

# M DAILY Mirror

55P  
THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 9, 2014



## Flantastic!

Nancy is crowned queen of Bake Off

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EXCLUSIVE

## Beeb in Clarkson cover-up storm

THE BBC was last night accused of a cover-up after appearing to gag a dealer who sold them the Porsche at the centre of Jeremy Clarkson's Falklands number plate gaffe in Argentina.

SEE PAGES 6&7



**STROP GEAR**  
Weary Clarkson and boss Andy Wilman in London

## WORLD BATTLES KILLER BUG

# WAR ON EBOLA

- » 750 Brit troops sent to fight virus
- » First US death as flights screened
- » Emergency units at 4 UK hospitals



**ALERT** Health official checking for Ebola virus

BY ANDREW GREGORY

**BRITAIN is sending 750 troops to help Sierra Leone tackle deadly Ebola.**

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said the bug was an "unprecedented threat" as officials named four hospitals as emergency units in case of a UK outbreak.

In the US, airport checks were stepped up after the country's first victim died.

**FULL STORY: PAGES 4&5**



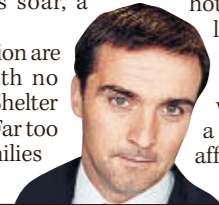
# SHELTER: 5M TENANTS STUCK IN RENT TRAP

BY JACK BLANCHARD  
Political Correspondent

AROUND 66% of people renting a home are too hard-pressed to save for a place of their own, figures reveal.

And the number has leapt 13% in just two years as house prices soar, a Shelter survey reveals.

The charity warns five million are caught in a "rent trap" with no prospect of owning a home. Shelter chief Campbell Robb, said: "Far too many young people and families



**WARNING** Shelter chief Robb

## Rape 'is price of pop fame'

JIMMY Savile's former driver promised to turn a girl of 17 into the next pop sensation before raping her because "sex was the price for fame", a jury heard yesterday.

Former Radio Caroline DJ Ray Teret convinced her to move into his house with "the promise of the dream", but on the first night he got her drunk and raped her. Manchester Minshull Street crown court was told.

Teret, 72, of Altrincham, Greater Manchester denies more than 30 sexual offences, including 18 rapes.

The trial continues.

face a lifetime of moving from one unstable and expensive rental property to the next."

He blamed "successive governments' failure to build enough affordable homes".

Housebuilding has collapsed since 2010 when the Coalition slashed the affordable housing budget by 60%. It is at its lowest level since the war.

Shadow housing minister Emma Reynolds, said: "For a whole generation the prospect of a decent home at a price they can afford is slipping out of reach. We must tackle this crisis."

# CLARKSON

## EXCLUSIVE

BY HALINA WATTS and TOM BRYANT Head of Showbiz

**BBC claims that Jeremy Clarkson's Falklands number plate gaffe was a fluke are in doubt after it emerged bosses planned to film a joke stunt with a second registration.**

Officials had insisted it was a coincidence the Top Gear presenter drove a Porsche through Argentina with the letters H982 FKL on it.

But another set of plates – with BE11 END on them – were found in the same sports car and Beeb chiefs admitted they had wanted to use them in a scene.

And the corporation was plunged into further turmoil after gagging a dealer who sold it the Porsche with FKL plates, sparking accusations of a cover-up over the blunder.

Mark Waring, of Surrey-based Rennsport Classics, was approached by the Mirror to comment on the scandal that infuriated Argentines and left Clarkson and his team fleeing for their lives after being attacked by an angry mob in the South American country.

Asked if BBC chiefs appeared interested in his Porsche 928GT's number plate, he replied: "You might not be surprised to know that I have been contacted by Top Gear and basically I can't comment."

"They have given me the number of the press office for you. So I can't comment. I really can't. I saw the car on the news and they called me a while after that."

Labour MP Jim Sheridan last night demanded the BBC comes clean over the plate scandal and stopped protecting controversial star Clarkson, 54.

## SACKED

He said: "If the BBC are involved in a cover-up to protect this man it's unforgivable. If this was an ordinary employee they would be sacked."

"He has become not just a local embarrassment but an international one to the BBC. If they are trying to withhold information, I will write to the Director General to ask him to clarify."

The BBC refused to comment. But a source insisted officials had not tried to gag Mr Waring. The insider said they approached him as part of a "duty of care", as they would any person who may find themselves embroiled in a media storm.

But the Mirror was the only news organisation to have contacted the dealer yesterday. The source added: "He could have spoken if he wanted to but may have chosen not to. He wasn't gagged."

Clarkson's Porsche was found abandoned near the border with Chile last Thursday after the Top Gear team fled Argentina in a convoy. Police found the BE11 END plates inside the car.

The presenter was once branded a "monumental bellend" by co-star James May as he tried to defend him against racism accusations.

Top Gear said: "The number plate was not used at any point during filming. It was originally intended to be in the programme's final scene, a game of car football, but that ending has changed."

The admission appears to sit uneasily with the BBC's claim the Porsche's H982FKL plate was not designed to provoke controversy. The source insisted executives bought the car on the back of an advert posted by Mr Waring but the offending number plates had been blurred out – adding: "It was a coincidence."

The Mirror has seen pictures of what is thought to be the Porsche in question on

a classics car website. It is on an advert asking for similar owners to come forward – saying they have sold the one pictured. The registration is blurred. The original ad that alerted the BBC to the Porsche, which was bought in the summer, has yet to be uncovered. Argentinians believe the BE11



**CONTROVERSY** Ad with Porsche the BBC bought



**HORROR** Our front page story on the attack on presenter

**“If the BBC are involved in a cover-up to protect this man it's unforgivable”**

JIM SHERIDAN LABOUR MP ON BBC NUMBER PLATE SCANDAL



**TIRED** Star looks jaded outside London restaurant

# AND BBC IN COVER-UP STORM

# COINCIDENCE? PORSCHE OFF!



**WEARY ME...** Clarkson and Andy Wilman



**NUMBER'S UP** Plates that were going to be used in stunt

Falklands reg plate was fluke say Beeb, but Top Gear had number plate 'joke' planned... and now dealer who sold car 'can't talk about it'

END plates were a further pop at the nation, where feelings still run high over the 1982 Falklands War with Britain.

One unnamed official said: "We know bellend doesn't mean the end of the bell and is a word used instead to describe the head of the penis which is often employed as an insult in England."

"We regard it as another insult to the people of Argentina. We're sure the Top Gear team were planning another provocation with the number plate in the same way they provoked us with the one referencing the Falklands War."

As the controversy raged, Clarkson was spotted with Top Gear executive

producer Andy Wilman outside a restaurant in London on Tuesday. The pair appeared unshaven and weary.

But there was more bad news for the presenter and his team after it emerged an Argentine judge was considering whether to open a criminal investigation into plate changing – an offence that carries a three-year jail sentence.

When the Porsche was found abandoned it had been fitted with another number plate, HI VAE.

Court sources said the use of different number plates to those that appear in the car's official documentation would constitute a crime of falsification. The



**ANGER** Car's 82 FKL registration

car, still at a police station in Tolhuin, southern Argentina, is expected to be scrapped or sold at auction.

Clarkson, who arrived back in the UK

with James May and fellow-presenter Richard Hammond early last Friday, yesterday pulled out of a scheduled appearance on ITV's Loose Women.

He blamed changes in his filming schedule. But earlier he tweeted a snap of himself in bed with chef Heston Blumenthal in a charity bid to raise money for Syria through Unicef.

At the weekend, Clarkson wrote about the attack by irate Argentines over the FKL plate blunder.

Police had been called to the five-star hotel where the crew were staying after angry war vets swarmed into the lobby and warned the presenters and staff to

leave "or face the consequences". Clarkson said: "Richard, James and I bravely hid under the beds in a researcher's room while protesters went through the hotel looking for us."

"The car park was filling up. More were arriving. "This was starting to get ugly. Twitter was rammed with messages from locals. They wanted blood."

Terrified members of the crew had been stoned as they fled towards the Chile border. A technician was hit in the face and injured.

halina.watts@mirror.co.uk  
**VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE 8**

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