

Day & Night

BRITAIN'S TOP GOSSIP COLUMN

WITH KATHRYN SPENCER, JULIE CARPENTER

& KATE BOHDANOWICZ

e-mail us at diary@express.co.uk



Gerri makes Victoria go for a girl

SPENDING time with mum-to-be Geri Halliwell has, we learn, made Victoria Beckham broody again. The erstwhile Posh Spice is yearning for a little girl to add to her brood of three boys after showering her former bandmate with maternity advice.

It was apparently when Geri - who is due to give birth in the spring - broke the news to Victoria that she was pregnant, that Victoria turned her attention to having another child herself. In fact, she has already broached the subject with her football husband David, suggesting they try for another. The couple's youngest child, Cruz, is almost one while Romeo is three and Brooklyn is six.

"Victoria and David have always wanted to have a little girl," says a source close to the Beckhams. "Victoria has been giving Geri lots of pregnancy and birth advice and it looks like she'll be the baby's

godmother. But spending time with Geri is making Victoria broody. She really wants a little girl and it looks as if Geri's going to have a girl which will no doubt intensify Victoria's longing."

Gerri's imminent motherhood has brought her much closer to Victoria, 31, after an apparently strained relationship in the aftermath of the Spice Girls' split. She has frequently met up with Geri - who has a troubled relationship with the father of her unborn child, scriptwriter Sacha Gervasi - and invited her to stay at her "Beckingham Palace" home in Hertfordshire at the end of last year.

Whether David Beckham is quite as enthusiastic about having another child is, however, debatable.

Adds our source: "Victoria has been asking David about it but he's concentrating on the World Cup and is unlikely to consider it before."

"I think Victoria would like to be able to announce that another Beckham baby is expected not long after."



GROWING FAMILY: Victoria and David Beckham



MEANWHILE, geeky presenter Louis Theroux will soon be having to learn a new skill: nappy changing. Louis, 35, is preparing for

fatherhood with his long-term girlfriend, television director Nancy Strang. The TV journalist, who made his name by mischievously probing such celebrity eccentrics as Sir Jimmy Savile and Christine Hamilton, has been with Nancy since 2003 and is clearly ready to take his parental duties seriously.

"Louis has made it clear to BBC producers that under no condition will he travel abroad for his

next TV project," says a Beeb insider. "He wants to remain in the UK so that he can be there for Nancy and the baby."

Prior to his current situation, the amiable Theroux's private life was more complicated. He is divorced from Susannah Kleeman, whom he married in 1994 but has since claimed the nuptials only took place "to allow her to work in New York" where they both lived at the time.

OH DEAR. Actress Rula Lenska has not exactly been in demand job-wise since her starring role in *Celebrity Big Brother*, where her most memorable performance was encouraging George Galloway

as he mimicked a milk-lapping cat. "I thought you were meant to get all kinds of offers of work but to be honest it's not been that great," she sighs. "I hope to land a decent role on stage soon, though."

Picture: PA



Wanted: another Keira

THE "next Keira Knightley" is being sought by *Bend It Like Beckham* director Gurinder Chadha. The filmmaker, who saw Keira's career go stratospheric after she appeared in the 2002 football flick, admits the Hollywood star, left, no longer keeps in contact with her. "But I'm hoping to discover the next Keira for my new project - I've got the knack," she says. It's a film based on two books by Brighton-based children's author Louise Rennison - *Angus, Thongs*

And *Full Frontal Snogging* and *On The Bright Side, I'm Now The Girlfriend Of A Sex God*.

Of Keira, who has been filming the second and third instalments of *Pirates Of The Caribbean*, she adds: "You work with different actors and actresses and then move on. We don't keep in touch with each other - but I've certainly not ruled out working with her again."

In the meantime, Gurinder is creative associate on a forthcoming West End musical, *Daddy Cool*, based on the music of Boney M. "I was initially nervous about doing it," she says. "I used to think Boney M were quite naff but not any more."

WITH HER dedication to vegetarianism, some may say Sir Paul McCartney's second wife Heather Mills has come to strongly

resemble his first wife Linda. Now Heather, 38, even goes as far to say she values Linda's achievements more than her husband's.

"She was a fantastic animal rights campaigner," enthuses Heather of Linda, who died in 1998. "She was the kind of person I would



admire much more than say, a Beatle." Heather, who married Paul in 2002, adds: "Yes, the Beatles wrote good songs and got rich but sometimes they would admit that it was for a swimming pool or to build a bigger house. Linda was not afraid to speak out for what she believed in."

AWARDS ARE A TARGET FOR KATHLEEN

SINCE COMING to the UK to perform in the West End, Kathleen Turner has laid into Hollywood. Now she has lambasted the Academy Awards. "They're boring," says Kathleen, 51, who was nominated for an Oscar for the 1986 film *Peggy Sue Got Married*. "The best Oscars I watched was when Tom Hanks and I got this big flat-screen TV and darts with suction pumps and we

shot everyone on screen." Despite believing America is "not very respectful of age and experience", the star - who is about to open in *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf* at London's Apollo Theatre - will not be making her home in England. "The climate puts me off," she added at the South Bank Show Awards at the Savoy Hotel. "I'll probably end up in southern Italy."

BAFTA nominations were announced less than a fortnight ago, yet the ceremony's goody bags are ready for collection. Those up for gongs - including *The Constant Gardener* stars Rachel Weisz and Ralph Fiennes, right - are set for a bounty of around £2,000 each. "All 250 nominees get the take-home goodies which this year will include American Airlines flights, Taittinger champagne, Steinmetz diamonds, beautiful Timothy Han candles and loads more," says our girl tying the gift ribbons. "They can even pick up their goodies early if they don't want to be weighed down with them on the night. Each bag rather resembles a suitcase." Isn't life grand?

