

City Diary



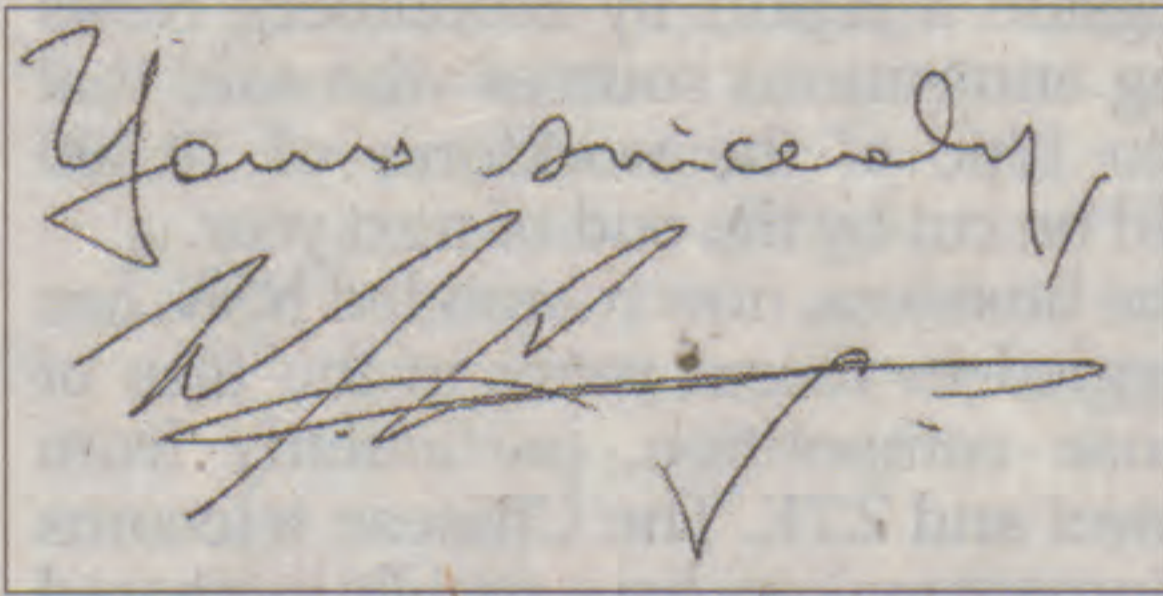
Edited by Harriet Dennys

Reading from the Carney script

A TESTING time for Bank of England chief Mark Carney yesterday as he was accused of playing with fire by keeping interest rates at a record low.

So, in the spirit of gaining some alternative commentary on the Governor's controversial monetary policy, Diary sent Carney's signature from his letter to George Osborne off to be analysed by a leading graphologist.

It seems Carney's detractors could be proved wrong. According to handwriting expert Margaret White, Carney is "a man very much ahead of his time", who "considers people and situations very carefully before making decisions or taking



To the point: Carney's signature

action". She adds: "He is not one to indulge in lengthy discussion or unnecessary preparation, but always expects to achieve a positive and viable result."

Good news for the Treasury. Then again, if Carney does pull off an economic comeback, he will take it in his stride. As White notes, our "intuitive" thinker is "rarely taken by surprise".

DOES Panmure Gordon's markets commentator David Buik moonlight as a "no win, no fee" ambulance chaser? One wonders after his morning briefing yesterday, where Buik gave a glowing review of a play he watched this week about "an amoral solicitor who indulges in false claims for so-called personal accident victims". "I actually understood what was going on ... which is rare," Buik wrote.

Laidlaw in the doldrums

FORMER BP boss Tony Hayward is a lucky charm for Centrica chief Sam Laidlaw.

Back in 2011, when Hayward and Laidlaw co-owned the yacht *Bob* with Deutsche Bank's ex-utilities chief, Robert

Gray, Laidlaw sailed the vessel to victory in the Queen's Cup at Cowes Week.

But *Bob*, which shot to fame when Hayward was pictured aboard at the height of the Deepwater disaster, has been donated to charity, and Laidlaw and Gray are going it alone at this year's regatta on their new yacht, *Clarionet*.

Their latest results? On Tuesday, *Clarionet* stayed in the marina due to a lack of wind; yesterday, it came 16th. Come back Tony, all is forgiven.

Sporting hat-trick for Wray

HOW has serial entrepreneur Nigel Wray been investing his £144m windfall from selling off slices of Domino's Pizza over the past 17 years?

By adding to the "many thousands" of sporting curios in his Priory Collection, the property tycoon tells me.

Wray, who chairs Saracens rugby club, began collecting sporting memorabilia more than 25 years ago and his latest purchase is certainly a relic.

It's an oil painting of Wembley Stadium's iconic twin towers before their demolition in 2003, for which he paid the Chelsea artist Emma Alcock about £10,000. "I already had great pictures of Lord's and Twickenham," he says.

"So I bought the portrait of Wembley to complete my set of the UK's three major team sports venues".

Hands waves Dowler goodbye

TERRA Firma boss Guy Hands has been advised on the slings and arrows of his private equity fortunes by Andrew Dowler for more than a decade.

But after a roller-coaster of perhaps more lows than highs, given Terra Firma's ill-fated acquisition of EMI, that relationship has come to an end.

Dowler has advised Hands throughout his time at agencies Financial Dynamics and, latterly, RLM Finsbury, but is leaving client life behind from September for an in-house role at Blackstone Group, where he will run the European PR team. Back on *terra firma*, Diary hopes.