

Web explorer

MOTHER'S DAY



Mother's Day is approaching fast. If you're one of the many people who celebrate the day with a hurriedly-purchased bunch of petrol station flowers, why not do something special this year to show you care? These websites could help

prezzybox.com/mothers-day-gifts

Buy something thoughtful for once. This website has loads of ideas for presents your mum will love. Mugs, books, personalised champagne, even a chocolate-covered pizza. This site has got it all.

utterlyrecipes.com

Let's face it, your mum has been cooking for you for years, while your culinary endeavours have extended no further than pies and cheesy beans on toast. So it's time to learn to cook a lovely Mother's Day lunch and this is the site to help you along. Choose a recipe, practise it and then let your mum put her feet up for once.

craftideas.info

Feeling creative? Then put in a special effort and make your mum a present this year. There's a huge number of options, including patchwork quilts and crochet bags. It's the ultimate way to express your feelings.

nationaltrust.org.uk

Don't just sit around the house all day — take your mum for a day out. There are loads of places to choose from in Lancashire, including several National Trust locations. Nearby, there's the fascinating Gawthorpe Hall, or if you fancy going further afield why not take a trip to the beautiful coastline of Silverdale and Arncliffe?

LT YOUR VIEW?

What are you doing for Mother's Day?
lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news



ON STAGE
Chloe Torpey (Susan Owen) and Phil Gwilliam (Wilfred Owen)

Poet who got a glimpse of hell

He's the poet whom everyone seems to remember from their school days. Now the life of Wilfred Owen is to be celebrated in a new musical which comes to Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre. JOHN ANSON spoke to the man behind the project

Musical enlists help from stars to tell story of celebrated World War One writer



HELP Pink Floyd's David Gilmour, left, and comic John Gorman

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.

THE opening lines from the poem Anthem For Doomed Youth are instantly familiar to generations of English Literature students.

Now Liverpool musician Dean Johnson has enlisted celebrity backing for the world's first musical drama about the iconic First World War poet.

Dean is best known for taking some previously unknown lyrics by George Harrison about his fellow Beatle John Lennon and turning them into a song, Silence (Is Its Own Reply).

"The story of that song went everywhere and suddenly, after 25 years as a musician I was discovered by Wirral Council," said Dean. "The council

approached me to write a song to celebrate the area. Wilfred Owen's name was on a list they had compiled of famous things about the Wirral and I started from there.

"I went to the same school as Wilfred Owen, Birkenhead Institute, and like everyone else I'd studied him at school but I'd not thought about him at all since then."

Dean put together 12 songs which tell the story of Owen's journey to the front line and the horrors of life in the trenches in the First World War.

"I seriously underestimated the Wilfred Owen factor and just how much he means to people even today," said Dean.

As a result Dean has enlisted the help of Pink Floyd's David Gilmour who has licensed a track for him to use in the show, and also used actor Christopher Timothy to act as narrator.

"He said Wilfred Owen was his hero and he was delighted to be the narrator on the album we have recorded of the show."

Adding to the high-profile involvement is John Gorman, best known as a member of The Scaffold, who has directed the live show.

"The essence of the show is the journey of a rather fey lad from the Wirral who became a killing machine before becoming hugely aware of the carnage he was caught up in," said Dean. "Owen won a Military Cross after capturing an enemy machine gun post, so he really experienced life on the front line. And I think that's why his poems are still so menacing today. They are so real, so emotive."

Although the production is only starting in small venues, Dean is hopeful it may end up in London's West End.

"In 2014 it will be the 100th anniversary of the start of the war," he said. "The interest already being generated with the show is immense so we shall have to see."

Bullets and Daffodils is at the Civic Arts Centre, Oswaldtwistle on Wednesday, March 21. Details from the box office on 01254 398319.

On the couch



FOUR I.T. experts from leading East Lancashire computer specialists Holker Network Solutions, of Colne, share their TV likes and dislikes. Left to right, Matthew Metcalfe, Jon Browne, Phil Whitehead and Mike Ingham

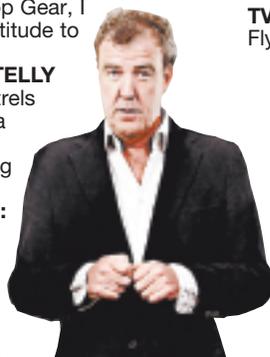
MATTHEW METCALFE Age: 29 JON BROWNE Age: 44 PHIL WHITEHEAD Age: 38 MIKE INGHAM Age: 47

TV TREAT: Top Gear, I like Jezza's attitude to life.

FAVOURITE TELLY SCOFF: Minstrels
TV DISH: Julia Roberts

PET HATE: Big Brother

RIB TICKLER: Mrs Brown's Boys
WEEKEND WINNER: Soccer AM/Top Gear



TV TREAT: Monty Python's Flying Circus (below)

FAVOURITE TELLY SCOFF: Popcorn with salt and butter
TV DISH: Fearnle Cotton
PET HATE: Cooking Shows
RIB TICKLER: Clips of people falling off bikes and the like

WEEKEND WINNER: Harry Hill's TV Burp



TV TREAT: Mock The Week
FAVOURITE TELLY SCOFF: My body is a temple so telly scoffs are out . . . unless there are Pringles
TV DISH: Laura Hamilton used to make kids TV watchable!

PET HATE: The endless drone of 'talent' shows. Please Britain, stop voting for these people — it only encourages them
RIB TICKLER: Russell Howard's Good News
WEEKEND WINNER: TV Burp

TV TREAT: Mrs Brown's Boys
FAVOURITE TELLY SCOFF: My tea, with a bottle of lager
TV DISH: Kim Kardashian (left)

PET HATE: X Factor
RIB TICKLER: Mrs Brown's Boys
WEEKEND WINNER: Soccer AM



Take it away

Settling down to eat in front of the TV? We review the local takeaways



DIXY FRIED CHICKEN
Darwen Street, Blackburn

"WHY do you always review kebab shops," moaned one colleague. "No-one eats kebabs any more. Do something different."

So, with those words ringing in my ears as I left Telegraph Towers after a late shift, I headed into Blackburn's less-than-busy neon mecca of Darwen Street in search of some supper. I fancied a kebab but, taking the sternly-delivered advice, I instead opted for a spot of chicken and chips from the Dixy Fried Chicken.

The shop, which had a strip of beige parcel tape across a crack in the glass door, was empty but it took a few moments for the member of staff to put his mobile down to acknowledge me.

When I was finally attended to I decided to opt for a £3.99 box of fried chicken and fries.

Some 15 minutes after ordering the fries were ready and the chicken pieces were taken out of the heater and thrown into the box. Red salt was applied before I had chance to say yay or nay but I was offered a free tin of pop.

The fries were good, nice and crisp and red hot, but the chicken was not as good as I would have hoped.

The coating was soggy and the meat was tough and full of bones.

Not the best and I won't be rushing through that cracked door again in a hurry.

So, sorry colleague, it's back to the kebabs for me.

MATT DONLAN

RATING:

TASTE	5
TEMPERATURE	8
SPEED	3
VALUE	6
CHOICE	4

Box clever So you think you know about TV

1. Who co-wrote Fawcett Towers with John Cleese?



2. Julian Lloyd-Webber's Variations was used as the theme on which arts programme?

3. What was TV cook Fanny Craddock's real first name?



1. Connie Booth, 2. The Sotah Bank Show, 3. Phyllis