

COURTS

Prison sentence

IAN Luke Watson, 30, of Brighton Road, Alvaston, had a 16-week suspended sentence implemented for failing to comply with the community requirements of a suspended sentence imposed on December 14 last year, and given a four-week consecutive jail sentence for theft of various items of groceries belonging to Sainsbury's on February 19, 2010.

Insurance offence

JIRI Conka, 19, of Stonehill Road, Derby, fined £100, with £35 costs, £15 surcharge and six points for driving without insurance on September 10 last year. No separate penalty was imposed for driving without a correct licence.

No driving licence

THOMAS Edward Bentley, 24, of Meadow Way, Chellaston, fined £100 with £58 costs for driving without a licence on September 14, 2007. No separate penalties were imposed for using a vehicle with two defective tyres on the same date.

Jailed for thefts

ANTHONY Adam James, 29, of Green Lane, Derby, jailed for six weeks for theft of three bottles of aftershave from Boots on February 26, 2010.

Drink-driving

PAUL Calvin Livingston, 39, of Litton Drive, Spondon, fined £195, with £85 costs and £15 surcharge and banned from driving for a year for drink-driving on December 11 last year.

Tax disc fraud

JONATHAN Simmons, 36, of Cranmer Street, Long Eaton, fined £355 with £85 costs and £15 surcharge for fraudulent use of a vehicle excise licence on December 5 last year.

Drug possession

KALIM Yasir, 26, of Fairfield Road, Derby, fined £66 and told to pay £85 costs with £15 surcharge for possessing cannabis on December 1 last year.

Six points imposed

MIROSLAV Chromi, 18, of Shaftesbury Crescent, Derby, fined £100, with £35 costs, £15 surcharge and six points for driving without insurance on September 17 last year.

Thief locked up

DAMIAN Jason Godfrey, 31, of Abbey Street, Derby, jailed for eight weeks for theft of one whole and four half legs of lamb belonging to Farmfoods on February 27, 2010.

All cases dealt with by Southern Derbyshire magistrates

Why Clarkson and May sum up all that's wrong with today's women

In My View

It's amazing the fashion contortions we go through while the blokes on TV just don't care



JILL GALLONE

"THIS is day 14 of my diet and I haven't lost a single pound," came the plaintive cry from a chubby chum on Facebook.

Never one to ignore a friend in need, I replied: "Buy some Nip and Tuck jeans. No diet necessary. They lift, flatten and squash in blubber. Have a cream cake — go girl!"

This is no April Fool. Glamour 24/7 Wizard jeans have been invented that, like a hidden corset, squash you in and lift you up in all the right places.

And that's without the need to lie flat on your back in a shop, circa 1981, desperately trying to tug on some drain-pipe denim.

There can't be many women out there who would not appreciate a touch of bottom lifting, stomach flattening and hip contouring to develop a sleeker silhouette, all promised by the Wizard jeans.

I decided to invest in a pair in a vain

Take a leaf out of 47-year-old James May's book. Stop worrying or even caring

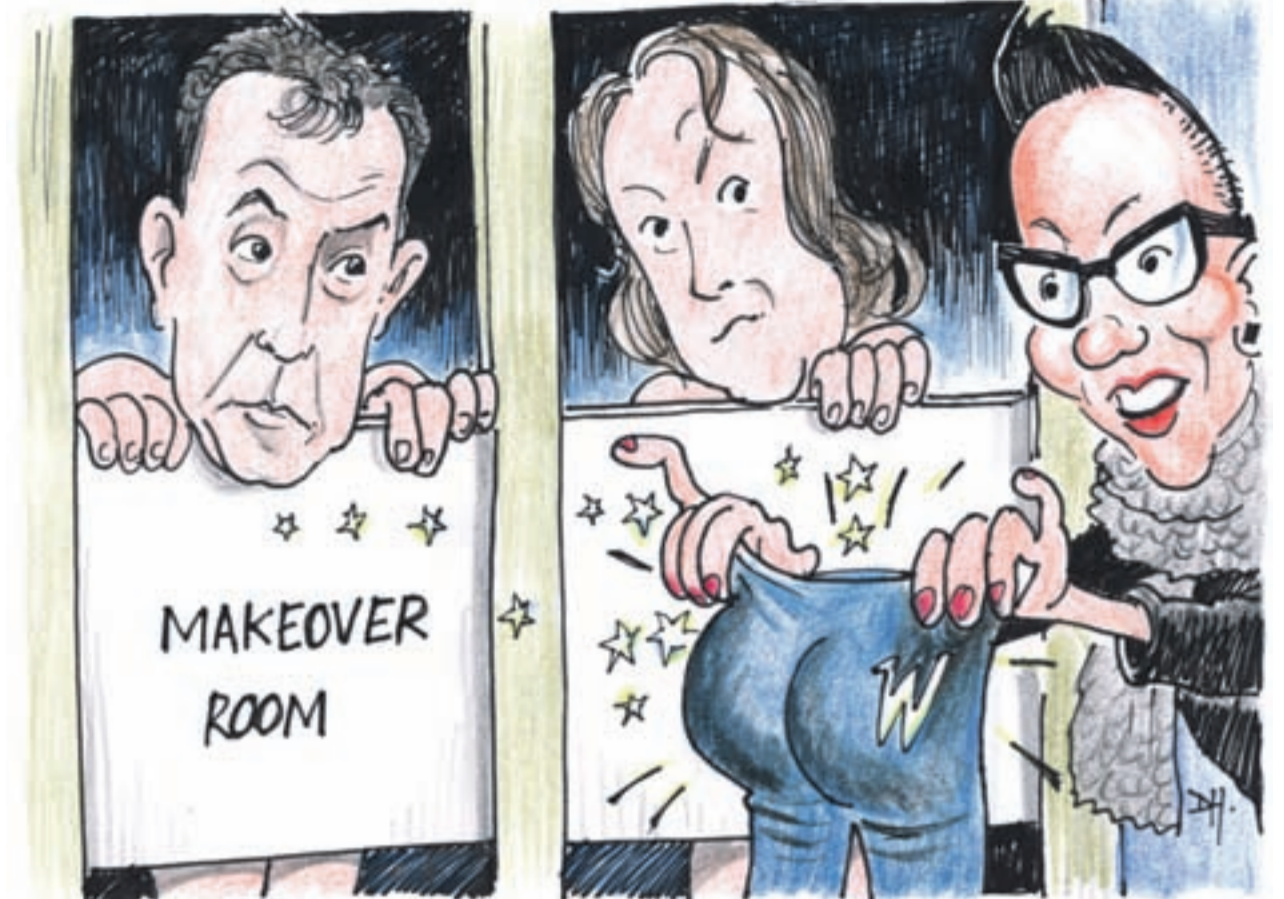
effort to control the mummy roll of fat that only celebrities appear able to eradicate, usually within two hours of giving birth.

It's a wonder some of them aren't pumping iron while in labour.

Anyway, I digress, the jeans did their job well and I felt my uplifted bottom, complete with sparkly motif, was a great asset at an age when your backside starts to hold more appeal than your face.

I was contemplating this fact when James May sauntered on to my TV screen in a strange floral shirt. He's pretty much everywhere these days, like the whole Top Gear team.

For me, James May and his pal,



former Reptonian Jeremy Clarkson, epitomise everything that is wrong with women — and their treatment in the world — today.

Shaggy-haired and style-starved they may be, but they are happy in their skin. They are also forging ahead with fabulous TV careers, unaffected by ageism or the fact that they don't resemble Greek gods. Well, at least not in those clothes, lads.

Women, on the other hand, are forever desperately battling weight issues, hair issues or fashion issues and, come the big 5-0, they're unceremoniously kicked off our TV screens, probably by men with as much sex appeal as a walnut.

Take a leaf out of 47-year-old James May's book. Stop worrying or even caring. Take over the world with your sizzling wit and intellect.

Easier said than done, I know. Take the other day. The girls in my office, all graduates and relative bright sparks, were practically squealing with excitement because Gok Wan was coming to town.

He's in Matlock next week in search of Derbyshire women to transform.

"I just don't get it," said a baffled male colleague. "Why do women love Gok Wan? He's just some weird looking bloke with a horn in his ear."

That's a bit harsh and do I detect a hint of envy? Women do love Gok, particularly in Derby. When he visited Westfield last year people were queuing up to see him hours in advance.

Gok's a legend and practically every (female) journalist at the Derby Telegraph has volunteered to be Gok Wannad. Even the 20-somethings who look like models. Even me. Well, I

thought I might as well give him a challenge.

Gok's Fashion Fix will be at the Whitworth Centre in Matlock on April 11.

He wants everyone to show him their wardrobe disasters and he will then select the worst-dressed person to receive the mother of all makeovers.

Unperturbed by being dubbed the worst-dressed woman in Matlock, scores of women will be there.

To give myself a shred of a chance of being chosen, I won't be wearing my new jeans, just some old sack.

As for the rest of you, if Gok passes you by you can always treat yourself to a bit of bum technology from Wizard jeans.

And, however rubbish you may feel, I'll bet my bottom dollar you're more stylish than James May and Jeremy Clarkson. Chin up!

Forget superfast broadband, just support us carers

HAVE you seen all this codswallop about every home in the country getting superfast broadband by the year 2020?

The Prime Minister made this pledge a couple of weeks ago, only for Chancellor Alistair Darling to almost contradict his boss in his Budget speech by stating that 90% of homes would have "next generation" internet capabilities by 2017.

Neither he nor Gordon Brown have clarified what they mean by "next generation" or "superfast broadband" but whatever they are, they'll be funded by a £6 annual tax on landline phones.

That's unless Labour is kicked out by the Tories who have vowed to scrap the tax if they win the election.

Soapbox

Less soundbites and strategies and more help for the autistic



DAVE WELFORD

Confused? That's the problem with all these pledges and strategies. It matters not which political party we're talking about because you get so many people making promises you don't know who or what to believe. But if you live in the sticks (although my semi in Dalbury Lees is hardly the Outer Hebrides) the bottom line is you'll regularly get cheated off waiting to check your e-mails or buy something online.

However, unless you get

really stressed cutting and pasting your daughter's homework from Wikipedia, these are trifling problems if — like me — you're the parent of an autistic adult and have recently had the dubious pleasure of reading about England's first national autism strategy.

There's that word again, strategy. The Government, as reported in the Telegraph, has helped to bring about changes aimed at transforming local support for the thousands of people with autism.

The problem is two crucial words — aimed and strategy. It doesn't take a genius to see that much of the strategy consists of recommendations rather than mandatory requirements.

So the likelihood is that, in the current economic climate (yawn), many local authorities

will ignore voluntary guidelines as they attempt to save money. That's despite last year's National Audit Office report which advocated a spend-to-save approach, not only to improve the lives of people

The NAO report highlighted that lack of support puts a tremendous burden on carers.

with autism but also to save millions of pounds per year.

The report highlighted that lack of support places a tremendous burden on carers. Preventative measures rather than crisis management are vital. If local authorities don't do anything now to help autistic adults, it's going to cost them a

heck of a lot more in the future.

Without appropriate support there's an increased risk of health problems for both autism sufferers and their carers.

So what to do? Well, you can sit on your hands, like so many politicians, talking soundbites and strategies. Or, as it's World Autism Awareness Day tomorrow, you can get on your bike and do something about the problems. That's what my brother-in-law's doing in May, literally, cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for Derbyshire autism charity HOPE. You can sponsor him at www.justgiving.com/darren-limbert

● Have a point to make? If you want to appear in soapbox write to nuwhite@derbytelegraph.co.uk