



MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019

70p

Sweet revenge on a Great British brute

JAN MOIR ON HOLLYWOOD'S LOVE FARCE

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FOOTBALL'S BACK

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VERDICT

12-page pullout

CENTRE PAGES

HORROR AT THE TATE

Teen held for attempted murder after 'throwing boy aged six from tenth-floor viewing platform'

By **George Odling, Vanessa Allen** and **Jake Hurfurt**

A BOY of six was fighting for his life last night after being thrown from a 200ft viewing platform at Tate Modern.

The child was snatched from his mother's arms by a stranger who hurled him over a barrier on the tenth floor.

The mother screamed 'My son, my son' before rushing to the lifts to try to reach him. He fell 100ft on to a roof on the fifth floor.

A youth believed to have carried out the crime was pinned to the ground by visitors to the London art gallery. A boy of 17 was later arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

Scotland Yard says there is nothing to suggest that the suspect knew the victim, who was flown to hospital by air ambulance and is in a critical condition.

An Italian, who gave her name as Adelaide, tweeted: 'A girl was with her son in her arms on the terrace of Tate Modern, a stranger approached and threw the child down.'

She said the youngster had been 'ripped from his mother's hands' and the gallery was immediately put into lockdown. Entrances and exits were closed, leaving thousands trapped while paramedics treated the child.

Nancy Barnfield said she and her two young sons were stalked on the viewing platform by a stranger only seconds before the horrifying incident. The 47-year-old from Rochdale was

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Ready to rumba: Emma, the Viscountess of Weymouth

And now for the poshtrot! Viscountess of Longleat joins Strictly

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so alarmed that she warned her children to avoid him. 'He followed us around everywhere,' she said.

'I told my kids to stay away from that man, it went on for ages. He looked about 19 to 21 years old, acting so weird.'

'He had his hands behind his back the whole time, his back to the wall, just watching people. We walked away from him then immediately when he was out of sight a woman was screaming "My son, my son" and people were grabbing him.'

Mrs Barnfield said the hysterical mother ran to the lift to try to find her son below. She described her as around 35 and speaking with an Italian accent.

She said the suspect was tall, white and bearded and became 'completely calm and silent' when detained by gallery visitors.

'He didn't fight back, didn't shout or anything,' she added. 'He was just emotionless. The whole situation was terrifying. We are so shaken.'

Another witness said: 'I heard the impact and then screaming from above as a woman screamed "He's my son! He's my son!" I went inside because the screaming was horrific, the boy didn't make any noise but the people from the viewing platform were screaming.'

Corinne Brookes, 25, arrived at the viewing platform seconds after the incident.

She said: 'People were screaming and shouting and these two guys looked like they were fighting, they were grabbing each other. The two guys were holding another guy, kind of like they were fighting.'

'I went in and said to the security lady "Something's going on out there". Then I

'The whole situation was terrifying'

saw a woman climbing, with her leg and arm over the railing on the balcony.

'At that point people were grabbing their children and screaming and crying so I just thought something terrible had happened, so I started running down the stairs and other people were running.'

'As I was going downstairs a woman was crying her eyes out and I said "Are you OK? What exactly happened?"

'She said "They've thrown him off, someone's thrown a kid off".'

Australian expat Rob Rochette tweeted: 'Just been evacuated under a huge panic from the members' lounge of Tate Modern.'

The air ambulance, two road ambulances, fire crews and police were sent to the South Bank to rescue the boy from the roof shortly after 2.40pm.

BBC journalist Jonny Dymond, who was at the gallery at the time, said visitors were funnelled into the main hall while all exits were closed. He said: 'There were quite a lot of families with children, and security guards told us we couldn't leave.'

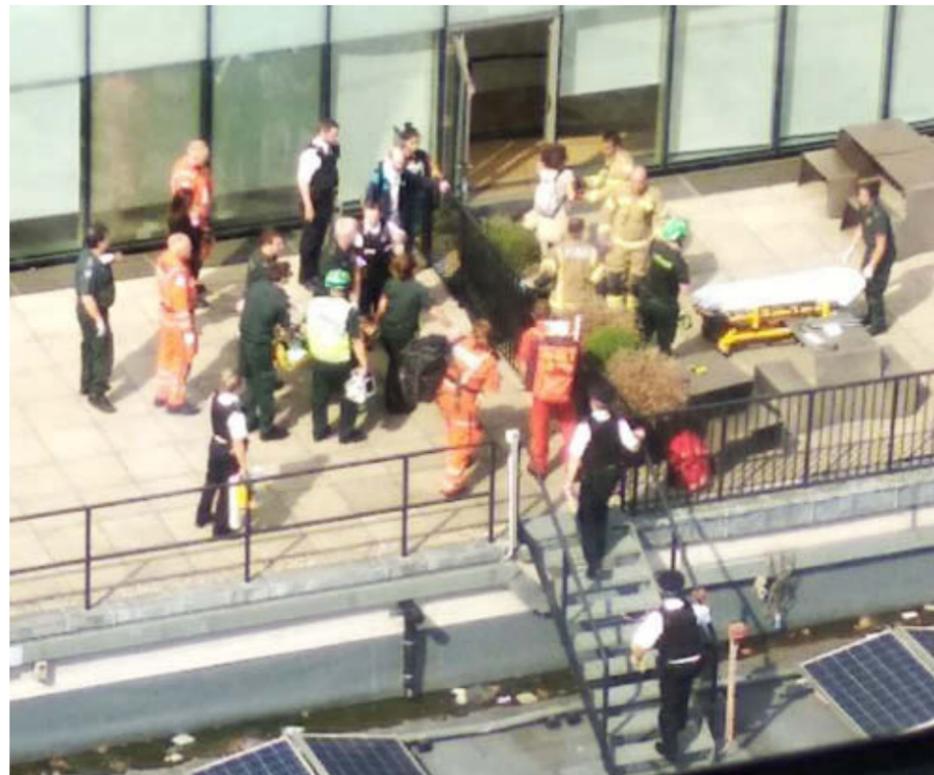
Alexandra Orton tweeted: 'Trapped inside Tate Modern. Police and air ambulance here. Story from a witness is that a child has fallen (been pushed) from a balcony. Quite terrifying.'

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said emergency services were called to 'reports of a young boy thrown from the tenth-floor viewing platform'.

She added: 'The six-year-old victim was found on a fifth-floor roof. He was treated at the scene



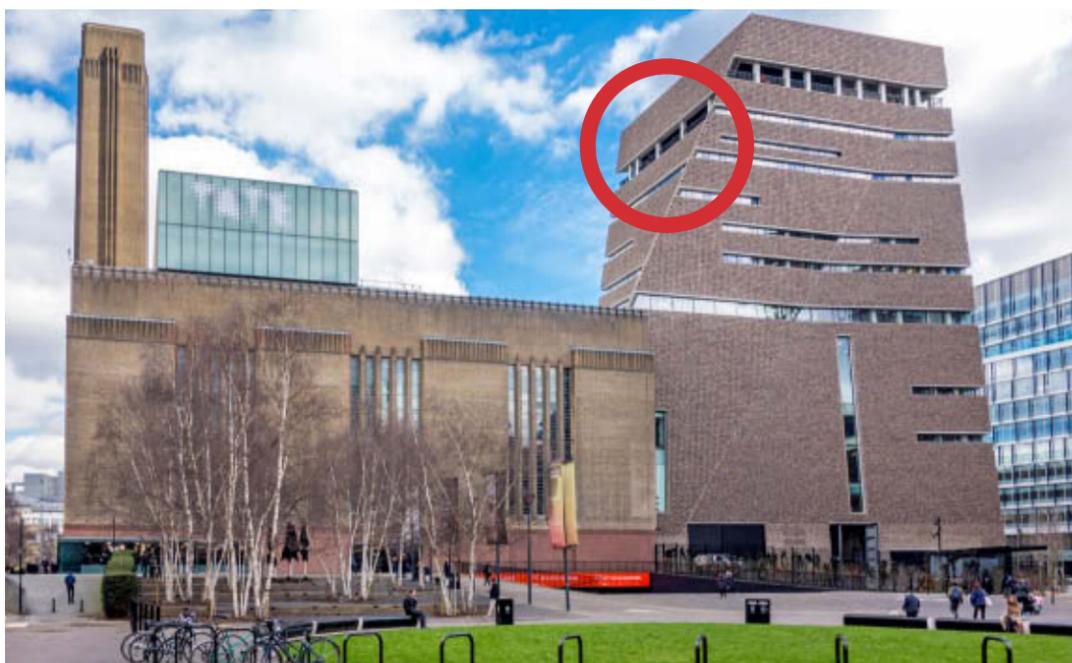
Emergency: The air ambulance flies in



Rescue: Paramedics and police on the fifth-floor roof where the child landed

HE'S MY SON!

Mother's screams as boy, 6, falls 100ft after stranger hurls him over barrier



Attraction: The boy fell 100ft from Tate Modern's tenth-floor viewing platform, circled

and taken to hospital by London's Air Ambulance. The boy's condition is critical; his family are being supported by police.

'A 17-year-old male had remained with members of the public on the tenth-floor viewing platform.'

'There is nothing to suggest that

he is known to the victim. The teenager was arrested by police officers on suspicion of attempted murder and taken into custody.'

The gallery remained closed for the rest of the day. A spokesman said: 'Tate is working closely with the police to help with their inves-

tigations. All our thoughts are with the child and his family.'

A London Ambulance Service spokesman said: 'We treated a person at the scene and took them to hospital as a priority.'

The viewing platform, which has a chest-high barrier, is part of the

£260million Tate extension known as the Blavatnik Building. It offers a panoramic view over London.

The gallery was the most popular tourist attraction in Britain in 2018, with 5.9million visits, according to the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions.

I've lost a brand new combine harvester: Rural crime rockets

THE cost of rural crime hit a seven-year high of £50million last year, a report reveals today.

The rise - which is a 12 per cent increase on the previous year - is mainly driven by farm vehicle thefts, the cost of which went up 26 per cent to £7.4million, insurance company NFU Mutual's 2019 Rural Crime Report found. It is the highest total cost since 2011 - when it hit £52.7million.

Gangs with links to money laundering and drugs are finding ways to beat security and steal the vehicles, which are often taken abroad to be sold, said the company's rural affairs specialist Tim Price.

Mr Price said farmers and rural dwellers are suffering 'high levels of anxiety' due to repeated thefts by gangs who take advan-

By **George Odling** and **Andy Dolan**

tage of farms' isolated locations to steal machinery, raid tool stores and even butcher sheep in the fields.

He added: 'In a single generation, country people have seen rural crime change from the opportunist theft of a single lamb, to brazen heists of tractors worth over £100,000 and rustlers stealing hundreds of sheep.'

It comes as police hunt a gang suspected of killing livestock during 'unprecedented' attacks across Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire. Last week, James Peck, of the National Farmers' Union, said criminal butchers were stripping farm animals across these counties of their meat for sale on the black market.

Sporty vicars on a crusade to resurrect 'muscular Christianity'

THE Church of England is to resurrect the Victorian idea of 'muscular Christianity' and use sport as a way of filling its pews.

It yesterday announced plans to hire 'sports ministers' and fund sports clubs 'to reach people who may never have been to church before'.

'Muscular Christianity' was popular in the 19th century and holds that physical exercise contributes to moral health as well as fitness. But it fell out of favour because of its links with imperialism.

Now the Church is to spend £2million in Norfolk setting up ten sports churches, running football, netball and fitness groups plus holiday clubs for schoolchil-

By **Steve Doughty**
Social Affairs Correspondent

dren. It will also fund a boxing club in Anerley, south-east London, in the hope of keeping youngsters away from crime.

The programme is seen as 'a blueprint for dioceses interested in promoting the Christian faith through sports'.

The sports ministries are part of a £12million scheme to try to pull in new churchgoers. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: 'These projects are moving the heart of our mission to where it should be, recognising Jesus beyond the borders of the institutional church.'