



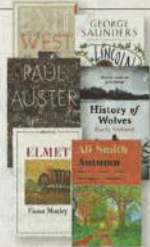
Jennifer Lawrence 'I want my new film to traumatisise you'

Arts, page 25



From discovery to recovery The seven stages of infidelity

Features, page 19



Man Booker Prize 2017 A 'baffling' shortlist

Arts, page 24

The Daily Telegraph

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2

Thursday 14 September 2017 The Daily Telegraph

News

Don't allow abuse of reporters, BBC tells MPs

By Christopher Williams

THE CHAIRMAN of the BBC has called on politicians to protect journalists from being booed at events and from getting abuse online after Jeremy Corbyn supporters targeted Laura Kuenssberg in the General Election campaign. Sir David Clementi said female journalists especially were suffering "increasingly explicit and aggressive" abuse "on an almost daily basis" on social media. Sir David also highlighted

booing and aggression at real world political events. He said: "It occurs in plain sight, at press conferences and political gatherings on all sides. Politicians cannot stand by and watch - they must confront any abuse, and make it clear that it is intolerable." Ms Kuenssberg, the BBC's political editor, has been singled out by Jeremy Corbyn supporters as a target for misogynist online abuse and booing at events following claims she showed bias against the Labour Left. During the

election she had to be assigned protection staff. The experienced Westminster journalist also faced an online petition last year calling for her to be sacked. It was eventually shut down by 38 Degrees, the campaign group hosting the petition, after executives said it had been "hijacked, and used as a focal point for sexist and hateful abuse". Sir David told the Royal Television Society Convention in Cambridge: "It is the responsibility of our journalists

to ask the question - even if it is direct, awkward or unwelcome." At one event in during the election campaign in May, Mr. Corbyn attempted to call off his supporters after they targeted a Channel 5 reporter with booing. The Labour leader said: "Journalism and journalists are intrinsic to a democracy and a free society." There have also been incidents of booing and intimidation of journalists at Ukip events. Sir David said the trend was partly a result of some people living

in online "echo chambers" where they rarely hear opposing views. He said: "Truth and accuracy are under assault like never before. False claims travel the globe in an instant. And new media channels can speak, unchallenged, to closed groups of audiences." "Questions about Government policies, which seem to some parts of our audience natural questions to ask, are regarded by others as impertinent and disrespectful."

Tory minister warns against breeding 'cool' animals

By Kate McCann
SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

OWNING and breeding designer dogs such as pugs is "self-indulgent" because of the damaging genetic defects they suffer, a Conservative minister has warned. Lord Gardiner of Kimble, the environment minister, said people should "respect animals as they are" after peers warned that people are buying the animals because of celebrity social media posts and demanded the Government tell people such pets are "not cool". Pets bred to be brachycephalic, with shortened or flat faces, have become increasingly popular but the animals often suffer breathing difficulties because their airways are too short and their eyes become easily infected, leading to health problems. Conservative Lord Black of Brentwood, executive director of Telegraph Media Group, said breeds such as pugs and Scottish fold cats are in "intolerable pain and unable to breathe properly" because of deformation caused by breeding. Crossbreeder and veterinarian Lord



Now you see him Chinese artist Liu Bolin begins his new work, The Disappearing Act, at the START Art Fair at the Saatchi Gallery, Chelsea, where local artists are being directed to help Bolin disappear into the background of Lego bricks which depict a sunflower.

NEWS BULLETIN

Officer made 'black lives matter' mocking remark

A police officer who was filmed asking a black man if he was going to "go Black Lives Matter on us" has been removed from front line duties. West Midlands police are investigating the incident, posted on social media, in which four officers were seen arguing with a couple at a property in Coventry. Assistant Chief Constable Alex Murray said the officer has since expressed remorse. The man filming claims he thought, at first the police were burglars. "You're going to go Black Lives Matter on us then are you?" asked one officer, laughing, in a reference to an American police-watchdog group.

Eddie Redmayne was stalked by translator

A German translator bombarded actor Eddie Redmayne with love letters in a five-year harassment campaign after seeing him in a play, a court has heard. Gaby Steiger, 49, repeatedly loitered outside the Oscar-winner's house in Southwark, south London, as well as sending him letters. She pleaded guilty to stalking at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court on Wednesday. Redmayne said he felt "distressed, unsafe and deeply unsettled". Steiger, of Colindale, north London, was released on conditional bail and will be sentenced today.

Prisoners on spice, the 'zombie drug', doubles

Double the number of people are coming out of prison testing positive for the synthetic cannabinoid spice as are going in, a Government adviser has warned. The former "legal high" is being smuggled into jails in liquid form dissolved into paper and then smoked, as joints, according to Dr George Ryan, of Public Health England. Notorious for turning entire high streets into "zombie zones", the potent drug is "very affordable" for prisoners