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# Day & Night

WITH LIZZIE CATT, PENNY STRETTON

AND CATHERINE BOYLE

## Roly Ricky gets roles

FUNNYMAN **Ricky Gervais** is often described as being a bit chubby and according to the creator and star of *The Office*, that's just how he likes it.



Gervais, 46 – who once boasted a whippet-like waist and razor-sharp cheekbones in his early days with Eighties band *Seona Dancing* – feels that his unpolished appearance has helped to make him the star he is today.

Even though he does try to be healthy, he'd never want to lose too much weight. "I'm relatively healthy," he says. "I eat and drink too much but I don't smoke."

And eyeing his waist, he adds: "I work out every day, which surprises people, but imagine if I didn't!"

"I do it so I can live longer and eat more cheese," he jokes to *Tesco* magazine.

"Being in the public eye hasn't made me more conscious of my appearance – I'd lose roles if I lost weight. I'm never going to be the action hero or the romantic lead but then I can be the slightly fat English one with the funny teeth."

## Kim returns to roots

SHE'S better known for playing all-American man-eater Samantha Jones in *Sex And The City* but **Kim Cattrall** is rediscovering a love of the UK after finding herself increasingly working here.

The Liverpool-born actress, 51, who appeared on the West End stage in *Whose Life Is It Anyway?*, has been in Britain this year filming *My Boy Jack*, a First World War drama for ITV1.

"I seem to be coming full circle at this point in my life," says Kim, who stars alongside Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe as Carrie Kipling, wife of writer Rudyard, in the tale about the fallout over her son's decision to enlist in the Army.

"I'm so happy to become more connected to my roots and it feels very right. All these times I've come to work in the UK over the past couple of years, I've rediscovered relatives and made new friendships."

"I can't imagine working in a better place right now."

Could a stint in Coronation Street beckon?



Picture: AP

## Out there...

**CHRIS EVANS**, his ex-wife **Billie Piper** and his new wife, golfer **Natasha**, all guests at a party at The Club Bar & Dining in Soho... Singer **Beverley Knight** and boxer **Amir Khan** partying (though not together) in Manchester's Panacea bar and restaurant... Racing driver **Jensen Button** at the Maddox club in London.

# Kate has her own royal family

WHILE much has been made of royal girlfriend **Kate Middleton's** humble origins – her great-great-grandfather was a miner – we can reveal that she is in fact of royal blood herself.

Kate, 25, who is hotly tipped to become **Prince William's** bride since the pair rekindled their on-off romance, is descended from the 14th-century monarch King Edward III and his wife Queen Philippa. And her descent can also be traced from Henry Percy, the 3rd Earl

of Northumberland. Because of these links, Kate and her sister Philippa, known as Pippa (was Kate's former air hostess mother **Carole** aware of the royal connection when she named her younger daughter?) can claim direct blood ties with every crowned head of Europe and the majority of the British peerage.

Our tame genealogist explains: "Kate's great-grandmother, Olive Lupton, an upper-middle-class Victorian woman, was 13 generations in descent from Henry

Percy, 3rd Earl of Northumberland. Olive was therefore 16 generations in descent from Edward III and Queen Philippa."

It also means that Kate and Pippa are kin of their friend George, Earl Percy, heir to the current Duke of Northumberland and the vast Alnwick Castle and London's Sion House.

And they say Kate – known as "doors to manual" by some of William's snobbier friends because of her mother's former job – is common!



FONDLY remembered Nineties TV comedy *The Fast Show* has returned from the grave. The cast – **Paul Whitehouse**, **Charlie Higson**, **Arabella Weir**, **John Thomson** and co – reunited for a one-off stage show on Sunday and the hope is that a live tour will follow next year. "Tonight is not the end of *The Fast Show*. We did it to see if we

## Comedy stars are back in the Fast lane

wanted to do a tour next year," said Higson after the gig, which featured a guest appearance by *Doctor Who* **David Tennant**, at London's Dominion Theatre. "It's come about because we were all available at the same

time. It took a while to write but rehearsals only took a week. It's been fantastic."

Higson, 49, was disappointed that *Fast Show*er Caroline Aherne, who went on to create *The Royle Family*, didn't want to be involved. "It's a shame but she's moved on."

Thomson was initially wary of

treading the boards but wrote eight sketches for the show.

"I was asked to do *Spamalot* and I just thought no. I've heard it's rubbish. I'd much rather do my own material."

"I slipped back into *The Fast Show* characters so easily and it was great to do them all again. I hope we can do the tour."

HE IS not a man who is easily impressed, especially by reality TV "stars", but impressionist **Rory Bremner** is a big fan of X Factor winner and now No.1 singer **Leona Lewis**. She did a turn singing for an intimate gathering of 200 at a London party hosted by Harper's Bazaar and Moët and Chandon. Rory looked stunned at



the front of the stage as Leona hit the high notes with ease.

Afterwards he gushed: "Not only has that girl got an amazing voice but she has a calm and ease that should take her far."

Asked if he thought he could impersonate Leona's vocal talent, he said: "If I had a voice like that I'd be making records of my own!"



TOUR HOPES: Charlie Higson, Paul Whitehouse and John Thomson