

televisionexpress

Lumley's Havana laugh

JOANNA Lumley is off on her travels again. I know, she never stops, does she? For this new two-parter, **JOANNA LUMLEY'S HIDDEN CARIBBEAN: HAVANA TO HAITI** (ITV, 9pm), she's trekking 1,500 miles, through "two of the most intoxicating countries in the world", in search of stuff that the average tourist, and presumably the below-average one, is unlikely to be aware of.

Her first visit, perhaps surprisingly, is to one of Havana's boxing gyms.

"I just LOVE boxing!" Joanna exclaims, which is rather like hearing Tyson Fury waxing lyrical



Mike Ward
previews
tonight's TV

about crochet. She's there to meet Idamelys Moreno, a talented young female pugilist.

Idamelys' dream is to represent her country, the snag being that she isn't allowed to. Cuba's female boxers aren't actually banned from competing, but they're banned from competing at boxing and that's what she's miffed about.

Joanna assures her this will change, that Idamelys will fulfil her dream. I'm assuming she's just trying to offer her hope but, who knows, maybe it's more than that.

Maybe Joanna Lumley carries serious clout with the World Boxing Association. It wouldn't surprise me.

Also tonight we have the first in a new run of **CELEBRITY BAKE OFF FOR STAND UP TO CANCER** (C4, 8pm), the last series before co-host Sandi Toksvig goes off and does whatever it is she somehow imagines is more important than presenting Bake Off.

Heading into the tent for this

first one are Louis Theroux, Jenny Eclair, Russell Howard and basketball's Ovie Soko.

Elsewhere, singer-songwriter Billy Bragg turns up in **BACK IN TIME FOR THE CORNER SHOP** (BBC2, 8pm).

The living history series has moved on to the 1950s, so everything's getting all slick and new-fangled – or will, once rationing ends – and our make-believe shopkeepers the Ardens face a growing threat from supermarkets.

So has Billy come to lead an uprising, smash the system, bring the capitalist fat cats to their knees, etc? Not today. "We thought we'd

come and play a bit of skiffle," he announces.

Then, before the Ardens can ask the obvious question ("Well, that's jolly sweet of you, Billy, but are you sure you're in the right show? You do know this one's about shops...?"), Billy points out that corner shops were a great source of hardware, and that hardware was what skiffle bands made their instruments from – a washboard, for example, or a tea chest with a broom handle and string attached, creating a DIY bass.

Yes, OK, it's a pretty tenuous link, but it'll do.

Next week: H from Steps comes and buys some steps.