



Mini-masterpieces: The Euros beer mats designed by (L-R) Israel Kujore, David Shrigley and Chris (Simpsons artist)

## Place your pint on a piece of art

By John Lawrence

Football is back on the telly and fans are back in pubs (or pub gardens) so a new project is bringing the two together... European Championship beer mats.

Famous cartoonists like David Shrigley and Chris (Simpsons artist) have joined up-and-coming artists such as Robyn Nicol and Israel Kujore in contributing 20 iconic moments to the Weird Euros collection.



Designer: Gordon Reid

The project has been started by designer Gordon Reid, who lives in Heath View, N2, and friends in partnership with the adidas Football Collective and is raising money for grassroots football charities like Goals 4 Girls.

Each beer mat captures one of those iconic images that the Euros are famous for, not so much the famous goals, more the unexpected moments that stick in everyone's memory, for example Mario Balotelli's unforgettable muscle flex celebration after scoring for Italy against Germany in 2012.

Gordon told *The Archer*: "We were down the pub and looking for something to do for a good cause. We had a beer mat in our hands at the time and thought wouldn't it be great to be able to rest your beer on a great piece of art work. "A friend of mine knows David Shrigley and in two hours he said he'd be happy to get involved. Then others came on board and we got a full set of 20. The important thing is that it's all for grassroots organisations, so that football can be inclusive for everybody."

### Spread the word

Gordon and his team have

been spreading word about the project through football TV, magazines and social media accounts.

You can take a look at the full Weird Euros collection and buy sets or combinations at [www.weirdeuros.com](http://www.weirdeuros.com)

## Demand for blood donors

**Londoners are being urged to make and keep an appointment to donate blood over the summer months as demand for blood creeps back to normal capacity.**

Nadine Eaton, Head of Blood Donation Marketing at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We are seeing a rise in demand for blood from hospitals, so we need our loyal donors more than ever to help us keep hospitals supplied with lifesaving blood. Each donation can save or improve up to three lives."

To book appointments, find your closest donor centres and check the latest guidance on Covid-19 and giving blood, call 0300 123 23 23, download the NHS Give Blood app, or visit [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk).

## Desperate home carers in need of justice and respite

By Daphne Chamberlain

**In the UK, one in three older people are carers, that's 4.1 million in total. Four million of those say they received no respite at all during the second lockdown. 40% of carers haven't had a day off for more than a year, and 69% say that their mental health has worsened because of a lack of breaks while caring during the pandemic.**

Age UK says: "The pandemic has taken away so much of the help older carers depended upon. Social distancing means carers have been unable to lean on friends and family for support, and day centre closures mean there are fewer places for carers to take loved ones and get a break themselves. Many carers have also stopped getting help from paid care workers as they've been so worried about bringing coronavirus into their homes."

But the pandemic has simply made worse a desperate situation for so many people. Caring is so often a truly full-time job, on duty day and night.

Give them a proper break

Age UK has published these quotations from older carers: "I haven't had a complete break for the last 11 years. I'm so tired that I feel like I've forgotten how to smile."

"There have been many times where I just want to give up, where I wished I was dead. You just feel like you don't know where to turn. You've just got to try and pull yourself together and cope with it."

Age UK is calling for the Government to provide additional funding to enable carers to take a proper break, to do what they would like to do, even if that is just to sleep.

Phone and internet help

The UK free Advice Line is open seven days a week, 8am-7pm on 0800 169 65 65. Or, if you're feeling lonely and want a friendly chat, day or night, you can call The Silver Line on 0800 4 70 80 90.

Find information about care and support, and keep informed about the campaign for the Government to recognise unpaid carers, at [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) and Twitter: @ageukcampaigns.

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

### All over by Christmas

**It was Freedom Day, a time of celebration to mark the end of a life-and-death battle between the virus and the vaccine. The champagne had been popped, a public holiday declared and the fountains were flowing with lager.**

People came out in their hundreds of thousands, thronging The Mall in cheering drunken multitudes as they threw off their masks and burned them on the massive bonfire in Hyde Park. Inside the palace, an elderly lady donned her best lilac twinset and prepared to meet her people. As she stepped out onto the balcony it reminded her of that day in 1945 when her father had done the same.

As she stepped out surrounded by her children and grandchildren, all dressed in their military uniforms like the Ruritanian high command, the crowd cheered. To complete the picture, a cry went up across the massed gathering for the saviour of the nation to come forward.

And so, with all the reluctance he could muster, a three-times married father of at least six stepped forward to receive the country's adulation. Someone opened a bottle of champagne... but suddenly he awoke with a start to realise it wasn't champagne he could feel, but the dog licking his face.

And that's the problem with predictions: they go wrong. Back in August 1914, they all thought the war would be over by Christmas. It was, it's just that they were out by four years. It was the same with the flu pandemic that followed in 1918. Just when everyone thought the first wave was over, that virus got a second wind and kept going for another two years before fading away.

So, as 19 July approaches, and with it Freedom Day Part 2, The Sequel, don't make any plans just yet, because it may not happen. I am certain it will be over by Christmas, I'm just not sure which one.

## Do you, or someone you know need a new home?



The Finchley Charities have been providing quality sheltered housing in a supportive community environment, across three sites in East Finchley and Finchley Central.

If you have lived in the Borough of Barnet for at least five years of your life, we can provide homes for individuals and couples aged over 55, in need of sheltered housing and able to live independently.

If this sounds like you or someone you know in need of a new home, please contact us on: 020 8346 9464 or email: [info@thefinchleycharities.org](mailto:info@thefinchleycharities.org) to discuss eligibility.

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**The Finchley Charities**

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