

# Tory Diary: Jogging, Massage And Harvey Nicks

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12:00pm UK, Monday October 03, 2011

Compiled by Ruth Barnett, in Manchester

**How do the photographers always know when David Cameron will go jogging? Why are politicians being warned about the media? All the vexing questions and anecdotes from the Conservative conference.**



The Prime Minister jogs past a photographer by coincidence

:: It wouldn't be conference without a picture of David Cameron jogging on a towpath.

So here it is - the Prime Minister running, apparently without a security entourage, but in reality they're likely to be nearby.

Always astonishing how the photographer knows just when he'll pass by, isn't it?



Andrew Mitchell was surprised to be greeted by a fan

:: International development isn't universally popular among Conservatives, particularly when it involves large wads of cash.

But does Andrew Mitchell really feel people are out to get him?

A delegate approached the Minister by the security gates, hours after he delivered a speech defending aid spending.

"You're the only Cabinet minister I've got any time for," the Tory supporter told the surprised politician.



Talking about politics can be a tiring and stressful experience

:: The contrast between the Conservative and Labour conference halls is often remarked upon by journalists sent to both.

Labour's shindigs have fewer things to buy - a stark contrast to the Tories, decked out with a mini version of Harvey Nicholls selling pricey face creams.

Slap bang in the middle of the hall this year is a giant white inflatable cocoon, where tired and stressed party members can get pampered with a massage.

But while conferences are famed for their free biros, chocolates and cloth bags, this isn't complimentary. "Pay what you think it's worth," one of the representatives tells me, before adding: "but between £10 and £20".

A Sky colleague who shall remain nameless told me: "You couldn't buy anything at Labour - but here, well you could do Christmas."



The Harvey Nicholls shop inside the conference hall

:: How much does coming to conference cost? According to Conservative Home, the average delegate will have forked out £722.50 for the pleasure of spending three and a half days with top Tories.

This figure includes £71.90 on travel, £258.97 on accommodation and £86.48 on alcohol.

But judging by some of the stumbling we've seen in the conference bars, the latter estimate seems rather, well, *conservative*...

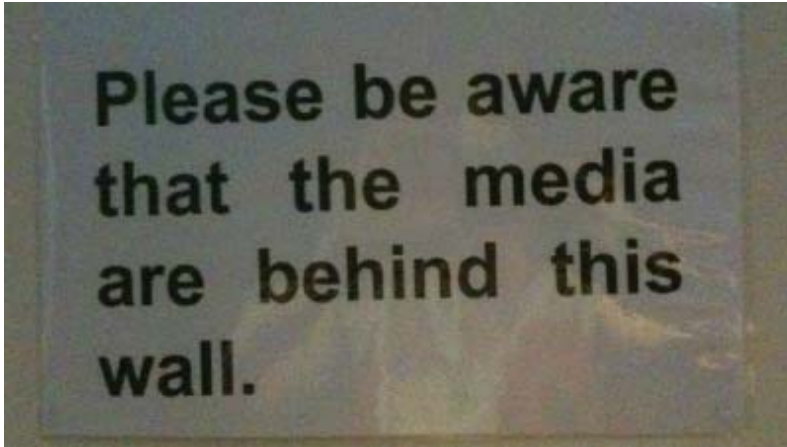


Delegates are said to drink more than £80 worth of alcohol at conference

:: Politicians often try to show off about their music choices and demonstrate how in touch they are (remember Gordon Brown's unlikely devotion to the Arctic Monkeys?)

David Cameron told Media Trust interviewer Neil White his choices for a desert island disc would be The Killers' All The Things That I've Done.

But when Neil put the same question to Eric Pickles, he apparently named Bob Marley's No Woman, No Cry - and proved his knowledge of the lyrics by breaking into song.



Beware of the journalists: A sign spotted at conference

:: Relations between politicians and the media are known to get frosty sometimes.

But Boulton and Co producer Tami Hoffman was still surprised to spot this sign: "Please be aware that the media are behind this wall."

This message greets ministers when they come off stage after their speeches - in case they feel tempted to sound off at delegates or the Prime Minister, presumably.

But what about a warning for journalists when the politicians approach?

Hacks have found themselves loudly dissecting, say, the Chancellor, backstage only to find him sweep past on cue.

And if you really want to spot a high-profile minister, loiter by the toilets in the broadcast area.

Both the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister have startled the press by ducking in there before entering the hall.



No sign of a heatwave: A delegate shelters from the rain

:: Speaking of the closeness or otherwise of the press and the Government, the media have been rather put in their place.

Usually journalists can walk from the conference hall to the backstage media area using the corridor between them - what a novel idea.

But by Monday this year, the press were being blocked from using it, and told to take a rather lengthier route out a fire exit and through a cold car park.

They say it is to create a safe area for the politicians.

B t j l i t h l i d ' b h b f h b b d t

centre from our laptops to the television cameras...

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Posted by: [bobmidd](#) on October 4, 2011 4:10 PM

Dave (I love the camera) jogging .....he put on at least a stone in weigh since bing PM, so who on this earth is he kidding.

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Posted by: [Rob666](#) from South East on October 4, 2011 10:00 AM

I'm not trying to defend politicians, Small Boy, but I think you'll find that any PM puts in more hours per week than the vast majority of us.

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Posted by: [small boy](#) on October 4, 2011 8:11 AM

How do the photographers always know when David Cameron will go jogging? Because his vain office tells them of course!!!

He doesn't do a proper days work like most people anyway.

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"Call me Dave" does love the camera doesn't he?

Probably his personal camera man again? Hope Lord Snooty is footing the bill this time and not us.

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Posted by: [No.1 Chauffeur](#) on October 3, 2011 1:01 PM

I would not be surprised to learn that Andrew Mitchell is on the make. nice kickbacks from grateful countries for his aid.

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