



**Grace, danger, mortality**  
Music world mourns the death of John Martyn P6



**That'll teach 'em**  
School finds pole dance class is too popular. D'oh P7

**NEWS Strikes fear over Tube job cuts**

The threat of Tube strikes loomed yesterday after Transport for London unveiled 1,000 job cuts. Any attempt to impose compulsory redundancies would be met with a ballot for industrial action, warned RMT general secretary Bob Crow P5

**INTERNET Tax for internet piracy**

EVERY home in Britain could be hit by an 'internet piracy tax' as part of the fight against illegal downloads. A new watchdog would be paid for by a levy on internet providers, such as Virgin - but critics say the tax would be passed on to users P13

# Stem cells 'cure' for MS sufferers

**> It's daylight Robbie-ry**



No, this isn't a stick-up, just a camera-shy Robbie Williams (probably...). The singer, who is thought to have returned to live in Britain, tried to avoid being photographed yesterday by wearing a balaclava and sunglasses. The 34-year-old and a friend were spotted buying mountain bikes in Swindon. Williams, who is reportedly moving to a nearby £7million mansion, spent about £10,000 on two bikes

By Miles Erwin

STEM cell transplants can reverse multiple sclerosis, scientists have shown.

The treatment improved the health of 17 out of 21 people who had the debilitating condition, the latest research revealed.

The rest of the volunteers saw no deterioration in their condition and there were no serious side-effects, researchers said.

Dr Doug Brown, from the MS society, said: 'These are very encouraging results and it is exciting to see that, in this trial, not only is progression of disability halted but damage appears to be reversed.'

'Stem cells are showing more and more potential in the treatment of MS. The challenge we now face is proving their effectiveness in trials involving large numbers of people.'

MS is the most common disabling neurological condition, affecting about 85,000 people in Britain. Research had previously

**'These are very exciting and encouraging results'**

shown that stem cell transplants could halt the condition but not reverse it.

In the latest trials in the US, sufferers were injected in the arm or leg with stem cells from bone marrow. The process suppresses the immune system and replenishes it with new cells from the stem cells.

Three years later, the patients were assessed to see if their health had improved and all but four of them improved by at least one point on a disability scale, it was reported in The Lancet Neurology journal.

Researcher Richard K Burnett concluded it was 'a feasible procedure that not only seems to prevent neurological progression, but also appears to reverse neurological disability'.

Earlier this month, British company ReNeuron was given the go-ahead to start the world's first trial using stem cells to repair brain damage in stroke victims.

**Brook**



'Just when I've got a cupboard full of weird liqueurs I can't get rid of'

**GOING OUT It's a revolutionary row**

Titanic fans be warned, you won't see Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio madly in love in their new film, Revolutionary Road. Instead, this movie tells a tale of delusion and disappointment. See inside for this and other weekend movies P28-29

**SPORT Is he Keane on coming back?**

Spurs last night stepped up their bid to lure back striker Robbie Keane from Liverpool before Monday's transfer window deadline. The club have reportedly enquired about the Ireland captain, who they sold in July for £20.3million P56