

# Cancer lie mum is guilty

A MUM wired herself up to a fake medical gadget and pretended to be dying from cancer to con cash out of friends and family.

Leanne Towers, 37, told teachers at her children's school that she was trying to raise £20,000 for treatment for her leukaemia.

She even told staff she was painting rainbows in her children's rooms so they remembered her.

Towers, who admitted stealing from a Facebook raffle, was given a six-month suspended jail sentence for fraud.

Judge Mark Savill, at Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, told Towers from Cheadle Hulme: "It was a wicked lie."

# Xmas is time for hacks

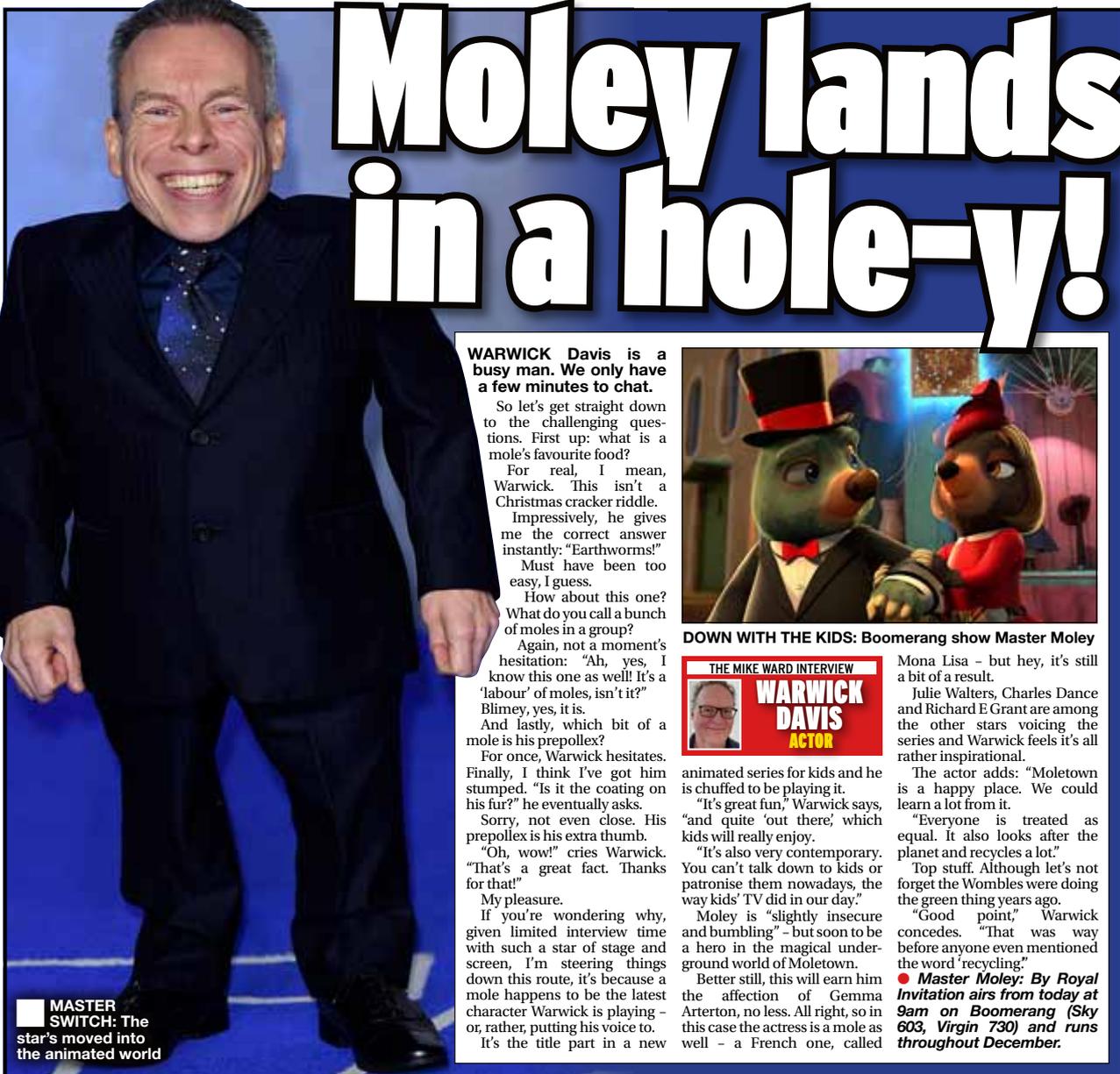
MAKING stuffing in advance and buying a turkey crown instead of a whole bird are among the top hacks Brits will use on Christmas dinner this year.

Other time-saving techniques include buying frozen roasties and pre-chopped vegetables.

The poll found adults plan to spend an average of two hours and 20 minutes in the kitchen this year, but believe cooking hacks will save them up to 49 minutes in total.

Mark Hodge, from McCain, which carried out the research, said: "People are still determined to spend quality time with their families, which means embracing hacks and shortcuts."

# NEW UNDERGROUND ROLE FOR STAR



# Moley lands in a hole-y!

**WARWICK Davis is a busy man. We only have a few minutes to chat.**

So let's get straight down to the challenging questions. First up: what is a mole's favourite food?

For real, I mean, Warwick. This isn't a Christmas cracker riddle.

Impressively, he gives me the correct answer instantly: "Earthworms!"

Must have been too easy, I guess.

How about this one? What do you call a bunch of moles in a group?

Again, not a moment's hesitation: "Ah, yes, I know this one as well! It's a 'labour' of moles, isn't it?" Blimey, yes, it is.

And lastly, which bit of a mole is his prepollex?

For once, Warwick hesitates. Finally, I think I've got him stumped. "Is it the coating on his fur?" he eventually asks.

Sorry, not even close. His prepollex is his extra thumb.

"Oh, wow!" cries Warwick. "That's a great fact. Thanks for that!"

My pleasure.

If you're wondering why, given limited interview time with such a star of stage and screen, I'm steering things down this route, it's because a mole happens to be the latest character Warwick is playing - or, rather, putting his voice to.

It's the title part in a new



**DOWN WITH THE KIDS:** Boomerang show Master Moley



animated series for kids and he is chuffed to be playing it.

"It's great fun," Warwick says, "and quite 'out there', which kids will really enjoy."

"It's also very contemporary. You can't talk down to kids or patronise them nowadays, the way kids' TV did in our day."

Moley is "slightly insecure and bumbling" - but soon to be a hero in the magical underground world of Moletown.

Better still, this will earn him the affection of Gemma Arterton, no less. All right, so in this case the actress is a mole as well - a French one, called

Mona Lisa - but hey, it's still a bit of a result.

Julie Walters, Charles Dance and Richard E Grant are among the other stars voicing the series and Warwick feels it's all rather inspirational.

The actor adds: "Moletown is a happy place. We could learn a lot from it."

"Everyone is treated as equal. It also looks after the planet and recycles a lot."

Top stuff. Although let's not forget the Wombles were doing the green thing years ago.

"Good point," Warwick concedes. "That was way before anyone even mentioned the word 'recycling'."

● **Master Moley: By Royal Invitation airs from today at 9am on Boomerang (Sky 603, Virgin 730) and runs throughout December.**

**MASTER SWITCH:** The star's moved into the animated world

H SAMUEL