

13. BIG INTERVIEW

How did it feel to come back to Junior Bake Off?

It was a relief that it happened because there was a big question over whether or not we would film it. I hadn't done 'presenting' as such before, so for the first series I was a bit nervous, but this year I knew what I was coming back into and this increased the enjoyment of it.

Did returning to the show feel like finding a comfy pair of slippers?

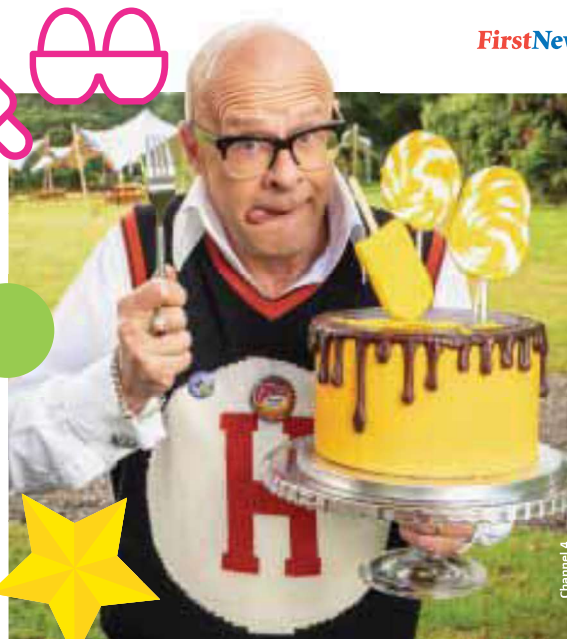
I felt more comfortable this time round. I haven't slavishly followed *Bake Off* but my kids wanted me to do *Celebrity Bake Off*, and I did that and I really trusted the production company. You never know how you are going to be portrayed, but I soon found out they were a good bunch, and my trust was in them. I know the format now so well, especially after watching it go out. It's all about the junior bakers, and that's how it should be. My goal is to have a light touch and try to make the kids laugh, and equally the camera crew – they are my audience and I get satisfaction if I make them laugh, but you won't see that on screen!

What were the filming restrictions like?

You arrive at the tent, and it's reassuring to see it, like seeing a bit of normal after lockdown. The safety protocols were all in place, and then you just get on with making the show. It was great to meet the same crew, and it always surprises me that although they do the same kind of job the year round, they seem to really enjoy it. Which makes it a very positive experience for everyone.

What did you enjoy the most working on this series?

The fun of it is being surprised by the bakers. I am not a judge but I am constantly surprised by the extent of their baking capabilities. The difference with this show is that the junior bakers will have a day when everything goes completely wrong and there are tears and that is heartbreaking, but you know that in ten minutes they will have bounced back. It's not the same as a grown-up crying! The fun is seeing them react to my questions and the funny things they say. They don't self-edit and their spontaneity can be very funny.



THE DISASTERS MAKE GOOD TV!

HARRY Hill steps into the famous *Bake Off* tent to present the new series of *Junior Bake Off*. We caught up with the TV funnyman to find out more!

Did you do any baking yourself during lockdown?

My lockdown became quite busy, as my background is in clip shows so I had a lot of interest from broadcasters talking to me about work. I was working on *Harry Hill's World of TV* and preparing links for *Junior Bake Off*, so I didn't really have much downtime.

I don't generally bake, but with my 16-year-old daughter we made focaccia. We forgot to put olive oil in and then I added it halfway through, but it came out fantastic and became a regular favourite.

What do you think is the most annoying thing you do in the tent?

A lot of the kids were transparent when they found me annoying, particularly with the older ones who are very focused, but I like to break them down and have a comedy moment with them. I wanted them to have some fun, and find a sense of perspective. It's not all about winning; it is a TV show and I want them to enjoy it, so they remember the fun bits when they watch back. It's good to try and have an icebreaker, particularly on the first day when the bakers are getting to know each other. So I try and have running gags with them, and help them relax a bit and not be nervous. The younger ones are more wide-eyed and relaxed.

Rav is the new judge on the show, alongside Liam. Does she bring a new surge of energy?

They really work well together. It's a totally different dynamic this time round. When I heard Prue wasn't able to do it, I thought that's a shame, but sometimes change is good, to bring a different perspective to a show. We all got on so well; there is no side to Liam, he is just a nice guy. He is so good with the kids, and they really, really warm to him. When they are upset, he is so reliable in reassuring them and turning the situation around. He is so interested in baking, it's a big love for him. He believes in crumb structure – it's not an act. Rav is really good fun too. She has a fantastic laugh and is quite self-deprecating [can joke about herself]. There was one funny moment where I broke down laughing, because one bake looked like dog muck, and served on astro turf. We all just lost it, crying with laughter!



Were there any disasters during filming?

A baker mistook salt for sugar in one challenge, and there are things that go completely wrong – often the bakers can be over-ambitious in their efforts to achieve and that can fall short. But the disasters make good television!



Watch *Junior Bake Off* weekdays at 5pm on Channel 4

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



GET YOUR SKATES ON!



THE coolest competition on TV is back on our screens this week, so we took a quick look at the 2021 cast of *Dancing on Ice (DOI)*!

1 Former athlete Colin Jackson CBE had a taster of DOI as part of a DOI Olympic special in 2012. He's back to learn a new skill and challenge himself.

4 Music star Lady Leshurr signed up for DOI to take herself out of her comfort zone. She has hardly any skating experience but says she is good at picking up dance routines.

6 Actor Faye Brookes hopes her musical theatre background will help her with her performances. Unlike most of the other contestants, she isn't afraid of falling over!

8 Jason Donovan has been performing since he was a teenager, so he's ready to embrace the fantastic costumes. His biggest worry is getting injured on the ice.

2 TV presenter Denise Van Outen says DOI is the scariest thing she has ever done. She has lots of dance experience, but can't skate. Yet!

5 Capital FM DJ Sonny Jay is excited to learn how to skate backwards. He's hoping constructive criticism from the judges will help him improve each week.

7 Reality TV star Billie Shepherd has no skating or dancing experience, so hopes hard work and determination will help her learn. She's most worried that her nerves will get the better of her.

10 TV star Myleene Klass signed up for the show because her children love to skate and they want her to join them on the ice. She's most worried that her fingers will get skated over!

12 TV presenter Rufus Hound is looking forward to getting fit as part of his DOI training. He wants to bring fun and entertainment into people's homes.

3 Graham Bell is best known for being an Olympic skier. While he is used to ice, he is worried about the dancing and performance side of the show!

9 Actor Joe-Warren Plant is the youngest contestant on the show. He has been in a soap opera for ten years and so is nervous about the live elements of the show.

11 Media personality Rebekah Vardy skated quite a bit when she was a child but hasn't been on the ice in over ten years. She's scared of taking on the famous headbanger move.



THE JUDGES SAY...



John Barrowman: "I think that everybody is going to be excited to see the entertainment, the fun, the style, the sparkle and most of all the fabulousness that we will bring to the ice this year."

Jayne Torvill: "I have to say we're very excited about who is in this year's show and the level that they're starting at."

Christopher Dean: "I'm always all about technique. If somebody can show me they can master the glide on the ice, then that will impress me."

Ashley Banjo: "I think viewers can expect a lot of energy this year. Because of the pandemic, it's the kind of thing none of us take for granted any more!"

Dancing on Ice returns Sunday 17 January on ITV!

PICS OF THE WEEK

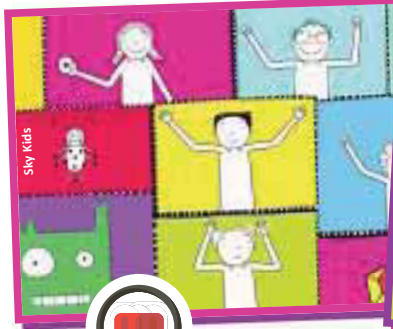
TOM Gates is coming to a TV screen near you at the end of this month!

The brand-new animated show follows Tom and his adventures both at school and at home.

Liz Pichon, Tom Gates' creator, said: "The Brilliant World of Tom Gates is exactly the kind of TV show that as a kid I would have completely devoured! The cast is amazing, and I was so excited to see how they brought the characters to life. Now I can't wait for the children to see what we've all been working on."

Fans of the hit book series will also get to see Liz Pichon herself, in a live craft element of the show.

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates comes to Sky Kids on 25 January!



SHERIDAN SMITH

IF you like dogs then you'll love BBC One's new reality show Pooch Perfect! Host Sheridan Smith told us more...

What's Pooch Perfect all about?

The series features 16 professional dog groomers from around the country, and they all battle it out to create incredible transformations on family pets, and compete to be crowned the UK's top dog groomer!

What's your role on the show?

This is my first prime-time hosting gig. I can't believe I got asked, to be honest! But I am a huge dog lover and the time just seemed right. I had just had my son, Billy, so it was an absolute honour to be asked. Being the host, I got to know each contestant really well – I am a people person and I love getting to know people. I became really attached and wanted them all to win! I hated even just announcing who was going home each week, so I was thankful it wasn't my job to judge them.

Tell us about your co-host!

I have a co-host called Stanley. He's the star of the show; I am in fact his co-host! Stanley is a dog, to avoid any confusion... a well-trained dog; better trained than me! He's a cross-breed, and was originally rescued from Battersea. The nation will fall in love with him. He is just beautiful. Stanley needs his own Instagram; he would get millions of followers. I'm sure he's going to win an Oscar soon enough!

How important is dog grooming?

Grooming is so important when it comes to caring

THIS WEEK



1 Chris Pratt has confirmed that he will appear in the next Thor film, *Thor: Love and Thunder*, as his *Guardians of the Galaxy* character Star-Lord. The actor revealed he was looking forward to flying to Australia for filming, while talking to his *Onward* co-star, Tom Holland, in a live social media chat. The new Thor film is also rumoured to feature the first female Thor.

2 Filming for the 15th series of *Britain's Got Talent* has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The show usually starts filming around this time of year, but has been postponed until it is safe for all contestants, judges and crew members. It is hoped that production of the show can begin later this year.

3 Little Mix have had their first No 1 as a trio. The band shared some behind-the-scenes footage from the video shoot for *Sweet Melody* on social media, thanking fans for their support.



for dogs. Bolu (the show's vet) works closely with groomers because often a groomer can spot any problems a dog has with its fur or skin, and with regular visits these issues can be avoided. It's great for the dogs' welfare, and it's really important in caring for your dog. I have learned so much from being on the show and I hope people at home do, too.

How many of your own dogs do you have?

I have six dogs already and I was warned not to bring any dogs home from filming! I promised my mum no more livestock, because I also have donkeys. The donkeys live in the field at the end of my garden. They're gorgeous. They're similar to dogs in that they are loving and loyal, and they know their owner. Donkeys are always in pairs; you rarely see a donkey on their own, so we have two sisters and a couple. They always stay together; I think it's so sweet and romantic!



Catch Pooch Perfect on BBC 1 Thursday at 8pm

WIKIPEDIA TURNS 20



WIKIPEDIA is 20 years old today (15 January). The free online encyclopedia is one of the world's most popular websites, but when anyone can go in and change it, how reliable can it be?

THE BEGINNING

Founded in 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger, Wikipedia is not like other encyclopedias. While traditional encyclopedias get information exclusively from academics and experts, the key to Wikipedia's success has been collaboration and accessibility.



Wikipedia founders Jimmy Wales (left) and Larry Sanger

Wikipedia – the name combines the Hawaiian word for 'quick' (wiki) and encyclopedia – allows anyone to write an article (accessibility) and for anyone else to edit and improve it (collaboration). This simple combination has led to Wikipedia becoming one of the top ten most popular websites in the world.

For an independent website that relies on donations and is not designed to make money, Wikipedia's success is an incredible feat. Its information is free to all, it has no adverts, and it doesn't sell or track the information of its users or contributors.

ISSUES WITH FREEDOM

While the idea of everyone in the world collaborating together in an online space to further human knowledge sounds perfect, it also brings problems. By offering its 'anyone can edit' level of freedom, the site was often (and sometimes still is) prone to acts of vandalism.

If anyone can put what they want on there, then some of the information is going to be misleading or just plain wrong.

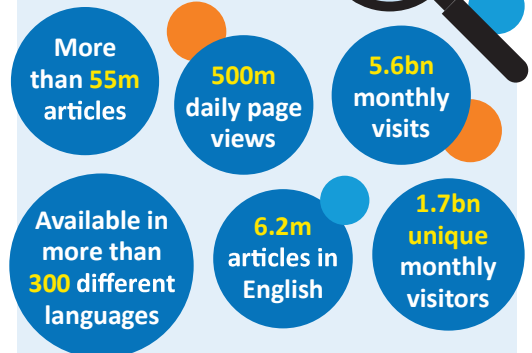
However, things have improved over the years. Daria Cybulska, who works at Wikimedia UK (the charity that supports Wikipedia), said: "The reality is that Wikipedia is a pretty reliable source of information these days and it's improving every day.

"Individual editors often keep an eye on articles to pick up incorrect edits, especially when a certain topic is very popular. But a lot of the work is done by 'bots' programmed to pick up vandalism and errors."

So although Wikipedia can still be edited by anyone, gone are the days where you could write something stupid like: 'Mr Smith next door smells of farts and thinks the world is flat' and expect to see it online straight away.

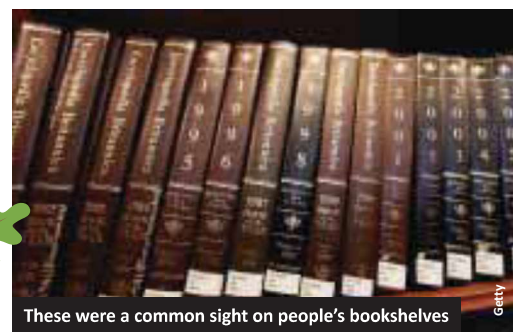
As well as bots and dedicated editors, Wikipedia has administrators who check content before it goes up on the site. As of January 2021, there are 1,114 administrators working on the English Wikipedia website.

WIKISTATS!



PRINT VS ONLINE

Before the internet, a weighty bunch of books called the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was the place to go for information. The academic nature of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* led to a lot of people mistrusting Wikipedia's open-to-all approach when it was invented.



These were a common sight on people's bookshelves

However, a 2005 study by journal *Nature* looked at 42 science articles and found that while Wikipedia averaged four minor mistakes per entry, *Britannica* also averaged three, a small difference.

Bearing in mind that this study was in the very early days of Wikipedia, when some crazy stuff could slip in (see Wikipedia's *Weirdest*), the results are surprising.

Another benefit of online information is its ability to quickly change mistakes. A mistake in a printed book can't be changed until a new edition comes out.

“ It was like a giant community leaf-raking project in which everyone was called a groundskeeper. Some brought very fancy professional metal rakes... and some were just kids thrashing away with the sides of their feet or stuffing handfuls in the pockets of their sweatshirts, but all the leaves they brought to the pile were appreciated. And the pile grew and everyone jumped up and down in it having a wonderful time. ”

– author Nicholson Baker, in 2008, compares the early days of gathering information on Wikipedia to people gathering leaves