

# Lifestyle

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'Diana-mania' spreads from Britain as death anniversary looms

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In this June 1, 1989 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana and their sons, Princes William, right, and Harry begin a cycle ride around the island of Treco, one of the Scilly Isles, England. The royal family was vacationing in the islands, located off the southwest tip of Britain. It has been 20 years since the death of Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris and the outpouring of grief that followed the death of the People's princess. — AP

## Palestinian ex-banker devotes her life to West Bank dogs

Palestinian Diana Babish enters a cage full of dogs at a rare shelter in the West Bank and is immediately swamped by puppies clamoring to be picked up or petted. Babish, in her 40s, runs the shelter in the Israeli-occupied territory, where residents are not all known to be dog lovers. The shelter opened 18 months ago in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour near Bethlehem after Babish gave up a 20-year career in banking to devote her life to care for the animals.

As she makes her way into the shelter, she pats each puppy as she searches for one particular dog that needs an injection for a bite injury. Babish has no veterinary or medical background, but the shelter, which is now home to around 40 dogs, has become her labor of love and she has learned to give shots and other medical treatment. About 200 puppies and 130 mature dogs have been treated, given affection, fed and prepared for adoption since the shelter opened. "In the Palestinian areas animals are subjected to abuse. These animals were created by God," says Babish, who wears discreet jewelry and make-up.

### 10,000 strays in Bethlehem

"These animals can't talk. So we have to talk for them because they need our help," she says. Babish spent much of her own money on setting up the shelter, but eventually needed outside help to meet the steep cost of running the refuge. Now the shelter receives funding from international groups,



Diana Babish carries a dog at the first dog shelter.

including the France-based Brigitte Bardot Foundation as well as from British and German charities. The cost of running the shelter is high—around \$60,000 a year, says Babish, as the dogs need 50 kilos of food each day, much of it leftovers from nearby chicken farms.

She says the biggest challenge is not acquiring the funding but "getting people to accept the idea that animals can live in the streets and you should not exterminate them". Babish estimates that there are about 10,000 stray dogs in the Bethlehem district alone, and many people favor poisoning or shooting them. The local government has committed to not killing them and Babish says they are working together to find ways to reduce canine

birth rates. Islam generally calls for people to be kind to animals.

### A savage attack

The Prophet Mohammed once told the story of a man who saw a dog panting with thirst and gave him water. The man was rewarded by God for his good deed and allowed to enter heaven. And yet many religious authorities consider dogs to be unclean or impure. Last year, a shelter opened in the Gaza Strip, which is ruled by the Islamist Hamas movement.

Kareema Allan, a Palestinian teacher who lives in a town south of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, recalls how she called Babish in a panic when a stray dog had puppies under a tree on her property. It was during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and she gave the dog food and water. But one day, "I woke up to the dog's screams" and found the mother "stabbed in the neck, while her puppies were still breastfeeding". Allan cleaned the animal's wound with iodine and fed the puppies. She then phoned the shelter and Babish quickly arrived and took both the mother and her puppies to the vet. They all survived. An average of two dogs a week are adopted from the Beit Sahour shelter, most of them finding new homes in Israel. — AFP



Palestinian Diana Babish, an ex-banker from Bethlehem, takes care of dogs at the first dog shelter in the West Bank, in the town of Beit Sahour near the biblical city. — AFP photos



Dogs in a cage at the first dog shelter in the West Bank, in the town of Beit Sahour near Bethlehem.



Diana Babish holds the paws of a dog at the first dog shelter in the West Bank.



Dogs in a cage at the first dog shelter in the West Bank.



Diana Babish pats dogs at the first dog shelter in the West Bank, in the town of Beit Sahour.



Diana Babish takes care of dogs at the first dog shelter in the West Bank.

## Bizarre News

### Kid breaks 800-year-old coffin at museum

A family had to flee a museum after their child broke an 800-year-old coffin. Staff at Prittlewell Priory Museum in Southend, Essex, were left "shocked" after the parents' of the kid let them stand inside the ancient sarcophagus and watched on CCTV as bits of it crumbled to pieces. The stone dates back to 1921 and was complete with a skeleton. Conservator Claire Reed has been tasked with fixing it. She told the BBC: "Staff heard a thump and that was the first indication something had happened. It was one of those isolated, terrible incidents. It's a very important artefact and historically unique to us as we don't have much archaeology from the priory."



### A study shows half of British people have 'very limited' free time

A study has found almost half of British people have "very limited" free time. Research conducted by vape retailer ElectricTobacconist, has discovered 43 per cent of people feel time escapes them and they never have enough hours in the day to enjoy some quality me time. And among the 43 per cent of people 38 per cent suffer stress as a result of not being up to tick their errands of their to do list. The founder of the company, Pascal Culverhouse, said: "Clearly, free time is seriously limited for many adults in 2017, and this is having some pretty negative effects - not only in terms of people's mental health, but for some it is actually impacting on their general health, which is definitely a concern. Taking time out of your day for yourself is obviously really important - but for some, it can be very difficult to find the time to do so. Those who live with housemates, partners or their families could try to share out tasks like household chores, cooking and paying utility bills or doing the food shopping, to make it equal and free up time outside of work." Although a vast majority of people believe they do not have any free time, 39 per cent of people feel their spare

moments are eaten up by undertaking household chores, while 26 per cent have extended their working day.

### Couple's home invaded by bees

A couple realized their home had a bee infestation after they found honey leaking from their ceiling. The homeowners, who lived in a Grade II listed 18th Century house in Market Harborough, discovered a sticky substance oozing from the walls and out of their light fittings, and when the matter was investigated further they discovered a huge bee hive had been created in their attic. The pair took the unusual matter to their insurance company Ecclesiastical Insurers who safely removed the infestation and replaced the destroyed ceiling, the Mirror Online has reported. Speaking about the discovery, a spokesperson for Ecclesiastical said: "The couple noticed a patch and on closer inspection they could see that the substance was sticky and coming through the light fixtures. They also noticed a lot of bees around the house and at this point sought an expert view."

### Helicopter jump-started by car

A helicopter can be jump-started by a car. James McIntosh, a ski centre owner, has revealed in 1974 the Bell 47G-5 chopper he had parked, in Bellabeg in the Highlands in Scotland, near a garage was blocking the road so he borrowed his father's Rover to get it back up and running after the pistons failed, and within 10 minutes it was up in the air. He told the Daily Record: "We wheeled the chopper out onto the road and went to fire up the engine and there was nothing. It was a piston driven engine which can sometimes be difficult to start, especially after being hosed down and cleaned. "Knowing that the local bus and other folks would be needing past soon we had to act quickly. "As the battery on the helicopter is fairly small a car can jump start it, so I hijacked my father Gibbie's Rover. The road was at a standstill for about 10 minutes while we got the helicopter off the ground. "There were a few bemused drivers and some of the locals were peering out their doors to watch proceedings. "It's not every day a helicopter uses the main road through Strathdon as a helipad." — Bang Showbiz

