

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Who's Who for 2009?*

The 161st annual edition of *Who's Who* brings together over 33,000 personal vignettes from those whose achievements are notable in today's society. With almost 1000 new entries, *Who's Who 2009*, published on 8th December, celebrates the diversity of human achievement, recognising the people who have reached the pinnacle of excellence in their field. The uniquely autobiographical entries convey an enlightening and often amusing snapshot of the lives of those of enduring interest from all walks of life.

### **Who's new for 2009?**

The new edition of *Who's Who* reveals the identity of 007 secret agent, **Daniel Wroughton Craig**. Craig joins Sean Connery, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan in the book.

Actor and writer **Rob Brydon** reveals some interesting recreations in his entry: *playing the guitar badly, Apple gadgets, country walks, drinking milk and eating biscuits, thinking about Sydney*. Also familiar from our television screens, BBC journalists and news presenters, **Sophie Raworth** and **Kate Silverton** are both new for this year, and they are joined by cookery writer and television cook, **Mary Berry**.

**David Gilmour**, singer, guitarist and songwriter of Pink Floyd, makes his first appearance this year, as does **Annie Nightingale**, presenter on BBC Radio 1, who says she enjoys *studying architecture and tall buildings*. Also new from the music world are **Kanya King**, Founder and CEO of the MOBO Awards, and **Jiří Bělohávek**, Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

**Barack Obama** is newly listed in the book as the Democratic Candidate for the Presidency of the USA. The online edition of *Who's Who* (available from OUP) sees a fair few politicians in the top 10 most-searched-for list: Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Boris Johnson, David Cameron, Tony Benn and Margaret Thatcher. More details below.

Football pundit, **Mark Lawrenson** (who also likes cricket and golf), enters the list this year, and might be interested to know that Arsenal is the most popular team cited in *Who's Who* recreations (74 mentions), followed by Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea. Teams like Wigan Athletic and Hull City have only a single supporter each in the book.

**Joanne Elvin**, Editor of *Glamour* magazine, may be pleased to be in the company of fashion designer **Anya Hindmarch**; both are new this year. From the online world, *Who's Who* welcomes **Jimmy Wales**, Founder of Wikipedia.org; and from the environmental world, **Thomas Delay**, Chief Executive of the Carbon Trust, (who enjoys *looking for powder snow, Surrey walks in my 1977 Fiat Spyder, cooking pasta, and playing a reasonable game of tennis*) and **Andrew Atkins**, Executive Director of Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), who likes *landscape painting, cycling, world literature, and theatre*.

### **Old and Young**

The youngest non hereditary entry for this year is **Christopher Gray**, Director of Music at Truro Cathedral, who was born in 1978 and cites *surfing* as his recreation; whilst the oldest new entrant is newly knighted **Sir Cecil Graham**, Consultant Paediatrician, now Emeritus, in St Michael, Barbados, who was born 50 years earlier in 1928, and enjoys the more traditional pursuits of *music and gardening*.

### **Trivial Pursuits?**

The Recreations section of *Who's Who* biographies allows the personality of the entrants to shine through: crime writer and comedian, **Mark Billingham**, lists his recreations as music, especially country (alt and cheesy), movies, poker, tennis, food, embarrassing my children, supporting Wolverhampton Wanderers in spite of everything, trying to smuggle examples of Victorian taxidermy into the house. Another writer who makes her debut this

year, **Monica Ali**, author of *Brick Lane*, enjoys eating, cooking, yoga, riding and having baths.

Presenter of BBC Ski Sunday, **Graham Bell**, enjoys *ski-ing, cycling, triathlon, dangerous stuff and science*; and **Prof. Jonathan Freeman-Attwood**, Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, likes *lots of Bach and singing to the dog*. It would seem that journalists have some of the most unique recreations: **Dr Roger Highfield**, Editor of *New Scientist*, likes *watching bad TV, cooking, dodgy DIY, and Wii boxing*; **John Mullin**, Editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, cites *praying for a Scottish miracle*, whilst **Mike Smith**, Foreign Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* prefers to stay in this country and enjoys *bagging Betty's in North Yorkshire*.

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#### **PRESS INFORMATION**

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Freelance journalist Dick Barton will be covering the majority of regional news stories with a local angle; if you would like him to write a piece for you, please let me know and I will put you in touch. These stories will be available from Friday 7th December.

Press copies are not available but a 25% press discount is offered, call 01256 302699 to order.

#### **Notes to editors**

The first edition of *Who's Who* was published in 1849. Then a compact, 250-page volume (one tenth of the size of the 2009 edition), it consisted of an almanac followed by thirty-nine lists of ranks and appointments and the names of those holding them.

Since its acquisition by A&C Black in 1897, *Who's Who* has consolidated its status of supreme national importance proving to be invaluable as a research tool and a unique way of measuring social change. During the Second World War Winston Churchill personally intervened to ensure its publication and full circulation was not affected by the paper shortage. *Who's Who* is still to this day the definitive reference book relied upon by academics, researchers, business people, government officials and charities, as well as the casual browser.

#### **Who's Who Online**

From 8th December 2008, *Who's Who 2009* and *Who Was Who*, which covers 1897-2008, will be available online from Oxford University Press where the data can be searched extensively and cross-referenced to other works. For more information visit:

[www.ukwhoswho.com](http://www.ukwhoswho.com)

**Since January 2008, the ten most searched-for names in the online edition of *Who's Who* are:**

1. Tony Blair
2. Gordon Brown
3. Mick Jagger
4. Nigella Lawson
5. Alan Sugar
6. Boris Johnson
7. David Cameron
8. Tony Benn
9. Richard Branson
10. Margaret Thatcher

**The ten most read entries in *Who Was Who* since January 2008 are:**

1. Robert Maxwell
2. Winston Churchill
3. Henry Bonham Carter
4. Florence Nightingale
5. Douglas Bader
6. Barbara Cartland
7. Mary Whitehouse
8. Jessie Pope
9. Ian Fleming
10. Robert Agaard

**For further information about the online edition of *Who's Who*,  
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