

Smartphone that tells you when you have had one drink too many

By Anita Singh
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

SOMETIMES it takes a friend to tell you when you have had one drink too many. In the future, however, your smartphone could do that for you.

US researchers have trialled a method of using phones to detect drunkenness by monitoring the wobbliness of a user's walk.

They identified future uses for the technology that include sending a message warning a user not to get behind

the wheel or to engage in unprotected sexual encounters, as well as indicating when the drinker has sobered up.

In the case of alcoholics on treatment programmes, an alert could be sent to their sponsors warning that the person had fallen off the wagon.

In the controlled study, undertaken by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 22 subjects aged 21 to 43 were given a drink containing vodka and told to finish it within an hour. Their alcohol concentration was 0.2 per cent and the US legal limit for driv-

ing is 0.08 per cent. A smartphone was secured to participants' lower backs.

Then hourly, for seven hours, they were asked to walk in a straight line for 10 steps, turn around and walk back.

The phones measured acceleration plus vertical, mediolateral (side to side) and anteroposterior (forward and backward) movements while the participants walked.

About 90 per cent of the time, researchers were able to use changes in gait to identify when participants' breath alcohol concentration exceeded

90pc

The proportion of times the phone was able to tell from a person's gait whether they were over the drink-drive limit

the drink-drive limit, according to the study published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Brian Suffoletto, the lead researcher, said smartphones had the ability to

play a greater role in our well-being. "This controlled lab study showed that our phones can be useful to identify 'signatures' of functional impairments related to alcohol," he said.

"In five years, I would like to imagine a world in which if people go out and drink at risky levels they get an alert at the first sign of impairment and are sent strategies to help them stop drinking and protect them from high-risk events like driving, interpersonal violence and unprotected sex."

Dr Suffoletto said he had dedicated

the past 10 years to testing digital interventions to prevent deaths and injury related to alcohol after losing a close friend in a drink-drive accident.

Although placing a phone on the lower back does not reflect how people carry them in real life, the team said it planned to conduct further research in which people carried the phones in their hands and in their pockets. They said the "proof of concept" study "provides a foundation for future research on using smartphones to remotely detect alcohol-related impairments".

Sussex sources deny Prince Harry shouted at the Queen during 'tiaragate' outburst

Rebuttal offered to author's claim that Duke said 'what the hell' to his grandmother

By Hannah Furness
ROYAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of Sussex did not shout at the Queen over a row about the Duchess's wedding tiara, sources have insisted, calling the latest round of claims arising from their biography "completely ridiculous".

A source close to the Duke said an allegation that he used coarse language to his grandmother, saying "what the hell" as he asked her to intervene in what has become known as "tiaragate", was "totally untrue".

In the first intervention since the publication of *Finding Freedom*, by authors Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand, the source close to the Sussexes said of Prince Harry: "The Queen is probably the person he respects and values most in the world."

Until now, the Sussexes have not appeared to take issue with the contents of the biography, leading to speculation that they had cooperated and authorised their friends and staff to speak on their behalf. But the latest claims are understood to have caused particular consternation for involving the Queen.

Mr Scobie has now appeared on True Royalty TV to further publicise the book, claiming brothers Prince William and Harry did not speak for two months following the Sandringham Summit, that briefings from within the royal institution fuelled "racially-insensitive stereotypes" about the Duchess, and that a PA who left their employment was "very unpopular with the couple" but supported by the palace.

Describing a dispute over the Duch-

Sources close to the Sussexes say there was no dispute between Prince Harry and his grandmother, right, over Meghan's wedding headwear

ess's wedding tiara, in which he accused the Queen's personal dresser Angela Kelly of failing to accommodate suitable trial fittings, Mr Scobie said: "Harry had to intervene."

"He called his grandmother and said, 'I don't know what the hell is going on. But this woman needs to make this work for my future wife.'"

Following a newspaper report which described the incident as an "astounding outburst", a source close to the Duke said yesterday that "the suggestion he 'yelled' at his grandmother is totally untrue, and completely ridiculous, as is the suggestion that he said 'what the hell'."

Mr Scobie, speaking on *The Royal Beat*, also spoke of the Duke's deteriorated relationship with his brother, saying it was the Sussexes' decision to publish their statement about leaving the Royal family in January as the moment it "really went wrong".

"That's really what caused the most amount of hurt to William because he wears two hats," he said.

"He's not just the brother. He's also a future king and he felt that that damaged the reputation of the family, that it put family business out in the public domain when it should have been discussed privately. And there was a lot of hurt there that continues to this day."

He added: "It's why we saw such an awkward moment at that Commonwealth service."

"The brothers had not spoken since around the time of the Sandringham Summit. They hadn't seen each other. And, you know, that's really going to take some time to heal."

The Sussex source said: "The family are in contact with each other - a suggestion they're not talking is untrue."

A spokesman for The Duke and Duchess of Sussex has previously said: "The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were not interviewed and did not contribute to *Finding Freedom*."



MAX MUMBY/GETTY; SAMIR HUSSEN/WIREIMAGE

Bag for life may now be ditched by Waitrose New Forest ponies could block shop build

By Sam Meadows
CONSUMER AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE bag for life backlash has grown as Waitrose became the second supermarket to announce a trial to phase them out.

Morrisons announced yesterday that it plans to remove them and replace them with paper carriers, after research suggested that many customers only use them once.

The sturdier, thicker versions are more expensive than single-use plastic bags and are supposed to be better for

the environment as they will last for longer. But environmental campaigners have pointed out that they use more plastic so could have a greater impact if frequently thrown away.

Waitrose said it is planning its own trial before the end of the year with the potential to remove 40million bags a year when it is extended across all of its stores. A spokesman said it was too soon to give further details.

Environmental experts have said that reusable cotton bags or a rucksack are the best option for shoppers, amid concerns that even compostable alter-

natives could cause confusion. Many bags are marked as "compostable" but this does not always mean they will break down at home as the conditions may not be correct, said Nina Schrank, a campaigner for Greenpeace UK.

She added that clearer labelling is needed to make sure that consumers understand how to dispose of them.

Julian Kirby, Friends of the Earth's plastic campaigner, said that compostable bags can create "an unwelcome new headache" for waste managers.

Charlotte Lytton: Page 16

By Victoria Ward

PLANNING applications are often met with weird and wonderful objections from locals who will stop at nothing to block developments.

But a proposal to build a small village shop in the New Forest might have inspired the most creative protestation yet - that its customers would be attacked by ponies.

The application to build the store in East Boldre, in the New Forest National Park, where ponies roam free, has been backed by around 100 villagers. But one

group has said the proposal is "potentially fraught with danger".

The Verderers of the New Forest, who are responsible for protecting the area's agricultural heritage, warned that the ponies would become "aggressive" because they associate carrier bags with food. As such, they claim customers will be attacked.

In his opposition letter to the application, Lord Willie Manners, the Official Verderer, said: "It is very unusual for a building of this nature to be located on the open forest. We are very concerned that the interaction be-

tween shop customers and the ponies is potentially fraught with danger."

Ian Evans, the long-time owner of the current village shop, told *The Telegraph* the objection was "the biggest load of rubbish" he had ever heard.

He said the proposed new shop was just 100 yards from the site of his own community shop and post office that he has run since 2001. Mr Evans has reluctantly decided to close his shop due to a steady drop in trade.

A village hall committee proposed the new "community hub". A decision is expected by the end of the month.

Wild golden eagles set to return to skies of Snowdonia

By Dominic Penna

WILD golden eagles are set to return to Wales for the first time in 200 years, as experts say that they should be released in Snowdonia.

The birds, which have a wingspan of up to 2.2m, have been largely extinct from England and Wales since 1850, leaving only Scotland as a stronghold.

But a study carried out by Wilder Britain and the University of Lancaster assessed different areas and found Snowdonia was the most feasible area for the largest conservation prospect ever to be proposed in Wales.

The first ever consultation on reintroducing the eagles begins today, with the public urged to have their say on plans to bring young eagles in from mainland Europe from 2021.

Dr Paul O'Donoghue, director of Wilder Britain, said the scientific evidence is

"clear that Wales is a great place for wild golden eagles".

Talks on the eagle plan begin today

"They belong here and it was one of the last places they lived before extinction," he told *The Daily Telegraph*.

"There's a lot of cultural significance to golden eagles in Wales, and the Welsh name for Snowdonia means 'home of the eagle'."

"Wales is arguably a better place than Scotland with its habitat and much less persecution. In a few years, we could see Wales as a stronghold for eagles in the whole of the UK."

"Everyone wants to see golden eagles, everyone's in awe of them and they're a great driver for not only restoring ecosystems, but restoring struggling rural economies."

News of the consultation came as it emerged that the last surviving golden eagle in Wales had been found dead by a walker in the Abergwesyn Valley.

It had originally been captive, before it was freed to live over the Cambrian Mountains in Tregaron, Powys.

The cause of the bird's death remains unknown and has been registered in the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme.



Lord's lion Bishop of Hull Alison White blesses a bust of Aslan from the *Chronicles of Narnia*, one of 14 children's characters sculpted for St Mary's Church, in Beverley.

Supercar racers spark storm of protest in affluent village

By Dominic Penna

A VILLAGE is being plagued by racing motorists in high-performance cars, leading to a flood of complaints from residents to police.

The drivers have been accused of holding organised meetings in Alderley Edge, Cheshire, to race their vehicles, with onlookers filming their wheel spinning and high-speed driving to post it on YouTube.

Thirty-three speeding motorists were caught in the space of a single day last week as they raced along a stretch of road into the village.

Part of Cheshire's "Golden Triangle", the Alderley Edge area is home to many Premier League footballers and to TV stars including Paddy McGuinness, the presenter of *Top Gear*.

In July, a "car meet" event was halted after patrols prevented multiple cars from travelling to the village.

Now Cheshire Police and Cheshire East Council have asked residents to take part in a survey of the problem.

Police said it is possible people living in the area could be among those responsible for the racing, and added that their inquiries "will engage with local residents, businesses and visitors in the area including those who may be involved in the behaviour".

"We have been receiving increased



A high-powered car parked in the village

reports concerning anti-social behaviour relating to performance vehicles travelling through and visiting Alderley Edge," police said in a statement.

"While we appreciate this behaviour is only being displayed by a minority of individuals, it has however come to our attention that this is potentially having a detrimental impact on those visiting, residing and working in the area."

The force added the noise from excessive revving "can be extremely loud and upsetting", in addition to presenting a "serious risk" to the public.

Craig Browne, a local councillor who first raised the issue, has posted on social media that following a brief respite during the lockdown, the supercars and spectators are now back in greater numbers.