

Feet On The Ground

**a blog by
“Xavier”**

**being the journal of a
mega-millions lottery winner**

from the sixth



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**F&F
BOOKS**

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Or is it backwards?

1st May 2018

Mr. Javid, the new Home Secretary, was born in this country but he claims he started thinking ‘it could have been me’ when he heard about the Windrush shambles. Which means he either has an over-active imagination or he’s a sympathy junkie. Not a promising start.

Who He?

1st May 2018

How old is Lord Roberts if he can bring to mind memories of March 1933? Is he really in the running for job of World’s Oldest Man? More likely, he’s just another deluded HUTA-gonian and a truly Trivial Democrap.

Unwarranted obstruction

2nd May 2018

There’s a huge van called Loomis parked on the pavement. No one loading or unloading it, though. The thing is just there, in the way. “Managing cash in society” sez the stupid corporate motto on the side of the van. [Where else would you need to manage it? No society, no need for cash.] And doing so by getting in everyone’s way.

Clotheys on the job

2nd May 2018

Mrs. May’s chief civil service Brexit negotiations wallah is some character whose name, to a casual glance, looks like **Oily** Robbins. You’d think she’d have picked someone whose name has a bit more credibility for such an important job. Oily is rather too close to the truth.

Another telephone scam

3rd May 2018

“Hi”, said the recorded voice of a lady(?) with an American accent, “this is your internet service provider (no name, no pack drill). Your IP address has been compromised by attacks from foreign IP addresses but we will give you a new one for free.”

“Please press ‘1’ to contact our technician (and be scammed).”

The call came from the 01789 area code.

Why?

3th May 2018

A man who has been fighting terrorists in Syria has been arrested here on suspicion of terrorism offences. Which explains why the police ignore real crimes, like burglaries. They’re too busy making up imaginary ones.

Hazard of convenience living

4th May 2018

Flushed wet wipes are building up huge colonies in the river Thames and could become a tourist attraction, or even a hazard to navigation, if not tackled urgently.

Originality index zero

4th May 2018

There’s a salvage expert who’s trying to claim that supplying drought-hit South Africa with water in the form of icebergs from Antarctica is a solution that no one else has thought of.

That’s apart from all the other people who have had the same idea over the last 150 years.

Has Been? Never Was Been!

5th May 2018

It's just not true that J. Corbyn is past his peak, as pundits were claiming after Labour's disaster in the local elections. He never had a peak to be past.

Unknown Rule

6th May 2018

Why do some men wear brown shoes with navy or black trousers? a lady asks in the *Sunday Post*. Probably because they don't know there's a law against it!

Faint praise, indeed!

6th May 2018

Bercow is not altogether bad as Commons Speaker in the same sense that Harvey Weinstein is not altogether a bad film mogul. So that's the pipsqueak told!

What's in a name?

7th May 2018

There was someone called Clotworthy in the credits of an episode of *The Mental Case* yesterday; the one at 5 p.m. Which set me wondering if the name causes the same reaction in the US as to someone British. Answers on a PC to the usual address.

Ignoble ignorance

7th May 2018

Someone needs to tell Bliar crony Lord Adonis that it's not the Home Secretary who deports people, it's the idiots at the Home Office. And if they abuse the system, that's because they're idiots.

Home win guaranteed

7th May 2018

President Putin has had variable results with his attempts to rig foreign elections but he seems to have no problems with rigging elections in Russia. As a result, he and his mates can continue to keep their hands in the cookie jar pretty well until the Grim Reaper calls time on Vlad.

What did he just say?

8th May 2018

“Trucking Hell”, indeed. Who thinks up these cute titles for the shows on 5Spike? Probably a newspaper sub-editor with the necessary connections.

Do as I say, not as I do

8th May 2018

How did Putin the poisoner manage to win the latest Russian presidential election by a mile? Simply by not letting his main rival take part in the election. Maybe our prime minister should consider doing the same to J. Corbyn next time we have a general election. After all, Labour is full of Russo-philés. They could hardly object to the new democracy without criticizing their other hero.

Thought for the day

8th May 2018

The big advantage of eating on your own is that you can be as messy as you like and no one else will ever know!

Selectively Charitable

9th May 2018

I got stuck in traffic briefly within eyeshot of a charity shop, which calls itself *The Local Shop For Local People*, which struck me as delivering a rather unfortunate message. “If you’re

local, you've welcome to come in. If not, you can bugger off." Needless to say, I did the latter.

Not entirely their fault every time

9th May 2018

Whingeing Millennials are under fire over a think tank's notion that every 25-year-old should get £10K as a present from the nation. To be fair to the snoflakes, who do deserve most of the flak, some of it is generated, as in this case, by oldies (usually discredited and/or redundant politicians) trying to buy their votes or, as in this case, curry their admiration with other people's money.

Just plain silly

10th May 2018

10M WATER RESISTANT

The hands on my watch were up at the top, well away from this slogan at the bottom of the face, which strikes me as an expression of the truly pointless. There is no chance of my watch ever being immersed in 10 metres of water, and I would venture to suggest that the same applies to every other watch like it. And it's only 'resistant', not 'proof'.

I really do hope that whoever came up with the idea that this slogan would play a part in a decision to buy a particular watch ended up where he belonged; in a padded cell.

Hard to swallow

10th May 2018

The insurance industry is promising to turn over a new leaf and be decent and honest and not to swindle existing customers in the future. But it's going to take a lot more than some PR tripe to persuade people that loyalty counts.

Philosophy for life

10th May 2018

If you take as a default position, the assumption that politicians, by and large, are a bunch of gutless lying bastards, you'll never go far wrong.

Seen in passing

11th May 2018

Spotted in the credits of an ancient episode of *Dragnet*; one without Colonel Potter of M*A*S*H as Friday's sidekick: Feild Gray as one of the two art directors.

I bet spellcheckers have a feild day with his name.

Philosophy for life revisited

11th May 2018

That bit about lying bastards becomes even more true when you consider the role of Jack Straw, then Home Sec., and also Mysterious Mark, the guy in charge of MI6, when an Islamist enemy of Colonel Gaddafi was kidnapped by the CIA with British government help as part of Tony B. Liar and George W. Bush's strategy for getting Gaddafi on-side against the Islamists.

Let us give you loot

11th May 2018

An official-looking brown envelope with a window arrived in the morning mail. Bad news from the taxman or the council? Nope, it was addressed to 'the occupier'.

The letter turned out to be some outfit offering free PPI checks and trawling for personal information.

Bad luck, chaps. You reached the only person in the country who never had PP insurance.

Not even faint praise

12th May 2018

A writer of my acquaintance reckons if you want a good quote to go on a book cover, write it yourself. A couple of examples from my current reading material make the point:

“The good news is that Laidlaw is back” invites speculation about what the bad news is. That the story is crap, maybe?

“The Laidlaw books are not just great crime novels, they are important ones” Books about a demented Glasgow copper are important? Really?

True words spoken unwittingly

12th May 2018

“Be still my heart!” quoth one of the WWE commentators. But if his heart did stop still, he’d drop dead and we’d be rid of an annoying creep. Be still, indeed!

Can’t wait for the next one

13th May 2018

That’s the next Grand Prix; but for all the wrong reasons. The ‘can’t wait’ applies to what the bloke who does the shouty bits to pretend something exciting is happening will say about the Spanish GP. Okay, the British guy won and it was a Mercedes 1-2 finish and the German guy bogged up his strategy and finished 4th. But after the lap 1 crash, it was read the paper time until Hamilton crossed the line safely. But, not doubt, the shouty bloke, will be telling us it was one of the greatest of all time during the warm-up for the usual procession in Mona-yawn-co.

Competition on the way

14th May 2018

Look out, Jessica Fletcher. The wife of the current DCI Barnaby of Midsomer has decided that she’s going to be a writer of murder mysteries.

There has to be a reason for it!

14th May 2018

The experts reckon 81% of women are too stressed to function in the modern world. Which explains why blokes are running just about everything.

The only line rather than the bottom one

14th May 2018

Is everything money-grubbing these days? Whenever some event comes to one of our cities, we have to be told how many millions it will bring into the local economy. As if that's the only reason for hosting the event.

No Mr. Nice Guy

15th May 2018

Hamas vs Israel – North Korea vs . . . North Korea with nukes.

What's to choose between them?

15th May 2018

- a) D. Milipede, the midwife of hard Bremonoan and giving lots of cash to the EU in return for . . . nothing much.
- b) E. Milipede, the midwife of hard censorship to prevent the criminal and disreputable actions of Labour donors from being exposed to the gaze of the Great Unwashed.

What goes around . . .

16th May 2018

If he wasn't using taxpayers' cash to do it, you'd have to laugh at the cheek of Commons Squeaker Berko, who's bullying his staff into helping his pals spread the fake news that he's not a bully.

Aghast academic

16th May 2018

A professor, who was trying to tie himself in to the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* has come up with the coy conclusion that the monster was ‘probably’ equipped with 'the machinery of manhood'. But he fails to provide a reason why Frankenstein would have hacked bits off the creature, which he was trying to animate.

Especially a necessary external piece of equipment for the monster to have a pee.

Meaningless slogan

16th May 2018

“Up to 13 hours hold” is claimed by FixRodent, the dental plate sticky stuff. But if your plate starts to wobble after a couple of seconds, they haven’t told you a lie. Note that they would never dream of telling you: “at least x hours hold”.

Doubtful definition

17th May 2018

Beggars at Windsor for the Royal Weeding are earning £100 or more per day? What a strange world we live in when badgering people for cash is put on a parallel with useful employment.

Scrape, scrape

18th May 2018

How desperate can you get? The diggers have found that Mhegan Mherkel has an 8th cousin who is the great, great, great grandson of an executed murderer, who was in London when Jack the Ripper was active.

Defence mechanism

18th May 2018

Here's a great idea: people who aren't addicted to mobile phones should be issued with one of those air-powered foghorn gadgets to blast phone-obsessed idiots who stroll along crowded pavements, not looking where they are going.

Just put them away

19th May 2018

Does anyone really care that Judy Murray has wobbly arms? Apart from her, of course. Honestly! The things celeb-ettes will say to stay noticed.

Spit and image

19th May 2018

If they ever remake *Minder*, they should put Hugh Grant in the cast. Got up like Jeremy Thorpe, he looks just like Arthur Daley in a really grumpy mood.

Lucky day for sport fans

19th May 2018

Two Cup Finals! Wow! What have we done to deserve this?

Cup Finals of contrasts

20th May 2018

That Chelski guy should change his name to Flabbergast. What fun the commentators would have telling us that opponents had been Flabbergasted. The vast army of Man.U. haters enjoyed watching Grumpy Jose get grumpier and there was an element of suspense to the English Cup Final as Chelsea, unlike Celtic in Scotland, didn't feel the need for an insurance goal after their first.

High flier

20th May 2018

The sporting event of today has to be the sight of Kornfeil hitting the fallen Bastianini's bike in the Moto3 race at Le Mans and leaping up into the air and over it to a safe landing instead of becoming involved in the crash. And he went on to finish 6th.

Good grief!

21st May 2018

I watched the daftest sciffy film of all time last night. It's called *Asteroid: Final Impact* and it came out in 2015. President O'Bummer has cancelled an infrared satellite project, which means that a dark asteroid is about to wipe out life on the Earth.

Steve, our boffin hero, reckons that shooting 3 lbs of hydrochloric acid at the killer rock using a rocket his kid built will save the world. The rock is about half a mile away when the rocket goes up. Blooch! No more death-rock. It just vanishes. Yeah, right.

The real me? Like as if!

22nd May 2018

The latest piece of earth-shattering social research has found that women tend to use dating websites as a check on their dateability rather than as a means for finding a temporary BF.

Just knowing that they can create a profile which attracts some interest is enough to make them feel good.

Ouija News?

22nd May 2018

A looney left Labour MP is getting some stick after claiming that she knows for a fact that Princess Di wouldn't have

approved of the recent Royal/celeb wedding jamboree. But seen in the context of a pathetic cry of: “Notice me, pur-leeese!”, it certainly seems to have worked.

Invent your own

23rd May 2018

The visible part of the headline on the folded newspaper was ‘In Ermine’. Vermin in Ermine? I thought. Turned out to be Dinosaurs (talking about the House of Frauds). I like my version better.

Shrinking population

23rd May 2018

Half of the UK’s adults will be obese by 2045, the experts are shrieking. Which leaves the rest of us unimpressed as the last we heard from these same experts is that **60%** of the population is obese right now!

Not really trying

24th May 2018

The just late Philip Roth is hailed as ‘producing more than 30 books’ in an obituary article. “A mere dabbler,” a writer of my acquaintance said when I mentioned the word-bite.

The walls of his writing room play host to a pair of banner posters featuring reduced versions of the front covers of the books which he has produced. As his total is 135 (and counting), I am inclined to agree with his observation.

He really did try!

24th May 2018

One of the staff has pointed out that the much later Isaac Asimov, SF author and science writer, reckoned he had produced 300 books, which sounds very hard-core!

In the back of the net!!

25th May 2018

President Trump has won the nuclear football cup. Kim Jong-whoever was still winding up to calling off their talks when Trump left him standing with a letter telling him to forget it until he can be serious about it.

Nice one, Donald!

Vain hope

25th May 2018

One day, Berko, the Squeaker of the Commons, might identify as a decent human being.

But not just yet.

Reporter? Schmeporter!

26th May 2018

My attention was deflected by very sloppy reporting from a story about a theory that flying birds became extinct after the meteor strike @ Chicxulub on the Yucatan peninsula for a very simple reason. The theorists think that forests became extinct and flying birds died out for a lack of places to perch whilst ground-dwelling birds were unaffected, and the present flying birds evolved from them when the forests regrew.

What deflected me was the idiot reporter telling me “as forests burned around the world”. Really? A meteor hitting Mexico would set fire to all the trees in all the rest of the world? Pur-lease!

Zero Data Storage

26th May 2018

Just in case anyone is wondering, I don't seek personal data from anyone who reads this stuff, nor do I retain personal/tracking data on readers. And I have no access to anything that Google collects.

Brightens the day up

27th May 2018

Nothing like a shot at the *Sunday Post* for cheering you up. Today's big story is that bottles of Irn Bru might have a wonky cap, which can come flying off like the cork from a champagne bottle, which should liven things up a bit north of the border.

Jobsworths?

28th May 2018

Retired (forcibly) Hollywood mogul Harvey WeinStein's lawyer is confident that he will end up exonerated at the end of the legal process. Which raises the question of why the cops are harassing the guy. Probably because they're trying to look busy before they bung in a pay claim.

The excitement of Monaco

28th May 2018

Things were so processional at the Monaco Grand Prix yesterday that shouty bloke on Sky was reduced to getting wildly excited when Verstappen made a pass **at the back of the field**, to which he had been relegated after crashing his car too badly for it to be fixed in time for Saturday's qualifying sessions.

Not here, mate!

28th May 2018

We're supposed to have had the Saddam Hussein of all thunderstorms yesterday. But whilst it got a bit cloudy at the end of the afternoon over the Mansion, no rain, no nothing here. But my 'here' isn't somewhere allegedly important, like London.

Bonehead ‘science’

29th May 2018

One of the *Daily Mail*’s correspondents yesterday was beefing about counting 12 vapour trails in the sky over Gatwick airport and asking if this is compatible with the new clean-air revolution.

If the spivs in government, and the beefer, manage to get atmospheric water vapour (including clouds?) Made illegal, we’re all doomed!!

Blame the politicians

30th May 2018

Yet another poll has confirmed that people think life was better in the past. Which just confirms that when politicians start forcing change, usually from disreputable motives (EU membership, Iraq war, open migration), they always make things worse in the long run.

Relax! Nothing to worry about

30th May 2018

We can assume nothing bad is happening in the world if the main issue is whether some footballer should have his leg amputated after getting a tattoo of an *American* assault rifle on it. How unpatriotic can you get!

Death with no possible alternative

31th May 2018

Preferably a slow and painful one. That’s the only possible sentence for the scumbag(s) who came up with the V.I. Poo TV ad campaign.

They should be grateful!

31th May 2018

The Russians should be thanking the Ukrainians for the on/off death of Putin enemy Arkady Babchenko. His decision to co-operate with the Ukrainian version of MI5 to catch a couple of stooges sent to kill him gave the Kremlin’s apologists some much needed exercise.

But, sadly, they failed to produce anything convincing in their latest shower of ‘not me, Govs’.

Let’s not be blunt

1st June 2018

Anyone who tries to ban pointed weapons, like pencils and ball point pens, is going to end up stabbed so many times that the pathologist won’t be able to count all of the holes.

No, it isn’t fair

1th June 2018

Why is it okay for women to ogle half-naked men and not vice versa? Because wimmin think the rules are different for them and they will be for as long as men let them get away with their sexism. Maybe they should be renamed the unfair sex.

There are idiots everywhere, unfortunately

1st June 2018

There’s some idiot Quick Crossword setter who thinks the answer to Treacle (6,5) is Golden Syrup. Obviously an idiot who doesn’t know that treacle is dark enough brown to look black and it comes in red tins, whereas golden syrup is a golden yellow colour and its tins are green.

Who?

2nd June 2018

I’ve heard of five of the Vogue list of the world’s 25 most influential women. Is this a record?

p.s. Two of them because of whom they’re married to.

Nothing new under the sun

2nd June 2018

What would the film world do without Jaws? There are tons of films in which the shark is replaced by tornadoes, a swarm of piranhas, a volcanic eruption and GKW. Which leaves me wondering: Which film’s plot did Jaws rip off? Answers on a PC to the usual address.

Danger! Wildlife!

3th June 2018

You’d think all the crowds and the noise would send wild animals in the area looking for cover but not in Italy. A crazy hare (not knowing it’s June not March) did its best to wreck today’s Moto3 race at Mugello by scooting across the track and avoiding the leader’s front wheel by millimetres. Not quite as dramatic as Kornfeil’s save a couple of weeks ago, but getting there!

Danger! Pace car driver!

4th June 2018

Well, there we all were, lined up to watch the second IndyCar race at Detroit but what happened? The clown in the pace car smashed it into the wall at 70 mph while leading the cars from the pits on to the track for the start. So it was talk among yourselves for 34 minutes while they swept up the bits.

Whoever made the decision about cautions did a very sensible job during the race. Drivers who managed to unscrew a screw-up were allowed to do it under green-flag racing. Could Mr. Rossi be related to the pace car driver? He

certainly blew it big time on laps 64/70 and gifted what looked like his win to RHR.

Nothing for free

5th June 2018

It looks like a brilliant bit of technology in the advert: a watch which is powered by light and never needs to be fed a new battery.

Except for one thing.

My watch spends its daytime life up my sleeve, so when would one of the brilliant new ones ever see enough light to charge it up?

One of my watches is a 1970s Seiko self-winder, for which a gadget to rock it back and forward at night was (may still be) available for those people who don't move about enough during the day to keep it wound up. Maybe the brilliant new light-powered watch needs to be put next to its own little night light when the owner is asleep to make sure that it has enough juice to keep going through the following day.

Maybe that's a brilliant new business available to some entrepreneur: flogging such night lights.

Rights & Merits

6th June 2018

Lawyers playing the race card seem to be getting a lot of TV exposure in the coverage of the Grenfell Tower inquiry. There's a lot about the divide between rich and poor, but not a lot about what the clients of these taxpayer-funded characters have done to deserve the right to pick the pockets of people with more than they have. But that's how the politics of envy operates.

Cant from Khan

6th June 2018

Labour's mayor of London, the token bus driver's son, is big on moans about reductions in the police budget. But he never

seems to have anything to say about why there isn't as much cash sloshing around. Probably because he was cheering Gordon bloody Brown (Labour) on when he spent the nation into bankruptcy.

The bruvvers, united . . .

7th June 2018

Has Labour's Brexit strategy spit the party? No, way! The management of HM's Opposition has created such a mess that every faction of the party hates what is on offer and the whole party is united in opposition to the mess.

Belgian doctors are great!

7th June 2018

When a woman found herself stuck with a gym contract she couldn't afford and wouldn't be likely to use, she got her doctor to write her a sick note to get out of the contract. And when the gym shopped the doctor to his professional association (the equivalent of the GMC here), they ruled that the doctor had acted in the best interests of his patient and had done nothing wrong.

How brilliant is that!

Just an offensive affectation

8th June 2018

Is it sexist to object to female tennis players shrieking and screaming through their matches? Not at all. It's biology. Women have higher-pitched voices than men on the whole (that's real women) and their shrieks are more piercing and would normally be taken as a sign that they're in deadly danger and in need of help; usually from some big, strong bloke(s). So no wonder they're upsetting when they're done just to put the opponent off.

The right of reply

8th June 2018

Don't you just wish that when some scumbag journalist yells a cheeky question at a minister in Downing Street that he/she would turn round and yell: “If you're going to talk like a twat, wear a silly hat.”

Why, aye!

9th June 2018

The *Daily Mail* is getting a new editor, who's called Geordie Greig. What wasn't explained is whether that's really his name or he's notoriously from Newcastle.

You live and learn

10th June 2018

A Labour MP reckons it's Dickensian for the Lord Provost of Glasgow to swan around in a Rolls-Royce limo. They had Rolls-Royce cars when Charles Dickens was around, then?

Turn about is fair play

10th June 2018

The SNP reckons putting off holding an independence referendum until they think they can win it would be a good idea. Which means that it would be only fair to give their opponents the right to hold yet another referendum when they think they can win – to make it the best of three.

Nothing much to shout about

11th June 2018

The shouty bloke on the Sky Sports F1 commentary team had a bit to do on lap one of the Canadian Grand Prix. Then it was back in his box until he tried; and failed miserably; to make the procession seem a bit exciting at the end.

More to shout about in Texas

11th June 2018

The Texas 600 is a swindle as the number is kilometres, not miles. But there was a guy leaping out of a car on fire on lap 7, and the Aussie whinger blew it; unfortunately, taking out another driver on his way to bash the wall.

Shame about Wickens being taken out by a ‘racing incident’ with Carpenter. Cudda bin another win in his rookie year. But it was to be Cool-Hand Dixon’s night.

Ministry of Scumbags

11th June 2018

I see the *Daily Mail* is claiming a victory for its campaign to get a safe haven in the UK for Afghan interpreters who are at risk of being murdered by the Taliban.

It just a shame that the scumbags at the Ministry of Defence, and the politicians in charge of them, can’t do the decent thing unprompted and without a boot up the backside from a national newspaper.

Simplified baking

12th June 2018

Mary Berry might chuck all the base ingredients for a cake together in the mixing bowl, but if you’re mixing by hand with a fork, it’s actually easier to incorporate the flour if you mix the butter with the sugar first and then add the flour.

And if the butter is straight from the fridge, à la Berry, use a knife to chop it into the sugar before you finish the job with a fork.

Not a nice man at all

12th June 2018

What a slob Patrick Jane, a.k.a. The Mental Case, is. He gets a brand-new couch from the FBI and what does he do? Wipe his mucky boots all over it. The scumbag!

A year of significance

13th June 2018

The Office for National Statistics has declared that the unemployment rate of 4.2% is the lowest since records began 47 years ago. Which invites us to ask what was it that happened in 1971 to make the government suddenly decide to make a guess at the unemployment rate something which it needed to know? Answers on a PC to the usual address.

Foreigners are just weird

14th June 2018

What does the Spanish FA do when the head coach of their national team is appointed the new boss of Real Madrid? Sack him two days before the team has its first world cup match (against Portugal).

Yes, idiots are everywhere

14th June 2018

The things some coppers will say to get themselves noticed! Like the deputy chief con. of S. Yorkshire, who claimed that England football fans who carry a national flag could come across as imperialists and cause antagonism when surrounded by Russia’s state-sponsored football hooligans.

That’s only England fans who are the imperialists, of course, not the fans of any other nation.

Statistics, and trivial stats

14th June 2018

Polluted air in the North of England could be reducing life expectancy by 6 months? B!F!D!

Don't you just love Thursdays?

15th June 2018

What the FK are you doing, you stupid bloody machine?? I have things I need to do.

Working on updates. 74% completed.

Do not turn off your computer.

Hold the front page? Naaah

15th June 2018

Putinstan 5, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 0. A record home team win for a World Cup opener.

How much did that cost?

Pointless qualifier

16th June 2018

Watching the Eskimos facing up to the Blue Bombers, with lightning thrown in!, we got the inevitable player statistics. Including *quarterback* sack numbers. But who else, other than a QB, is ever sacked?

Fun in Barcelona

17th June 2018

The Catalunya MotoGP race was a real demolition derby, with crashes all over the place, Rabat going off into the gravel with his bike on fire! and only 13 finishers. It was a pretty boring win for Lorenzo but the guys behind him did more than their level best to keep the crowd entertained.

Consequences? Nah!

17th June 2018

One wing of the Glasgow School of Art was wiped out by a fire in 2014. Now, the whole building has been reduced to

just a shell as a £35 million restoration was approaching completion.

Fires at the end of such a project are a known hazard. How many people will get the sack for allowing this one to wreck what was considered one of Glasgow’s iconic buildings? My guess is none.

**The infinite, and pointless, spread of diversity
for its own sake**

18th June 2018

Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar with an all-female cast presented as if played by a bunch of convicts! What will the BBC’s next bit of dotty diversity be? Hamlet as played by a bunch of Islamists who are about to go out on a killing spree?

Today’s daft corporate slogan

19th June 2018

‘Beyond Office Supplies’ was seen on a van belonging to an outfit called Zen, which was parked on the pavement, delivering supplies to an office. But beyond? I don’t think so.

Foot-shot

19th June 2018

Don’t you just love it when someone like Laura Bush, wife of George W., sounds off about the children of illegal immigrants being separated from their parents in Texas, only to be told that it was a bill passed when her husband was president that made entering the US illegally a misdemeanour and the separation is what the law demands? And nothing to do with President Trump.

More cloth-eyes!

19th June 2018

It said ‘Home Office Minister’ but the light was bad and I read it as ‘Some Office Minister’ at first. Which tends to sum

up most of today’s politicians. Most of them are total non-entities of the ‘who he/she/it?’ category.

Isn’t cat logic weird?

20th June 2018

They know that pulling a partly open door with a paw will open it wider. But why don’t they just give it a good yank instead of doing just enough to sque-ee-ee-eze through a tiny gap?

Maybe it’s a feline desire to create a sense of mystery and leave humans thinking at a cat could never have got through that tiny gap.

Too cute for words

20th June 2018

If the exam board is called something as crass as Eduqas, it comes as no surprise to learn that it bogged up ‘listening’ French and Spanish exams by getting the spoken information out of sequence with the questions.

Yes, common scum

20th June 2018

Visions of Richard Littlejohn of the *Daily Mail* wheeling his Port-A-Shrine to the station where the three graffiti vandals (not artists) were killed, loaded with empty aerosols to sell to those creating a memorial for the dead pests. No danger of any of them paying to clean up their messes.

Academic BS

21st June 2018

‘Stonehenge was built using Pythagoras’ theorem two millennia before he was born’, I read in today’s paper. A couple of ‘experts’ have decided that one incarnation of Stonehenge included a rectangle marked by 4 stones, which forms a perfect Pythagorean triangle when split in half.

But as the ‘experts’ go on to find perfect 3:4:5 and 5:12:13 triangles in landscape features separated by hundreds of miles, one tends to wonder why they don’t just blame it on ancient astronauts rather than a serious Greek mathematician.

Security for all

21st June 2018

Mr. Druncker, the EC president, is making more waves over the post-Brexit Irish border. As he and his mates have been playing the terrorism card shamelessly, and the EU doesn’t want the UK to be part of current policing and security co-operation schemes, the time has come to call their bluff.

Post-Brexit, no Irish citizens will be allowed to enter the UK on national security grounds, and any living here must leave before the end of March, 2019.

Let’s see what old Druncker and his mates have to say to that!

Further proof

22nd June 2018

The theory that ‘Idiots are in charge everywhere’ got a big boost from Exeter University this week. The luvvies there went into a meltdown apology after sending out an inspirational quotation by Field Marshall Rommel. Sounds like the vice-chancellor got worried that it would melt all the Sno-flakes and deprive him of their 9-grand tuition fees!

Put the blame where it belongs

22nd June 2018

Amid all the Trump-bashing by the not-so-great and the not-all-that-good, has anyone got anything to say about the parents who breed children they can’t afford to support and then dump them on the charity of the American taxpayer?

No? Surprise!

Damn diverse!

23rd June 2018

If the BBC really wants to score virtue points, it will have to replace David Dimbleby on Question Time with the daughter of a Pakistani bus driver.

BT Sport sucks

24th June 2018

Much indignation among the Canadian football fans at the Mansion yesterday afternoon, when they settled down to watch Friday Night Football replays but got a second repeat of the Thursday Night match, which they'd already seen.

No explanation on the BT Sport website, of course. The TV menu there was still showing the wrong programme information. Which is pretty pathetic if BT is supposed to be a communications company.

Something else that sucks . . .

24th June 2018

. . . is the NHS in Scotland, where operations are being cancelled because the management is unable to provide sufficient sterilizing facilities for surgical equipment. Just what exactly do the useless sods do all day?

Wheels of glory

25th June 2018

Much good cheer among the motor racing fans at the Mansion. The Forces of Evil Vettel got it wrong at the start and let Lewis Hamilton drive untroubled back into the lead of the drivers' championship in France. And then the Aussie whinger went out on lap 1 of the IndyCar race at Road America in sunny Wisconsin. Some days, the Gods do smile.

Rights – but not for everyone

26th June 2018

An ex-footballer says he doesn't like a female commentator's shrill voice and he's mobbed by the usual suspects. But a bloke is as entitled to a personal opinion/preference as any sour-faced harridan-git in these enlightened times, surely!

Just as dead

26th June 2018

Whilst Prince William is laying wreaths in Palestine, is there any chance of one at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in memory of the terrorism victims who died there?

Attention all shroud-wavers

27th June 2018

Some people do have to be happy – the creed of diversity demands it. But we're sure you'll understand if you're not included as you wouldn't appreciate it.

Does anyone love the EU?

27th June 2018

That's apart from the Drunkers and the others making money out of it, of course. Switzerland is not happy about free, unchecked movement of labour from the EU. The Swiss People's Party has collected enough signatures on a petition to force a referendum on the issue of the right of EU citizens to work in Switzerland, which should throw a cat nicely among the pigeons.

Oh, for some USEFUL ones

28th June 2018

Further proof that we have useless idiots in charge of the police – their leaders don't want the government to make it

illegal for Travellers to invade private property, or public land, and turn it into a rubbish dump.

**Pay the legal profession enough
and they'll do anything**

28th June 2018

The news that the Civil Partnership Act (2004) breaches the 'uman rights of mixed-sex couples, who wish to enjoy this lesser alternative to marriage raises an interesting possibility.

How soon will it be before some judge declares that insisting on same-species partnerships also abridges 'uman rights?

Hot, ain't it!

29th June 2018

New world record: 32 degrees Centigrade in my computer room yesterday at the end of the afternoon. No wonder I was sticking to the keyboard and the mouse!

Man of Straw

29th June 2018

Surprise! There **is** some secret state in league with dark forces and Jack Straw was lying his head off about rendition when he was Home Sec. But he was a Tony B. Liar crony, so what else do you expect?

Still hot

30th June 2018

32 degrees Centigrade again at the end of the afternoon in the computer room yesterday, and that was despite a very chilly wind blasting anyone who dared to venture outside. I suppose that's a tribute to the quality of the Mansion's thermal insulation.

We know, we know

30th June 2018

Nothing like an MP for stating the bleedin’ obvious. M. Hiller, chairman of the public accounts committee, has described public sector pay as a ‘gilded staircase’ and she has noticed that it is fuelled by people awarding themselves more money because they have convinced themselves they’re worth it.

No danger of Parliament banging some heads together and telling them they’re wrong, though.

Curious lapse

1st July 2018

I’ve just watched the Tartan DVD version of Ingmar Bergman’s film *The Virgin Spring*. The notes on the box-sleeve describe the bad guys as swineherds. Filthy swine they might have been, but they had a herd of goats in the film, which the person who wrote those notes clearly hadn’t bothered to watch.

Two wheels good, four wheels bad

1st July 2018

That was some MotoGP race in Assen! How did they stay on their bikes after some of those collisions! And another good win for Marc Marquez.

Meanwhile, in Austria: German cars, what bloody use are they?

You can’t beat a good story

2nd July 2018

It’s only a comfortable 28 degrees Centigrade in the computer room today and we’re not being threatened with a hosepipe ban just yet. Which is pretty meaningless when you have your own private lake! Still, it was interesting to note that the water

companies are saying they can't treat water fast enough to meet demand.

Nothing about all the treated water that leaks away through the pipes they can't be bothered fixing, of course.

Someone has to say it

2nd July 2018

Yes, and I'm sure I'm not the only person wondering how much it cost dear old Vlad to get the worst Russian world cup team for decades past Spain on penalties!

A waste of space and licence-payers' cash

3rd July 2018

The BBC's diversity bloke sounds a really poisonous piece of work. Wibble by the bucketful at the touch of a button. When an organization gets big enough to feel the need to hire someone like him, it needs to be split up and leaned forthwith.

It's the way he reads them

3rd July 2018

Crumbs! Was D. Green, MP, really the first secretary of state for lying? Or am I just guilty of not bothering to read the rest of the sentence?

Can we chuck out some more Russian spies?

5th July 2018

What's that going to do for Salisbury – knowing that Putin the Poisoner has set off the equivalent of a dirty bomb in the city by contaminating it with novichok? Which effectively lasts forever, according to our experts.

Nowhere will be safe

5th July 2018

If you're looking for somewhere to go to avoid being tasered by a trigger-happy copper, take Italy off your list. They're holding trials with tasers in 11 large cities there (but not Rome, surprisingly) and once they have them, the cops won't give them up.

Trade Descriptions Act time

6th July 2018

Have you noticed that every-bloody-body; banks, anyone with a website, etc., etc.; is urging us to take more control of our data and so on? Of course, what they really mean is that the mugs should buy a pretence of having more control and let things chug along pretty much as they used to. Not that they'd ever dream of telling us that in plain English.

Holy crap, Batman! It's blue!

6th July 2018

There were lots of cries of: “This is crap” when this week's episode of WWE Raw became a succession of pairs of guys pretending to kick the crap out of a current hero. Then one of the whingers got his comeuppance by allegedly being pushed off a raised area inside a portaloo. He emerged covered in blue stuff. In the good old days of Vince McMahon, it would have been brown stuff, but these days, even the crap isn't crap-coloured.

New modern words

6th July 2018

Wibsite – an online source of fake news and wibble (see also: BBC)

Scribbsite – an online source of naff opinions and scribble, especially about stuff which the perpetrator knows nothing about (see also: blog)

Desperation move

7th July 2018

The Russians are claiming that the latest episode in the Salisbury poisoning saga is an attempt by Britain to tarnish the World Cup that Putin bought. Is that even possible?

Money for ~~old~~ ancient rope

7th July 2018

This week's WWE Smackdown wasn't much better. One wrestling match in the first hour; the rest was fillers, repeats and wibble.

After an hour and a half, a Z-lister did a bit in the ring before his boss did sneak-attack wibble. A couple of ladies bashed each other about for 4 minutes. To finish, two A-list tag teams did 8 minutes.

Hardly something worth the time and expense of attending in person for the recording.

My taxes are paying for this crap

7th July 2018

I noticed yesterday that we have a Minister for Women and Equalities?? How can there be more than one of them? Things are either equal or they aren't. But, of course, in the mad world of politics, let us not forget that some equalities are more equal than others, especially when wimmin are concerned.

Just a bit off target

7th July 2018

Strange, isn't it, that when some non-celeb is murdered or dies in an accident, they are always the best person in the

world. But when someone we’ve heard of dies, there’s always someone standing by with a book claiming that the deceased was the world’s biggest nasty bastard.

Sounds like Mr. Death needs to adjust his sights somewhat.

What they don’t want you to know

8th July 2018

Apparently, you have to pay their fee/commission whether **or not** Purple Brix manage to sell your house. How about that for commisery?

Keep your Sellotape in the fridge!

8th July 2018

I had a print stuck to a wall with some carpet tape judiciously folded into a loop. It was there for ages. A couple of nights ago, it fell down. The adhesive was just too soft and tacky to support the weight of that much paper.

Same story with other types of sticky tape as regards loss of sticking power. Never known anything like it!!

Bloody Foreigners!

8th July 2018

Interesting tactic by Ferrari at the British GP: get your No. 2 driver to punt the No.1's main threat to the back of the field, knowing the FIA will let them get away with it.

Inferior product

9 July 2018

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Fallguy – that’s a much, much better title than the one they came up with for the latest episode.

More from Cloth-Ears

9th July 2018

Did he mumble “Alans” or “Adams”?

What’s the context?

Cockney rhyming slang, mate. Is he trying to get into her Alan Whickers or her Adam Ants?

Things that occur to you while watching TV

9th July 2018

If we can have subliminal messages; ones which are beneath the threshold of consciousness; why has no one come up with supraliminal to describe statements of the bleedin’ obvious? Especially as the term has a veneer of education as it uses Latin to express an otherwise crude concept.

Exploiting the foolish

10th July 2018

Fake vegetarians, who want a vegetable-based burger which looks like one made of meat, and even bleeds red stuff, are being obliged. The only snag is that their indulgence will cost them over 300% the price of a proper burger.

Nothing changes

11th July 2018

The mob violence being whipped by Britain's drone population over the state visit by President Trump is reminiscent of what happened during the Nazi era in Germany. Probably because the same type of people are organizing it.

Ethics, but not as we know them, Jim

12th July 2018

The spirt of the Crystal Methodist lives on at the Co-op. Its insurance wing knows dates of birth and it knows which ancient customers are paying rip-off premiums for insurance.

But its management claims it would be unethical and ageist to mention it to them. So much for the customer counts!

How do you upset bigots?

12th July 2018

Paint the black crosses on the shields above the clock faces on the Elizabeth Tower red, and when the Scottish and Welsh Nationalists start to whinge, challenge them to put some red crosses among the dragons and lions on their national buildings.

Confected outrage

12 July 2018

Why is it such a shock-horror-scandal-outrage that the Thai boys who were rescued from the flooded cave system were sedated before they had to navigate flooded tunnels?

It sounds like the humane thing to do and there would be a scandal only if they hadn't been sedated.

How to win

12th July 2018

Hint for the French for Sunday: knock in two goals in the first half and don't let them score. Then knock in another in the second half to make them even more desperate.

First place is the only one that matters

13th July 2018

Does anyone care who ends up third in the World Cup? Thought not.

Next move

13th July 2018

What can the WW do to top pretending to bluelooterize the Canadian whinger last week? A sick note for KO and a night

off; and a spray of air-freshener from his tormentor.

More hoop merchants

13th July 2018

A charity is getting excited because one-third of primary school kids haven't been taught to ride a bike. Something which I never did. In fact, I didn't do 6 of their top 10 essentials for childhood and it never held me back. But I doubt the control freaks want to hear that; they just want kids jumping through their hoops.

Don't know when you're lucky, mate

13th July 2018

A Ross Clark got a full page in yesterday's *Daily Mail* to moan about being denied a hernia op on the NHS even though he's paid thousands of pounds in income tax. Given the number of women who have complained to the *Sunday Post* about the havoc created by faulty mesh implants, maybe his doctor is doing him a favour!

Game of Throws

14th July 2018

“Ah wer thrown,” said the accused when asked why his evidence had changed since the police interview. “There wer two on 'em, one asking another question as I wer trying to answer the last one. If owt has changed it's coz Ah wer thrown the first time.”

“And that, Milord, is the case for the defence.”

Life chugs on regardless

14th July 2018

Despite all the posturing by has-beens, hypocrites and nobodies, Donald Trump is still President of the United States of America. Imagine their amazement on discovering that no one took any notice of them (and try not to laugh).

Department of useless knowledge

14th July 2018

How do the Swiss government know that 100,000-150,000 Swiss citizens get through around 5 tons of cocaine per year between them? It gets boffins to measure the content of benzoylecgonine, one of the metabolites, in waste water and make a guess. I suppose producing this sort of statistic is a living, and maybe a bit more interesting than some.

Some CFL fans are looking cheerful

15th July 2018

Okay, the Eskimos beat the Argos by the odd rouge. But a win is a win and there are no more points to be gained for winning by more than one point. Even if it is over the World Champions of Canada.

Boldly gone turkey

15th July 2018

I watched the last half hour of that 2013 Star Trek film on Channel 4 on Saturday night. [BTW: is it me or did it go dark incredibly quickly during that half hour?] OMG! What a load of cobblers.

You berk, Jezzer!

15th July 2018

That old fool Corbyn has called for the Tory Government to step aside if it cannot deliver something approaching an intelligent relationship with Europe. I'd like to invite him to step aside if he cannot deliver something approaching an intelligent relationship with reality.

Plus ça change . . .

16th July 2018

It used to be the *News of the Screws* that did the dirty vicar/MP/whatever stories. Now, it's the Monday edition of the *Daily Mail* making up for uneventful weekends.

p.s. “It's draining my battery.” Is that some sort of modern euphemism?

**YOU can fool none of the people
none of the time, mate!**

16th July 2018

The Prime Minister would have us believe that the country will be left with no Brexit at all if her MPs gang up on her and thwart her brilliant plan. But it is excruciatingly obvious that her only plan is to thwart Brexit. Which means that no matter what her MPs do, it won't make a scrap of difference.

Unreasonable expectation

17th July 2018

Isn't there something rather illogical about his constituents telling 'shamed Tory minister' A. Griffiths to do the decent thing? He's a proven rotter with no moral compass, which means that 'the decent thing' is the last thing he'd do!

New broom looking to sweep out inherited trash?

17th July 2018

Having hacker and fugitive J. Assange occupying a room in your outpost for 6 years is proving too much for the residents of the embassy of Ecuador. And he's costing his hosts lots of money; even more than the Metropolitan Police Farce! As a result, the new president of the country is trying to arrange a way of getting rid of him.

You’d think Assange would have had enough of it by now and he’d do them the favour of digging an escape tunnel!

Pseuds only, pliz

18th July 2018

‘Pre-owned’ – how is that somehow superior to ‘secondhand’? Except to people who like to kid themselves that they’re getting something special that’s not available to the peasantry.

A word in your Clerihew

18th July 2018

Vladimir Putin

Doesn’t believe in shootin’.

When he wants someone dead,

It’s poison, not a bullet in the head.

Something to grab you!

18th July 2018

With a title like *Bermuda Tentacles*, how can anyone resist this 2014 film, which is sure to be a totally daft sciffy creature feature. Great fun, but no mention of the fate of the idiot who chose to send the US president’s plane through the Bermuda Triangle in a violent storm, which had to be treason.

Vested interest

19th July 2018

Is it fair to point a finger at Libyan coastguards if some migrants refused to board their ship when intercepted on the way to inflict themselves on Europe? Of course, not. But if the people doing the finger-pointing are making a living out of the refugee trade, their opinion is hardly unbiased.

Weird lot, these Yanks

19th July 2018

The things you learn from casual reading! According to a court in Maryland in 2006, mooning is a form of expression protected under the constitutional right of freedom of speech. Which leaves me wondering what the judges had been smoking as mooning is performed at the opposite of end of the body from the organ of speech.

Clerihew Two

20th July 2018

Jean-Claude Juncker
Couldn't get any drunker
But if the taxpayer's buying
He'll keep on trying.

Yes, your ears do deceive you

20th July 2018

Baroness Hutin? Who she?

It's a BBC newsreader's version of Vladimir Putin, Cloth-ears!

Some choice

20th July 2018

Ban the work of Kipling because he was racist. Replace it with work by MBPs. How is that not equally racist?

Ah, but Kipling's was bad racism and this is good racism, especially if the person responsible is an MBP.

Lest we forget

20th July 2018

The Greatest General of All Time nearly got himself blown to smithereens on this day in 1944. But he was spared because

the assassin didn't have enough courage of his convictions to pull the pin when he was standing next to Mr. Hitler.

Potted Philosophy

21st July 2018

Or what people talk about in pubs. The opposite of the mythical concept of the mangina has to be a shenis. Which leads to the question of which would be more popular at a theatre near you: *The Mangina Monologues* or *The Shenis Serenades*?

Well, I never

21st July 2018

I was shocked to learn that we have an Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Taxpayers' money is actually being spent on telling people how to misuse drugs! Shocking!

And if the advice is coming from civil servants and quango-crats, it is bound to be rubbish, which makes the abuse of the public purse even worse.

May we please just Brexit?

21st July 2018

All that prating about by the government at Chequers and the ministerial resignations was for nothing. EU say No!

CleriheW Three

21st July 2018

Theresa May

But if she actually will, no one can say.

As for her principles and red lines,

They have many more varieties than Heinz.

Now you come to mention it . . .

22nd July 2018

That bloke who spotted that a departures board written in Welsh looked like something cobbled together by a dyslexic was spot on. Having seen the picture, I agree. It does!

A bit wonky

22th July 2018

‘A mostly dry day with just the small chance of an isolate shower’ was the weather prediction in today’s paper. It has been drizzling all morning. But the gardeners appreciate it.

So much for education, education, education

23th July 2018

Are there really people around who need to be told the difference between a lunar and a solar eclipse, as the person who wrote the article about the lunar eclipse on Friday tacked on at the end of the piece in today's paper? If there are, the Blob and the Labour party deserve a Nobel Prize for services to dumbing down.

Clerihew Four

23th July 2018

Michel Barnier

Will never get a Hip, Hooray!

While he’s a block in the road

With his head stuck in dick mode.

Some ‘comes around’

23rd July 2018

Am I delighted by Vettel’s catastrophe in the German GP?
More surprised that the Universe doesn’t hate Lewis

Hamilton quite as much as I thought it did. And grateful that the same Universe rained on a grand prix and turned it from a dull procession into something with a bit of life in it.

Natural justice vs political BS

24th July 2018

Two ex-British jihadis end up in the US facing either the death penalty or GTMO. Nothing wrong with that and all the boo-hoo buggers who have a problem with it need to be either ignored or laughed at and reminded that these characters have been stripped of their British citizenship, depending on how annoying they get.

Everybody panic 'coz of the weather!

24th July 2018

Meanwhile, we have someone's black-and-white cat taking refuge here to avoid the rain.

Cat update

25th July 2018

Later on yesterday, one of the gardeners reported finding two visiting cats sheltering from the rain in the gazebo. One at either side, of course, to avoid infringing on the other cat's territory.

A severe attack of the supraliminials

25th July 2018

Did Britain's newspapers really need to tell us the country is melting. It's not news. Those in the south are experiencing it, those elsewhere know it's not true. Why can't they tell us something we don't know? Some new news. That would be good.

Careless fingers

25th July 2018

People who have names with convincing typo potential:

1. Oily Robbins.
2. Scumas Milne.

Can't wait

26th July 2018

What a wonderful time we're going to have in the future when Parliament bans all activity during hot weather. We'll all be able to sit around watching old TV shows on the internet all day. And then worry about starving to death because all the shops have been forced to close and the larder is bare.

And the taps have run dry because no one is allowed to fix burst water mains.

Natural advantage

27th July 2018

Another good thing about having some grounds attached to your residence is that you can have a fairly clear horizon. Which is why I'm expecting a small invasion of neighbours tonight to watch the eclipsed Moon rise with no inconvenient buildings in the way.

Not a brilliant effort, really

28th July 2018

The longest eclipse of the moon of the century started before moonrise, which was pretty much at the same time as sunset, which meant that the eclipsed moon rose into full daylight. That has to be rank bad planning on the part of whoever organizes these things.

Good job there was a lot of wind blowing the clouds along when they got in the way.

Fair dos for the taxpayer

29th July 2018

Is it reasonable to pay migrants in detention centres no more than £1/hour for cleaning, painting and other maintenance duties? Actually, yes, if they're not contributing a red cent to their board and lodging.

Strange expectations

29th July 2018

“On a low income, it's hard to be healthy; fresh vegetables are expensive,” said a lady quoted in Saturday's *Daily Mail*. Utter garbage. People don't cook dinner any more (they get carry-outs) where she lives because they're too bloody lazy to make the effort.

Note to the author of the article: a bag of supermarket salad doesn't really count as ‘vegetables’.

Great idea

30th July 2018

Now, there's a think tank which lives up to its description! I mean the one which came up with the idea of using the overseas aid budget to deport migrants who have no right to be here.

Just plain wrong

30th July 2018

We get some serious rain after a fairly long dry spell and you just know what the water companies will say. Yep, it's the wrong type of rain. Next thing you know, they'll be telling us they missed their targets for fixing leaks because they're the wrong type of leak.

Imperfect world

31st July 2018

The Oxfam Experience tells us that the charity sector, and that includes the United Nations Organization, is run by men who think that the best way to put cash into a disaster area is to keep the local sex workers in full employment, and by pantomime dames with a Ph.D. in turning a blind eye.

But if they get the job done . . .

More pots and kettles

31st July 2018

MPs are accusing the charity sector of having a culture of denial, indulging in complacency which verges on complicity and believing that protecting the good name of the organization takes priority over abuses by the staff.

All of which applied equally to the accusers, whose ranks are full of expenses swindlers, bullies and sex-pests, and who have a finger permanently pressed down on the ‘cover-up’ button.

Not that hot

1st August 2018

We’re supposed to be in the grip of another heatwave this week, but it is definitely chilly and breezy outside. I suppose that’s what they call ‘fresh’ – which is a very fine apology word!

Non-news

1st August 2018

We’ve had real news, fake news and now we’re getting what looks to me like non-news. Okay, the Manchester Arena bomber was born here of Libyan parents, who went back there. And he had to be rescued by the Royal Navy when things got sticky in Libya. But all this stuff about the rescue in the papers just looks like needless nit-picking.

He was a nutter, who killed a lot of people, and now he’s a dead nutter. And experience tells us that all the nit-picking won’t identify the next lethal nutter in line.

Corbyn has a point? (Surely not!)

2nd August 2018

Labour’s leaders appear to have a problem with the policies of Israel’s sociopathic leaders rather than Jews in general. The contrary position appears to be that if some regimes persecuted some Jews in the past, then all Jews should get a permanent free pass.

Spot which view is less reasoning.

Keeps the conversation going . . .

2nd August 2018

Anyone who says “Hi, guys!” to mixed groups has to desist as it’s not inclusive enough, sez the Gauleiter of Greetings.

In future, those who use the expression must say, “Hi, guys!” to include those who think the greeting has evolved to embrace women as well as men, and tack on a “Yo, scumbags!” to include the miserable gits who think it hasn’t. [And claim that’s dramatic irony and therefore okay.]

It’s true, no lead is safe!

4th August 2018

That was an amazing Thursday Night Football match between the struggling World Champions of Canada, the Toronto Argonauts, and the east division leaders, the Ottawa Redblacks. The Argos were 34-14 down after 11 minutes of the 3rd quarter and looking dead and buried. But they fought back to 41-42 with 1 second left of the 4th quarter.

Magic stuff in the CFL.

Evil-free zone

4th August 2018

"He's not a messiah, he's just a very naughty boy," his mother said of Jesus in the famous biopic. Similarly, Osama bin Laden's mom would have us believe that he was a shy boy and a good man. Which just goes to show that mothers are from another planet.

Not terribly reliable

5th August 2018

It's pretty much a summary of the character of the British weather. We're supposed to be having a heatwave but it does get a bit grey and cool at times. Not today, though. It's warm and sunny; well, most of the time.

Out of the line of fire

5th August 2018

A very entertaining morning's motorbiking in the Czech Republic, which seems to be in the wrong part of southern Europe, as far as the heatwave is concerned. Spain is frying but Brno was cloudy and getting cooler, and they were actually wondering about rain (none arrived) before the main race of the day.

Unacceptable ignorance

6th August 2018

Oh, dear, what has happened to the education system in Scotland? Judy Murray, mother of Andy and a woman in her 6th (?) decade, admitted in yesterday's *Sunday Post* that she has only just recently found out why Edinburgh is known as Auld Reekie. The price of decades of neglect by Labour then a decade of the SNP: Scots who know nothing of their heritage. Sad, really.

Don't remind me

6th August 2018

The Calgary Stampeders were wearing the numbers of famous past members of the roster during practice at the weekend. One of them got to wear the number of a certain D. Johnson, a.k.a. The Rock of WWF fame, who had a fairly unhappy time in Canada, according to his book of memoirs, and didn't make the team. But I suppose he's not bothered about that now.

Cart before horse?

7th August 2018

I've only ever seen this TV advert with the sound turned down but people are getting their heads shaved by the MacMillan cancer charity. But wouldn't it make more sense for them to pay **not to have their head shaved?**

Do not apologize, Boris!

7th August 2018

He's right, our former Foreign Sec. Women in a burka or a similar shame costume do look like letterboxes and they do look like bank robbers. And people wearing fancy dress should expect to be noticed and commented on if they stand out from the rest of society. Freedom of Speech, and all that. We're not a Moslem state yet.

Surfing the Bubble

8th August 2018

A gang of criminals, who were importing Albanian illegals in leaky boats at £5.5K a head, saw their customers as sources of cash only and they weren't bothered about 'elf 'n' safety, an indignant immigration minister complained.

But they're criminals. Only an idiot politician would expect

them to behave like decent people. In their criminality.

It seems so obvious

8th August 2018

In *Stitchers* [20:00 Syfy Channel, weeknights], why don't they give Kirsten a bathing cap to keep her pony-tail out of the water in the Stitching tank?

Nothing to see, move along

9th August 2018

You can tell it's the Silly Season when someone like Margaret Hodge is passed off as a saint and the virtue-signallers in the Bremonoan camp erupt when Boris Johnson unleashes some home truths about a cult costume and just repeats what other Tory grandees have said about burqs in burqas in the past.

Rewriting the cultural code

9th August 2018

When is a video game a work of art? When it contains Nazi symbols, such as swastikas. The regulatory body responsible for entertainment software has created the exemption so that video games don't fall foul of the ban on the display of anti-constitutional symbols in Germany and they can contribute tax revenue to the state.

Sir Buggeroff

10th August 2018

Having got his knighthood, Britain's richest man is off to tax-free Monaco with his £21 BILLION fortune. Could it be that he's worried about a Labour government and a Labour chancellor trying to buy votes with his loot? He has form for sticking two fingers up to Labour on tax matters when

Gordon F. Broon was the prime monster.

Scum risen

10th August 2018

Oh, dear. The Tories are turning into Labour. The big problem is that the people at the top of the party are no more Tories than Tony B. Liar was Labour. They have no political principles or ethics, they are just chancers, like Blair, Osborne and Dave, who are in politics as a stepping stone to meeting people with lots of loot so that they can Mandelsleaze them.

The PM, unfortunately, doesn't feel able to get a grip. As with Brexit, she is hiding behind the sofa whilst her minions stage a proxy burka war aimed at kneecapping Boris Johnson.

Oh, for another Tory leader with a fraction of the stature of Maggie Thatcher.

Tokenism without end

11th August 2018

It's time for a non-white star to play James Bond, allegedly. Sounds like we're in for a huge epidemic of tokenism. If there's a black Bond, there has to be an Asian one. And a Chinese Bond. And a woman. And someone from the BLT 'community'.

A couple of centuries hence, no doubt, someone will rediscover Ian Fleming's books and shock the world with a white, male, hetero Bond.

Let Darkness Fall

11th August 2018

I've just realized that I have missed out on a generation of illumination devices. I still have a fair stock of the now banned incandescent light bulbs, bought cheaply when newspapers were doing stunts against the ban, for those places where a light is needed infrequently but reliably.

I have a much bigger stock of compact fluorescent light bulbs; bought at silly prices like 10p each when the manu-

facturers were trying to bribe us away from incandescents.

I should have gone on to halogen bulbs, but I didn't and it's too late now because the EU will ban them at the end of this month. Bring on the next brilliant idea and I'll probably ignore that too.

Virtue flags flapping cynically

12th August 2018

“Rough sleeping has become a visible sign of a society failing people” is the message from Labour, which is in opposition and anxious to buy the rough sleeper vote with other people's money by giving them fixed abodes.

This view deliberately ignores the validity of the converse, namely that a lot of rough sleepers are people who refuse to engage with society. But then, when did facts have anything to do with politics?

Yah, boo to you!

12th August 2018

After reading Mad Mandy's column in today's *Sunday Post*, it would be easy to imagine her dressing up in a bank-robber burcow outfit. Not to show solidarity with women oppressed by male Islamists, of course. Rather as an expression of female hatred for Boris Johnson for being right and having lots of popular support.

Space-filler

13th August 2018

You put your newspaper down for a minute and the next thing you know, there's a cat sitting on it, having a wash. Further proof that cats are psychic.

Not enough space to fill!

13th August 2018

I’ve just been reading about someone with a weight problem, who casually announced that he’s lost 9 stones – and he’s still got a bit to go before he’s at his ‘ideal’ weight. After a quick calculation, I found that if I lost 9 stones, there would be just a skeleton left. Which leaves my mind boggling about the size of the bloke before he started his diet!

A new law for human society . . .

13th August 2018

“For every witch hunt, there is an equal and opposite witch hunt”

The one against Boris Johnson for failing to appreciate the burka is balanced by the one against Jezzer Corbyn for appreciating Palestinian bad guys too much.

The worst of all possible worlds

14th August 2018

Whoever came up with that ‘Diversity is Strength’ slogan for garments worn by CFL players, coaches and staff was obviously in it for the money rather than the sense.

Diversity is everyone walking up to the line of scrimmage and doing their own thing rather than what a coach told them.

Diversity is 8-stone men, and women, playing linepersons and some kid who wants to be a star pretending to be a quarterback.

Diversity is a shambles rather than the best of the best competing, and not something many people would pay good money to watch.

A spot of seasonal weather

14th August 2018

The Corbyn witch hunt has been aggrandized to a storm in a bathtub, but he still has nothing much to worry about.

Especially if his chief witch-hunters are the PM of Israel and the chairman of the Conservative party, neither of whom is exactly unappalling.

And the BBC is still on his side when it takes a break from prosecuting its witch hunt against Boris Johnson.

Soviet Warming

15th August 2018

The latest conspiracy theory is that the Russians are responsible for all the melting of Arctic ice and the stranded polar bears (aaah!). Apparently, the Putin People want to build military bases in the thawed areas as a basis for claiming new territory and the exploitable natural resources that go with it.

Sounds very credible!

Oh, the agony!

16th August 2018

On thing this country never seems to run short of is drama queens, who claim they're going to be forced to leave the country if something terrible happens. Like Brexit being followed by the collapse of British society as we know it (won't happen) or anti-Semitism becoming compulsory if Jeremy Corbyn becomes the prime minister of a fascist-left government (won't happen).

Serious offence

16th August 2018

Corbyn is in real trouble now! A man of the people staying at a **Five-Star** hotel during his jolly in Tunisia in 2014? The bastard! The class traitor!

Silly Season Staple

17th August 2018

One gets the impression that the news media would be really stuck for something to put between the adverts were it not for

the drunken brawls of sportsmen and the opportunities they generate for lengthy moralizing and faked indignation.

More stupidity

17th August 2018

Jeremy Hunt used to have a fairly good reputation when he was the boss of the NHS. His move to the Foreign Office to replace Boris Johnson seems to have unhinged him, however, if he really believes that a no-deal Brexit will be something the country will regret for **generations!**

But maybe he’s forgotten that Snoflakes have an attention span of 7.3 seconds.

We’re supposed to be surprised?

18th August 2018

Online betting firms make their money from people who are hooked on gambling and they aim their pitches and free gifts at this type of person. Captain Obvious is in the room again.

Fun to come

18th August 2018

We can look forward to a spot of vigorous entertainment when the Silly Season ends and the political loafers come back from their extended, taxpayer-funded hols. Nigel Farage, the spiritual leader of UKIP, is going on a national tour to expose the lies and evasions offered by the PM and her Bremonoaners as they plot to sabotage Brexit and frustrate the wishes of 174 million voters.

Laziness or back-scratching?

19th August 2018

What is the point of telling us the total number of years in gaol a gang of criminals collected? Especially if they all didn’t receive the same sentence. It’s just idle and pointless journalism. Of which there is a lot about.

The same could be said about a judge pontificating that the criminals’ scheme was sophisticated and well thought out when there wouldn’t have been much point in trying it otherwise. Unless it’s the judiciary trying to puff up the police by creating the impression that they were way smarter than the crooks.

Not exactly a big deal

19th August 2018

Scotland’s Fave Newspaper had a major Scottish criminal to put on the front page today. James Ward has been put of the FBI’s Most Wanted list. Now 65, Ward has been on the run for 6 years after his scam involving investment in non-existent precious metals went belly-up.

If they ever catch him, the Feds hope to recover millions from him to pay court costs. But as his scam involved just \$350,000, it sounds like only lawyers, court officials and Feds will make any money out of it. And it doesn’t say much for the FBI’s standards if someone who didn’t stroll off with MILLIONS can end up on the Most Wanted list!

A self-perpetuating cycle

20th August 2018

“Poverty is man-made and it can be unmade” is the virtuous quotation. Unfortunately, as soon as some of it is unmade, along come more unfortunate, or just downright feckless, people to make more of it. It’s the closest humanity has come to perpetual motion. But it does provide lots of job security for the virtue professionals.

Small clarification

20th August 2018

In actual fact, Jammy Oliver’s Jerk Rice is nothing to do with Jamaica. The ‘jerk’ refers to the likes of sari-wearing MPs of Jamaican descent who are stoopid enough to go on about

cultural misappropriation.

Surprising fact

20th August 2018

I never knew that the Labour party runs courses in anti-Semitism. But that does explain why so many of them are so good at it.

Not so wonderful

21st August 2018

Speedster Usain Bolt is going to make a new career with an Aussie football team? Good luck to him and yah, boo to the boo-hoo-buggers who claim it's just a publicity stunt. Of course, a bit of the steam went out of the 'pleased for him' when I learnt that it's to play football football, not Aussie Rules.

Diversity is . . . Insanity

22nd August 2018

It had to come to this eventually – the pillock in charge of the magistrates' union demanding more criminals in the ranks of the judiciary in the name of diversity. Where's the colonel from Monty Python when you need him?

Had to happen!

22nd August 2018

One of the MeeTooers who slagged off Harve WeenSteen has had to pay hundreds of thousands of bucks to a young male actor for MeeTooing offences. Pots & kettles, come away!

Rejoice! The Universe does have a sense of humour after all.

Nature finds a way

23th August 2018

Good news for the Millennial Snowflakes – they’re not going to have to save up for their old age because they won’t have one. Apparently, their unhealthy lifestyle means that their ranks will be thinned to manageable proportions by diabetes, heart attacks and strokes at middle age.

**“The needs of the many
outweigh the needs of the one”**

24th August 2018

No VM internet on Friday or yesterday, but I can still comment about yet another Grenfell Tower fraudster being hauled before the courts, as reported in Saturday’s paper. Whenever that happens, the name is always foreign, which suggests that we need to be a lot more selective of the quality of immigrants. And to be more rigorous about chucking out the disreputable ones who are already here.

Thinking time

26th August 2018

No internet for a couple of days doesn’t stop you thinking. Mr. Virgin’s engineer gave me a new hub whilst discovering that there was a problem with the external infrastructure, which would be fixed last night as it was a priority one matter. As a result, we now need to do some resetting of all laptops which connect to the hub wirelessly.

Which is where the thinking comes in.

Hi-Fi is a well known abbreviation for High Fidelity. But Wi-Fi? Shouldn’t it be Wi-Ne if it refers to wireless networking? But whoever decided to trademark Wi-Fi instead might have thought that Wi-Ne sounds too close to something to do with whining, and opted for a less loaded sound.

Even more thinking time

26th August 2018

Oh, the suspense! Will there be any MotoGP today with big puddles on the track at Silverstone and conditions unsafe right now? All we at home can do is sit in front of the TV with a cup of tea and wish the rain away.

Racing dead loss

27th August 2018

No racing at Silverstone; the riders thought it was too dangerous. And the Belgian GP wasn't up to much after the mayhem on the first lap. But it does help to have some Sunday papers to read when there's nothing much happening on TV.

Pointless record broken

27th August 2018

A fine example of having more money than sense – paying \$340,000 for a bottle of Japanese whiskey. But, not doubt, the auction house in Hong Kong appreciated its commissions.

The big problem for the buyer is what to do next. Put the bottle on the mantelpiece to show it off or booze it with some mates to show off an easy come, easy go attitude.

No worries, mate

27th August 2018

Deposed SNP leader Alex Salmond has found himself on the wrong end of some MeeTooery. But he'll be okay. Police Scotland are investigating and they are known to be not much cop.

Sporting barrel-scraping

27th August 2018

Little League World Series baseball on BT Sport? Who's going to watch that apart from the parents of the kids involved and paedophiles?

Not terrifically funny, but true

28th August 2018

When is a hate crime not a hate crime as far as the police are concerned?

When it's anti-Semitism perpetrated by a card-carrying member of the Labour party.

“That guy taco on one, right?”

28th August 2018

What percentage, I wonder, of the TV audience can get anything out of a live-mike CFL match? Are there enough zeros to go between the decimal point and the number '1'? Probably not.

Social nicety

29th August 2018

If you see someone wearing a 'pronoun' badge, turn round and walk away. Not getting involved with that sort of person always makes sense.

Their stupidity, our money

29th August 2018

When is racial and sexual discrimination okay? When the government want to recruit female Asian and black firepersons in the name of diversity and at the expense of available and competent white males.

More fake news

30th August 2018

Shop prices are rising for the first time in 5 years? Really? My housekeeper tells me this is total bollocks. She can produce receipts showing that they’ve been creeping up and up relentlessly for ages. Five pee here, fifteen pee there. There has definitely not been a 5-year pause.

Brownian finance

30th August 2018

Wonga goes wonky? It seems incredible that a company with a million customers paying interest on loans at up to 6,000% APR could go belly up. But it’s amazing what you can accomplish if you try hard enough.

He said, he said

31st August 2018

Frank Field, one of the few bastions of decency in the Labour party, has baled out. He was a total rotter and he quit before we could give him the push, sez the mouthpiece for his constituency party. There’s never a shortage of slime and someone to sling it in politics. Which makes the news that on-line abuse of politicians is on the increase no surprise. There’s nowt like anonymity for putting lead into the pencil of those with an imaginary grievance.

Take heart!

31st August 2018

Iceland’s victory in the two decades of cod wars with Britain is being offered as a source of encouragement to our battered fishermen. Iceland’s fishers have prospered since then, and ours can do the same post-Brexit and following freedom from the EU’s grabbage. That’s the theory of it, anyway.

No way forward

1st September 2018

In the 1990s, councils were closing schools because there weren't enough children to justify keeping them open. In the 2000s, Labour opened the flood gates to migrants and now, there aren't enough schools.

More proof that when here today, gone tomorrow politicians do something, they always make things worse for everyone else.

No way period

1st September 2018

London should have had the Crossrail scheme last year. The city's long suffering commuters will be lucky to get it before next year's Xmas. And yet the government is still hell-bent on going ahead with H2S and claiming it can be done on time and on budget. La-La Land.

Tell 'em anything. They might just believe it.

1st September 2018

You're a bloke dressed in female clothing and you're tooling around on a skateboard wearing a blue wig. Suddenly, you attack a female jogger. What do you tell the court?

“I thought I was attacking David Cameron.”

Yes, that would work!

100% wrong

2nd September 2018

“This program may contain coarse language that could offend some viewers. Discretion is advised.”

This miserable disclaimer before CFL live-mike matches completely misses the point. Valour should be advised, not cowardly discretion.

Wrong colour, mate

2nd September 2018

SNP vice-boss K. Brown would be well advised to change his name if he thinks he can build an economic case for an independent Scotland. No one is going to take a Scots politician called Brown seriously on financial matters after the shambles created by his namesake, New Labour’s Gordon F. Brown, when he was Chancellor and PM.

Deft definition

3rd September 2018

Here’s a good one for an offence junkie, courtesy of one of my associates: Someone who parades around with her tits wobbling like twin jellies to attract attention, and then throws a major wobbly if anyone looks at them.

Post Brexit fishing quotas

3rd September 2018

Another of my associates cracked this during a very productive dinner party: The government should offer one-year licences to fish in British water, with a renewal option, to British firms which use British boats and British crews and pay British taxes in full.

The licences should be on a ‘use it or lose it’ basis, which would prevent companies which don’t actually catch fish from selling quotas to foreigners. Any unused quotas would be factored in to the conservation calculations used to set the following year’s quotas.

Graceful exit

4th September 2018

Would it not be a good idea for 70+ actresses who complain that they can’t get a decent job any more, e.g. Maureen

Lipman, to opt for a dignified retirement plus occasional TV appearances to remind everyone of their glory days?

Now, we know

4th September 2018

A member of the party’s national executive committee has the explanation for the anti-Semitism row, which is embarrassing Labour a little bit. It has all been made up by Trump fanatics in the Jewish community!

Sub-prime

5th September 2018

Is anyone impressed by a firm that calls itself 1st Class Something? Well, they would, wouldn’t they! Or does it acknowledge that there might be market opportunities for a 2nd class service? Such as: 2nd Class Valets – we don’t make much of an effort but it will look okay and we’re cheap.

Could work with the right marketing strategy.

Getting away with it

5th September 2018

The two GRU agents who carried out the Novichok attack in Salisbury in March have been named and pictured. But as Russia won’t extradite its criminals, they’re probably working on their memoirs, looking for a movie deal and expecting an easy life on the Putin’s gravy train as MPs in the near future.

Sick TV

6th September 2018

Spotted in last night’s TV menu for Sky Arts: “The Last Laugh. The dilemma of using the Holocaust as a topic for humour.” Which raises the obvious question: “Why would you want to?”

Unless you’re a Corbynite and you feel it’s compulsory, of course.

Veracity quibble

6th September 2018

“Home cooked food served daily” says the sign in front of a pub which I pass frequently. But is it really cooked in someone’s home rather than in a kitchen attached to the pub?

“Here cooked food” is what the sign should say.

Long overdue payback

7th September 2018

5Spike keeps doing promos for a new series about a gang of Vikings during reruns of the A-Team. Can’t see the attraction, myself. They were just Scandinavian scumbag thieves and murderers, and the first thing we need to do when there’s a working time machine is go back and drop a few nukes on them.

Get out of that!

7th September 2018

That was a great put-down the Russians got from our man at the UN when they moaned about not being let in to the Novichok poisoning investigation. “You don’t recruit an arsonist to put out a fire, especially if it’s one he started.”

More crunch in America

8th September 2018

Oh, dear! The NFL season is upon us as well as what’s happening in Canada, which doubles the amount of gridiron football the addicts have to watch. Time to get a refresher on the jargon; first and lunch, second and tea, third and supper, fourth and pontoon. Or something like that.

One wrecker assesses another

8th September 2018

Tony Blair, who hijacked Old Labour with his New Labour project (and ran the country into the ground) is worried that Jeremy Corbyn’s hijacking of the Labour party will do the same. Which rather ignores the lesson of history, namely that Labour always wrecks things then scuttles off into the bushes until the Tories have done some repairs.

Dickheads at BT Sport

9th September 2018

It’s 12 minutes past midnight and the CFL fans are on the edges of their seats because the injury-hit Banjo Bowl match in Winnipeg is inside the 3 minute warning, and the Roughriders are leading the home-team Blue Bombers by 29-27.

Then what happens? The dickheads at BT Sport start showing the next match instead of staying with this one to the finish. Having let the programme before the CFL match over-run into the CFL time slot.

No excuse. The fans extremely very disgruntled today.

Absent Icon

10th September 2018

It was strange to be watching Sky’s NFL show with no Kevin; mainly because he’s no longer with us at a rather young age. That Grim Reaper – she don’t care who gets took. Not too impressed by the magic bean-counters but if they can persuade people to pay them good money, good luck to them.

Ah, the luxury of 4-down American Crunch.

First rule of DIY

10th September 2018

No job involving the use of sharp tools may be completed without a blood sacrifice.

That’s amazing!

11th September 2018

I’ve always thought ‘wiseacre’ was an archetypal American-English word. But according to yesterday’s *Daily Mail*, it dates back to 1595 and well before English arrived in what is now the US. You live and learn.

Border divide

11th September 2018

Watching the Packers squeak a home win over the Bears in the first week of a new NFL season, I was assured by CFL fans, was like watching the Eskimos hosting the all-conquering Stampeders, but in reverse.

The Pack overcame a 20-0 deficit to win 23-24. The Esks went 28-48 up and managed not to throw the victory away and eventually won 42-48.

News at a distance

11th September 2018

From across the room, the headline looked like “Soup and snake diet on the NHS to reverse diabetes”. On closer inspection, it was ‘shake’ not ‘snake’, which is much less fascinating.

First rule of painting

12th September 2018

As soon as you apply white paint to an exterior surface, some stoopid little black insect will land on it and get stuck.

Unwanted bargain

12th September 2018

“Save 60% on a stainless steel soup maker”

Okay, but just how tasty is stainless steel soup?

Blame it on the Yanks, yeah!

12th September 2018

That’s an interesting theory: Britain shares its language with the US and it has caught the American obesity plague. But European countries where English isn’t spoken are less susceptible to American advertising and have less obesity.

They’re at it again

13th September 2018

Was it okay for Boris Johnson to use his prime ministerial suicide vest metaphor? Yes, if it made a lot of outrage junkies make even bigger fools of themselves.

Alibis already in place

13th September 2018

What a wonderful excuse for going wrong that kid is going to have; the one whose dad is turning into a fake mummy and whose mum is turning into a fake daddy.

Back in the box now, Diane

14th September 2018

What does Diane Abbott do when no one has noticed her for ages? Go Silly Season Plus and pretend that British immigration policy is just like Idi Amin’s expulsion of Asians from Uganda in the 1970s.

It’s all about the money

14th September 2018

Oh, dear. The Archbishop of Cantab takes a pop at Amazon and the other multinationals like Google, calling them tax dodgers and avoiders of social responsibility, only to find that his employer has huge investments in them and that’s something he should know about because he’s on the investment committee.

Then there's the conspiracy theory about the ERG in Parliament having a secret slush fund. Maybe the Russians came up with that one.

Retired and gone to seed

15th September 2018

Was that really 'bow down to the king' Triple Haitch on WW the other day? That bald old bloke with a beard? Crumbs! How are the mighty gone to waste. (waist?)

The Road to Feck & Burn

15th September 2018

According to one of his mates, the Corbyn recipe for Britain is to encourage the feckless to steal from the feckful to fund a luxury communist revolution. Quite what will happen when they've blown all the cash and no one will lend them any more has yet to be disclosed.

Half-assed, more like

15th September 2018

Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life was a title spotted in the latest catalogue from bibliophilebooks.com. £18.99 reduced to 7 quid.

Here's another worthy under the illusion that the human race needs to change its ways to preserve the current range of diversity of the planet's residents. Surprise! The planet isn't some sort of conscious entity!

There's nothing which can care whether the Earth is a frozen ball of ice or a greenhouse hot-house. But try telling that to the zealots.

Wheels to come off

16th September 2018

The government is threatening Amazon with a Cardboard Tax because of its habit of sending small items out in a

HUGE box with a mass of paper padding inside. The stated aim is to raise cash for local councils which are struggling with their pretence of doing recycling.

How sad everyone will be when the tax gets though Parliament and Amazon redoes its packaging policy and no cash is raised. But the taxpayer ends up having to pay for more civil servants to administer the cash collection process which doesn't collect any cash.

The name says it all

17th September 2018

You come across some weird names in American football. North of the border, in Edmonton, there's a star player who rejoices in the first name of D'Haquille but everyone calls him 'Dook'. Whether or not that sounds anything like what his weird parents intended when they entered him for a 'Give the Kid a Weird Name' contest is a matter of conjecture.

South of the border, in Kansas City, one of the coaches has an even better name. When the match commentators give the offensive co-ordinator for the K.C. Chiefs a name check, it sounds like Eric The Enemy. Which is a moniker which combines a job description with menace effortlessly.

Too rude?

19th September 2018

The *Daily Mail* has a feature page, to which readers send jokes and Wordy Wise suggestions; slightly modified words with a new meaning, e.g. alcoprop = Dutch courage. One of the staff came up with 'whores de combat' meaning 'tarts with attitude' after a trip to France. But she didn't send it in as the *Mail* is a family newspaper.

Definitions for Today

19th September 2018

An 'expert' is someone who will excomplicate when you need him to explain.

Nothing happening

19th September 2018

Silence is a much undervalued commodity. And much to be enjoyed in small doses, especially when it's quiet enough to hear the clock ticking and the cat snoring.

More Sound & Fake Fury

19th September 2018

Go sober for October? Well, it has a rhyme to it. But what if you never drink enough to get yourself pissed? In October or any other month, like most people? The slogan becomes just typical N.U.L. BS.

It's the way he tells them

19 September 2018

You go to all the trouble of releasing your punch line to get max. coverage in the meeja. Then you make a bog of the performance. That's why on-line dictionaries are now adding a note to their definition of hubris: “See Vince Cable, Brighton, 2018”.

The Germans have a word for it . . .

20th September 2018

. . . or we could provide one. The appetite of foreigners for our language has created Franglais in France and Denglisch in Germany. Going the other way, one of the staff came up with *Mischungskrachtel* to describe a work of fantasy fiction in which the characters have the names of real people who are celebs or currently in the news. Like that book about the porn actress and the president called Trump.

Infamy, they’ve all got it in for me

20th September 2018

With biogs of Denis Norden in today’s papers, a small salute to the creator of the above phrase with the ludicrous story that a Corbyn aide with dodgy credentials has been refused a House of Commons security clearance for obvious reasons. This, he is claiming, is evidence that MI5 is plotting to prevent a Corbyn-led government. Nothing wrong with that guy’s imagination and a fine example of a me-centred universe.

Pointless packaging puffs

21st September 2018

“Real Lancashire Eccles Cakes containing pure butter” it sez on the wrapper. But is anyone likely to buy a product containing impure butter?

New attention-grabbers’ venue

21st September 2018

You’re a previously successful fraudster who wants a bit of attention. Your visa is about to run out and you need some sympathy. What do you do? Head to Salisbury, pretend to be poisoned and claim that the Putinocracy is out to get you.

Heading for a fall

22nd September 2018

The EU won’t buy her Chequers Plan for Brexit. Neither will the DUP, enough of her own party to sink it and all of this country’s parties who aren’t the Tories. So what does the prime minister do? Go all defiant and say everyone else is wrong and it’s “my way or the highway”. Strong and stable, stubborn or just plain pig-headed?

New words for the modern world

23rd September 2018

1. Streamhorning - streamlining a shoehorning, tight-squeeze job
2. Grossdresser – a bloke in a pale pink frock with vivid green stripes
3. Hookertitute – a person who shags a big wheel in the industry to get a meeja job of some sort

Clotheyes again

23rd September 2018

A quick glimpse of the screen left me thinking that the lead character in the current version of S.W.A.T. is played by a guy called Sheman, which explained why he/she thinks a tofu stir-fry is the catering bee's knees. But, in fact, the currently blackened and demoted Steve Forrest character is played by a guy called Shemar, which totally ruins the idea.

Keep it up

24th September 2018

We seem to be doing very well for NFL matches on TV at the moment. The Saints in Atlanta was a cracker. So was the Chargers vs the Rams. And the Detroit Lions sticking it to the Patriots!

Notice me, PLEASE!!

24th September 2018

Lord Forkbender, sometime Tony Blair flatmate and crony and the bloke who made a bog of the Millennium Dome, would like all drug use to be legalized so that Labour drug users and pushers are no longer tarred with the brush of criminality. Sounds like that pruning of the House of Frauds is even more overdue.

Communication breakdown

25th September 2018

I went to a clothing company’s website the other day but my size of the items I looked at was out of stock. Their response was an email: they’d noticed my visit and they invited me to check their website again or ring their customer services on a premium-rate phone number.

I sent them a reply telling them my size is out of stock and that’s why I didn’t buy anything. Their response was another email offering me 10% off if I bought within 48 hours.

I went back to the website, my size is still out of stock. So what good is 10% off something which they can’t supply?

Some firms just don’t get it.

Collapsible Ben

25th September 2018

The new NFL ‘roughing the passer’ definition is causing a lot of grief for defensive players but there is a case for trying to prevent star players, like Rodgers of the Packers, being put on the sideline with a broken collar bone. There is also a case for preventing players from dishing out wrestling clotheslines and blows to the quarterback’s head.

But there should be a similar obligation on officials to be able to recognize bad acting, like Ben Roethlisberger’s dramatic, flag-drawing collapse in the Steelers’ MNF match with the Bucs. And I write this as an admirer of the Steelers, who cheers them on when they’re not playing my team.

You’re never too iconic to be trolled

26th September 2018

I was glad to learn that it’s only women over 19 who can’t use a backpack without getting their collar felt by the self-appointed Fashion Police. Mind you, someone wandering around sporting one which cost 400 quid deserves some stick.

None of that for me – I got my backpack as a free gift with an order from my stationery supplier in an earlier phase of my life.

Buy me and try one

26th September 2018

‘Greed is good’ will be out under a Corbyn government. ‘Theft by the state is good’ will be substituted – with the usual looney left suspects as the beneficiaries.

Take another week off!

27th September 2018

Are we bothered that the *Daily Mail*’s proof-reader seems to be on holiday? Not if we can be treated to gems like the one in the latest Corbyn conference report. J.C. is reported to have ‘confplained’ about something, which clearly started out as ‘confirmed’ and nearly got to ‘complained’. But the new word deserves to survive to be used to describe any sort of whinge at a political party’s conference.

Brilliant Job

28th September 2018

Someone at moonpig.com, the online personalized gifts firm, has been tasked with going through all of the orders to weed out those featuring pictures of the customer’s naughty bits. It seems there is a rise in this sort of request for cards at St. Valentine’s day, and women are as bad for doing it as men. Mr. Moonpig is reported to be resisting calls for him to introduce pop-up cards.

More antisocial meeja hacking

29th September 2018

Anyone daft enough to have put bank account and other financial details on FaceBook may have been hacked by

(Russian?) bad guys. But the good news is that they have a grace period while the bad guys’ megacomputer trawls through the messages of 50-90 million FB customers in search of anything exploitable.

Selective fairness

29th September 2018

The Boy Beckham has got away with one. But if it was because of the negligence of the government department which failed to get his speeding fine notification to him on time, it’s whoever screwed up who should be getting the stick. But hey, responsibility doesn’t apply to the public sector.

Let’s not bother about facts

29th September 2018

No question, the death of that severely allergic girl on a plane was a tragedy. But cardiac arrest means that the heart has stopped. Which means that a defibrillator, which is used to restore a regular rhythm to chaotic heartbeats, is of no use if the heart is not beating.

Daft but enjoyable

30th September 2018

E4 was supposed to be showing *A Good Day to Die Hard* last night but we got *Die Hard 4.0* instead. Not that there’s likely to be much difference between them.

I’d more or less completely forgotten what happens in 4.0 so I was able to enjoy all the daft stunts without knowing what was coming; like Det. McClane shooting a gunman out of a helicopter by smashing the top off a fire hydrant and later turning a car into a surface-to-air missile to shoot the chopper down.

Totally mad, totally fun.

Getting away with it

1st October 2018

Three penalties committed by the Patriots on one play during the 2nd quarter of their match with the Dolphins. Only 10 yards lost when it would have been 30 in Canada. Maybe a change of the rules south of the border is called for to punish a group bad attitude?

A lifetime of servitude

1st October 2018

We were wondering how many years that USAF pilot would have to work without wages to settle his dept to society after gaining the dubious honour of being the first to crash an F-35 fighter. But no one had any idea how much he's paid, which made calculating how long it would take to pay off \$100 million a bit of a problem.

Learning Process

2nd October 2018

Who sez TV ain't educational? I never knew there were so many Canadians in the FBI until I watched some episodes of Sue Thomas F.B.I. Eye.

Don't believe everything a fanatic tells you

2nd October 2018

Nothing is impossible with God, eh? Has Luke 1:37 ever tried unsugaring a cup of tea?

More clothearts

2nd October 2018

It sounded like a guy on the TV said 'piece of crap'. Twice. Turned out he was doing a promo for a BBC podcast by the former(?) footballer Peter Crouch – I got that from reading

what was on the screen. Where do they get these people?

All gone!

3rd October 2018

There is no more piss to take after Boris Johnson told his gathering on the Tory conference fringe that he can do humility. Still, he raised a huge laugh. And people were ready to queue up to watch him do his act, which is more than the Bremonoaners on the main drag can claim.

Truth bites

3rd October 2018

Yes, it's true, men did invent physics. Mainly because society was structured such that women had lots of other things to do with their time. The boo-hoo buggers at CERN and other research centres might not like it, but that's the way it happened.

Infiltration?

4th October 2018

Do we have Russians running the Metropolitan police? The response from its bosses to the murder of PC Keith Palmer by a terrorist nutter at the Houses of Parliament has a lot in common with the not-me-gov response of President Putin to the GRU's attack on Sergei and Yulia Skripal.

The magic of memory

4th October 2018

“This memory was epinephrine encoded.” Sounds very scientific and meaningful but what it boils down to is just: “This is what I want to believe is true.”

Something he doesn't do

5th October 2018

Someone should tell the editor of the *Daily Mail* that the words ‘Putin’ and ‘shame’ don’t belong in the same sentence. As long as he has J. Corbyn on his side, not to mention all the Corbynites at the BBC and the likes of the North Korean newsreader Fuk Jon Sno, the Russian gangster boss is fireproof.

Never going to happen

5th October 2018

Apparently, snowflake millennials are coming to hate the grandparent generation because a lot of them are choosing to spend their savings and not leave it to trickle down to future generations. Wrong target, though. The cash no longer trickles because any the government doesn’t steal ends up going to care homes rather than the millennials.

Calm down, dears!

6th October 2018

Expanding Heathrow airport by giving it another runway will lead to the total destruction of the entire planet, the protesters plan to tell a High Court hearing. They’ll have to be sure that the dottiest of dotty old judges is on the duty roster for their day in court if they expect to get away with that one!

Technology gap

6th October 2018

The Health Secretary wants GPs to send patients annoying text messages to nag them into changing an unhealthy lifestyle. What he plans to do about ancient Luddites who don’t have a mobile phone remains to be revealed.

The weird things you learn from reading

6th October 2018

I am currently devouring *Hoax* by Edward Steers, a molecular biologist turned historian. In the chapter about Pearl Harbor, I learnt that the admiral in charge of the fleet there at the time of the Jap attack in 1941 was called Husband E. Kimmel.

What sort of parents call their son Husband!!!

Not interested, mate!

7th October 2018

Project Fear, it seems, is having a profound effect on the British public. Being exposed to the ludicrous lies spread by the Bremonoan Establishment has turned people off politics to the extent that their default setting is now: “I don’t believe you.” when a politician starts spouting.

Yes, that could be it

8th October 2018

Judy Murray, writing in the *Sunday Post*, came up with an interesting slant on the Manchester University students’ ban on clapping. Snowflakes can’t do it with a mobile phone in their fist, so what they’re really doing with their Al Jolson hands is waving their phones in the air. And letting muggers spot the best targets.

Just ignore the strikers, please!

8th October 2018

London’s cosmetic mayor guaranteed that there would be no strikes on public transport during his turn in the job. The token immigrant bus driver’s son is now hoping that everyone will be too polite to mention that last Friday, the trains were on strike for the 15th time since he took office.

Could do better

9th October 2018

BT Sport TV seems to be in full SNAFU mode at the moment. It upset the motorbike fans on Sunday by making a bog up of MotoGP and it upset Canadian football fans on Monday by making a bog of covering last weekend's early matches.

A small mystery

9th October 2018

Is Prince No. 2 taking the Mick? Or could it be that bearded Prince Harry has nothing at all to do with harrys.com, which does TV adverts for shaving materials?

Un-pret for purpose

9th October 2018

Britain's endemic mistrust of foreigners is fanned by the fate of the sandwich chain with the foreign name, which is involved in two allergy response deaths. And even if they haven't actually broken any rules, people can still feel entitled to their “told you so's”.

The enduring A-Team mystery

10th October 2018

5Spike is showing episodes of the classic MacGuyver rival in which the guys are captured repeatedly. B.A. is strolling around wearing a king's ransom in gold around his neck but *not once* do alleged BGs ever grab it off him when they have the chance.

Are we really supposed to swallow that?

The great debate

10th October 2018

Which is worse, BS of VS? Both bullshit and virtue signalling are the work of annoying creeps, who have too much time on their hands. Whatever happened to decent hobbies?

Gadget reincarnated from gadget heaven

11th October 2018

Gadgets are usually tried out and consigned to a box or a cupboard when they fail to be brilliant. But looking through such a cupboard, I actually found a useful gadget. FOI! It's a flexible ice cube tray. No, not something for making flexible ice cubes.

When full of solid cubes of ice, lemon or lime juice, etc., the tray can be hovered over a suitable plate as a catcher and twisted to release the cubes cleanly and easily. Brilliant!

Don't get involved

11th October 2018

How does one avoid getting fake texts from scammers pretending to be one's bank? I've found not giving my bank a mobile phone number works quite well.

Expanding the language

11th October 2018

How about threeché as a description for something that's a better gotcha than twoché?

A really useful gadget

12th October 2018

It has been pointed out to me by the Mansion's catering manager, who has taken charge of it, that the flexible ice cube tray can be used in precision cooking. Its 12 compartments hold either the juice of 2 average-size lemons or 4 limes. I bet

whoever marketed the thing never thought of that as a bit of promotional puff.

Incitement to illegality

13th October 2018

Where the bloody hell is Tokelau and why is someone called Sybil Manqum, who has a cannabis shop, sending me emails claiming she can send me weed to smoke today which is legal in the UK? Sounds like either some sort of a scam or an invitation to get my collar felt by HM Customs.

Education needed

14th October 2018

The most lost of lost causes has to be the global warming bunch telling everyone they can eat meat only once a week. That's even more lost than the cause of educating people in their entitlements. Such as they are entitled to live within their means, they're not entitled to breed children they can't support and they are definitely not entitled to more than basic food and shelter at the expense of everyone else.

Window of opportunity!

14th October 2018

This is a live-mike game (the Canadian Football League warns us) which is expected to offer plenty of opportunities for weirdos to be offended. Trade Descriptions Act, dude! The filters are so good that what is said tends to be very wholesome when it's not downright incomprehensible.

Grave future world

14th October 2018

Listening to part of *Any Questions? Is 70* on Radio 4 yesterday, I was able to suss out the snowflake/millennial agenda. Their plan is to wait for anyone who knows anything about what

happened in the 20th century to die off and then make their mess of things confident that there will be no one competent to challenge them, bearing in mind that all dissent will be trolled out of existence anyway.

What sort of world will it be when it's run by aged millennials who think that their parents' and grandparents' generations ruined everything so that they never had a chance? One shudders to think.

Opportunities for advancement

15th October 2018

If the Church of England has Very Reverend persons, wouldn't it be great if the organization expanded the range of titles in the name of diversity? People could really relate to a Slightly Reverend or a Tolerably Rev. or even a Not Particularly (but tries hard) Rev.

Not thought through

15th October 2018

This idea of getting postmen to chat up elderly customers to find out if they're lonely, and refer them to local dancing, art or cookery classes if they are, sounds doomed to failure. In my experience, modern postmen just want to zoom round their walk in the least possible time to get the job done. Whilst the idea might appeal to some of them, I doubt the majority want to become amateur social workers.

Not me, Gov!

16th October 2018

Where would we be without rogue agents? That's the kite the Saudi regime is flying for the disappearance of their estranged citizen Jamal Khashoggi, who went to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on the same day as 15 rogue Saudi agents (October 2nd) and hasn't been seen since.

No, thanks

16 October 2018

5p on a bottle of wine to pay for alcoholics? Why not make them pay for their own treatment for a self-inflicted condition? That's make as in a legal obligation as an alternative to making the rest of us subsidize them.

Answer to a Correspondent

17th October 2018

“What happened to the state coach for the Squeaker of the House of Commons?” someone asked in yesterday's *Daily Mail*. It's parked up permanently as Berko's head got too big to go through the door, mate.

Apt comparison

18th October 2018

I note with amusement that the disgraced Commons Speaker is being called a very good Squeaker in the same sense that the much MeeToo'd Harvey Weensteen is described as a very good film producer.

The Patel Explanation

18th October 2018

That was a brilliant defence offered by a guy who was caught with 19 stolen cars in his basement garage; he's an honest businessman who was unlucky enough to have been done over by nineteen different crooks.

Diversity Rulz, OK!

18th October 2018

One thing you can't accuse the *Daily Mail* of is toadying to the Tories. 50% of the columnists think the PM is a hero and the rest think, and are allowed to say, that she's total crapola.

Scammer window of opportunity

19th October 2018

Good news: banks are going to check the name of the payee of an online transaction as well as the account number and sort code.

Bad news: they're not going to do before July 2019.

Just a thought

19th October 2018

Any chance of getting Putin the Poisoner or the Saudis to deal with our troublesome hate preacher and save the nation a fortune?

Another PR triumph

20th October 2018

The Saudi regime's story that the self-exiled journalist Jamal Khashoggi died in a fist fight at their consulate in Turkey has interesting implications. The sub-text is that he must have been a bit of a nutter if he'd taken on odds of 15 to one. If you're a bad guy, try to make out that your victim is even worse?

Another Canadian triumph!

20th October 2018

The Canadian Football League's fans at the Mansion are all agreed that they'd like to shake the hand of the scriptwriter for last night's match between the Hamilton TigerCats and the Ottawa RedBlacks.

It was great right to the last minute, and then that last minute was absolutely outstanding! Lessons for the No Fun League to learn?

Not that original, or necessary, after all

21th October 2018

Portugal, which has lots of cork trees, isn't happy about the trend to wine bottles with screw caps. Hence the wonderful invention of a cork with a screw thread, which gives an air-tight seal when replaced in the bottle. Clearly, no one there has noticed that the cork from a bottle of single-malt whisky does the same job very well.

Technology gap

22nd October 2018

Another of life's weirdities – why can Sky Sports never get the sound synchronized with the pictures when the guys in the studio are pontificating on NFL Sunday?

It's all relative

22nd October 2018

I mentioned DollarShave back in February after seeing the TV ad, which features a bloke being clobbered below the belt for a reason I have never gathered; mainly because I have never seen the ad without the TV sound muted. That ad is still running and, on reflection, I suppose its outcome is a lesser evil than being killed by the Russians or the Saudis.

Gottle of Geer

22nd October 2018

I get what b-stars-d and f-stars are euphemisms for. But g-stars? Clearly, I have led much too sheltered a life.

A biscuit short of a barrel

24th October 2018

No internet yesterday, so unable to rant about this: but do the PC pillocks on Radio 4's *The News Quiz* ever listen to themselves? Last week, one of the worthies started talking

about the disabled then changed tack to differently abled.

But differently abled means that if someone can't walk, they can fly? Doesn't it?

None of this death nonsense!

24th October 2018

One of these 'ere surveys has found that youngsters barely out of their teens think that marriage should be like a mobile phone contract – something lasting for 24 months tops with an option to upgrade to a better partner when the deal runs out.

Just tell them to get lost

24th October 2018

The 'Irish border issue' is a load of bollocks concocted by an Irish government which is desperate to be noticed and the EU. We should just tell them that if they want a border with barriers, it's up to them to pay for it, build it and maintain it because we're not getting involved.

Circus Acts

25th October 2018

Clown Jewels? That sounds a remarkably apt title for the next WW Big Event. All we have to do is decide where the bigger clowns are – in the ring or commentating.

Power gap

25th October 2018

Oh, dear! An expert has done some sums and calculated that the government's plan to make all vehicles electric in a decade or so has a major flaw. The country's power generation capacity will have to be stepped up to **11 times the current level** to allow over 30 million electric cars to be charged up overnight.

Gummed mildly

26th October 2018

Is Lord Hain likely to take any notice of dispensed-with sometime attorney general Dom Grieve taking exception to his decision to naming business magnate Phil Green as a serial deployer of gagging orders? Given Hain’s history and Grieve’s insignificance, not really.

Probably for the best

27th October 2018

If China and the US go to war within the next 15 years over China’s thefts of intellectual property, as the former head of US forces in Europe fears, then we won’t have to worry about the latest scare from the Dept. Of Global Warming Fraud.

If there *is* a superpower war, then those in the middle won’t care if all of our current coastal areas will be under water by 2080, as the DGWF predicts. Assuming there’s anyone left to care.

Big and Arrogant

28th October 2018

“If you don’t like these principles, I have plenty more,” as Groucho Marx more or less said in one of his films. Substitute ‘silly story’ for ‘principles’ and that’s what we’re getting from Russia, Saudia and now China, where the persecution of millions of Moslems in Xinjiang province is being waved off as anti-terrorism re-education.

Feline indifference

28th October 2018

The animal show at Wembley didn’t impress the cat. She slept through all of the Eagles vs the Jaguars; apart from a couple of trips to her personal snack bar and having bit of a wash.

Not very fair

29th October 2018

I noticed that the bloke who did the rant at the awkward old lady on the Ryanair flight was still getting a lot of stick in the Sunday papers. But going from the newspaper account of their adventure right after it happened, she came across as obstructive, entitled and just as racist as anyone else. But the rules are different for ethnic minorities, of course.

What's wrong with Tuesdays?

30th October 2018

I had a problem getting on the internet last Tuesday, then everything magically sorted itself out the next day. It's Tuesday again – and I had more bother, which magically sorted itself out today. Maybe I should ask my broadband company for a 1/7th discount on what they charge me if I'm going to have aggro on Tuesdays.

Improper announcement

30th October 2018

Is it a proper Budget if the Chancellor announces that he's going to undo all the 'not living within our means any more' if he doesn't like what happens over the Brexit deal with the EU?

And can anyone take him seriously when the Prime Minister, his boss, says she's not going to give up her end to the Gordon Brown austerity?

Putting the record straight

31st October 2018

Good news that Lewis Hamilton is the F1 champion again. Now, the time is ripe for justice to prevail and for M. Schumacher to be stripped of the title which he gained by deliberately ramming Damon Hill's car and doing Hill out of his first title.

Schumacher was stripped of his season’s points total when he tried the same tactic on Jolly Jacques Villeneuve, so the precedent is there. And if justice prevails, someone who *didn’t* cheat to win might make it to the magic number of seven world championships.

Changing fortunes

31st October 2018

John Sheridan, sometime commander of Babylon 5 and President of the Interstellar Alliance, has lowered himself to become president of Supergirl’s United States! We should be in safe hands, but what about that cloud of green Kryptonite fog which zapped Supergirl? Maybe not.

Smear Tactic

1st November 2018

Boris Johnson went to Saudia days before the regime had a dissident murdered in Turkey. Connection? None.

Which means that anyone pretending there is a connection for dodgy political reasons is a scoundrel.

How to get noticed

1st November 2018

Can the police sink any lower in the public’s estimation? It seems unlikely if the chairman of the National Police Chiefs’ Council can get lots of publicity by stating the bleedin’ obvious, namely that the police should use scarce resources to tackle real crimes rather than inventing imaginary ones, recording non-crimes and coming up with endless excuses for not doing the job they’re supposed to do.

Right men for the job

2nd November 2018

In the light of the currently fashionable move to support real policing, maybe we need to sack all the wimpy Boys In Blue

and recruit some hard Men In Black, who'll go after criminals and bin PC crap in favour of pragmatism.

End of the world as we know it!

2nd November 2018

An unknown sports minister resigns in a huff and that's a crisis for the prime minister? Only in the minds of fantasists and newspaper editors who don't live in the real world – or who are trying to convert the real world into their fantasy world.

Not exactly justice

3rd November 2018

“Law chiefs’ payout to DJ Gambaccini for sex slur” the headline read. Wrong. All the money comes from the taxpayer, not the law chiefs, and the disgraced director of public prostitutions is off to enjoy a fat pension and probably a few quangocracy posts.

Wow! Really?

3rd November 2018

Anyone surprised that *The News Quiz* on Radio Four has been convicted of an anti-Tory bias? Nope? Thought not. The BBC is complaining that it can't find right-wing comedians. But being unable to find left-whingers with a sense of humour would appear to be an even bigger problem.

Clotheers is back again

4th November 2018

Hawkwind may be on the new £50 note! Sounds like a great idea. They were a really good band.

Oh! *Hawking*.

A somewhat pathetic concept

4th November 2018

It's Responsible Gambling Week, according to a TV ad, which I glimpsed with the sound muted. Which means what? We have a licence to gamble like idiots during the other 51 weeks of the year?

Mirror image

4th November 2018

Mad Mandy in the *Sunday Post* takes another pop at President Trump today; probably not realizing that her condemnations can be applied to all politicians with extremist tendencies – Corbyn, Sturgeon, and also to pontificators with an agenda to push, like her good self.

Small measure of retribution

5th November 2018

It would have taken a heart of stone not to have laughed as Valentino “the GOAT” Rossi fell off in the lead of the MotoGP race in Malaysia, alone and unaided.

The Gods finally grotted on the man who got away with so much unpunished and maybe deprived him of his last ever chance to win a race? Could be.

Take your pick

5th November 2018

What would the miserable sods in the education Blob rather have – £400 million spent on schools here or the cash used to build a world's biggest statue to rival the one built in India with British aid money? Say, of the Bash Street Kids' poor old teacher.

Dirty deeds, not only in New Orleans

5th November 2018

Was that a first down the Rams got from their fake field goal play in their match with the Saints? Yup. Were they swindled by the officials on the field and the replay officials? Yup.

Did Whitehead of the Green Bay Packers get the same treatment when he was evicted from the match against the New England Patriots for a nothing offence? Yup.

Looks like all the idiots got to wear zebra suits on Sunday.

Remapping the capital

6th November 2018

Crumbs! Half of the 150,000 Russians living in London are spies! If the government could gather the nerve to boot them out because of Putin the Poisoner’s criminal activities, that would do a fair bit for the housing shortage.

London’s dunce

7th November 2018

Bad news: London’s bus driver’s son of a mayor reckons it will take a generation to end the plague of knife crime in his city.

Good news: Mr. Khan thinks a generation is only 10 years.

More bias

7th November 2018

The Electoral Commission, which is shedding officers because of an anti-Brexit bias, is going after the Brexit campaigners because they suspect Russian money was used in the propaganda campaign.

No sign of anyone looking into the Bremonoan campaign and the cash it got from George Soros, however. Could it be that some sorts of foreign cash are cleaner than others?

There’s a rule already

7th November 2018

The commentators on the last regular season match CFL match got quite agitated when Mr. Long, the punter for the BC Lions, faked being run into.

They were calling for a new rule with a 15 yard penalty and maybe also a red card. But doing that is already covered by unsportsmanlike conduct.

Well, it is in the NFL. Maybe the Canadians don’t have that rule because, being Canadians, they are never unsporting. Unless, like Mr. Long, they think they can get away with it.

Clotheers again

8th November 2018

‘His Adolph life . . .’?? Was that someone on the lunchtime TV news accusing Prince Charles of being a little Hitler? Nope, it was ‘his adult life’ which didn’t come across clearly.

A foodie fad too far?

8th November 2018

Well, well! There are ‘white vegan trainers’ to be had. And, presumably, there are also black vegan trainers available on diversity grounds, and also appropriately coloured ones for Chinese vegans, Indians (Red and Asian), etc.

Idle speculation

9th November 2018

Vice-Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, Rtd., it said in the paper. ‘Rtd.’? Rented? Oh! What’s the going rate for renting an admiral? I asked myself.

Blue is good now?

9th November 2018

We’ve heard quite a lot about how the blue light from mobile phone screens and tablets is bad for people. Next thing you know, doctors are saying blue light treatment is as good as taking tablets for getting high blood pressure down. Not so much you can’t win as you’re not supposed to.

If there’s a market for it . . .

10th November 2018

I noted when watching WW Smackdown, and going fast-forward through the fillers, that the Irish lass-kicker, had ‘I AM THE MAN’ on her shirt. Could it be that the WW is about to set up a trans championship for the ladies? Another obvious addition would be the lovely young Japanese girl who seems to be called Oscar.

Gadgets for all

10th November 2018

Little kids get training wheels to help them learn to ride a bike. Vegans get trainers to help them to become vegans? What a wonderful world we live in.

Sod security, there’s dosh at stake

11th November 2018

You’d think an outfit with the juice of the Formula One franchise would be able to tell the Brazilians to build a circuit somewhere safe from scumbags with guns or no race there.

The fact that nothing is ever done about this suggests that corruption runs very deeply within both parties.

Massed rallies of hypocrites

11th November 2018

Contrast all the pomp and ceremony of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and the tributes to our veterans, with the persecution of those veterans still living by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, crooked solicitors and sections of the British government, and it's easy to understand what the concept of DoubleThink is all about.

Dodgy zebras out again

12th November 2018

Personable foul; roughing the passer; when one of the Seasquawks tripped one of the Rams into a dive to the ground with the Squawks' quarterback in the way? No foul. And that pissant penalty by an official who was too lazy to call a real foul on one of the Rams?

No excuse for that. The miracle is that the Rams still won despite all the dodginess going on around them.

Worthless assurance

13th November 2018

Is anyone ever impressed to hear that something is 'new to Alibi' when we all know that the programme is old to all the other channels it's been on?

A word in your lug, mate!

13th November 2018

Note to the editor of the *Daily Mail*: the Tory MPs you accuse of sabotaging Mrs. May's Brexit negotiations are merely reminding our prime monster that they won't vote for a sell-out and she should bear this in mind during her manoeuvrings.

Zombie Parliament preferred?

14th November 2018

Moderate Tories – good. Brexiteers – bad. That’s the message today. Translation: the ‘moderates’, who will take whatever they’re given like good cannon fodder are preferable to people who have views and principles and can think for themselves enough to challenge the political Establishment.

And exactly the same applies to Labour, as far as their ‘moderates’ are concerned.

More Zombie treatment

14th November 2018

Yesterday, Cabinet ministers were wheeled into Downing Street one at a time and confronted with a 500-page document containing the prime minister’s suggested Brexit deal. They were told they had to read it on the spot and they couldn’t take a copy home.

How much would they be able to gather to take to today’s full Cabinet meeting? Not enough to offer a sensible opinion, that’s for sure. Baffle them with bumf seems to be Mrs. May’s strategy.

One way to do it

15th November 2018

The Christian lady in danger of being lynched by appalling Pakistani neighbours needs to hijack a plane, join a terrorist group or blow up a Tube train. That way, she will be assured of an offer of asylum from HMG.

Be more practical

15th November 2018

Why don’t the Premier League clubs just buy their outgoing boss a peerage? It will cost them a whole lot less than five million quid. Assuming the price hasn’t gone up too much since Tony Blair was prime minister.

Out of service (permanently, feels like)

16th November 2018

Is it just me or has MicroSoft gone mad with updates this month? I’ve not noticed anything much going on for ages, but suddenly, I can’t use my bloody computers because of all these messages about configuring Windows for updates.

And when I try to switch off, there’s a blue screen telling me not to because of all the up-bloody–dating going on. Maybe we’re just not supposed to win.

Waste of time

16th November 2018

According to the label, a jar of pesto contains 47% basil, 5.4% Grana Podano and 1.65 pine nuts to a total of 54%. Which leaves 46% unaccounted for as regards the relative amounts of sugar, salt, EV olive oil, sunflower oil, egg white, preservatives, etc.

All of which makes rather a nonsense of rules requiring accurate listing of ingredients.

Not trying, should do better

17th November 2018

If the PM ever listens to anyone, the People’s Message is that we don’t particularly want to replace you but what we do want is for you to shape up and do a proper job of giving us the Brexit that was promised, not your sell-out to our enemies across the English Channel.

A great idea

17th November 2018

If people can be gender-fluid on a whim, and age-fluid if they think it will give them a better chance of a shag (until the potential shagee meets them), wouldn’t it be nice to be able

to be tax-fluid?

I hereby identify as tax-free, so no more income tax, VAT, council tax, etc. Well worth having.

Make your mind up time

17th November 2018

Is the word ‘scone’ pronounced skon (rhymes with con) or skone (rhymes with stone)? Neither. Something with ‘one’ in its spelling should be called a skwon (rhymes with con).

You can’t beat a good rant, no matter how pointless

18th November 2018

Desperate Donny MacLeod of the *Sunday Post* is fed up with Brexit and the idiots in Parliament, Labour and Tory alike. “Now it is time to get rid of these Westminster numbskulls,” he declared.

To be replaced by what?

Nothing on offer from Donny.

Even 8 refs can’t get it right

19th November 2018

The QB of the Hamilton Tiger Cats ran in to Ellis of the Ottawa Redblacks during last night’s CFL eastern final and Masoli head-butted Ellis. And that was a major foul on Ellis for roughing the passer, according to the 8th ref? That stinks and the guy who threw the flag should be in the stocks.

If it works . . .

19th November 2018

If a woman with a fake degree can work as an NHS psychiatrist unchallenged for 22 years, do we really need

shrinks with degrees instead of chancers with the gift of the gab?

Parliamentary justice

20th November 2018

Lord Grope feels cheated of justice. The woman who claimed he made an indecent proposal to her also feels cheated of justice. Thus the idea political state has been achieved – everyone is pissed off with the result.

The curse of championship

20th November 2018

The Toronto Argonauts won the Grey Cup last year and didn't make it to the playoffs this year. After what the New Orleans Saints did to the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, it looks like they are equally doomed.

DIY option

21st November 2018

A lady was complaining in yesterday's *Daily Mail* that she returned from her supermarket empty-handed because she couldn't find any baked goods made without palm oil. Maybe she should have used the time she wasted on the supermarket run to bake the stuff herself using only ingredients she approves of.

High-scoring poisoned chalice

21st November 2018

After the highest scoring Monday Night Football match in NFL history, both teams will be 50% unhappy. The offences will be told by their coaches that they're the bee's knees for scoring over 50 points against the other lot. Meanwhile, the defences will be in the dog house for being crap enough to let

the other lot score over 50 points past them.

You CAN have the best of both worlds!

22nd November 2018

The Prime Monster has told Jezzer Corbyn that there might not be a Brexit. She has also told the House of Commons that the UK will leave the EU on March 29th next year. Sounds like she's switching between two virtual realities according to which suits her best at any given moment.

Fitting punishment

23th November 2018

I have often though there should be a law against religious intrusion – inflicting unwanted views on other people with intent to cause alarm and annoyance. Looks like the inhabitants of that island in the Bay of Bengal, who greeted an intruding American missionary with poisoned arrows, have the same view.

Time to come clean

23rd November 2018

Now that the Brexit deal has been done, maybe someone can explain why the EU is entitled to punish the UK for wanting to leave their club, the sole purpose of which is to prevent France from starting another war with Germany and getting its arse kicked for the fourth time in 150 years.

Things you wonder in front of the TV

24th November 2018

Has anyone ever had enough time on their hands to calculate how much it would cost to give £2, £3 or £5 per month to all the charities which advertise on TV?

Bound to happen

24th November 2018

“I thought we could nip to the wine bar for lunch.”

“El Vino’s?”

“No, they’ve had to change the name because wine-making involves cruelty to grapes, according to a gang of plant rights activists. It’s called *The Intolerant Vegan* now.”

Sorry, mate, you’re out of luck

25th November 2018

The Scottish government is planning to have no more than 5% of its customers living in fuel poverty by 2040. Which is rather rough on those chosen to be in the lucky 5%!

Calgary gets it done at last

26th November 2018

The Calgary Stampeders are usually the top team in their division and clear favourites for a Grey Cup win; but look where that got them last year against the Toronto Argonauts!

This year was much more of a struggle. But they were able to build a lead and become World Champions of Canada fairly relentlessly in the second half of their match with the Ottawa Redblacks.

What he said?

26th November 2018

Quarterbacks on both sides of the border have rather weird HUT! chants. Mr. Cousins of the Vikings seemed to be going: “One-Eight Sunday Sucks!” last night!

Down time

27th November 2018

It’s bad enough not being able to use your computer because Windows is installing updates; but when your TV box spends

25 minutes doing the same – grrrrr! Good job I’d switched on for the TV news rather than the programme I wanted to record for later viewing.

How to keep the “people” happy

28th November 2018

All we have to do is tell the idiots who are agitating for a “people’s vote” on Brexit that if they can get the Russians to pay for it, they can have it next May, after we’ve left the EU.

Something to make them think

28th November 2018

The Treasury is playing politics again and telling us what terrible things might-just-possibly happen 15 years from now. In TV crime dramas, people are constantly being threatened with a charge of wasting police time. Maybe the time has come to create a new offence of wasting government time and taxpayer’s money, with huge fines as the penalty rather than a holiday in one of the drug resorts laughingly called Her Majesty’s Prisons.

Enlightenment needed

28th November 2018

A carpet firm sponsors quality entertainment on the Alibi TV channel, I am assured. So who sponsors all the rubbish? I think we should be told!

Towards a golden future world

29th November 2018

Inanimate objects are the bane of human existence. They are always trying to do something inconvenient and/or stupid. Falling on the floor is their favourite trick. And if they can break, they will.

A future society will create objects with a sufficient degree of awareness to understand that wilful stupidity is not acceptable and also understand that inconvenience will have uncomfortable consequences.

We're all doomed!

29th November 2018

The message from your government is that in the event of Brexit, things will get so bad that everyone in the country will have committed suicide by April 2020. Which should leave a lot of room in Europe for bogus asylum seekers, even if there are no British taxpayers left to support them.

*** This message has been brought to you by the government's Department of Despair ***

Taking the boss's advice!

29th November 2018

I was amused to read that Oakland University's administrators have chosen not to arm their members of staff, as advised by President Trump, but they have issued hockey pucks to the staff and students, with which to bombard and discourage any mad gunmen who choose to invade the campus.

Time flies

30th November 2018

How long does it take to do the two-hour version of WW Raw if you fast-forward through the fillers, adverts and garbage? I did this week's show in 36 minutes without even trying hard.

No wonder the crowd was chanting: “This is AWFUL!” during the Inconsequential Championship match. And how many more times are we going to have to put up with Finn Ballor versusing Baron Jeremy Corbyn? Enuf is more than plenty.

Lost cause

1st December 2018

Do I moan about the BBC Xmas TV schedule being mostly repeats, as is fashionable for the papers at this time of year? Nope. Mainly because if I want to watch TV, there's lot of much better stuff on the 2 million (feels like) other channels beyond my TV box.

All I'm likely to watch on the Beeb is the news, and that's mainly history repeating itself rather than yer actual re-runs.

Not bovvered

1st December 2018

I've just realized – the looney left don't have Rupert Murdoch around to slag off any more. Which may explain rather a lot.

Strike back; you're diverse too!

1st December 2018

Something to say to anyone who looks a bit foreign who gets stropky with you: “You bastard, you're totally disrespecting my culture.”

Here's a thing

2nd December 2018

I noticed, when my broadband connection was acting up, than an elderly PC with lots of useful old software which would be a real pain to locate and install on a new one; assuming it would run with the later version of Windows; starts up quite quickly with no internet connection.

I've got into the habit of switching it on 10 minutes before I need it and still finding the hard disk light glowing because the system is still messing about. Not so with no internet. And if I start using it and then give it an internet connection, it

doesn't start doing all the annoying stuff which slows it down when there is an immediate internet connection. And the antivirus program still does its update when it notices that the internet is there.

Sometimes, we can find ways to make life a little easier; but not too often.

Those were the days

3rd December 2018

I've just finished an old Inspector West book; number 34 in the series written by John Creasey. This one is set in the early 1960s and Inspector West of the Yard has to take a trip to South Africa. Where he and a local cop confront a breakfast consisting of white fish then a heroic combination of steak, sausages, two eggs and bacon, with more of everything on offer in case the initial helping isn't enough.

It's a wonder they could get up and walk around after scoffing all that lot! But then, people were a lot tougher in the couple of decades following the war.

Clint's Turkey

3rd December 2018

I watched the end of *The Gauntlet* the other day. That's the film in which honest cop Clint Eastwood drives a witness in a hijacked bus with interior armour between ranks of corrupt cops whilst they shoot it to bits.

How come he's going at walking pace? I asked myself. How come they don't shoot out the tyres first so he's no longer a moving target? How come no one on either side of the gauntlet was shot by crooked cops on the other side? And who paid for the millions of rounds of ammo used to perforate the bus and surrounding buildings?

Pure ludicrossity! Maybe they should have shown this turkey a bit closer to December 25th.

Things they don't teach you in school

3rd December 2018

How to eat dinner with a cat on your lap whilst watching the NFL on TV.

Zebras Inaction

3rd December 2018

A blatant horse collar tackle by the Browns on the Houston Texans' QB not spotted. Are the zebras keeping their flags in their pockets for Xmas as an early present for the lucky some? But how many mirrors have the Cleveland Browns broken? They must have used up a lifetime's bad luck in that 3rd quarter drive with two frustrated touchdown plays.

Blind benefit

3rd December 2018

How about that false start TD for the Chargers against the Steelers? But it did help to spark a remarkable Sunday late match with an extra-extraordinary finish with the LAC getting **three** chances to get the game-winning field goal right and the Steelers jumping offside **every** time.

A refreshing change

4th December 2018

We got the first episode of *Sue Thomas, FB Eye* on the Alibi channel last night. Okay, she's deaf and she had a hearing-ear dog as her gimmick, but what a relief to have a TV crime-buster with an intact family, who isn't looking for a father/mother/brother who disappeared in mysterious circumstances as a perpetual plot device.

Something else I’ve discovered

5th December 2018

Soft-scoop ice cream doesn’t if you’ve just taken it out of a freezer at minus 27 degrees Centigrade!

December Grot

5th December 2018

Oh, joy! It’s the season of Grotty Grottos again. The best way to get publicity for a winter wonderland seems to be to grot it up for the papers and guarantee that you get noticed. What a weird world we live in.

A crossword clue-inspired rant!

6th December 2018

They’re not really Native Americans; except in the sense that everyone born in America is a native. They’re Earlier Occupants, immigrants from Asia who, like the white man and all the other colours, moved onto land vacated by the dinosaurs and occupied by the successors to the dinosaurs.

Mr. Lookalike

6th December 2018

That picture of the US presidents, past and present, at the funeral of George H.W. Bush stopped me short with a moment of confusion. Who’s that bloke between Mrs. O’Bummer and Mrs. Clinton? I asked myself. It’s not Jeremy Corbyn after a shave, surely!

Nope, it turned out to be old Bill ‘Slick Willy’ Clinton wearing a typical Jezzar miserable face. And looking very remarkably like him.

Sky vs technology? Technology loses every time

7th December 2018

Being able to tell your TV box to record stuff for watching at a more convenient time; or to be able to speed through the adverts; is brilliant.

What's not so brilliant is those stoopid twats at Sky Sports starting things half an hour before the time in the TV menu, which the box uses to decide when to start and stop recording.

A weird experience yesterday

8th December 2018

The cat came charging in dripping wet yesterday afternoon, even though the sun was shining. When I looked out of a window, I saw that a bit of rain was still falling and there were hail stones lying around melting in the sunlight. There's nothing like a spot of interesting weather to brighten up an otherwise routine day!

Science, but not as we know it, Jim

9th December 2018

According to the *Daily Mail* science correspondent, China is sending a rover to 'the dark side of the Moon', which always faces away from the Earth. Although, quote – some light from the Sun does reach it – unquote.

Like, during the 50% of the lunar month when the Moon is in that part of its orbit around the primary which places it between the Earth and the Sun?

Bloody tough leaves Up North!

9th December 2018

Northern Rail reckons it can't put on a decent train service because 10% of its trains are out of action following

encounters with leaves on the line! Sounds like either the rolling stock is a bunch of Snowflakes or the leaves in the North are not to be messed with!

Go, Fins, Go!

10th December 2018

Don't you just love it when something weirdly horrible happens to the Patriots, the Armstrong Athletic of the NFL? They didn't go all the way to Miami to lose, but that's exactly what they did after a final desperate play which no one would buy as real in the script for a film.

More Death To All Zebras in Dallas, though. That TD the Eagles were swindled out of with 3 minutes to go was a **diabolical** call. If not criminal.

Don't tell the Beeb

10th December 2018

According to the lunchtime news on BBC 1, the man arrested in New Zealand for the murder of a British back-packer cannot be named for legal reasons. But I already knew the name, having read it in my morning paper. So much for the Beeb as a primary source of information.

Bank bites unexpectedly

11th December 2018

At the weekend, I ordered some stuff online from Sainsbury's and booked a delivery for today. But this morning, my bank's automated anti-fraud system was on the phone to say that it had refused the payment and, by the way, did I place the order?

When I checked my emails, there was one from Sainsbury's with a phone number to ring to get the order back on track. So I was able to get my delivery in the spot booked after some messing about. Who says shopping on the internet instead of doing it in person makes life simpler?

New, but not necessarily better times

12th December 2018

Comedians are reporting that they get a huge list of banned topics, to which they have to append an endorsing signature, if they want to perform at student events. Not a bad thing if it excludes looney lefties who think shouting: “Thatcher!” will bring the house down. But they probably get a special exemption under EU rules.

How to do politics No. 43

12th December 2018

“The reality is . . .” from a politicians means that the listener needs to brace him/herself, because a HUGE and shameless lie is on the way.

Bin-boggler

13th December 2018

Recycling is a complex and laborious business, according to a *Daily Mail* columnist. Paper & card in the blue bin, bottles and tins in the brown one, garden and food trimmings in the green one and everything else, and when in doubt, in the black one.

It takes a dedicated nit-picker to make that complicated.

**Arrogance plus intolerance
– what a charming mixture**

13th December 2018

Is the Chancellor, P. Hammond, a fascist or a communist with his talk of purging from the Tory party, everyone who doesn't agree with him? And what does he plan to do? Round them up and machine-gun the lot of them for his personal pleasure?

Step One accomplished

13th December 2018

How to sabotage Brexit: her supporters arrange a confidence vote on the Prime Minister by her party, making it look like her enemies were behind it, and win her a year's grace before she can be challenged again. Which should give her ample time to let the Bremonoaners win whilst blaming everything on the Leavers, before she swans off to the House of Lords.

Sounds unlikely enough to be true!

Battling winter's chill

14th December 2018

What does the £200 Winter Fuel Allowance buy? One of my neighbours stretched it to 27 bottles of wine from two separate special offers and a bottle of Southern Comfort. Which will definitely keep the cold out.

Why does she do it?

15th December 2018

Mr. Littlejohn of the *Daily Mail* offered a fascinating theory about the prime minister in his last column before his Xmas break. She's a political masochist, who enjoys flying round Europe being told No! and being humiliated by the stropky male** gits running foreign countries.

The louder the No!, and the bigger the rebuff, the more she loves it. The theory certainly fits the observed facts.

** Angular Mherkle, being an east German, can be identified as male in this context.

Rivers In Flood

15th December 2018

That was a brave decision of the LA Chargers; going for a win with a 2-point conversion instead of kicking a field goal and ending up 28-all with the Chiefs in Kansas after regulation time. The best Thursday Night NFL match ever? It certainly

had an ending which was good enough to be the close of a CFL match!

Can't forget all those dodgy decisions and no-calls by the Zebras, though. They seem to be getting worse and worse as the season draws to a close.

More cloth ears

16th December 2018

It's very easy to hear 'social media', particularly as uttered by some Americans when commentating on their football matches, as 'sofa media'. Which also works quite well as it describes the home of couch potatoes.

Humbuggers at it again

16th December 2018

Predictably, the rail unions will be leaping out on strike over Xmas and some airline pilots will be joining in. But hey! Xmas is the world's stupidest time of year to try to go anywhere. So sod 'em.

No sense in the USA

16th December 2018

If an NFL team loses out in the race to the playoffs, why are other teams said to 'win out'? Don't they know that the opposite of 'lose out' has to be 'win in'?

Browns triumph at last

16th December 2018

That was a striking performance from the Cleveland Browns last night to end their losing streak against the Denver Broncos. And, most important of all, when their head coach gets on someone's case for making a blunder, the team can remind **him** that he nearly cost them the match with a ill-judged time out inside the last two minutes.

Unimpressive waste of effort

17th December 2018

Is anyone even marginally impressed by claims that things such as frozen salmon fillets are ‘responsibly sourced’? Like anyone would dare to market irresponsibly sourced products and face the tidal wave of confected outrage following inevitable exposure.

The Pittsburgh Punisher or Pounding the Patriots

17th December 2018

There was a miracle in Miami last week. Now, one in Pittsburgh this week. Can’t wait for next week’s episode!

Didn’t win in

18th December 2018

If the Packers can sack Mike McCarthy, no surprise that Man U. has shed Miserable Mourinho.

Out of my orbit

18th December 2018

I read: “TV’s Dom Joly” and I thought: “Nope, never heard of him.” And if all he has to tell me is that his snoring nearly gave him brain damage, I feel no sense of loss at all.

Dosh? What’s that?

19th December 2018

The experts are at it again. They reckon we could be a cashless society in 15 years. Probably based on an assumption that the Tories will make themselves terminally unpopular, and Labour will win the next election and spend all the available cash, and as much as they can borrow, and leave behind nothing to show for it. Like they do.

False friend

20th December 2018

Celeb chef Jammy Olive is in line for a thorough swatting with a copy of the Trade Descriptions Act if he thinks he's a champion for the planet, which doesn't give a rat's arse either for the creatures living on it or for the state of its surface.

Our planet has been around for 4.5 billion years and it will be around for another 5 billion years until the Sun becomes a red giant and swallows up Mercury, Venus and Earth. No matter what Jammy and other posturing bugs do.

Real World rules suspended

20th December 2018

Oh, Jeremy Corbyn told a lie in the House of Common Criminals? BFD.

He's a politician.

It's what they do.

Plus ça change again

20th December 2018

The experts have been rewriting *The Book of People Labels*. Thus 'jobsworths' are now 'self-promoters', i.e. people who try to look incredibly busy and productive whilst doing nothing at all useful.

Think politician.

It's a job to keep up!

21st December 2018

A new twist to the Shop Early For Xmas theme – Boxing Day sales which open on December 23rd. Which means that Sunday shopping has to be respectable now. The only problem is knowing which are Boxing Day sales and which are Black Friday sales which haven't ended yet.

Xmas Xhibitionism

21st December 2018

Xmas is the worst possible time to go anywhere; as proved by the response to the wanker with the drone at Gatwick airport. Specifically, the response of doing bugger all and letting the twat get away with it for a whole day, and also with his freedom and the drone.

The perfect excuse

22nd December 2018

There's no point in investigating J-C Drunker's hands-on approach to women, as Tory leadership hopeful A. Rudd wants. He'll just tell the court he was so lubricated with free (to him) booze at the time that he didn't know what he was doing. And get off.

The joys of history revisited

22nd December 2018

Oh, joy! Corbyn's comic opera chancellor wants to give us national strikes once a week. Then it will be back to the good old days of Gordon F. Broon and the government trying to steal everything not nailed down, and trying to pull the nails out of everything that is.

Xmas cheer, not!

23th December 2018

You can always rely on the *Sunday Post* to cheer you up. Today's front page, for instance, is all about someone's ruined Xmas. The someone is the boss of a firm which went belly up, leaving the staff without December's pay packet. The boss is weeping about it in his \$3M mansion in San Francisco, having jetted there after enjoying a final staff Xmas party.

You couldn't make it up!

It just gets worse

24th December 2018

The bad zebras were out in Philadelphia yesterday, flaunting themselves on TV. The stocks there should have been pretty full of striped idiots after the Eagles’ match with the Texans for incidents like that uncalled facemask by the Texans and that pathetic roughing the passer embarrassment against the Eagles, which gave the Texans a touchdown.

Why not use eye-in-the sky technology? The CFL does.

And that DPI call, which gave the Saints a TD in the first quarter of their match, was dia-sodding-bolical.

Eggon face? Someone’s going darn!

24th December 2018

The Gatwick airport drone might have been an imaginary flying object but the Sussex police farce is determined to bust someone. Their best bet would appear to be to get a regular customer to agree to have it ‘taken into consideration’ with a bunch of unrelated crimes.

That way, it will be ‘sorted and case closed’; even if it isn’t.

Where are the spaceships?

25th December 2018

I’m currently reading a large volume of ‘the best SF of the 21st century’ – well, the first dozen years of it. The editor’s choice of a lead story is a bit strange. It’s not really SF and it’s an extended whinge about the end of the British Raj in India, when Hindus and Moslems acquired the independence for which they had been agitating and celebrated it with mass slaughter of their neighbours.

“Look what we’re doing now you’ve gone,” the story yells at the rejected British, “we’re butchering millions of people now you’re not there to stop us. You bastards!”

It’s going to take a lot of recovering from that sort of start to a book.

Useless piece of junk!

26th December 2018

There was an amusing piece in today’s paper about people letting their Xmas be ruined because their Amazon gadget couldn’t talk to them due to too much traffic on the internet. Oh, the perils of relying on non-autonomous gadgets instead of staff!

Today’s debate

26th December 2018

Is referring someone who’s posturing on TV in a patronizing, know-it-all way as ‘that S.O.B.’ – to dismiss him as Some Old Bloke (implying you have no idea who he is and you don’t bloody care) – worse than applying the conventional meaning of S.O.B.?

I wish

27th December 2018

I have just installed what is promised to be the fastest version of the Firefox browser ever. All I can say is that it won’t have to go any at all to be faster than the clunky disaster area it’s replaced. It’s remarkable how good you can become at Freecell while you’re waiting for your browser to get something from the WWW.

No Sherbet, Sherlock!

27th December 2018

“Tesco to offer in-store haircuts” read the headline. Well, they’ll have a hell of a job doing them on-line.

GOBism is no excuse**

28th December 2018

Being born in 1953 doesn’t disqualify Tom Utley of the *Daily Mail* from being able to use computers. If people a decade

older than him can use them, it is because they have made the effort to understand them. Mr. Utley clearly hasn't.

***Grumpy Old Bloke

Get it right, you useless lot

29th December 2018

The ‘two-thousand and’ fad seems to be getting beyond a joke. How long will it go on? At least into twenty-nineteen. Next thing you know, we'll find ourselves being assured that the battle of Hastings took place in one-thousand and sixty-six.

Yet another failure by the education Blob. And the BBC, where it seems to be the house style.

The crowd got it right

29th December 2018

Going through the non-wrestling bits of the WW's Xmas Day Smackdown Life took just 38 minutes with a recording instead of the two hours of the original broadcast. No wonder the crowd was yelling, “This is Awful!” as the Bulgarian Brute sorted out the Nasty Jap.

Future unaccomplished

30th December 2018

It's amazing what you see in old newspapers when you're using bits of them scrunched up as packing. ‘Corbyn accepts May's challenge to a TV debate’, for instance.

Never happened.

Dastardly deed on the American football field!

31st December 2018

Interfering with an official? in the Bears @ the Vikings match – that's something you don't hear too often. Sadly, the demands of TV advertising meant that we never found out

which official was interfered with and what exactly was done. It got the Bears marched back 15 yards from the previous line of scrimmage, though, and left the viewers to exercise their imagination.

Very perceptive lady

31st December 2018

I noticed whilst reading an obit of Sister Wendy, the nun who became a TV art critic, that she wasn't impressed by Damien Hirst's pickled sheep and shark. “Not worth a second look,” was the opinion she expressed. Probably because she was too well brought up to describe the likes of Hirst and the unmade bed woman as being at the farty end of arty-farty.

Interesting new game

31st December 2018

I have a black Bic ballpoint with no ink visible in the clear plastic tube. Its remaining life depends on how much ink is stashed in the opaque bit at the business end, and its output has developed the habit of becoming very faint; which gives me the chance to take bets on whether it has finally croaked or whether a spot of vigorous scribbling will revive it.

There have been about a dozen revivals so far, so maybe next time?

STOP PRESS: Make that a dozen + 1.

Someone been at the medicinal cannabis?

1st January 2019

Whichever planet S. Khan, London's comic opera mayor, comes from, it certainly isn't this one. Letting off fireworks when a new year arrives is just an excuse for waking up the neighbours. It is most certainly not a sign that we British are outward-looking and pluralistic, as Khan would have us believe.

Not only feckless parents

1st January 2019

The government’s food waste guru, B. Elliot, reckons that 70,000 kids in London go to school in the morning breakfastless.

Any danger of a few prosecutions for felony child endangerment?

Thought not.

That’s it done with

2nd January 2019

You can tell the holiday season is done and dusted if BBC 1 has a repeat of Bargain Hunt on just before the lunchtime news.

Time to get pragmatic

2nd January 2019

In the good old days, there used to be people classed as criminally insane, but that has probably been abolished by the diversifiers. But the news that the knife-armed nutter who went on the rampage at Manchester’s Victoria station was arrested under the Mental Health Act suggests that it’s exactly right for terrorists; as long as it involves detention in basis surroundings with **no** kid gloves in use.

The most confusing bit of cat behaviour?

3rd January 2019

I would nominate suddenly deciding that she HAS to wash the bit of her body that I’ve been stroking – but only some-times and not always.

Hyperbole unlimited

3rd January 2019

“The first image from the far side of the Moon ever recorded”? What bollocks the BBC News spouts! What they mean is that the Chinese have landed a probe on the far side, which has been mapped comprehensively from orbit over the last 60-odd years. What was on offer was the first image from an object sitting on the far side of the Moon; which is something quite different from the initial puff.

Great, but not as we know it, Jim

4th January 2019

The *Greatest Ever Movie Blunders 2* on the 5Star TV channel last night? Pulling the legs off nits with very minor continuity bog-ups was all it turned out to be. Not fit to shine the shoes of *Alright On The Night*.

Just not trying

4th January 2019

If the police have no idea where the Speedboat Killer is lurking, how come the government can't cramp his style by cancelling his passport? Being allowed to evade justice is not a human bloody right when it's British justice that's being dodged and British taxpayers' cash that's being wasted.

Now we have Fat Cat Friday

5th January 2019

The average FTSE100 boss might have been paid as much as the average Brit will make in a year by January 4th, but earned? That's highly debatable.

Rights and wrongs

5th January 2019

There’s nothing wrong with trying someone in absentia if he/she refuses to appear in court but there is everything wrong with letting a convicted absconded felon appeal without surrendering his/her miserable carcass and doing so at the taxpayer’s expense.

But try telling that to some of our judges.

Luck beats lack of mercy

6th January 2019

Don’t you just *love* an NFL team with a linebacker called Merciless? Didn’t do the Houston Texans enough good against an Indianapolis Colts team with Luck on their side, though.

Wildcard Weekend rocked

7th January 2019

Good to see the Cowboys stick it to the Seawawks, the Armstrong Athletic of the NFC. Nice to see the Chiefs and Old Man Rivers getting the job done against the Ravens with time running out for him. As for the Eagles in Chicago, there was some extraordinary reffing and a demonstration of a time out working against a kicker to put the current world champions of America into the next round.

Dangerous move

8th January 2019

President Trump’s invitation to his enemies in Congress to name his wall/fence/whatever at the US border with Mexico ‘anything they like’ sounds like a recipe for disaster – if any of the Democraps has a sense of humour.

Pragmatism winning in NHS?

8th January 2019

The government is thinking of modifying its 4-hour residence time in an A&E department as it is impractical.

Things have evidently got no better in the decade since I last sat at someone’s bedside, listening to the count-down at the nurse’s station, and then watching the customer be pushed out of the A&E at the last second, only to be parked in a corridor for a while until the ward had prepared a slot for her.

Bullet-biting can be uncomfortable, especially when there are out-of-office politicians looking for any sign of change to use as an excuse for a claim of how wonderful things would be if only the public were stupid enough to vote for them.

More, More!

9th January 2019

Jeremy Clarkson’s idea of a vulgarity tax for bling community members. e.g. footballers with a diamond-studded Roller, has legs.

If it could be extended to include annoying gitism, the likes of Gary bloody Lineker might have less to say for themselves and Tony B. Liars would have to sell off property empires built with cash from tainted sources.

History can look after itself

9th January 2019

“History will take a dim view of a Cabinet which presses ahead with no deal” has as much validity as “History will take a dim view of senior Tories who sabotage Brexit because they think the electorate, which pays their wages, got it wrong.”

Pointless pixels

10th January 2019

What is the point of putting pixels on the face of a kid who is just 11 weeks old? It's not as if anyone is going to recognize the kid from the photo in the future. Stupid application can bring any rule into contempt.

Save us from the foggy dew

11th January 2019

Bit of a weird day yesterday. It looked like the windows were steamed up but it was wet fog outside, not failed double glazing. It might be the season of mists but mellow fruitfulness is in very short supply. Probably as a result of Brexit panic buying.

Belated assault on Xmas fare

11th January 2019

I got to sample some turkey and stuffing hand-cooked crisps yesterday. The Mansion's procurement officer had liberated them from the local Aldi.

What did they taste of? Sage, mainly, given that turkey is bland, bound to be overwhelmed by the stuffing flavourings and pretty much a non-playing member of the team.

Trash TV

12th January 2019

A new series of *The Orville* started on Fox on Thursday, and one of the Big Moments was one of the aliens having his once-a-year pee into his version of the Grand Canyon with the rest of the crew cheering him on.

Proof that aliens are weird? Nope, proof that the programme's creator, Seth MacFarlane is out of his tiny mind and so are the bosses at the studio where the series is made.

Impact blunted

12th January 2019

“James Middleton, my secret mental health battle” shouted the headline.

Poor bloke. Who is he?

No idea.

Me, neither.

Things got better

13th January 2019

It looked like we were going to get the first NFL snow match on TV in Kansas City and conditions like those for the Grey Cup in Ottawa two years ago. But come match time, the pitch had been cleared; more or less. The part on the right of the centre line looked like a thorough job by a crew which took pride in their work.

The half of the field to the left of centre looked like a “minimum amount of effort” do by a bunch of jobsworths, with the lines cleared but quite a lot of snow left between them. Very odd.

Devalued Apostrophes

13th January 2019

I’m reading one of the Gateway science fiction Omnibus Editions published by Gollancz – which seems to have sacked Victor. My eyes keep being clobbered by apostrophes within words.

The contraction “we’d” is printed as “wed” with an apostrophe stuck in the space above the “e” and the “d”. Other contractions, such as “it’s” are treated the same. It’s as if Jouve (UK) of Milton Keynes, who did the typesetting, think apostrophes are somehow unworthy of their own space.

Where do they get people like this?

14th January 2019

You have to wonder what sort of jobsworths are being paid out of the taxpayer’s pocket to assess disability when some of them report that **blind** people display good eye-contact with them during an interview.

A distant admirer?

14th January 2019

An amusing game to play while watching American football is to spot the more outlandish things that quarterbacks yell at the line of scrimmage.

Drew Brees of the Saints, for instance, bawled “Lady Thatcher!” during his team’s match with the Eagles last night. Well, that’s what it sounded like.

His choice

15th January 2019

The F.O. might be upset about Singapore sentencing a 29-year-old British citizen to 20 lashes on top of 20 years in gaol for drug trafficking, but someone of his age must have known that Singapore takes a primitive and direct approach to drug-dealing. And yet he still went ahead with it. And now he has to pay the price for his stupidity.

Political stitch-up

16th January 2019

May’s Brexit Betrayal strategy is now clear. She and the EU cobbled together a ‘deal’ which no Tory MP who respects the referendum outcome would support. She dithered and dithered, then staged a vote on the deal which she knew she was bound to lose.

Next thing you know, Brexit will be ‘postponed’ and 50 years from now, we’ll still be financing the E bloody U.

Losers all

17th January 2019

That’s one-all in Commons vote losses for the main party leaders. What next? A penalty shoot-out using Berko’s head instead of a ball?

Nothing worthwhile in a rehash

17th January 2019

What is the point of ‘remaking’ a successful TV show but messing about with the main characters? It happened to *Battlestar Galactica* and *Hawaii 50*. Now, *Magnum P.I.* is getting the treatment.

What next? A ‘remake’ of *Cagney & Lacey* featuring two blokes who think they’re women and get terribly upset when criminals fail to take them seriously?

Spot on, Ted Tubb

17th January 2019

I have just finished reading the final novel from the SF author E.C. Tubb – *Fires of Satan* was completed just before his death in 2010 and it’s about a world-ending threat. The author’s view of politicians is jaundiced – he’s writing at the end of the corrupt New Labour era – and, in the light of the current Brexit antics in Parliament, accurate. He believed that the more they do to promote their own selfish interests, the bigger the mess they create. How right he was!

Good news!

18th January 2019

It’s official! We can relax and have a day off. There isn’t going to be a political crisis today.

No surprise there

18th January 2019

J. Corbyn is essentially a ‘can’t do’ person. He’s very good at negatives but he hasn’t a clue when it comes to things that would do anyone any good. And that’s the real reason why he’s afraid to meet the prime minister.

He can pal up with any number extreme minority interests but when it comes to people who can do anything to benefit the country, he doesn’t want to know because his trade is talking Britain down. He’s a sad, old Wolfie Smith, who should have been put out to grass; no, not in the House of Frauds; years ago. He’s an old (69) joke which has grown stale.

Pie back in the sky

19th January 2019

There has been talk of flying cars pretty much since heavier than air flying machines were created. Now, there’s another rash of it – flying taxis on demand four years from now.

Door-to-door service? Really?

A WWE code?

19th January 2019

“This is cockroach!” the crowd at either Raw or Smackdown seemed to be chanting. Maybe it makes sense to Americans, who are noted for having lots more roaches than anyone else, especially in the big cities.

Now, she’s in real trouble!

20th January 2019

Nigel Farage, the man who gave us Brexit, is to start a new political party to ensure that it happens. Which is dreadful news for Theresa May and all the other Bremonoaners saboteurs.

The last thing they need is someone like Nigel looking over their shoulders and challenging every dither and haver.

**How to bring a police farce
into even greater disrepute**

21st January 2019

A car bomb in Londonderry condemned by police as ‘utterly reckless’!! What sort of limp response to an act of terrorism is that? Pathetic isn’t in the same universe.

Quarterback sayings

21st January 2019

“Blue eighty sucks!” according to Drew Brees. And he was right. The Saints needed two more plays to get their first touchdown against the Rams.

No chance of hearing what Mr. Goff had to say over the din in the Superdome. But whatever it was, it worked and the Rams are in the next Super Bowl.

Nothing like a healthy sense of entitlement

22nd January 2019

The hit film Ghostbusters was remade with an all female cast a couple of years ago. The studio has decided to go back to the original format for the next film and that has really upset one of the cast of the all-female remake, who seems to think she’d become entitled to a job for life.

Oh, dear, how sad, never mind.

Move along, there’s nothing new to see

23rd January 2019

Is Jeremy Corbyn’s version of the Labour party anti-Semitic? Yes, it is, and it will remain so because this is now an accepted

Fact of Life. Like ‘grass is green’. Except in Kentucky, of course.

Definitions for today

23rd January 2019

Defector – someone who gets the feck out.

Defected – with the feck removed.

Unspeakable and indestructible

24th January 2019

The appalling Gary Lineker guarantees that Walker’s crisp packets will be 100% recyclable or biodegradable by 2025. Maybe we should all stop buying them until then as an incentive to speed up the transition. I know I have.

How are the mighty trashed

24th January 2019

Once upon a time, he was Scotland’s First Meenister and bigging it up. Now, he’s just “a 64-year-old man has been arrested and charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal”. Still, he gets his picture in the papers and on TV.

Warning: content lacking

25th January 2019

Crumbs! No wonder no one watches unrecorded versions of WW RAW – just fillers in the first 30 minutes of a 2-hour show. Fast, fast forward. I was through the first hour in 10 minutes and knocked off the rest in half an hour.

All change

25th January 2019

The reason why the legal aid system is in such disrepute is obvious. It's run by lawyers, which is the equivalent of putting mice in charge of a cheese factory.

The only way forward from here is to have the revolution, hang all the lawyers and trade union leaders, and start again with people who will treat the public purse with a little respect.

Eyes on you

26th January 2019

There's a lot of seriously weird stuff on the interweb. I've just been reading a short story called *Human Form In Formalin*. That's a prime example of the genre!

More speed-viewing

26th January 2019

Tranny troubles on WW SmackDown! with The Man clobbering Oscar! Then some brawling in the ring. The scriptrotter has run out of inspiration? Half an hour went by before the blokes showed themselves in the ring and The Swizz was done over. And Shane.

Then back to the usual BS and that was an hour gone. Thank goodness for fast forward.

Rey Mysterio's big problem is that it's hard to take such an excellent wrestler seriously when he's had a bra tattooed on his chest!

Casual wisdom

26th January 2019

I heard an interesting analogy at a do last night. Referring to the gangs of climate change gurus who are scoffing from the taxpayer's trough, my sceptical informant said what they're up

to has parallels with the situation that would arise if Scotty were hauled out of Engineering on the Starship *Enterprise* and a know-it-all six-year-old were installed in his place – one with an infinite capacity for uninformed meddling and unchallengeable authority.

Predictable consequence

27th January 2019

There’s a lot of indignation flying about over what is going on in Zimbabwe, and its opponents are predictably trying to blame our government. But if the people of Zimbabwe replaced the evil thug Mugabe by a guy who’s known as The Crocodile, the wheels were bound to come off. As in Venezuela.

Chalk & cheese?

27th January 2019

We’re being told that the last time the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere was 400 parts per million, the sea level was 30 metres higher than it is today. Which suggests that the link between the two is not as dramatic and desperate as some would have us believe.

Thank you, we’re heard enough, next!

28th January 2019

Getting a kid in a Steelers outfit to do the anthem for the Pro Bowl was a gimmick which should never be repeated. The cat was far from impressed. Keeping the game clock running after an incomplete pass is an idea which should be transplanted to the regular season.

What’s in a name?

28th January 2019

Is there a competition for the weirdest first name in the NFL? If I ever see a caption on the screen declaring that someone’s

first name is something as synthetic as Omegran or Chesquelle, I’ll take that as confirmation that there is.

Bucking the trend

28th January 2019

Someone pointed out that the detective series Vera, starring Brenda Blethyn, lacks credibility if it has a 72-year-old detective inspector as the lead. Really? In this age of enforced diversity when all isms are banned? Including ageism?

Just not trying

29th January 2019

I was interested to learn that there is something called the Corruption Perception Index, which ranks countries according to how corrupt people think they are – rather than how corrupt they are in actual practice.

Denmark and New Zealand seem to be taking turns in the top spot, which makes me wonder what the Russians and Chinese are up to. They must be slacking if they haven’t persuaded their many stooges to vote for them.

Interesting idea

29th January 2019

There’s a suggestion flying around that if the Republic of Ireland is expelled from the EU, there will be no need for the backstop which is causing all the Brexit problems. Sounds like an idea with legs!

Here yesterday, gone today

31st January 2019

The cat took one look at the snow yesterday and zoomed back indoors. But she did venture out after thinking it over and left

a few trails of pawprints between clear stretches in the shadows of buildings.

No such problem during today’s sunny morning as most of the residual snow is off the ground. Not that anyone is moaning about the lack of a chance to use their snow boots again.

Welcome distraction

1st February 2019

There’s not that much snow left around here. We keep getting bits of new snow then the sun comes out and melts it. But maybe we should be grateful that God is grotting on the south-west and Wales to give the news media something to bang on about other than bloody Brexit.

Booze-blast

2nd February 2019

Apparently, we’re in for a noisy weekend as all the young things who observed Dry January catch up on their month’s lost boozing before starting on February’s quota.

No braces needed

2nd February 2019

Britain braced for the coldest night in 7 years? Not really if the temperature is going to go down to -16 deg.C only somewhere in Scotland.

The rest of us are watching the residual snow vanish on a sunny day and looking forward to the early spring predicted by Groundhog Day Phil, who didn’t see his shadow on emerging from his bunker.

It's definitely the prohibition which makes it hard

3rd February 2019

I'm on a course of antibiotics and the restrictions are irksome to say the least. A pill four times per day has to be taken on an empty stomach, which means that it has to be consumed two hours after food or one hour before.

Taking one at 7 a.m. means no breakfast until after 8 a.m. (no big deal) and I have to take one at 12 noon to have lunch at one. Another at 5 p.m. lets me have dinner after 6 p.m. but I've cut out my slice of cake with a cup of tea at 3 p.m. to avoid complications. The last, at 11 p.m. has no associated problems.

I rapidly found that I started thinking about food in the windows when I can't have it. It's only for a week for me, but this is what life must be like for a dieter: food at restricted times of the day and thinking about it constantly during the windows of unavailability.

Definitely an incentive not to get fat in the first place!

Up in flames

3rd February 2019

They have an interesting way of tackling a major cock-up in Scottish Police circles. One of the bosses tells a suitable fall guy/gal to go and buy a garden incinerator and some petrol, and torch any inconvenient paperwork. Then the boss retires on full pension after the whistle is blown but before anyone does anything about it.

Ram it up 'em!

3th February 2019

Super Bowl Sunday and it's got to be the Rams. It would be too dreadful if Armstrong United proved yet again that cheats do prosper.

Not so smart

4th February 2019

Why is it that the scripttrotters for MacGuyver, the show about a gadget genius, and lots of other boffin characters have them talk about muriatic acid? No one who's ever been to school calls it anything other than hydrochloric acid.

From which, one can deduce that scripttrotters did a lot of bunking off and are uneducated?

Permanently tainted gestures

4th February 2019

Recalling the case of the bloke who got away with making up his signs for the deaf for years, I couldn't help wondering if the bloke who did it at this year's rather dull Super Bowl was out of the same box.

Do we really need a bloated BBC?

5th February 2019

The time has come to tell the BBC's bloatocrats that they have to persuade people to opt in to its services rather than being entitled to charge the whole population. A Committee of Concerned Consumers pruning the pointless jobs and capping the excessive salaries would be an excellent start.

Rules for a no-police zone

5th February 2019

What if some rowdy scumbag dies whilst being handcuffed by security guards filling in for the police? we are invited to consider.

My advice would be to remove the cuffs for future use, dump the body in the correct recycling bin and move on to the next yob.

Bucking the message

6th February 2019

Don't you just love it when you see a headline like: 'Gin sales up 23% in Dry January'? The People remain as bolshy as every in fairly harmless ways.

Impossible leap of faith

6th February 2019

Is there anyone in the whole Universe who believes that J. Corbyn voted Remain in the Brexit referendum? Only if he was too drunk to see straight and put his cross in the wrong box.

Data disconnection

7 February 2019

Army explosives experts were called to the scene of an explosion in a flat block in West Yorkshire as the local MP and the mayor are tweeting syrup at the blokes who were blown up. Which suggests that the police are wondering if they made a bomb or someone planted a bomb on them, and the tweeters are liable to end up egg-faced.

It could all be an unfortunate accident but you never know, these days.

No sherbert, Sheila!

8th February 2019

Wine after beer and you'll still feel queer. If you overdo it, of course. Strange no one questioned the credentials of whoever decided that the type, not the quantity, of alcohol consumed determines the severity of the hangover.

Not at all strange that some academic was able to waste research funds on giving people booze and asking them to rate the hangover, though.

Cloth-ears rides again

9th February 2019

I walked in during a TV ad and it seemed to be offering a romantic purloined steak meal for two. Sounds like a brilliant Valentine’s Day offer!

Better would be better

9th February 2019

A drippy nose is Nature’s way of preventing your lungs from freezing in cold weather. Fine, but don’t you just wish that Nature has come up with something less messy?

Lacking conviction

9th February 2019

What do you do if you’re an exhibition-ish? i.e. not quite the whole hog? Strip off in a radio studio with a daft message written on your chest.

Nice easy earner

10th February 2019

The chief prosecutor of Nuremberg kidnapped 63 alleged Adolf Hitler paintings from an auction house but returned the ones to be offered in a sale yesterday. No one bought them due to doubts about the authenticity of the pictures. Apparently, Herr Hitler’s works are hard to distinguish from those of anonymous contemporaries and just doing a decent signature is the forger’s biggest challenge.

It’s only being so cheerful as keeps me going

11th February 2019

Here’s a good one: That special place in Hell for Brexiteers has EU president J.-C. Drunker behind the bar and no one ever offers to buy him a drink.

Yawn

11th February 2019

This probably sounds terrible but I really can't work up any enthusiasm over British athletics having an official yoghurt.

Sunk in the first sentence

11th February 2019

“A band of veteran militant green activists are fuelling a campaign to encourage thousands of children to skip school.” This was that the *Daily Mail* assured us on page 13 today. Which is dismaying.

Why? Because ‘a band’ is the singular subject of the sentence and it should be accompanied by the singular form of the verb, i.e. ‘is’ not ‘are’, which is a plural form.

Looks like the *Mail* team of Sophie Borland, Glen Keogh and Neil Sears didn't spend all that much time in English classes themselves when they were at school.

Sanity test

12th February 2019

Anyone who's prepared to blow two grand on a pair of shoes, even if they do have red soles, has something seriously wrong with them.

Scoops are supposed to be worth having

12th February 2019

The BBC solicits an exclusive interview with Venezuela's Corbynist, election-rigging president to let him condemn President Trump as a white supremacist? BFD.

On the other hand, if they hadn't gone along with it, the reporter and entourage would never have got out of the country alive.

Rubbish! Boooo!

12th February 2019

I'm surprised that the Go On Show (according to a BBC bigwig of yesteryear) was a lowly 21st in the list of the top 30 radio shows of all time, which was topped by Desert Island Disco. The Goons deserve much better.

Weird concept

13th February 2019

Does it make any sense to call the late footballer E. Sala a Cardiff City player when he never actually reached our shores, never mind actually playing a single match for the club? Life is sure strange in the 21st century.

New Rules No. 46

14th February 2019

If you're not much cop at your job but you want to be noticed and get your picture in the papers, cobble together the biggest victim whinge you can manage and spread it far and wide on auntiesocial media.

The way ahead

14th February 2019

People who want to look like paupers can pay for a pair of jeans with the knees hanging out and trainers which look fit for the bin even with the £600 price tag still in place.

Time to launch my new range of distressed donkey jackets to complete the *Tramp on the Prowl* look.

I think we should be told

15th February 2019

I'm supposed to be reassured on hearing during a TV ad that 'our coffee range contains 50% whole beans'. But I can't help

wondering what the other 50% is – maybe stuff swept up off the floor after the beans have been ground?

Their word is no longer a bond

15th February 2019

“Should we really keep going with Brexit just because we said we would?” a Labour Bremonoaner asked in Parliament yesterday. Which sums up the fundamental dishonesty of our current generation of politicians. “Tell ’em anything to get elected, then ignore the bastards.” That’s what our MPs really think of the people who pay their wages.

Who pays!

16th February 2019

All these crazy kids who are bunking off school to stop global warming should stop and think about what they’re demanding. After all, they’re going to have to sacrifice their future to pay for all the scams the Warmists unload on them.

Vegans strive for extinction of sheep

16th February 2019

How wonderful that a clothes retailer called Booboo (at a casual glance) has chosen to get publicity by banning the use of wool in its garments on vegan ethical grounds.

Farmers have pointed out that shearing sheep prevents them from overheating and suffering insect infestations, but such considerations seem to be outwith vegan ethics.

Lowest possible quality

17th February 2019

The shadow chancellor’s decision to spread fake news about the iconic Sir Winston Churchill has to be an example of a politician being too lazy to look up the readily available truth

and expecting everyone else to be idle and ignorant enough to let him get away with it.

Which doesn't say much for Mr. McDonnell's credentials as a financial genius. He's obviously out of the same box as Gordon F. Brown.

Bright idea

17th February 2019

There's a very easy solution to the problem of the Bremonoaners who are demanding a People's Vote. It should be possible to have them sectioned for their own welfare under the Mental Health Act (1983) if they can't grasp the simple reality that the people did vote, back in 2016, and chose to Leave the EU.

The best 'villain' riposte?

18th February 2019

If not for Winston Churchill, miserable commies like John McDonnell would be speaking bad German in a concentration camp at the back of beyond.

In all seriousness

19th February 2019

What will the new splinter political party call itself? Semitist-Bremoaners or Bremoaner-Semitists? SB is less likely to promote mirth than BS.

Letting us all down badly

19th February 2019

Giving a physical description of someone which includes their skin colour is now a hanging offence in broadcasting circles? Makes you proud to be British.

“VIP, but not as we know it, Jim.”

20th February 2019

Are we surprised by the revelation that on-line betting companies don't consider winners to be Very Important Punters? As they have a purely negative impact on the Bottom Line, not really.

Not wanted on voyage

20th February 2019

Crumbs! A Home Secretary with a bit of backbone has booted the Bride of Daesh into touch. Or is it just a scam to let his pals in the legal trade dip into the public purse for an appeal? Such is the state of respect for politicians right now that he's no longer eligible for the benefit of the doubt.

Obvious, or what?

21st February 2019

“A cancelled flight cost me £600 – so how come Ryanair offered only £76 compensation?” it said in the paper yesterday. The big clue has to be the word ‘Ryanair’ in the question.

For the faint-hearted

21st February 2019

Anyone who's daunted by having to shell out for 140 magazines at 9 quid a throw to build the Bismark might consider the alternative of building a Terminator. Still 9 quid a pop but there are only 120 extractions.

Sleepless in outer space

22nd February 2019

Watching an episode of the SF series *The Orville* last night, I was struck by a sudden thought – how do they ever get to sleep with all that blue light everywhere?

We’re always being nagged about the perils of blue light from phones, tablets, etc. used just before bedtime. It’s in the corridors and rooms everywhere on the ship, that ghostly blue glow.

But maybe the doctor lady just stocks up with strong sleeping pills at every port of call and it’s not a problem aboard *The Orville*.

Not stating the obvious solution

22nd February 2019

Increasing human population is being blamed for all the world’s troubles in the latest DoomCast from the United Nations Organization. No danger of their suggesting that people who can’t afford to feed them should be persuaded to stop having children, though. Just, ‘throw more cash at the UNO’. Same old same old.

Catch 22b

23rd February 2019

Essex university’s students have come up with their own variation of Catch 22. If you want to vote when forming a new society is proposed, you can’t unless you’re a member of an existing society.

There is no F in sense

23rd February 2019

“There’s only one channel called DRAMA” (130 on Virgin) has to rank as one of the most pointless slogans ever created. Like there would ever be two different TV channels with the same name.

Job vacancy for trolls

23rd February 2019

The Three Hissy Tarts. THT – snappy, rolls off the tongue easily. A great name for the three Tory MPs who have actually flounced and/or the three ministers who are threatening to.

There is no F in dignity

23th February 2019

The DRAMA channel getting the superannuated Inspector Bergerac to spout their slogan as a trailer for re-runs of his past triumphs just makes him look like an old bloke with dementia and does Mr. Nettles no favours at all.

Any excuse for a day out

24th February 2019

The *Woman Against State Pension Inequality* organization held a rally in Glasgow yesterday, attended by the First Meenister, to protest against women being required to get the state pension at the same age as men.

Clearly a case of equality, but not as we know it, Jim.

How reassuring

25th February 2019

I wasn't paying much attention to the TV whilst the adverts were on, as usual, but I did catch a young lady talking about some cosmetic product(?) containing 'vince' and 'arbolino'. I have no idea what these mystery ingredients are but they do have very friendly names, which inspire confidence.

Good fun

25th February 2019

I heard about the 1975 film *The Black Bird* recently and decided to track down a copy because it hasn't been reissued because it is so allegedly politically incorrect that it would give the average PC zombie the screaming ab-dabs. Back in real life, the film is funny and a normal person would have to try real hard to be offended by it. But let's face it, normal can be

very weird these days!

Update

25th February 2019

It's a brand of toothpaste that contains 'vince' and 'arbolino', I discovered later.

One small change

26th February 2019

Guess The Definition in yesterday's *Daily Mail* was the word 'neaped'. Well, the connection with neap tides is obvious. What would have been harder is the Scottish word 'neeped' – being battered with a sockful of turnips!

It's a nice day – stop moaning!

26th February 2019

All this moaning about the current clement weather is getting v. tedious. It's not the work of the Devil. It's not a huge global catastrophe. It's just the weather, which changes unpredictably and upsets weather-watchers because all the weather computers in the world in tandem can't handle what the planet does.

Another small change

26th February 2019

Procrasstination – being paid out of the public purse to be crass. Think Jeremy Corbyn.

Life is so untidy

27th February 2019

All the virtue signallers were up in arms when a dosser got short shrift from the porters after making a pest of himself at a railway station. Then it turned out that the bloke wasn't a worthy asylum seeker living on the charity of the British public, he was a drug dealer, who'd done a million years in goal and had at least one killing to his credit. Which kind of slowed the rush to offer him a spare room.

Today's word

28th February 2019

Transplaining – either a man got up as a woman unable to shed an old bad habit or a woman got up as a man assuming a licence to annoy other women by right of revised gender.

The disappearing perk

28th February 2019

The perils of relying on the internet version of a newspaper were brought home yesterday when the *Daily Mail* website which offers access was unobtainable. You're much better off with the paper version. And you can do the crosswords. Or try to.

Not that bovvered

1st March 2019

Some guy I've never heard of took a pop at some celeb I've never heard of in yesterday's paper and achieved zero impact. The paper usually tags on some credentials at the end of such whinges but, presumably, the guy was so much of a non-entity that the paper couldn't come up with anything. Still, his rant filled up a page nicely.

Maybe they were paid by the pound weight

1st March 2019

The striking thing about the picture of the models who aroused such indignation at a fashion show is not so much the matchstick legs as the miserable expressions. But maybe they were worried that they’d break something if they cracked a smile.

Daft Answers to Correspondents

2nd March 2019

Q: How do Catholic clerics fix a skullcap to their head?

A: If haired, nails or staples. If bald, superglue.

This month’s awards

2nd March 2019

Nominations are open for the person who put the ‘anal’ into banal, i.e. bum-numbingly ordinary and the person who put the ‘anal’ into panal, i.e. backside agony. There are dozens of politicians up for nomination in the latter category.

Blunted impact

2nd March 2019

In his rant against Corbyn Labour in today’s paper, Professor Ladany proves he’s not paying attention by saying of Corbyn ‘it’s as if the man has never read a history book’.

But only recently, Corbyn was making a virtue out of never reading books of any sort, including history. Indignation to phut in a second.

Blunted impact 2

2nd March 2019

Prince Harry is on a crusade/jihad against single-use plastic bottles. That’s a bloke whose wife goes in for encouraging the ‘climate enemy’ fashion industry by hoovering up lots of single-use expensive posh frocks.

And again

2nd March 2019

Someone else who hasn't been paying attention is the *Daily Mail* pundit Peter Osborne, who thinks Gordon F. Brown, the Man Who Stole Your Pension, deserves to be admitted to the Order of the Garter.

Today's bon mot

3rd March 2019

“Nasty bastards like you should be horse-whipped – if a suitable horse can be found.”

With apologies to Groucho Marx.

Tell 'em anything

4th March 2019

That story that cats mimic their staff is pure BS. She has free access to the kitchen (to get to the back door) but I have yet to see the Mansion's cat bake a cake or knock up some Fantastic Food in Fifteen (minutes).

Mustard uncut

4th March 2019

Why did they call the 2015 ‘remake’ *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* [Channel 5 last night] when it had absolutely nothing to do with the original TV series? It's just two schmucks and a routine Narzi atom bomb plot.

Someone watching the film and then an episode of the real U.N.C.L.E. would see no connection at all, apart from the misappropriated title and a couple of nicked names.

It's a clear case of passing off with intent to deceive.

Line 'em up

5th March 2019

We were considering who should be nominated as the person who put the RED into redundancy. Jeremy Corbyn is the obvious starting point. But when we started going backwards from the present generation of politicians, we realized it would be more compact to work out who *didn't* put the RED into redundancy.

Due credit, you rotters!

6th March 2019

“Here on Forces TV, Robert McCall is *The Equalizer*.” No, he isn't, it's Edward Woodward. Unless it's a remake.

No, it was the old original and I was reminded that Robert McCall is the name of the character played by Mr. Woodward. But I still reckon that he should have got the name check in the pre-programme announcement.

A bucket of sleaze

6th March 2019

The Labour party is seeking to sanitize its anti-Semitism by branding the Tories anti-Islamists. It's not a fair comparison but if we're in the world of politics, truth and decency don't count. Even so, let us not forget that Jewish terrorists, unlike their Irish and Islamist counterparts, have stopped trying to kill us.

Today's word

7th March 2019

I know the word whinge, as there's lots of it going on, but I didn't know that winge is a word in its own right rather than just a typo. Apparently, it applies to a wig/hairpiece which gives the wearer a fringe.

Today’s Clerihew

8th March 2019

Jeremy Corbyn

is great at absorbin’
terrorist and anti-social creeds
and apologizing for their proponents’ misdeeds.

Amazing oversight

8th March 2019

How many credit cards are there? When signing the back of my latest replacement, I noticed that 50% of the emergency phone numbers are illegible. Embossing the *start & valid until* dates and my name has obliterated them. How strange that no one at the bank has ever spotted this and done something about it.

Unlimited entertainment

8th March 2019

Ben & Jerry’s *Bolkerol* – now available in the health care aisle. I wonder if it contains vince and arbolino? TV adverts are so much more fun if you don’t pay attention and ignore borders between them.

Memo to the cat

8th March 2019

If you’re trying to hide under a piece of furniture, don’t leave your tail sticking out.

Passing off

9th March 2019

If Hollywood can get away with turning Captain Marbles into a girl, who knows what else they think they can get away with.

Spidertranny as next year’s blockbuster?

Bond, Janice Bond. Winona Churchill seeing off the Nazis and saving Englandland. Adele Hitler conquering the world. Josephine Stalin enslaving it. There are more than enough possibilities to keep the cameras rolling until the punters stop buying it.

Contrarywise

9 March 2019

Princess Mhegan thinks her offspring, male or female, will be a feminist. Clearly, she has never heard of the tendency of children to do the opposite of what their parents did becoz they are stropky little sods.

Some post-Brexit vocabulary

9th March 2019

Coshon – vicious, stropky Frog with a club.

Truth, schmuth

10th March 2019

The Northern Ireland Sec. flushed a lot of unpleasant people out of the bushes with her assertion that deaths caused by the police and army in Northern Ireland in the last century were not crimes. There’s nothing like being crushingly right for upsetting the usual suspects and their allies.

What is a crime is prosecuting troops on the basis of evidence gathered from a crime scene which was contaminated/sanitized by terrorists and their stooges before the forensic mob were allowed anywhere near it.

The evidence presented at a prosecution will be a joke; not that the members of the legal profession who are making money out of the trial will be bothered by that.

A great way to spend an afternoon

11th March 2019

The return of MotoGP is very welcome – in Qatar this weekend. One of the Moto3 riders was a Mr. Arbolino, whose first name isn't Vince! Not something that fascinated the cat, however.

She spent yesterday's wet morning asleep. Then she had some lunch and went out to enjoy the sun just after 2 p.m. And came back soggy.

It was great to see Cal Crutchlow, who's survived an 185 mph crash, claim a place on the podium with Dovi and Marc Marquez after the main race.

Trust a TV Cockney? Yeah, right!

11th March 2019

When, I wonder, did advertisers decide that people trust Cockney spivs? There's the bloke who tells us he gambles responsabli (sic), and the Morrisons' wonky foods bloke. Let's face it, Cockneys are no longer automatically lovable in C21.

Not a remake too far

11th March 2019

Against expectations, the all-female Ghostbusters film was a good watch; probably because it had Melissa McCarthy in it. She's an absolute hoot!

Not so Intelligent Design

12th March 2019

Friction has been voted the most annoying property of the physical world. It glues surfaces together when you want them to slide apart and fails to provide stick when it is needed most.

She’s not for going?

13th March 2019

“She never wanted Brexit to happen in the first place and lo! she didn’t deliver it.”

Just warming up the current prime minister’s epitaph.

Calm down, dears, it’s only Twitting

13th March 2019

The Attorney General replies “Bollocks!” to some bollocks from Fuk Jon Sno and creates a sensation in the ranks of the usual suspects. How . . . expected.

Well, okay

14th March 2019

Man. City 7, some bunch of Germans no one has ever heard of 0 – and lucky to have nil.

Well done, City, but not actually a huge deal.

Where’s the regulator when you need one?

14th March 2019

One of my neighbours has suffered two closures of his ‘local’ branch by Lloyds bank but he still gets correspondence telling him that his phone numbers and other details can be changed ‘easily’ by doing it ‘in branch’.

Not if he has to drag his sorry carcase four miles to his current ‘local’ branch and four miles back.

Not even close to the target

15th March 2019

That ‘sticks & stones’ TV advert featuring the kid being tormented by a buzzing phone has to be in line for the **Worst**

Campaign In The World Award.

“Switch the bloody thing off, you moron!” or worse, the TV audience now yells at the screen, even with the sound muted.

It’s in your hands, maties

15th March 2019

The Labour party is beefing about an end to austerity again, which is quite insulting, really. Do they really think we’re too thick to realize that the last spell of Labour government made austerity necessary? And it won’t go away until Labour chancellors stop doing a Gordon F. Brown. That’s borrowing vast amounts of money, splurging it and leaving behind nothing to show for it but a vast Brown Hole of debt.

More fake news

16th March 2019

Is it front page news if the Home Sec. Has a pop at Facebook for live streaming the terrorist attack on the mosques in New Zealand? As virtue signalling is part of his job description, it would have been front page stuff only if he hadn’t done it.

You’re nicked

16th March 2019

“Making the thumb and index finger into a circle” isn’t a white power salute, it’s a sign that something is spot on, and a gesture we shouldn’t allow the fake news merchants to steal.

Historical moment

17th March 2019

The nation remains amazed that the Prime Minister is still alive and croaking (in a lost her voice sense) after the Ides of March.

Good job there's a re-run

17th March 2019

Anyone who dragged himself out of bed early to watch the Aussie Grand Prix season opener was doomed to disappointment. The shouty bloke was reduced to getting over-excited about 13th place and Hamilton was a good pit stop behind his team mate at the end in his second place.

The things people get away with

18th March 2019

Just watched *Zabriskie Point* (well, yesterday afternoon) mainly because I have the Pink Floyd album of the same name. Gordon Bennett! Was it tedious and boring and in need of some ruthless editing and in need of a plot with some substance. That's real substance, not 'certain substance', Mr. Antonioni.

Are they brave enough?

18th March 2019

Just watched some white schoolkids in New Zealand doing a Maori Haka in response to the attack on Moslem immigrants by an Aussie. Will the usual suspects dare to whinge about cultural burglary in this case?

They're everywhere

18th March 2019

There's even a Cockney spiv doing TV life insurance ads, I discovered during an episode of *Bones* on the FX channel yesterday evening. I hit the mute button during the wonky veg Cockney's assault on our senses.

Tell us another

19th March 2019

The experts have decided that adulthood begins at 30 these days, which means it's okay for 20-somethings to behave like big kids. Sounds like the experts have been at the wacky baccy.

There's a lot about

20th March 2019

The Europe Minister of France claims she has called her cat Brexit because he wakes her up in the middle of the night, miaowing to go out, but when she opens the door, he hovers on the doorsteps, and if she puts him out, he gives her an evil look.

One of the staff at the Mansion has a cat which does exactly the same – which is why he named her Frenchy.

Lost sounds

20th March 2019

The standard alibi for someone not noticing a gunshot; in a film or TV drama, at any rate; used to be that the person thought it was just a car back-firing. That's not something you hear any more. Or maybe I just need to get out more among people with crappy old cars.

Not never ever

21st March 2019

There's the ER doctor in a TV drama ordering an 'IV push' and there I am, thinking: "That's a bit superfluous. When do they ever order an 'IV pull'? And is that even possible?"

Just go; no one will miss you

21st March 2019

Out of fashion Bremonoer MP Dommy Grieve is whining that he’s ashamed to be a Tory. The good news is that he doesn’t have to be. The FOAD option remains open to him. It’s not compulsory to be a Tory MP and no one is twisting his arm.

Expert opinion

22nd March 2019

After watching an episode of *Diagnosis Murder* last night, we started wondering if anyone has done a study to find out how much of the currently fashionable tranny trend is an extreme form of homosexuality. That’s men and women having themselves got up to look like a member of the other sex in order to have relationships with heterosexual members of their own sex.

Or maybe that’s a project no one has dared to suggest for fear of being lynched by outrage confectors.

The shameless Blob

23rd March 2019

You have to wonder what sort of people are being allowed to take charge of schools these days – and at a salary comparable to the prime minister’s. Take Siobhan Lowe, the head of a school in Surbiton, for instance.

She went on Radio 4 to do some ‘the cuts’ shroud-waving and told a string of lies about her school’s finances, staffing and pupil levels – all of which were exposed in today’s paper.

Either she thought she could lie her head off and get away with it or she knew her lies would be exposed but she went ahead and told them anyway.

What sort of person is that to be running a school?

Nothing much changes

24th March 2019

Watching an episode of Starsky & Hutch last night – there was Starsky doing the alleged white power, circled thumb and finger gesture to Hutch.

Did he know what he was supposed to be doing? Especially as the next thing you know, he had to kill a black kid who was about to shoot him.

Predictably, the PC waxworks at the PD were all for throwing him to the wolves but the black witnesses were too honest to go along with the stitch-up.

Fanatics, don't you just luv them?

24th March 2019

Something that would be nice to know is where the Blue Planet fanatics are hoping to drag us. Because it seems to be toward an earthly paradise in which anyone who dares to weed their garden is locked up for crimes against biodiversity.

Just a cliché for C21?

25th March 2019

“It was like being on the *Titanic*”, people rescued from the Norwegian cruise liner which got into difficulties on Saturday. Which raises the obvious suspicion that there was a degree of prompting from Her Majesty's Press to get the cliché.

And if it really was like being on the *Titanic*, it was in a wimpy, C21 way with the ship not sinking and close enough to the shore for people to be helicoptered off despite the appalling weather.

You don't get maritime disasters like the ones in the Good Old Days any more.

STFU, you yobs

26th March 2019

Don't you just wish that once in a while, a yelled-at politician would go over to the yeller and tell him/her that no one loves a loudmouth git?

And there are the yellers in the background to BBC news reports from Parliament. Why aren't these skivers working on a workday instead of yobbing?

Export only?

27th March 2019

I was offered some posh red wine from Chile last night. It's called *The Flat Iron* (very Spanish) and there's a picture of a cow on the label. As they say, go figure. Or just enjoy the wine.

Education is a wonderful thing

27th March 2019

“This door's getting a bit Monet,” one of the staff at the Mansion remarked. It wasn't until he pointed out the small flakes of white paint on the floor that I realized he was saying it had been clawed – by the cat when a human slave failed to open the door fast enough.

The whole truth doesn't bash Whitey enough

27th March 2019

Don't you just wish the people rewriting the past of the likes of Edward Colson, slave trader and benefactor to the city of Bristol, would mention that he didn't round up the slaves himself – they were sold to him by other Africans.

And all the racist African students who come here to slag us off about the slave trade are descendants of the Africans who ran the slave trade there and direct beneficiaries of the wealth which the slave trade brought to Africa.

Quote for today

28th March 2019

“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.” But there is no guarantee it’s saying anything worth listening to.

Going, going . . . ?

28th March 2019

“Brexit means Brexit” – no, it didn’t. “No deal is better than a bad deal” – yeah, right!

What’s the point?

29th March 2019

What’s the point of having a general election when we know from direct recent experience that whatever the 2 main parties put in their manifesto, they’ll feel free to ignore if it suits them?

It’s definitely *Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me* time.

Good as any other

30th March 2019

We were talking about a definition for a boo-hoo bugger last night. I’m chuffed to report that my suggestion of someone who throws a confected wobbly when the prime minister quotes from a meerkat TV advert made the top ten.

Definitely not fooled

30th March 2019

You have to wonder about the mentality of the people who commission long, virtue-flagging TV adverts like the current

one for Nationwide. You might pay attention to the first couple of showings, then it’s, “Oh, Nationwide again, mute button, Jeeves.”

Worse, you start asking questions like: If the Nationwide is so wonderful because it’s a ‘mutual’, why do the bosses get million-pound salaries like the bosses of ‘commercial’ banks? And why are the interest rates for savers so pathetic?

Virtue? Ph-tuie!

Suppressed history

31st March 2019

Did I really hear a plug for a programme about The Native American Revolution on Forces TV? They kept very quiet about that one when I was at school.

Cats don’t have clocks

31st March 2019

. . . so how do they know what time it is? The cat usually goes out at 7 a.m. or so. She did it again today. Only it was really 6 a.m. GMT counting from yesterday and 7 a.m. only because of BST. Cats are just as smart as they seem to be.

Sensible planning

31st March 2019

How kind of the MotorGP organizers to hold today’s event in Argentina so that fans can watch the action during the afternoon instead of having to crawl out of bed at some ungodly BST hour.

The power of progress

1st April 2019

New technology always has a snag. What could it be in the case of the wonderful gadget which fills a room with either

cooled or heated purified air? Without bothering to check, my guess would be that the filters cost a fiver a time and they last about three days under heavy usage.

Too obvious

1st April 2019

“PM will not quit and may lead Tories into snap poll” – has to be an April Fool. Either that, or it’s Larry the cat’s cat-flap in the front door of 10 Downing Street.

TV adverts that defy reason

2nd April 2019

We will meet nearly 80,000 people in our lives so we have to drink instant coffee. Logic, but not as we know it, Jim.

They’re all at it

2nd April 2019

Nice to know that the Democrats are less virtuous than they pretend. “Creepy Uncle Joe” Biden, their presidential hopeful, has been included in the growing list of political sex pests. “Fake news,” is his response.

Incredible TV ad No. 149

3rd April 2019

Does anyone at all believe that an insurance company would send a guy who behaves like a cheap American hood round to help out someone whose rival insurance company has left them down? Pur-lease!

Nothing wrong with that

3rd April 2019

Why shouldn't soldiers use a picture of J. Corbyn for target practice. Freedom of self expression is a basis 'uman bloody right.

More of this would be good

4th April 2019

'His remains are in custody at a police station', implying that the cops short-circuited the legal process on someone who had it coming and saved the taxpayer a bomb, and only the lawyers are weeping.

Get it right next time!

4th April 2019

It seems that the Paras who filmed themselves shooting up a picture of J. Corbyn, the terrorist's friend, in Afghanistan were just using paintballs rather than real bullets. The Looney Left are up in arms at this slight and the implication that he isn't worth hot lead.

Another frustrating thing that cats do

5th April 2019

She walks to the back door and sits down. You open it and she turns round and goes the other way. A few minutes later, the same door is getting the Monet treatment. That's the cat telling you it has to be her idea to go out and she doesn't need hints from mere humans.

Pull the other one

5th April 2019

You have to wonder at the mentality of the people who write TV ads and the people who hire them. Like the gang who decided that people would buy a brand of toothpaste because

it contains two ingredients ‘found in Nature’.

Well, you can say the same about cyanide, nicotine, snake venom and every plant poison under the sun. Not to mention lead and other heavy metals. It’s not really that much of a recommendation.

Not many Persians left, either

6th April 2019

Reading about Brexit; well, skipping through the pages of shambles reports in the paper; I noticed that someone thought it was a good idea to point out that the original Spartans, who held the pass at Thermopylae for a while, all died. Which misses the point completely and wasn’t worth printing; except to embarrass whoever was being quoted, of course.

When you think about it . . .

6th April 2019

The prime minister is making a really big deal about The Union; probably as a preliminary to ditching it; but do we really need it? We could get along okay without the Welsh, the Irish have always been nothing but trouble and as for the Scots, they only signed up because they were flat broke, their rulers having done a Gordon Brown and blown the nation’s wealth on a mad colony scheme in Central America. England on its own would do okay.

A funny BBC comedy!

6th April 2019

DUPPI on Radio 4’s *The Now Show* was absolutely priceless. The laughter stops next week, though, when the luvvie *News Swiz* returns.

Only one area of agreement

7th April 2019

40% of people would rather have a biometric log-in, 30% prefer a password. And 100% would rather not have to mess about with either of the above because there is a ruthlessly imposed death penalty for on-line fraud and personation applied everywhere on the planet.

What went wrong?

8th April 2019

Falls over in amazement. An industrial tribunal actually **threw out** the case of a teacher, who couldn't read or write, who was sacked after the head teacher of the school discovered he couldn't read or write.

A REAL threat

9th April 2019

Why are we wasting so much time on Brexit when there are much greater challenges to be faced? Such as the fact that if Godzilla explodes, that will cause the atmosphere to expode and wipe out all life on the planet. See *Godzilla vs Destroyah* on Utube.

Crap campaign

9th April 2019

Instant coffee for “the moments that matter”? That's definitely one from the fevered pen of our old TV advertising mate Lou Dicrous.

Took a bit longer than Mr. Orwell expected

9 April 2019

It has been pointed out that the gap between when the novel *1984* was finished and when it is set is now the same as the gap between *1984* and now, when the Home and Culture Secs. are conspiring to put censorship of the internet into the

hands of the government.

No great loss

10th April 2019

We're told the Tories are worried that their party will vanish if it doesn't appeal to the young. Which means they are in dead trouble as the current bunch of deadlegs has no appeal for anyone. Given that the same applies to all the other parties, we can dream that MPs will become extinct whilst knowing the crooks will never leave us alone.

What do you have to do to be a Web billionaire?

10th April 2019

To be like the Twitter billionaire, you have to have only one meal a day, you have to starve through grub-free weekends and in the morning, you have to walk five miles to work after an ice bath between sessions in a sauna. And you don't get any breakfast as the only meal you're allowed is dinner.

No, thanks!

Trust a politician? Right!

11th April 2019

One day, the gang in Ecuador say they have no intention of booting out their resident fugitive from justice, who has been in their London embassy for 7 years. The next, he's having his collar felt by the Old Bill and looking like Howard Hughes. No doubt there's a fumigation squad on the job as I write.

Multitasking

11th April 2019

I was surprised to read that firemen in the Devon & Somerset service have consented to train as special constables so that they can nick villains when there are no fires to put out. Such flexibility is highly unusual when trade unions are involved.

Slight complication

12th April 2019

Don't you just love it when the SNP try to be annoying and get their bums bitten! They want to stay in the EU and they want independence. But, as the PM pointed out to their figurehead, if Scotland becomes independent of the UK, that's its membership of the EU gone. And applying to join, even if the EU is willing to accept another drain on its finances, would take years.

Net result: an independent Scotland loses both direct subsidies from the English taxpayer and the indirect ones, which it gets via EU grants.

A knotty problem!

12th April 2019

Amazon has been forced to admit that it has employees listening in on customers who use the Alexa gadget. But they're not allowed to call the cops if they hear someone being raped or murdered. We obviously need a new proverb for Amazon: Two wrongs make a MegaWrong.

Recycled mouse, anyone?

13th April 2019

The wildlife around the Mansion includes mice. None indoors, and no one has seen one running around outdoors, but gardeners have reported finding half-chewed bodies from time to time. And then wondered what to do with them.

Is it the black bin for a decent burial in landfill? Or the green bin for recycling organic stuff?

No excitement in China

15th April 2019

Predictably, the 1,000th F1 Grand Prix race, in China, was a routine procession. But it did go to a win for the British driver, which is as it should be. There was a bit of dodgems on the first lap, then it all settled down.

No need to panic

15th April 2019

I was interested to read that Nepal is sending a team of surveyors to the top of Mount Everest to find out if the mountain has shrunk following an earthquake of almost 8 on the Richter scale in the region in April 2015. Informed opinion is that the highest mountain on land has nothing to worry about.

The Doctor duffed up

15th April 2019

Good job there's MotoGP to give motorsport fans some excitement. Marc Marquez beat himself and fell off at the Circuit of the Americas (what, all of them?) And let Alex Rins win his first ever MotoGP race in Texas. Shame the battered Cal Crutchlow couldn't stay on his bike.

Job creation?

16th April 2019

No doubt the authorities in Glasgow, who allowed their iconic School of Art to be burnt to the ground not once but twice during restoration work, are feeling a little less isolated after the fire that gutted Notre Dame cathedral in Paris.

One favourable spin-off is that the cathedral is likely to get all the cash it needs for rebuilding after the French government offered just £40 million of the £130 million needed pre-fire.

Self-possession to the max

17th April 2019

Why is it that the cat never takes any notice when another cat is miaowing its head off in a TV drama just a couple or three yards away? Not a flicker. No desire to check out a potential friend or rival. Nada.

Virtue flag waved

17th April 2019

“Think climate, wash at 30⁰C”

Won't make any difference to the climate but you can pretend it has.

Don't bother me now

17th April 2019

The survival of a big, gilded crucifix in Notre Dame cathedral is being touted as a miracle by at least one over-excited journo – mainly because it takes a good photo. But what's the message in the miracle?

“Omnipresent, all-seeing and all-powerful God was here, cudda saved the whole building but chose not to get involved beyond a very small gesture.”

That certainly puts the value God places on customer service in high perspective.

Rule No. 1 for amateur chefs

18th April 2019

Never let your knives be too sharp so that they bounce off on contact with your fingers, sparing you a starring role in an episode of **Me & A & E**.

Zero expectations; or even less

18th April 2019

We’ve become so used to the police being useless, like the ones letting lefty ecoyobs run riot in London, that we’re surprised only when they manage to achieve something useful. And those surprises seem to be very few and far between.

Very enterprising

19th April 2019

I was amused to read that Lyme Regis is getting round the ban on doing away with seagulls which attack people by hiring tame eagles to frighten the gulls away and make them someone else’s problem.

High tech, low use

19th April 2019

I won’t be investing in one of the new Samsung phones with a screen which folds in half when it’s not in use. Not if their working life is anything between a few hours and a couple of days!

No need to panic

20th April 2019

Is the PM going to be bothered over the refusal of Tory local councillors and their Conservative Associations (my local one included) to canvas for the Euro elections? Given her limited shelf life right now, probably not.

And there’s no nonsense about securing her legacy because she doesn’t have one. Brexit didn’t mean Brexit.

One of Evolution’s flops. Bye-ee!

20th April 2019

That pathetic little clown doing the whinge for the TV cameras about not wanting to be the last generation was utterly priceless. But if that’s the best the human race can manage, it deserves to go extinct.

Advice for travellers No. 113

21st April 2019

“Her price is far above rubles” – if so, better take some dollars on your next trip to Russia if you want to get lucky.

Ain’t life confusing at times!

22nd April 2019

Ho, ho, ho! It’s Easter on Earth but a couple of days before Xmas in Starsky & Hutchland. Something Hutch does not enjoy. Donner und Blitzkrieg. TV is definitely another country.

Someone’s doing okay out of it

23rd April 2019

983 arrests for yobism by ecolouts and only 40 charges? Lots of lovely overtime for the police of the Metropolis, though.

Detectors set to maximum

24th April 2019

You need a pretty good stopwatch to time the interval between someone yanking the ring-pull on a tin of tuna in springwater and the cat arriving with a hopeful look on her face.

So much for her 15 minutes

24th April 2019

“Listen to the science,” a Swedish child ecologist told us in her TV lecture. Which invites the reply: “If you haven’t, why should anyone else?”

Train wreck

25th April 2019

What’s going on? Just about everything I watched on TV last evening ended up “to be continued . . .” Which means that I have to remember what happened previously in three shows. Is this a record?

The truth behind the stat

25th April 2019

Britons throw away food worth £494 million every week? I don’t even spend a tiny fraction of that on food, so thanks to whoever is handling my share. But the statistic certainly makes all the experts who claim the world can’t grow enough food to feed the population look like idiots.

Distribution, not production, is clearly the real problem.

Sorry you asked?

26th April 2019

“Hey, how are you feeling on this wonderful morning?”

“Like I’m sitting on a superloo with a toilet roll in front of me and another behind me and they’ve both nearly run out.”

Bond 25 ain’t Black

26th April 2019

James Bond vs Freddie Mercury in the next epic? Sounds like fun; as long as we remember to call the bimbos ‘persons in

supplementary roles’ rather than gals – something they’re a little old to be.

If so, who cares?

27th April 2019

If it’s true that Olympics star Mo Farah was involved in a brawl in a gym, are we outraged? Not even slightly bovvered, myself. Especially if the bloke trying to stitch Mo up is doing it out of embarrassment over Mo being robbed at his hotel.

Highly adaptable

27th April 2019

Watching an ancient episode of *Van der Valk* on TV the other day, I was struck by how alien it was in setting as well as time. Which set me wondering if, when Scandinavian Noir became fashionable, someone remembered Kommissaris Valk and realized that a British audience could handle alien cop shows.

Fell over in amazement

27th April 2019

Listened to the *News Quiz* on Radio 4 this lunchtime – it was remarkably free of usual suspects (except for Mark Steel, who is always welcome) – and it was funny!!!

Has there been a coup at the Beeb?

Who dreams up this stuff!

28th April 2019

There was a TV advert which used to make a big deal out of taking only one bottle into the shower because the shampoo also contained conditioner. Now, multi-bottle expeditions seem to be fashionable.

There’s this young lady who has a special shampoo for the hair ‘down there’ because it has a different pH. Presumably, she also has further bottles the hair on her legs and under her arms. And then there’s the issue of whether hair ‘down there’, which isn’t usually on show, needs conditioner.

Life can get very complicated if you let the advertisers get to you!

The easy blame game

29th April 2019

A professor has blamed closures of heavy industry; coal, steel, shipbuilding, etc.; when Margaret Thatcher was president for a significant increase in crime in the affected areas.

The message seems to be that the closures weren’t due to all these things becoming cheaper abroad. Rather that Mrs. Thatcher did it on a whim because she wasn’t a nice person. Sounds like the study was done by Professor B. Elton.

A quiet life

29th April 2019

Given the choice, I’d rather watch a Formula One Grand Prix race on Channel 4 than Sky, if only to get away from Sky’s shouty bloke. Neither of the pair commentating for C4 ever feels the need to thrash himself into a frenzy over a passing manoeuvre for 15th place.

Quiet in another sense

30th April 2019

There are local council elections in a couple of days but you’d never know it. No signs up demanding votes, no leaflets through the door and no canvassers. The total shambles created over Brexit seems to have turned politics into something furtive and unmentionable.

A little noise

1st May 2019

After making yesterday's observation, some things crashed through the letterbox. Among them was a polling card for the Euro elections on May 23rd. Looks like Mrs. Brexit means Brexit is going ahead with wasting £100 million of taxpayers' cash.

Deflated easily

1st May 2019

Excited noises from the Indian army about finding Yeti tracks in snow, each footprint a monster 32" by 15", have become somewhat muffled after experts pointed out that their beast would have to be as big as a good-size dinosaur, and there's nothing like that living in the Himalayas.

It's great being fireproof

2nd May 2019

When you're on the skids, nothing you do matters and no one has any expectations of you any more. Which lets the prime minister sack her Defence Secretary arbitrarily; probably as revenge for the young lad being cheeky to her in the past, and no one gives a monkey's. Except Labour politicians who are trying to confection outrage, of course.

That's bound to happen

2nd May 2019

We're all expected to stop producing greenhouse gases by 2050 – presumably, that includes breathing out carbon dioxide? And we're not allowed to have cars, gas central heating, meat to eat and a whole bunch of other stuff? And the rest of the world is supposed to fall over in amazement and

follow suit? The taxpayer is having to pay wages to some seriously weird and useless people.

It's also human to mock the self-afflicted

3rd May 2019

Oh, dear. People who took six or seven hours to complete the London Marathon course were upset by being laughed at by the gangs of council workers, who were clearing up the debris of a major street event. Whatever happened to grin and bear it in these Snoflake days?

Do Not Open!

3rd May 2019

Private Pike-Williamson has the perfect defence to whatever the PM thinks she has on him – the national interest and exposing government dodginess. No wonder the PM is so eager to draw a line under everything and move on.

Blue electron haze

4th May 2019

There are certainly things going on that are weirder than anything I could imagine. I'm reading *Build Your Own Time Machine* by Brian Clegg and I now know that the ghostly blue glow that comes from some nuclear reactors is emitted by electrons which are travelling *faster* than the speed of light in the liquid around the fuel elements.

It's a useless bit of information as far as what I do is concerned, but fascinating none the less.

Oh, calamity!

4th May 2019

The Tories had losing 800 council seats in Thursday's local elections as their worst case scenario. In the event, it was

1,300 Tory bums with nowhere to park. Clearly, their doom-sayers aren’t doomy enough.

Firefox is weird

4th May 2019

Today, my Firefox browser’s Add-Ons Manager told me:

Some add-ons have been disabled

The following add-ons have not be verified for use in Firefox.

But lower down the screen was the message:

You don’t have any add-ons of this type installed.

Slow, clunky, weird and demented seems to be what Firefox is all about.

Moto2 Mayhem

5th May 2019

We’re still wondering how no one got killed in that crazy start to the Moto2 motorbike race in Jerez this afternoon. Bikes crashing other bikes out of the race is one thing but human bodies doing it is something else entirely.

Non-event in Scotland

5th May 2019

“An earthquake has hit Scotland’s West Coast”. Really? Tell me more.

Richter 1.0, no reports of damage.

No reports from people, either, I’ll bet. That sort of non-event is instruments only.

How many earthquakes have I survived? Five, so I know what I’m talking about.

Google mystery

5th May 2019

Someone else mentioned this to me at the start of the week and I’ve confirmed it for myself. The Blogger site offers statistics for visits to your page including “Pageviews last

month”. It is now May and the total displayed must apply to April.

My friend noticed that his Pageview count for the previous month can go down. Does that mean that people can go back to your site and decide to cancel the record of a previous visit? Weird if they can.

Observation vs theory

6th May 2019

Have I slipped a day? The Sun is shining so this can't possibly be a bank holiday. Not if global warming is making today the coldest Bank Holiday Monday on record.

Google mystery continued

6th May 2019

I checked the pageviews stat yesterday and I've done it again today. In that interval, 100 views have gone. Very weird!

Back to normal

7th May 2019

Bank Holiday over, it's back to the usual phone pests. No. 1 was some bloke with an Indian accent telling me my internet connection has been contaminated. No. 2 was one of those nuisance calls where the connection is dropped as soon as you pick up the receiver.

But, no doubt, the exercise of going to the phone to answer it did me a bit of good.

Well done, me!

7th May 2019

I'm feeling very virtuous. I never, ever consume any of the Top Ten evil sugary drinks, which are supposed to be killing off the unthinking members of society at a hell of a rate.

Google mystery; last word

7th May 2019

I did another check of the last month's pagevisit count stat again today and it has gone up compared to yesterday. Which means that people have been travelling back in time to visit my contributions here in April.

The experts often ask where the time travellers are if time travel is possible. The answer, clearly, is that they are here among us but so well disguised that no one can spot them.

How reassuring!

8th May 2019

Nothing to worry about going on in the world – can't be if the *Daily Mail* is reduced to wondering if baby Sussex will get a US passport as it's front-page lead.

Ignore the first 9 pages; the content proper starts on page 10.

Anyone remember the end of World War Two in Europe on this day back in 1945?

Secret vice

8th May 2019

The sight of someone lighting a pipe in an episode of *Van de Valk* last night set me wondering if people still smoke them. I can't remember the last time I saw someone wandering around with a pipe in his gob. Maybe it's now done behind closed doors and drawn curtains, like all other perversions.

Screening test

9th May 2019

Wouldn't it be great if Oh, Jeremy Corbyn's pronouncements were reported only if he had something worthwhile on offer. Oh, the blessed silence.

Grabbing the credit

9th May 2019

The government will pay to replace flammable cladding on private tower blocks? Bollocks. The government doesn't have any money. The **taxpayer** will have to pay. As always.

Full scream ahead

10th May 2019

Oh, dear! Prince Chuck ticked off for being pals with a perverted priest. A chance for the Labour party to sound off at the royals?

One snag; they have a leader with a history of cosying up to the nastiest bastards on the planet. A whiff of hypocrisy? Well, what does that matter when there are political points to be scored!

What do you do at 5 a.m.?

11th May 2019

Having woken up at that ungodly hour for no apparent reason, I did manage to recall a missed clue from the *Mail's* general knowledge crossword – and still remember it when I got up at a more civilized hour.

Easy money

11th May 2019

I wonder if the Equalizer got paid all that much for last night's double episode; especially if he spent most of it flat on his back, kidnapped by the KGB and they had to draft in Robert Mitchum as the guest heavy.

It's the boots that are too big

12th May 2019

I wonder if Russians smirk a bit when they see a reference to one of our plague of ‘tsars’. After all, being the Global Warming Tsar for Little Wittering Borough Council is pretty small beer compared to being Tsar of all the Russias.

A quiet life on Sunday

13th May 2019

If we can't have lots of drama and excitement in Formula One, I suppose we can settle for something to have on TV in the background while reading the papers until it's time to look up and realize that the British bloke has won. Which is as it should be.

Who are they kidding but themselves?

13th May 2019

Support for solar power among the public is 89%, we are informed by the industry. Believe that and you'll believe anything.

Nasty is as nasty does

14th May 2019

It's fascinating, watching the reaction to the attempted character assassination done by Hit-Man Marr on Nigel Farage. Remainers and everyone who's trying to prop up the prime monster think he did a grand job.

Brexiters and those who can see through Mrs. May know he was just doing a BBC Bremonoaner hatchet job and playing the man, not the ball.

Sounds a good way to waste a hell of a lot of time

14th May 2019

WhatsApp has had to plug a leak caused by “an advanced cyber-actor”. What sort of weirdo comes up with names like that for hackers? And what are the chances of anyone getting anything worthwhile out of the mountains of dross circulating in cyberspace?

Must try harder

15 May 2019

Where do you put the hyphen in Portsmouth at a line break? Certainly not after Port, especially if there is room to finish the line with Ports-.

But I suppose such things are inevitable if control of the language is ceded to ill-educated computers and humans are too idle to do proof reading.

Dead giveaway

16th May 2019

Do companies hold their customers in utter contempt? They must if they think people will respond to TV ads featuring some character behaving like a cheap hood (insurance) or even an expensive one (bread).

False dawn

16th May 2019

A British treatment revolution which could reduce cancer to a chronic condition? Great! Not for at least a decade? Not so great.

Forlorn hope

17th May 2019

Some wiseguy academic would have us believe that doing crosswords and puzzles is good for sharpening up the brain.

I find that doing the *Daily Mail's* General Knowledge crossword just tells me how successful I've been in avoiding trendy TV and stuff, and how much of what I used to know has withered from lack of use!

Mugs will buy any silly story

17th May 2019

A fad which qualifies as genuine lunacy – paying 4 quid for a bottle of water, which has been left outdoors on the night of a full Moon to become charged with lunar energies, which boost psychic powers. Yeah, right.

Tweaking reality

18th May 2019

Apparently, there's a campaign going on to make conversation more interesting by imaginative use of adjectives. Which means if there's a pong of onions in the kitchen, the educated conversationalist has to come up with a phrase like: “Crumbs! What an ablative odour of onions. Fair sears the nasal passages!”

No contest

18th May 2019

Some of the staff at the Mansion predict 3-1 for Man. City in the Cup Final. Others think it will be 3-0 and Watford will be lucky to get nil. The rest can't see what all the fuss is about.

Modern proverb

19th May 2019

You can open the back door for the cat, but she will go out only if it's her idea.

Bright idea!

19th May 2019

A brilliant suggestion for when the Notre Dame cathedral is rebuilt – a cross-shaped swimming pool on the roof. Should come in handy next time there’s a fire!

An epic event

19th May 2019

Six goals in a Cup final!? Who’d a thunk it.! Nearly as good as Germany hammering Brazil 7-1 in the 2014 World Cup. Everyone who said Watford would be lucky to get nil is looking v. smug.

The Miracle of Le Mans

19th May 2019

Wow! How did everyone manage to dodge that crashed motorbike which zoomed back on to the track during lap 1 of the Moto3 race? Great second ever win for Scotland’s John McPhee.

Two crashes on the sighting lap for the MotoGP race!! But it was a good day for everyone called Marquez in Moto2 and MotoGP.

Let’s have a bit of truth for a change

20th May 2019

“52 migrants were caught trying to sneak to Britain in flimsy boats”, we are told. Really? What they actually did was park in the Channel and let the UK Border Farce import them.

So much for progress and evolution

20th May 2019

How did the railways switching to a summer timetable become news? When I was commuting, it was just something

that happened and you had to remember to swap your old winter timetable for another one, which was substantially the same. No big deal. Certainly not news.

Words of wisdom

21st May 2019

“The mind suffers from junk food as much as the body does” – that’s why a cult in the TV series *The Mental Case* didn’t let kids at one of its brainwashing centres have access to the internet.

Not a bad idea for the real world. But probably much too sensible to be applied.

Recycled sci-fi

21st May 2019

Man of the People – an interesting variation of the vampire theme in this episode of *Star Trek: TNG*, which was on last night. I keep being surprised by episodes that I don’t remember seeing before, despite being a dedicated student of the series.

A real legend gone

22nd May 2019

The news that Nikki Lauda is no longer with us came as a shock. He really did seem to be indestructible after surviving that crash in 1976 and the subsequent medical complications.

Time loop

22nd May 2019

After watching again the film version of H.G. Wells’ *Things To Come*, it struck me that we’re still living the plot with the climate cowboys playing the role of the technophobes and pretending that they can prevent change, which is the natural

order of things. That saying about people who forget the past are doomed to keep reliving it was never more true.

Privacy vs Security

23rd May 2019

People who indulge in what the majority of law-abiding citizens would term anti-social behaviour want the police to stop doing facial recognition scans of them in public places.

The police claim that scans which don't push a panic button are destroyed immediately. But which side of the argument does anyone trust least – the police or agitators?

To boldly go where no one else is daft enough to

23rd May 2019

That's the only conclusion to be derived from the Star Trek:TNG episode *Rascals*, in which Captain Picard and three others end up in teenage bodies with unchanged mentalities. I'm not sure which came first, this epic or the episode of Stargate SG-1, in which Colonel O'Neill suffered the same fate.

Things I never knew No. 384

23rd May 2019

An Asian woman who has an affair with a white European man is a bacon basher.

This should work

24th May 2019

Given the uniformly dreadful performance of Britain's police farces, maybe we need to try to recruit some Texas Rangers. Even the girls can beat the crap out of bad guys in their documentaries on the CBS Justice TV channel.

The 21st Century Unreliable English Dictionary

24th May 2019

Letter M:

molested (n) – it’s like a homestead but for moles.

There’s no luvvie demand for it

25th May 2019

Strange that no one is planning to remake Othello with a white person in the lead and a non-white Iago.

But diversity and casual racialism seems to go in only one direction.

Things you learn from TV

25th May 2019

Blimey! The Islamic Jihad mob was causing bother back when the Equalizer was shooting bad guys in New York 30-odd years ago.

This came out of an episode in which Robert McCall was aiding a Sarf Efrican terrorist, who was female and not at all that blick. But she ended up a good terrorist. 23 million more to go, McCall told the SA diplomat, whose life he had just saved.

Not saving the world

26th May 2019

Don’t you just love it when a public body tries to wave a virtue flag and fails miserably. Like the mob in London, who are trying to impose a 15 mph speed limit on an area where the average daytime speed is just 8 mph.

Didn't watch it myself

26th May 2019

There has been a remake of *The Italian Job*, I noticed when studying last night's TV menu. Who's going to watch that? was my reaction. After all, if the original is a classic with a faultless cast of real stars, doing a remake can only be pointless.

Utter tripe

27th May 2019

“Mount Everest has claimed 10 lives already this season”, we are assured. B.S. Mountains are not serial killers. They just sit there, indifferent to the life-forms that crawl about on them.

Just not bloody trying – to do a good job, that is

27th May 2019

I quickly switched on the subtitles for that film on Channel 4 after the Grand Prix – *Arrival*. The cast were either SHOUTING or inaudible all the way through. Not a brilliant production job. Even the subtitles for what the aliens were saying were so badly placed as to be illegible a lot of the time.

What would they do without Brexit?

27th May 2019

An interesting snippet in the Dominic Lawson column in today's *Daily Mail*: immoral businesses like BA invent bogus EU regulations when customers complain about poor service and then complain about the excuse offered.

Okay, it's not live but so what!

28th May 2019

I wonder why Sky Sports advertises its F1 channel (complete with the obnoxious shouty bloke) during the free-to-air

Channel 4 versions of the races? Why pay 30-odd quid per month for something which just involved putting up with a few adverts when it's on Channel 4?

Handy scapegoats

28th May 2019

Is it fair to blame the Tories if the electorate is stupid enough to vote in an economy-wrecking Labour government.

Actually, no. But since when has life been fair?

Tripe endures

29th May 2019

Van der Valk, 30 years ago, and there was a silly story being spread that global warming will wipe out Holland's reclaimed land by 2030.

Right now, there's a Democrap member of the US House of Representatives claiming that the world will end in 2030 unless everyone does what she says.

Not even close

30th May 2019

The BBC was describing the current prime minister as 'outgoing' on the lunchtime TV news. Wrong. She's actually very reserved and uncommunicative, according to reports from those who have met her.

Could even be a hate crime

30th May 2019

Dragging Boris Johnson into court is an actual pyramid of piffle. If anyone deserves a milk shake, it's that hissy Bre-moaner twerp who's trying to stifle Brexit.

Must do better

31st May 2019

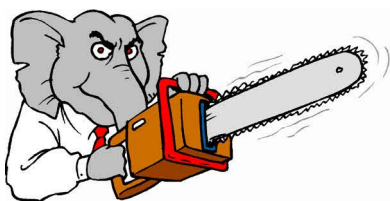
The leaks of the plot of the next Bond film are being described as chilling. Which doesn't sound all that thrilling. Who'd pay good money to see James Bond chilling and doing a David Cameron impression in a caravan or an expensive hot tub?

A minor mystery

31st May 2019

I had a glimpse of a small van today bearing a slogan that was about “mobile plants”. It zoomed off before I could read the rest and ask the driver if the mobile plants concerned had wheels or legs.

There is more . . .



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