

(A) Missionary Societies and Missionary Periodicals – some major examples

1. Church Missionary Society

Evangelical, non-denominational, founded on 12 April 1799 by members of the Clapham Sect, a group of activist evangelical Christians who met in each other's homes around Clapham, south of London. Their number included Henry Thornton and William Wilberforce.

2. British and Foreign Bible Society

A non-denominational Christian charity that exists to make the Bible available throughout the world. The Society was formed on March 4, 1804, when a group of Christians sought to address the problem of a lack of affordable Bibles in Welsh for Welsh-speaking Christians.

3. The London Missionary Society

Non-denominational missionary society formed in England in 1795 by evangelical Anglicans and Nonconformists, largely Congregationalist in outlook, with missions in the islands of the South Pacific and Africa.

4. China Inland Mission

Interdenominational Protestant Christian missionary society, founded by English missionary Hudson Taylor on 25 June 1865.

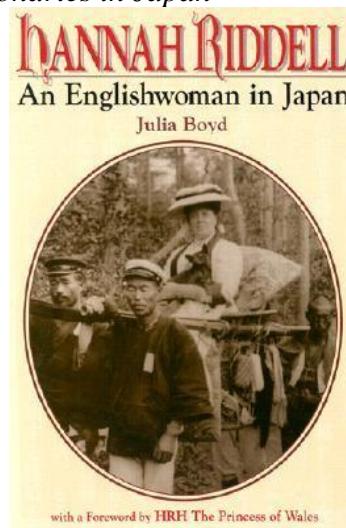
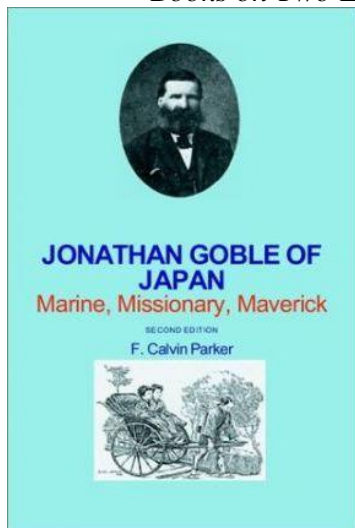
5. Baptist Missionary Society

A Christian missionary society founded by Baptists from England around 1792 as the Particular Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Amongst the Heathen

Some Missionary Magazine Covers



Books on Two Early Western Missionaries in Japan



1) F. Calvin Parker, *Jonathan Goble of Japan: Marine, Missionary, Maverick*. UP of America, 1990.

“This is a readable and entertaining account of the most colorful and eccentric missionary in nineteenth-century Japan, Jonathan Goble (1827-1926). Goble first visited Japan as a marine in Commodore Matthew C. Perry's expedition of 1853-54. He won acclaim in the official "Narrative of the Expedition" for befriending the Japanese castaway Sam Patch. After returning to Japan as a missionary of the American Baptist Free Mission Society, Goble translated more than half the New Testament into Japanese. His Gospel of Matthew is the oldest extant Scripture portion printed in Japan. He preached to samurai and merchants, to outcasts and the blind. Goble led an exciting life not only as a missionary but also as an interpreter, translator, writer, lecturer, inventor, merchant and builder. He rubbed shoulders with Iwakura Tomomi, prime minister; Yamanouchi Yodo, leading daimyo; Iwasaki Yataro, founder of the Mitsubishi financial empire; and other notables. Strong-willed and prone to violence, his maverick ways got him consigned to a Baptist limbo. In this work, the first biography of Goble, his fascinating life illuminates the strange world of Christian missions in nineteenth-century Japan.”

2) Julia Boyd, *Hannah Ridell: An Englishwoman in Japan*. Tuttle, 1996.

“In the late nineteenth century hundreds of Christian missionaries were despatched to Japan to convert the heathen, a task that many felt could be accomplished within a few decades. That expectation proved to be wildly optimistic, since today fewer than one percent of Japanese are Christian. The efforts and even the names of those early missionaries are now largely forgotten, but the work of one woman, Hannah Riddell (1855-1932), proved to be vital and lasting. While visiting the Honmyoji temple in Kumamoto, Hannah encountered a group of lepers - in every degree of loathsomeness - and her life suddenly changed. Though she continued her efforts to save the souls of ordinary Japanese, Hannah became determined to improve the wretched lives of lepers. Against great odds, she founded one of the first modern leprosariums in Japan ...”

References:

Altholz, Josef L. *The Religious Press in Britain, 1760-1900*. Westport, CT: Greenwood P, 1989.
Barringer, Terry. ‘Missionary Periodicals published in Great Britain and Ireland 1836-1901’ in
“What Mrs. Jellyby Might Have Read.” *VPR* 37:4 (Winter 2004) 46-74.

<http://research.yale.edu:8084/missionperiodicals/index.jsp>

(B) The Debate in the Times

‘The Day Of Intercession’ (News), *The Times* Saturday, Dec 21, 1872; pg. 7; Issue 27566; col A
“Yesterday being set apart, with the express sanction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, for intercession for an increased supply of Missionaries, services were held with that in view ...”

Leading Article. *The Times*, Saturday, Dec 21, 1872; pg. 9; Issue 27566; col A
“The authorities of the Church of England, with full legislative sanction, devoted yesterday to public and private intercessions for an increased supply of Missionaries.”

Our Missions. (Letters to the Editor) from AN EAST-END MISSIONARY and OLD INDIAN.
The Times Wednesday, Dec 25, 1872; pg. 3; Issue 27569; col F

Our Missions. (Letters to the Editor) from AN IMPARTIAL OBSERVER.
The Times Friday, Dec 27, 1872; pg. 3; Issue 27571; col D

Leading Article. *The Times*, Friday, Dec 27, 1872; pg. 7; Issue 27571; col C
“One or two correspondents have undertaken to explain or excuse the comparative failure of missions. ...”

Indian Missions. (Letter to the Editor) from LAWRENCE.
The Times Saturday, Jan 04, 1873; pg. 8; Issue 27578; col E

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—To an Englishman and a Churchman, nothing can be more humiliating than the picture of our missionary failure drawn on Friday last by the Bishop of London. We have implored the Divine interposition, and now, as practical men, we ought to inquire into the reasons why (first) we have been so unsuccessful, and why (second) so few men are found to undertake missionary work.

First. We seem to forget altogether the way in which the heathen in most cases become acquainted with the religion of Englishmen. The earliest missionaries are those of commerce. The English sailor teaches the innocent native the first principles of his religion, that "damn" is the commonest word in the language, that "Hell" ought to be the universal doom of all against whom he is incensed, and that "rum" is the greatest good. Then the colonist, under the pretence of treaty or bargain, seizes on the heathen's land. Then a ship-of-war appears on the neighbouring waters, a fort is built, and the "Union Jack" hoisted upon the flag-staff. Then the natives, seeing at last the meaning of these successive events, revolt against their civilizers. Then the familiar scarlet uniform enlivens the scene, and the place becomes British territory. And then the missionary comes with his message of "Peace on Earth: good-will to men!"

As the consequence of this method of ploughing the field for missionary labour, few in India, except those of the lowest caste, or those who have lost caste, accept Christianity. The New Zealanders cannot be expected to embrace the religion of those whom they look upon, not unnaturally, as greedy exterminators. The negroes of Jamaica are not religiously impressed with the loving chastisement of martial law. The Chinese are not likely to reverence the morality which permits the growth of opium for their smoking, and forcibly imports it into their country. The Japanese refuse to appreciate the Christian necessity for bombarding villages, nor do the Polynesians rejoice in the Slave Trade. In fact, every heathen nation whose spiritual destitution the Bishop deplored has a material reason for rejecting our religious overtures.

The same cause has operated in Ireland, where, in spite of cruel disabilities and exceptional privileges offered, our Missionary Establishment, as far as Romanists are concerned, has been a complete failure. There is nothing more pitiable than the position of the English missionary, who goes to the heathen as an ambassador of a "kingdom which is not of this world" and finds himself received as the representative of a kingdom as worldly as trade, ironclads, and rifles can make it. He stands, in almost every instance, amid the still smouldering ashes of a rebellion which has been quenched in blood, and the forerunners of his gospel have been the man-of-war and the field battery. How can any great measure of success attend his efforts in the face of such a stumbling-block as this?

Second. The character of our empire has its effect on the missionary, too. Being looked on by his hearers as one of a hostile garrison, he cannot long continue to feel that pure and earnest enthusiasm which is necessary to sustain him. He is like a guiltless man living under the imputation of some grave offence. However conscious of his innocence he may be, the distrust with which he is universally regarded affects him with nervousness. So, in the case of the missionary, his confidence in his message and himself is shaken, and this being so success is impossible. He is in a false position.

Again, an Englishman goes abroad with the intention, if possible, of returning home. The missionary shares in this national home-sickness. There is no need to dwell on this painful subject. It is kept sufficiently before the public mind by the many Bishops who have relinquished the sphere of duty to which they had been consecrated to occupy positions in the Church at home, involving, in many instances, labour as great as that under which, as missionaries, they fainted.

Lastly—and I put this forward with great regret, for the idea of the Church of the nation is dear to me—the fact of ours being the State Church is an obstacle to missionary effort of the right sort. An Establishment has many merits and advantages. The chief is that it provides for the spiritual wants of the poor. It gives us a fair representation of the religious thought and feeling of the nation. It provides exceptional rewards for University men of distinction. It encourages orthodox scholarship. It gives opportunity for the production of valuable literature which, commercially, does not "pay." It offers a useful and satisfactory career to men of rather less than average ability, and—it is the paralysis of religious zeal. There are some of us who are enthusiastic over our want of enthusiasm. But our zeal never leads us further than the Holy Land, and then only as tourists or book-makers. There is no room in our Church for the zealot; but it is only the zealot who makes the capable missionary. And everything which tends to check the active expression of religious zeal, which we sometimes call (in its fiercest development) fanaticism, tends to check missionary enthusiasm. The measure which, in my opinion, would remedy this evil—for in a religious community apathy is a portentous evil—I should not dare to trouble you with now, as I fear I have already addressed you at too great length.

AN EAST-END MISSIONARY.

December 23.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—It is with pain I have read the first "leader" in your Saturday's issue, which, although at the end you say "it is not written to discourage," must give a very wrong impression of missions and their working to those unacquainted with them, as you allow the larger portion of society unfortunately is.

The subject of missions is not a usual one to broach at dinner, or a ball, or even a *congregation*; but address any Indian officer of earnest mind, any "old Indian"—in fact, whom you will, if he be one who will take an interest in such a topic at all—and I can assure you that you will hear testimony to the work of missionaries in India that you will not have expected.

There is a class of men, and women too, who will always laugh them to scorn with their efforts and their results. But would these same persons do otherwise—I seriously put it to you—were you to endeavour to engage them in a conversation on the religious statistics of our own land? Their testimony, therefore, is not the one that one would naturally go by. And I must add that it is idle to talk of the little that has been done in the way of conversion of the heathen by our Church Societies, while the number of our Church missionaries is in the proportion of scarcely more than one teacher to two millions of heathens! In the face of this fact can any one who believes in the efficacy of prayer at all doubt the necessity for united intercession that more labourers should be sent into the harvest? It matters not that it be said, "Look at home; our own people are not yet converted." More is the pity, and sad the reflection that after centuries of Christian work among them they should not be; and greater the reason why we should not expect the heathen world after some 60 or 70 years of teaching to show many converts; but it is no argument whatever for our not obeying our Lord's very distinct and plain, unqualified command that we "should go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

It may be better done, and more efficiently, than hitherto, and any suggestions that will lead to such an issue will be thankfully indeed accepted, and we are sure acted upon; but that men must be had for the work remains a fact, and that God "is a God that heareth prayer," made to him for a good and righteous purpose, in a right and believing spirit, remains, thanks be to Him, a sure and steadfast fact also. I trust that it may be, indeed, "visibly" proved in this instance by the offer of many a University man for the high office of missionary.

Dec. 21.

OLD INDIAN.

The Daily Telegraph

Established 1855

Phoney Budget hides growing deficit problem

It comes to something when a Chancellor's Budget speech is overshadowed by the reply from the Opposition. It happened a few times towards the end of the Tory administration when the late John Smith made some clinical, cutting attacks. It happened again yesterday when a dull, lacklustre, predictable Budget speech by Gordon Brown was followed by a lively, amusing attack by Michael Howard.

Labour strategists will argue that dull predictability is Mr Brown's unique selling point. They may hope that the electorate has come to feel safe with him and the low, stable inflation he has brought with him. Unfortunately, that is the only achievement of Mr Brown that is undisputed. Yesterday, he seemed like a concert hall performer whose best performance was years ago and is now reduced to performing the same old stunts every year: once more, the long lists of selectively chosen statistics about the economy's performance and, yet again, the usual bung for pensioners at the end of the speech. We have heard it all before.

Labour MPs cheered, of course, and the Prime Minister grinned gamely. But as a vote-winning pre-election Budget, this was a damp squib. Mr Brown boasts he is giving a £200 rebate to pensioners on their council tax bills. Thank you, Mr Brown. But pensioners have been around long enough to know that their council tax bills only come to be so big in the first place under Labour.

The threshold for stamp duty payment has been doubled to £120,000. Thanks again, Mr Brown. But we know very well that it was you, who now claim to be so concerned about home buyers, who previously dramatically raised stamp duty rates and left the basic threshold unchanged. If the threshold had been increased with house price inflation since Labour came to power, it would be £143,000.

Child tax credit is to be increased in line with earnings from next year. Thanks once more. But shouldn't it be increased in line with earnings anyway? New contributions to Individual

The British are getting close to a tipping point - they are no longer so sure that public spending will sort everything out

Savings Accounts, which Mr Brown previously threatened to curtail, will be allowed to continue. Many thanks. He is like a mugger who says he will hit you six times but who then announces that, after further consideration, he will hit you only five times. Instead, Very kind, before Gordon Brown became Chancellor, incidentally, one could contribute £30,000 to the equivalent of today's ISAs. Now it is down to £7,000 and the tax advantage has been severely reduced.

That was about it. Michael Howard scored well because the Budget was so thin, because he made enjoyable jokes at the expense of Alan Milburn - how his management of the election campaign is going badly - and, above all, because he offered a different vision. Where Mr Brown offered un-reconstructed statism, Mr Howard

offered fewer quangos, less bureaucracy and lower taxes. Mr Brown made a stab at trying to convince us that he, too, is anti-bureaucracy but it was unconvincing. It was under him that public sector employment rose by more than 600,000. Only yesterday, the doormats of *Guardian* readers were soundly thumped with the arrival of *Society Guardian*, a 116-page heavyweight consisting almost entirely of public sector jobs. And Mr Brown can't stop thinking of yet more things for the state to do. He wants government-sponsored apprentices, government-controlled nurseries and government-approved community service. There appears to be no aspect of human existence that he thinks would not benefit from government control. He may regard this as a vision of the sunlit uplands of government-controlled perfection. Others will increasingly regard his ideas as Orwellian.

"Bring it on," concluded Mr Howard, at the end of his speech. The Tories are proposing relatively modest cuts in the growth of public spending, but at least they have found specific savings. So Mr Howard displayed a genuine relish for an electoral fight on this ground. There is a suspicion that the British are getting close to a tipping point - that they are no longer so sure that public spending will sort everything out. That they might prefer to spend their own money, instead of giving it to Mr Brown to spend it for them.

He made a virtue, yesterday, of not increasing the personal income tax allowance. He said he could target more money at working parents by increasing child tax credit instead. Perhaps. But these working parents (always "hard-working" of course) will have to apply to get back the money they had previously paid in tax. Mr Brown cannot bear people to have money unless he takes it from them first and then has them apply to him as supplicants. A rise in personal allowances would have benefited everybody whereas, by his "targeting", Mr Brown cut out pensioners, those without children and those whose children have grown up. The personal allowance next year will be a mere £4,896. Those whom the Government itself defines as being in "poverty" are taxed. The personal allowance in Poland, incidentally, is £6,400.

Mr Brown's record will be a key issue of the election. He will boast of stability and growth. But the stability, while welcome, is of a kind that has become widespread around the world. The growth has been respectable, but only looks really good compared with the chronically low-growth European Union. It owes a great deal to the reduction in the scope of the public sector and taxes by the Tories. That competitive advantage is gradually being whittled away.

No one should fail for the illusion that the past seven years have gone smoothly along a path which Mr Brown intended. He took a path with a big U-turn. For the first three years, he held back on spending. He built up government surpluses. But in 2000, everything changed. He became a spendthrift. There was a government Budget cash surplus worth 3.9 per cent of gross domestic product in 2000/01. This was transformed into a deficit this year of 3.7 per cent. That is why this was such a dull Budget. There is nothing left in the kitty. He has spent it all.

In 1939, war was declared but for months there was no major engagement of British forces. It was called "the phoney war". In financial terms, this was "the phoney Budget". The real Budget comes next year when whoever is in power will have to sort out the growing deficit problem by cutting spending, raising taxes, borrowing or increasing taxes. If the Labour Party is in power, you know which one it will be.

Letters to the Editor

1 Canada Square, London E14 5DT Telephone: 020 7538 5000 Fax: 020 7538 6455 E-mail: dletters@telegraph.co.uk We accept letters by post, fax and e-mail only. Please include name, address, work and home telephone numbers.

Banning the biblical titles of Jesus

SIR - Donald Stevens made an interesting point (Letters, March 16) about changes in some modern Bible translations with regard to inclusive language. But he misses the really dangerous changes.

He cites the use of "O mortal" in Ezekiel as unsatisfactory alternative to "Son of Man". The fact, known to biblical scholars for centuries, is that "Son of Man" was a synonym for "man" (merely a human being) in the Old Testament. Jesus used the phrase as a favourite self-description, aware that it carried a double meaning, first as a cry of Messiahism (26), then as a cry of "human being" but secondly, as a cry of Messiahism (26). He kept people guessing!

The real problem today is that many Christians use a refusal to accept the Messianic use of Jesus in favour of bland alternatives which miss the key meaning.

They do so, less successfully, with royal language (king, kingdom), having given up monarchy long ago. I am particularly conscious of this because my best-known hymn ("Christ triumphant"), which figures in 125 hymnbooks round the world, is not used in the United States. My US publisher tells me: "The feminists object to your use of such language." I use none of the titles of Jesus Christ, Suffering Servant, Priestly King, Son of Man, Word, Saviour, etc, all from the New Testament.

Canon Michael Seward
London E1

SIR - Ever since the 1860s there have been numerous efforts to express the Hebrew and Greek originals in language which is more accessible for ordinary people. Your headline, "Rewritten Bible Banishes Saints", is misleading. "Saints" - the word used in the Authorized Version, published in the reign of James I - has been translated as "God's people" in the New English Bible (1961), the Good News Bible (1976) and the first New International Version (1979), to name but three.

The Bible, if it were listed in the annual bestseller lists, would outrip every other book by a huge margin. For millions of Christians the world over, it is God's word to us, so no wonder we want to encourage those who are making fresh attempts to make it more accessible.

Rev Edward Tufnell
Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos

Psychiatric bed shortage

SIR - I cannot comment on the case of Peter Ryan, sentenced for murder after being released from hospital care (report, Mar 16). But there is a grave shortage of general adult psychiatric beds and of beds on closed wards. With an increasing awareness of the risks of both suicide and violence within the

Sandra Howard and the plight of her Panda

SIR - I read with interest that the police removed Michael Howard's wife's vandalised motor vehicle from Wrotonham railway station (report, Mar 15). When my car was stolen, the wheels removed and the remains left in a school yard in Manchester, I was threatened with prosecution had I not moved it within 24 hours.

Nick Tarney
Manchester

SIR - I was sorry to read of Sandra Howard's unfortunate experience at the hands of vandals who destroyed her Fiat

Labour has done a lot for shooting and fishing

SIR - It would be refreshing if the chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, Simon Hart (Letters, Mar 12), acknowledged Labour achievements for the sports of shooting and fishing, all of which occurred under the election period.

Labour has done more for angling than any other party and is about to update its 1996 Charter for Angling. It is also about to become the first party to produce a charter for shooting with the co-operation of shooting's governing bodies.

Since 1997 the Government has taken action to protect fish stocks from corrosion predation by relaxing the licensing scheme. It has also allowed birds to be shot. It has made changes to the Hunting Bill to protect shooting sports. It has consistently protected game as food, maintained the ability of young people to shoot airguns unsupervised on private land, and excluded fish from the Animal Welfare Bill.

Many leading people in angling and support sports are inactive outside the Countryside Alliance because they will always be a front for foreshooting. The way to protect fishing and game as shooting is to build a cross-party coalition to support for both sports.

Martin Salter MP
Parliamentary Spokesman for Shooting and Fishing
London SW1

community, there is a greater demand for admission.

However, the beds tend to be occupied for longer because of staff reluctance to discharge potentially dangerous or suicidal patients into the community, where hostel accommodation and support services are inadequate.

The shortage of beds puts psychiatric staff in a difficult position if they try to limit the number of patients on their ward. This leads to a situation where psychiatric patients are discharged "only when and if they are ready to leave hospital" and "any risk to the public or to patients themselves is minimal and is managed effectively".

Dr Maurice Lipson
Consultant psychiatrist
London SE1

Value of a ketus

SIR - It is encouraging that Michael Howard (report, Mar 16) wants to tighten the abortion laws. I guess he is only doing so because of the pressure.

Chance of survival outside the womb seems the reason we are told the value of a child in the womb? It is this way to determine the value of a child in the womb?

Phillip Walker
Newcastle, Herts

SIR - It is interesting that Mr Blair should feel that killing human foetuses should be a matter for each individual's

Sinn Fein silence

SIR - The remarks by Seamus Mallon (report, Mar 16) explain why Tony Blair has remained unusually silent on the presence of Sinn Fein. By making no comment, he is attempting to distance himself from a situation with which he was once so embroiled.

James Kirkbright
Shillingstone, Dorset

highlight how the Howards are irretrievably stuck in the Thatcherite 1980s.

1) Michael Howard, seeking to highlight Labour's law and order failure.

2) Sandra Howard, driven to desperate measures to get Michael to buy her a new car.

3) Flat, to show the car market the longevity of their cars.

4) The Panda Appreciation Society, highlighting the danger of extinction of the species.

Michael Karger
London N2

SIR - Anyone who enjoys an afternoon of pigeon shooting will welcome the last minute change of heart by the nature conservation minister, Ben Bradshaw (report, Mar 16).

This sudden display of common sense means pigeon shooters are spared the ridiculous prospect of having to jump up and down, and wave their arms in the air before opening fire on their already fast-disappearing targets.

But, to be serious, the future of pigeon shooting should never have been placed in doubt. In this country, pigeon shooting is usually thought of as a rather jolly way of combining pest control with a welcome blast of chilly fresh air, but the evidence from our sporting department is that European sports executives for the first time agree that it is, and they are prepared to pay handsomely for the privilege of shooting British pigeons.

This has obvious economic benefits for the farmer providing the shooting but local hotels and restaurants also benefit from this much-needed injection of foreign currency.

The reason given concerns about nutrition, the whole country could end up benefiting, as pigeons meat is both cheap and virtually fat-free.

Anthony Case
Senior Partner, Strutt & Parker
London W1

conscience, but that killing lives is so serious that it required positive intervention to ban the practice.

Alan Williams
Salisbury, Wiltshire

SIR - It is wholly misleading to imply that opposition to abortion derives mainly from religious belief and the concept of "ensoulment". The case is much simpler. The value of any life lies in what it is capable of becoming and in what the Archbishop of Canterbury has called "the real moral otherness" of the unborn child. From this point of view there can be no distinction between abortion and infanticide.

Equally questionable is the justification of "unwantedness", for whoever may not be "wanted" now may become "wanted" later, or by others.

If one believes this is the only life there is, that is all the more reason to think it should be regarded as "sacred".

Charles Chadwick
London NW3

SIR - I actually feel sorry for Seanna Miller, who told me at a gala for the Birds Eye View festival at the Café de Paris on Sunday night.

"She just wants to act. People like her, Kate Winslet and Sam Mitchell - those transatlantic, glittery, stellar actresses who dress up a lot and get photographed very just what Britain needs to get noticed."

Seanna Miller
New York

When Robert Kilroy-Silk launched his new party, Veritas, last month, I wondered who might end up funding the venture.

To date, no high-profile donors have emerged and - according to a document uncovered by Spy - it seems that he is expecting its candidates to foot the bill for the election campaign.

The four-page application form for including candidates illustrates the party's urgent need for cash. At the top of the first page - before even the most basic biographical details - it asks: "What funding can you provide towards your own campaign?"

Applicants are invited to return the form with a "funding leaf" of £50.

But most amusing is an attempt to size up the candidate's ego relative to the size of Kilroy-Silk.

They are asked whether they agree with the statement: "I don't follow any of the major parties, but I do weigh in with joy at the prospect of being in charge."

Geldof is big on the BBC

He may have made his name through his controversial television antics, but Bob Geldof is now standing up for the Establishment.

"I've been involved in television for 30 years, but the BBC, with its plans for an 'Africa Week', shows the sort of mad brilliance that no other broadcaster in any other country could come up with."

He told me on Tuesday after presenting an award in memory of Channel 4 journalist Andrea Wood, who died last year.

"It's such a treat that the Channel 4 programme like *Country Dancing* will come from Africa, which is a continent that can teach us all so much about dancing."

And what does Geldof like to do when he's not on the gigging? "I don't follow any of the major parties, but I do weigh in with joy at the prospect of being in charge."

Family foe

SIR - There is one very well-known reason why a child will thrive in the care of a grandparent (Letters, Mar 16). They have a common enemy.

David Whitaker
Chawton, Hants

Taking a piece out of Seanna Miller's interview has become a national pastime.

The 24-year-old actress has been the object of constant jibes from the moment her career-enhancing relationship with Jade Love first began.

But Miller appears to have found an ally in comedian and co-creator of Channel 4 comedy *Spaced*, Jessica Stevenson.

"I actually feel sorry for Seanna Miller," she told me at a gala for the Birds Eye View festival at the Café de Paris on Sunday night.

"She just wants to act. People like her, Kate Winslet and Sam Mitchell - those transatlantic, glittery, stellar actresses who dress up a lot and get photographed very just what Britain needs to get noticed."

Spy Celia Walden

E-mail: spy@telegraph.co.uk www.telegraph.co.uk/spy

Live like a billionaire - just £90,000 a week



Philip Green isn't short of a job or two. The retail entrepreneur - who counts high street giants Top Shop and Debenhams as part of his empire - has spent it all. He is Britain's richest well-made man with a fortune weighing in at a staggering £3.4 billion.

So why, I wonder, is the man logging up his bank balance by renting out his prized yacht Lionheart through Surrey-based agent Cavendish White?

"Needless to say it's quite a gin palace," says my man in the marina. "It's a custom-made, 50-metre vessel which sleeps 12 people, and comes with all the trimmings: six sets of diving gear, a jet-ski and two dinghies. The price is reasonable, though - in the hot tub on the top deck, I think it's fair to say that only big-billers need apply."

I'm inclined to agree: the boat is available to charter at a wallet-busting £90,000 a week.

When I call, however, Green's office denies any knowledge of the venture.

In his Budget speech, Gordon Brown brought his record-breaking credentials, claiming to have presided over the longest period of sustained economic growth since 1701.

But I learn that the Chancellor was aiming to break yet another record yesterday. "Gordon rehearsed the speech in his office beforehand and we lined it up in three quarters of an hour," says my man in the marina.

"This seemed much shorter than usual so we checked the record and discovered that the shortest Budget speech was

delivered by Disraeli in 1867 - a mere 45 minutes. We therefore thought that Gordon was in with a chance of breaking it."

Also, it took him a whole 20 minutes. Never mind - Gordon must have got used to being the nerdy man in politics by now.

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Seanna Miller: a new ally