

# ESPEARE

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## Mulberry's royal stunt backfires

MULBERRY'S fans include the Duchess of Cambridge, right, and Princess Eugenie. But this hasn't stopped the luxury handbag brand from becoming embroiled in an undignified row with the Royal Family after publishing a promotional image of its new collection hanging from the gates of Kensington Palace, above.

'The new Kensington Satchel hanging out at Kensington Palace — shop the collection,' Mulberry tweeted from its official account alongside the photo of two grey bags dangling from the wrought iron railings, which were famously surrounded by a sea of flowers following the death of Princess Diana in 1997.

The tweet was removed yesterday after a complaint from Kensington Palace, where Kate lives with Prince William. 'The image was taken without our permission and we requested that it be removed,' a Palace spokesman tells me.

The blunder follows a disastrous year for Mulberry, which lost its chief executive and announced profits had slumped after the company was accused of dramatically raising prices. A large Kensington satchel retails at £1,200. A spokesman for Mulberry tells me: 'We made this post in error.'

## Giving up men is Ab Fab, says comedy star Julia

SHE has a string of famous ex-lovers but after seven years of singlehood, it seems actress Julia Sawalha has given up on men for good.

Absolutely Fabulous and Lark Rise To Candleford star Julia, 46, soon to be seen in the new supernatural BBC drama Remember Me, says: 'I've been single for seven years now, and I'm finally happy on my own.'

She explains: 'Being in the wrong relationship can really damage your self-esteem. It quietly chips away at you over a long period of time until you

become very weak. I would say all of my relationships, bar one, have been like that, but if you can get up from it and learn from the experience, you become stronger.'

Her ex-boyfriends include actor Dexter Fletcher, comedians Richard Herring, Keith Allen and Alan Davies, not to mention her last boyfriend, self-styled 'water gypsy' Rich Annetts, with whom she lived in Somerset for two years.

I wonder which one of that lot was the non-bad apple?

■ WHO says the bottom has fallen out of the art market? Martin Creed, Turner Prize winning creator of the on-off light bulbs and crumpled ball of paper, unveiled a new work yesterday at the Fine Art

Society in homage to Marcel Duchamp, whose most celebrated work was a porcelain urinal. Creed's exhibit is on sale for £48,000 to £65,000. It is a wrinkled Kleenex in a glass box.

■ IS LORD Brocket's son, Alexander Nall-Cain, contemplating a career in comedy? Entrepreneur Alex, who was once named Tatler's 'Babe of the Month', writes on Facebook: 'Girls in London clubs are a lot like the toilets in London clubs, some are engaged, some are vacant...some disabled.' Clearly 29-year-old Alex is a chip off the old block. His former jailbird father was dubbed 'Lewd Brocket' after shoving a champagne glass into Katie Price's cleavage on I'm A Celebrity.

## Jamie: why I'm a strict father

JAMIE OLIVER is known for his cheeky-chappy style on TV but at home he takes a much stricter approach. The 39-year-old chef, who has four children with his wife Jools, also 39, says he is a firm father because he doesn't want his offspring to grow up spoiled.

'They go to posh private schools, because they kind of have to, but I am not putting up with any airs and graces,' says Oliver, who has an estimated fortune of £240million.

'I'm strict on manners and I want my kids to be good with all types of people. I don't want them to only hang around with certain crowds.'

Oliver has three daughters, Poppy, 12, Daisy, 11, and Petal, five, and a son, Buddy, three. 'I'm pretty hardcore about pulling your finger out and saying "please" and "thank you",' he adds.

'I give them jobs. I don't make salads at home; that's [Daisy's] job. I'm cooking the dinner. They can lay the table, damn right. They can do the dressing, damn right. And Poppy does bread every day with her eyes closed.'



Saturday 27 September 9.46AM

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