



THE SUNDAY TIMES



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, MICHAEL?

(NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT HE'S GOT THE KEYS TO THE CITY)
WHY MR CAINE IS STILL CALLING THE SHOTS AT 80

MAGAZINE

2 FOR 1 TICKETS AT
TOP UK ATTRACTIONS



ENJOY A
FUN DAY
OUT FOR
FOUR

SEE VOUCHERS
NEWS REVIEW P5

SAVE
UP TO
£46

Ts&Cs APPLY

Tories attack Met over 'disgusting' Plebgate leak

David Leppard and
Isabel Oakeshott

SENIOR Tory politicians launched a co-ordinated attack on the Metropolitan police yesterday, accusing it of subverting the legal process by running a "disgusting and improper" campaign of "leaking and spinning" against

the former cabinet minister Andrew Mitchell.

In an official complaint to the police watchdog, Mitchell, who lost his job as chief whip because of the scandal, accused the force of leaking the contents of its own confidential report into the so-called Plebgate affair.

In a letter to the

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Mitchell said the leak showed the Met continued to engage in a "dishonest and illicit attempt to blacken my name and destroy my career".

His action was supported by Lord Howard, the former Tory leader. "If this report was leaked by the police, which is

likely to be the case, then I think that is deplorable. It is certainly something that should be investigated," said Howard, a former home secretary.

David Davis, the Tory MP who served as shadow home secretary, said the leaking of the report to two newspapers last week was "completely improper" and showed that the

police were "undermining the legal process".

The media reports claimed detectives on Operation Alice, the codename for the Plebgate inquiry, had found "no evidence" that officers lied or were part of a conspiracy against Mitchell.

Mitchell's complaint to the IPCC is significant because it is

likely to trigger an inquiry into the Met's conduct. The Met report was almost certainly marked "restricted"; any officer or Met employee found to have leaked it would be guilty of professional misconduct.

Last night Keith Vaz, the Labour chairman of the all party home affairs committee, said the leak showed the Met

should be stripped of its role in investigating the Mitchell case.

"This flies in the face of the tough line that Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Met commissioner, has taken by arresting officers who have given information to the press."

Mitchell, the Tory MP for Sutton Coldfield who served as

Continued on page 2 >>



I TOOK
PRINCESS
DITO A
GAY BAR

CLEO ROCOS
SALUTES DUTCH
COURAGE
STYLE



THE JOY
OF GLOBAL
WARMING

IS IT TIME FOR A
POLICY RETHINK
ON CLIMATE
CHANGE?

NEWS REVIEW



FREE
RADICAL
AI WEIWEI ON
SUFFERING
FOR HIS ART
CULTURE

Swan of Avon was tax dodger

Jonathan Leake

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE was a tax-avoiding merchant who exploited famine by illegally hoarding food to sell at inflated prices, new research claims.

An academic study says the playwright was repeatedly hauled before the courts and fined for illegally stockpiling food. He was also threatened with prison for dodging his taxes. The research focused on Shakespeare's "other" life as one of Warwickshire's largest landowners at a time when Europe was beset by repeated famines.

Jayne Archer, a researcher in Renaissance literature at Aberystwyth University, said: "Shakespeare is remembered as a playwright, but there was no copyright then and no sense that his plays could generate future income... That drove him to dodge taxes, illegally hoard [food] and act as a money-lender."

She added: "He had two surviving daughters and would have seen himself as providing for them, but he was acting illegally and undermining the government's attempts to feed people."

Bad Bard: a tax-dodger and famine profiteer, page 22

FRUIT OF MARTHA'S LABOURS

STUART WALLACE



A blog about school dinners written by 10-year-old Martha Payne, which became a global phenomenon, is to take pride of place in the British Library's new digital archive aimed at capturing our life and times. **Shh, it's a digital library, page 5**

GPs' private firms grab NHS cash

Jon Ungoed-Thomas
and Cal Flynn

FLAGSHIP health reforms are mired in controversy over members of new NHS commissioning bodies who award lucrative contracts to themselves.

In one case, a clinical commissioning group (CCG) awarded a £150,000 deal to a company created by its chairman. The revelations expose potential conflicts of interest in the first wave of contracts under the health service reforms launched tomorrow.

Critics believe they will blight the 211 new CCGs and drag the government into a fresh row over its NHS shake-up.

The CCGs replace primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, taking responsibility for designing and commissioning local health services in England.

More than a third of the GPs

who sit on the CCGs have stakes in private firms or organisations that can bid for work from the new boards. So do many practice managers.

The Sunday Times can reveal that a series of board members have profited, or may profit, from CCG contracts.

Dr Kiran Patel, chairman of Bury CCG in Greater Manchester, founded a company that has secured a deal to help obese patients. Patel, who is listed as a director, said he was curbing his involvement in the company, but his wife remains a shareholder.

Jim Logan, a former colliery manager and the son-in-law of Arthur Scargill, the former miners' union leader, is a board member of NHS Barnsley CCG. A company he founded has a deal from his CCG to provide pain management services.

Dr Bill Cotter, a GP, is a member of NHS Bexley CCG, which has awarded a

contract to an organisation that has not yet proved it is a "corporate legal entity". An NHS spokesman confirmed Cotter was involved in the organisation.

The CCGs say board members did not and will not take part in decisions related to their companies. The commissioning groups insist that they have complied with rules concerning conflicts of interest.

Since the plan to create CCGs was announced in 2010, repeated concerns have been voiced about the potential for conflicts of interest. A British Medical Journal survey found that 36% of 1,179 GPs holding executive positions on CCG boards had a financial interest in private health providers.

The Department of Health said CCGs "must have arrangements in place to manage potential conflicts of interest".

Doctors hurry to join NHS goldrush, page 12

Benefit queen's £4,000 sublet

Nicholas Hellen
Social Affairs Editor

A JOBLESS Iraqi woman received up to £4,000 a week by subletting a prime city centre flat paid for by the taxpayer.

Bushra al-Rahimi claimed housing benefit to cover the cost of renting a £2m flat through Westminster city

council. Having apparently moved out, she then charged a family of Kuwaiti tourists an alleged £4,000 a week to live in the five-bedroom property, 500 yards from Tony Blair's home in Connaught Square.

The case emerged as Iain Duncan Smith, the work and pensions secretary, admitted in an interview that Britain "is

not cutting welfare" and "all those on benefits will see cash increases in every year of this parliament".

The owner of the flat, a Belgian businessman, said he admired Britain for helping the poor but the benefits system was a "catastrophe" for the taxpayer.

£2m flat sublet at taxpayers' expense, page 6

'Sex abuse' school faces inquiry

Sian Griffiths
and Robin Henry

THE Charity Commission is this week expected to begin an inquiry into an exclusive private school, where parents claim a "Lord of the Flies" culture led to girls with learning difficulties being abused by male pupils.

Teachers, social services and police have been accused of failing to act on warnings about sexual abuse at the boarding school near Romsey, Hampshire.

The Sunday Times has established that as many as 11 children were allegedly raped, assaulted or engaged in illegal underage sex at Stanbridge

Earls School over a period of years.

The inquiry may lead to the replacement of the head teacher, Peter Trythall, as well as trustees at the £32,000-a-year school, which has charitable status. Michael Gove, the education secretary, warned that he would "seriously consider closure if urgent

improvements to the leadership, management and governance are not made".

This newspaper's investigation has also found allegations of abuse dating back a decade which may never have been properly investigated. It is claimed that pupils were told not to report incidents to

Continued on page 2 >>

OVERSEAS PRICES	NEWS 2
WEATHER	NEWS 39
LETTERS	NEWS 32
SUDOKU	NEWS REVIEW 11
TV & RADIO	CULTURE 41



Looking for a good tradesman?

We can help. For free. Just hop online.

It can be hard to find a good tradesman. You start by asking friends and family. Then you turn to directories. You make calls and leave messages. Then you hope to get called back. Now there's a better way. It's a fast growing online service where up to three tradesmen contact you to quote. You then use genuine reviews from other homeowners to choose the tradesman you prefer most. With more than 1.5 million jobs posted, 30,000 tradesmen and 250,000 ratings to help you make a better decision, it's like word-of-mouth, only better. So if you're looking for quality, local tradesmen, we can help. For free.



Rated People.com
for quality, local tradesmen