

SUNDAY

# Mirror

THE HEART OF BRITAIN

Sunday, February 2, 2025

£2.80

## HALF PRICE TICKETS

to the Randox Grand National Festival

For April 3rd & 4th



Terms and conditions apply. Subject to availability.

SEE PAGE 58

# FAREWELL, LINDA



**LAI TO REST**  
The bright pink coffin of Linda Nolan, above, is carried to church

### Family and stars turn out for emotional Nolan funeral

SEE PAGES 4&5

## LABOUR VOW ON VILE CONTENT

# CRACKDOWN ON A.I. CHILD ABUSE

» Cases up 300% in a year



CONCERN Phillips

» Minister Jess gives pledge



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**Mirror OFFERS**

**Great Northern Hotel** ★★★★★



The majestic 4 Star Great Northern Hotel stands regally on its own 18 hole golf course with breath taking views of the Atlantic Ocean & Rougey Cliff walk.

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of your busy life and discover the luxury of Bundoran's Sea Side Hotel. The Great Northern Hotel is located in the bustling town of beautiful Bundoran with great friendliness and atmosphere. Feel and taste the ocean's force on your door step while enjoying the sheer beauty of the of Donegal Bay, our blue flag beaches and the greatness of the Ben Wisken and Ben Benbulbin Mountains can be viewed from most parts of the hotel. Indulge in the finest cuisine and savour the flavour of an attractive wine from our carefully selected menu. Snuggle

up to an open fire as the sun sets over the stunning views of Donegal bay in this beautiful part of County Donegal.

The 4 star Great Northern Hotel is just two hour's drive from Dublin & Belfast. Our spectacular Tir Connail restaurant and the trendy Bar & Bistro with its warmth and comfortable setting extends a warm welcome to golfers near and far to play the 18 hole golf course situated on site at the hotel. Our unique features have created an old world setting but with all the mod cons of today's world, great food and exceptionally friendly service and relaxation.

All of our bedrooms have multi-

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- Arriving Tuesday 17th February 2025
  - 3 nights Dinner B&B
  - Entry to music each night
  - Full use of leisure facilities

17th Feb **DECLAN NERNEY**

18th Feb **BRIAN K & MARION**

19th Feb **GARY GAMBLE COMEDIAN & SINGER AKA DANIEL O'DOUBLE**

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[www.brianmceniffhotels.com](http://www.brianmceniffhotels.com)

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channel Plasma TVs, tea and coffee making facilities and individual toiletries in the en suite bathrooms.

With an onsite leisure centre why not build up an appetite in the gym before breakfast or relax in the Swimming pool, Sauna, Steam room or Jacuzzi.



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time to

Hotel of the week

BY BERTIE ADAM



**Page8 hotel, Central London**  
**WHERE AND WHY**

Staying at a hotel in Central London is often reserved for truly special occasions – and this was certainly one of those.

From our deluxe double room, we were able to look down towards the Edith Cavell Memorial and up along St Martin's Lane, a street flecked with theatres and almost no traffic.

The room was bathed in natural light, with white walls featuring wainscot panelling and subtle lighting. The ensuite, finished in imitation marble with discreet gold accents, paired well with the room's blue leather furniture, detailed with gold tacks. The minibar was kitted out with suitably high-end snacks and a Marshall Bluetooth speaker was the cherry on top.

Meals are served at the Kitty Hawk Rooftop Bar & Restaurant, offering guests unparalleled views across the city. In summer, I imagine the al fresco terrace would be an absolute delight.

**ON THE MENU**

The menu offered a wonderful array of fresh, vibrant dishes. I started with the yellowfin tuna carpaccio (£16), delicately flavoured with sesame, wasabi, and a mango and ginger dressing. For the main, I chose the salt-marsh lamb rack (£38), served with creamed potatoes, an anchovy-crusted heritage carrot, and mint jus which was so excellent I dreamt about it.

My partner began with the courgette, feta, and pea tart

(£12), a light dish accompanied by summer leaves and herb oil. Next up was the roast heritage summer squash (£19), beautifully paired with beetroot, macadamia cheese and a hazelnut dressing.

We savoured a melt-in-the-mouth sticky toffee pudding, but their signature cocktails were equally enticing.

**WHILE YOU'RE THERE**

Take a wander across Trafalgar Square and make your way towards Regent Street.

Unfortunately our trip was just before the Christmas lights had made their arrival, but being slap bang in the middle of London's theatre district, there is no shortage of entertainment, from the Royal Opera House to the Adelphi Theatre. The Freemasons' Hall provides an excellent guided tour starting from £12.50 per person.

Of course, nearby Covent Garden can provide some of the country's best retail therapy, too. For the more cost-conscious, there is also some fantastic street entertainment on display. If history is your thing, Buckingham Palace is a mere 20 minutes walk away through the marvellous St James's Park.

**WAKE-UP CALL**

Rooms start at £225 a night, [pagehotels.com/en/page8](http://pagehotels.com/en/page8)



**PICTURE PERFECT**  
Pikes Peak Cog Railway



**HIGH THERE**  
Stuart at 14,000ft



**FAMOUS**  
Garden of the Gods



**FEARSOME**  
A harem of elks

**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

based Aspire Tours. Nothing was too much trouble and we could not have asked for a more friendly, down-to-earth guide.

Earlier we took in another of Colorado's famous attractions. The Garden of the Gods. These are giant red columns of sandstone rock shooting up into the sky, which are seriously impressive and make for a stunning vista.

We also spent another day in the Rocky Mountain National Park ([nps.gov/romo](http://nps.gov/romo)), again with Jeff as our guide, starting off at Horseshoe Falls with its delightful streams and waterfalls. We also ventured up to the alpine tundra, which covers one third of the park and where winter lasts nine months a year.

It's a harsh, desolate environment that could be the backdrop for a post-apocalyptic film. We only managed a snapshot of the park, however, which is vast and receives more than four million visitors each year.

I'd packed binoculars hoping to catch a glimpse of some wildlife which was a largely fruitless venture, but – Jeff to the rescue – he'd received a tip-off on where elk could be found.

A short drive followed before we found ourselves in a valley peering at a male elk, complete with fearsome-looking antlers and his harem (the name of a group of female elks, who knew?)

The Maven, a boutique hotel on Wazee Street in downtown Denver, provided our accommodation while in Colorado. The standout

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