

# Weather

UK NATIONAL WEATHER 0905 062 3839 (cost 60p/min)

Showers will affect western facing coastlines and higher ground. Eastern Scotland may have some longer spells of rain at first but will become drier and brighter. Elsewhere will be dry with variable amounts of cloud and just the occasional shower.

**3-DAY FORECAST**

**MONDAY**  
Showers

**TUESDAY**  
Fair

**WEDNESDAY**  
Fair

**SUN & MOON**  
Sun rises 7.49am  
Sun sets 3.53pm  
Moon rises 11.18am  
Moon sets 6.22pm

**FERRIES/TIDES**  
Channel, Irish Sea, Hebrides, North Sea: Moderate.

Wind speed in miles per hour Temperatures in Celsius **10**

All forecasts and maps provided by PA WeatherCentre

**DISTRICT FORECASTS**

**London, Midlands:** It will be a bright day with sunny spells and showers. Temperatures well above the December average. Max temp 8-9C (46-48F).

**Cent S England, E Anglia:** It will be dry with sunshine. Just a slight risk of one or two isolated showers near the coast. Max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

**SE England, SW England, Wales, Channel Is:** Showers becoming confined to the coast to leave a dry day with sunny spells and cloud. Mild, despite a stiff westerly wind. Max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

**NE England, NW England, Cent N England, E England:** It will be cloudy with showers. Feeling mild for December. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

**NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, N Isles:** This morning will be overcast and dull with showers drizzle. Becoming drier and brighter during the afternoon with some sunny intervals. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

**NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles:** It will be cloudy with brighter spells. Showers will be heaviest and most frequent near exposed western facing coastlines. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

**N Ireland, Republic of Ireland:** Western facing coasts will have frequent showers. Central and south-western parts will be drier with sunny spells. It will feel mild for December. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

**MISSING SECTION?** If you're missing S magazine or your Financial Sunday Express section, contact your newsagent first, or call our Missing Sections line on **0871 872 6280**.

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Your Financial Sunday Express 12-page pullout starts opposite page 58; see S magazine for the £1,000 crossword plus full 7-day TV listings

The ties that bind Jonathan Dimpleby and his wife Bel

● **Adam Helliker** PAGE 13

Why our pensions system is now a total shambles

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# Blair's £20bn EU hangover for taxpayers

BRITISH taxpayers will have to fork out £20billion each year for the Brussels bureaucracy by 2012 if Tony Blair goes ahead with his plan to surrender £7billion of our EU rebate.

That will mean 5p of every £1 paid in income tax by British workers will go straight into EU coffers.

The astonishing figures were revealed after the Prime Minister flew home empty-handed on Friday following two days of talks with Eastern European leaders over his plans to reform the EU budget.

Mr Blair offered to pay back 15 per cent of Britain's annual EU rebate for seven years to clinch a deal – a move which would cost £1billion a year by 2012.

But he failed to convince his fellow EU leaders to accept 10 per cent cuts in development aid in return – and he did not tie the deal to fundamental reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy.

British proposals for a major summit later this month on the future of the EU budget from 2007 to 2013 are due to be presented to EU foreign ministers in Brussels at a meeting on Wednesday.

Shadow Foreign Secretary Liam Fox hit out at the botched EU deal, claiming: "Tony Blair's EU presidency has been historically inept and a wasted opportunity."

Dr Fox added: "He has now claimed that we need substantial reform of CAP but it was his Government that negotiated a 10-year agreement only two years ago. Then, only months ago, he said there was no chance of renegotiating the rebate before agricultural reform was carried out."

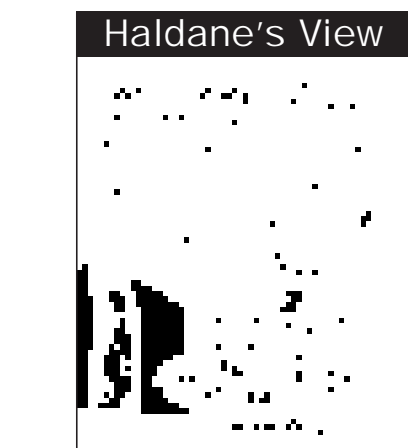
"Sadly this UK presidency has lacked all consistency and ambition. Labour's whole European policy is an incoherent shambles. "If a deal is not reached on the budget it will be a pitiful moment for the British pres-

By Julia Hartley-Brewer  
Political Editor

idency." Yesterday Europe Minister Douglas Alexander warned that the UK may not be able to secure a deal on the EU budget before the presidency ends this month.

He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that the next seven days could be crucial, adding that there were "no guarantees" a budget deal could be achieved.

He said: "We are not prepared to sign any



deal. We want to try to get the right deal." Britain's annual rebate, worth £3.8billion this year, was won by Margaret Thatcher in 1984 because, although Britain is one of the biggest contributors to EU funds, it gets very low subsidies in return.

Our gross EU contributions, before the rebate, are already poised to go up by about £1billion every year from 2007.

And Britain's net contributions will also rise sharply over the next decade as the 10

new member states become entitled to more and more cash under the CAP with a right to full farming subsidies by 2013.

Now, with the extra £1billion in lost rebate payments promised by Mr Blair, that will mean Britain making an annual payment of £19.5billion into the EU by 2012.

Neil O'Brien, director of the eurosceptic campaign Open Europe, said: "Tony Blair is proposing a triple whammy – he has given away even more of our money, he has totally failed to reform the wasteful EU budget and he has also infuriated some of our closest allies in eastern Europe."

"He promised he would never negotiate away the rebate. He's let everyone down to try to get a quick-fix deal."

UKIP MEP Nigel Farage said: "We shouldn't be giving a single penny of taxpayers' money to the EU. This is an organisation whose own auditors have refused to sign off the account for 11 years in a row."

Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy warned Mr Blair that he was "on a hiding to nothing". He accused the Prime Minister of acting "at the 59th minute of the 11th hour, scrambling around" for a deal.

Mr Kennedy said: "We supported the principle from the outset that, during the British presidency of the EU, you should be looking to renegotiate in terms of the rebate but only for the wider changes you are looking for in the EU budget."

A Downing Street source said: "This is not surrendering, this is behaving fairly to the new EU countries."

"Britain's bill for the EU will go up anyway because 10 new countries have joined and they are all much poorer than us."

"We will still be getting an increase in our rebate but, in solidarity with these countries, we will be foregoing a little bit of that extra rebate."

# Two girls killed in rail horror

TWO teenage girls were killed yesterday as they crossed a railway line on their way to buy Christmas presents for their families.

The 14-year-olds, whose names were given only as Charlie and Olivia, are thought to have been rushing to catch a train waiting in the station at Elsenham, Essex.

Horrified passengers on the waiting train saw one of their bodies hurled hundreds of yards as they were hit by a 90mph train heading in the opposite direction for Stansted Airport.

It is believed they were using pedestrian gates on a level crossing over the tracks when the tragedy happened.

Cliff Bishop, who runs the nearby East Anglia Books, said: "If you're on the village side of the line you've got to cross over for trains to London."

"If a train comes in and stops it

By Emma Hawes

blocks the view so if you cross behind the train and one's coming the other way of course you don't see it."

Murray Macgregor from Essex Ambulance Service said: "One of the bodies was found fairly close to the station, while the other had been thrown a couple of hundred yards by the force of the impact."

"Sadly because of the extent of their injuries there was nothing we could do for them."

He added: "Our thoughts are with the families at this time."

Chris Connell of British Transport Police said: "Early indications are that the signalling equipment for the crossing was working normally, and that there are no suspicious circumstances."

And a spokesman for Network Rail said the level crossing was closed to vehicles when the accident happened.



DEATH SCENE: A train on the crossing where the friends died

With a sleuth in EastEnders, meet the real-life girls who put the honey into honey trap



SMOOTH OPERATORS: Minx boss Arabella, centre, with two of her agents. Inset: Emma as Honey in EastEnders

Picture: MARK CLIFFORD/Barcroft Media

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By Barry Keevins

**M**ILLIONS of viewers have been glued to EastEnders to find out how private eye Honey Edwards fares in her task of uncovering an unfaithful spouse.

New arrival Honey – played by Spooks star Emma Barton – has been called in by worried Yolande Trueman to spy on her cheating husband, car dealer Patrick.

Keeping a professional eye on the dishy detective is Arabella Mazzuki, boss of Britain's only all-female private investigation business.

Arabella, 28, runs Minx Investigations which specialises in spying on love rats for worried partners and right now the busy round of boozy work Christmas parties is giving her one of her busiest times of the year.

"I love EastEnders," she says. "I've never wanted a part in the show but I'd love to get behind the bar in the Vic just like Honey Edwards – some people think we are frustrated actresses anyway."

"If someone wants us to be bold and in-your-face to get attention, then we can do that. We are all able to handle ourselves but we don't get noticed. People presume a lot and we use that to our advantage."

One of the Minx girls' specialities is launching honey trap operations to establish whether anxious wives really do have grounds for their suspicions.

In the BBC1 soap, Honey is hired

# The Number 1 Deceptive Ladies Agency

to snoop on Patrick and man-eater Pat Evans. In real life, says Arabella, pulling off a honey trap can take months.

She reveals: "We follow people for a while, bump into them in the pub and things like that. Each case is tailor-made for each client."

"There was one guy we followed after his wife contacted us who worked in the City. He finished work at five o'clock and told his wife he then went to the gym and maybe went for a drink. He wasn't getting home until 11pm."

"We followed him from work and watched him chat up a woman in a bar. He just went straight up to her and started chatting her up. We told his wife and she asked us to set a

honey trap on him. He didn't lie, he did go to the gym and he did go out for a drink but if he didn't get lucky he went home."

A Minx girl stationed in the bar, armed with a camera and microphone in her handbag, didn't have long to wait. He soon chatted her up and gave her his number.

"He told her that if she wanted to come back with him he would book a hotel because his wife had been ill for years and bed-bound. He told her a whole story about how he didn't have a life because all he did was look after his disabled wife and wasn't he such a saint? Utter drivel. We wrote the report and sent it with the video to his wife."

Before taking on clients Arabella

insists they realise just what they are getting into and are able to prepare themselves for the most possible outcome, divorce and coping with life on their own.

"Half the time we never get to hear the aftermath," she says, "on this occasion, though, we did. His wife phoned to say she was so glad she went through with it because she found out what he was like."

"They had been married for 20 years, their kids were grown up. She found out she was in love with a guy she couldn't trust but now she's building a new life. We still get Christmas cards from her."

"For this woman who was being made out to be crazy, her suspicions were confirmed. We're like a

counselling service sometimes. We're doing one now. The poor guy doesn't even know he's a lamb to the slaughter. Our girls have something about them that makes people talk to them."

"It's nice when you can turn round to the client and say everything is fine but I don't get that very often."

One benefit of her line of work is the personal spin-off – no boyfriend has ever done the dirty on Arabella.

She laughs: "If you are going out with a private investigator you've got to be an idiot to cheat on her! You want to try and cheat on me? I'd like to see you try."

● The Minx agency can be found at [www.minx007.co.uk](http://www.minx007.co.uk)