

NEWS

RUSSELL GRANT
YOUR STARS FOR TOMORROW

ARIES Mar 21 – Apr 20

You have a serious concern about your career. If your field is becoming obsolete, make plans for the future. Getting advanced training in a technical or emerging new industry or launching your own business are all possibilities. Staying where you are is no longer an option. Force yourself to be flexible. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

TAURUS Apr 21 – May 21

You will run into legal problems about property matters. Moving to a distant location isn't advised. You should stay where you are and deal with a situation in your existing home. Strengthening ties with a relative is important. You may not share many of the same beliefs, but you do have a shared history. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

GEMINI May 22 – June 21

Don't get caught up in a power struggle with a relative. No matter what you do or say, you'll never get this irrational individual to see reason. It's better to cut off the relationship and move on to greener pastures. Certain members of your family won't understand your behaviour. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

CANCER June 22 – July 23

You're concerned about the welfare of a business or romantic partner. No matter how hard you try to help, this individual keeps undermining their own happiness. At this point, you should make a strategic retreat. It's hard enough handling your own problems without taking on someone else's. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

LEO July 24 – Aug 23

A temporary layoff puts a crimp in your budget. This isn't a good time to splash out on luxuries. If you're in a great deal of debt, contact your creditors for a forbearance. It will be much easier to find a job when you're not worried about mounting interest rates. These days, creditors are willing to go the extra mile for customers. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

VIRGO Aug 24 – Sep 23

Following established guidelines is important with a youngster or romantic partner. Giving in to whims creates a dangerous precedent. You've always been eager to help others. This impulse can get you in trouble when you're not careful. Instead of pouring every ounce of energy into making others happy, serve yourself first. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

LIBRA Sep 24 – Oct 23

Don't let a relative push you into signing an important document. Take this form to a lawyer to see how it personally impacts you. You will be surprised to learn this agreement deprives you of money that is rightfully yours. It's shocking to realise a family member would deceive you. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

SCORPIO Oct 24 – Nov 22

You're worried about a relative's job prospects. No matter what you do or say, this family member will ignore your advice. This preoccupation with your loved one's life is a smokescreen to your own troubles. You have an opportunity to make money from teaching or research. Force yourself to try something new. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 – Dec 22

You're working harder but not reaping any rewards. It's time to move on to greener pastures. An employer that keeps promising you a raise and never follows through can't be trusted. Look for work at a company that treats its workers well. It will take time to secure a worthy job, so be patient. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

CAPRICORN Dec 23 – Jan 20

You'll have difficulty controlling your temper with a disagreeable relative. No matter how pleasant you try to make things, this troublemaker always complains. The best way to avoid trouble is to stop inviting them to gatherings. This will seem shockingly rude to certain members of your family. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

AQUARIUS Jan 21 – Feb 19

Double check facts and figures before making an important decision. You don't want to be implicated in an embarrassing mistake. After refusing to carry out a plan, you'll have difficulty being taken seriously. Your boss may accuse you of being lazy or insubordinate. Nothing could be further from the truth. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

PISCES Feb 20 – Mar 20

There are upsetting conditions surrounding your personal finances. Someone who owes you money isn't going to pay it back. You're no longer willing to put up with this insulting behaviour. Although you hate losing a friend, ending ties with this one will do more good than harm. **Tel: 0905 506 6418**

LIVE PSYCHIC 0906 539 1468

0906 calls cost £1.50/m (18+ only)/0905 calls cost 75p/m (16+ only) plus your phone provider's access charge. All live calls are recorded for your protection & safety. This entertainment service is provided by RGA Ltd and is regulated by PhonePayPlus. Customer Service 0207 111 6106. RGA, PO Box 322, WAT15 8YL

ADOPTION

A PROUD FATHER SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE OF

“My life has never felt as complete”

Ten babies are in need of loving forever homes

By NIK FARAH
Community content reporter
nik.farah@jpress.co.uk

“People tell you it's going to be a life-changing experience, but you never really believe them,” smiles Andrew Heeley-Randerson, as he cuddles his two-year-old son.

“But once I became a parent, that old cliché of ‘you don't know what you're missing’ really did ring true; you just can't describe it.”

University manager Andrew and husband Edward, a psychotherapist, adopted their son 18 months ago in their home town of Rotherham, when he was nine-months-old.

“Meeting the baby we'd been matched with for the first time was definitely nerve wracking,” recalls Andrew.

“Neither of us had been around babies much so it was all very new, but what amazed me was the emotional attachment. This developed so fast and we knew we wanted him to be part of our lives very quickly.

“You get to know the child over a period of time, and when we were finally left alone with him, I remember this feeling of overwhelming responsibility coming over me. Here we were entirely in charge of this small person!



Andrew Heeley-Randerson in his daughter's bedroom

“When we had to take him back to his foster family at the end of his visits, we found we were both tearful, being parted from him was an emotional wrench.

“When you get that final piece of paper to say this child is now legally yours, it's overwhelming. We are just so glad we did it.”

And last year the couple made their family complete, when they went through the whole process again to adopt their daughter, now aged one.

“Now we are the proud parents of a two-year-old and a one-year-old and my life has never felt as complete as it does now,” says Andrew, aged 32.

“We are a proper family.” Andrew and Edward decided to speak out about their experience in the

“These are real children and we're searching for their potential parents.”

hope it will encourage other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples in the region to consider adoption.

Their decision comes as Rotherham Council currently has ten babies waiting to be adopted.

“This is highly unusual,”

confirmed a spokesman for Rotherham Children and Young People's Services.

“Babies are quite a rarity these days, as local authorities tend to have older children waiting for adoption.

“When stigmas over unmarried mothers still existed, there were lots of young babies needing homes. Today, having a baby out of wedlock is much less of an issue, meaning fewer babies coming up for adoption.”

The ten youngsters currently looking for loving forever homes range from newborn through to several months old and the hunt is now on to find parents for these babies. The local authority has issued an appeal for people in Rotherham and Sheffield to come forward.

“The support we have

ADOPTING TWO CHILDREN WITH HIS PARTNER IN ROTHERHAM



Andrew Heeley-Randerson - of Rotherham - has adopted two children in two years, with his husband Edward

had from Rotherham Council has just been brilliant," confirms Andrew.

"Certainly we never considered that being gay would be a barrier for us to be able to adopt. But what I would say is it might not be something you have necessarily thought about.

"Some straight people go through the heartache of trying to conceive a baby naturally before they adopt, so they know they want a child, but this isn't always the same for LGBT people, where adoption is often the first step taken towards parenthood.

"I would just say if you're thinking about it, do it. It really is amazing. I always thought I would prefer to adopt a slightly older child, but I'm so glad I've been able to witness our children's key milestones, like starting to walk and talk.

"We can't thank Rotherham Council enough for their understanding and support as they helped us to make our family complete."

Ian Thomas, strategic director of children and young people's services, said: "We want to encourage as many people as possible to contact us in order for us to be able to match the children we have in our care with forever families.

"Children deserve to be brought up in a loving environment with a secure roof over their heads and be part of a family who puts them first, but sadly this is not



After filling in the Registration of Interest form, a couple meets with a social worker to see if adoption is for them



Ian Thomas, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

always the case for all children.

"It is our duty to make sure the babies and children in our care who haven't had the best start in life are given the same chance as everyone else, and that is why we are searching for their potential parents.

"These are real children

who need you. The more people who come forward to talk to us, the more chance we have of securing them a good future for the rest of their lives."

If you would like to find out more, visit www.adoptioninrotherham.org.uk or call the Adoption Team on 01709 254899.

Columnist

NICOLA FARAH

WRITER & WORKING MUMMY



'The numbers' can take over - if we let them

The battle not to lose myself to the life inside my phone

When did keeping up with your mobile phone become a full time job?

Between text message pings, email dings, news notifications and Twitter tweets, I feel like I'm always behind on something.

Now, I'm no old-fogey when it comes to technology - I don't believe for a second the world was better when things were simpler, and I love having so much information and easy communication at my fingertips, but even I have to admit it can get overwhelming sometimes. This morning I came downstairs to make a coffee before my day began. I logged on to my laptop and got distracted perusing the day's tasks before, about half an hour later, realising I'd left my phone upstairs.

I'd missed a call from my husband, who's working away at the moment, and three texts from various friends. And that's when I saw 'the numbers.' You iPhone users will know what I'm talking about. 'The numbers' in bright red circles that sit aside your various apps to remind you of all the notifications you're sitting on; taunting you for your lack of responsiveness.

I had Photostream updates, Instagram and Pinterest notifications, news items that required my attention, a host of Facebook happenings, Tweets coming out of my ears and 88 unread email messages across my three accounts. I had 19 unread messages on one of my WhatsApp threads and four Slack messages. 'The numbers' were all clear last night, meaning these were all things that had come in the last eight hours when I'd let pesky sleep get in the way of my iPhone productivity. I also have a system update I've been meaning to do for the last two weeks and warning messages I keep ignoring that my memory is full and needs me to go in and delete some stuff.

I love what this technology does for us, but I don't love this need to keep on top of 'the numbers' whenever I have a free minute. It would be nice to simply enjoy the sunshine as I walk out to grab a coffee mid-morning, rather than having my head down scanning through WhatsApp, trying to catch up with friends' messages to see what I've missed. I used to enjoy reading a book at lunch occasionally when I had a little free time. Now I seem to spend those valuable minutes replying to texts or emails or uploading photos of my daughter to the family iPhotostream.

Technology is a great thing, but every so often, I'm reminded of the need for balance. I don't want to miss out on what's going on around me, because I'm trying to keep up with the world inside my phone.

THE INITIAL JOURNEY:

If you're thinking about adoption, you should first gather as much information as possible. By registering your interest with the council, you can gain further information about the process and arrange a visit from a social worker to help you decide if adoption is for you. After completing your Registration of Interest form, you will be asked to complete some supplemental reading and a one-day preparation training session, designed to develop your awareness of adoption, while necessary checks and references are completed. You will then have regular assessment sessions with your social worker and receive further training before a recommendation is made on your suitability.