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TEXT
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bon viveur**DOMINIC
MIDGLEY****Heavyweight birthday bash**

Former stockbroker Ian Stoppani, proprietor of Battersea favourite Le Bouchon Bordelais, will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of his restaurant tonight. And if you think the pastry's a bit dry on your Feuilleté de Saint-Jacques, choose your words carefully before complaining to the burly Stoppani. He was once a flanker for Harlequins.

Gordon's old pal gets new job

Neil Ferguson, the head chef who took the fall for Gordon Ramsay's muted reception in New York, has landed the top job at another fashionable Manhattan eatery. Ferguson is now ensconced at Allen & Delancey on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

A helping hand from Boisdale

Hats off to Boisdale of Bishopsgate for raising £19,000 for Action Against Hunger at a charity auction last week.

Online food for thought

If you've any time left after browsing Facebook, I recommend a look at newsgroper.com/gordon-ramsay. It passes itself off as the blog of a certain chef. But why not read the following extract and decide for yourself how genuine it is: "Great news, foodies. Soup is back. And call me crazy, but I think it's here to stay."

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**IN THE SOUP** | Ramsay's name is on a blog