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Waspish legacy sparked rise of Rees-Moggs

Jacob Rees-Mogg owes his posh name to a lowly cleric who was offered the chance to marry into money — on one condition

Nicholas Hellen Social Affairs Editor

With his Bentley, bespoke suits and elaborate courtesy Jacob Rees-Mogg, Conservative MP and possible contender for the party leadership, plays up his privileged roots with panache.

A search into his family history, however, revealed that it took an act of opportunism by a Welsh ancestor to give the family its double-barrelled name and lay the foundations for its prosperity.

The marriage that created the Rees-Mogg dynasty took place on August 12, 1805, when a Welsh cleric called John Rees wed Mary Mogg Wooldridge, a member of the Mogg family who had been Somerset business people and landowners since at least the 13th century.

The newlyweds would normally have dropped the Mogg name but her grandfather, John Mogg, had made an offer in his will. He promised to bypass his son

and give them the family seat, Cholwell House — an Elizabethan manor house and farm with 100 acres, bought by the Moggs in the 1720s — if she kept the family name.

Rees duly applied for a royal licence to acquire a double-barrelled name, according to a report in *The Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* of June 12, 1806. The connection was spotted by Findmypast.com, the ancestry research firm.

It appears to have been a considerable step up for Rees, whose father came from the Welsh coastal village of Wick in the Vale of Glamorgan and was not well off. The marriage secured a family seat for the Rees-Moggs and produced a son, William Rees-Mogg, whose business flair was to transform the family's fortunes.

William bought coalfields and landholdings. In 1850 he demolished Cholwell House, building a new property on the opposite hillside with a walled garden, glasshouses and a top and bottom lodge. By 1920, when Jacob's grandfather came into his inheritance, the family estate comprised 1,200 acres and a dozen cottages.

This weekend Jacob Rees-Mogg confirmed the story saying Rees, his great-great-grandfather, had benefited from a "very funny" and "bad-tempered" will. He said Mary's grandfather had dis-

JACK HILL



Jacob Rees-Mogg at his Somerset home. His grandfather's inheritance included a 1,200-acre estate

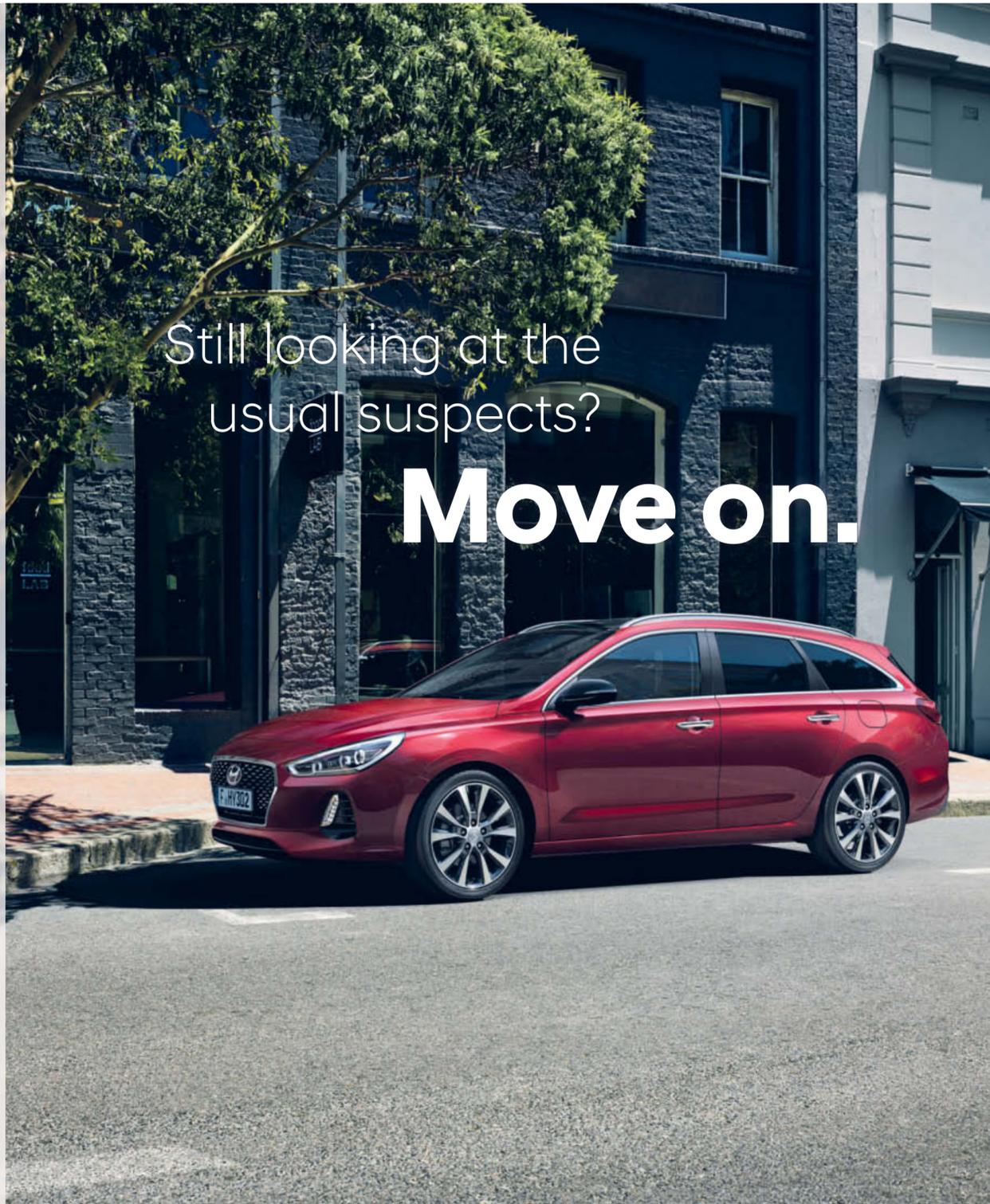
approved of his son's second wife, whom he called the "pretend" Mrs Mogg, and left most of his money to his granddaughter on condition that she keep the Mogg name.

In his memoirs, Jacob's late father

William, who became Lord Rees-Mogg and was a former editor of *The Times*, remarked that the Moggs "were involved in local government, but seem to have had little ambition to enter national politics nor the connections to be able

to do so". The power vacuum in the Conservative Party may have given Jacob Rees-Mogg, 48, his chance. This weekend he said: "I think every family needs members who have a bit of enterprise."

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One in three bottles of olive oil are fake or of poor quality

Jon Ungoed-Thomas and Bojan Pancevski

A government investigation to combat fake foods has found a third of olive oils sold in Britain are adulterated or breach quality standards.

Food laboratory and olive oil experts tested 131 samples from olive oils sold in Britain in 2015 and 2016 including extra virgin olive oil, virgin olive oil and blended olive oil.

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA), which commissioned the testing programme, has now revealed that 43 samples failed the tests and may have been adulterated.

Compliance notices were sent to the manufacturers who breached legal quality standards, but the government has refused to name them. The scale of fake or poor quality olive oil on sale has been disclosed after a freedom of information request submitted by *The Sunday Times*.

Some olive oils that failed the test are likely to have

been blended with cheaper oils. The products can also fail quality tests after poor storage. Each sample was given a minimum of 24 tests.

An RPA spokesman said: "The RPA continues to inspect bottlers, marketers, retailers and distributors to ensure they comply with regulations and take action when those standards are not met."

"Oils that do not meet the regulations are not permitted onto the market."

Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, warned in April that olive oil is a "high risk product for falsification or adulteration".

In March Italian investigators seized more than 20 tons of olive oil from Greece and southern Italy, which they suspected was to be sold as more expensive Tuscan olive oil.

Droughts and disease have sent prices of olive oil soaring but have also provided an incentive for fraud.

@jonungoedthomas

Plant milk 'threat' to IQ of unborn children

Sarah-Kate Templeton Health Editor

The fashion for alternatives to cow's milk, such as soya, almond and coconut drinks, is putting women at risk of giving birth to children with low IQs, a professor will warn at a conference next month.

Researchers at Surrey University have found that plant-based milks, which also include oat, rice and hazelnut drinks, have about only 3% of the concentrations of iodine that are in cow's milk.

Earlier research by Surrey University, published in the *Lancet*, found women with even a mild iodine deficiency in pregnancy were at greater risk of having children with low IQ and reading scores.

Margaret Rayman, professor of nutritional

medicine at the university, will issue the warning at the Food: the Future Medicine conference at the College of Medicine next month.

Rayman said: "These replacement milks are lower in calories and have become very popular. The developing brain needs iodine; it is required for thyroid hormones. Women should ideally enter pregnancy with good iodine stores and continue to consume a source of iodine if breastfeeding."

Public Health England said: "Dairy isn't the only source of iodine in the diet — we can get it from other foods such as cereal, grains, seafood and shellfish. Most people, including pregnant women, should get all the iodine they need by eating a varied and balanced diet."

Council powerless over refugee child bride

Hazel Shearing

A London council has agreed to recognise the marriage of a young Syrian refugee who became a bride at just 14.

The girl, who arrived in the UK as an unaccompanied minor and recently turned 16 in foster care, was married to a man more than twice her age before fleeing Syria.

Charity workers fear she may run away to live with her husband, 33, who is now in the UK. With English law allowing marriage at 16 with parental consent, the council's social services department has said it would have no means to stop her.

"In our country 16 is recognised because the parents give consent when you are 16. This girl was 14," said Kharman Adhim, of the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation, which is campaigning with Girls Not Brides UK to make all marriage under 18 illegal.

The council, which cannot be named, declined to comment on the case, which mirrors those perplexing other European countries integrating refugees.

Childline reported a 12% rise in counselling sessions offered to victims of forced marriage since last year to 205, up from from 55 in 2011.

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