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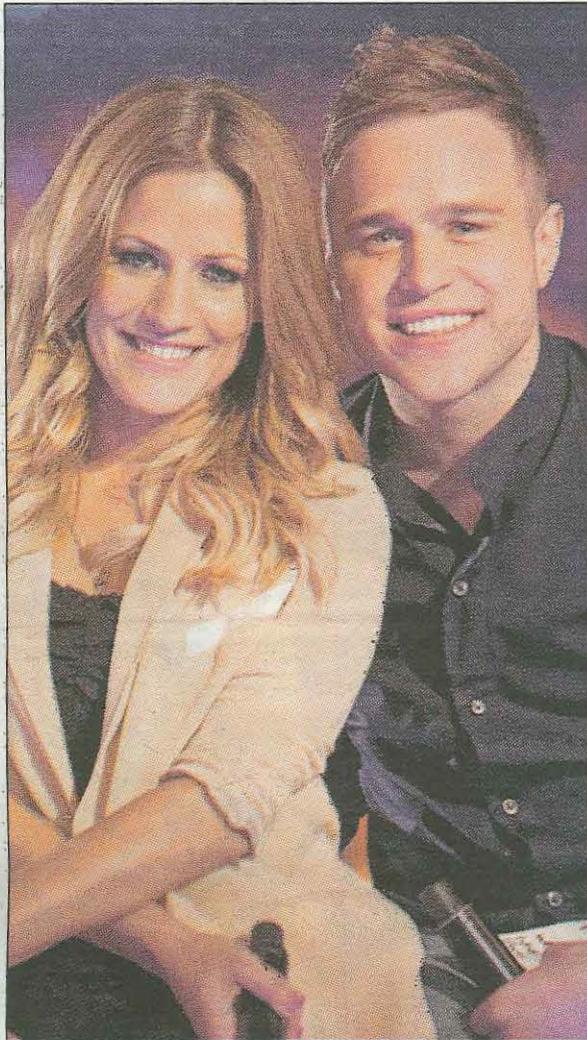
IN BRIEF

Unwanted gifts go to a good home

A CHARITY is calling on people to donate their unwanted Christmas presents to help London's homeless. Anchor House, which has launched a £9.6 million appeal to refurbish a new building at its centre in Canning Town, will sell the items on eBay. Its director Keith Fernett said: "Through our eBay charity shop we aim to raise £20,000 which will help to support up to 200 homeless single people." Send goods to: Anchor House, fundraising, 81 Barking Road, London E16 4HB.

Housing plans pose threat to slow worms

A RESIDENTS group is hoping to block housing plans which it says would threaten a community of rare slow worms. The Gondar and Agamemnon Residents' Association will fight plans, submitted last week, which would see a four-storey, 28-home building erected on the site in Gondar Gardens, West Hampstead. Linden Wates, the company that owns and wants to develop the land, said the space surrounding the building would be enhanced for bio-diversity.



"Mates": Olly Murs with Xtra Factor co-host Caroline Flack

Olly Murs: I'd like feud with my twin to end ... but it's up to him

Alistair Foster Showbusiness Correspondent

OLLY MURS has revealed that he and his twin Ben have not spoken for two years after the singer missed his brother's wedding so he could appear in the X Factor semi-final. The pair fell out and Ben later sold his story to a newspaper, claiming that Olly's drive for fame had torn the family apart. The singer missed the marriage ceremony while competing on X Factor in 2009. He finished as runner-up. Despite the approach of Christmas, Murs, 27, says he still believes it is not up to him to make the first move in healing their relationship. He said: "It's just the same as it was two years ago. I'm sure in the future we will chat and speak about it but at the moment it's the same old. "It is so sad. This is Christmas but it was the same last year and I hope in the future we will reconcile. I don't know if I will give the olive branch, as



Rift: Olly, above right, and his twin brother Ben have not spoken for two years

he was the one who sold the story, so I don't think it's my place to say sorry. "I think he knows what he has done so I will have to wait for him to come round and apologise. He hasn't yet but we'll have to see and hopefully in a couple of years we will sort it all out. Fingers crossed we do." Murs has been linked to his Xtra Factor co-host Caroline Flack but he admits it is a "shame" that they never got together. Flack, 32, has recently started dating 17-year-old One Direction singer Harry Styles. Murs said: "Caroline and I get on so well and we're really good mates. She's a great girl and we have a laugh. It has never really happened so it's just one of those things and it's a shame. "There's no jealousy of Harry at all. Just leave them to it and who cares? That's my take. I love Caroline and I am friends with Harry. He's a good lad." The Xtra Factor was the singer's first try at TV presenting but music comes first and Murs recently released his second album, In Case You Didn't Know.

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