

# Programme Information Highlights

## May 2015



### Happening this month...

#### Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>

Britain holds a General Election which, according to the opinion polls, is likely to result in a “hung parliament” with no party having an overall majority. The final result should be known by around 6 a.m. on Friday morning.

#### Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>

Today is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) – when the World War II Allies accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany. Britain will mark the anniversary with three days of events including a parade, a service of thanksgiving and a star-studded concert in central London. Beacons will be lit across the country and street parties are also anticipated.

#### Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>

Russia will stage a major military parade today to mark the anniversary of the Nazi defeat. Most Western European leaders are expected to boycott the event in protest at Russia’s stance over Ukraine.

Britain will hold its first ever “e-cigarette” convention “Vape Jam UK”.

Prince Harry will begin a week long tour of New Zealand after finishing a military deployment in Australia. His visit starts on May 9 in Wellington and will take in Christchurch, Linton near Palmerston North, Whanganui and Auckland.

#### Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>

The British Academy Television Awards (the Baftas) are held today in London. *Happy Valley*, *Marvellous*, *The Missing* and *Line Of Duty* share the 'most-nominated' top spot, with three nominations each.



8th May 1945: A van load of beer passing through Piccadilly Circus on VE Day. The statue of Eros, protected during the war by advertising hoardings, can be seen in the background. (Photo by Keystone/Getty Images)

#### Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>

The Cannes film festival starts today. Among the stars expected to attend are Woody Allen, Cate Blanchett and Matthew McConaughey.

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## Monday May 18th

Following Britain's General election, the new House of Commons will meet today to elect a Speaker and swear in the MPs.

## Tuesday May 19th

The Man Booker International Prize 2015 winner will be revealed today. It recognises one writer for his or her achievement in fiction. Worth £60,000, the prize is awarded every two years to a living author who has published fiction either originally in English or whose work is generally available in translation in the English language.

The shortlist is César Aira (Argentina), Hoda Barakat (Lebanon), Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe), Mia Couto (Mozambique), Amitav Ghosh (India), Fanny Howe (United States of America), Ibrahim al-Koni (Libya), László Krasznahorkai (Hungary), Alain Mabanckou (Republic of Congo), Marlene van Niekerk (South Africa).

## Thursday May 21st

The annual Telegraph Hay book and culture festival begins today. Stephen Fry is this year's President. Other speakers include Jacqueline Wilson and Kazuo Ishiguro.

## Sunday May 24th

The Rolling Stones kick off their new 15-city North American stadium, ZIP CODE tour, in San Diego on 24 May at Petco Park. The tour will include Columbus, Minneapolis, Dallas, Atlanta, Orlando, Nashville, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Raleigh, Indianapolis, Detroit and Buffalo before wrapping in Quebec on 15 July at Le Festival D'Été de Québec.



AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND - NOVEMBER 22: Lead Singer Mick Jagger in action as The Rolling Stones perform live at Mt Smart Stadium on November 22, 2014 in Auckland, New Zealand. (Photo by Fiona Goodall/Getty Images)

## Wednesday May 27th

Following Britain's General Election the State Opening of the new Parliament will be held today, when the Queen's Speech will set out the new government's programme for the coming session