

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK/MYTELEGRAPH

CREATE YOUR OWN BLOG USING OUR BRILLIANT NEW FREE PERSONALISED WEBSITE

My Telegraph, our personalised website for readers which launched yesterday, has already been a huge success. Hundreds of readers have started blogging, and we were averaging a new post every two minutes for most of the day. The scope and range of the topics our bloggers chose to address was vast. Many were moved to comment on Tony Blair's emotional speech to his constituents in Sedgfield, where he announced that he would resign as

Prime Minister on June 27. Many others were just delighted to find that starting a blog was so simple, and were enjoying the freedom to write about their lives and what interested them.

Yet others, like F1 Sidecar Champion (see below), saw the possibility of creating a new, niche community - in this case for those interested in motorcycles. The Stephensons, on the other hand, wanted to explore the possibility of linking their friends and

family, and included a lovely snapshot taken on New Year's Eve.

For those of you who are intrigued by the idea of joining the community of Telegraph bloggers, don't delay. It takes only a few minutes to join and then you'll be able to create your own blog, comment on blogs by other people, and start to form your own network of bloggers. It's a brilliant way to stay in close contact with friends, family and those who share your special interests.

WHAT OUR BLOGGERS ARE SAYING

COQUETMAID A HOUSEFUL OF TWITTERING BABY BIRDS

It's the start of the hatching season on our Northumbrian smallholding. The hens won't always oblige, having their own agendas, so we resort to an incubator to ensure early hatchings and now there are boxes of twittering feathery balls of life keeping warm and toasty at the back of the Redfyre (just like an Aga but tons cheaper!) and basking under an infra-red heat lamp in the downstairs cloakroom (we have to remember to warn visitors in case they find visiting our too rather traumatic). It's cold and windy today, far too cold to keep the goslings outside for more than an hour or two in their little wooden

coop in the lee of the old pole barn. Even when the weather improves, they'll need protection from the family of buzzards in the nearby quarry and all the other hungry predators who prowl our perimeters. Time to take a break soon and have a rest and some supper. It's pretty tiring keeping on top of everything - birds are incredibly messy and always hungry and thirsty, plus there is the vegetable garden to finish weeding and planting, the polytunnel to water, and what seem like hundreds of small plants to pot up for the charity plant sale at the end of this month.

GLADIATOR GLADIATOR JOINS THE PARTY

Hello friends, my first effort at this so here we go. I am not a Blairite but thought his speech today was sincere even though he failed to mention that he has potentially brought about the break-up of the UK. After saying that, I have no confidence whatsoever in his probable successor who will have

nothing to preside over if Alex Salmond has his way. I've always enjoyed the English/Scottish rivalry and banter, but do we really want to Balkanise this country? What do you think, especially if you are a Scot (which I am not)?

THE STEPHENSONS HI THERE

Just an experiment really. Perhaps a way to keep in touch as a group of friends and family. Let's see how it goes.



F1SIDECAR CHAMPION WELCOME TO YOU ALL

This is intended to be something of a list of my personal experiences and recollections of being a motorcyclist in Plymouth. It is intended to draw

together experiences from people who may have some stories to tell, or photographs to show. When I was at that age, we were called 'Rockers'... now we are 'Bikers'. Which do you prefer? I know which I would rather be. All tales, short or long, factual or not so factual are welcome here. I would particularly like to hear from those with recollections of the several dealers in the City at any time, or the exploits of the groups involved.

DIDCOTMAN WHO WILL SAVE ME?
Who will save me from Europe? Who can I vote for to get me out? I don't want to be told it is too difficult, this country is worth whatever effort it takes to save us from this Kafkaesque fate. The main parties are resigned, if not enthusiastic, and the fringe parties are on the fringe

for very good reasons.

MINTCAKE NOT ANOTHER MAD CHILDLESS WOMAN

I watched Eastenders the other night and my heart sank. I know this is nothing unusual given the recent state of that particular soap, but this time I had



special reason to be depressed and angry.

There's a lady in a current plot line who can't have a baby and has gone completely off the rails. Why are infertile people always portrayed in this way? It's not accurate and it is lazy writing.

There are only two ways in which plotlines on infertility tend to pan out - characters either become deranged baby stealers or have a miracle pregnancy. Admittedly both these things do happen, but not in the majority of cases. Success rates for treatment are low, though you wouldn't know so from

the way IVF tends to be reported in the press or on TV. Most of us find the realisation we will never have a child painful, but eventually come to terms with it without resorting to criminal activity. I know that baby stealers and miracle births make good TV, but given there are so many childless people in society, can we have a more balanced view from time to time?

SUZIE MY NEW WEBSITE

I am taking up the Telegraph's invitation to have my own web page. I am not sure what I will do with it but time will tell. I do hope that we don't have to 'pay' for a lovely April with a totally grotty May. The plants have had enough rain for the moment. It is my turn now to have some sunshine.

To read more of these blogs, go to telegraph.co.uk/mytelegraph and type / followed by the blogger's name - ie www.telegraph.co.uk/mytelegraph/coquetmaid

HOW TO GET GOING...

1 HOW TO REGISTER

- Go to telegraph.co.uk/mytelegraph and click the Sign Up link
- Choose a screen name - this is the name that will appear at the top of your page and on any comments you leave
- Tell us your name, email address and choose a password
- If you accept our terms and conditions, click I accept. Create my account to move to stage two
- Tell us where you live and enter a few words to describe yourself. These words will appear on your page. Then choose an image to illustrate your blog. You can select one from our library or upload a picture of yourself from a folder on your computer. Finally, give your blog a

subtitle - for example *My thoughts on the world*. Don't worry if you change your mind later - you can go back and edit or change this at any time.

- Click *Join the debate* and you're ready to go.

2 START WRITING

- From the My Telegraph front page, click **My Blog** in the menu bar.
- This will take you to your page. Underneath your name is a large *Write a blog post* link. Click this and

- you're ready to go.
- In the box that says *Enter blog post's title* write a headline for this blog post.
- In the larger box underneath write your blog post. You can format the text, using bold or italics, by using the buttons above the box.
- When you are finished, click *Preview* and check that you are happy with what you have written.
- Now click *Tag* to add labels to your blog post. This makes it easier for other readers to find. First give the post a category from the pull down menu - for example *Animals and pets*. If you want, you can add other tags of your own. Put a comma between each tag.
- When you are happy, click *Publish* and your blog will appear live almost immediately.

1. HOW TO COMMENT ON ANOTHER BLOG

- You can join the debate with other readers and comment on a blog.
- After reading the post you want to comment on, scroll down to the comment box at the bottom of the page.
- Give your comment a headline - for example *I agree with you completely* - and then write your comment in the box underneath
- If you make a mistake you can clear the box by clicking *Clear form*.
- Otherwise, if you are happy with your comment click *Submit this comment*.

2. HOW TO VOTE ON ANOTHER BLOG

- At the top of each blog

USING THE ADVANCED FEATURES

post, to the right of the first paragraph, is an Agreement Index. This shows how many people agree with the post you are reading

- To add your vote, click *Agree* or *Disagree* as appropriate.

3. HOW TO ADD OTHER READERS TO YOUR PAGE

- If you find a blogger whose posts you enjoy and want to be notified when they write something in future, you can easily add them to your network.

- Go to the blogger's page or open one of their posts
- In the *Blog options* box in the top right of the page (underneath the tags) find the link titled *Add to network*. You can use this feature to keep in close contact with friends, family members who may be living far away, or members of a club.
- Click that link and the blogger will be added to your page and every time they write a post it will appear in the *Recent Activity* tab on your page.

- If you need help with any aspect of My Telegraph, click on the *About link* in the menu bar. At the bottom of the *About page* there is an *email link*. Click on this and type your question into the *email box*.

Councils that cut bin emptying 'must fight fly tipping'

COUNCILS that introduce fortnightly rubbish collection will have to have a programme to tackle fly-tipping, Lord Rooker, the environment minister, said yesterday.

He said that he was concerned that there had been an increase in fly-tipping where collections were fortnightly.

He told the Lords: "This obviously concerns me. The evidence across Europe is that if pressure is put on householders, in terms of costs, there has been an increase in fly-tipping where these measures have been introduced.

"Under the new proposals that will come forward with the waste management structure, local councils that make these changes will have to have ... a specific programme to see that fly-tipping is proactively dealt with."

Baroness Knight of Collingtree, for the Conservatives, had told him: "There is now an extra incentive to carry out fly-tipping since so many parts of this country have to put up with fortnightly household rubbish collections."

Lord Rooker said "good progress" had been made in implementing the Govern-

ment's waste crime strategy. "We will continue to work with the Environment Agency and local authorities to achieve a year-on-year reduction in fly-tipping."

Penalties for fly-tipping had been raised from a maximum of £20,000 to £50,000.

Baroness Trumpington, Conservative, said: "Fly-tipping is an extremely expensive, national disgrace."

Lord Rooker told her: "There is a fly-tipping incident in England and Wales about every 30 seconds."

"More than half the incidents involve personal waste, not necessarily by the householder but by people who have collected from householders."

He added: "The issue is serious. It represents 89,000 incidents a month, as measured by local authorities. In England and Wales, that means someone is doing some fly-tipping every half-minute."

"It is costing the taxpayer about £50 million to clean up the public realm. For private land ... it is costing another £50 million a year to clear that."

Jail for pair who broke Official Secrets Act

By John Steele
Crime Correspondent

A CIVIL servant and an MP's researcher were jailed yesterday for breaching the 1989 Official Secrets Act after a memo detailing defence talks between George Bush and Tony Blair about Iraq was leaked.

David Keogh, 50, a Cabinet Office communications officer, passed on the document to Leo O'Connor, 44, a researcher for the former Labour MP, Anthony Clarke, an anti-Iraq war campaigner.

Keogh was jailed for six months. O'Connor, who slipped the document into Mr

Clarke's papers, was sentenced to three months at the Old Bailey.

The memo related to a meeting in April 2004. Keogh denied that the disclosure could have put lives at risk. He is said to have commented that it made Mr Bush appear a "madman". Keogh said he wanted questions to be raised in Parliament and for the document to be sent to US presidential candidate, John Kerry.

The contents of the memo were heard in secret. Mr Justice Aikens, the trial judge, ruled that the media can make no reference to allegations previously published about the memo.

News bulletin

Watchdog to rethink 'junk food' regulations

Controversial advertising rules, which label products including cheese as "junk food", are to be reviewed by the official food watchdog just a month after being introduced.

The regulations were introduced as part of a Government drive against child obesity. They banned advertisements for certain products from children's television.

But the "nutrient profiling" model - which calculates the amount of fat, saturated fat, salt and sugar per 100g of a foodstuff - has been savagely criticised by the food industry and health groups.

It is claimed that the system

takes no account of portion sizes and so classifies foods such as cheese, ketchup and Marmite - which are normally eaten sparingly - as junk food.

Critics have also complained that the system ignores the vitamins and nutrients in foods that may also be high in salt or fat, and does not take into account how frequently the food is eaten.

Now the Food Standards Agency, which created nutrient profiling, is to meet manufacturers, retailers and consumer groups, and will then carry out a public consultation. It will review their effectiveness next April, when the rules have been in place for a year.

Poorly Camilla cancels engagement

The Duchess of Cornwall was forced to pull out of an engagement yesterday as aides admitted she "did not feel strong enough" following her hysterectomy.

The last-minute cancellation fuelled speculation that her recovery has been much slower than expected since the operation on March 5.

Clarence House stressed: "The Duchess has only just returned to carrying out public engagements and is doing so gradually."

The duchess had been due to accompany Prince Charles



Duchess: still convalescing

to the Holmbush Mine at Kelly Bray in Cornwall. She did join her husband in the afternoon to visit the fishing villages of Kingsand and Cawsand.

Trend for online shopping picks up

More goods are being delivered to people's homes after being ordered online, it emerged yesterday.

According to figures from the Department for Transport light van traffic - normally used by delivery companies - increased by four per cent during the first quarter of the year compared to the same period in 2006.

However, heavy goods traffic, which included lorries delivering goods to the shops, fell by two per cent over the same period.

Driver named in M25 crash

The sixth person killed in the M25 crash was formally identified last night. Michael Hutchinson, 44, from Rugby, Warwickshire, was killed when the recovery vehicle he was driving collided with a lorry on Monday morning.

Five men - Matthew O'Donnell, 30, Christopher Janaway, 28, Jon Chandler, 26, Andrew Graney, 29, Rohan Chadwick, 28, - who were travelling back from a stag party in Leicestershire and who were in the lorry's cab were also killed.

Currys

SALE

dyson DC07 origin
Original bagless upright vacuum cleaner

- Root Cyclone™ technology - advanced Dysoncyclone technology.
- Reversible wand - the wand reverses to clean stairs and corners more easily and with better grip.
- Hygienic and quick to empty - just pull the trigger avoiding direct contact with the dust.

Model: DCO7 ORIGIN.
www.currys.co.uk - 890205

5 year guarantee

£149.99

dyson DC14 animal
Bagless upright vacuum cleaner

- Root Cyclone™ technology - for no clogging and no loss of suction.
- HEPA + Bactisafe™ - lifetime HEPA filter with bacteria killing screen.
- Telescopic reach - quick release wand expands for instant high reach cleaning.
- Mini turbine head - ideal for removing pet hair and dirt from confined spaces such as upholstery, stairs and the car.

Model: DC14 ANIMAL. Was £299.99.
www.currys.co.uk/sale - 726523

5 year guarantee

SALE PRICE
save £70 £229.99

4 great ways to buy ... **Currys** retail park superstore **Currys.digital** high street store **Currys.co.uk/sale** 24/7 internet store **0870 609 7493** order line

reserve & collect
choose online at currys.co.uk/sale
or call 0870 609 7493
and collect in-store the same day

Currys
Always Lowering Prices