gala buzz

All the gossip from your Gala clubs

Issue 14
75p
FREE to members

Haven Holiday offer
Find out more inside





Secrets of Daniel Craig

Helping hands
How palmistry can predict your future

Bingo breaks
Get away with Gala and play while you're away

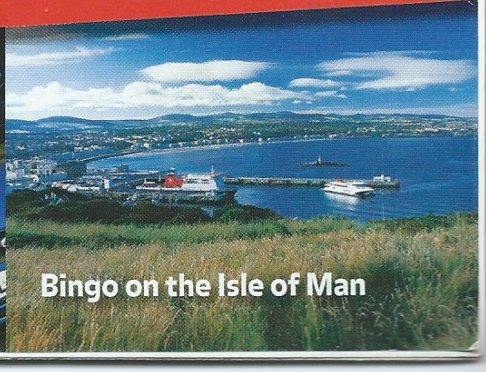
Your chance to WIN a Las Vegas trip for two!

News, stories, prize puzzles...

Kym Marsh
An exclusive chat with Gala Bingo's online celebrity!


Big prize scoopers


Treasure Trail car winners


Bingo on the Isle of Man

gala buzz

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Summer's finally here!



And we've brought you a jam-packed summer issue, full of great Gala news and stories, along with hot tips on holiday destinations (including a fab trip to Las Vegas up for grabs), plus some fantastic BBQ recipes! We've also caught up with cover star and Gala online star, Kym Marsh, to chat about life, love and her passion for bingo. We know you love to be lucky so, this issue features everything you need to know about palmistry – your next big win could be written in the palm of your hand. And, as always, we've dedicated pages of *Gala Buzz* to all your favourite puzzles, including crosswords and Sudoku, as well as your fantastic letters and poems – keep 'em coming!

Sarah

Sarah Mercer – The Editor,
Gala Buzz

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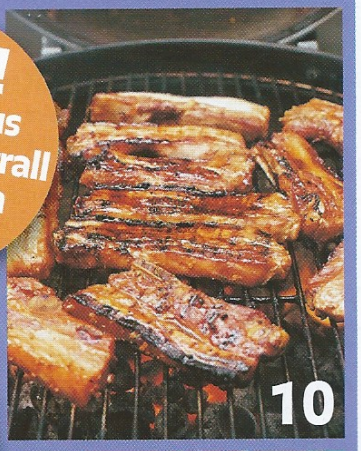
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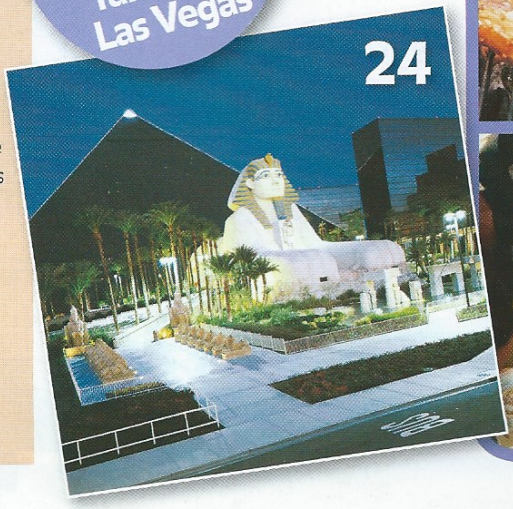
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WIN! A delicious Antony Worrall Thompson cookbook



WIN! The trip of a lifetime to fantastic Las Vegas





COVER PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, WIRE IMAGE

Sing when you're winning!

Big Gala wins have put songs in our lucky players' hearts...



WHOSE ROUND? Ron wants to run his own pub!

Ron's one lucky guy

Bingo newcomer, Ron Round, who only started playing bingo at Gala Ipswich earlier this year, has already won himself a massive £102,000! Talk about beginner's luck! "I was in a state of shock when I found out," said the stunned 30-year-old. "It felt totally unreal." After an exotic holiday, Ron plans on realising his dream of owning his own pub.



YEE HAH! Sue Steward and her posse show some frontier spirit

Ain't got the blues!

Stetsons and sharpshooters made for unlikely good-luck charms when Sue Steward lassoed £25,000 at Gala Bognor Regis recently. Sue and her Wild West, gal-pal posse had dressed up as cowgirls for the last night of their Butlins girls' weekend break. And these cowgirls definitely ain't got the blues: Shocked Sue, a usually more soberly dressed Gala Medway player, will soon be riding off into the sunset and celebrating with a holiday abroad, plus a brand new kitchen.

Beebee gets the buzz

Carer Wendy Beebee is looking forward to some TLC herself after winning £20,000 at Gala Swindon. The 31-year-old mum of one will be sharing the prize money with her mum, Dot. "I was shouting and dancing around the hall when I realised how much I'd won," she said.



I DON'T BEEBELIEVE IT Winner Wendy shares success with mum, Dot

'Hop' of the tops!

Cambridge mum, Helen Hopcraft, 51, was so shocked when she won more than £24,000 at Gala Cambridge that hubby Keith had to call out on her behalf. "It was such a fantastic surprise," said the mum of four, who says a sunny family holiday is top of her wish list.



LOST FOR WORDS Helen and Keith are over the moon



INSEPARABLE Maureen and Joyce break open the bubbly

Best friends

Generous Maureen Ryves, 64, will be sharing her £20,440 Gala Southampton win with her best pal and bingo playmate, Joyce Smith. The pair first met over 10 years ago, when they both worked at local contact lens factory, Pilkington. "We have been friends since then," said Maureen, "and always share our winnings."

Come on down to Gala online!

Our new-look website is wwwowing the fans...

Gala Bingo members up and down the country are logging on and enjoying our revamped website, which is back and looking better then ever!

Not only does it bring you online bingo and other fun games, but there are some great prizes up for grabs, including the chance to win £250,000 every month, plus a brand-new Mini Cooper. In fact, the first car has already been won – just check out Gala Gossip (page 21) to find out more.

On top of all that, members can also have weekly web chats with different celebrities each and every month. So far our cover star, Kym Marsh, Nancy Sorrell, former model and the wife of funny man Vic Reeves, and Jeff Brazier, TV presenter and former *The Farm* winner, have all been bitten by the online bingo bug.

"I'm a genuine bingo fan and still play with my mum. I was very excited to be the first celebrity to be a part of Gala Bingo online," said Kym, who recently wowed her fans in *Coronation Street*.



To see the new-look site, log on to www.galabingo.co.uk

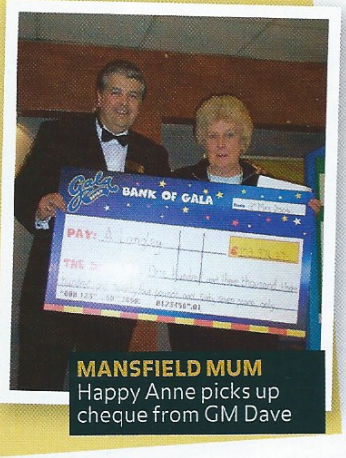


Record breaker

Jo Collins, 52, a mum of three and a special needs school bus driver and Meals on Wheels volunteer, has become a world record online bingo winner. She collected £162,701.97, after playing Gala Bingo online for just five days. "I was at my daughter Melanie's house when I realised I'd won a big prize," said Jo, pictured here picking up her cheque from celebrity model, Nancy Sorrell. "We just went mad and danced around the house."

Lucky lady, Langley

Mum-of-three, Anne Langley, picked up more than £103,000 over at Gala Mansfield recently and has already treated her three grandsons. She's also planning a trip to Majorca in September for herself and a friend. "I couldn't believe that I'd won so much money," said Anne, pictured here with the club's general manager, Dave Vernon, "I was in shock when they announced it, so much so, that I woke up at 3am to make myself a cup of tea, still trying to take it in."



MANSFIELD MUM
Happy Anne picks up cheque from GM Dave

Thank you!

Gala Torquay caller, Cliff Ritson, would like to say a big thank you to everybody who took part in the recent charity games at the club and helped raise over £700 for their daughter, Codie, who was born with several disabilities. Cliff and his partner, Lisa, were able to buy a fibre-optic flexi cushion, which is a proven stimulus for disabled children and is already improving the quality of her life.

Diary dates

Look out for these and other exciting events at your local club...

June/July

- **12 June**
  Fiver Fever
- **27 July**
  All day free Bingo

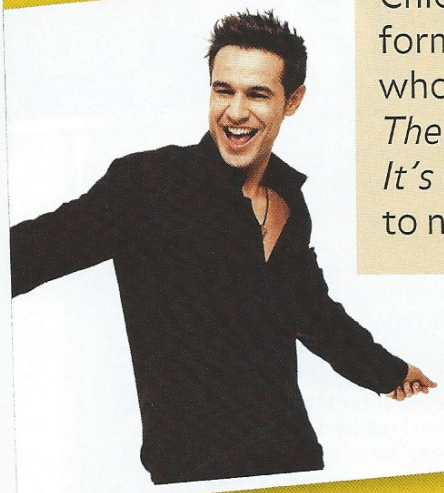
ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE – PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL CLUB.



5 minute interview

Chico!

Chico Slimani, 35, is the former Moroccan goatherd who came fifth in last year's *The X Factor*. His first single, *It's Chico Time*, went straight to number one. . .



Q Did you always want to sing?
A No, I wanted to be a hairdresser. I was accepted on a Youth Training Scheme near where I lived in Crawley. But I was surrounded by a dozen women and they were all so bossy that I quit and tried my hand at being an electrical engineer.

Q How long did that last?
A No time at all. A friend of mine marched me in front of a mirror one day and asked me if what I saw in my reflection looked like an electrical engineer. So I got a job in a nightclub collecting empty glasses.

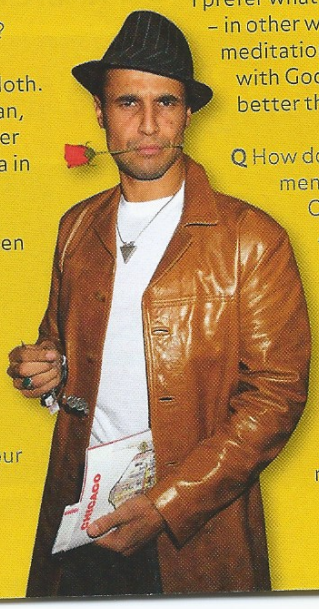
Q What happened next?
A A man pitched up one evening wearing a loincloth. He walked up to a woman, tied a blindfold round her head and stuck a banana in her mouth. He was a Tarzan-o-gram and he got £40 for the gig. When I was collecting empty glasses it took me three nights to clear 35 quid so I started doing the same thing.

Q Do you remember your first Full Monty?
A It was in a pub in East Grinstead. I was so nervous, I drank half a bottle of whisky, I forgot all my lines, fell over the table, breaking all the glasses and nearly flattened the poor woman concerned – and everybody loved it.

Q You toured the world as a male stripper with Extreme Force...
A The women weren't meant to touch you but of course they did. You put a woman and plenty of drink together, then show her a bunch of naked men, and I'll show you a different animal.

Q What made you turn your back on this lifestyle?
A It was a diving accident in South Africa. I should have been paralysed but, by some miracle, I wasn't. And that's how I found God. Now I'm a practising Sufi Muslim. I don't drink and I treat my body with respect. I prefer what I call divine whisky – in other words, prayer and meditation. Being at one with God is so much better than sex.

Q How do you rate your mentor, Sharon Osbourne?
A Without her I wouldn't be where I am today. She's the most amazing human being. We talk all the time on the phone. I call her my Mummy and I'm like the son she and Ozzy never ever wanted!



PHOTOS: IPSWICH STAR, REX FEATURES, SOLENTNEWS.BIZ, SWINDON STAR

Chart topper

Gala Bingo has been placed as the 17th best company to work for in the UK in an annual survey carried out by *The Sunday Times*.

"It's a great result for Gala Bingo and all the people who work for it," says Steve McKenna, managing director of Gala Bingo.

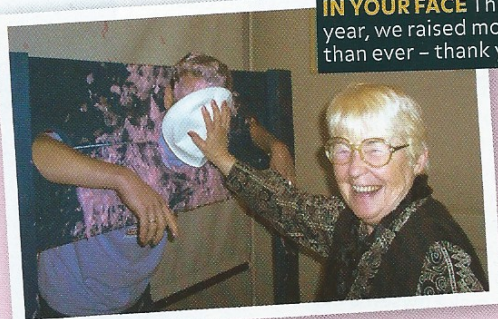
"Gala Bingo is the only leisure company listed in either the top 20 large companies or 100 mid-size companies in the 522 companies surveyed. It topped the 20 best big companies for having a fair work load and realistic deadlines. Seventy one per cent of staff gave a positive score in believing they can make a contribution to the success of the company.

"Happy Staff means happy customers. Gala doesn't just provide bingo. People come to our clubs to have a good night and maybe win some money. It's up to our staff to make sure they enjoy themselves."

The Sunday Times 20 Best Big Companies to Work For 2006 is a roll call of excellence among the largest employers in the UK. Only firms with more than 5,000 staff are eligible for this list. The list was created in 2005 in recognition of the different challenges faced by larger firms seeking to build dynamic, high quality workplaces.

Good call!

The Regional Caller of the Year Finals were held at the end of April and the following callers will be representing their clubs and regions in the Caller of the Year Final at Gala Kingsbury Road in July: Stephen Coyle, from Gala Kilmarnock; Martin Fairlamb, from Gala Newcastle; Nick Bradley, from Gala Bradford; Mike Ryan, from Gala Harpurhey; Peter Winteron, from Gala Wednesbury; Kim Warren, from Gala Oxford; Lee Walker, from Gala Swindon and Scott Orpin, from Gala Maidstone. Well done to everyone who took part.



IN YOUR FACE This year, we raised more than ever – thank you!

Big up for Breakthrough

The final tally is in and you did yourselves proud this year. The amount raised for Bingo for Breakthrough 2005 was over £300,000, which will go to help raise breast cancer awareness. And staff and members at Gala Fenton can bask in a rosy glow for having raised the highest amount out of all the Gala clubs, with an impressive £7,286. "It's a massive thank you to our energetic staff and generous members for achieving this amount," said assistant manager, Billy Sanghera.



NEW HOME
Trinity College's Blackheath Halls



'YES' MAN
Rock legend Rick with the Compton

A pipe dream come true

Famous Plymouth cinema organ gets a new lease of life, thanks to Gala Plymouth Derry's Cross and expert restorer, Peter Hammond (no organ pun intended!)...

Compton cinema pipe organs once entertained millions of British film fans up and down the country, and the one at Gala Plymouth Derry's Cross has long since been recognised as one of the finest examples of its kind. It was built in 1938 for the ABC Royal cinema and was such an excellent-sounding organ that the BBC used it in broadcasts from the cinema for nearly 30 years, played by the then resident organist, Dudley Savage MBE. In terms of cinema organs it wasn't huge, but it was able to produce a very rich, full sound, which could fool you into thinking it was somewhat bigger than it actually was.

The way I understand it is that when the cinema was first converted into a bingo hall, some time in the 70s, any alterations that were made to the building were made around the organ, so that it could still be used. But, as the bingo side of things got busier and interest in the organ waned, it fell into disuse. I think rising maintenance costs and ever-increasing health and safety regulations played a factor too.

I was aware of the Plymouth organ, even from an early age. My dad was a fan and used to enthuse about it, as it always stood out as a really good one. So, I became interested in pipe organs in general, and cinema organs specifically, when I was young. I loved to go and see them being played – plus I'm a classically trained pianist.

In more recent times I have developed that interest into a business, HWS Associates, which is concerned with heritage restoration projects – centred on theatres and cinemas. I didn't think of rescuing the organ immediately but, last summer, I heard that Trinity College of Music, which owns Blackheath Halls in south London, was thinking of installing an organ there. They

"It was a difficult project but the staff and management of the Gala club were superb"



PLAY THAT TUNE
Impromptu concert for bingo fans





HAMMOND'S ORGAN
Antiques restorer, Peter, plays a pipe or two

had a very big Wurlitzer organ in mind, but it was far too big for the hall, a glorious Victorian concert hall, which was, apparently, one of the first purpose-built concert halls in the country.

I quickly realised a smaller organ was needed but, as the hall caters for a wide variety of music, it would need an instrument of quality. So, my thoughts turned to the ABC Plymouth organ. I was pretty sure it was still there, but had no idea what state it was in. I got DVD recordings made of the organ being played back in the 60s and 70s, played them to the Trinity people, put together a really strong proposal, really pushed the boat out – and they went for it.

It was a difficult project to undertake but the management at the Gala club in Plymouth were superb – the manager and staff could not have been more helpful throughout the entire operation. The organ is still owned by the ABC, but since the cinema building was divided back in the 70s, it has lain on the Gala side.

I went in with a team of four people, plus two trucks, and we spent four days working there in early February. The pipes were in chambers on the wall, so we could take them down without disturbing anybody, but the console was in the bingo hall, and that had to be removed at night, so that we didn't disturb the bingo players. The operation went very smoothly and no damage was done to either organ or bingo club. It is now at Blackheath awaiting installation and restoration.

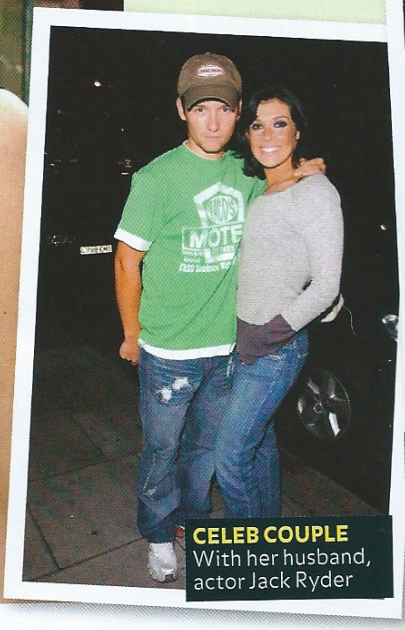
Rock legend and former Yes member, Rick Wakeman, was also part of the project. He came on board through a friend of mine. Once we got it off the ground, I thought it would make a great documentary. Rick was very enthusiastic and wanted to front the programme – which was fantastic as far as I was concerned, as he is a renowned keyboard player and a classically trained musician to boot.

We're hoping to pitch the documentary to a TV company soon. We've shot the removal process, and filmed some interviews, including one with Dudley Savage MBE, who is now in his mid-to-late 80s. He was the resident organist almost from the moment the cinema opened to the day it closed and, to my mind, is totally synonymous with the Plymouth organ. He is very ill at the moment, but we would dearly love to have him at the opening concert, which we also want to film as a separate live event when the project is finished, some time next year. We are taking our time with it, as the acoustics are superb and this is a flagship operation. We are sure everyone will be pleased with the results.

PHOTOS: EVENING HERALD



From the ashes of Hear'Say to Eurovision disappointment and on to life in the soaps – via a stint at bingo calling – Kym Marsh proves she can rise to any challenge...



CELEB COUPLE With her husband, actor Jack Ryder



FAMILY AFFAIR Kym's kids are big fans of her music

Let's hear it for Kym!

You could forgive singer and newly-turned actress Kym Marsh – the woman who walked out of pop band Hear'Say after their punishing schedule proved too much, whose solo singing career floundered and whose marriage to actor Jack Ryder faces constant press intrusion – if she came across as irritable. But, she is positively chirpy as she talks to *Gala Buzz* about music, marriage, acting and a subject close to her heart: bingo!

Both she and her mum are big bingo fans and, as the first celebrity to be featured in the new-look Gala website's chatroom (**check out www.galabingo.co.uk**), Kym has called out the numbers for the online game.

"That was great fun," she laughs. "Having been to bingo loads of times, I think I got the tone right. When I was younger, I was always going with my mum. So, I saw Gala as a good opportunity to go back to my roots."

Bingo calling aside, recent guest roles on soaps such as *Coronation Street* and *Hollyoaks*, plus a successful stint in the musical *Saturday Night Fever*, herald the start of what looks like a flourishing acting career. In fact, her stint on *Corrie* proved so successful that she has already been signed up for more episodes, but Kym remains modest about her achievements to date. "The great thing is that I'm being given opportunities, which is half the battle really," she says.

You'd have thought that meeting the likes of veteran street residents Emily Bishop and Ken Barlow would have been daunting, but no. "It was really weird at first. I mean, *Coronation Street* has been coming out of my living room since I was three. But once I got over that, it was great and everyone

Kym fact #1

Kym's just crazy about canines

Kym has a **constant companion** in her dog, Chihuahua Charlie. "He's lovely but moults like mad, and we've got brown leather sofas, so that's not great news!"



Kym fact #2

Prawns and Kym just don't get along

She has a **phobia of prawns**. "I don't know what it is, maybe it's their antennae or something. Jack loves them though. Once, we were out with my manager and they were both eating them. When I went to the toilet they put some on my plate as a joke and I completely freaked out!"



PURE AND SIMPLE
Happy times for Hear'Say – before the band went their separate ways

Kym fact #3

Kym adores relaxing with a good book

She collects **first-edition children's books**. "I love reading. I'm on the road a lot and it's a good way to relax. Jack bought me a first-edition *Peter Pan* this year for Christmas, which was fantastic."



was lovely. I want to get a bit more experience under my belt now, and then try and move into more dramas."

That said, Kym hasn't quite turned her back on the music biz. Despite believing the industry ain't what it used to be, she enjoys singing and remains undeterred by her defeat on *Eurovision Making Your Mind Up!*, when she came fourth behind winner Daz Sampson, a previously unknown DJ, female duo City Chix and Antony Costa from boy band Blue.

However, Kym remains gracious about the result: "I expected Daz's song to win, because it's got that Eurovision feel. It was great to go up there and sing anyway."

Kym is no stranger to music's fickle nature. As a member of Hear'Say, the first reality TV band, she helped kick-start a phenomenon that has now spawned the likes of Will Young, Girls Aloud, Shayne Ward and, erm, Chico. So how did her experiences compare?

"The record companies learnt a lesson from us – don't let your artists burn out like we did. We were a bit of an experiment really, but that's one of the reasons why bands like Girls Aloud are still doing really well."

And, as for Chico? "My kids love him! At least he doesn't take himself too seriously: if he was going around claiming to be a serious artist, that would be different."

Despite the fallout, Kym remains on good terms with her former Hear'Say bandmates, more or less. They, like her, have had varying degrees of success since the band's demise.

"I see a lot of Suzanne and her little boy, who is gorgeous. Myleene recently interviewed me for *CDUK* and I still see Danny from time to time. The only member of the band I'm not in touch with is Noel, but that's his choice, not mine. Still you can't win them all!"

This upbeat attitude is typical of Kym, who seems determined to focus on the positive – her family, for example. She married actor Jack Ryder, best known as Jamie Mitchell in *EastEnders*, in 2002. Despite his being five years her junior, they have settled happily into married life with Kym's two children David, 11, and Emily, eight. "We are just like any other normal household. We go out, we work hard, we do our jobs and we are there for the children, which is exactly how we want it to be. We want them to have a normal upbringing."

Well, as normal as possible, what with all the press intrusion, plus David and Emily seeing their normal, everyday mum regularly on TV. "They're so used to it now, it's quite funny. They really enjoy seeing me sing. David always tells me that I'm the best singer in the world, which is lovely – if not entirely accurate!"

So, acting, singing and bingo calling aside, what does the future hold? "Jack and I hope to have a baby together this year, and we're very excited about that. We also want to continue to work hard and earn a living."

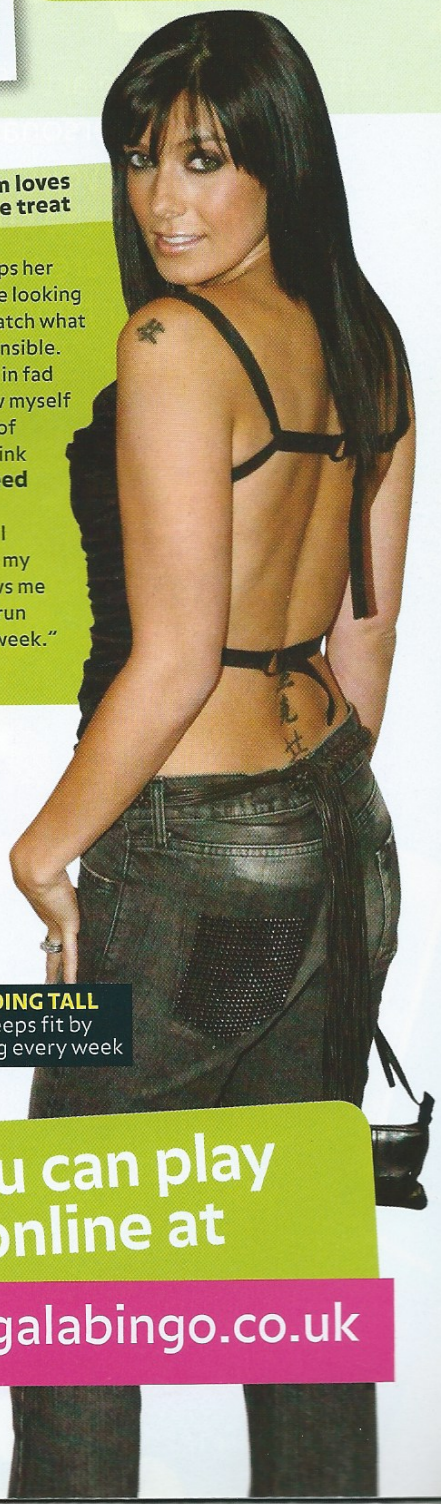
Hear'Say may be in the past but, with her professional and personal life blossoming and the possibility of a new addition to the family, it's easy to see why Kym's still singing.

Kym fact #4

Slim Kym loves a choccie treat

Chocolate keeps her fantastic figure looking fantastic. "I watch what I eat and am sensible. I don't believe in fad diets and allow myself the odd piece of chocolate. I think **all women need chocolate** at certain times! I exercise when my schedule allows me to and I try to run three times a week."

> "My son David always tells me that I'm the best singer in the world, which is lovely – if not entirely accurate"



STANDING TALL
Kym keeps fit by running every week

You can play online at

www.galabingo.co.uk

PHOTOS: BIGPICTURESPHOTO.COM, REX FEATURES
WORDS: REBECCA HOLMAN

In your hands

Palmistry is the art of reading your personality and predicting your future through the study of your palm. But are the lines and creases of your hands all they are cracked up to be?



The next time you do the washing up, pause a moment and take a close look at your hands. They may be telling you more than you think.

Palmistry can trace its roots back to Gypsy fortune-tellers and Indian mystics, but modern practitioners of the art tend to chuck in a bit of psychology and holistic healing for good measure, as well as other methods of divining things.

To unlock the mysteries of your mind and future, palmists read from your dominant hand, which is the right one for most of us. It's a complicated art that consists of reading the lines and bumps of your hand, although some readers will also look at your fingers, fingernails, fingerprints and skin patterns too.

Although modern palmistry is made up of many schools of thought and interpretation, these are a few of the basics.

Head line

This is the line that cuts across the middle of your palm. It reveals how you think about things and what your outlook on life is.



- **Upwards curve**
Some call you misunderstood, some call you downright scatty – get a grip!
- **Downwards curve**
You've got imagination and creativity in spades. Those in this category tend to be writers or bank robbers.
- **Straight**
You tend to be very logical and good at programming computers. Someone has to be!
- **Forked**
You have an open mind and can see things from both sides. That's also known as sitting on the fence.
- **Separate from the life line**
You're a real charmer, you know that? And not only that, the further away from the life line it is, the greater the angle of your luck. So, how many wins have you had then?

Life line

Your life line is the line closest to the base of your thumb. Traditionally, it predicts how long you will live and how much fun you'll have along the way.



- **Long line**
Surprise! You'll live a long life and the further it curves towards the centre of your hand the more energy you will have.
- **Short line**
You shorties live life to the full, packing in as much as is possible.
- **Double line**
A double or triple line means you've got enough vitality in you for two or three people. Your poor mother!
- **Shallow line**
You let other people rule your life and make your decisions. That explains the hairdo then!
- **Broken line**
Get ready for a sudden change in your life, like a big win at Gala Bingo!

Heart line

The heart, or love line, is the one running closest to the base of your fingers. It represents not only your love life, but your friendships and emotions too.



- **Long and steady**
A true romantic, you wear your heart on your sleeve and give it away easily.
- **Straight and short**
You don't mess about; if you see someone cute, you're in like a shot. There's a word for people like you.
- **Wavy or broken**
Who's had lots of relationships then? You have, that's who. But none of them last very long.
- **Ends under the index finger**
You tend to be a bit picky when it comes to personal relationships, which is why you are on your own.
- **Touches the life line**
You love love, but love doesn't love you. You're a bit on the sensitive side and some of your relationships have been real stinkers.

The Mounts

These refer to the fleshy lumps that appear on your hand – with the most prominent ones appearing at the base of your fingers and thumb. As a rule of, erm, thumb, the larger the mount, the stronger the characteristic.



- **Jupiter**
This is found under the index finger and represents religion, pride and respect.
- **Saturn**
This sits under the second finger and is responsible for your morbidity, sadness and interpersonal relationships.
- **Sun**
Found underneath your ring finger, the sun mount is an indication of your artistic talent.
- **Mercury**
Hiding away under your little finger, Mercury is responsible for your inventiveness.
- **Upper Mars**
This sits directly under the Mount of Mercury and relates to your levels of courage, or lack thereof.
- **Moon**
You'll find this one directly under Upper Mars, and it's responsible for your imagination.
- **Venus**
Found at the base of the thumb, this is the mount of *l'amour*.
- **Lower Mars**
This one can be found above Venus and across from Upper Mars, and it's an indication of your indifference.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Get away with Gala

You can take a summer break without taking a break from your bingo...

The sun is shining and the summer holidays are upon us. While many of you will be thinking of foreign climes, a fair few others will be setting your sights a little closer to home. And one of the best things about taking a holiday in Britain is that, as a Gala Bingo member, you can play in any club in any part of the country. Thankfully, we've more than a few clubs that sit in or near some fantastic seaside resorts.

As you know, we have a fabulous club over at the Butlins holiday resort in Bognor Regis, but did you know we also have clubs at these top holiday spots?

- **Arbroath** 01241 872420
- **Bognor Regis** 01243 866035
- **Bournemouth (Lansdowne)** 01202 290980
- **Bournemouth (Winton)** 01202 528234
- **Bridlington** 01262 672819
- **Brighton** 01273 621884
- **Clacton-on-Sea** 01255 429627
- **Dover** 01304 202013
- **Morecambe** 01524 411409
- **Plymouth (Charles Cross)** 01752 228712
- **Plymouth (Derry's Cross)** 01752 664498
- **Poole** 01202 739989
- **Rhyl** 01745 344538
- **Torquay** 01803 298200
- **Weston-Super-Mare** 01934 612939
- **Weymouth** 01305 785180
- **Worthing** 01903 202392



PHOTO: BRITAIN ON VIEW/ROD EDWARDS

One step to Haven!

Gala Bingo special offer

Save up to 50%* on family holidays!
June breaks from just £115!

As if that's not enough to tickle your holiday fancy, then to kick-start your summer, we've teamed up with Haven and British Holidays to bring you this great offer.

Take the family away this summer with Haven and British Holidays, who have 34 fun-packed holiday parks in fabulous locations around the UK, with loads to please all the family.

There are heated leisure pools offering a host of fun activities, from James-Bond-style aqua-jet racing to Learn2Swim programmes, while sports activities include professional coaching sessions, archery, fencing, climbing walls, judo, fishing and more. And with kids' clubs for all ages, family fun zones and play areas, getting the kids away from the TV and computer has never been easier.

Haven's full entertainment programme, including daytime family shows and pantomimes, all leads into a full-on evening of live music, dancing, shows and comedy and circus acts – so it's non-stop fun all the way.

Dates	Self-Catering discount	Half-Board discount	Touring discount
Jun/Sep/Oct*	50%	50%	50%
1 Jul–21 Jul	35%	35%	50%
22 Jul–31 Aug	20%	20%	20%

* Excludes 13–27 October, when saving is 20% for Self Catering and Half Board and 10% discount for Touring.

Call now
0870 242 4300
quoting ZGala2 for your special discount.

For more information on Haven and British Holidays parks, call to request a brochure or log on to www.havenholidays.com

Haven BRITISH HOLIDAYS

Terms & conditions:
1. Cannot be used in conjunction with vouchers of any other offer. 2. Applies to new bookings only. 3. Applies to selected parks and dates. 4. Subject to promotional rate availability, a lower discount may be offered. 5. Terms and conditions of Haven and British Holidays current brochures apply. 6. Purchase of cancellation plan is recommended. 7. Self-catering excludes 3-star accommodation. 8. Half-board available at Hafan y Môr, Craig Tara and Caister. 9. Offers appearing on vouchers on pack cannot be resold. 10.Caravan & Camping available on 21 parks; see brochure/website for locations. 11. Caravan & Camping discount is off the Pitch Price; pitch types vary by park. 12. Caravan & Camping enquiries please call 08705 033 033 quote TOPromo. 13. Offer ends 31 October 2006.

If you fancy a bingo-related getaway that's a little different, then the Hilton Hotel and Casino on the picturesque and peaceful Isle of Man is the perfect place. Just ask Gala Feltham...



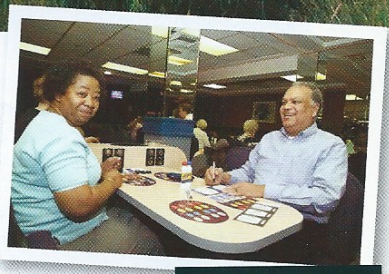
Man oh man, I'm heading for the Hilton!

Back in March, the staff and members of that Middlesex hot spot, Gala Feltham, enjoyed a fantastic bingo weekend away over at the Hilton Hotel and Casino in Douglas, on the Isle of Man. The full-on bingo fans arrived on a Friday afternoon and left on the Monday morning, which gave them ample time to enjoy a luxury weekend full of fun, fine food, karaoke and bingo games galore.

The modern and stylish Hilton Isle of Man is perfectly situated as the only complex in the UK that features both gaming and hotel facilities all under one roof. Looking out across the island's stunning Douglas Bay, the Hilton contains a wide range of facilities including 136 newly refurbished bedrooms, plenty of bars and restaurants and a LivingWell Health Club, which features a fully equipped gym, plus an indoor heated pool, a jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. And let's not forget that there is also a slots lounge, a casino with roulette, blackjack, poker tables and more and, of course, your beloved Gala Bingo.

A unique destination, the Isle of Man contains over 10,000 years of history and has its own currency and national language, plus miles of unspoilt countryside and secluded beaches, yet it sits barely 60 miles off of the north-west coast of the UK. Local attractions include 'Lady Isabella' (the largest operating water wheel in the world), the old Manx village of Cregneish, the beautiful Port Erin and the Viking town of Peel – although, judging by these photos, this excitable bunch from Gala Feltham had trouble tearing themselves away from their bingo.

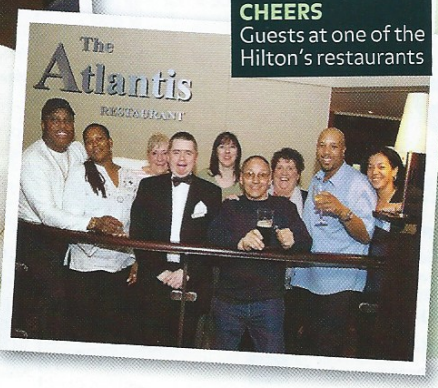
If you fancy a trip to the Hilton Hotel and Casino complex on the Isle of Man, just have a word with your club's general manger. Any trip can be tailor-made, so that the weekend can meet the individual needs of your club.



AWAY GAME
Forget the beach – where's the bingo?



LUCKY BREAK
Showing off some holiday winnings



CHEERS
Guests at one of the Hilton's restaurants

For further information contact:

■ Hilton Hotel and Casino
Central Promenade
Douglas
IM2 4NA
Isle of Man
01624 662662
www.hilton.co.uk/isleofman

Reasons to be cheerful!

Celebrations all round as another Gala Bingo club opens, four winners get the keys to their new car, and players scoop six-figure wins...



ALL DECKED OUT
Borehamwood just looks the business!



CHEEKY LAD
Some boyz have all the luck!

Bubbly Borehamwood launch

The latest addition to the Gala Bingo family got off to a star-studded start, when Keith Duffy, of Boyzone and *Corrie* fame, opened the brand-new Gala Borehamwood earlier this year. Duffy kick-started the show by cutting the ribbon on the multi-million-pound, state-of-the-art club and officially starting the launch party, then hung around to call a game of bingo, chat with fans and sign autographs.

The opening was followed by a full night of bingo, plus a jam-packed entertainment line-up that included comedy band, the Madhatters, various *Stars In Their Eyes* winners and an Elvis impersonator. And it was glasses of Gala bubbly all round to help members celebrate in fine style.

"It was a brilliant night and a fantastic way to officially open the club," said general manger John Stevens.

The brand-new Gala Borehamwood boasts seating for over 900 people, a licensed bar, plus a diner.



HANDS ON
New club's staff are a welcoming bunch

Castleford party!



Our apologies for not including this picture of Gala Castleford members enjoying their re-launch party in our last issue. As you can see, the club was absolutely jam-packed and everyone, staff and members alike, enjoyed a fantastic opening night.



PROUD TO BE
Gala management are pleased as punch



JUST THE TICKET
Only just opened and a winner already

Wheel star winners!

Amongst all our Treasure Trail scratchcard winners, three lucky members have driven off in new Ford Focus cars. They are James Cameron from Gala Arbroath, pictured (bottom left) with general manager, Marie Watkins; Gilbert Baird from Gala Carlisle, pictured (top) with general manager, Dave Redpath; and Shirley Clark from Gala Manchester Harpurhey, pictured (below) with general manager, Mike Smith.









In it to win it

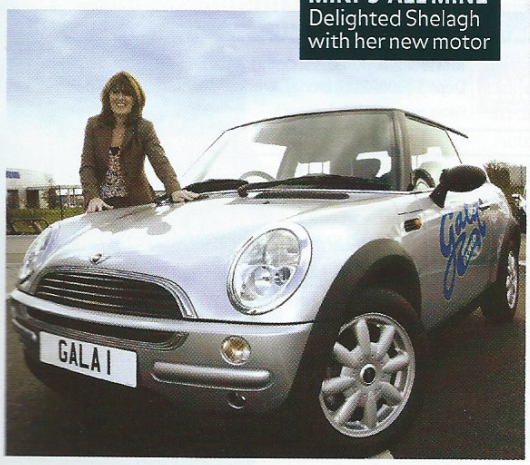
The latest big Gala Bingo winners ...

- Twice as nice! A Gala Chatham winner, 40, won £201,000 four years after her sister won £104,000 at the very same club.
- Coo! A 30-year-old, who recently became a mum for the second time, has even more reason to celebrate after scooping over £200,000 at Gala Glenrothes.
- Slosh! A 72-year-old Werrington woman scooped £103,000 and celebrated with a drink or two. "They gave me a brandy and then I had another one when I got home," she said.
- Ding dong! A 51-year-old Ringwood woman won £102,000 at Gala Bournemouth Winton recently. "I was a bit gobsmacked, to say the least," she said.
- Too right! A 71-year-old widow will be sharing her £101,000 Gala Lancaster winnings with her children and grandchildren. "My family comes first," she said.
- Hic! A 58-year-old Gala Brighton member had to refuse a celebratory drink after winning £100,000, as she was driving home.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

It's a bingo adventure

Shelagh Lewis is well and truly in the driving seat after winning a brand-new Mini Cooper, thanks to Gala Bingo online – and she'd only been playing for four days! The 50-year-old mum of three was actually online in the chatroom when the winner was announced. "All my kids rushed around the computer. It was all a bit unreal," she said. Shelagh also has the honour of being the first such winner. The new-look website offers the chance to win a brand new Mini each and every month, as well as up to £250,000 in cash!



MINI'S ALL MINE
Delighted Shelagh with her new motor





SWIMALONG-A-MAX
Swimmers had a fun time doing their fundraising

Water babes

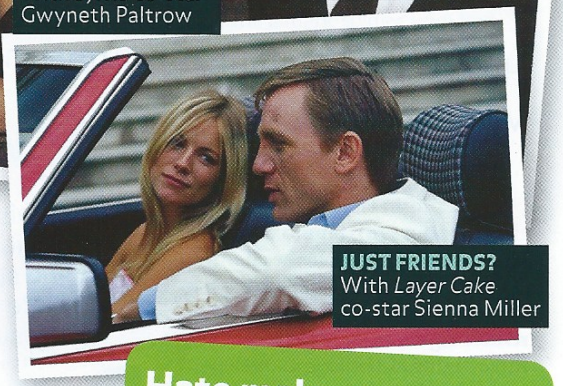
Making a big splash for charity, staff and management teams from Basildon, Pitsea, Waltham Cross and Barkingside bingo clubs took the plunge in the recent Swimathon, raising over £3,000 for NCH, the children's charity. Swimming in teams of three, each team swam over 5,000 metres. Congratulations to everyone who swam!

Things you didn't know about... Daniel Craig

We pull out the top-secret file on the latest actor to step into the shoes of that licensed-to-kill super-spy, James Bond...



SUITS YOU SIR
With *Sylvia* co-star Gwyneth Paltrow



JUST FRIENDS?
With *Layer Cake* co-star Sienna Miller

Something fishy

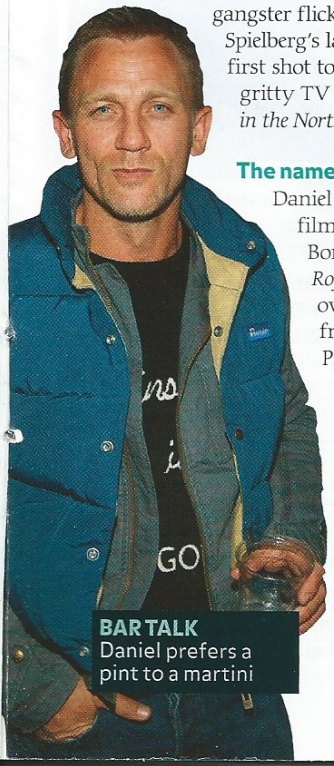
Daniel Wroughton Craig was born on 2 March 1968, to parents Tim and Carol. He is 38 and a Pisces. A happy Piscean is imaginative, sensitive, compassionate, selfless, intuitive and sympathetic but, on a darker note, they can also be escapist and idealistic, secretive, vague, weak-willed and easily led.

The wanderer

Although born in Chester, Daniel grew up in Liverpool, but moved to London when he was 16. There he began his thespian training, first at the National Youth Theatre and later at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Many parts

He debuted in *The Power of One*, and has gone on to star in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* and *Sylvia*, the biopic about poet Sylvia Plath, as well as *Road to Perdition*, Brit gangster flick *Layer Cake* and Spielberg's latest, *Munich*. He first shot to stardom in the gritty TV series *Our Friends in the North*.



BAR TALK
Daniel prefers a pint to a martini

The name is...

Daniel is currently filming the latest Bond film, *Casino Royale*, having taken over the role of 007 from Irish actor Pierce Brosnan. He says that his portrayal of Bond will be more human and fallible – but some fans think he could be taking things too far.

James burned

Daniel is reported to have asked the crew for such pampering products as wet wipes and baby lotion while filming *Casino Royale*. He suffered with heat rash while on set.

Odd balls

But he can't be that much of a wimp, as he's a really big rugby fan. He's also a keen supporter of Liverpool FC.

Camera tricks

Although Daniel's a strapping 5ft 11in, the equally tall actress, Gwyneth Paltrow, had to remove her shoes when filming scenes in *Sylvia*, so that her Sylvia Plath appeared shorter than his Ted Hughes.

Aerophobia

Don't sit next to him on a plane, as he has a fear of flying – and you don't want him freaking out on you.

Award winner

He's picked up many nominations and awards in a short space of time, including the Best British Performance category at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 1998, three Best Actor nominations (1999, 2000, 2004) at the British Independent Film Awards (he won it in 2000) and a nomination for Best Actor in the 2002 *Evening Standard* Theatre Awards.

Leading ladies

He's always played down rumours of a romance with infamous pal, Kate Moss. He was also rumoured to have had an affair with his *Layer Cake* co-star Sienna Miller, at the same time as her then on-off beau, Jude Law, was also hitting the headlines for putting it about with his children's nanny.

Hate male

Hard-core Bond fans launched a website to protest against Daniel taking on the part, after it was alleged that he doesn't like guns, can't drive a manual car, suffered from prickly heat while filming in the Bahamas, lost two front teeth in a fight scene and said that he never wanted to play 007 anyway. Daniel has hotly denied the claims, saying: "I'm focused on making this film." He says that he has given the role "100 per cent from the beginning".



ACTION HERO
Daniel says he doesn't like guns

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES, WIREIMAGE



Sea dreams

A summer seaside afternoon evokes many memories in this touching tale by Gala Weymouth member, **Phyllis Clarke**...

I grow old, I grow old," the old man quietly intoned, while sitting comfortably in his free council deckchair on the hot and crowded esplanade, contentedly watching the gently encroaching waves on the golden beach below him.

"And I shall wear purple," quoted the old woman who lay in the deckchair opposite, lazily watching the antics of the youngsters gradually crowding closer together on the lessening space, as the tide came gently lapping up the shore.

Safe above the encroaching ocean, the two old folk contentedly watched the activity all around them. Parents called to their children who shrieked their holiday happiness, scampering up the steps and leaping off the walls into the soft, crumpled sand below. The laughter came softly to the two old folk who were easing slowly into a slumbering unawareness, as the warm sun enfolded them into midday tranquillity. Traffic noise faded.

The world of fantasy stole over the sleeping couple as they sank into oblivion under the afternoon sun. To the old man came the scents of the sea, the sight of snow and ice and the sound of crashing waves as he struggled on the bucking ship among the cables and bulky equipment on the journey to Russia on the so-called 'Murmansk Run'.

He heard the cries of drowning men in the icy waters of the cruel sea and the grunts of his comrades as they strove to carry out their particular duties. The snow piled on the decks, white as a milkmaid, guns and searchlights weighing down the vessel and making movements difficult for the men.

Once again, he was there, from where he had thought he would never return. He whimpered in his sleep, as passers-by paused to cast compassionate looks in his direction. They could not see the gallant soldier who had helped to save our precious land in the tired old man who slept on in the safety of the present.

Opposite, his old wife smiled in her sleep as she slipped back, as all mothers do, to the precious time when her children, now well-grown, clamoured for her attention; to the anxieties of war and the shortages which her generation bore with such fortitude.

She dreamed of the good times, the family together, gathered around the piano to sing the old songs, the feeling of love of parents and, in her sleep, she smiled as she waved goodbye at the garden gate to departing friends.

The afternoon wore on. The skies began to cloud over and a chill breeze came off the sea as the tide changed. Children and parents started to pack up and leave. The two old folk came slowly back to consciousness and they too collected bags and bits and struggled out of the low deckchairs, halted to obtain their balance and left their little private worlds to the waves and the circling sea gulls.

ILLUSTRATION: MARC ARUNDALE

Attention, short story writers!

Send your stories to us and if we print yours, we'll pay you

£50 in Gala Vouchers!

Post them to: Short Stories, FREEPOST RLYA-CAXK-EBTC, Square One, 15 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS. Please include your name, address, club and membership number with your entry.

your shout

Star Letter



STAR LETTER Wins £25 Gala Vouchers

We know what you're doing!

I'm a regular at my local Gala: when I visit my daughter for tea, I always rush out, saying, "I don't want to miss the early session of bingo." One day, many years ago, I passed my youngest grandson riding his bike. "Don't be late for the early session, Gran," he cried. My grandsons are now in their twenties. If they see me at the bus stop, they always shout out, "don't be late for the early session," then walk off grinning. I tell them that everyone in town knows where I'm going now.

Yours sincerely, Mrs B Gregory

ILLUSTRATION: RICHARD DUSZCZAK

Win £25 Gala Vouchers

Got something you want to share?

Send your letters, with your address, club and membership number to: Gala Letters, FREEPOST RLYA-CAXK-EBTC, Square One, 15 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS. Every star letter printed receives £25 in Gala Vouchers.

Viva Las Vegas

My aunt, uncle and cousins went to live in America 48 years ago. I thought I'd never see them again. But, in 2003, my friend Susie and I entered the Las Vegas draw and made a pact: whoever won would take the other. Well, Susie won and we went in 2004. Then, I found out one of my cousins was living in Las Vegas. I can't tell you how excited I was. What a reunion!. We entered the draw again last Christmas and she won again. This year, I will meet the rest of my long-lost family. Thank you Susie and thank you Gala Lakeside for making my dreams come true.

Yours sincerely, Jan Lee

In a flap

My three older sisters and I all go Gala Bingo regularly. We also like to keep our weight down and eat healthily. My older sister is doing really well but, one day, her little granddaughter asked, "Grandma, what are those things under your arms?" Quick as a flash, she replied, "They are Grandma's bingo wings." No more was said, so I guess she was satisfied.

Yours sincerely, Mrs O'Malley

On the button

I bought myself a new radio and was having great difficulty with the on-off button. It was so tiny! My daughter Shirley took it home to figure out and one of her son-in-laws cut the end of his bingo pen to size and glued it on. Now it's wonderful for my arthritic fingers!

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Betty Reynolds

Coming of age

When my granddaughter was small she used to ask when she could come to bingo with me. I told her that as soon as she was 18 I'd take her with me. She turned 13 recently, so I reminded her that she only had five years to go till bingo. "Don't be daft, Nan," she said. "I'll be down the pub with my mates." I still think bingo will win though because at every family gathering she gets out her bingo game and we all have to play.

Yours sincerely, Wendy Toop

We had plenty of spooky letters in response to our Uri Geller interview. Look out for those in your next issue of *Gala Buzz*.

Good to go

Mum and I have been members of our local club for about 10 years now and always enjoyed going, three times a week. Sadly, she lost her husband two years ago and lost all interest in bingo. I managed to get her to an afternoon session recently and she soon got back in the game, thanks to the friendliness of the staff and other members. Now, she wants to go seven days a week. I want to thank you for giving her the confidence back.

Yours sincerely, Ms A Moore

More than ever

My twin sister and I go to bingo every Sunday and Tuesday. We've never really won something to call anything until a couple of months back when, out of the blue, I shouted "House!" I won £1,400. I could not believe it. Now, when I think of my win, it makes me even more determined to go.

Yours sincerely, Maureen Lyon



Spa-rkling

I won the Issue 11 Jumbo Crossword spa break at Champneys. We went to the Springs Resort in Leicestershire this March. I'd always believed that sort of thing was expensive and just for those with money. But, as I found out from the other guests, such a pampering break is good value and well worth the money. The photo is of me having a treatment in the thalassotherapy pool, which I thoroughly enjoyed. The massage and facial was so relaxing, I would love to win the National and have one on a regular basis. Thank you Gala Buzz and Champneys.

Yours faithfully, Joan Gunter

Got a poem to share? Then send it, along with your address, club and membership number, to: Gala Poems, FREEPOST RLYA-CAXK-EBTC, Square One, 15 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS. Each star poem printed receives £25 in Gala Vouchers.

rhyme & reason

Star Poem

Mrs E Pratley of Gala Bristol Fishponds has a statement to make:

Just me

I'm not just a little old lady
Who simpers, meek and mild
I do like a chat, what do you
think of that?
I was just the same as a child
I'm getting older day by day
But like to go my own sweet way
I get advice but do I take it?
Not if I know I can make it
I do like a laugh and some fun
And to join in
with everyone
I'll still carry on
as long as I can
Has anyone got a
better plan?
Let me know
if you do
Then I'll join my
forces with you

STAR POEM WINS £25 GALA VOUCHERS



ILLUSTRATION: GETTY IMAGES

Once again, our poem postbag was overflowing. We loved them all so much, so please, keep 'em coming...

Why Gala Barkingside's Winifred S Clarke, loves a good show:

Stars in your eyes

I thought I'd write a poem just to say
Thank you for a very special Sunday
We were entertained and had a
good laugh
It was well worth missing my
morning bath
A lovely roast dinner was a
special treat
Followed by coffee and a really
nice sweet
That staff put on a show, Stars in
Your Eyes
The talent they showed was a
lovely surprise
Robbie, Elvis, Michael and
many, many more
The manager told a joke that made
us all roar
The girls all danced, and some
they sang
The show went off with a great
big bang
To all the staff, I'd like you to know
You put on a terrific show
I wasn't disappointed when
I didn't win
Cos I went home with a great big grin

Gala Dudley's Trish Perkins knows her favourite place:

Ode to Gala Dudley

It was at the club in Dudley
That this bingo couple met
He said, if you are lonely
Come sit by me, my pet
They talked a lot that evening
He tried to feel her knee
She said if you are passing
Do drop in for tea
So, the next day he decided
To pay the lady a call
He had his tea and slice of cake
But that wasn't all
He moved in six months later
With all his tackle and his gear
She said, shall we get married?
He said, OK, next year
If you ever go to Dudley
You'll see them sitting there
Drinking tea and playing bingo
That lovey-dovey pair
They haven't won much money
At their favourite bingo club
Perhaps it would be cheaper
Simply going down the pub
That was 14 years ago
The years have just flown by
They'd love to win the National
They'll be back again to try
The message in this story
Is very clear and true
Thank you Gala Dudley
We owe it all to you

And Gala Hull's Freda Maw felt inspired to write this:

Nearly!

Some people like the races
And others like the cricket
But I enjoy my bingo
It's really just the ticket
When I go in my Gala club
My pulse it starts to race
I buy my books and get my drink
And sit in my favourite place
It probably sounds silly
It's just a numbers game
But the money that I hope to win
Brings me back again and again
There was one night in particular
I got a message on the phone
My friend was ill and couldn't come
I had to go alone
So off I went and bought my books
Sat in my favourite place
And concentrated on the game
Harder, just in case
The games proceeded normally
I didn't have a win
And then the caller told us
The National was about to begin
The prize of this was awesome
One hundred thousand pounds
If only I could win this one
Happiness would know no bounds
I started crossing off the numbers
It was really going great
32 numbers had been called
When I needed a 78
I couldn't quite believe it
Was I really going to win?
With trembling hands and racing heart
I prayed it would come in
The caller kept on calling
Number after number
No sign of number 78
Blimey, what a bummer!
Then someone shouted bingo!
My heart sank to my boots
Obviously not my lucky night
Another got the loot
I knew my chance had come and gone
To win the National game
But, still I'll keep on trying
And enjoy it just the same