

"Anarchy in the UK"



On 22 August 2007 the fatal shooting of an 11 year old boy, Rhys Jones, stunned Britain. The boy was shot in the neck and police believe he may have been the unintended victim of gang warfare in Liverpool.

A week later three men were shot dead at a suburban house in an attack from which a three-year-old girl escaped unhurt. Father

and son Keith and Matthew Cowell, aged 52 and 17, and an unnamed 33-year-old man were killed in the shooting Tuesday night in the commuter town of Bishop's Stortford, 56 kilometres north of London.

Two women aged 54 and 23 were seriously injured and are being treated in hospital for gunshot wounds.

The deaths have shocked the nation, where handguns are illegal and gun crime is relatively rare. However, a recent string of high profile shootings and stabbings has raised concerns about guns and gang violence in the country.

In response David Cameron, the Conservative Leader, talked tough on tackling teenage jobs – with an allusion to a Sex Pistols hit from 1976.

Mr Cameron said there was "Anarchy in the UK" that would not be tackled unless more was done to strengthen family life.

His words will please Tory traditionalists who fear Mr Cameron has abandoned Conservative sacred cows such as the value of the family, although they may be less impressed by his punk rock phraseology.

"We are not going to deal with anarchy in the UK unless we actually strengthen families and communities in the UK," he said.

Last week the Chief Constable of Cheshire Police, Peter Fahy, said parents who refuse to take responsibility for their children's under-age drinking should be forced into accepting police offers of support.

He also called for the legal age for buying alcohol to be raised from 18 to 21. But Mr Cameron rejected calls to raise the age at which alcohol can be bought, saying this would not solve the problem.

He added, "You have got to get behind the crime figures and ask yourself why is there so much social disorder and breakdown in Britain? Why is it that there is so much concern about young people running out of control?"

"I believe it's because of social breakdown, it's because of family breakdown, it's because of a lack of discipline in schools, it's a lack of proper values being taught in the home.

"We are not really going to solve the crime problem unless we solve the family problem."

Source: <http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk>, <http://iafrica.com>

Timeline: Canada A chronology of key events:

2003 March - Canada opts not to join the US-led coalition against Iraq. The move sparks fierce domestic political debate, and Prime Minister Chretien comes under fire from Washington.

2003 March-April - Toronto is hit by the biggest outbreak of the flu-like Sars virus outside Asia.

2003 April - Liberal Party beats the Parti Quebecois in provincial elections in Quebec, ending nine years of rule by the pro-independence party.

2003 14 August - Biggest power cut in North American history hits Toronto, Ottawa and other parts of Ontario as well as cities in the US.

Quebec to rule on English-language schooling

About 75 Quebec school children will continue to be barred from registering in an English-language public school in the province despite a court ruling last week that they have the constitutional right to make such a switch.

On the cusp of the new school year, Judge Andre Rochon of Quebec Court of Appeal this morning granted a Quebec government request to suspend implementation of an August 22 judgment by a three-judge panel of the same court.

By a 2-1 margin, that panel had ruled that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms takes precedence over the Charter of the French Language, and that Bill 104, which changed the rules of admissibility to Quebec's English public schools, was unconstitutional.

The families involved have waited five years for their case to come this far - and will now be left in limbo for another two or three years. Judge Andre Rochon of Quebec Court of Appeal said Wednesday he expects to issue a "short, written judgment" Thursday morning that will write the latest chapter in the province's continuing battles over English-language schooling. Rochon will determine whether about 75 Quebec children whose first language is not English or French will be able to switch to English public schools in the province this fall - while they await a ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada that may take several years.

The 75 have the constitutional right to such schooling under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, according to a split ruling issued last week by three Court of Appeal judges. Charter of the French Language introduced by the previous Parti Quebecois government in 2002 and adopted unanimously by Quebec's National Assembly.

Bill 104 barred non-anglophone children who previously attended private English-language school from transferring to English public schools in Quebec.

Within hours of the Aug. 22 decision, however, the Quebec government moved to have it suspended.

It should be placed on the backburner pending a final ruling from the highest court in the land, Quebec government lawyer Benoit Belleau argued before Rochon Wednesday.

Otherwise, he said, enforcement of last week's judgment would cause "irreparable prejudice" to the promotion of the French language.

Last week's decision had by Tuesday triggered 48 fresh applications for eligibility certificates, Belleau told Rochon, documents which are required before Quebec students can be permitted to register in a public English-language elementary or high school.

Justice delayed is justice denied - especially for children whose interests are given legislative primacy under the Quebec Civil Code, argued lawyer Brent Tyler, acting on behalf of the families.

Should Rochon grant the suspension, he added, families and their children would have to wait at least one or two years to exercise a constitutional right they've already been pursuing for five years and which has now been upheld by a court.



Source: <http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette>

Prince Harry leads Diana tributes



Prince Harry today led tributes to Diana, Princess of Wales, on the 10th anniversary of her death with a deeply emotional eulogy describing his mother as a "guardian, friend and protector" to him and Prince William.

"She will always be remembered for her amazing public work," Harry told a memorial service at Guards Chapel, near Buckingham Palace, that was attended by the Queen, Prince Charles and around 500 others.

"But behind the media glare, to us, just two loving children, she was quite simply the best mother in the world," he said,

before adding with a slight smile: "We would say that wouldn't we?"

Immediately afterwards, the bishop of London urged people to stop bickering about Diana's memory, a reference in part to the persistent theory that the car crash in the early hours of August 31 1997 that killed Diana, Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul was not an accident.

"Still, 10 years after her tragic death, there are regular reports of fury at this or that incident, and the princess's memory is used for scoring points," the Rt Rev Richard Chartres told the congregation, adding: "Let it end here."

At times struggling to contain his emotions, Harry spoke of his and William's feelings about the car crash in the early hours of August 31 1997 that killed their mother.

"It was an event which changed our lives forever, as it must have done for everyone who lost someone that night," he said. "We both think of her every day," said Harry, now 22 and an army officer. "We speak about her and laugh at all our memories."

The service, largely organised by the princes, was the centrepiece of a series of events marking the anniversary. The day illustrated two points in particular, firstly that the cult of Diana is, while diminished, has by no means disappeared. It also showed that whatever the hopes of the bishop of London, and William and Harry, many Britons refuse to accept Diana's death was an accident.

While crowds were slow to build outside Wellington Barracks, home to the Guards Chapel, by the time the Queen and Prince Philip arrived to loud cheers people were pressed dozens deep against barriers along the pavement.

Shortly before the service began a Channel 4 News poll was released showing that a quarter of Britons still believe Diana was murdered.

The conspiracy theories are most loudly and regularly expressed by Dodi's father, Mohamed Al Fayed, who was not invited to the memorial service, although his daughter, Camilla Fayed, attended. The Harrods owner maintains the crash was engineered in a conspiracy involving British intelligence officers and the royal family over fears Diana might marry Dodi, a Muslim. Official investigations in both France and the UK concluded instead that the couple died because their driver, Paul, was drunk, speeding and had not been trained to drive the heavy armoured Mercedes.

At 11am, staff and shoppers at Harrods observed two minute's silence. Mr Al Fayed stood with his head bowed as escalators, televisions and music were switched off.

Some of those inside said they supported Mr Fayed's version of events. "There's definitely something more to it than meets the eye and I think Mr Al Fayed is probably right that the government were involved," said Alison Wormald, who travelled from Nottinghamshire with her mother and two children for the tribute.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

The Rugby World Cup



The long awaited Rugby World Cup begins on Friday 7th September 2007 in Saint-Denis, Paris, with a clash between France, the hosts, and Argentina currently number 4 in the world rankings. The 20 nations that will converge on France for RWC 2007 are England, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, France, South Africa, Ireland, Australia, Samoa, Fiji, Argentina, Canada, USA, Romania, Italy, Namibia, Japan, Georgia, Tonga and Portugal. England's first game is against the USA in Lens on Saturday 8th September with Wales playing Canada and Scotland playing Portugal on the 9th. For a direct link to the RWC 2007 web site see www.britclub.ca.

Finance

A family car is an expensive purchase, so why not let the government subsidise the cost?

Let's say you want to spend \$25,000 on a new car and, like most of us, you don't have the cash available. The downside of conventional financing, through the car company or via a personal loan from a bank, is the monthly payment, which is relatively high. Additionally, the dealers usually require a reasonable down payment, so the initial out-of-pocket cost is higher when buying a car. Also, when the warranty runs out, all maintenance costs are down to you.



What about leasing? Perhaps the greatest benefit of leasing a car is the lower out-of-pocket costs when acquiring and maintaining the car. Leases require little or no down payment and there are no up-front sales-tax payments. Additionally, monthly payments are usually lower, and you get the pleasure of owning a new car every few years.

Here's a great little tip that can make the payments on the lease very small:

In Canada interest on an investment loan is tax deductible at your marginal tax rate (The tax rate you pay on your last dollar of income). Let's say your marginal tax rate is 42%. So, instead of borrowing directly pay for a car, take out a \$25,000 investment loan. Think of this as the engine that drives the process. Invest the cash in mutual funds with a systematic withdrawal plan paying out say \$250.00 per month. The interest you pay on the \$25,000 (Taking a conservative interest rate of 8% for the purposes of the illustration) will be \$164.00 per month interest only. However, this payment is tax deductible so the net payment will be \$95.15 per month.

After say 5 years, because of compound growth, you still have \$18,380.00 of the \$25,000 initial investment left. In addition you have used \$15,000 to pay the car lease. So the actual worth of investing \$25,000 over 5 years is \$33,380.00 (\$18,380.00 + \$15,000.00). Of course the withdrawal of cash can be adjusted so that the invested capital does not deplete.

The fact is you get to drive a new vehicle with bumper to bumper coverage (In many cases), which you can change every three years. The monthly cash layout is less than \$100 and the government are paying \$68.85 per month toward the cost of your vehicle.

This money saving tip comes to you from www.mdmm.ca. Why not visit our web site? We can help you!



MDMM is Marc Dacosta, a financial planner working in Montreal for over 20 years, and Mick McCafferty, a British immigrant and editor of The BritClub Gazette and founder of www.britclub.ca.

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of the accelerated guaranteed value is guaranteed. The accelerated guaranteed value could be less than the guaranteed value and the value of an investor's initial investment. There are circumstances where the guarantee may be terminated or may not be available. Investors who redeem their units prior to the maturity date will not benefit from the guarantee. Details of these and other matters pertaining to the Funds are contained in the simplified prospectus. Please read the prospectus before investing. The Funds are managed by IA Clarington Investments Inc. Sponsored in part by IA Clarington Investments Inc.

Language Training for immigrants

For those of you that live in the vicinity of Île-Perrot, in collaboration with le Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec, a **free** French course is being offered. The course is 6 hours per week, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm, for 11 weeks.

The Beginner's course is on a Monday and a Wednesday from 24th September to 5th December 2007 and the intermediate course is on Tuesday and Thursday from 25th September to 6th December 2007.

Registration for the course is on 5th September 2007 between 1:00pm and 8:00pm at 34, Grand Boulevard, Île-Perrot. For more information phone 514 453 3632.

Health - GlucoAid

"The simple and compact way of controlling your intake"



Have you been told that your blood sugar is high or have you been diagnosed with diabetes? The GlucoAid wheel is the exciting new way to help you control your sugar level and avoid, postpone or reduced your medication.

The GlucoAid system is aimed at helping people monitor their carbs and calories intake by simply turning a wheel. Although there are **over 270 items of information** in the system it is simplicity itself; easy to learn and easy to use.

Loosing weight and controlling carbs intake can help people to avoid developing diabetes. Using the GlucoAid wheel, diabetic people could use less medication (or avoid medication) and have a better control over their health. In fact, diabetic people controlling their carbs intake greatly increase their chances of avoiding associated health problems (heart and vascular disease, kidney, visual and neurological complications). GlucoAid wheel eases carbs counting for insulin users and should help them to better achieve their glycemia target.

Glucoaid is endorsed by the Treehouse Child Care Centre, Hudson. You can buy the GlucoAid online at www.britclub.ca

Where's Our Football Gone?

Paul Andrews of St Lazare has been looking into the reason why Rogers Sportsnet is only showing one match on a Saturday when we're used to three. Here's the response from a representative at Rogers:

"Thanks for your recent email. Unfortunately, our broadcast agreement is for only one EPL match per week. We will be airing the 10 am (ET)/7 am (PT) match each Saturday across all four Sportsnet channels. Soccercentral will air directly after that match. The reason for this change is that other networks in Canada already have the broadcast rights for the other weekend EPL matches. We believe Setanta has the broadcast rights to the other Saturday matches, while The Score has the rights to the Sunday match."

The Globe and mail report that *"Rogers Cable, Cogeco Cable and Bell ExpressVu will carry the channel immediately. Carriage on Shaw Cable, Star Choice and Videotron is expected to take longer."*

Other News & Events

Britain could face cirrhosis epidemic

Last call at any British pub can be like a contact sport, with a crush of drunken customers suddenly heaving toward the bar in quest of one last round. It's a hallowed tradition, and doctors say an increasingly dangerous one.

Britain's propensity toward binge drinking, driven by a pub culture in which a good night out means packing in as many pints as possible before 11 p.m. closing time, could lead to a liver disease epidemic within two decades unless Britons learn to drink more responsibly, experts warn. "There's been a frightening increase in alcoholic liver disease in recent years," said Dr. Ian Gilmore, president of the Royal College of Physicians. According to government statistics, deaths from cirrhosis in Britain have risen dramatically in the past two decades, while they have fallen steadily elsewhere in Europe. In England and Wales, 17.5 deaths of every 100,000 men were due to cirrhosis in 2002, up from 8.3 in 1987. And in Scotland, the increase was even more dramatic: cirrhosis deaths among men went from 16.9 per every 100,000 in 1987 to 45.2 per 100,000 in 2002.

Jam over U.K. berry ban

A dispute over a little Canadian berry looked to be escalating into a major transatlantic jam on Tuesday, as Saskatchewan's agriculture minister threatened retaliation against the U.K. over a food warning. Britain's Food Standard Agency has taken saskatoon berry products off store shelves and ordered a full pre-market safety evaluation, saying there is no evidence the berries

are safe to eat.

Saskatchewan's agriculture minister Mark Wartman said the Royal Family eat saskatoons when they visit, and if the berries are good enough for the royals, they should be good enough for commoners.

<http://www.cbc.ca>

Britain's fastest speeding motorist

A man pleaded guilty Friday to driving at 172 miles (277 kilometres) per hour in a high-performance sports car on a public road, making him the fastest motorist ever caught speeding in Britain.

Timothy Brady was caught driving a 98,000-pound (144,000-euro, 197,000-dollar) Porsche 911 Turbo in a random police speed check on a trunk road near Abingdon, south central England, in January this year.

The 33-year-old, who resigned from his job as a hire car firm driver following his arrest, was travelling at 102 miles per hour over the national speed limit for a motorway.

He pleaded guilty to one count of dangerous driving when he appeared for an administrative hearing at Oxford Crown Court.

<http://chealth.canoe.ca>

Ohuruogu wins gold for Britain at worlds

Christine Ohuruogu of Britain won the 400 meters gold medal at the world championships Wednesday in her first major event since returning from a doping ban.

Ohuruogu won in a personal best 49.61 from British teammate Nicola Sanders in 49.65 and Noylene Williams of Jamaica in 49.66.

Nicola Sanders, her Great Britain team-mate, took silver.

<http://www.iht.com>

Custard cream voted

Britain's favourite biscuit

Sweet-toothed Britons placed it above the bourbon and shortbread when asked to name their tea-time treat of choice. Overwhelming winner: Custard cream

More than nine out of 10 people plumped for the elaborately designed, sandwich style snack - taking 93 per cent of the overall vote.

Next in line when it comes to the nation's biscuit tastes is the bourbon with just over two per cent of the popular vote.

Further down the biscuit barrel is the cookie and ginger biscuit, garnering the support of just 1.5 per cent and 1.19 per cent respondents. The digestive received less than one per cent of the vote. More than 7,000 took part in the online poll organised by wheat and gluten free product makers Truffee.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

Record number of people leave UK

Long-term migration into the UK was 574,000, figures suggest

More people left the UK last year than in any year since current records began in 1991, statistics show.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) indicate that some 385,000 people left the UK for the long term in the year to mid-2006. Many of those leaving were "long-term migrants" and not British citizens.

Long-term migration into the UK, meanwhile, was 574,000. The figures show the UK population grew to 60,587,000 - an increase of 349,000.

Of those who left the UK last year, 196,000 were British citizens while 189,000 were those who had been living in the UK for more than a year.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

And Finally!

British citizens are starting new lives abroad at the rate of one every three minutes. With 385,000 people emigrating in the 12 months to July 2006, Britain is witnessing the biggest exodus for a generation - which has reignited the debate about what exactly is wrong with our country.

But the Brits fight back with 20 reasons not to leave Britain:

1. There's never a problem getting a Polish plumber.
2. Barbecuing in the rain.
3. Somewhere in virtually every British television schedule, there still lies a gem: Armando Iannucci's *The Thick of It*, Andrew Marr's *A History of Modern Britain*, David Attenborough's *Planet Earth* series...
4. London's revitalised Southbank. Art, architecture, design, culture and a big wheel all in one astonishing, two-mile-long strip. Try finding something to match that in Perth.
5. This summer, there has been no need to ring the neighbours to see if they'd remembered to water your garden while you were on holiday.
6. Not having to spend four hours traipsing round town looking for a bar that might be showing the Rugby League cup final.
7. You can't get a decent chicken tikka masala anywhere else.
8. Meeting up with an old mate in the pub, rather than sending an email to make an appointment to be at the computer at the same time so you can talk via Skype for five minutes before losing the link.
9. Where else can you pay £150 for the privilege of wading thigh-deep in sewage-laced mud before sitting in a sodden tent, unable to get to sleep at four in the morning because the bloke in the next door tent has decided to regale the world with his atonal version of *Redemption Song*? And do it every weekend, all summer long, anywhere from Loch Lomond, via Glastonbury, to the Isle of Wight?
10. Cheese-rolling in Gloucestershire, bog-snorkelling in Llanwrtyd Wells, barrel-burning in Lewes: no one does bonkers traditions like they do here.
11. Some of the best French, Italian, Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and Thai restaurants in the world.
12. The view from the top of Mount Snowdon.
13. Being able to watch great Shakespearian actors, who the rest of the world only get to see on the movie screen as they bolster their pensions in ropey Hollywood blockbusters, performing Shakespeare on stage. And doing it so well, it makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.
14. Not having to pay to be stuck in a five-mile jam on the motorway.
15. The announcements to passengers on First Great Western trains. Where else can you find anything to match the invention ("The delay was caused by the effects of sunshine on signals"), the self-righteousness ("We are held up behind a slow-running train operated by another operator") and the complete lack of self-awareness ("This is a special announcement for those passengers waiting for the special to London Paddington. This special train has been cancelled")?
16. Going for a swim in the sea without fear of being assaulted by anything larger than a passing condom.
17. Listening to *The Archers* omnibus on the radio while preparing Sunday lunch - rather than via the internet in your study at 11 o'clock at night.
18. Never having to worry that you might catch a chill from the air conditioning on public transport.
19. The Edinburgh Festival: you don't often get to see Hungarian stilt walkers performing a comedy mime version of *Macbeth* in Puerto Banus.
20. Plus, at least here, unlike in the Dordogne and southern Spain, you're not surrounded the whole time by other bloody Brits.

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