

Turning away from Sport for a moment, the UK press are already asking if the new coalition government will break the record for the shortest-lived honeymoon period in history.

With the recent budget, VAT increase, job losses, reduction in manufacturing figures, increased unemployment, pension and retirement changes etc., the message that “we all have to tighten our belts” is not going down too well in some quarters.

No doubt the wealthy will carry on business as usual and the banking industry has already warned about too much financial regulation. The coalition has already suffered its first embarrassment over expenses with the revelation that Chief Treasury Secretary David Laws wrongfully claimed MP’s expenses to rent rooms in homes owned by his male partner... so what will come next?



But let’s not go there either... ‘stay positive’ is the current message, so what else is in the news?

Great tits cope well with warming was the headline for one BBC item recently.

Researchers have apparently discovered that great tits in Britain are laying eggs earlier in the spring than they used to, keeping step with the earlier emergence of caterpillars. Great tits can have eight or nine babies in a brood, and each of them will eat about 70 caterpillars a day and since the caterpillar’s appearance is triggered by ambient temperature the ability of the tits to cope with climate change is vital say the experts. Their movement to an earlier breeding time does not involve an evolutionary change, the scientists believe - it is simply that individual birds are able to change their behaviour, in the same way that they have presumably adapted to warmer or cooler phases before the era of human-induced global warming.

Good news for heron addicts was another headline that caught my eye.



In June a pair of purple herons has successfully bred in the UK for the first time. These beautiful birds breed normally in southern Europe and visit Britain in small numbers each year, but the pair which have set up home on the Dungeness peninsula appear to have managed a UK first by hatching eggs here,

Experts said the species, which has struggled in Europe in recent decades, is one of the species likely to be setting up home in southern Britain as climate change pushes wildlife further north.

In other Climate Change news, the UK reached a milestone earlier this year by completing the installation of 1 gigawatt of offshore wind farms- enough to power 700,000 homes.

Maria McCaffery, Chief Executive of Renewables UK said hitting the 1GW mark was a tremendous step forward, The UK offshore wind industry has come of age. The UK now has 11 offshore wind farms, with a total of 336 installed turbines. A further 4GW of offshore wind farms are being constructed or have planning consent and a total of 40GW are at various stages of development.”



As we go to press, Victoria Beckham was in the news along side the words ‘environmentally friendly’ so what was that all about?



In case you missed it, Range Rover have celebrated their 40th birthday with the launch of the ‘Evoque’ a smaller and greener Range Rover designed to attract younger drivers and be on the market by 2011.

Ms Beckham’s role will be to assist in the interior designs apparently so watch this space

So what to round up with? **Happy Phew Year** was the headline in the Sun back in December, so how’s it actually going. After a couple of weeks in the UK, I have to say that it’s been pretty marvellous really and with more sun to come the BBQ has been dragged out of hibernation.

Last year, the Met Office was much-vilified for predicting a “BBQ summer” when in fact it was a wash-out. Temperatures had expected to be around, or above, 30°C, and heatwave advice was issued, however rainfall was higher than average over the summer, particularly in August, and the Met Office was forced to revise its forecast.

Jonathan Powell, Senior Forecaster at Positive Weather Solutions (PWS), told the Daily Mail: “There will be stifling temperatures, making it possibly the warmest UK summer on record and placing it at least in the top three warmest summers recorded.”

As always though, the experts can’t quite agree on what comes next. Weather Outlook says the best is already over with July looking like a ‘mixed’ month!

But heh, this wouldn’t be Britain if we knew what was coming. Enjoy your summer break wherever you happen to take it... Ed