

30p

NHS IN THE RED

**Revealed:
shocking
detail of
cash-strapped
hospital
finances**



P6



P7

**Monarchy row
after Prince Charles
compares Putin's
behaviour to Nazis**



P8

**May lays down
the law to police
for breaking the
public's trust**

'Complacent' Labour to hold crisis talks over Ukip threat



- Former cabinet minister warns that traditional working-class supporters are 'not voting for party'
- Polls put Ukip neck-and-neck with Labour to take the most votes in today's European elections
- Lib Dems braced for disastrous results as Clegg's standing slips even further among party faithful

P4-5

**Fighting for
your life in the
African jungle
- one British
soldier's story**



P38



**10 Best gifts
for gardeners**

P42

The
essential
daily
briefing

FROM
INDEPENDENT

Email: ji@independent.co.uk
Facebook: [facebook.com/thepaper](https://www.facebook.com/thepaper)
Twitter: [@thepaper](https://twitter.com/thepaper)

THURSDAY
22 MAY 2014
Number 1288

SPORT

**Emmis-Hill plans
switch to hurdles
after giving birth**



People



By Robert Meakin robertmeakin@independent.co.uk
Twitter: @rmeakin

Cleese bites back over Python show

As this column has noted, Monty Python member Terry Gilliam caused a stir after criticising the comedy troupe's planned comeback shows at London's O2. Now fellow Python **John Cleese** remarks: "I haven't set eyes on them [the Pythons] for six months... all I do is read a few stupid quotes from Gilliam, but that's pretty much par for the course. I gather he said he

hoped the shows would be cancelled." Noting that Gilliam is billed to appear in all 10 performances, Cleese (pictured)

joked: "I've pointed out to him he doesn't have to turn up at the O2, because no one will notice."

Drummer **Roger Taylor** has formed his own Queen tribute band, having been irked by others' attempts to mimic his group. "The terrible ones are cheesy and panto-like, more about dressing up in a Brian May wig and a Freddie Mercury moustache and what they're missing out on is the fact that the music is quite complicated and actually not easy to perform," says the rocker. Taylor has been the driving force behind new tribute act, The Queen Extravaganza, fronted by French-Canadian singer Marc Martel.



Jude meets 'nearly-mother-in-law' Miller

Jude Law was reunited with the woman who came very close to being his mother-in-law during a charity event yesterday. The actor posed for the

camera (above) with Josephine Miller, mother of Sienna Miller, to whom Law was engaged until their split in 2006. He was among the celebrities attending the

African Solutions to African Problems lunch at the Louise Boulin Foundation in west London. Fellow guests included Hugh Grant, Nancy Dell'Olio and Oona Chaplin.

Camera-shy Pattinson



Tired of ongoing media interest in his private life, screen idol **Robert Pattinson** announces: "I'm just trying to not be in stupid gossip magazines, basically," before light-heartedly adding: "I think the best way to do it is never be photographed ever." The Twilight actor, who has been at the Cannes Film Festival promoting his latest movie, *The Rover*, adds: "As I get older, I just get more and more self-conscious about getting photographed. I don't know why. I've done it too many times and now I feel like everyone can see through me."

Papa's done preaching

Madonna claims her father Tony Ciccone has finally accepted her need to adopt a raunchy image all these decades on. "I would always say, 'Dad, I'm an artist, I have to express myself. You don't understand,'" the 55-year-old explains. She adds: "I think he's finally come to terms with it. It's only taken 30 years." Madge shows no sign of toning things down any time soon.

Post script

Veteran producer **Alvin Rakoff** confessed this week that he advised a young **Sir Sean Connery** to lose his "distracting" Scottish accent back in the 1950s. "How wrong we were," observed Rakoff. 83.

Connery sometimes had less success when attempting to adopt other dialects away from his native burr, however - not least his stab at an Irish-American accent when playing police officer Jim Malone in the 1987 hit, *The Untouchables*. It later won Connery the unwanted accolade of "Worst Movie Accent" in a much-publicised film poll.



Recalling a recent audition for **Martin Scorsese** who famously directed Robert De Niro in such classics as *Raging Bull*, *Taxi Driver* and *Mean Streets*, British comedy actor **Nick Frost** admits: "You immediately become 25 per cent more De Niro when you're casting for Scorsese. I had a note which said, 'It was great, but can you be less Mean Streets?'"

Jessica Barrett is away

25% OFF EVERYTHING

OFF THURSDAY 22 MAY

Receive a fantastic 25% OFF everything including fitted kitchens. Drinks served in-store 5-7pm.

www.habitat.co.uk

Tottenham Court Road | Kings Road | Piccadilly Road
West Habitat stores in Hove | Basingstoke | Bournemouth | Brighton | Bristol | Brixton | Cambridge
Bury St Edmunds | Chesham | Edinburgh | Exeter | Farnham | Harlow | Harrogate | Ipswich
Middlesbrough | Leeds | Luton | Milton Keynes | Norwich | Oxford | Peterborough | Reading | Southampton | Stevenage | Telford
Walsingham | Worcester

habitat