

## TELEGRAPH.CO.UK/ MYTELEGRAPH

As ducks to water, so Telegraph readers to blogging: since we launched **My Telegraph** last week, the response has been nothing short of phenomenal. Below are a few samples from

the hundreds of blogs posted yesterday. Creating a **My Telegraph** blog is simple. For full instructions, go to [telegraph.co.uk/mytelegraph](http://telegraph.co.uk/mytelegraph) and click on the *About* menu.

MY TELEGRAPH  
GET INVOLVED  
IN A BLOGGING  
PHENOMENON

NUMBER  
OF MEMBERS  
**1750**

NUMBER  
OF COMMENTS  
**4187**

**10**  
TIPS FOR  
BLOGGING

### 1 TRY TO BE CONCISE

Two short posts are better than one long article.

### 2 HOOK IN YOUR READERS EARLY

Many readers will only see the first paragraph of your post on the homepage.

### 3 USE TAGS

The more tags you add to your post, the easier it will be for other people to find.

### 4 USE TAGS AGAIN

If you write more than once about the same subject, make sure you use the same tags.

### 5 USE OTHER PEOPLE'S TAGS

If you're writing about the same subject as other people, match your tags to theirs.

### 6 WRITE REGULARLY

Three or more posts per week will help you build an audience.

### 7 BE PATIENT

Building an audience can take a while but you'll get there if you keep posting.

### 8 JOIN IN

Comment on blogs by other readers and they will be more likely to read yours.

### 9 EXPERIMENT

Try posting pictures, riddles, your recipes or whatever you like.

### 10 HAVE FUN

Don't be afraid to join in.

## 11 INMIN SELFISH CYCLISTS

On my route to work each day has been built, at great council tax payers' expense, a cycle path. Not just a white line in the road, an actual pavement separate from the road. Do cyclists use it? They would much rather clutter up the road, slow down traffic, weave and waver along the side of the road, all-in-all being a danger to themselves and all other road users.

And if one gets knocked off his - it is 99.9% male - cycle I wonder who would be considered at fault? Certainly not the non road tax paying cyclist. More than once I have considered standing at the end of the road taking photographs of their behaviour - but I am a coward at heart and feared the consequences from this 'I'm always in the right' lobby. Why do we waste the vast amounts of money we spend on them?

## SECOND WIFE MARRY ME!

'Marry me,' he said. So romantic, I thought - here we are in the middle of the England-Sweden game and I'm drinking wine in an attempt to stop boredom setting in. 'Don't be ridiculous - I've only known you 6 weeks. You can't possibly want to marry me!' But he did. And here starts the diary of the second wife

## SURREY EXILE IS LOCAL DEMOCRACY DYING?

In the recent elections, me and my fellow villagers got no vote because our sitting district councillor was the only candidate for the seat, and for the parish council there were fewer candidates than seats available.

I am going to the Annual Parish Meeting tonight to see what goes on. I have lived in the same village for 30 years and this is the first APM I will have attended, so my middle name has certainly been 'apathy'.

Is it too late to save very local democracy?

## GOM NO HORSES IN THE OLYMPICS

I know this is controversial, but I have held this view for over 40 years - that the Olympics were about young men and women coming together every four years and competing at the highest level against each

other, using their skill, strength and fitness against the best in the world.

That statement is not true in the equestrian events. The best horses win, not the best riders. What makes it worse is that the rider can come from one country and the horse another. I think it is fair comment to say the horse deserves the national anthem!

## TEACHING ASSISTANT TWO WEEKS TO HALF TERM

Not that I'm counting of course, but some of the teachers at school have calendars with very large red markings on May 25th. Sometimes it all seems like some primitive military campaign where each objective is identified and achieved before the final big push to victory. Except in teaching there is no big push, just a series of endless, relentless campaigns to be fought on a daily basis until you either retire or have a nervous breakdown.

Still, only two weeks to half term...

## CONTENTED SOLE PUBLISHED AT LAST

Wow, what a great site! After all those letters I sent to *The Telegraph* letters page hoping mine would be chosen for printing, rushing off to buy a paper to see if my scribbblings had sparked deep debate on the current topic of the day (usually ranting about New Labour and Tony etc) - only to be disappointed.

But at last, somewhere I can be guaranteed to be read (or ignored) but at the very least published. Hooray. I work for the Royal Mail as a postman and quite frankly the men and women I work with work bloody hard and are fed up of the constant kickings we get in the media - it's not all that bad.

## CAROLINA AGA - 'ONE OF THE MOST INEFFICIENT APPLIANCES'

So says Julia Hailes in *The New Green Consumer Guide* quoted in today's DT. I too have an oil-fired Aga in my large north-east facing kitchen. Redeeming features: (1) I love it; (2) I can do without central heating for an extra few weeks because my kitchen is warm; (3) I can steam press jeans, bedlinen etc on top of the lids. What other redeeming features can you think of to offset the nagging feeling that, while trying to be as green as possible, we Aga owners have a large and extravagant 4x4 in our kitchens?

# He told me that he felt

## PROFILE Man being questioned helped police hunt, reports Fiona Govan

ROBERT MURAT was the first person I met outside the apartment the day after Madeleine disappeared.

On first arriving the Friday after her disappearance, he was the first point of contact.

He introduced himself as a local who had been at the scene since the early hours when the alert went out.

He volunteered to fill me in on what had been happening in Praia da Luz that day.

He described how he had joined the search early that morning and felt for the parents as he himself had a child the same age as Madeleine, who bore a resemblance to her.

He also said he had had contact with the McCann family that morning and had helped them to explain to police the events surrounding Madeleine's disappearance.

We had coffee several times at the local supermarket where he would describe his role in the investigation.

Always making the point that he was not employed in an official basis, he claimed he was working closely with police.

He said he was bilingual and had been asked to help with translating and providing information to British people who were giving statements to detectives.

On one occasion he said he had spent all afternoon with police as they interviewed Mark Warner staff and guests at the Ocean Club resort.

Always keen to talk to reporters about the investigation he was vague about his own circumstances.

At one point he revealed that he was separated from his partner and said he was involved in property, spending time in both the UK and Portugal.

Mr Murat always seemed relaxed, except on one occasion when photographers turned their cameras in his direction and tried to take his picture.

On that occasion he seemed disgruntled and remarked: "Why do they want a picture of me? I'm not important and I'm not a suspect."

Mr Murat became less obvious around the scene after journalists voiced concerns about him to police and in subsequent telephone conversations he told me that the reason he was not around so often was because he was busy helping police carry out



Police searching a house near the apartments where Madeleine McCann went missing on the evening of May 3



Madeleine's distraught parents Kate and Gerry McCann



Four-year-old Madeleine



Mother Jennifer Murat

interviews. In our last conversation, on the telephone on Sunday night, Mr Murat told me he had been with the police all weekend, helping them in their inquiries as a translator and that he was still on call in case his services were required.

On several occasions, when pushed for his opinion, he said he believed that Madeleine had been taken by someone from outside the area and that he believed she was no longer in Portugal and may never be found.

Mr Murat is half Portuguese and half British. His mother, Jennifer, has a villa just 100 yards from where Madeleine was abducted. A retired nurse,

she reportedly set up a stall in the middle of Praia da Luz last week calling on people to come forward with information about Madeleine. His father died when he was 13.

Mr Murat once worked for a company called Portuguese Homes and also boasted he had an internet business.

He has become well known in the area, and was often seen walking in and out of the apartment complex where the McCanns stayed.

Two journalists reported Mr Murat to British police on Monday after he mentioned that his daughter looked like Madeleine. Local translator Gaynor de Jesus, 32, who went to school with Mr Murat, said

she was "shocked" at yesterday's development.

Miss de Jesus said: "I went to school with him and we used to play together. We used to go BMX riding together and hang out together."

"He was a friend with me and all my siblings. He does look odd - he has a glass eye and as a party trick he used to get it to fall out. Mr Murat lived in Hockering, near Dereham in Norfolk, with his wife at the time, along with her son from a previous marriage. The couple, who had a daughter together four years ago, have since split up.

In Portugal, Mr Murat told reporters that he had gone through an acrimonious

divorce and was involved in a custody battle over his daughter.

A former neighbour said: "He seemed like a good dad and brought up the boy even though he was not his own."

Another former neighbour, Geoffrey Livock, 71, said: "Robert is a good hearted chap. He was never in any kind of trouble and was always a nice guy to pass the time of day with. He is just a normal fellow."

Sally Eveleigh, Mr Murat's cousin, told Sky news last night that it was "impossible" he was involved in Madeleine's disappearance. "He loves his daughter; he misses her madly."

## Outrage at rail fares rise

By David Millward  
Transport Correspondent

A RAILWAY company has been reported to the Office of Fair Trading after announcing a 30 per cent rise in off-peak fares.

The decision by Arriva Trains to scrap its "supersaver" tickets has enraged consumer groups and the second largest rail union, the Transport Salaried Staffs Association.

It has called on the OFT to step in, rather than the rail regulator, on the grounds that Arriva is abusing its monopoly position in Wales.

Arriva is the second company to announce huge increases in the price of fares not controlled by the Government.

Earlier this year First Great Western announced plans to increase the cost of cheap day returns by 20 per cent. Consumer groups are bracing

themselves for further price rises at the weekend.

This weekend is, along with September, one of two "windows" available to train operators apart from the January fare round.

The consumer group Passenger Focus said previous rises were imposed with minimal notice.

TSSA believes that other companies are keen to follow the example set by South West Trains.

Gerry Doherty, the union's general secretary, said: "The rail companies are determined to squeeze passengers until the pips squeak."

A spokesman for Arriva said last night: "For longer journeys people tend to book in advance, which is why we have introduced cheap options for north to south travel."

A spokesman for the Office of Fair Trading said it would consider the complaint.

## Cancer drug flexibility urged

Continued from Page 1

would lead to a "two-tier system" that would leave the less wealthy with a poorer standard of care.

The current situation varies across the country with different specialists and primary care trusts (PCTs) taking more flexible attitudes to the practice of "co-payment" than others.

Nick James, the professor of clinical oncology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and one of 180 specialist cancer doctors surveyed by the BBC, said: "I don't see what right the NHS has to say 'we are not going to let you have the care for which you have been paying for all your life because you have chosen to pay for something extra'. The drugs in the pipeline are going to cause even more pressure. I think politicians need to be honest and say this gap is going to be there and we need to look at ways of filling it."

Prof Karol Sikora, the professor of

Cancer Medicine at Imperial College, London, said: "There is a lack of political will to admit the NHS is beginning to fail patients in this area and we need an alternative structure in place. We have to allow co-payment."

Dr Jesme Fox, the medical director of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, said she was appalled some people spend the last few months of their life in a desperate fight for NHS funding. "If they're not going to be allowed to access drugs that improve survival by a few months, or improve their quality of life, we need to have an honest debate about how we're going to have to fund these things."

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has been criticised for ruling that a number of cancer drugs available to NHS patients in Scotland are "not cost-effective".

Editorial Comment: Page 23

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