

FREE

# METRO

Thursday, July 9, 2015

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR FREE NEWSPAPER



## PUT YOUR ANDYS UP

Kate, Wills, Becks and Brad cheer Murray as he qualifies to play Federer in the semis. **Page 9**

Thousands try to pile on to Tubes before strike **Page 2** Neighbours lash 'noisy' suburban dominatrix **Page 9**

# A living wage ...but benefits will be slashed

by AIDAN RADNEDGE

GEORGE OSBORNE announced a new national living wage in his Budget yesterday - but stripped £12billion from benefit claimants.

The chancellor revealed employers will be forced to pay at least £7.20 an hour, rising to £9 an hour by 2020, to staff who are 25 or older.

He also raised income tax thresholds to leave nearly 30million workers with more cash in their pockets.

Meanwhile, he reduced the £26,000

## Osborne rewards workers while 'punishing the poor'

maximum that any household can receive each year in benefits to £23,000 in London and £20,000 elsewhere.

He said parents will only get tax credits or universal credit payments for their first two children.

And young people won't be entitled to housing benefit until they are 21.

Mr Osborne (right) said: 'We want to

the businesses who pay the lowest wages. Britain deserves a pay rise and Britain is getting a pay rise.'

The living wage - which kicks in next April - was greeted with whoops of delights from Conservative MPs. But critics said the first Tory-only Budget for 19 years had clobbered the poorest in society.

'Working families on low incomes will find it



Turn to **Page 5**

### 2015 SUMMER BUDGET

- New national living wage: starting at £7.20 an hour, rising to £9 by 2020
- Public sector pay rises limited to one per cent for next four years
- £12billion to be cut from benefits by 2020
- Tax credits will only apply to family's first two children from April 2017
- Benefits cap cut from £26,000 a household to £23,000 in London and £20,000 elsewhere
- No housing benefits for 18- to 21-year-olds
- Crackdown on tax avoidance to raise £5billion
- Permanent non-dom tax status to be abolished
- Salary at which you begin to pay tax raised to £11,000 and higher-tax threshold increases to £43,000 from next year
- Every penny from car tax will be spent on roads
- Two per cent of GDP to be spent on defence



Keep it reef: Scuba-diving proposal in Belize

has also put together a portfolio of 'experience' categories to help those needing inspiration.

The team arranged for one couple who loved scuba-diving to explore the Blue Hole reef system in Belize in complete privacy, before the groom proposed underwater.

For another, a treasure hunt was arranged through Paris, with the family of the bride-to-be all waiting at the foot of the Eiffel Tower where he proposed; for a third, the lovebirds were 'stranded' for a few hours on a tiny island in the Baa Atoll, while another dined in private on the most panoramic point of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa.

The proposal service also extends to added extras, including a secret photographer, a message in a bottle to send to friends and family telling them the good news, and a collaboration with Net-A-Porter and Mr Porter to pack the perfect wardrobe for a surprise romantic escape. The Black Tomato team can deal with the problem of where to keep the ring, too.

'Once or twice we've hidden a raw diamond as part of the experience,' says Marchant, 'and part of the brief was for them to then go and find a local jeweller to design a ring together.'

From £2,150 per person, [blacktomato.com](http://blacktomato.com)

**RINGING THE CHANGES**

MARRIAGE proposals are following a similar trajectory as wedding planning, becoming increasingly personalised and customised.

Many believe that the wedding day is all about the bride and that the proposal has become the groom's chance to show

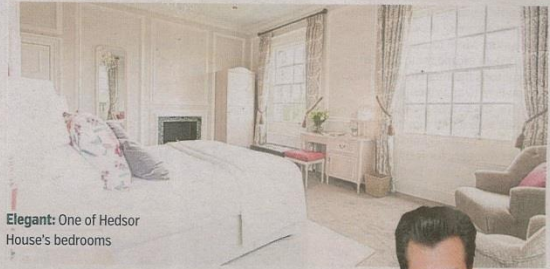
his creativity. There are even established trends now - hot-air balloons, fortune cookies, scavenger hunts and sporting events have all been big for proposals - and crowd-sourcing, in which people are recruited for flash-mobs, is increasingly popular.



High hopes: Proposing in a hot-air balloon



Film favourite: Hedsor House



Elegant: One of Hedsor House's bedrooms

Location, location

HEDSOR House in Buckinghamshire dates back to 1166 and has become one of the country's most elegant filming locations, with roles in films from The Golden Compass and Moredecai to Sense And Sensibility and television nail-biter 24. DJ and producer Mark Ronson also held a birthday party here. With the addition of ten guest rooms and a bridal suite, partygoers can make like Ronson, then stagger upstairs and stay overnight in the house, which is 26 miles from central London.

From £5,450, including house hire for event and overnight accommodation for up to 22 people sharing double rooms (working out at £248 per person), [hedsor.com](http://hedsor.com)



Birthday boy: Mark Ronson



Luxurious: A penthouse suite at the Hotel Lucerne

Perfect for a lake break

HOT on the heels of opening the Kameha Grand Zurich earlier this year, Autograph Collection has launched its second property in Switzerland. The Hotel Lucerne is a stone's throw from the lake of the same name, and the building, dating from 1907, has been renovated to house 30 rooms and suites over seven floors, including four penthouse suites with roof terraces, and the stylish Bam Bou restaurant.

From £239 per room per night, [the-hotel.ch](http://the-hotel.ch)



Stylish: Bam Bou restaurant