



Mrs Hamilton & Mrs Wessex can't seem to keep out of the news either at the moment. On this occasion both were not voted very highly in the best dressed category. Christine apparently because she turned up in this little number when everyone else wore black. Sophie because she wore yet another 'royal box' outfit!



It's time for an update on the best of the less than serious stories that are grabbing more than their fair share of headlines back in the UK.

**JOHN CLEESE** is apparently planning to leave England for good. The 61 year old actor, best known for his starring role as the infamous Basil Fawlty in Fawlty Towers and his work with the Monty Python team, sold his £5 million home in Holland Park last month. He intends to base himself at his ranch in Santa Barbara, California, where he lives with his third wife Alyce Faye Eichelberger. Speaking to a Canadian newspaper, two of the reasons Cleese gave included better weather and the fact that "England is less tolerant of silliness than it used to be. I'm tall, I write satire and I've been well known in England for 26 years. Put those things together with an overactive, unimaginative media and I couldn't do anything over there."

**ELTON JOHN**'s flair for shopping is no secret but it seems that, while on a recent trip to Melbourne, the flamboyant singer surpassed himself. Out on a shopping spree he spotted what he considered to be a rather natty little bargain and just had to have it. It, of course, was a full-size tram. The tram in question has now been shipped back to the UK to sit in his garden, where Elton's partner David Furnish is apparently using it as an office!

**SIR PAUL McCARTNEY**'s most recent token of his affection for fiancée Heather Mills was a house in Hove, costing a cool £1 million. It must be love! Their famous neighbours will include Zoë Ball and her husband Norman Cook (a.k.a. Fat Boy Slim) and comedy actor Steve Coogan.

**HARRY**, Geri Halliwell's treasured pet shih-tzu, will soon be the third dog to be immortalised in wax and put on display beside a model of his owner in the famous Madame Tussaud's museum. His two canine companions are Barbara Cartland's pet pooch and the infamous Shep, Blue Peter's most well known pet.

**ANNE ROBINSON**'s show The Weakest Link continues to go from strength to strength on both sides of the Atlantic, consistently appearing in the Top 10 TV programmes in America and the Top 10 on BBC2, its main home in the UK. A new series of special editions for BBC1 has just begun, starting with one for the 'stars' of Reality TV. Darren, Caroline and 'Nasty Nick' from Big Brother, Trevor and Toby from Castaway 2000, Zoë and James from Survivor and Penny and Narinder from Big Brother 2 faced both each other and the formidable Robinson, hoping to win up to £50,000 for charity. One by one, they were voted off, an experience that was fairly familiar to all but Trevor and Toby, until only Nick and Toby remained. It was close but in the end it was 'Nasty Nick', whose scheming backfired so spectacularly in his first gameshow, who walked away with roughly £10,500 to give to Imperial Cancer Research. The next special edition will be a 'Welsh' one, following

Anne's appearance on Paul Merton's show Room 101, where her choice of 'the Welsh' as one of her pet hates that she would like to banish to Room 101, prompted one of the largest ever numbers of viewers' complaints!

A porn film biography of Greek tycoon **ARISTOTLE ONASSIS** has won the Hot d'Or. The equivalent of the Palme in the porn industry went to Italian director Mario Salieri. Salieri's next project is a porn version of Faust.

A curious little item in a recent magazine catches the eye. Hello! asks rhetorically whether the "golden 'I'll see you in the Members' Enclosure after the show.'days" of TV show Who Wants to be a Millionaire? are over, citing the current crisis concerning **MAJOR CHARLES INGRAM**'s jackpot win, which has been the subject of an inquiry into cheating allegations, and subsequent legal action by the Major. It then mentions the recent jackpot win by "wealthy ex-City Banker" **ROBERT KEMPE BRYDGES**, and the previous jackpot win by **JUDITH KEPPEL** (a self-styled ordinary woman who happened to be a relative of Camilla Parker-Bowles), and wonders if some of the show's novelty may have worn off. Indeed, it refers to the Keppel win as a "death knell". Lucy Rouse, editor of Broadcast magazine, agrees. "The drama of building to that last question has dissipated and the audience has got used to the format and successes of the past," she argues. Rouse certainly has a point, but isn't there a more obvious reason? The programme makers themselves drew a very different conclusion from the Keppel and Kempe Brydges wins. They regarded them as PR disasters, because the last thing they wanted was rich, well-educated toffs walking off with a suitcase full of cash. They suspected that the public might find it harder to empathise with such people than with, say, a dinner lady with a disabled husband. Hello! is strangely silent on this particular aspect. We can only speculate as to why.

**AND FINALLY, BIG BROTHER 2** – the show that just won't die! A helpline set up by entertainment magazine Heat after the show ended received around 5,000 calls on the day it opened from people who felt bereft now that Dean, Helen, Brian, mad Penny, angry Amma and all the others were gone from their screens. (Stop sniggering at the back there, this is serious!) They needn't have worried though, since the deluge of newspaper articles concerning one or other of the BB2 inmates and their repeated television appearances is only now beginning to slow down. We are still getting regular updates on dippy hairdresser Helen's romance with dull and possibly slightly slimy Paul, and hearing how hard the ex-housemates are finding it to cope with their new found fame. (Obviously not hard enough to prevent them from appearing on any show or in any magazine that asks them to, as well as several that didn't!)