

YOUR STARS WITH CLAIRE PETULENGRO

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**Capricorn**

December 22 – January 20
A day to look into new areas of your work to figure out how you can get your career to work more for you. The home is the setting for a seduction.
CAPRICORN STARLINE
09063 67 33 16

Aquarius

January 21 – February 19
Don't think the worst of people just because you've been let down in the past. You'd be better to keep an open mind, like you ask of others.
AQUARIUS STARLINE
09063 67 33 17

Pisces

February 20 – March 20
You seem to be responsible for many people. You can do a fine job of showing how you can take over when needed. An interesting revelation is made.
PISCES STARLINE
09063 67 33 18

Aries

March 21 – April 20
You can't seem to win any arguments with some of your close ones can you? You can be the more mature one who refuses to argue though.
ARIES STARLINE
09063 67 33 07

Taurus

April 21 – May 21
It's going to take time for you to get used to a new situation in a close one's life. Just be careful that you don't act more difficult than you should. They're relying on you for support.
TAURUS STARLINE
09063 67 33 08

Gemini

May 21 – June 21
You're in danger of becoming involved in something which would damage other areas of your life, but you just don't seem to know who can help.
GEMINI STARLINE
09063 67 33 09

Cancer

June 22 – July 23
It would be well worth your while to sit down and do some sums so that you can work out what you can afford to invest personally and professionally.
CANCER STARLINE
09063 67 33 10

Leo

July 24 – August 23
You may not like a close one's friends but you have to give them the right to choose. Remember you wanted your freedom not so long ago.
LEO STARLINE
09063 67 33 11

Virgo

August 24 – September 23
New challenges come into your life and you're not sure if you're feeling confident or just full of nerves. A bit of both I think and trust me it's perfect for you.
VIRGO STARLINE
09063 67 33 12

Libra

September 24 – October 23
Someone seems to be mistreating your relationship and taking advantage of your good nature. Don't be a victim of emotional blackmail again.
LIBRA STARLINE
09063 67 33 13

Scorpio

October 24 – November 22
Money matters seem to be getting the better of you but you have been spending money like water, haven't you? Travel plans seem to have reached a hitch but a phone call can fix it.
SCORPIO STARLINE
09063 67 33 14

Sagittarius

November 23 – December 21
Memories are stopping you moving forward with something which has no connection whatsoever with the past. Look with fresh eyes. Life is waiting.
SAGITTARIUS STARLINE
09063 67 33 15

Everyone wants a piece of prom power!

Such is the impact of prom power that everyone wants a piece of the teen phenomenon as **Gill Kapadia** discovers

PROMS have become established as the most important event in the teen calendar with preparations for the big night getting under way months in advance.

Budding prom princesses think nothing of spending hundreds of pounds on a designer dress with hair, make-up, shoes and accessories pushing up the bill for hard-pressed parents.

Prom spending is defying recessionary pressures with ever more lavish locations being sought and no expense spared on the chosen mode of transport, be it stretch limo, fire engine, horse drawn carriage and even the occasional helicopter!

As proms are such big business, it is little wonder that more companies want a slice of the pie. Wedding Fairs are an established part of season calendar at this time of year and now Prom

Fairs are getting in on the act too.

The Talking Point Conference Centre at Scouthead, Saddleworth, will host its first prom fair on Thursday. Events manager, Adele Buckley says: "I noticed that some venues which had previously held wedding fairs were diversifying into prom fairs. At our prom fair we will showcase local businesses from prom dress suppliers, hair stylists, make-up artists, shoes, jewellery and transport."

And Runway on the Runway, a prom-themed charity fashion show is taking place at Manchester Airport on March 21. The lavish event, which will raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust, Make A Wish Foundation UK and Medcare, the airport's charity, is the first of its kind to be held here and is the brainchild of Prestbury mother of four Margo Cornish. "Two of my daughters have attended prom and I have seen how much money, time and effort are

A new you? How about getting your own Claire-do?

Looking for new haircut for the new year - what about a Claire-do? asks **DEANNA DELAMOTTA**

PLAYING an overprotective mother in hit American TV series, *Modern Family*, has parachuted actress Julie Bowen from the realms of supporting actor to a star in her own right.

Millions of American fans are hooked on the award-winning show and in the past year it has acquired cult status among British audiences who watch it on Sky or on freeview channel Pick.

Julie, 42, plays Claire Dunphy, a former eighties wild child who devotes her life to her three very different children, hapless husband and clever gay brother who's adopted a daughter with his chubby hubby, an ex clown. And then there's her dear old dad who divorced Claire's kooky

mom and remarried a Latin lovely less than half his age who's even kookier than Claire's mom. So far so dysfunctional but it is the great acting, humour and quirky storylines that make this must-see TV

But as well as being fixated on a series that, like *Frasier* and *Friends*, just goes to prove that the Americans are so much better at sitcoms than we are, increasing numbers of British women are becoming transfixed by the leading lady's hairdo. Forty-something women like yours truly who spent the early nineties asking stylists Jennifer Aniston's *Friends* 'do are now asking for hair like Claire...

So armed with pictures of

Claire I hit four times British hairdresser of the Year Trevor Sorbie's Manchester salon in Spring Gardens and asked creative stylist Kitty Moreleigh to give me a Claire-do.

It wasn't mission impossible as Claire's hair isn't really that 'out there'; lots of layers, soft long fringe and a bit of volume from the scalp up. To be frank, Kitty with her far more edgy look that suits her gamine features, probably thinks the Claire-do doesn't deserve its popularity. After all she made short work of my request - and within half an hour I was feeling like a glossy American mom...well sort-of. Kitty says lots of women in their 40s will like this look because it easily

treads that fine line between too long and too short that worries women once they hit middle age: "A lot of women with long hair hit 40 and decide they must cut it off because of their age but that's not the case at all. The key is for the hair to be in good condition and this look o with its soft layers that frame the face in a flattering way is great for them." Great for me too, now I just need to hit the gym as if I'm going to really morph into Claire I'm gonna need to drop a couple of stone...

» Hair by Kitty at Trevor Sorbie Manchester, tel Make-up by Ruth at Bobbi Brown, Harvey Nichols.





▶▶ RUNWAY LOOKS Trainee beautician India Hill (above) chose a dress by homegrown designer Vicky Martin for her prom, and (left) up and coming fashion designer Nicola Metcalfe, had at work in a studio at the top of her mum's dry cleaners
Photograph: Mark Waugh

expended to get the right prom look. It really is a very big deal," says Margo.

The Runway on the Runway Team has selected pupils from ten schools, including Xaverian Sixth Form College and the Co-operative Academy in Manchester, to model the latest prom catwalk fashions. The runway looks will need to appeal to eagle-eyed girls who know exactly what's in and out of prom fashion.

Trainee beautician India Hill,

from Leek, went to the King's School in Macclesfield and attended her prom in 2011. She chose a dress by homegrown designer Vicky Martin.

"I was so excited to have an occasion to wear a long dress, look glamorous and feel special for the night. After months of looking I fell in love with a long, sequinned Vicky Martin dress in Selfridges, which they adjusted to fit me perfectly. Mum made me laugh when, typically, she pointed out that it was classic

enough to wear again in the future," says India, 18. "Prom is huge! It was the talk of the classroom for practically the entire year and all the girls knew every collection off by heart. Every detail was discussed – shoes, hair, jewellery, make-up and most importantly spray tans. Most of which went awry!"

Young designer Nicola Metcalfe from Withington, is making her professional debut at Runway on the Runway designing a collection with a gothic twist.

"When I left school six years ago, prom wasn't such a big deal," recalls Nicola, 22. "Now, I am being approached all the time by teenagers wanting a fabulous dress for their big night. Prom is massive now, it's like a real rite of passage, and everybody wants to look their best – why not?"

» For more information about Runway on the Runway and Nicola Metcalfe visit runwayontherunway.co.uk

Ruth Kyle



Co-operative bank worker Ruth explains her role as a global poverty ambassador and why she, like Bill Gates, believes we can change the world

I GREW up on a poor estate in South Manchester. As far as we were concerned, the world ended at the roundabout on the main road.

Nobody had a view of the world that included people beyond the immediate community. Nobody went on holiday. Nobody ate meals out. Nobody thought much beyond next month's rent. Nobody believed things could get much better. In particular, nobody believed that we might be the people who could create change.

Now I'm 22 and a 1st class honours graduate of Politics and International Relations from the University of Manchester. I'm newly-wed, still living in Stockport and working in Manchester. I'm passionate about our ability to make change happen.

This drive to make change happen comes from a combination of my childhood, mixed with a degree that taught me that change makers are regular human beings, like you and me. The only difference between change makers and non-change makers is believing in a future that looks different to the present.

Today I am travelling to London to attend the prestigious BBC Dimbleby Lecture. It's being given by, Bill Gates, the Microsoft founder who's one of the world's richest people. He believes that technology is helping to win the global fight against polio.

Twenty-five years ago polio was infecting millions of people in over 125 countries, including the UK. Today polio is present in a mere 3 countries. So we're 99.9 per cent of the way to ridding the world of a terrible disease. Huge progress has been made.

Like Bill Gates I believe we

can change the world. It takes a combination of grassroots activism, community outreach, a demand for political commitment and a healthy level of optimism. Achieving a polio-free world is only one example of the kind of change that is possible.

A year ago, in the middle of writing my dissertation and planning my wedding, I was asked by the Global Poverty Project to be their Ambassador for Manchester. The Global Poverty Project is a worldwide organisation aiming to educate and encourage people that they too have a role to play in achieving a fairer world. Manchester has always been a city that stood up for justice, not only in our own city but around the world. So I'm proud to have been chosen.

I am one of 150 ambassadors across the UK. It's like being given a megaphone. I can shout even louder about the change we need to see.

I give a presentation called *1.4 Billion Reasons*; that's the number of people in the world living in extreme poverty. It's an exciting message of progress. I have given it to schools, faith groups and communities right across Greater Manchester.

I went back to my old high school and college to tell current students of the ways in which they could be involved. The thing that amazes people most is just how much progress we've already made. The presentation has stirred up enthusiasm and inspired audiences.

I'd love to see the whole Manchester community uniting to challenge poverty.

» To find out more visit globalpovertyproject.com.



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