
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR INDEPENDENT

PICK OF THE PICTURE BOOKS

"Ah, wad some power the giftie gie us", said the poet Robert Burns, "To see ourself as others see us!" His lament was addressed "To a Louse, on Seeing One on a Lady's bonnet at Church", but it's a sentiment that can also be usefully applied to human beings. Martin Lengemann's collection of photographs *Very British!* (Bostelmann & Siebenhaar, £30, available from www.bostelmann-siebenhaar.de) offers a rare, and rather fascinating, opportunity to do just that. The brief introduction is, unfortunately for many of us, in German, but this is a book that doesn't need words. Lengemann doesn't eschew the obvious – double-decker buses, London parks, Brighton beach (right) and lots of rain – but he does avoid cliché. The results are touching and quite sweet – but we do look rather sad.

