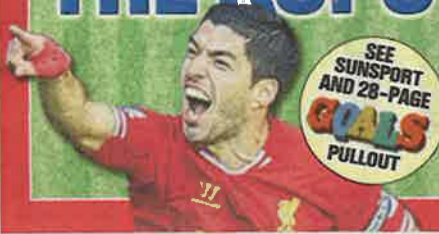


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PAGES 10 & 11

## WORLD EXCLUSIVE

# Nigella was a spaced out zombie



'Trance'... Nigella

By RYAN PARRY

THE two sisters cleared of swindling Nigella Lawson today reveal how the glamorous TV cook wandered around her home "like a zombie". Ex-aides Francesca and Elisabetta Grillo said Nigella, 53, often looked like she was in a trance and became erratic and agitated. Francesca added: "When you spoke to her it was like there was nothing there. She was vacant."



**GRILLO SISTERS REVEAL SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT LIFE WITH TV CHEF**

FULL STORY: PAGES 4, 5, 6 AND 7



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SS96 A9AA LWJ3

## Killer dog must die

A PIT bull terrier which killed a 90-year-old woman's dog in a park should be destroyed, a judge has ruled.

Owner Kimberley James had appealed against a destruction order made by magistrates after the incident in Exeter, Devon.

But Judge Erik Salomonsen upheld it at the city's crown court after hearing how OAP Diana Walton's Yorkshire terrier Folly was mauled to death.

### TRIMMING BILLS

One in three Brits will not turn on festive lights until Christmas Eve to save on leccy bills, a poll found.

# CHATTY MAN ON THE



By **ANDY HALLS**

**ALAN CARR** has told how he became the most trusted confidant of reclusive superstar Adele – despite a drunken “Del Boy moment” when they first met.

The camp funnyman opened up for the first time about his close friendship with the singer – insisting that her amazing, worldwide success has not changed her one bit.

He told The Sun on Sunday: “She is what she is. She’s the most down-to-earth person you’ll ever meet and hasn’t changed at all, despite all these Grammys and Oscars coming out of her beehive.”

“I’m used to friends like Gok Wan winning Spectacle Wearer Of The Year, so to have a friend winning an Oscar is weird for me!”

Alan, 37, first met the Rolling In The Deep singer at the Brit Awards in 2008 – the year that sparked her phenomenal rise to fame.

But their relationship didn’t get off to the best of starts.

In fact, Alan knocked himself **OUT COLD** moments after they met.

He revealed: “I was very drunk and saw her sitting on a sofa, so I called out from where I was standing, precariously leaning against what I thought was a wall.

“But it was a lift – and just as she looked up I did a ‘Del Boy’ and fell straight through the doors, smashing my head against the floor. I went straight home with concussion!”

The pair have grown close since their first meeting, with Alan among a small circle of trusted pals – including former EastEnders Sid Owen – with whom she shares her innermost secrets.

### ‘I don’t feel that baby thing at all’

But he says the pressure of knowing every minute detail – including about her and boyfriend Simon Konecki’s first child Angelo – is a stressful responsibility.

He said: “I knew about her pregnancy and her son’s name before it came out, but I’d rather I didn’t.”

“I have to plead with her not to tell me any personal secrets because there’s always the risk I’ll have a few too many wines, get on Twitter and put the world to rights.

“I’m to Adele like Sinitta is to Simon Cowell!”

“I’m not Angelo’s official godfather because Adele isn’t religious so she doesn’t believe in all that.

“So instead she’s decided to have a few ‘godfairies’ because, God bless her, her life is riddled with gays.

“We’re like the mice in Bagpuss, all fussing around her and singing. ‘We are working, we are working’.

“So it’s a joint effort among the men in her life.”

Weymouth-born Alan says he and long-term partner Paul Drayton have not been inspired by Adele giving birth to have kids of their own.

He says he even got an earful from the Grammy winner for referring to her one-year-old tot as “it”.

Alan said: “It just hasn’t occurred to me and Paul. I’d never do it just because it’s the ‘in’ thing to do. You’ve really got to love the kid. I don’t feel that baby thing at all.

“Paul is much more hands-on, cooing and aahing. But I’m not very good at giggling them about – or rocking, I think they call it.

“And have you heard my voice? My lullabies would give them nightmares!”

“I just say hello from afar. I’ve never babysat any baby because no



one would trust me. I’ve been left alone with some children, which sounds kind of sinister, but I’m all right with the colouring-in and watching Peppa Pig.

“My two goddaughters, Maisie and Martha, are nine and six and are really good fun now.

“I take them to see Matilda and The Wizard Of Oz and we have a great time. I love watching their faces and listening to their questions.

“They had to go dressed up as celebrities to a party and Martha went as me, which was lovely.

“She bought a mask from Poundland, cheeky b\*\*\*ards. That copyright money I’ll never see! But the girls were in hysterics.

“I was like, ‘So, my face is a joke to you, is it?’ It’s a new and exciting thing for them.

“I’m better with that age, when get something back.

“Adele got p\*\*\*ed off with me the other day when I asked how it was, but I didn’t mean it in

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**THE PRESSURE OF KEEPING SUPERSTAR'S SECRETS**



CHATTY MAN'S SOFA STARS



Cheryl



Spice Girls



Gaga



Ant 'n Dec

Alan Carr on Adele's Sinitta

Says **ALAN CARR**

CHATTY FAN... Alan and Adele met in 2008 and are now best pals. Above, some of his superstar TV guests

derogatory way. God forbid anything happens to Adele, I think the kid will be fine financially – and that's a showbiz exclusive!" Alan says he and Paul – an events and party planner – are more than content with focusing their attention on their two red setters, Bev and Joyce, than having a child. And Alan admits he is always surprised to see gay men with children. He adds: "I'm all for it, as long as a child goes to a good home, but I'm still surprised when two men have children together. I don't know why. I was at a party the other day and (fashion designer) Tom Ford was there with his kid and I was like, "Oh, is that your child?" "I didn't know he had children, but it came out a bit wrong and he looked at me as if I was being homophobic." Alan, who has just signed a new two-year deal with Channel 4 said to be worth £4million, says he does feel pressure to be "in character" all

the time, but insists his life is less glitzy away from the cameras. He said: "I did two sell-out nights at the O2 in London on the last tour and you can see why these rock stars get into some of the states they get into. "When I came off, I was properly buzzing. I wanted to punch someone, shouting, 'Bring it on, bring it on'." **'My release is alcohol, but I start and can't stop'** "I was like Justin Bieber – I wanted to go to a brothel!" "I just wanted to have sex with anything, woman, man, animal... I didn't care!" "But instead, I sensibly went back home. It's a very odd feeling." "I can see why other comedians go on the internet and have a fiddle! My release is alcohol, but once I start I can't stop." "I've got no hobbies, which makes me feel really guilty. It's not as if I

feel like I work really hard either. At least when I worked in the call centres and factory I knew when my free time was coming, so it was all very structured and I planned for it. "But in this job it's not that defined. So I end up spending any free time I have sitting on the sofa watching Lorraine, traumatised by guilt. "It's funny. When I'm watching Come Dine With Me on a Saturday night, I think to myself, 'Oh Alan, what are you doing? You live in London. You should be going out, seeing a play or watching something live'. "And then when I'm out I'm wishing I was at home watching Come Dine With Me. "I don't know what's up with me. I think it's a disorder! I always want to do what I'm not doing." Alan – who stars in a festive special of his Chatty Man show on

Christmas Day – says he still pinches himself in disbelief at the money he earns. But he denies he is worth anywhere near the £4million mark. He joked: "I don't know where these figures come from, but it's not quite that much. "The channel pushes the money up to make themselves look generous, then my agent pushes it up – and I'm left with the bit at the end!" "But listen, it's a lot of money – the likes of which Alan Carr from my hometown of Northampton could never dream of. "And all for sitting around talking to celebs while drinking unpronounceable alcohol. It's amazing. I still have to pinch myself." **Additional reporting: SANDIE JONES**



'I still can't believe I'm paid so much for sitting around talking to celebrities'