

# THE COURIER & Advertiser

## THE URGE TO DONATE

SIR Tom Hunter was talking about philanthropy this week. He reckons that wealth and public-spirited generosity are two sides of the same coin.

In that, he is like one of the greatest in the tribe, Andrew Carnegie. In their day, Carnegie and Rockefeller were unrivalled. Subsequently, the benefactor role of the state in this country has grown and that of individual donors has diminished.

There have, of course, been many individual acts of extraordinary generosity in our own times. But the generalisation holds good that giving away large sums is not as embedded in our collective psyche in the way it is in the US. Americans do enjoy tax breaks as an incentive, but that hardly explains the full extent of their enthusiasm.

A few days ago it was revealed that the man believed to be the second richest in the world, Warren Buffet, is putting £20 billion in the way of Bill Gates's charitable foundation. Mr Buffet's self-effacing explanation was that, "I don't think I'm as well cut out to be a philanthropist as Bill".

That suggests that, at least in Mr Buffet's estimation, there is more to this than signing cheques. It is difficult not to be charmed by the unpretentiousness of a Croesus who continues to live in the same house he bought in 1957 and retains simple tastes.

Such men are always vulnerable to being misunderstood, or having dark motives ascribed to them. When Mr Gates distributed 40,000 computers for use in libraries in poor parts of the US, he was accused of disguising a bid to capture a bigger customer base for Microsoft. At least when Carnegie endowed libraries he was spared that insult.

Microsoft as a monopoly is for courts to determine, but Bill Gates's reputation as generosity personified rests with public opinion to decide, not the law.

There is a mundane side to all this, worlds away from vaccination programmes and appearances on stage at Live8. Many of the big donors endow universities: Sir Tom does. If that habit were to grow it would benefit people twice: when they received higher education and when the benefits of research were distributed.

Sir Tom's point that in the UK there is a balance between private and public streams of revenue is well made. His foundation takes in donations that are tax-free but this is not shouted from the rooftops.

As overall wealth here increases, and is put to good use, hostility to it should melt away. We hear so much about the over-paid wastrels and rogues, less about good deeds done quietly. It is the price of modesty.

**QUOTE:** It is much easier to make money than to know how to spend it wisely.  
—W. K. Kellogg.

### THE COURIER

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### From The Courier files . . .

**100 YEARS AGO**  
**The Courier AND ARGUS**  
SCARBOROUGH HAD an unexpected spectacle yesterday. About half-past three, four warships steamed into the bay and anchored near shore. After much signalling boats were sent from the ships ashore. Chief Constable Busham was telephoned for; an indemnity demanded from the town, the Mayor was told to consider himself a prisoner!

**50 YEARS AGO**  
**Courier AND Advertiser**  
IN A blaze seen for miles around, 40 tons of wheat straw were destroyed at Balmudown Farm (John Wallace and Sons), near Dundee, on Saturday night. The firemen's main task was to prevent the blaze from reaching the steading. They succeeded, as only the paintwork on the nearest building was blistered.

**25 YEARS AGO**  
**THE COURIER AND ADVERTISER**  
ISRAEL'S GENERAL ELECTION ended in uncertainty with both main parties evenly placed and scrambling to put together a coalition. Both parties initially claimed victory, and sources claim the Likud party leader has already entered bargaining with two smaller parties, the National Religious Party and the religious Agudat Israel Bloc.

185 Fleet Street, London.  
IT'S SAID the oldest song about London is the children's classic London Bridge is Falling Down. Many writers have conjured up images of the city in songs like Maybe It's Because I'm A Londoner and The Lambeth Walk.

However, since the 60s one man has become the quintessential English rock 'n' roll composer. He is Ray Davies, CBE, lead singer of the Kinks, who wrote nearly all of their songs and a fair few about London itself.

In the great old days of British pop bands ruling the world, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones led the way. But the Kinks were truly English. It's said the Stones took Route 66 and the Kinks went up the M1.

### References

But while Liverpool was the centre of the musical cosmos in the 60s with Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields, along came Ray Davies weaving wonderful images of London life with references to Leicester Square and Regent Street in Dedicated Follower of Fashion.

And who can fail to be moved by Waterloo Sunset and lyrics about Terry and Julie crossing over the river. Was it really Terence Stamp and Julie Christie?

I was lucky enough to see the Kinks three times. The first couple of occasions were at the Raith Ballroom, Kirkcaldy.

They played there on January 7, and July 22, 1966. The Andy Ross Orchestra was on the bill for both gigs. In 1993 they

# Ray Davies to thank for London images in song

## Bravery of the Chindits remembered

LONDON'S Embankment was the focus for many of the ex-servicemen who came to the capital last Tuesday, to celebrate the first ever Veterans' Day.

While many events took place in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, close to the Imperial War Museum, members of the Burma Star Association and AJEX (The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women) gathered at the Chindit Memorial.

There they remembered fallen comrades as well as their charismatic commander, Brigadier Orde Wingate, and his extraordinary military contribution in Palestine between the wars and south-east Asia during the second world war.

Described by Winston Churchill as, 'a man of genius, who might well have become also a man of destiny', Wingate led the long range penetration groups that operated behind enemy lines in the Burmese jungle. The name

Chindits came from the Chinthe, a mythical Burmese creature that was half lion and half eagle. For Wingate it symbolised perfectly the need for close co-operation between air and ground forces.

The Chindits, men from the armed forces of the UK, Burma, Hong Kong, India, Nepal, West Africa and the US, carried out two major expeditions in 1943 and 1944.

Enduring terrible conditions in the jungle, the men under Wingate's command showed immense bravery as they set about disrupting enemy communications, destroying roads and railways and cutting off supply lines.

Wingate was killed during the conflict when his plane crashed after take off from Imphal in 1944. After his death, the Chindits faced heavier fighting and would later be awarded four Victoria Crosses—three were awarded posthumously.

They were then ordered north to help the Chinese push on into Burma.

The striking memorial to these men, close to the Ministry of Defence, features a sculpture of the



mythical Chinthe and was unveiled in 1990 by the Duke of Edinburgh, patron of the Burma Star Association, standing in for his son, Prince Charles, patron of the Chindit Old Comrades Association, who was uncharacteristically ill. It features the Chindit motto The Boldest Measures Are the Safest.

played London's Royal Albert Hall.

Sadly, their last gig was two years later. But Ray is still in fine form. He's got his first studio solo album, Other People's Lives, out now and is currently touring the States.

### Football fan

An avid football fan, he'll be taking note of the goings-on in Germany as England bid to emulate their success of 1966.

On July 7 of that year the classic single Sunny Afternoon was released. It shot to Number 1 in the charts as England triumphed at Wembley.

Said Ray, "I wrote Sunny Afternoon so my dad could sing a song in the pub on a Saturday night ... and he actually ended up doing it!"

So what does Ray think of his country's chances this time?

"We've got second written all over us," he wryly commented.

### Love for city

But on the subject of London, we can list a few more London references.

Ray's written Big Black Smoke, Denmark Street, about life in Tin Pan Alley, Lola, whom he met in a bar in old Soho, the London 'Country' song Willesden Green and the classic album

# LONDON DIARY

## BY OUR MAN IN FLEET STREET

The Muswell Hillbillies. "I love London. I'll never leave it," says Ray.

"But I have a fascination with America and American music."

In an extended stay in New Orleans, Louisiana, he was shot in the leg by a mugger who snatched his girlfriend's bag.

Days earlier he was awarded a CBE in the New Year honours list for services to music. He turned up at Buckingham Palace leaning on a stick.

### House for sale

It all started in August 1964 with the Kinks' third single, You Really Got Me. It was written by Ray in the front room of number six Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green.

In fact the Davies's house, where the family invited friends for singings around the piano, is for sale for £385,000.

It's directly opposite the Clissold Arms, where there is a plethora of Kinks memorabilia and the fan club meets once a year.

Altogether now, "The tax man's taken all my dough, and left me in my stately home, lazing on a sunny afternoon..."

# Star clusters have been there for 13 billion years

THE SUMMER solstice is past so the nights are already beginning to lengthen, writes Dr Bill Samson of Mills Observatory, Dundee, in his monthly notes on the night sky. Nevertheless, twilight never really ends in July.

The 'Summer Triangle' of the bright stars Vega, Deneb and Altair is prominent in the eastern sky, while brilliant Jupiter is sinking into the south-west.

Up near the zenith is the constellation of Hercules. This is the site of a number of 'globular' star clusters, the brightest of which, Messier 13, is at the limit of naked eye visibility, but can be picked out with binoculars. These clusters date back to the early history of our galaxy—some 13 billion years ago—and contain hundreds of thousands of stars.

Messier 13 is at a distance of about 25,000 light years; about a quarter of the way across the galaxy. Much of our understanding of how stars develop and die comes from observations of these ancient relics of the early universe.

Mercury is between the Earth and the sun on the 18th, and will not be visible this month.

Venus is a brilliant object in the early

—BY *Craigie*

morning sky, rising at about 2am. The moon is nearby on the 23rd.

Mars sets only an hour after the sun and will not be visible this month.

Jupiter is in Libra, setting before 11pm by the end of the month.

Saturn sets soon after the sun, and will not be visible.

The moon is in its first quarter on the 3rd, full on the 11th, last quarter on the 17th and new on the 25th.

The Mills Observatory is open from 11am to 5pm Tuesday to Friday, and between 12.30pm and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, admission free. A solar telescope is available when the sky is clear, for viewing the sun.

There will be children's workshops one afternoon a week during the school holidays. For further details and to book a place, phone 01382 435967. A new display of rocks, minerals, meteorites and fossils will be opening on the 15th.

Visitors arriving by car should use the Glamis Road entrance to Ballyg Park. The website is located at [www.dundee.gov.uk/mills](http://www.dundee.gov.uk/mills)

### A Breath Of Fresh Air

THE NEW six-week serial due to begin on Monday will be A Breath Of Fresh Air by best-selling author, Erica James.

This compelling tale is set in Cheshire and follows the fortunes of Charlotte, whose only wish on suddenly being made a widow is to return home to the idyllic village of her childhood.

Everything is as she remembers it, right down to her bossy sister, Hilary, who decides that Charlotte is far too young to settle for widowhood. She resolves to



WHEN SHE saw the old postcard of the tram outside A. S. Troup's shop (June 17), a Monifeth reader was struck by the coincidence that it was the late Dr Ian Troup who drove the ambulance on the night the Milton Mill was bombed.

"He was at university then and part of our First Aid Post Volunteers, and son of the proprietor of the chemist. I was the relief attendant on that night and as I ran along to the post, which was at Milton Park Garage, I saw the bomb, which went through the roof of the house on the south side of Durham Street. The ambulance took the injured man to Ashludie Hospital and one soldier was killed outright.

"Stationed in the mill with The Black Watch was the Queen's cousin, the Hon Timothy Bowes-Lyon, then a young subaltern, and also a private by the name of Alfred Gregory, from Blackpool, who was in the ascent of Everest in 1953.

"This photograph is of Dr Troup and the regular attendant, Helen Gillies, with the improvised ambulance, which was always kept in excellent order."

find a new love for her, and where better to start than with Alex, the very eligible bachelor next door?

But will Charlotte and Alex fall in with Hilary's plans? And to what lengths will Hilary go to fulfil her romantic ambitions for her sister?

Find out in A Breath Of Fresh Air, our delightfully warm-hearted tale of love's disappointments and triumphs. It starts on Monday. Don't miss it!

### Why Doc?

THERE WAS reference in the column to the Downfield Tavern, Dundee, known

locally as Doc Stewart's, and this prompted Mr Hamish Mitchell to contact me.

"At this time of year, with all the graduations, readers might be interested in how the name 'Doc' Stewart arose, and likewise why White's pub in Provost Road was known as 'Doc' White's," he said.

"I was told years ago that if a man went to the pub, and his children asked their mother where he had gone, she would say he was away to the doctor's!"

Email: [craigie@thecourier.co.uk](mailto:craigie@thecourier.co.uk)

# Speaking of smoking ban statistics . . .

Sir,—Following the news that 24% of people now visit pubs more often thanks to the chief executive of the Scottish Licensed Trade Association has urged people to treat statistics with suspicion (Courier letters, June 29).

Points, then, for any reader who can tell me which organisation tried to put a spoiler on the smoking ban with a stat of their own, in particular

**FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES**  
Miss CATHERINE MARY MCGHEE  
Mr ALISTAIR NEILL LONGBOTTOM  
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Catherine Mary, daughter of Mr William John McGhee and Mrs Mary McGhee, Glasgow, to Alistair Neill, son of Doctors Chris and Pat Longbottom, Newport-on-Tay, Fife.

**TIMOTHY JAMES HANCOCK and JOANNA DAISY LAWSON.**  
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Timothy, son of Leigh Hancock and Barbara Ward, of Melbourne, to Joanna, daughter of Richard and Susan Lawson, of Longfor-

### Ruling is impractical

Sir,—In The Courier, June 23, Ian Steven in his comment on the present high-diving lessons being given in Germany—also named the World Cup—suggests that the Rugby Union rule of moving the free kick forward 10 yards if the players do not move the statutory distance from where the kick is being taken be adopted.

In Jan/Feb 2000 FIFA did come up with this idea, but no one seems to have taken it up.

Of course if you look at this another way, if the defending team keep encroaching on the position of the ball it could possibly be taken from outside the ground!

John Hoodless.  
25 Foot Place, Rosyth.

### Why so secretive?

Sir,—It was interesting to read about the vapour trails over the Dundee area in The Courier, June 27. RAF Leuchars say it wasn't anything to do with them, full stop!

would know exactly what type of aircraft it was and where it was bound for. If they didn't, they have the intercept capability to find out.

So why not enlighten us instead of being so secretive about it? It was more or less on their own doorstep.

Scott Haldane.

Lyaldene, Welton Corner, Kingsmuir Road, Forfar.

### Weakens credentials

Sir,—Gordon Brown evidently thinks any potential Prime Minister must just out his chin and affirm his belief in an independent nuclear deterrent, otherwise no-one will take him seriously.

Many countries still have no nuclear weapons, yet have not been attacked by those who have them. There are others who would like to have them but, 'the international community' tries to stop them.

The issues are muddled on all sides and should be thoroughly debated again before Mr Brown, or anyone else, commits Britain to having yet more advanced weapons of mass destruction. Mr Brown's attempt to pre-empt a deci-

sion weakens his credentials as a leader rather than strengthening them.

Martin Roberts.  
178(b) Crieff Road, Perth.

### Money could be better used

Sir,—It would appear NHS Tayside have finally "lost the plot". I am referring to the headline in Wednesday's Courier—Pregnant mums to be bribed to quit smoking. Some of the incentives may include some groceries, access to leisure centres or some art or drama sessions.

If mothers-to-be don't want to give up smoking despite knowing the untold damage it does to the baby, then it's hardly likely the above incentives will do the trick. The £100,000 a year that will be spent on this project would be better used on resources to encourage healthy living and exercise among our school children so that they don't smoke in the first place.

Caroline Stewart,  
39 Mericmuir Place, Dundee.

Letters should be accompanied by an address and a daytime telephone number.  
Email: [letters@thecourier.co.uk](mailto:letters@thecourier.co.uk)

# Man with two dogs

'FISH SCALES in the blood' well describes Bob Ritchie, son and grandson of salmon netmen, and himself still carrying on this traditional occupation.

The sun was shining, the temperature had risen, and I had taken the dogs down to Kinnaber beach, north of Montrose, where they can really stretch their legs, free from any danger of traffic. I love the sea, and should go down to it more often, which, perhaps, is why these days are so special.

I found Bob changing a fishing net. 'Jumpers' they are called now, and they are simplified versions of the old stake nets that I remember so well as a youngster.

Fifty years ago the sandy beaches at St Cyrus, Montrose and Lunan Bay provided work for a small army of fishermen, but the commercial salmon fishing industry is greatly reduced now.

Standing on the cliffs, or the high sand dunes, you would see the arrowhead shapes of the nets poking out into the sea. These were, and still are, the catching chambers which trap the salmon. Fly nets they called the stake nets, locally.

I have memories of the fishermen walking out along the net, like flies on a spider's web, which may account for the local term. With only a footpole, and a hand-rope to steady themselves, they scooped the salmon out of the water with a long-handled, heavy landing net called a scum net.

remnants of these 'fixed engines', as they are called in the arcane language of the statutes enacted to regulate the industry. But they were manpower intensive and couldn't survive the need for cost-cutting and fiscal efficiency, whereas the jumpers can be managed by just two people.

South of Montrose, at Usan, the Pullar family own the netting rights, and three generations of this fishing dynasty work the nets.

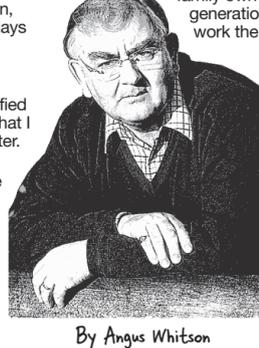
The coastline has changed to high cliffs and a rocky, boulder-strewn shore. Here they use bag nets, which float permanently in the water. To empty them they must motor out in a salmon coble with its familiar and distinctive high prow.

Go down to the old limekiln at The Buddon and you'll see the orange buoys and long poles, which support the nets in the water.

If you're there about half tide you may see the fishermen emptying them of the wild fish.

I know where several cobbles are lying forgotten and deteriorating. I can't help thinking that one, at least, should be saved and restored as a memory to the boat-building skills and fishing traditions, which supported so many men and their families in this part of the north east.

Perhaps there's an opportunity for Angus to lead the way in establishing a museum or heritage centre for the salmon fishing industry!



By Angus Whitson