

CATHERINE THE GREAT (1729 –96)

Catherine the Great was so disgusted and ashamed to find that she had dandruff that she locked her hairdresser in an iron cage to prevent her telling anyone.

Catherine also displayed signs of utter lunacy when she spotted the Year's first primrose, and commanded a Sentry to guard the flower night and day so that no one would pick it.

Long after she died the sentries were still patrolling the lawn where the flower had been, simply because the order had not been countermanded.