



ANDREW CHITTOCK / LONDON NEWS PICTURES

Fresh air may be strictly for the birds as freeze returns

Lampeter Red kites swoop from the sky as a woman throws them meat on a snow-covered field in Lampeter, West Wales. She has been providing the feed for 16 years and more than 70 of the birds can turn up.

The freeze returned to almost the whole country yesterday, with temperatures forecast to fall last night to minus 15C in Scotland (minus 5F) and minus 3C in London.

Despite the cold, services crippled by last week's early blast of winter were returning to normal yesterday. In southeast England, commuter trains were expected to run normally today. The East Coast main line, however, was still operating a revised timetable.

Car insurers predicted a sharp rise in claims for pothole-related damage as

the frost made surfaces disintegrate. Last year's total of £320 million spent on repairs was likely to "pale into insignificance", said Duncan McClure-Fisher, of the insurance company Warranty Direct. Motoring organisations warned drivers to stay alert for icy patches.

The bookmaker William Hill has cut the odds of this winter beating the country's lowest recorded temperature of minus 27.2C in Braemar, Aberdeenshire, on January 10, 1982, from 25/1 to 6/1 after a flood of bets.

Shoppers adjusted to the weather. Last Wednesday, when the snow was at its most widespread, online shopping shot up by 98 per cent compared with the same day last year. **Weather, page 55**

Big rise in child poverty in working households

York The number of children living in poverty in working households in the UK has risen to its largest ever, a report has found. There are now 2.1 million impoverished youngsters living in homes where their parents or carers have jobs, according to a study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion, published today, finds that the overall number of children living in poverty has fallen to 3.7 million because the number who live in workless households has fallen to 1.6 million — the lowest figure since 1984. The report also finds that between

2008 and 2009, 13 million people in the UK were living in poverty.

Tom MacInnes, its co-author, said: "With more than half of all children in poverty belonging to working families, it is simply not possible to base anti-poverty policies on the idea that work alone is a route out of poverty."

Julia Unwin, chief executive of the foundation, added: "Although it is important to recognise the reduction in child and pensioner poverty over the last decade, the Government now faces many challenges, not solely related to work and poverty. Welfare reform alone is nowhere near enough."

Extra flights bring back Britons stranded by strike



Lanzarote British tourists in Spain whose return was delayed by an air-traffic controllers' strike were coming home yesterday, with airlines providing extra flights. It is thought that about 20,000 Britons in Spain were affected, with others in Britain unable to take their flights as planned. Ryanair put on extra flights from Lanzarote, Las Palmas and Tenerife to Stansted and Luton. EasyJet operated 14 "rescue flights".

Many Spanish controllers rang in sick on Friday in a dispute over pay and conditions. The strike ended after the Government issued a decree threatening them with prison.

Call me Mr: jailed gang leader wins right to courtesy title

Belmarsh A gang leader serving a life sentence in connection with a double murder has won the right to be addressed as "Mr" by prison staff. Colin Gunn, 43, from Bestwood, Nottingham, was jailed for at least 35 years in 2006 for conspiracy to murder John and Joan Stirland. In a letter to the prisoners' newspaper *Inside Time*, Gunn, now in Belmarsh prison, southeast London, said that last December the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman had upheld a complaint he made about staff at HMP Whitemoor in Cambridgeshire.

Gunn's letter urged other prisoners to follow suit.

Gunn wrote: "I won my case with the Ombudsman against Whitemoor refusing to address me as 'Mr Gunn'. The law is on your side so do not give in. You do not have to be humiliated by rude, ignorant prison staff any longer. Stand up for your rights."

The Prison Service confirmed that staff are "encouraged" to address inmates "in an appropriate manner", meaning by their first names or "Mr".

The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman declined to comment.

King's fight with his stammer is a trophy performance

London Colin Firth's stunning and stuttering performance in *The King's Speech* swept the Moët British Independent Film Awards last night. The film, about George VI's struggle to overcome his stammer, won five trophies including best film, best actor and best screenplay. It also won best supporting actor and actress, for Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter, right with Firth.

Gareth Edwards won best director for his first film, *Monsters*, out this week. Part alien invasion, part romance,



it was made in Mexico on a shoestring budget of £500,000. Edwards also won awards for the special effects done over five months on his own computer.

Carey Mulligan won best actress for her role in the Kazuo Ishiguro film *Never Let Me Go*, on general release next year. Most promising newcomer

was Joanne Froggatt for *In Our Name*.

The best documentary was *Enemies of the People* about the Killing Fields of Cambodia.

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