

VOICE OF THE

DAILY Mirror

Wealth lost in the post

SELLING off the Royal Mail on the cheap is the Conservative-Lib Dem government short-changing taxpayers.

Every pound of the instant huge windfalls for speculators is a pound which could have funded the NHS, schools, armed forces or slowed the increase in the national debt. David Cameron is quick to claim he champions efficiency but there is nothing efficient about flogging off what we own for far less than it is worth.

Business Secretary Vince Cable may prefer to focus on small-time shareholders but, as always, the big profits will be banked by undeserving Mayfair hedge-fund sharks and City slickers who can't believe their luck.

The Royal Mail was profitable in the public sector and people are right to fear what will happen when the service becomes just another business with new owners who are likely to be more interested in making a fast buck than delivering letters to your door.

The former Conservative premier Harold Macmillan, likened privatisation to selling off the family silver. In giving away the Royal Mail at a knockdown price, Mr Cameron and his Cabinet are asset-stripping a part of our lives.

We should keep the post public.

Brock follies

TORY Minister Owen Paterson made a fool of himself with the ridiculous claim that "badgers had shifted the goalposts" when challenged over the failure of his misguided cull.

Next the Environment Minister will be warning that they are armed and dangerous or wearing disguises to avoid detection by marksmen.

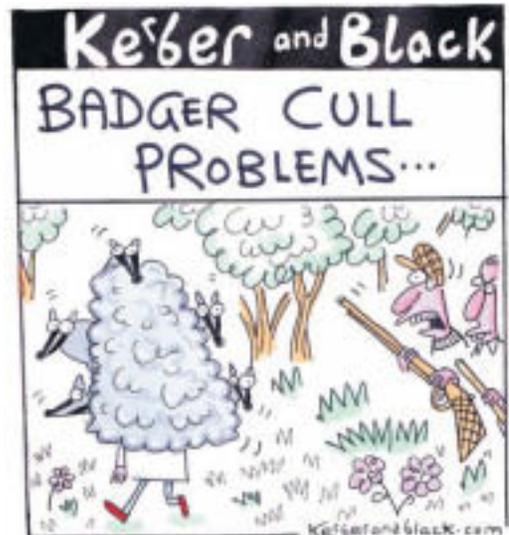
The unnecessary shooting of badgers isn't the way to stop TB spreading in cows when the scientific evidence doesn't justify the slaughter.

Instead of extending the cull, Mr Paterson should admit he was wrong and halt it.

Sky's the limit

THE calm courage of pensioner John Wildey, 77, who landed a plane after the pilot fell ill, was truly remarkable.

He is a soaring reminder that senior citizens can reach for the skies.



'They're all hiding in Brian May's hair'

FAVOURITE BOOKS OF THE STARS

Sir Alex Ferguson
Treasure Island
by Robert Louis Stevenson
The ex Man U boss says as a child he watched ships in Glasgow docks and imagined sailing to find buried gold.



Daniel Craig
His Dark Materials
by Philip Pullman
His film The Golden Compass was based on this series - "fantastic children's books about love and growing up and about how we should see the world".



Holly Willoughby
Fifty Shades of Grey
by EL James
This Morning's host loves the erotic tale - "I finished the first book and thought, "This is the best thing I have ever read. Every woman should read them!"



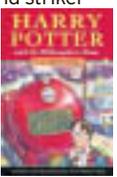
One Direction
To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee
They say this tale of US racial divides is the only book they know, but we do wonder when Harry says: "It's confusing because you're 200 pages in and the bird still hasn't died."



Miley Cyrus
The Catcher In The Rye
by JD Salinger
No surprise that a tale of teen rebellion and angst has a place in the heart of the ex-Disney Club star. But we don't recall a chapter about twerking in it...



Wayne Rooney
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
by JK Rowling
"It really get your imagination going," says England striker Wayne, who likes to weave his own kind of magic on the pitch.



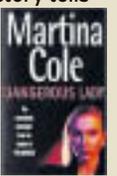
Kate Moss
The Beautiful and the Damned
by F Scott Fitzgerald
The tale of a glittering couple who faded to anonymity may have taught a thing or two to a model famous since her teens.



George Clooney
War and Peace
by Leo Tolstoy
A serious read for a serious actor. At 1,440 pages in four separate volumes, this tale of Russian aristos is one of the longest novels ever written.



Tulisa Contostavlos
Dangerous Lady
by Martina Cole
Gritty crime all the way for the Female Boss. This bloody story tells of a secret love affair between a woman gangster and a 1960s cop.



The write stuff

BY FRANCESCA COOKNEY

WAYNE Rooney has a thing for Harry Potter and Holly Willoughby is obsessed with Fifty Shades of Grey.

And international entertainment mogul Simon Cowell's best-loved read is about the scandals and struggles engulfing an international entertainment mogul. A favourite book can reveal so much!

Before the launch of our Penguin book giveaway this weekend, today we look at the books that made a big impression on the stars. From adventure stories to fantasy, the answers are surprising and illuminating.

Where One Direction claim to have read only one book between them, David Bowie - whose sell-out exhibition at the V&A has just left London for Canada - recently released a list of his top HUNDRED must-reads.

But which books made the stars who they are?

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Ed Miliband
Chesil Beach
by Ian McEwan
Desolate tale of a marriage that fizzles out due to conflicting hopes for the future and lack of understanding. Maybe it reminds him of politics...



Kate Winslet
Therese Raquin
by Emile Zola
Reading this psychological thriller about a woman who kills her husband to have a sordid affair with his friend was "life-changing" for Titanic star Kate.



Simon Cowell
Disney War
by James B Stewart
The non-fiction story of civil war within the Mickey Mouse empire seems to strike a chord with the king of The X Factor and BGT.



Daniel Radcliffe
The Master and Margarita
by Mikhail Bulgakov
The Harry Potter star says this surreal tale of love's battle with dark forces is "just the most incredible book that I've ever read".



Steven Spielberg
The Last of the Mohicans
by James Fenimore Cooper
The blockbuster king loves this Native American adventure - but it was Michael Mann who directed the famous film with Daniel Day Lewis



Nigella Lawson
Persuasion
by Jane Austen
The story of a girl talked out of marrying for love by her snob of a father is savage and poignant, says the TV chef. "It stays with you long after you've read it," she adds.



David Bowie
Money
by Martin Amis (and 99 more)
The rock hero lists this caricature of celebrity and consumerism in his Top 100 reads alongside the ultra-violent A Clockwork Orange and highly controversial Lolita.



Mirror

FREE BOOKS

Starting this Saturday

#Madeuthink



TOKEN COLLECT. POSTAGE PAYABLE