



PETERBOROUGH

Gulf of wherever

Cartography news. The Government has ruled on what to call the Gulf of Mexico. And Donald Trump – who has renamed it the Gulf of America – won't be happy. Foreign Office minister Martin Wrigley told MPs that the Government "will continue to follow the guidance of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names who advise His Majesty's Government on the policies and procedures for the representation of geographical names for places and features outside of the UK". And the committee has ruled that "this body of water is Gulf of Mexico". Better hide the globes when the President comes over for his state visit.

Rodney's Brexit reset

The European Commission helpfully distributed photos of Sir Keir Starmer unveiling the Brexit Reset deal on Monday alongside European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and Council of Europe president Antonio Costa. The only problem was that while the other leaders were correctly captioned, the PM was described as "Rod-

ney Starmer". Rodney is of course the PM's middle name. But could there be a fan of *Only Fools and Horses*, left, working for the Eurocrats? As Del-boy said: "This time next year, we'll be millionaires!"

Bremner dismounts

The pressures of financing an equestrian career have become unsustainable for Rory Bremner, right, and his daughter Lila, 21, an accomplished show-jumper. "It's the sheer cost of it all," the TV impressionist told me at the Chelsea Flower Show. "There is sponsorship but it is a very compet-

itive world. To sustain it, I compare it to highwayman Dick Turpin – he had a phrase: 'your money or your life?' The horses get more and more expensive. You need hundreds of thousands. So she's gone to London to do a personal assistant's course and have some fun London days, like I did as a young man." And why not?

Trump's present

Gordon Brown told how British prime ministers traditionally give presents to incoming US presidents at the John Smith Memorial Lecture this week. "David Cameron gave Barack Obama a table tennis table. Rishi Sunak gave Joe Biden a Barbour jacket. Theresa May gave Donald Trump a hamper from Chequers. Boris Johnson gave some poetry," Brown said. "Keir Starmer has had to give gifts to the two presidents. He gave a gift to Joe Biden of an Arsenal jersey with 46 on it to denote the 46th president of the United States. I don't know if Joe Biden knew too much about Arsenal. And of course, he has already given a gift and sent it to Washington, to Donald Trump: It's Peter Mandelson." Perhaps Gordon misses Peter?

Beaverbrook's bashes are back

Jonathan Aitken, 82, ex-Conservative minister and now a prison chaplain, has started a new political supper club called the Beaverbrook Forum to re-create the parties thrown by his uncle, Lord Beaverbrook, who owned the *Daily Express* and served in Churchill's war-

time government. Political veterans Lord Gummer and Diane Abbott, as well as Robert Jenrick's wife Michal, dined on champagne and shepherd's pie as Aitken recalled how "Bollinger Bolsheviks" such as Nye Bevan used to love Beaverbrook's parties. The future Labour leader Michael Foot was apparently so spoiled by Beaverbrook that he was allowed to stay for free in a house in Beaverbrook's garden. Sir Keir's Starmer's freebies from Lord Alli look like small beer.

O'Flynn's fiscal legacy

RIP the much-missed Patrick O'Flynn, above, 59, the former Ukip MEP, as well as *Daily Telegraph* and GB News commentator, who died this week. One of his most memorable policies as Ukip's economic spokesman was for a tax on luxury goods like designer shoes, and handbags to win over former Labour voters. O'Flynn's so-called "WAG tax" was unveiled at Ukip's conference in September 2014 and axed by leader Nigel Farage two days later, after an outcry. Farage declared: "It was a discussion point yesterday, it isn't going to happen." Perhaps with Farage's Reform leading the polls, the WAG tax's time will come again?

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