HESUNDAYIMES



FREE MOVIE DOWNLOAD

GET THE EXHILARATING OSCAR-WINNING **DOCUMENTARY FROM ITUNES TODAY SEE PAGE 29 FOR DETAILS**

WORTH

'IT'S AMAZING THAT

HELENA CHRISTENSEN PUZZLES OVER HER CAREER

STYLE

Met boss took £12,000 freebie

David Leppard

BRITAIN's top policeman has accepted up to £12,000 in luxury hospitality from one of the country's leading health spas.

The Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Paul Stephenson, and his wife spent 20 nights with full board at Champneys in Tring, Hertfordshire, as he was recuperating from hospital treatment earlier this year.

The revelation is especially embarrassing because the Champnevs PR representative was Neil Wallis, a key suspect in the Met's phone-hacking inquiry. He was arrested last Thursday.

Wallis, a former deputy editor of the News of the World known as the "Wolfman", has also worked for the Met as Stephenson's PR adviser.

In a statement to The Sunday Times last night, the Met said the accommodation and other costs for Stephenson, 57, and his wife, were covered by the hotel.

"Following his operations, the commissioner stayed with his wife, at Champneys Medical from Monday to Friday over a period of five weeks earlier this year where he underwent an extensive programme of hydro- and physiotherapy. This enabled him to return to work six weeks earlier than anticipated. As with many officers, the Met paid the intensive physiotherapy costs. The accommodation and meals were arranged and provided by Stephen Purdew, MD of Champneys, a personal family friend."

The cost of a mid-range premier room at Champneys is as much as £598 a night for two.

The Met said Stephenson was not aware of Wallis's connection to Champneys. It said the commissioner had declared the benefit in the Met's hospitality register, to be published shortly. Wallis took over the PR for Champneys last November.

The Met boss, who is paid £276,000 a year, is already facing calls to resign over his links with Wallis. The Met was forced to admit just hours after Wallis's arrest that he had been hired at the rate of £1,000 a day as Stephenson's personal adviser and part-time public relations consultant.

It is understood that the commissioner did not tell the home secretary, Theresa May, or David Cameron, about Wallis when he met them to discuss the phone-hacking scandal last

A Met colleague said the disclosure would intensify pressure on Stephenson. "This will ramp things up. With everything else that's rattling around it will make it difficult. Jennette Arnold, a member

of the Met's watchdog, the Metropolitan Police Authority, and the chairwoman of the London assembly, said she was "flabbergasted". She said: "Yesterday the confidence was low, now my confidence in him is completely shattered."

Purdew said Stephenson was a friend and that he had offered him a "family and friends discount".

Bungle by Yard's safe pair of hands, page 12

THE NEW STEVEN **SPIELBERG**

Cracks in China's one-child policy

Michael Sheridan **Far East Correspondent**

THE province that borders Hong Kong is set to become the first part of China to end the one-child policy that has dominated people's lives for

The news has caused a sensation, and has led to calls from women yearning for children for the policy to be lifted nationally.

At present, couples in Chinese cities are banned from having more than one child, while those in the countryside are generally restricted to two.

Brutal coercion, forced abortions and compulsory sterilisations are used to enforce the law.

Birth control "work teams" in rural China often punish peasants by destroying their homes, levying fines and carrying off their livestock.

City dwellers face huge fines and may lose their jobs or even their homes in reprisal for having more than one baby.

But there are growing signs of resistance to the policy. Farmers in the southern province of Guangxi recently went on a rampage, destroying seven government buildings in a protest against the birth control teams.

There has been widespread public sympathy for a Beijing professor, Yang Zhizhu, who lost his job at the Youth Political College and was fined £20,000 after his wife had a second child.

In May, a farmer in the northeast of China was Continued on page 2 ▶▶



Tom Daley, 17, jokes with a fellow diver during training at the Fina swimming world championships in Shanghai as he prepares for the 10-metre synchronised event

Brown baffles police over Sunday Times

Mark Hookham

GORDON BROWN, the former prime minister, has taken the extraordinary step of calling in the police simply because The Sunday Times wrote him

The letter questioned the accuracy of Brown's claim that this newspaper had hired "known criminals" to target the "completely defenceless".

Instead of responding to the questions, Brown said he would hand the letter to police. It is not clear why he did so the letter contained nothing incriminating. Brown's decision to pass

our email to police will dismay Labour colleagues, who fear he has gone too far in his campaign against News International titles. Earlier last week, he faced embarrassment after claims

that The Sun illegally accessed

his son Fraser's medical records were exposed as untrue. Privately, Labour MPs fear Brown's bizarre behaviour could take the shine off what was widely regarded as a highly successful week for the

party leader, Ed Miliband. On Friday this newspaper wrote to Brown's assistant

he could substantiate a answer any of the questions. number of claims he made last week.

In particular we were seeking an explanation for his allegation that this newspaper had paid criminals to target people.

He said in a BBC TV interview: "I have only [just] found out the links between The Sunday Times and what I would call elements of the criminal underworld who were being paid, while known criminals, to do work that was, if you like, the most disgusting of work, not against me only, but against people who were com-

pletely defenceless." The email asked Brown "in the interests of accuracy" for his evidence for the serious allegations. Brown responded yesterday afternoon by tipping off the BBC that he was going to pass the email to

He then sent a statement to this newspaper which failed to

IN THIS SECTION

Cracks in the titan

4-PAGE FOCUS SPECIAL, P19-22 asking Brown to explain how

His response was to accuse the paper of attempting to "manufacture claims which were never made and to distort those that were".

Brown says he has reported him and other innocent The Sunday Times to the police over actions taken by reporters 11 years ago when a story was being prepared on his purchase of a Westminster flat from the collapsed business empire of Robert Maxwell.

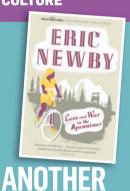
The newspaper did not act illegally and any subterfuge that may have been used could be defended because the story was in the public interest. In the BBC interview,

Brown claimed: "We have got a huge amount of information that has been brought to me even since I have been in government that shows the links between The Sunday Times and known criminals.

Our questions asked him to explain this.

It appeared that he had based his claims on the fact that a man who once worked with The Sunday Times was later convicted of trying to smuggle alcohol into Britain. The newspaper had no knowledge of his crime and never used him again after his conviction.

CULTURE



GET ERIC NEWBY'S

LOVE AND WAR IN THE APENNINES **SEE VOUCHER CULTURE, PAGE 41**



YOUR LAST **MINUTE HOLIDAY** WARDROBE SORTED STYLE

The secret to a longer life may lie in... dog food

Jonathan Leake **Science Editor**

SCIENTISTS claim they may have cracked the secret to a longer life — but do not make any plans for an exotic retirement just yet. So far it is only dogs and other pets that will

DIGITAL RADIO | CLASSICFM.COM | 100-102FM

thought to be governed by telomeres: sections of DNA that appear to shorten steadily over a lifetime. Now research in America has uncovered compounds that target the telomeres and slow down — or even reverse — any shrinking.

It is too early to use such

The ageing process is compounds on humans but the team that discovered them suggests they could be safely added to pet food to extend the lives of cats and dogs.

Bill Andrews of Sierra Sciences, the Nevada firm behind the research, will present his findings to a conference in Cambridge next month.

ageing claims with caution but Andrews is renowned for leading the team that discovered the genetic origins of a substance called telomerase, an age-reversing enzyme.

When produced by cells, this reverses the shortening of telomeres and, in theory, might

gene is largely inactive but could be kick-started by a drug. Andrews set up Sierra Sciences to hunt for such a drug.

In Cambridge he will explain that more than three dozen substances seem to have such an effect. "Inducing cells to produce telomerase would be a

Scientists treat all anti- help slow ageing. In adults the great medical advance," he said. "The substances we have found can achieve this but we have to be cautious and there is no chance of getting medical approval for human use for

some years. "For pets, however, the rules are much less stringent — and the market is potentially huge.'





CLASSIC M



now with more music