctly stamped to:

Box 'The LADY' date

39-40 Bedford St LONDON WC2E 9ER

- A reply should not exceed single letter rate and it should not contain money in any form or original references (send copies only) or photographs.
- We do not forward replies to advertisers who have given a telephone number but no Box Number in their advertisements and we do not forward trade communications or circulars. We reserve the right to open, or not to forward, any reply.

GENERAL



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Closing Date for Applications: Friday 24th February 2017
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SCHOOLS & COLLEGES



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September 2017

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The role is on a seven day rota, with one day off per week and up to six hours off during the weekdays. You will also be required to be in House at least three days before the pupils return each term and provide cover until their departure. Rent-free accommodation will be provided.

Full details are available on our website. To apply, please send cover letter and application form (available from our website or on request) to:

Mrs Claire Betts, HR Manager, Oakham School, 15-17 Station Rd, Oakham Rutland LE15 6QT. t: 01572 758804 e: jobs@oakham.rutland.sch.uk

Closing Date: 9am on 20 February 2017 with interviews soon after

Oakham School is an Equal Opportunities employer, committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

FULL TIME Residential
Houseparent- circa 22k. Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, Tring, Herts, HP23 5LX. Specialist Performing Arts Co-educational Boarding & Day School 339 pupils aged 8-19. Required for March 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter. Tring Park School invites applications for the above position from conscientious, outgoing and versatile individuals, who enjoy working with children. The main purpose of the role will be to provide for the welfare and complete care of all pupils on any given boarding area within the school, in accordance with the school's policies and guidelines. For further details and to download our application form and job description, please refer to our website at <http://www.tringpark.com/the-school/staff-vacancies> Completed applications with a covering letter to be emailed to: recruitment@tringpark.com Please note the school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. Closing date Sunday 26 February 2017. Interview date to be confirmed.

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EXPERIENCED, EFFICIENT CARER seeking full-time employment.

References. Surrey area.
Tel. 07507 601735

MATURE CARER, very experienced, reliable, honest, CRB checked, excellent references, live out, Central London.
Tel. 07588 414773

EXPERIENCED POLISH lady, live-in Carer/Companion. Excellent references. NVQ level 2. UK drivers licence.

Email: barbaranayyar@gmail.com
Tel: 07810 198661

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Email: lovesy.huston@gmail.com

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SOUTH AFRICAN Lady looking for permanent, live in, caring position, vast experience, excellent cook, neat and tidy, own vehicle. Please call Suzanne 07821 420094 or Email: akkedis.viljoen@me.com
LOYAL COMPANION - Daughter, sister/best friend. Personal Assistant. Lady in Waiting.
Email: veggiepower@me.com
Tel. 02380 971007

EXPERIENCED LIVE-IN Carer. Kind reliable, excellent references, DBS. Contact Tel. 07986 631658

EXPERIENCED, MATURE Carer available. References, DBS check, Sussex/Surrey.

Contact Tel. 07957 986076

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(By entering box number into 'Search' box on the page).

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THE LADY DIRECTORY

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LOCATION: Snowdonia, Wales.
CONTACT: 07748283133



NAME: Penlan Coastal Cottages
DESCRIPTION: Based in Aberporth, Ceredigion in West Wales, each cottage is fully accredited by Visit Wales and offers impressive 5 star facilities for the whole family.
LOCATION: Wales
CONTACT: 01239 810442
info@penlancoastalcottages.co.uk



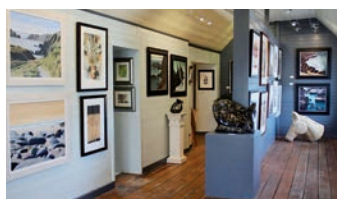
NAME: Honey Street Boats
DESCRIPTION: Honey Street Boats is a brand new family run company enjoying their first year providing wonderful holidays on the Kennet and Avon canal.
LOCATION: Kennet & Avon Canal
CONTACT: 01672 851166
www.honeystreetboats.co.uk



NAME: North Devon Farm Holidays
DESCRIPTION: Spend a few days relaxing in one of our beautiful bed and breakfast or self-catered farm houses.
LOCATION: North Devon
CONTACT: www.north-devon-farm-holidays.co.uk



NAME: Amazing Venues
DESCRIPTION: The Amazing Venues Collection combines the very best in hospitality with some of the most breath-taking architecture in the country providing you with the perfect getaway.
LOCATION: UK
CONTACT: www.amazingvenues.co.uk



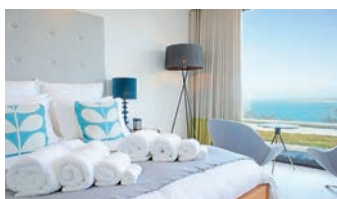
NAME: Harbour Lights
DESCRIPTION: Gallery and Gallery cottage are set in the picturesque coastal village of Porthgain, Nr St. David's - one of Pembrokeshire's many attractions.
LOCATION: Wales
CONTACT: www.art2by.com



NAME: The Lake
DESCRIPTION: Nestled in a corner of the quarry, next to a large lake is a shipping container that has been cleverly converted into an amazing cabin. It is wonderfully isolated and secluded.
LOCATION: Bodmin Moor, Devon.
CONTACT: 01579 321263
email.ruperttenison@gmail.com



NAME: The Boat House Cowes
DESCRIPTION: Overlooking sea-wonderfully located modern waterfront house, sleeps nine but cosy for two or four. fabulous position overlooks sea. 2mins from Harbourside high street pubs and restaurants.
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NAME: Carbis Bay Holidays
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LOCATION: St Ives, Cornwall
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NAME: Golden-Acre Jurassic Coast Experience
DESCRIPTION: Take a well-earned break in Dorset, come by yourself or with friends and experience the wonderful sea air.
LOCATION: South West
CONTACT: 01308 421521
www.golden-acre.com



NAME: Guernsey Selfcatering
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LOCATION: Guernsey
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selfcatering.gg



NAME: Upton Grange
DESCRIPTION: Luxury holiday cottages imaginatively converted from a courtyard of sixteenth century stone barns.
LOCATION: Dorset
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www.uptongrangedorset.co.uk



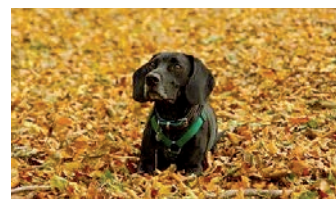
NAME: Sty Cottage
DESCRIPTION: This traditional stone cottage offers a quiet rural location, to suit a couple who want to be able to take peaceful walks from the doorstep.
LOCATION: Lake District, Cumbria
CONTACT: 01768480393
www.stycottage.co.uk



NAME: Cottages In Bibury
DESCRIPTION: Bibury Holiday Cottages are 4 star rated self catering holiday accommodation set in the heart of the outstandingly beautiful village of Bibury on the river Coln
LOCATION: Cotswolds
CONTACT: 01285 740 314
www.biburyholidaycottages.com



NAME: White House Cottages
DESCRIPTION: Five characterful, listed cottages nestled in tranquil countryside just 5 miles from Ledbury. Set on the Gloucestershire/ Herefordshire border.
LOCATION: Aylton, Herefordshire
CONTACT: 01531 670 349
www.whitehousecottages.co.uk

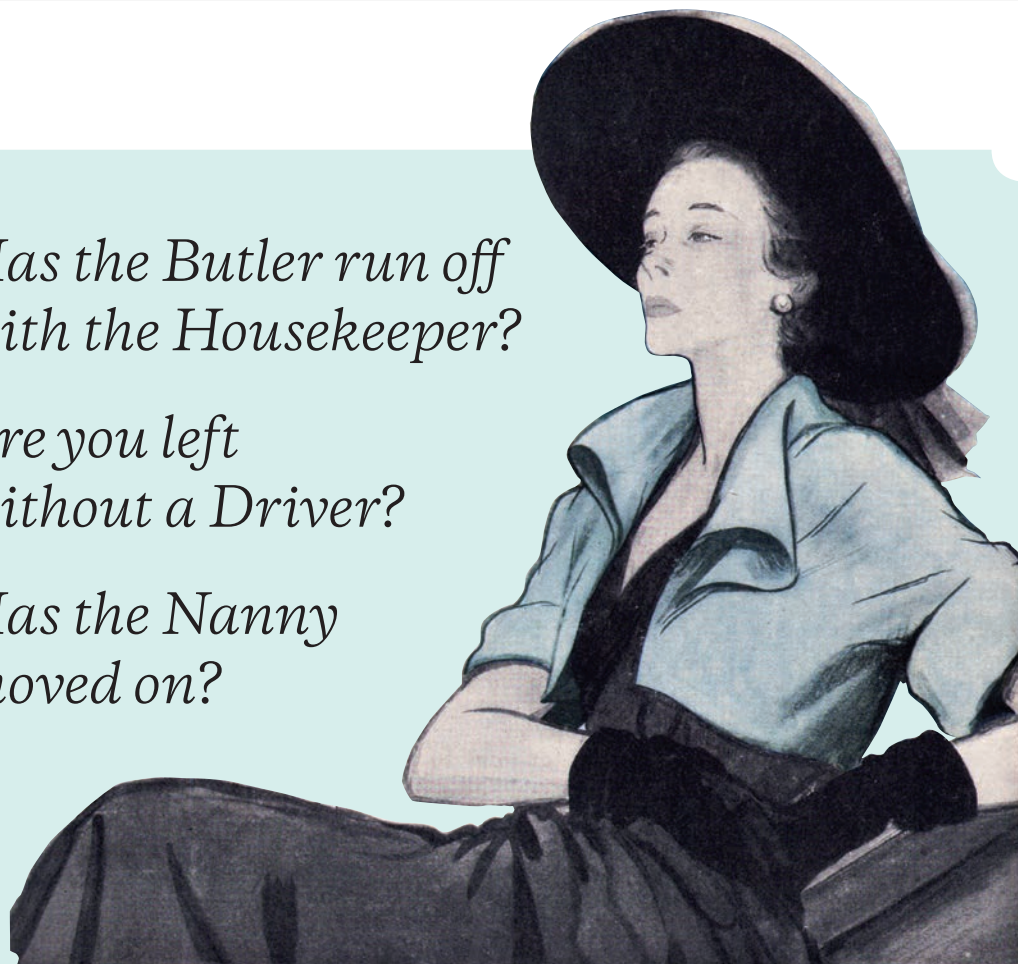


NAME: East Ruston Cottages
DESCRIPTION: East Ruston Cottages offer a delightful selection of hand picked properties in rural and coastal Norfolk, all genuinely welcoming dogs!
LOCATION: Norfolk
CONTACT: 01692 650083
www.eastrustoncottages.co.uk

*Has the Butler run off
with the Housekeeper?*

*Are you left
without a Driver?*

*Has the Nanny
moved on?*



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THE LADY PUZZLE PAGES

THE LADYGRAM *compiled by Bert Baker*

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126
127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154
155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182

NOTES

The LADYGRAM is solved by placing the answers to the clues in Box A. Each letter of an answer in **Box A** is readily transferred into the corresponding numbered space in **Box B**, which, as you progress, will become identifiable as a quotation.

The initial letters of the answers in Box A will spell out the name of the author, plus the book from which the quotation was taken.

B

SOLUTION
NEXT WEEK

“Some days the freezer is far enough to go for something tasty to eat.”



Roast Lamb in
Mint Gravy £4.50

LDY11

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are five differences between the two images below - see if you can spot them

SOLUTION NEXT WEEK



YOUR NOTES

Space for your workings and doodles, with compliments from

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BRIDGE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 88

Win the first trick with the ♦K and lead a heart, playing low from your hand. Win any return, cash the ♥A, and negotiate two diamond ruffs in dummy, using the ♣K as an entry to your hand. Now play the ace and another spade.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD SOLUTION 10/2/17 (1558)

ACROSS

1 Shield 4 Constant
9 Rising 10 Disaster
12 Stir 13 Habit 14 Rare
17 Enemies 18 Seam 21 Sent
23 Prepare 26 Pony
27 Saves 28 Tape
31 Operated 32 Rabies
33 Suspense 34 Penned

DOWN

1 Stressed 2 Inspired
3 Lens 5 Origins 6 Swan
7 Actual 8 Target 11 Oats
15 Fires 16 Rates
19 Canadian 20 Reversed
22 Traders 23 Peer
24 Aprons 25 Angels
29 Make 30 Rave

QUICK CROSSWORD SOLUTION FROM PAGE 89

ACROSS

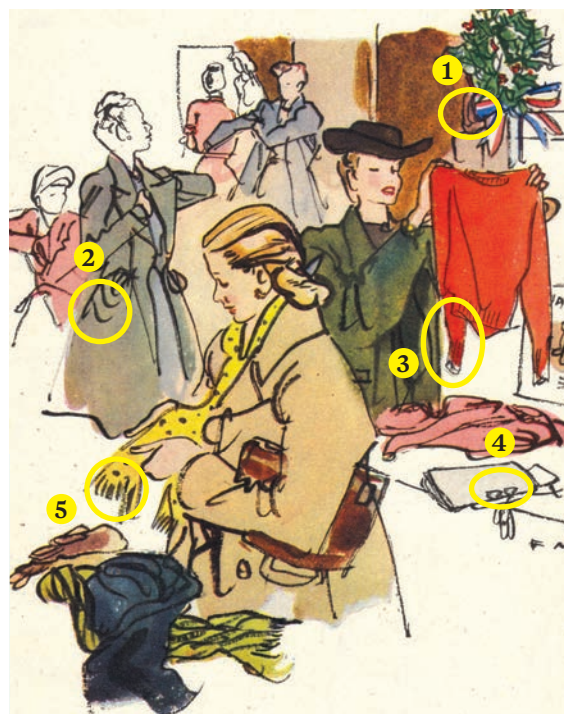
1 Round 4 Robins
9 Troublesome 10 Freely
12 Exact 15 Exits
16 Credit 19 Exploration
20 Ladder 21 Storm

DOWN

2 Outer 3 No one 5 Opened
6 Isolated 7 Sweetest
8 Obeys 10 Farewell
11 Equipped 13 Ashore
14 Scrap 17 Exist 18 Inner

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE SOLUTION 10/2/2017

LAST WEEK'S DIFFERENCES ARE SHOWN CIRCLED BELOW



DIFFERENCES:

1 Wider blue stripe on ribbon 2 Extra pocket crease
3 Sleeve of jumper is shorter 4 Clasp on bag has extra button 5 One more black polka dot on scarf

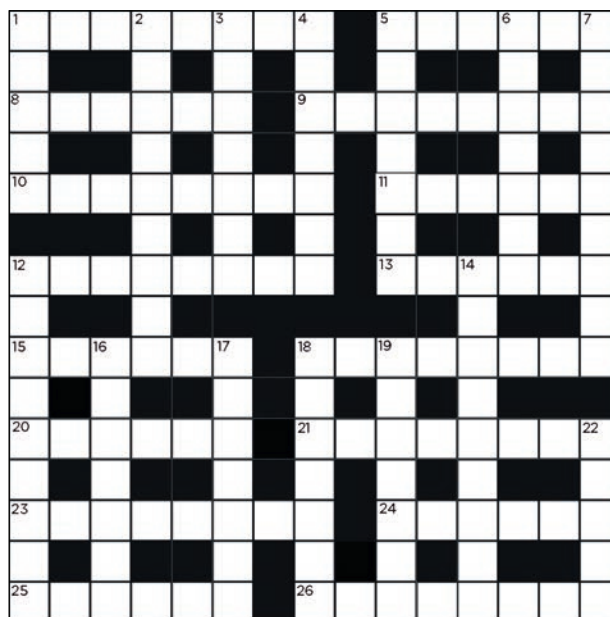
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 1559 compiled by Eddie Waltham

ACROSS

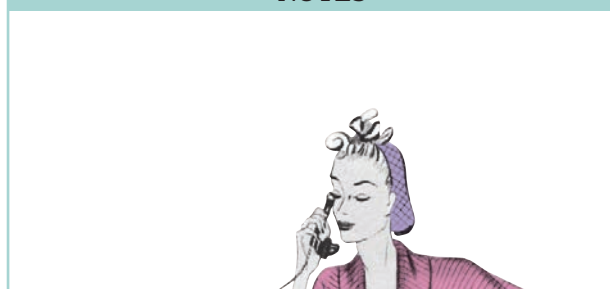
- 1 Exploding, as extremely impatient! (8)
- 5 Reportedly sighted the Cockney's women with a crawler (6)
- 8 Removed all traces of Ed's era, possibly (6)
- 9 Redesigned sari left inside places for high fliers (8)
- 10 Evolves and works in the dark, picturesquely (8)
- 11 Whale I trained for some time (6)
- 12 Doesn't agree with fights (8)
- 13 Crete's resort could be arcane (6)
- 15 Showed agreement and showed signs of sleepiness (6)
- 18 Possibly bagged, or put in one's trousers (8)
- 20 Finish off the post again and quit! (6)
- 21 A quote in replacement for a maths item (8)
- 23 Footwear for those losing traction? (8)
- 24 Rows or alternative sadness (6)
- 25 Missiles are hell on board ship! (6)
- 26 Little girl's bloomer is a catastrophe! (8)

DOWN

- 1 Mix up capitals of Brazil, Liberia, England, Norway and Denmark (5)
- 2 Had doubts about someone, it's surmised (9)
- 3 These entrances are not alfresco (7)
- 4 Containers for spectacles? (7)
- 5 Shouts, "The elite are within the boundaries of Staines!" (7)
- 6 Ringleader in tidier set-up, but not so clean (7)
- 7 Observed to be esteemed (9)
- 12 Compares differences in cat snorts, possibly (9)
- 14 Creates about Rugby Union on the way up to see Wasps, perhaps (9)
- 16 Notwithstanding it's of French malice (7)
- 17 Evening meals for people eating about noon, for starters! (7)
- 18 Happy, having elapsed formula (7)
- 19 Groups of lessons about parts of 17 Down? (7)
- 22 Renew components which have already been renewed? (5)



NOTES



SOLUTION NEXT WEEK

BRIDGE by Gus Calderwood

WINNING LINE

Alon Birman of Israel played well to make his game on the deal below from a match against England in the 2016 World Open Teams Championship.

Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable

		♠ A Q 9 8 7 4 2	
		♥ –	
		♦ K J 5 3	
		♣ Q 10	
♠ 3			♠ K J 10 6
♥ 10 9 7 6 5 4 2			♥ A 3
♦ 7 2			♦ 10 4
♣ A 5 3			♣ K J 7 4 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	3♥	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Opening lead: ♠3

With Alon Birman and Dror Padon sitting South and North respectively for Israel, the bidding went as shown. South's One Diamond opening showed an unbalanced hand with at least four diamonds. West made a pre-emptive overcall of Three Hearts, North bid Three Spades, and South bid 3NT. North showed support for his partner's suit with a forcing bid of Four Diamonds, but South, who held minimum values with no ace outside the diamond suit, simply bid Five Diamonds, ending the auction.

From declarer's point of view, the opening spade lead was an obvious singleton. Birman won with the ace and immediately ruffed a spade with the ace of diamonds, West discarding an encouraging three of clubs. The jack of hearts came next, declarer discarding the ten of clubs from dummy when West followed with the two. East won with the ace and returned the two of clubs, West winning with the ace and exiting with a club. Birman ruffed with the three of diamonds, ruffed a spade with the queen of diamonds, played a diamond to the king, and cashed the jack of diamonds. When both defenders followed to the second round of diamonds, he claimed his game, ruffing another spade in his hand and returning

to dummy with a ruff to cash the established spades.

At the other table South opened One Diamond, West made a weak jump overcall of Two Hearts, North bid Two Spades, and East bid Three Hearts. South now passed, West bid Four Hearts, and North bid Four Spades, which was doubled by East. When this was passed round to North, he removed to Five Diamonds and East doubled again. Declarer also received a spade lead, but attempted to cash two heart tricks after taking a losing ruffing finesse in hearts and went one down when East was able to ruff. Thus Israel gained 11 imps on the board.

THIS WEEK'S PROBLEM

WEST

♠ Q J 2
♥ A 8 4 2
♦ A 8 4 2
♣ K 5

EAST

♠ A 6 5 3
♥ 9 7 6 5
♦ K 3
♣ A 8 6

West plays in Four Hearts and North leads the ♦6. Plan the play. (Trumps are 3-2.)

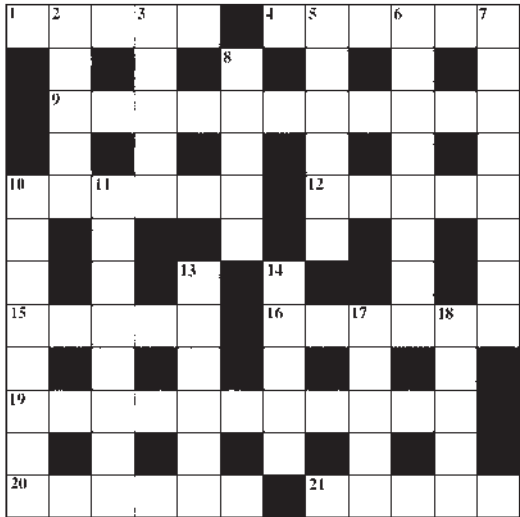
SOLUTION ON PAGE 87

QUICK CROSSWORD No. 961 by Weald



ACROSS

- 1 Circular (5)
4 Red-fronted birds (6)
9 Difficult, wearying (11)
10 Liberally, without charge (6)
12 Precise (5)
15 Leaves the stage (5)
16 Believe (6)
19 Geographical investigation (11)
20 Scaling aid (6)
21 Tempest (5)



DOWN

- 2 Further from the centre (5)
3 Not a soul (2-3)
5 Inaugurated (6)
6 Cut off, remote (8)
7 Most sugary (8)
8 Follows orders (5)
10 Adieu (8)
11 Kitted out (8)
13 On dry land (6)
14 Waste metal, etc (5)
17 Have life (5)
18 Part of archery target (5)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 79

THE LADYGRAM SOLUTION 10/2/17

A	F	T	E	R	W	A	R	D	S	A	S	I	S
A	T	U	P	I	N	B	E	D	A	N	D	S	I
P	P	E	D	M	Y	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	T
E	A	I	F	O	U	N	D	M	Y	S	E	L	F
T	R	Y	I	N	G	T	O	A	C	C	O	U	N
T	F	O	R	T	H	E	F	L	A	V	O	U	R
O	F	R	E	A	L	I	T	Y	T	H	A	T	P
E	R	P	L	E	X	E	D	M	E	I	N	H	I
S	I	M	P	O	S	S	I	B	L	E	R	E	M
I	N	I	S	C	E	N	C	E	S	B	Y	S	U
P	P	O	S	I	N	G	T	H	E	Y	D	I	D
S	U	G	G	E	S	T	P	E	C	U	L	I	A
R	E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E	S		

1. HOSPITALITY
2. GLASSHOUSES
3. WAX CANDLES
4. EXTRAVAGANCE
5. LEMON MERINGUE
6. LIGHT-HEARTED
7. SUCCINCTLY
8. TIPSTAFF
9. HENCEFORTH
10. END OF THE STORY
11. DAY AFTER DAY
12. OPPOSITION
13. OPPROBRIUM
14. REPAPERING
15. IMPRECISION
16. NUMBER BLIND
17. TOFFEE APPLES
18. HIDDEN TALENTS
19. EMPRESS
20. WAY OUT
21. ADMISSION
22. LAUGHTER
23. LADYGRAM CLUES
- H G WELLS
The Door In The Wall

NOTES



SUDOKU

NO 582 MODERATE

Fill the grid with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains the numbers 1 to 9
SOLUTION NEXT WEEK

SUDOKU SOLUTION 10/2/17 (581)

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

THE LADY ARCHIVE

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

ANSWERS: BOOKS AND THEATRE

- PAGE 48 To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
PAGE 49 At Seventeen by Celeste Walters
PAGE 53 Arcadia by Tom Stoppard



'I talk to my dogs. They think I'm barking'

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

DR PHIL HAMMOND

...is an NHS doctor, comedian, journalist, broadcaster and campaigner. He has been Private Eye's medical correspondent for 24 years, breaking the story of the Bristol heart scandal in 1992. He started as a comedian in 1990 in Struck Off and Die and is now on his fourth UK solo tour with Dr Phil's Health Revolution. His fifth book, *Staying Alive - How To Get The Best From The NHS*, is out now.

What are you working on at the moment?

I am very lucky to have five jobs: I work in an NHS clinic for young people with chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, which is incredibly rewarding; I'm an investigative journalist for Private Eye, supporting NHS whistle-blowers and telling the truth about the state of the NHS; I'm a broadcaster for BBC Radio Bristol, covering more positive health stories and connecting with my community; I'm a comedy writer, currently writing the fifth series of the Radio 4 GP sitcom *Polyoaks* with David Spicer; and I'm a stand-up comedian and health campaigner. I'm currently on a 50-date UK tour - Dr Phil's Health Revolution - and will be speaking at the pro-NHS demonstration in London on 4 March.

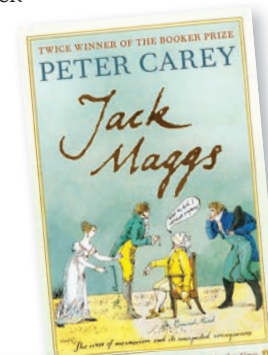
When are you at your happiest? In the company of friends, family and pets, particularly when everyone is getting along reasonably well.

What is your greatest fear? I am very relaxed about dying, but I fear severe pain. When my time comes, I want lots of good drugs please.

What is your earliest memory? Bobbing up and down in the Indian Ocean when we moved to Australia. I was two, and as a large child with an enormous head, floating was the first thing I could do that I was better at than my brother.

What do you dislike about yourself? I'm just a bit too narcissistic. Not as bad as Donald Trump, but I do have a tendency to prioritise my own needs as my daughter is very adept at pointing out.

Who has been your greatest influence in life? Take your pick. My mum, dad and stepfather Stan, my wife Jo, my children Will



Phil's faves: Jack Maggs, Little Miss Sunshine, bobbing about in the Indian Ocean and, saying thank-you - by phone



and Ellie, the journalist Paul Foot, Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the hospice movement, Miles Kington and the anarchic Canadian comedy trio Corky and the Juice Pigs.

What is your most treasured possession?

My good health.

What trait do you deplore in others?

Unkindness.

What do you dislike about your appearance?

Nothing. I love myself, but in a healthy way.

What is your favourite book? Jack Maggs by Peter Carey.

What is your favourite film? Little Miss Sunshine.

What is your favourite record or piece of music? Elgar's Cello Concerto and Shine on You Crazy Diamond.

What is your favourite meal? Any one where the family are gathered and screens are off.

Who would you like to come to dinner? Dame Cicely Saunders. I want to plan a good death.

Do you believe in aliens? I believe in the probability of forms of life on planets other than ours.

What is your secret vice? I lie for laughs.

Do you write thank-you notes? I do thank-you emails, phone calls and hugs.

Which phrase do you most overuse? 'The NHS isn't overspent, it's underfunded by 20 percent.'

What single thing would improve the quality of your life? A global culture of intelligent kindness.

Tell us something we don't know about you. I talk to my dogs. They think I'm barking.

What would you like your epitaph to say? 'A kind narcissist.'

♦ See Dr Phil Hammond's *Dr Phil's Health Revolution* at the Leicester Square Theatre, London WC2, 6 & 7 March. Visit www.drphilhammond.com



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