

Evening Standard



AGONY AS INJURED ANDY LIMPS OUT DOWN UNDER

MURRAY BATTLES TO THE END BUT IS BEATEN IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN » SPORT PAGES 70 & 71



ANY COLOUR AS LONG AS IT'S PINK

NEW WAYS TO WEAR HAIR'S HOTTEST HUE » LIFE & STYLE STARTS ON PAGE 35

ALL OVER BAR THE ROUTING: PM STARES AT DEFEAT

» EU'S 11TH-HOUR LIFELINE REJECTED BY MPs

Joe Murphy and Nicholas Cecil

THERESA MAY is facing a crushing defeat in the Commons tomorrow night after the eleventh-hour lifeline she requested from the European Union was rejected by senior MPs.

Her plea for "legally binding assurances" on the Irish backstop issue was met with a letter that

contained warm words but which MPs said fell short of a cast-iron guarantee.

The letter from Brussels grandees Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker declared there was "a legal value" in promises given by the other 27 EU leaders at their December summit that it would

Continued on Page 4



GETTY IMAGES

Secret's out: the Duchess of Sussex revealed on a visit to Birkenhead today that her baby is due in April. The palace had previously said only that the due date was in the spring

APRIL HAPPIEST MONTH FOR MEG

Women with cancer will be able to freeze ovaries on the NHS in London

EXCLUSIVE

Ross Lydall Health Editor

A LONDON hospital is giving girls and women with cancer the chance to freeze their ovaries on the NHS for the first time.

Doctors at the Royal Free London, in Hampstead, will remove and freeze one of their two ovaries – then re-transplant it when patients are ready to start a family.

It offers pre-pubescent girls with cancers such as lymphoma and women with hormone-sensitive breast cancer the ability to protect their fertility for the first time.

Egg and embryo-freezing are common procedures, but ovarian tissue-freezing is a "niche" procedure that takes medical advances a stage further.

It could benefit more than 1,200 UK patients a year – in particular, women unable to undergo IVF prior to cancer treatment.

There is even the potential for baby girls to benefit. Girls as young as one, being treated in other health systems abroad, have had an ovary removed.

Doctors say that conception rates are higher from restored ovaries than the 4.5 per cent chance of becoming pregnant using frozen eggs. Ovarian tissue-freezing was

Continued on Page 2

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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

History in the remaking

THE UNIVERSITY ARMS, CAMBRIDGE

CITIES can be many things to many people. So can hotels. Or at least that's how I feel about The University Arms, the oldest hotel in Cambridge.

It has had many incarnations (it opened in 1834 as a coaching inn) but the one that looms large for this writer, who grew up just south of the city, in Essex, is the drab business hotel with ugly, triangular, poky glass windows. Last summer it reopened after an £80 million refit. It still overlooks Parker's Piece, a magnificent piece of city greenery that I definitely didn't spend my teens drinking Bacardi Breezers on — but I can barely believe the change.

First impressions

Gone is the black brick and creepy underground car park (its defining feature from my teens), which has been turned into a light-filled monochrome floor, replete with a portrait of a boiler-suited Winston Churchill and butlers that look eerily similar. To the right is Parker's Tavern

— more on that later. The hotel's 19th-century façade has been lovingly restored and grand suites added.

Looks

Architect John Simpson (behind Buckingham Palace's Queen's Gallery) orchestrated the redesign, while interiors expert Martin Brudnizki is responsible for the eclectic mash of books and paintings.

Perky college colours of green, blue and red pop on leather sofas, throws and statement walls, while portraits of boat races, book covers and literary heroes dot every wall. White porcelain baths with gold claws stand jolly in the bathrooms, which come with Dr Harris toiletries; bedrooms have hardbacks in all shades. I spied both Dolly Alderton's *Everything I Know About Love* and Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* in my suite.

Feel

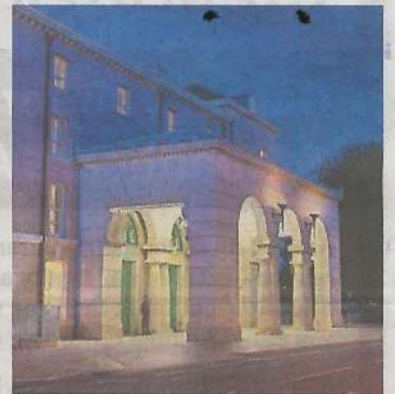
Cerebral, if a hotel can be such a thing. Rooms are named after literary heroes — my suite was named after my literary nemesis, Virginia Woolf, whom I still haven't forgiven for ruining the final year of my degree. Her portraits hung ever-so-slightly



menacingly in the room. Well, I doubt she's forgiven me for skipping Mrs Dalloway either.

Downstairs at Parker's Tavern and the adjoining bar the vibe is light and fun, with guests sipping on cocktails

inspired by the city (such as a gin-soaked Bloomsbury Boozer, named after the set that met at Cambridge). On a Saturday night the restaurant was full of Cambridge's movers, shakers and graduates.



Elegance: the University Arms hotel, above, where modern touches can be seen in newly renovated suites, left

Extras

The library is all dark wood, real log fire, squashy chairs and important-looking books selected by Mayfair bookshop Heywood Hill.

Outside

The hotel is a brisk 10-minute walk to Cambridge station along Hills Road. In the city centre the Grand Arcade is worth a look. Ask the concierge to help with a running trail to Jesus Green and Midsummer Common. Or pub crawl along the River Cam.


In a nutshell

A smartly renovated boutique ripe with college nostalgia.

DETAILS

Cambridge is 45 minutes from King's Cross. Doubles from £205, universityarms.com

Cathy Adams



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