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# Stop the World, I Want to Get Off...

Unpublished Letters to  
**The Daily Telegraph**

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Aurum  
Press

## CONTENTS

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                  | ix  |
| Family Life and Tribulations  | I   |
| A Year in Politics            | 39  |
| The Use and Abuse of Language | 91  |
| Box Gogglers                  | 119 |
| Travelling Hopefully          | 131 |
| Sporting Triumph and Disaster | 145 |
| Home Thoughts on Abroad       | 157 |
| Royal Blushes                 | 169 |
| Dear <i>Daily Telegraph</i>   | 175 |
| P.S.                          | 189 |

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# FAMILY LIFE AND TRIBULATIONS

## SEASONS' GREETINGS PILE

SIR – I have received a lengthy round-robin Christmas message from someone called Peg. I haven't a clue who she is, but if she reads the *Telegraph*, could I wish her a rapid recovery from her recent haemorrhoid operation.

**Ian McDougle**

Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire

SIR – We have received an unsigned Christmas card which says: "Hope you are well. I just keep taking the tablets."

As we are now in an older age group, this criterion covers about 98 per cent of our acquaintances. I guess we will just have to wait until next Christmas to find out if the tablets are still working.

**Wendy Strathdee**

Burnham, Buckinghamshire

SIR – I have thought Christmas to be overrated for more years than I care to remember, but last night really brought me to breaking point. Why do frying pans not come ready gift-wrapped?

**Tim Bradbury**

Northwich, Cheshire

SIR – When walking around Bath last Christmas I came across a health food shop advertising just the present for the person who has everything: "Colonic irrigation; Gift vouchers available."

**Nigel Day**

Frome, Somerset

SIR – The RSPCA is telling people not to dress up their dogs at Christmas as it leaves them scared, worried and unable to express themselves. Now they know how it feels to get a novelty Christmas jumper.

**P.C.**

Northampton

SIR – It is so unfair to have a birthday at Christmas. I would like to suggest a ban on all sexual activity from, say, March 15 to March 31.

**Diana Whiteside**

Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

## DAILY DELIGHTS

SIR – At the age of 76 I am delighted to learn from your newspaper that a daily orgasm could significantly reduce my chances of developing prostate cancer. Would two a day improve my odds further, or does the law of diminishing returns apply?

**M.G.P.**

Northwood, Middlesex

SIR – Now they tell us!

**Robert Hood-Wright (in receipt of Winter Fuel Allowance)**

Nanstallon, Cornwall

SIR – My husband, on learning from *The Daily Telegraph* that happily married couples made love just once a week, wistfully commented: "Please could we be an unhappily married couple?"

**Susan Jones**  
Halesowen, West Midlands

SIR – It was somewhat unsettling to read that cat owners have sex twice a week and dog owners three times a week. At one time I owned five dogs and eight cats. When I walked the dogs I was met with cheerful waves from passers-by. Now I'm rather embarrassed at what they might have been smiling about.

**Lesley Thompson**  
Lavenham, Suffolk

SIR – I see that wolf-whistling is to be treated as a hate crime by Nottinghamshire Police.

When I was nine months pregnant with my daughter, I was wolf-whistled in the street by a passing lorry driver.

It made my day. I felt less like an elephant and more like a human being.

**Jill Gibb**  
Deeping St James, Lincolnshire

SIR – My first wife would turn around and go back for seconds if she heard a wolf-whistle.

**C.W.**  
Alderminster, Warwickshire

SIR – Your correspondent's romantic hideaway sleeping three reminds me of the rules of a Chinese hotel I stayed in on business back in the 1980s. Among the many banned items on the list in the room were "wrestling" and "lascivious thoughts".

That really put paid to my down-time.

**David Brown**  
Lavenham, Suffolk

SIR – On a recent cruise I was talking to a spritely old widow lady who asked: "What does SAGA stand for?"

Jokingly, I replied, "Sex and Games for the Aged."  
Wistfully she murmured, "If only."

**Terry Morrell**  
Willerby, East Yorkshire

SIR – I am 80, a widow, and in the process of shortening some of my clothes because my boyfriend says I have good legs.

**D.P.**  
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

SIR – A very proper old lady of my acquaintance was heard to say, some years ago now, "I do like bananas. But I can't eat them."

The alternative uses have been the subject of much speculation ever since.

**Pete Townsend**  
Bristol

SIR – Now that oysters are the same price as cod fish fingers, how are we to choose which of the two aphrodisiacs to serve for a given romantic encounter?

**Neil Sewell-Rutter**  
Oxford

SIR – If a regular glass of red wine and plenty of fruit are supposed to improve one's sex life in middle age, how is it that the only benefit I have gained is a painful case of gout?

**David Jepson**  
Derby

SIR – The claim made for the benefits of a diet rich in red wine and fruit is rash. After copious amounts of Shiraz during the festive period and liberal use of my new zappy juicer I have come out in urticaria.

This look will not drive anything, especially sex – unless you like your men well red.

**David Parker**  
Rhayader, Powys

SIR – You report that Britain's oldest tree, the Fortingall Yew in Perthshire, appears to be undergoing a sex change as it is developing the red berries associated with the female yew. As I approach my 62nd year, I too am developing red berries. Should I be worried?

**Alistair Donald**  
Stirling

SIR – Regarding your article about ogling rugby players I have to confess that, even at the advanced age of 75, I still like to see a nice pair of shoulders and strong thighs. My first thought, though, on seeing these muscular heroes is always: Thank goodness I don't have to feed them.

**Lois Quinn**  
Coventry

## TRANSUBSTANTIATION

SIR – My wife eats twice as much as I do, yet she is slim and I am overweight. I put it down to trans fats: she transfers her fat to me each night while I am asleep.

**Tony Cowan**  
Elgin, Moray

SIR – Paul Hollywood says that losing weight is not rocket science. He's right: it's far more difficult.

**Richard Amies**  
Weybourne, Norfolk

SIR – With the obesity problem worsening every day, Squeeze Belly Alley in Port Isaac seems aptly named.

**Jane Cullinan**  
Padstow, Cornwall

SIR – With the proposed introduction of a sugar tax, will the substitution of alternative sweeteners by soft drink companies be regarded as tax evasion?

**James Nuthall**  
Epsom, Surrey

SIR – Maybe the “civilised” world is getting its comeback. After our “heroes” Drake, Raleigh etc. brought back sugar and tobacco, along with slaves, we now find ourselves dying from smoking-related diseases and obese and ill from too much sugar.

Just desserts?

**Ann Baker**  
Wilcove, Cornwall

SIR – As far as I recall I should now be drinking each day: three glasses of fruit juice; three cups of coffee; and three to five cups of tea, having fried my breakfast eggs and bacon in butter.

Is this all correct or should I be eating a portion of fish twice a week to improve my memory?

**Captain Roger Gorst RN (retd)**  
Pucklechurch, Gloucestershire

SIR – It would appear that, whatever I eat or do not eat, I shall still one day die. In the meantime, I shall continue to eat sausages; it is unthinkable for an Englishman not to do so.

**Dr Bertie Dockerill**  
Shildon, Co Durham

SIR – In claiming that tea is Britain’s national drink, your writer might care to know the real reason. When a French friend of mine was asked why the British drink so much tea, he gave the ready reply: “Have you tasted their coffee?”

**Professor Jack Mahoney**  
Oxford

SIR – Your correspondent suggests that food packaging should tell consumers how much exercise is needed to burn off the calories in the product. Please could it also include the number of calories that are burned when trying to open said packaging.

**Lynne Waldron**  
Woolavington, Somerset

SIR – In my Christmas stocking was a little cutting tool, “useful for opening difficult plastic packages”. Guess what it was packaged in.

**Peter Fineman**  
Mere, Wiltshire

## DIY SPACEWALK

SIR – I am a great admirer of Major Tim Peake’s achievements – even more so after viewing your front-page photo of him preparing for a spacewalk. Unlike my husband he appears to be reading the instructions before attempting the task.

**Marianne Charlesworth**  
Old Chatton, Norfolk

SIR – My husband, aged 70, recently purchased a drill. He has never owned one or used one. The last 48 hours have been a revelation. Now if I could just persuade him to eat cheese, life would be perfect.

**Rosemary Rowley-Wootton**  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire

SIR – Nicola Sturgeon approaches a referendum in a similar style to my doomed DIY projects: keen to instigate and always dissatisfied with the end result.

**Paul Coakes**  
Droitwich, Worcestershire

SIR – I was amazed to learn that Sarah Vine has the time and patience to send her husband, Michael Gove, an email with her advice. Don't they talk to each other? I wish my bride of 50 years would do the same, but she claims she can't shout in an email, nor ensure that I obey.

**Peter Froggatt**  
Dorking, Surrey

SIR – I find that a to-do list, strategically placed for my husband to see, has far more effect than actually asking him several times in person. The satisfaction he feels as he crosses each job off the list is nothing compared to mine as I think of yet another one to add to the bottom.

**Catherine Kidson**  
Bradfield, Berkshire

SIR – Men's opportunities to show their prowess at home have been reduced to cooking on charcoal barbecues and

fixing recalcitrant Christmas tree lights. Barbecues are now almost universally heated by gas, while cranky Christmas tree lights have been replaced by highly reliable LEDs.

I am just going out to my shed and I may be some time.

**Jos Binns**  
Camerton, Somerset

## TILL DEATH US DO PART

SIR – I read with dismay the conclusions by university psychologists that men have a shorter life expectancy because they are less likely to seek medical advice.

Married men die before their wives because they want to.

**Leonard Gold**  
London WC2

SIR – Having committed some minor infringement, I recently said to my wife that she really should divorce me, whereupon she replied that she wouldn't do that as I "hadn't suffered enough yet".

After 56 years of marriage, I am hopeful that my sentence will not be commuted.

**Dr John Leane**  
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire

SIR – My wife recently used the expression "from the get-go". Is this grounds for divorce?

**Andrew Bebbington**  
Cheadle, Cheshire