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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Inside: News from Britain 2-6, Meet a Member 7, Stargazing 9, Brits in LA 10, Sean Borg 11, Legal Notices 12-17, Sport 18-20

News from Britain

UK Muslims halted Disneyland trip raised with PM

■ British family 'livid' after being barred from Los Angeles flight

Labour MP Stella Creasy has called on the prime minister to challenge the US after a UK Muslim family was barred from boarding a flight to Los Angeles.

The family of 11, from Ms Creasy's Walthamstow constituency, had planned a holiday to Disneyland but were stopped at Gatwick Airport on 15 December.

Mohammad Zahid Mahmood said his family was given no reason why US officials had refused to allow them to board.

'growing problem'

US officials said travellers were not barred based on religious beliefs. Downing Street said David Cameron would respond to the issues raised.

Ms Creasy has written to the prime minister urging him to press the US authorities on what she said was "a growing problem" of British Muslims being barred from the US without explanation.

She said she had "hit a brick wall" in her own attempts to get answers from the US embassy.

"It is not just the family themselves who are livid," Ms Creasy told the *Guardian*. "The vacuum created by a refusal to provide any context for these decisions is fuelling resentment and debate," she said.

She told the BBC she was aware of four other UK cases of Muslims who were denied entry to the US.

"Nobody knows why

these people were stopped. We do know what the common denominator is between them. All of us agree we've absolutely got to be vigilant about tackling terrorism, and we've got to be clear prejudice hasn't got a part to play in that," she added.

Mr Mahmood, who was travelling with his brother and their children, aged eight to 19, had planned to visit their elder brother in southern California and go to the theme parks.

He said UK Border officials told them at the departure lounge that they were not allowed to board the plane, despite all having authorisation to travel under the US Visa Waiver Programme

Mr Mahmood said: "We

checked in, there were no problems. Just before the final check to get into the lounge we were singled out.

"A man from UK Border Force came and said, 'I'm sorry you can't board this flight. We received a call from Washington DC that we can't allow this family to board the flight'."

Mr Mahmood said he had educated his children "to live in this country peacefully" and had been invited to speak at local schools about Islamophobia.

He added that it seemed like it had been a clear case of discrimination.

'Humiliated, alienated'

"Because I have a beard and sometimes wear

Islamic dress I get stopped and asked questions. I feel that is part of the deal of flying. I understand that," he said.

"The fact that we were the only ones who were of Asian or Muslim appearance, it seemed embarrassing that we were the only ones taken out of the queue. For the children to take this in is very difficult."

He said the airline Norwegian had told them they would not be refunded the £9,000 cost of their flights.

They were also forced to return everything they had purchased at Gatwick's duty-free shops before being escorted from the airport, he said.

He also told Sky News that the family felt "humiliated, alienated,

because the way we were dealt with was just out of the ordinary. Everyone's eyes were on us, it was embarrassing".

A US Customs and Border Protection spokesman said: "The religion, faith, or spiritual beliefs of an international traveller are not determining factors about his or her admissibility into the US.

"In order to demonstrate that they are admissible, the applicant must overcome all grounds of inadmissibility."

The spokesman also said there were 60 categories of inadmissibility, including health-related, prior criminal convictions, security reasons and immigration violations.

Ginger extremist jailed for Harry throne plot

A far-right fanatic dubbed the 'ginger extremist', who plotted terror attacks to kill "large proportion of the population" as well as a killing of Prince Charles so that Prince Harry could become King, has been detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

The would-be terrorist was convicted in September and sentenced this Tuesday.

The red-headed man claimed feeling victimized because of the color of his hair and said the IRA were his idols, because he believed they too were ginger.

Mark Colborne, also known as the 'ginger Aryan', had purchased ingredients to make cyanide and had written his plans to murder the prince so that a ginger person could be

crowned king in a diary.

"I would sacrifice my life for one shot. Kill Charles and William and Harry become king. Kill the tyrants," he wrote.


Colborne held racist and neo-Nazi beliefs. He apparently hated travelers, black people and anyone who he did not define as Aryan. He was also a fan of the Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik

The suspect bought ingredients for poison online and had stocks of dust masks, plastic syringes and latex gloves, the court heard. The box containing his racist writing and ingredients for making poisons was eventually discovered by Colborne's half-brother.

When sentencing Colborne to indefinite detention in a mental facility, Judge John



GAME OF THRONES: the defendant planned to kill Charles and William so Harry could become king. Bevan described him individual" with "extrav as "a warped agant self-pity."






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

MANAGING EDITOR: Neil Fletcher
DEPUTY EDITOR: Nick Stark
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Alan Darby Drake, John Hiscock, Eileen Lee, Dave Kershaw, Anthony Matthews, Carolan Nathan, Anne Shaw, Bernard Sidman, Nick Stark, Craig Bobby Young
SHOWBUSINESS EDITOR: Sean Borg
FEATURES EDITOR: Gabrielle Pantera
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Mark Devlin
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“Boring” Andy Murray kicks off holiday season with Personality award

TENNIS superstar Andy Murray may not be the warmest British sportsman you'll ever meet but he is certainly feeling the love this holiday season.

The Scottish ace picked up his second Sports Personality of the Year award in Belfast on Sunday night beating Kevin Sinfield and Jessica Ennis Hill.

Murray became only

the fourth person to win the BBC award twice - following boxer Henry Cooper and F1 drivers Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill - after first winning in 2013.

He finished a clear first in the public vote, with rugby league veteran Kevin Sinfield second and heptathlete Jessica Ennis-Hill narrowly beating boxer Tyson Fury to third

place.

And Murray showed a rare touch of humor by telling the audience he had never been to Worthing, the Sussex town which featured in his self-deprecating acceptance speech.

“A friend sent me a message the other day with an article saying, ‘Andy Murray is duller than a weekend in Worthing’, which I thought was a bit harsh - on Worthing,” he said after collecting the trophy.

Olympic title

The result came as a surprise to nobody after the Scot led Britain to their first victory in the Davis Cup team tennis in 79 years.

As well as success in his career Andy had a red letter year in his personal life too having wed his teenage sweetheart Kim Sears in April of this year.

Next year Murray, 28, who is set to become a father, will attempt to defend his Olympic title and seek a third Grand Slam triumph.

“The scheduling will be difficult next year but it’s exciting,” he said.

Murray has just returned from a training camp in Dubai and will seek a first Australian Open title in Melbourne in January, while his wife Kim is expecting their first child.

‘time and effort’

“That becomes my number one priority. In February, me and my wife’s lives will change forever, and I’m sure that will be in a positive way,” he said.

“A lot of the players



HALLOWED COMPANY: Andy Murray joined Henry Cooper, Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill as only the fourth Briton to twice win the BBC’s coveted Sports Personality of the Year award, which he snagged on Sunday night after dominating the public vote

are able to mix and balance the two in a positive way.

“Novak Djokovic is a father and just had his best year ever - his baby was born this year - and Roger Federer has four

children and is still travelling at 34 years old, so you can do it.

“There’s no reason for it to have a negative effect on my tennis. I’m really looking forward to it.

“As you get older, it’s important to have distractions. I do put a lot of time and effort into tennis and spend a lot of time away from my family, which is something I miss.”

Lucky Leicester fan nets £5,000 after cheeky £5 top of the table bet



I have full belief in my team going all the way and can't wait for next year now - **Keval Nakeshree**

A LEICESTER City fan who put an optimistic £5 bet on his team topping the Premier League at Christmas netted £5,000 on Sunday.

Keval Nakeshree, 38, took a 1,000-1 punt at the start of the season on Jamie Vardy and his teammates.

Many pundits were tipping the Midlands outfit for the drop after the club replaced popular manager Nigel Pearson with Claudio Ranieri.

But the Foxes have out-foxed everyone and lead Arsenal by two points going into the holiday season.

If Leicester City maintain their

staggering form and win the Premier League, Keval, from Gloucester, will be laughing all the way to the bank.

He will land a further £33,000 with another £5 each way bet, also placed in August.

He said: “I have full belief in my team going all the way and can't wait for next year now. If they are still top around February, I will start thinking about what to do with the money.”

Keval is spending his winnings on a family trip to Disney World in Florida.

Ladbrokes said: “This has to go down as one of the most incredible winning bets of all time.”

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News From Britain

Veteran footballer and BBC broadcaster Jimmy Hill dies at 87

- Hill's agent confirms death after long battle with Alzheimer's disease
- Made his name with Fulham before becoming long-serving Match of the Day presenter

The former football player and *Match of the Day* presenter Jimmy Hill has died aged 87, his agent announced on Saturday.

The Londoner, who made his name playing for Fulham in the 1950s, enjoyed a second career as a distinguished broadcaster. He died after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for a number of years.

In a statement, his agent, Jane Morgan, said: "It is with great sadness that Bryony Hill and the children of Jimmy Hill have announced that Jimmy passed away peacefully today aged 87 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Bryony was beside him."

Hill ensured his name would be forever written into English football's record books when, as head of the PFA in 1961, he fought to abolish the maximum wage, which had been pegged at £20 per week, allowing his teammate Johnny Haynes to earn the first £100-a-week pay packet in English football.

After finishing his

playing career Hill managed Coventry City in the 1960s before moving into broadcasting. The current Coventry manager, Tony Mowbray, paid tribute to Hill on the club's official website.

'forward thinker'

He said: "Everyone at the club is in a state of shock and deep sadness at hearing the news of Jimmy's death. History tells us that without the efforts of Jimmy, both on the pitch and off it, Coventry City's future will have been extremely different from what it is today.

"There are very few examples which can contend with the amount Jimmy achieved at the club during such a small amount of time. He was a forward-thinker and a revolutionary who was determined to take Coventry and football forwards.

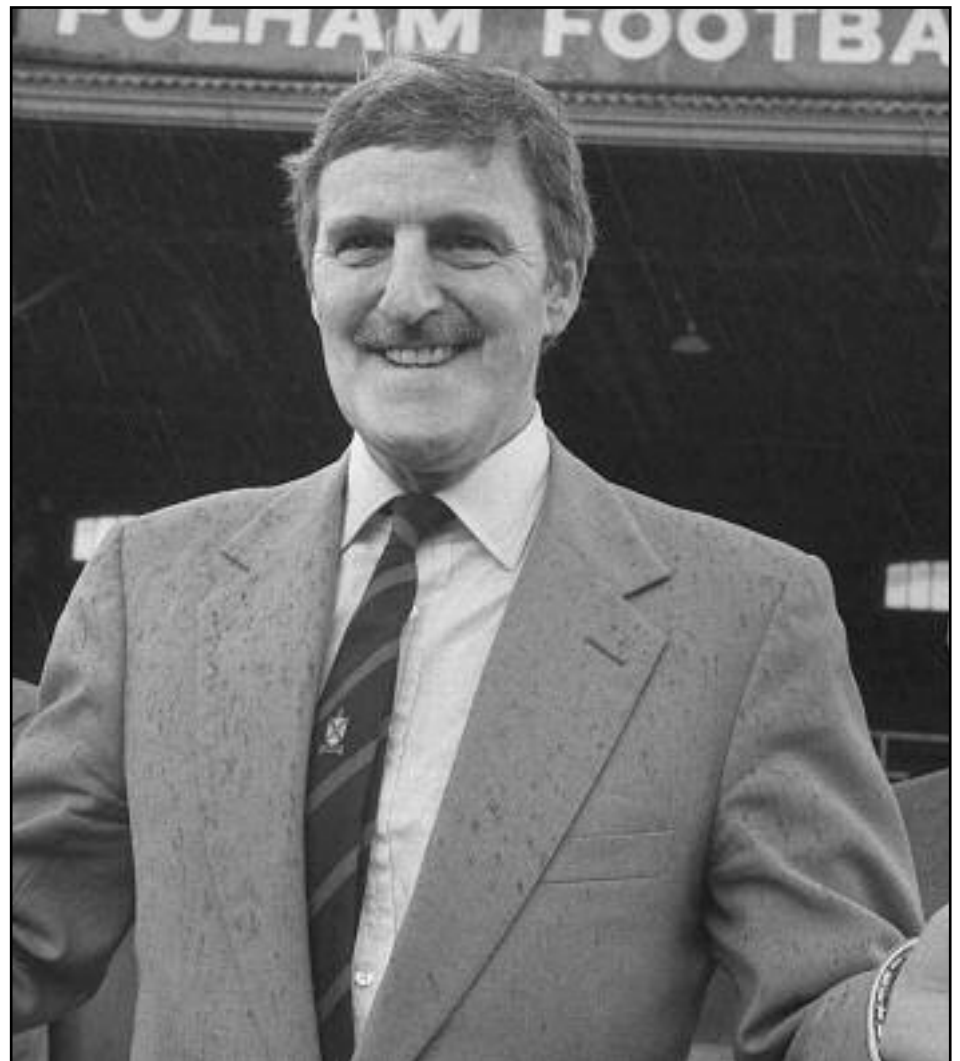
"The changes he made gave the club, the city and the supporters an identity and a club they can be proud of, and for that, the club will be eternally grateful."

600 appearances

Hill was the head of sport at ITV between 1968 and 1972, a spell which included fronting the coverage of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. He moved to the BBC in 1973 where he became the host of Match of the Day before Des Lynam took over the reins in 1989.

He made more than 600 appearances on the show as both a presenter and analyst. The BBC director general, Tony Hall, said: "For generations of fans Jimmy Hill was an authoritative voice as both a presenter and analyst. He was committed to innovation in every aspect of the game, including broadcasting and always believed supporters came first. His influence lives on in the programmes we enjoy today."

The BBC director of sports, Barbara Slater, added: "Jimmy Hill was an iconic and unique figure and we are all deeply saddened by the news. He was one of the great innovators and a huge talent, a man ahead of his time."



FACE OF FOOTBALL: Jimmy Hill made more than 600 appearances on the BBC's flagship Saturday night show, Match of the Day

46-year-old Christmas pud 'delicious'

A 46-year-old Christmas pudding has been unearthed during a house clearance - and declared "delicious" by food experts.

The pudding, which was made for a festive wedding in 1969, was donated to the University of Nottingham's microbiology department to see if it was still fit to eat.

Experts steamed the

dessert for five hours to ensure it was safe before testing it.

Professor Christine Dodd, from the university, said: "It was a little dry, but had a very good flavour. It was sealed in a traditional way and looks fine."

The pudding - which contains fruit, breadcrumbs and brandy among its ingredients - was discovered by a family clearing out the

kitchen of a late relative's home in Nottingham.

They donated it to the university with the message: "Oh and don't forget there might be a silver sixpence in there! Probably best not to microwave!

"Good luck with your tests and a merry Christmas to all - we look forward to hearing whether we should have served them on Christmas Day!"



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Madonna and Ritchie locked in legal battle over son Rocco

■ 15 year-old refuses to go home to mum

Madonna and former husbande Guy Ritchie have found themselves in the midst of a residence battle after one of their two teenage sons refused to return from London to the US to be with his mother.

The Material Girl singer appeared in Manhattan Supreme Court on Wednesday morning, telling a judge that her son had informed her that he would prefer to stay in the UK with his film-director dad.

judge whether Ritchie, 47, has prevented his son from returning to the US, the filmmaker's lawyer, Eric Buckley, reportedly replied: 'Effectively yes.'

Kaplan ruled that Rocco Ritchie must return to New York and talk to his mother before deciding which parent he prefers.

The 15-year-old will be represented in the custody case by his own court-appointed attorney, Justice Kaplan decreed.

Rebel Heart tour

The 57-year-old pop diva, who is currently in the middle of her Rebel Heart world tour, asked Justice Deborah Kaplan to force her ex-husband to send their 15-year-old son, Rocco, to New York.

An attorney representing Mr Ritchie responded that the teen 'has expressed very clearly that he does not want to return to New York,' the New York Daily News reported.

'I'm directing the child to be returned to New York,' Kaplan told the singer, who showed up in court in a black cape. 'If he wants to stay with his father, he must return to his mother.'

Madonna and Ritchie tied the knot in 2000 and divorced in 2008. Besides Rocco, they also have an adopted son, David Banda, who is 10 years old.

The *Vogue* songstress has two other children,



TUG OF LOVE: Rocco (left) with Guy Ritchie in London and (right) with his mother Madonna in Manhattan



Lourdes Leon, 19, and Mercy James, 9, who was also adopted.

Madonna spent Thanksgiving with Rocco and David in Barcelona, Spain, where she hosted a dinner for about 70 guests after performing

two concerts at Palau Sant Jordi arena.

The tireless singer has been on the road since early September. The Rebel Heart tour is scheduled to wrap up in March in Brisbane, Australia.

Earlier this year, Madonna revealed to Entertainment Weekly that Rocco, then 14, was coming with her on tour. She then added: 'There's way cooler things. Your mom is not that cool when you're 14.'

In the interview by Andy Cohen for EW.com, she said: 'I think he's probably gonna work behind the scenes. He's not interested in performing on stage with me right now.'

Baby number four for Hugh Grant

■ Actor 'becomes a father for the fourth time' as his Swedish girlfriend Anna Eberstein gives birth to a baby girl

Hugh Grant has become a father for the fourth time after his Swedish girlfriend Anna Eberstein gave birth to a baby girl, it emerged this week.

The 55-year-old actor has gone from having no children to being a father of four in just four years.

His fourth love child was born to Ms Eberstein, 37, on Wednesday, Swedish regional newspaper Sundsvall Tinding reported.

'Anna Eberstein from Sundsvall has had her

second child with film star Hugh Grant,' it said.

Ms Eberstein, who is mother to Mr Grant's second child, John, and the wider family are said to be overjoyed by the birth.

In October it emerged that Ms Eberstein, 37, was pregnant for a second time, although neither party have responded to questions about the paternity of the child.

It remains unclear whether the baby was born in the UK or in Sweden.

However the couple have bought a villa on the Sweden's south coast to be close to Ms Eberstein's family, according to Sundsvall Tinding.

And Mr Grant's former girlfriend Liz Hurley appeared to confirm the baby was Mr Grant's just last month on American chat show *Watch What Happens: Live*.

When asked if she was surprised that Hugh now had three children with one more on the way last month, she responded: 'Yeah, because he was over 50 when he had all

of them, so yeah it is surprising. But he is a good daddy, very good.'

The actor said he saw his son John, three, born in September 2012, most days as the boy and his mother live within walking distance of his London home.

Mr Grant has two other children, a daughter, Tabitha, four, and Felix, two, with Chinese-born receptionist and actress Tinglan Hong, who was working at a Chinese restaurant in Wimbledon when they met, according to the Mirror.



DELIGHTED: Hugh Grant and the mother of his oldest son Anna Eberstein pictured together in Paris

Lamps lit up with tears during nuptials, reveals friend Piers

■ Footballer weds TV presenter in 'tasteful, stylish' ceremony

Footballer Frank Lampard shed a tear during his weekend wedding to Christine Bleakley, according to friend Piers Morgan.

Lampard tied the knot with Bleakley at an intimate ceremony on Sunday attended by showbiz friends and family in London's West End.

Speaking on his popular breakfast show Good Morning Britain, Morgan described the "stylish" wedding to his breakfast co-host Susanna Reid.

"It was a very emotional night for Frank, he was very tearful in his speech, very moving," said Morgan.

He recalled how he had been present the night the couple met at the Pride of Britain Awards.

He said he told Lampard that Bleakley was "way above your league, mate", but he was proven wrong as the pair ended up falling in love.

The couple said "I do" at St Paul's Church in Knightsbridge and then headed to a reception at

London's exclusive venue The Arts Club.

Morgan also revealed that invites had only been sent out to guests about 10 days ago.

He told Reid: "It was a lovely, tasteful, stylish wedding. No one got invited until about 10 days ago, so out of the blue we all got invited, so it was lovely, about 140/150 people - a few Chelsea players like John Terry and Didier Drogba there, but actually it was a lot of their families."

The ex-Chelsea, Manchester City and

West Ham ace, who this summer swapped the Premier League for Major League Soccer at New York City FC, returned to London for the nuptials.

The couple were joined by friends from the world of entertainment and sport, including Ms Bleakley's This Morning co-presenters Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby.

The bride, who hosted BBC's The One Show before switching to ITV, wore a bespoke gown by designer Suzanne



LAMPS AND BLEAKS: couple tied the knot at St. Paul's Church in Knightsbridge

Neville. The pair, who have been engaged for four years, smiled for photographers as they left the wedding venue.

Marriage hits the buffers for F1 ace and model girlfriend

■ Celebrity couple blame hectic schedule for breakup

FORMULA One star Jenson Button has split from his model wife Jessica Michibata less than a year after getting married.

The pair tied the knot last December in Maui, Hawaii last December after meeting at a hotel bar in 2008.

The 35-year-old McLaren ace proposed to the model on Valentine's Day last year with a ring worth £250,000.

Jessica, 31, confirmed their marriage last New Year's Eve, tweeting: "We're excited to see in the new year with family and loved ones."

The couple parted on amicable terms, according to a spokesman for Button.

He said: "Jenson and Jessica have decided to go their separate ways and it is very amicable."

"There is no-one else involved."

A source said

Japan-born Michibata found the relationship "difficult to maintain" due to the pair's hectic schedules.

They said: "After getting married, life continued much as it had before. Nothing changed for either of them."

"They had their respective careers and met up when they could. But over the course of this year the meetings became less and less frequent."

'ongoing discussions'

Just last week Button bemoaned an extension of the gruelling F1 calendar, saying: "It's difficult for any mechanic or engineer to have a relationship right now, so 21 races is going to be tough."

"I hope it doesn't grow in 2017."

He had previously revealed the trouble he and Jessica had spending

any time together when he admitted: "We don't see each other now any more than before we were married."

He said in an interview earlier this year: "Jessie still works a lot in Japan. She enjoys her job, she models, she had a television show and has done a Japanese film."

"She enjoys working, which is great, but it obviously means that we don't see each other very often."

Attention has now turned to Button's estimated £35 million fortune as it is reported there was no prenuptial agreement set in place.

The racing star's representative said: "There are ongoing discussions between them about money, but it's too early to say how it will pan out."

This summer the couple were burgled while they slept while on



SPLITSVILLE: Jenson Button and Jessica Michibata were married in 2014

holiday in the south of France.

The former world champion was staying with friends in a St Tropez villa when thieves broke into the property and stole valuables worth around £300,000 - including Jessica's engagement ring.

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Meet a Member: Johnny Pach

Meet Johnny Pach from London who moved to LA five weeks ago to pursue a career as a TV host. Johnny was drafted to the Sunshine State by V Channel, to launch his brand new show "Showbuzz".

Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

The TV Network were based here, they paid my visa and offered me a big contract. It all started back in February, when I got flown out to host a big fashion show at Four the Stars Fashion House on Melrose Avenue. A few TV networks came to see me in action including V Channel and E!. I was on top form that night, which caused V Channel to ask me to come for an audition on the Monday, just before my flight home...randomly they were looking for a British TV Host at the exact same

time I was in LA.

What do you miss most from home?

I do not really miss working at home anymore. I worked full time as a business development manager for two big direct response marketing agencies in Liverpool Street, as well as doing all of my TV hosting work week nights and weekends. The intense pressure and stressful life in work was unbearable, working in London from Jan - Feb are the most depressing months of the year and everybody around you is so negative. I said to myself two weeks into living here that I will never ever work in London again. Working in Hollywood is an amazing experience, you are working your dream to be the biggest global TV host there is,

everyone is so friendly, laid back, creative and positive and that massively helps in your working environment. My team at V Channel are incredibly helpful, always creating amazing ideas and they have allowed me and my experience to shine through on my own TV project show.

The only thing I miss from back home is my family and friends, but with the help of Skype and Facetime I can be in contact all the time.

What was your first impression of LA and has it changed since? If so why?

My first impression was 'wow! The people are so lovely, wanting to talk to you and share experiences and everyone is so chilled out, look amazing and are naturally happy - this

is the environment I have missed all my life.' It hasn't changed - it's just got better and better, you could be talking to a person in a coffee shop randomly and the next thing you know you're working on a new TV pitch music show with this person. I feel the law of attraction is so naturally strong here, you can plug a thought into the universe of 'I want to meet this person' or 'I need this in my life right now' and honestly an hour later you are speaking to the person who has the best solution for you. You can just feel the healthy, positive energy here in Hollywood is very homely and comfortable, it helps you settle in.

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

Money seems to have a different value over here. For starters the actually physical money looks like something off of a Monopoly board. You seem to spend a lot quite quickly as soon as you arrive here (moving can set you back about



OVERNIGHT SUCCESS? Johnny Pach arrived in Los Angeles just five weeks ago

£10,000 in your first month) - but when you have overcome that big expenditure, you will find opportunities flooding in that will maintain you money wise in your specialist craft. There doesn't seem to be any stress of money here as compared to London.

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

The biggest thing I would recommend is to have a stable contract

offer before you fly anywhere and try to save at least £10,000 so you have money here. Be patient, people work hard here but it's a lot slower pace in London, so as long as you lay the right bricks, be patient your project or job opportunity will work out. Just go for it!

Lastly, how can we find out more about you?

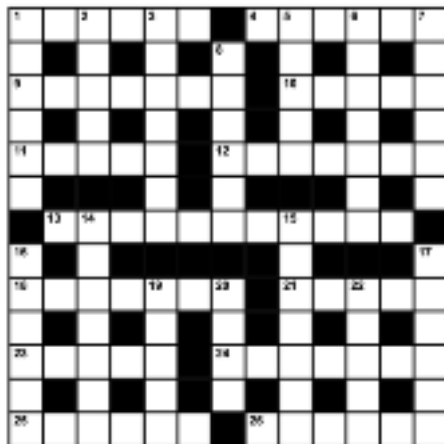
Please check out my website www.johnypach.com I am uploading Hollywood blogs to it every week.

The British Weekly Crossword #195

Across

- 1 English cathedral city (6)
- 4 Waltzed, perhaps (6)
- 9 Subtracts (7)
- 10 Goes bad (5)
- 11 Word with eclipse or module (5)
- 12 Bare (7)
- 13 Weighing carefully (11)
- 18 Touches (7)
- 21 Earth, e.g. (5)
- 23 Security devices (5)
- 24 Experiencing (7)
- 25 Stand firm against (6)
- 26 Appearance (6)

Crossword by Myles Mellor



Down

- 1 Without light (6)
- 2 Like some noses and numerals (5)
- 3 Slowly and surely, for example (7)
- 5 Storage area (5)
- 6 Desert possession (7)
- 7 Lust (6)
- 8 Put out (6)
- 14 Positions of authority (7)
- 15 Spheres (7)
- 16 Pupye, v.g. (6)
- 17 Scale reading (6)
- 19 Charges (5)
- 20 Keep or name ending (4)
- 22 Antipasto component (5)

Solution to Puzzle #194



The British Weekly Sudoku #195

SUDOKU by Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

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

Level: Medium



Solution to Sudoku #194



Stargazing with Annie Shaw

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A TRULY MAGNIFICENT AND GLORIOUS
NEW YEAR TO ALL MY LOYAL READERS AND EVERYBODY ELSE.

ARIES: It's time for some kind of change in your routine. Whatever works; a short trip out of town or planning a longer one later. Keep an eye on certain people when family gathers. Have a great Christmas holiday.

TAURUS: On occasion you can pull the proverbial rabbit out of the hat and there will be a definite chance this week ahead. This could happen when unexpected guests arrive for the holidays. You can handle all of it.

GEMINI: Your ruler Mercury doing his occasional backwards stroll will be gearing up for early New Year. You then will have opportunities to make sure a past promise is fulfilled and anything you desire put to rest. Expect happy days ahead.

CANCER: The past year may not have been what you hoped or perhaps expected, for sure not what was your plan. However you have to remember the old saying about the best laid plans of mice and men. It will be fine by the Jolly Holidays.

LEO: Yes, this is a time for the inner strength to show itself for some of you who are not participating in life as only you know how. As this holiday season progresses it will be to your advantage to be positive in all things. Happy Christmas.

VIRGO: It's time for a trip and short or long, near or far matters not as you benefit from the change of scenery. Just make sure you have backup plans as things are apt to change when Mercury your ruler starts backwards very soon. Be good for Santa Claus.

LIBRA: By mid week you will be ready to start the holidays early. With this in mind start today to get organized. Only then will you feel ready for the holidays. Happy Christmas.

SCORPIO: Well here it is again, the holiday of the year in all its best finery. You could be happy the past year is nearly over. Let the past go and it's your time to dress up and join the season of goodwill. It will be worth it...Happy Christmas.

SAGITTARIUS: A new venture will brighten up your life in a few weeks and you will have to keep a handle on those finances until then. Be dressed to be noticed this week ahead especially in any work-related party. Happy Christmas.

CAPRICORN: Change in life starts with your thought process, so therefore no Bah Humbug this year in regard to celebrating over the holidays. Make sure you are generous to those who have been good to you and for you. Happy Christmas!

AQUARIUS: It is the time of year to celebrate life, especially if you have been out of sorts or in a blue mood recently. You may have an extra guest drop by for a visit. Look your best at all times, you never can know for sure just when something great turns up. Happy Christmas.

PISCES: Be ready for an unexpected change of plans this Christmas week. Whatever this may be you can be sure you will go with the flow. It is always good to have a financial limit set, especially after a somewhat expensive past few months. Happy Christmas!



Jolly Good

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Curiosity House: first installment is well worth exploring

*Exclusive interview
with Lauren Oliver
and a review of her
novel about four
special kids solving a
mystery at a bizarre
museum*

Rating: ★★★

"The idea for the series came from a series of strange, yellowing postcards I unearthed from a stall at one of Paris' bouquinistes [booksellers]," says *The Shrunken Head* author Lauren Oliver. "All of them purporting to show bizarre objects, including a three-legged duckling and an embalmed, fire-breathing salamander. That had once been on display at Mr. Dumfrey's Dime Museum of Freaks, Oddities, and Wonders."

Rich in detail that will keep you reading, The



Shrunken Head is the first book in the Curiosity House series. A young adult book, I wouldn't give it to a child under ten as there are murders in the story. The museum in the book features live performances at an Odditorium and a Hall of Worldwide Wonders where bizarre items are on display. The story is filled with quirky characters. The exploration of the odd museum will engage

children and adults. The book takes place in the 1930s in New York.

At Dumfrey's Dime Museum of Freaks, Oddities, and Wonders, live and work four orphans with unusual abilities. Pippa is a mentalist. Thomas can squeeze himself into small spaces. Max, a girl, is an amazing knife-thrower. Sam is the world's strongest boy. The bizarre museum is owned and operated by Mr. Dumfrey. After a shrunken head on display at the exhibit goes missing, there are accidents and murders. The four kids will have to learn to work together to solve the mystery.

Oliver's "anonymous" co-author of the book is actually her father, a relics collector, true crime writer and professor of American literature and popular culture at Queens College.

"This was my first time collaborating with another author," says Oliver. "The most surprising thing to me was how easily the collaboration flowed, and how well we worked together. He is not known for his great love of people." Oliver says her co-author did most of the research, including collecting photos and documentation on New York at that time, especially the location of its subways and hospitals. "I love the Curiosity House series because it's a true ensemble book," says Oliver. "Tom, Pippa, Max, and Sam are all equally the main characters, and they're joined by a cast of zany and very vivid adult characters who make the world feel very alive. Also, it's funnier than my other books."

Besides Curiosity House: The Shrunken

Head, Oliver wrote *The Spindlers, Liesl & Po. Before I Fall* and the *Delirium* series are New York Times and international bestsellers. *Before I Fall* was purchased for adaptation for the big screen and began shooting November 19th in Vancouver. Directed by Ry Russo Young, it stars Zoey Deutch.

"My life has completely, materially, and unilaterally changed as a result of writing my books," says Oliver. "It is filled with travel and fan interaction. I get to basically go to work in my pajamas. I've met many of my literary heroes, from Jeffrey Eugenides to Lemony Snickett. I've toured in places as varied and far-flung as Malaysia, the Philippines, Toronto, and Sydney."

Oliver is currently



**BOOK CORNER with
Gabrielle Pantera**

working on a screenplay and the sequel to her next YA novel, *Replica*, that publishes next September.

Oliver is based in Connecticut and New York, although she spends a lot of time in Los Angeles. She was born in Queens, New York.

Curiosity House: The Shrunken Head, Hardcover by Lauren Oliver & H. C. Chester. Series: Curiosity House (Book 1). Hardcover: 368 pages Publisher: HarperCollins (September 29, 2015) Language: English. ISBN: 9780062270818 \$16.99



There's nothing like an empty Los Angeles...

SEASON'S GREETINGS MY BREEPS!

Welcome to Ghost Town LA - that week during Christmas where everyone's away - well not everyone but an awful lots of Brits either go back to the motherland or to places that are warmer and dryer than LA.

It's actually a really great week for a stay-cay! For instance it really is a true 20 minutes to get to the beach from Hollywood, What about that Costco run you were putting off? Five minutes from Hollywood and guess what? Everything is dirt cheap - especially if you want to stock up on Christmas cards and wrapping paper for next year. - The bars and restaurants tend to be quieter so those last minute reservations at Cecconi's or Osteria Mama are easy to come by! - It's also a good time to do Runyon Canyon and actually focus on the exercise and not the throngs of gorgeous wannabes speed-hiking past you.... although admittedly sometimes that's been fun! But seriously, consider doing all those chores that have sat on your to-do list since July - like getting the roof fixed. Yep, El Nino is barreling towards us and we are in store for one of the wettest Januarys and Februarys on record. Now don't get me wrong, we complain when we don't have enough rain and beg everyone to have really ugly lawns because we

are afraid we may run out of actual drinking water. Then we complain when it's too wet - which creates potholes all in the roads....

Here come the awards..

Awards season is fast approaching with the Golden Globes and SAG awards already announced - a fair few Brits in the crowded races there, which we always like to see. Idris Elba has two nominations, one for his TV work in "Luther" and in the Netflix pic "Beasts of No Nation". Best of luck to him, along with Eddie Redmayne for "The Danish Girl", Dame Helen Mirren for the "Woman in Gold" and again for playing Hedda Hoppa in "Trumbo". Another nomination double for Mark Rylance

for "Bridge of Spies" and "Wolf Hall" as well as nods for Christian Bale, Kate Winslet, Sir Ben Kingsley, Damien Lewis, Patrick Stewart, Dame Maggie Smith, and all the cast of Downton Abbey. Not forgetting some of this year's best feature film directors - featuring a master, Ridley Scott for his work on "The Martian". Best of British to them all and to the numerous other Brits recognized for their work in all the technical categories.

Toscar time

Speaking of awards, the BiLA's renowned Toscars are back for their 9th annual gala. This year the bash is produced by Kim Morgan Greene and Devin Hamilton - Participation tickets have gone on sale at eventbrite.com - just search for Toscars 2016.

I can't wait to see what the teams come up with this year - it truly is one of the funnest times you'll have and you'll make some life-long friends! I was involved in last years winner - "Big Birdman" - with Scott Kaske taking home the Best Whactor



LA: so empty at Christmas you can (almost) indulge those skateboard fantasies..



TOSCAR TIME: last year Scott Kaske got the Best Whactor nod for "Big Birdman"

statue. I got best Supporting Whactor, we also picked up Best Scribbles, Best Director and last but not least - best film. What a fun night it was!

Finally Breakfast Club is still up and running at Cecconi's on Robertson/Melrose every tuesday and on the 31st we are all gathering at The Pikey on Sunset at 2pm to

celebrate the British New Year at 4pm. No cover - just come join us.

Cheers and see you next year!
Craig Young

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Is “costume envy” driving ‘Harry’ Potty?

Daniel Radcliffe will forever be THE face of the Harry Potter franchise.

It doesn't matter how many other movies he makes or what else he does. With a new movie set in the same world on its way there are a few different ways you might expect Radcliffe to react.

He could be dismissive of this new kid on the block trying to ride his coat tails, or he could play the part of the successful veteran, trying to help the new kid make something of himself. It turns out neither is the case.

Even though he's left his glasses and magic wand behind, Radcliffe's still got a severe case of “costume envy” when he saw the new wizard in town – fellow Brit, Eddie Redmayne.



It turns out Radcliffe is actually jealous of Redmayne's stylish wardrobe on the highly anticipated Harry Potter spinoff film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* which is currently filming in the U.K. Mostly he's jealous of the wardrobe.

“Oh f— you, Eddie, in your brilliant costume – I got jeans and a zip top for 10 years and you've got a great coat already?” he joked to NME magazine about Redmayne's Doctor Who-esq wardrobe.

Due for release in 2016, the film, written by J.K Rowling, is set in

the same magical world of the Potter films but in New York instead of the U.K., and 70 years before Harry's story begins.

As I recently revealed, the Oscar-winning Redmayne, 33, plays eccentric wizard Newt Scamander, who wears a dapper, teal, three-quarter length coat over a wool suit, accessorized with a wand.

I can feel Radcliffe's pain. Getting to wear fun and interesting costumes has got to be one of the best parts of being an actor. It can really help you feel more like the character you're playing. Many of the characters



within the Harry Potter movies got to wear unique outfits, but Harry, along with Ron and Hermione rarely got to

wear anything beyond their school uniforms or fairly standard street clothes.

This is still the Harry

Potter world right? I wonder why the guy the franchise is named after wasn't styled as cool as Eddie's character!?

Spice Girls reunion in crisis!

The Spice Girls' 20-year reunion tour is in crisis because Mel C refuses to take part without Victoria Beckham.

Oo-er!

Posh has told her four former bandmates she is too busy with her fashion empire to take part in the reunion, prompting Sporty Melanie Chisholm, to dig her heels in and declare she will go ahead only “if all the cogs are in place”.

A source told The Sun this week: “This means good management, good tour promoters and good

sponsorship to maximize revenue. To fulfil this Mel believes the band has to be the original five-piece and Victoria needs to be involved.”

A spokeswoman for Mel C declined to comment.

Meanwhile Mel B, Emma Bunton, and Geri Halliwell, are “bickering” over a top name to manage next year's live shows, planned to mark 1996 hit “Wannabe”.

There are fears the delay could lose the band gigs and sponsors.

The last time I saw the girls perform as five piece was at the Staples Center in Los Angeles back in 2007... I think they did a pretty good job too.

I do hope Victoria comes to her senses...after all, if it wasn't for the band she wouldn't be famous, then she wouldn't have met David and therefore she would not have her fashion empire!

Time to give something back to the fans who put you there, Mrs. Beckham!

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Arsenal:

cont. from back page

their title credentials last night by recording a 2-1 victory over Manchester City at the Emirates.

And Pearce, who spent three years at the Etihad as a player and manager, has been impressed by Arsenal's consistency in the league this season and believes the lack of stability at Manchester United and Chelsea has put the back-to-back FA Cup winners in pole position to be crowned champions at the end of the campaign.

"What Monday's result shows, is that Manchester City are too inconsistent to win the league this season, and that Arsenal are the most stable football club in the country at the moment," Pearce told talkSPORT.

"They've won the FA Cup for two years running, their stadium is outstanding, their training ground is outstanding, and their bank balance is outstanding and they have consistency with the manager.

"I think it is Arsenal's title to lose at this moment, especially with all the other teams around them falling away a touch, with Chelsea being in semi-crisis and the unrest at Manchester United.

"I think Wenger, with this group of players, could be on the verge of creating another dynasty at the club."

Legendary coach Don Howe dead aged 80

Former England international and coach Don Howe has died at the age of 80.

The full-back played for West Brom and Arsenal, earning 23 England caps, before establishing himself as a renowned coach for club and country.

Howe helped Arsenal to a league and FA Cup double in 1971 and spent

four years as West Brom boss before returning to the Gunners as coach and manager.

He also coached under former England managers Ron Greenwood, Sir Bobby Robson and Terry Venables.

Arsenal chairman Sir Chips Keswick said Howe had been "enduring a long battle with illness", but added it was still a "shock to learn the news".

Howe played every game in the 1958 World Cup and was then a key part of Robson's coaching staff as England reached the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup, before also supporting Venables as his side made it to the last four of Euro 96.

Former Gunners goalkeeper Bob Wilson said Howe was "a fine player but truly he was one of the greatest ever coaches in football".

FA chairman Greg Dyke described his death as a "great loss for English football".

Dyke added: "He is widely regarded as being in the vanguard of coaching in England, and I know that his loss will be keenly felt amongst the coaching fraternity in particular and not least by [current England boss] Roy Hodgson, who was close to Don."

Hodgson said: "I found myself privileged to say

he befriended me and I think it is a great loss and I am very sad.

"I think we were very fortunate growing up as young coaches to be able to take inspiration from Don, Sir Bobby Robson and Dave Sexton alongside him.

"He was absolutely one of the very best coaches I have ever come across in my life and, certainly in my opinion, one of the very best coaches England ever had."

Reds in for Belgrade star

Liverpool have had a £5.14m bid accepted for Red Star Belgrade midfielder Marko Grujic, according to the Serbian club.

Grujic, 19, will stay at the Serbia club on loan before joining the Premier League side on 1 July 2016.

Liverpool beat bids from Anderlecht (£1.47m) and Stuttgart (£3.67m).

"The club's board considered the offers and unanimously accepted Liverpool's offer to pay the money immediately," said Red Star in a statement.

It continued: "Red Star sincerely want Marko Grujic to carry on playing in the club's kit for the next 10 years but the financial situation of our club dictates the adoption of a

different decision."

He has played 22 times for the Serbian league leaders this season, scoring five goals.

Jurgen Klopp's side are currently ninth in the Premier League and are winless in their last three games.

Drogba closer to Blues move

Chelsea are in talks with Major League Soccer franchise Montreal Impact over the future of striker Didier Drogba.

Montreal say Drogba has expressed a "desire to help" his old club.

"We understand his attachment, but our objective is to have him back for another season," Montreal tweeted.

Drogba, 37, who signed for Montreal in July, watched Chelsea's win over Sunderland on

Saturday with interim manager Guus Hiddink and owner Roman Abramovich.

Hiddink on Wednesday refused to be drawn on whether Drogba would join his backroom staff.

"I worked with him five or six years ago and I was delighted to have such a professional in the

squad," the Dutchman said.

"He's a legend already in this club. The only thing is at the moment is that he's playing in Montreal.

"The official process I don't know but I spoke openly from the bottom of my heart that huge impact players can be key for the club."

Weekend Premier League

CHELSEA (2) 3 Ivanovic 5, Pedro 13 Oscar 50 (pen)	SUNDERLAND (0) 1 Borini 53 Att: 41,562
EVERTON (1) 2 Lukaku 32 Mirallas 89	LEICESTER (1) 3 Mahrez 27 (pen), 65 (pen) Okazaki 69 Att: 39,570
MANCHESTER UTD (0) 1 Martial 65	NORWICH (1) 2 Jerome 38, Toffey 54 Att: 75,320
NEWCASTLE (1) 1 Colocotroni 38	ASTON VILLA (0) 1 Ayew 63; Att: 48,234
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 Att: 31,636	TOTTENHAM (2) 2 Kane 40, Alli 43
STOKE (0) 1 Krvic 76 (pen)	CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 2 Wickham 45 (pen), Lee 88 Att: 27,500
WEST BROM (0) 1 McAuley 79	AFC BOURNEMOUTH (0) 2 Smith 52 Daniels 87 (pen) Att: 26,127
SWANSEA (0) 0	WEST HAM (0) 0 Att: 20,661
WATFORD (2) 3 Ako 3 Ighalo 15, 85	LIVERPOOL (0) 0 Att: 20,707

Monday's Results

Barclays Premier League
ARSENAL (2) 2 MN CITY (0) 1
Wolves 33 Sunder 45
Leeds 82 Att: 62,053

Weekend Football League

sky BET CHAMPIONSHIP	sky BET LEAGUE 1	sky BET LEAGUE 2
BOLTON (0) 2 FULHAM (1) 2 Coughlin 74 Att: 14,543	BARNLEY (0) 0 WIGAN (1) 2 Kobet 18 Att: 8,888	BARNET (1) 4 CRAWLEY TN (0) 2 Darrake 45, 52 Att: 3,634
BRENTFORD (3) 4 HULLSDRIF (0) 2 Cunha 5 Att: 26,445	BLACKBURN (2) 2 PETERBORO (0) 0 Cullen 3, Potts 31 Att: 6,204	CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 MANCHESTER (1) 1 Donohue 39 Att: 4,589
BRIGHTON (0) 0 MIDDLESBRO (2) 3 Wise 31, 55 (pen) Att: 26,445	BURTON ALD (1) 3 DONCASTER (1) 3 Butcher 15, 61 Att: 6,795	CARLISLE (2) 3 NOTTS CO (0) 0 Garrage 5 (pen) Att: 1,820
BRISTOL CITY (0) 1 QPR (0) 1 Wheatman 81 Att: 15,897	CHESHAM (1) 0 BRADFORD (0) 1 Gavin 4, Green 44 Att: 15,419	COVENTRY (0) 1 OLDHAM (0) 1 Morgan 49 Att: 12,032
BURNLEY (1) 4 CHARLTON (0) 0 Archie 44, 53 Att: 15,897	IPSWICH (0) 0 DERBY (1) 1 Att: 20,161	CREWE (1) 1 FLEETWOOD (1) 1 Love 9; Att: 3,749
BURTON ALD (1) 3 HULL (0) 0 Freckingham 28 (pen) Att: 10,355	LEEDS (0) 1 PRESTON (0) 0 Brown 46 (og) Att: 22,641	MILLWALL (0) 0 GILLINGHAM (2) 3 Att: 12,032
BURTON ALD (1) 3 HULL (0) 0 Freckingham 28 (pen) Att: 10,355	READING (1) 1 BLACKBURN (0) 0 Wilkins 11 Att: 16,529	ROCHDALE (2) 3 COLCHESTER (1) 1 Henderson 30 (pen) Att: 2,205
COVENTRY (0) 1 QPR (0) 1 Wheatman 81 Att: 15,897	SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (0) 1 Att: 5,150	SHREWSBURY (0) 0 SWINDON (1) 1 Att: 5,115
COVENTRY (0) 1 QPR (0) 1 Wheatman 81 Att: 15,897	SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (0) 1 Att: 5,150	WALSALL (0) 2 PORT VALE (0) 0 Owen 64, 83 Att: 4,496
COVENTRY (0) 1 QPR (0) 1 Wheatman 81 Att: 15,897	SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (0) 1 Att: 5,150	WALSALL (0) 2 PORT VALE (0) 0 Owen 64, 83 Att: 4,496
COVENTRY (0) 1 QPR (0) 1 Wheatman 81 Att: 15,897	SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (0) 1 Att: 5,150	WALSALL (0) 2 PORT VALE (0) 0 Owen 64, 83 Att: 4,496

SCOTLAND
Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership
CELTIC (0) 1 MOTHERWELL (0) 2 Hutton 52 Att: 42,603
DUNDEE (4) 4 HAWICK (0) 0 Harrington 5, 21, 26 Att: 4,588
INVERNESS CT (0) 2 DUNDEE UTD (1) 2 McNair 48 Att: 2,981
KILMARNOCK (0) 0 ABERDEEN (2) 4 McGinn 9, Ritchie 35 Att: 3,928
PARTICK (0) 1 ROSS CITY (0) 0 Dowie 72 (og) Att: 2,762
ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0 HEARTS (0) 0 Att: 4,750
Ladbrokes Scottish League One
ALBION (1) 1 FORFAR (0) 1 Att: 1,820
BRECHIN (2) 2 STRANRAER (0) 0 Att: 1,820
COVINGTON (1) 3 ARDREIGHMAN (0) 0 Att: 1,820
DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 STEVENAGE (0) 0 Att: 1,820
PETERHEAD (0) 3 AYR (0) 0 Att: 1,820
Ladbrokes Scottish League Two
CLYDE (0) 0 ABERDEEN (1) 2 Att: 1,820
EAST FIFE (1) 1 MONROSE (1) 1 Att: 1,820
FC STIRLING (0) 0 BERWICK (2) 4 Att: 1,820
ELGIN (0) 0 QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 Att: 1,820
STIRLING (0) 1 ANNAN ATH (0) 0 Att: 1,820

Van Gaal feels the heat

Under-fire United boss walks out of press conference after emotional, five minute rant

UNDER-FIRE Louis Van Gaal appears to be cracking under the strain of turning round Manchester United's fortunes, delivering an angry and emotional monologue before storming out of a press conference that lasted less than five minutes this week.

After a week when his job has come under intense scrutiny from fans and the media and Jose Mourinho touted as a replacement, Van Gaal hit back – and bizarrely started by asking for apologies from reporters who he accused of ignoring the facts.

Asked for a response to Arsene Wenger's claim that the Dutchman's treatment has been disrespectful, Van Gaal said: "Has anybody in this room not a feeling to apologise to me? That's what I'm wondering.

"I think I was already sacked, I read. I have been sacked. My colleague (Mourinho) was here already. What do you think happens with my wife or my kids? Or with my grandchildren? Or with the fans of Manchester United? Or my friends? What do you think?"

"They have called me

a lot of times and also Arsene Wenger is saying something about that. So you think that I want to talk with the media now.

"I am here only because of the Premier League rules. I have to talk with you. But I can only see when I say something that you use my words in your context.

"And I want to say only I have tried to lift the confidence of my players. I have done everything this week.

"I held evaluation meetings with the players with my members of staff, I held a Christmas lunch, I made a speech and I feel the warmth and support of everybody in Carrington, this AON training complex.

"But I didn't feel that in the media and of course I can imagine that you can write about that subject.

"We are not in a good position but four weeks ago we were first in the Premier League and in four weeks' time we can be back in that position again."

When it was pointed out to him that the speculation over his future was inevitable given United's poor run, he refused to agree. And

HOW THEY STAND							
	P	W	D	L	F	Pts	
LEICESTER	17	11	6	1	37	24	38
ARSENAL	17	11	3	3	28	14	36
MAN CITY	17	10	2	5	23	18	32
TOTTENHAM	17	7	8	2	28	14	29
MAN UTD	17	8	5	4	22	14	29
C PALACE	17	9	2	6	23	16	29
WATFORD	17	8	4	5	23	16	28
WEST HAM	17	6	7	4	28	21	25
LIVERPOOL	17	6	6	5	20	22	24
EVERTON	17	5	8	4	38	24	23
STOKE	17	6	5	6	14	16	23
SOUTHAMPTON	17	3	6	8	23	21	21
WEST BROM	17	5	5	7	17	23	20
BOURNMOUTH	17	5	4	8	22	32	19
CHelsea	17	3	3	9	23	27	18
HULL CITY	17	4	5	8	20	29	17
NEWCASTLE	17	4	5	8	19	32	17
SWANSEA	17	3	6	8	15	24	15
SUNDERLAND	17	3	3	11	18	33	12
ASTON VILLA	17	1	4	12	14	31	7

he revealed he had received telephone calls of support from Sir Alex Ferguson, former chief executive David Gill and executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward.

Van Gaal added: "No, I don't think that you can do that [speculate] because you have to stick by the facts and when I get calls off Alex Ferguson and David Gill and Ed Woodward because you are creating something that is not good, what is not based

TALE OF THE TAPE: Van Gaal is feeling the pressure; (below) a list of transfers during his tenure at Old Trafford



VAN GAAL'S TRANSFER DEALINGS			
IN			
Summer 2014			
Luka Modric (Real Madrid)	€20m		
Andriy Shevchenko (Dynamo Kyiv)	€20m		
Daley Blind (Ajax)	€13m		
Wendie Renard (Lyon)	€10m		
Angel Di Maria (PSG)	€59.7m*		
Rodri Gois (Sporting CP)	€4m*		
January 2015			
Walter Zenga (Marseille)	Free		
Summer 2015			
Morgan Schneiderlin (Luton)	€25m		
Marcelo (Barcelona)	€25m		
Basile Lielieks (Dinamo Riga)	€10m		
Wesley Sneijder (PSV)	€10m		
Sergio Reguilón (Real Madrid)	Free		
Anthony Martial (Le Mans)	€10m		
Total spent:	€265.7m		
*Players who sold or returned			
OUT			
Summer 2014			
Royston Drenth (PSV)	Free		
Nemanja Vidic (Manchester United)	Free		
Patric (Sporting CP)	€1.2m		
Alex Buttner (Sporting CP)	€2m		
Federico Marchetti (Lazio)	Free		
Shinji Kagawa (Manchester United)	€6.5m		
Dimitry Salenko (Spartak Moscow)	€1m		
Michael Rose (Sheff Wed)	€1m		
January 2015			
Andriy Shevchenko (Dynamo Kyiv)	Free		
Marcelo (Barcelona)	Undisclosed		
Dennis Polster (Austria)	Free		
Summer 2015			
Rodri Gois (Sporting CP)	Loan ended		
Neil (Sheff Wed)	€4.7m		
Paulo St. Bernardes (Sporting CP)	€4m		
Angel Di Maria (PSG)	€40m		
Rafael Da Silva (PSG)	€4m		
Tom Cleverley (Derby)	Free		
Ruben Unzué (Real Betis)	€5m		
Jimmy Egan (Sheff Wed)	Undisclosed		
Tom Shee (Sheff Wed)	Free		
Bence Janos (PSG)	€200,000		
Ben Ames (Sheff Wed)	Free		
Junior Stanislas (Sporting CP)	€7.5m		
Total:	€101m		
Players with first-team experience, on loan			
Adam Demme (Dynamo Kyiv)			
James Wilson (Sheff Wed)			
Tyler Blackett (Luton)			
Will Keane (Sheff Wed)			

on the facts, now I have to answer questions and I don't think I want to do it.

"I only say now I am focused on Stoke City, I

help my players. I wish you a Merry Christmas and also maybe a Happy New Year when I see you."

United had laid on

wine and mince pies for the media and as he walked out of the press conference, Van Gaal said: "Enjoy the wine and a mince pie."

Title 'Arsenal's to lose'

Pearce hails 'outstanding' Gunners and tips Wenger to create another dynasty

FORMER Manchester City manager Stewart Pearce has tipped Arsenal to win the title this year, saying they have the strongest and most consistent squad in an unpredictable title race.

The Gunners, who last lifted the league trophy at

the end of the 2003-04 season, are currently in second place in the table and trail surprise leaders Leicester by two points.

Arsene Wenger's troops, who have suffered one defeat in their last 11 league matches, outlined **cont. on page 19, col. 1**

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE KINGS' HEAD

Celebrate the British New Year at 4pm, then do it all again at Midnight. DJ, Bagpiper, Party Favors etc. THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN!



We would like to wish all of our Patrons a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.



<p>Sat 12/26 - Boxing Day (Special Menu available)</p> <p>11.45am Southampton v Arsenal</p> <p>Mon 12/28 English Premier League</p> <p>9.30am Man Utd v Chelsea</p> <p>9.30am Arsenal v Bournemouth</p> <p>Tue 12/29 English Premier League</p> <p>11.45am Leicester v Man City</p> <p>Wed 12/30 English Premier League</p> <p>11.45am Sunderland v Liverpool</p> <p>Fri. 1/1 New Year's Day</p> <p>2pm Rosebowl: Stanford v Iowa</p>	<p>(watch the Parade with us)</p> <p>Sat 1/2 English Premier League</p> <p>7am Man utd v Swansea</p> <p>7am Arsenal v Newcastle</p> <p>7am Leicester v Bournemouth</p> <p>9.30am Watford v Man City</p> <p>Sun 1/3 Everton vs Spurs (8am)</p> <p>Tue 1/5 Capital One Cup</p> <p>Noon Stoke v Liverpool</p> <p>Wed 1/6 Capital One Cup</p> <p>Noon Everton v Man City</p>
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