



secret squirrel

# ON THE HEAD 'SOHN



Only Trevor Abrahmsohn, flamboyant founder of estate agency Glentree Estates, who sells Hampstead trophy houses to the obscenely rich, could land former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev as a guest of honour. Glentree was celebrating 30 years of business, during which time they have sold squillions of pounds worth of massive mansions in North London. It seems anything with an eight-figure price tag in the capital gets snapped up by Russians, so Gorbachev would have felt very at home at the Glentree party, with many purchasers and vendors raising a glass to Abrahmsohn. "President Gorbachev carries out very few public engagements in this country. His fascinating rendition of life from peasant background to Soviet leader and to the greatest living political visionary of the last century left the guests spellbound," said Abrahmsohn. Now Trevor, originally from South Africa, is the high priest of hyperbole, but "greatest living political visionary of the last century"? What about Nelson Mandela? Or Yvette Cooper?

My invitation was obviously lost in the post or intercepted by the KGB, but apparently I missed out on "the finest Iranian caviar washed down with Dom Perignon". Beats the warm Muscadet and sausage on a stick I am usually offered at housebuilders' showhome openings. The party was held at the Toprak Mansion, which Glentree sold to Horelma Peramam for £50 million. High price to pay for a refurb job, with the Kazakhstan billionaire looking to spend £30 million doing it up. Genuflecting before his guests Abrahmsohn said: "Having the privilege of Mr Gorbachev attend was the birthmark on the forehead." Sorry. "The icing on the cake."