

CAKE RAGE

Police in Wales are hunting for a mother who went berserk in a cake shop when she was told they'd sold out of her favourite sweet tooth fairy cakes.

The shop's owner, Sally Dodd, 43, said: "The woman went absolutely ballistic when she was told we didn't have the cupcake flavour she wanted.

"She threw herself on the floor ranting and raving while her children screamed and shouted.

"Then she came round to my side of the counter and grabbed me by the hair before I could get out of her way.

"I managed to tear myself free before the woman started smashing glass display units and spilling cakes all over the floor. I've never seen anything like it.

"You expect a certain amount of risk running a bar or a pub but not in a cupcake shop."

The BBC reported that the woman inflicted around £400 worth of damage at Sugarswirlz cake shop in Cardiff,



South Wales, which opened just months ago.

Police were yesterday trying to trace the woman suspect, aged between 35 and 45, with shoulder-length strawberry blonde

hair, who was described as well-built and wearing a mid-length green coat.

Police are hoping that CCTV cameras will help to identify the woman, who is believed to be from Newport.

TIME OUT

According to the *Daily Express*, the average Brit will spend an incredible THREE MONTHS of their life entering usernames and passwords on the internet.

And IT experts believe that figure will increase as workers and consumers become even more reliant on internet security.

The newspaper reported that this time, over the average working life, equates to a staggering 90 days-worth of passing IT security.

Matthew Baxter-Reynolds, a London based independent IT consultant, predicts an increase in password paranoia will lead to more methods of encryption and more time being taken up by the log-in process.

He said: "Generally there is a drift towards this problem getting worse and not better.

"People have more of an awareness of the value of data stored on their phones and computers so they're likely to be locking those devices more.

"I have no idea how many times I unlock my phone in a day, but it has to be scores of times, and it takes three seconds for me to do that - so there's a minute before I've touched a computer."



WHITE LIES

Over a quarter of British workers lie about their weekend activities in order to impress work colleagues

A recent study, by the hotel chain Travelodge, has found that the pressure for Britons to have an action packed fun weekend is so high, that over a quarter (27%) of adults will lie about what they did over the weekend - in order to sound cool and impress others.

The study surveyed 5,000 adults to investigate how Britons spend their weekend. The top five most popular activities British workers will pretend they did over the weekend are painting the town red on Saturday night, visiting friends, going to a dinner-party, a romantic meal and taking a short break.

Psychologist, Corinne Sweet, said: "The Travelodge weekend study has exposed a new psychological condition we Brits are suffering from: Weekendvy. It's to do with needing to feel like an alpha male or female, with high status. We don't want to admit that most of our weekend time is spent trying to catch up with housework, paperwork and lost sleep. It's the horrible feeling that everyone else is having a better time than us, going away, partying or having fun. No-one likes to think of themselves as lonely or boring, so we like to create a psychological smoke-screen

pretending, a bit like Bridget Jones, that we're having a wonderful time, when we're not.

Weekendvy means we pretend we're having romantic weekend breaks, learning new skills, or having wonderful sex, when in fact most of us are trying to catch up on office work, lost sleep and overwhelming household chores and paperwork."

Further findings from the report revealed one in three workers reported their weekend is just becoming an extension of their working week and 29% of workers stated they are so exhausted and tired by Friday evening that they regularly spend their weekend catching up on sleep.

Travelodge spokeswoman, Shakila Ahmed said: "It's time to reclaim our weekend. Who hasn't sat down on Sunday evening and wondered where the weekend went? With more of us working longer hours, these two precious days designed for rest and recuperation are too often consumed by a whirl of duties and catching up with ourselves. You can cure Weekendvy with a few tweaks to your routine, a little originality and ingenuity and you can make the world of difference to your lifestyle."



OAP KO

An old lady floored a masked burglar in her own living room, according to the Daily Mirror.

Joan Parmenter, 79, was hit in the head by Luke Clay but responded with an "almighty punch" to his jaw, from which he landed face down on her couch.

The Nottingham Post reported that Luke Clay and his brother Lee then fled from the house but ran into the path of a car, which had to make an emergency stop. Miss Parmenter ran out of her house after the burglars

and shouted for help. The motorist called police and both men were later arrested and admitted they were the burglars.

Yesterday, Miss Parmenter and the motorist, Ms Buckthorpe, were commended by a judge for their actions and awarded £250 each from public funds. The Clays each received eight months in prison after admitting the burglary in Vernon Road, Basford. Luke Clay received a further four months, to be served consecutively, for common assault for hitting her.

Fearless Joan told reporters, "I'd do it again. I'm not frightened of anybody."

PULLING A SICKIE

The Office for National Statistics has revealed that the rate of absence from work due to sickness is back up to normal levels - after falling to a record low during the financial crisis.

At the end of last year, 2.5% of people questioned had at least one day off sick in the week before they were surveyed, compared to 2.1% in the first quarter of 2009. The report said that 613,000 employees were absent from work with sickness in the three months leading up to December last year, resulting in 2 million working days lost

The statistics revealed that the top reason for calling in sick was having a cough or cold, followed by accidents and musculo-skeletal problems such as back pain.

The Daily Telegraph reported that the first Monday in February is thought to be the worst day for people pulling sickies, with up to 350,000 employees expected to ring in and make their excuses.

A study by Employment Law Advisory Services suggests that bosses are becoming softer in their attitudes to work absence, accepting emails or texts to say they are ill rather than a personal phone call.

Peter Mooney, a spokesman for the firm, said: "The traditional phone call was always a way for bosses to decipher whether staff members were bluffing or genuinely ill.

"So the system will be open to more abuse than ever. The cost to the economy could soar. That is the last thing we need as we are slowly crawling out of the deepest recession for generations."

Half of the 1,500 company managers polled in the survey weren't convinced by excuses given for a day off. Questionable excuses ranged from a man who claimed that the road outside his house was too busy to cross, to another worker who said he couldn't make it in because his mother-in-law was supposed to die at the weekend - but hadn't.



BRIT POPULAR

Britain has been voted the second most popular country in an annual global popularity poll of 29,000 respondents worldwide.

The BBC World Service Country Rating Poll asked people to rate the global influence of 16 major nations, according to the *Daily Mail*.

Of the 27 countries polled, 24 had a positive view of the UK, although two, Pakistan and Mexico, had overall negative views of the country.

Those with the most positive views of Britain were respondents from the US, at 80%, followed by Australia at 79% and Canada at 69%.

Germany was the most positively viewed nation, with 62% of those surveyed rating its influence as positive. Canada was the third most popular of the countries polled, followed by Japan, France and Brazil. The US came seventh ahead of China, South Africa and India.

The three most negatively viewed countries saw their average ratings drop significantly. Iran was bottom of the poll with its negative rating at 59%. North Korea's negative rating was up six points at 55% while Pakistan's negative rating was up five points at 56%.

