

DEAR SIR FRED...

HOW ONE (FICTITIOUS) MAN'S
LETTERS CHEERED UP BRITAIN'S
EMBATTLED LEADERS IN 2009

Sir Fred Goodwin

12 October 2009

Dear Mr Nugent,
It was very kind of you
to send me "Diary of a Nobody"
which I am looking forward
to reading. The sentiments
behind your choice of bible
is one which I thoroughly
endorse.



PLUS
My pictures
of the year

By Martin Parr,
Terry O'Neill and
Alison Jackson

Literature's
staggering
genius

Publishing
powerhouse
Dave Eggers



Martin Parr The quintessential Brit chose Simon Roberts's 'Chelford car boot' This image from Simon Roberts's book *We English* is a modern classic. Roberts toured the country looking for views of leisure activities. By taking up an elevated position, all elements of the classic car boot are revealed, from the container and inflatable racetrack in the background to the layers of people and cars in the front. This sort of domestic recycling is a relatively recent phenomena, but it's now an essential part of modern life.

Vanessa Winship Poetic photo-journalist adored America's new First Lady
When Michelle told the girls at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson school in London, 'I don't do handshakes, I do hugs,' it was another one of those Obama moments



Stuart Franklin Stalwart Magnum photographer on a view from Gaza
 Taken in Gaza during early January 2009, this photograph shows white phosphorous shells being fired by the Israeli military into a school building where civilians were sheltering in classrooms. It has great explanatory and emotional power – tough to capture in a frightening and unpredictable moment. Mohammed Abed, who took it, is self-taught. Let's hope 2010 will bring some peace to this region.



2009 in quotes

It's easy to go shoot an art movie in a winery in the south of France. But people have no idea how hard it is to create something like 'Transformers'

Film director Michael Bay JUNE

I have heard of reports of people throwing swine flu parties. I don't think it is a good idea

Dr Richard Jarvis, chairman of the BMA's public health committee JUNE

Didn't you write 'Nobody Does it Better' about me too?

Simon Cowell to *You're So Vain* singer Carly Simon JULY

Chitchat

What Bill Clinton and Kim Jong Il talked about at dinner AUGUST

Sex, drugs and rock and roll

Wolf Hall author Hilary Mantel on how she'll spend the £50,000 bonus that comes with her Man Booker prize OCTOBER

You ever watch that TV series 'Mad Men?' Great television. Good drama... The way women were treated is appalling, and only occasionally funny to me

Bill Clinton NOVEMBER

Women can't rise far enough to suit me. I'm a gynocrat – I'd like rule by women

Martin Amis NOVEMBER

This film is nothing more than a moral vacuum with a deviant message

A Vatican review of *Twilight* NOVEMBER

I always remind people from outside our state that there is plenty of room for all Alaska's animals – right next to the mashed potatoes

Sarah Palin NOVEMBER