

## Logan weighs in on race report

**L**EROY LOGAN, the police officer turned campaigner, has backed Hackney youth charity Voyage and branded Dr Tony Sewell's recent race report for the Government "extremely bad". Voyage said they "entirely disagree that we need not comment on this race report" and argued "racism is a public health crisis in London". Logan, whose story has been portrayed on screen by John Boyega in Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* series, said the report had attracted "an avalanche of criticism and anger". He added he hoped Voyage's statement would "put pressure on Boris Johnson to withdraw it".

# Londoner's Diary

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*Edited by Robbie Smith*

## Portillo steams into the past

**M**ICHAEL PORTILLO is a connoisseur of trains, but even for him steam engines were perhaps a little too unclear. "They were very, very dirty - you couldn't have your washing out when a steam engine was going by," he told a Fane Online event last night for his book *Greatest British Railway Journeys*. Then again, Portillo, inset, said: "Now it's a great joy to lean out of a heritage railway carriage and get a smut in your eye." Steady on...



## Snow's highs and lows of being tall

**D**AN SNOW has a confession. "The weird thing is," the 6ft 5in historian and broadcaster says, "you often feel a bit insecure... because if you're really, really tall people go 'well you couldn't possibly be shy, so you must be intolerably arrogant'". When he's not being mistaken for a giant with an ego the size of cruise ship, there are plus sides. "There is a bit of a tall club," he tells the *Fortunately* podcast. "I'll definitely nod across the bar... we have a little smile".

## Ding dong! Perry to ring in post-pandemic world with specially cast bell



Welcome sound: Grayson Perry's bell is being created in Gloucester

**G**RAYSON PERRY is making a bell to be rung at the end of the pandemic - which supporters of Whitechapel's closed Bell Foundry hope will also change Government policy.

"Do Boris and his team want to go down as being associated with the demise of the bell foundry that made Big Ben and the Liberty Bell and many others? Or do they want to be associated with its revitalisation?" said Adam Lowe, director of the Factum Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving cultural heritage.

Nigel Taylor, who is helping Perry cast the bell in Gloucestershire, has a 40-year association with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

Lowe explained they hope to "draw attention to the viability of bell making in the 21st century in England". He is part of a campaign to save the foundry, which was established in 1570, after a new owner applied to change the site into a hotel.

Housing minister Robert Jenrick is expected to announce his final ruling on whether this can go ahead at the end of the month. Lowe said Londoners should get behind the bell being made by the Turner Prize winner and assured us it will be "deeply melodious".

## Campbell's new catwalk

**N**AOMI CAMPBELL is ramping up her plans to live in Africa. "That's something I'm looking to implement in my life," the supermodel says. Perhaps it's no surprise as when asked where she's happiest, Campbell replies "when I am anywhere in the African continent". She tells *Vanity Fair* that one of her favourite journeys is "when I travel to Kenya, or elsewhere in Africa, go into the bush, do a safari, and live in a camp. I feel just like a speck - minute and fitting in with nature." A very different catwalk.



**Y**VETTE COOPER reflected yesterday on her husband Ed Balls's singular Easter tradition. The Labour MP said she and her family used to roll decorated eggs down a hill. But Balls's custom was "to throw raw eggs over the house and try to catch them without their smashing". No wonder he was drawn to politics.

**S**EEMA KENNEDY says she is "so boring" that although she was taken out for lunch by journalists, "they literally never phoned again." The Tory, who served under Theresa May, tells *All Talk* podcast: "I thought we're all being told... we had to deliver one message so isn't that what we're supposed to do?" A rare unhappily long lunch.

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