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**Daily Mail**  
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you a **BIGGER** bum?  
INSPIRE — STARTS PAGE 27

Fears grow Middle East conflict will dominate many councils  
as Muslim Vote group issues Starmer with list of 18 demands

# DOZENS OF PRO-GAZA ACTIVISTS ELECTED

**DOZENS** of pro-Palestinian campaigners have been elected as councillors as the war in Gaza hit town halls across Britain.

More than 40 councillors were elected in England after mak-

By **Martin Beckford**  
and **Ryan Hooper**

ing the conflict part of their campaign, analysis of Thursday's vote suggests.

Some wore rosettes in the colours of the Palestinian flag while others dedicated their victories to the people of Gaza. One shouted: 'We

will raise the voice of Palestine. Allahu Akbar!' In at least 12 town halls, they defeated Labour candidates, prompting opposition leader Sir Keir Starmer to pledge to win back the trust of voters alienated over his stance on the issue.

His comments led one pressure group, The Muslim Vote, to issue

**Turn to Page 6**

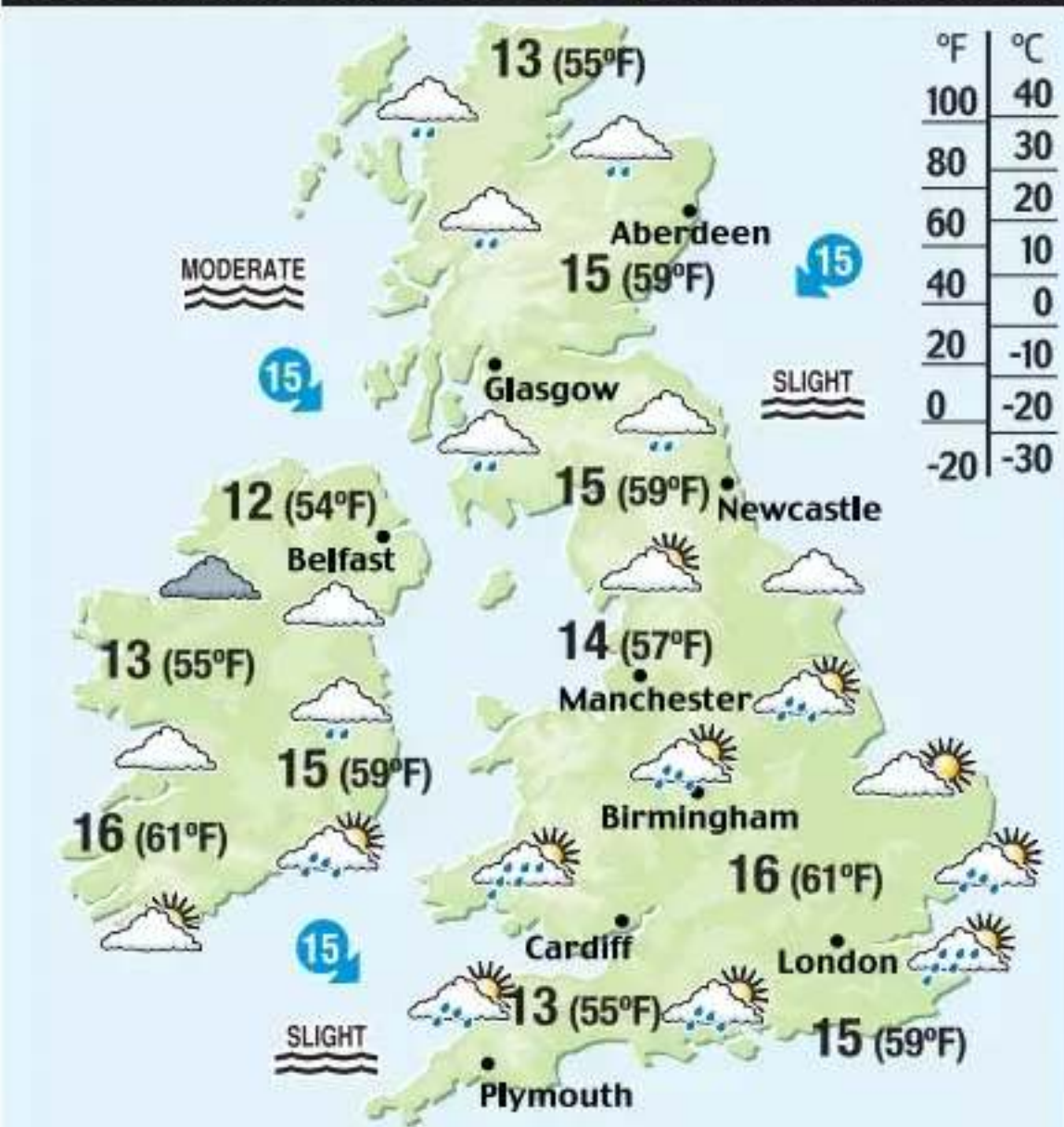


'Allahu Akbar!' The Greens' Mothin Ali



## Weather

Go to: [dailymail.co.uk/weather](https://dailymail.co.uk/weather) for UK and world 5 day forecast



### Summary: Showers

**UK TODAY:** Scattered showers across the UK today, especially in the afternoon, sometimes turning locally heavy. A predominantly cloudy day, with some sunny spells breaking through the cloud at times. Max 19c.

### Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
London	12c	14c	15c	15c	13c
Plymouth	11c	13c	14c	14c	13c
Cardiff	10c	12c	12c	13c	12c
B'ham	12c	17c	18c	17c	14c
M'chester	13c	17c	18c	17c	13c
Newcastle	12c	14c	14c	13c	11c
Glasgow	13c	15c	16c	16c	14c
Aberdeen	11c	12c	13c	13c	12c
Belfast	11c	12c	14c	12c	10c

### 5 day forecast

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
London	20c	20c	21c	22c	22c
Plymouth	18c	17c	18c	18c	19c
Cardiff	18c	19c	19c	20c	21c
B'ham	18c	19c	21c	21c	21c
M'chester	17c	19c	19c	20c	22c
Newcastle	13c	17c	19c	18c	18c
Glasgow	14c	15c	15c	17c	19c
Aberdeen	12c	15c	17c	14c	16c
Belfast	14c	16c	18c	19c	20c

### Europe forecast

	today	c f	tomorrow	c f
Amsterdam	showers	18 64	cloudy	18 64
Brussels	rain	16 61	rain	17 63
Frankfurt	rain	16 61	rain	17 63
Geneva	today	c f	tomorrow	c f
Lisbon	fair	22 72	sun	26 79
Madrid	fair	22 72	sun	24 75
Paris	rain	17 63	cloudy	19 66
Rome	fair	22 72	cloudy	21 70

### Around the world yesterday

	weather	c f		weather	c f		weather	c f
Algiers	Sunny	25 77	Florence	Sunny	20 68	New Delhi	Sunny	38 100
Amsterdam	Sunny	15 59	Geneva	Fair	17 63	New York	Fair	14 57
Athens	Fair	22 72	Gibraltar	Sunny	23 73	Nice	Sunny	18 64
Auckland	Sunny	19 66	Guernsey	Fair	12 54	Oslo	Rain	13 55
Bahrain	Sunny	33 91	Helsinki	Fair	12 54	Palma	Sunny	22 72
Barcelona	Sunny	18 64	Hong Kong	Rain	27 81	Paris	Cloudy	17 63
Basra	Sunny	36 97	Innsbruck	Showers	21 70	Perth	Fair	20 68
Beijing	Cloudy	20 68	Istanbul	Sunny	18 64	Prague	Fair	19 66
Beirut	Showers	22 72	Jersey	Fair	12 54	Rhodes	Sunny	21 70
Belfast	Cloudy	14 57	Larnaca	Showers	20 68	Riga	Cloudy	15 59
Belgrade	Sunny	23 73	Las Palmas	Sunny	24 75	Rome	Sunny	21 70
Berlin	Showers	18 64	Lisbon	Rain	19 66	Singapore	Thunder	32 90
Biarritz	Fair	24 75	London	Cloudy	18 64	Stockholm	Showers	9 48
Brisbane	Fair	24 75	Los Angeles	Cloudy	17 63	Strasbourg	Showers	17 63
Brussels	Fair	15 59	Luxor	Sunny	34 93	Sydney	Thunder	16 61
Bucharest	Fair	20 68	Madrid	Fair	20 68	Tangier	Fair	20 68
Budapest	Sunny	25 77	Malaga	Sunny	23 73	Tel Aviv	Sunny	24 75
Cairo	Sunny	25 77	Malta	Sunny	21 70	Tenerife	Sunny	28 82
Cape Town	Sunny	19 66	Melbourne	Fair	14 57	Tokyo	Sunny	27 81
Casablanca	Sunny	21 70	Mexico City	Sunny	29 84	Toronto	Fair	20 68
Copenhagen	Rain	15 59	Miami	Fair	29 84	Tunis	Sunny	25 77
Corfu	Sunny	23 73	Milan	Fair	21 70	Vancouver	Cloudy	15 59
Dubai	Sunny	36 97	Montreal	Cloudy	14 57	Venice	Sunny	21 70
Dublin	Sunny	16 61	Moscow	Showers	11 52	Vienna	Sunny	24 75
Dubrovnik	Sunny	19 66	Mumbai	Sunny	33 91	Warsaw	Fair	26 79
Faro	Fair	20 68	Nairobi	Cloudy	25 77	Wellington	Fair	16 61

### Moon and Sun

MOON rises: 4.33am, sets: 6.39pm  
Sun rises London: 5.22am, sets: 8.32pm  
Manchester rises: 5.23am, sets: 8.48pm  
HIGH TIDE London Bridge: 1.17pm  
Liverpool: 10.55pm

### Extremes (24 hrs to 6pm y'day)

Warmest: East Park, Hull, 21c (70F).  
Coldest: Sennybridge, Brecon and Radnor, 0c (32F). Wettest: Strathallan, Perth and Kinross, 1.19ins. Sunniest: Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, 11.3hrs.

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# Borrowers may have to wait until summer for a cut in interest rates

Daily Mail Reporter

Investec, said: 'This broad direction illustrates that collectively the committee is moving gradually towards a rate cut. It seems unlikely though to be ready to bite the bullet just yet.' He added that

### 'Unlikely to bite the bullet just yet'

it was possible a second member of the MPC will vote for a cut.

Interest rates are used as a tool to help bring down inflation, which has fallen sharply from the highs of 2022.

The rate of Consumer Prices Index

inflation fell to 3.2 per cent in March. But experts suggested two key economic indicators for the Bank of England – pay growth and services sector inflation – remain high.

Average wages continued to increase faster than inflation last month.

Economists at HSBC believe the first rate cut may come in June.

The Bank of England will shed more light on its economic predictions and the path of interest rates when it publishes the latest Monetary Policy Report alongside its decision on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve said on Wednesday that it was keeping its key interest rate at the same level and noted a 'lack of further progress' towards lowering inflation.

By Kumail Jaffer

Political Correspondent

THE country's tax burden is set to rise to an 80-year high of 37.1 per cent by 2028, analysis suggests.

Despite a slight drop in 2024 to 36 per cent, taxpayers will face an increased burden every year from now, according to the TaxPayers' Alliance.

Rishi Sunak has made efforts to cut individual taxation – including slashing National Insurance – in a drive to placate Tory backbenchers and voters.

But amid a freeze on per-

### 'Not seen since 1948'

sonal tax thresholds, the nation's tax burden is rising – and will hit a high not seen since 1948 in four years, the tax campaigners warned.

They say the current government will be the biggest tax-raiser in history – with a rise of 3.3 per cent since 2019 – with the next largest being Harold Wilson's Labour government in the late 1960s.

John O'Connell, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: 'The economy is set to hit yet another grim record by the end of the dec-

# More misery as tax burden set for 80-year high

ade, even if the projected fall in spending represents a glimmer of hope. An 80-year high tax burden will mean more misery for hard-pressed taxpayers and businesses, suffocating the economy for many years to come.

'Ministers need to ensure the recent fall isn't simply a one-off by bringing in a serious package of tax cuts and simplification.'

Mr Sunak has come under fire for suggesting workers will enjoy a £900 tax cut due to the new National Insurance rates, as it fails to take into account the impact of the freezes to the thresholds at which NI and income tax are paid.

The Institute for Fiscal

Studies (IFS) has suggested that once the impact of all tax changes are taken into account, the average worker will be £340 better off next year, but those earning below £26,000 will be worse off.

A Treasury spokesman said: 'The huge cost of supporting people and firms during the pandemic and Putin's energy crisis obviously has to be paid for. But now the economy has started to turn a corner we have been able to cut tax.'

'We want to end the unfairness of the double tax on work – which is why we're going to keep cutting National Insurance... until it's gone.'

The Prime Minister and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt have been more cautious in their

attitude to slashing taxes since Mr Sunak entered No 10, with the pair initially focusing on bringing down inflation.

After last month's tax cut came into effect, Mr Sunak said: 'We have now cut National Insurance by £900 because it's unfair that workers pay double tax on their income.'

'We need to make it much simpler and much fairer and we are going to continue cutting this tax until it's gone.'

The Chancellor has hinted that he plans to pledge further tax cuts before the next election – though it is understood that he may decide to put such policies in the next Conservative manifesto rather than holding another fiscal event in the autumn.

# Rwanda 'can't guarantee migrant numbers'

Daily Mail Reporter

THE Rwandan government has admitted it cannot guarantee how many migrants it will take under Rishi Sunak's flagship deportation scheme.

Spokesman Yolande Makolo said it was a 'misconception' that the country was only ready to take an initial 200.

But she could not say 'how many thousands we are taking in the first

year or the second year'. The East African country has entered into a five-year deal to take in migrants from the UK, including those who come via small boats across the Channel.

Around 52,000 who have arrived without permission could be line for

deportation. Ms Makolo was asked on the BBC's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg show if Rwanda could process tens of thousands of migrants.

She said: 'We will be able to welcome the migrants that the UK sends over the lifetime of this partnership. What I cannot tell you is how many thousands we are taking in the first year or the second year. This will depend on very many factors that are being worked out now.'

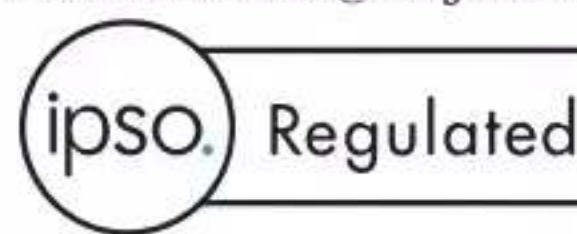
She said the focus has been on a hostel for 200 migrants in the capital Kigali but there are talks with other facilities so more migrants could be accepted from the start.

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# As John Cleese's Fawlty Towers play packs out West End theatre...



By Jan Moir

**J**UST behind me in row K, a man is watching a football match on his mobile phone. 'Shocking free kick,' he murmurs to his luckless date.

If Basil Fawlty were here, and in so many ways he absolutely is, he would surely have something to say about this.

He might want to give the bloke a damn good thrashing with the branch of a tree. He might dismiss him as the kind of uncultured riff-raff who believes a Waldorf salad to be the height of civilisation.

He might just want to destroy the dolt with the power of his curdled invective. 'Have you seen the people in the Apollo Theatre? They've never even sat on chairs before,' he might screech.

Yet that would be neither fair nor true. Five minutes before Fawlty Towers: The Play begins, my neighbour must be the only punter in this West End theatre who is not totally Fawlty-focused; who is not completely bedazzled by the prospect of a fresh chiffonade of Basil being sprinkled upon the bland pizza of popular culture. Outside on Shaftesbury Avenue earlier, the queue for returns was three deep.

The House Full signs were up by 7pm and, since then, the theatre bar has been doing a roaring trade in Fawlty Towers-themed cocktails, named after the famous sitcom's beloved characters.

Bizarrely, The Major is alcohol-free, The Basil is Bacardi-based (please, Basil would never drink anything so déclassé as white rum) and the bestseller is The Sybil, a mixture of gin, rhubarb lemonade and lemon, which sounds about right.

For Fawlty-deprived fans, this is a theatrical moment to drink deep and savour. John Cleese himself has adapted the iconic 1970s television series he co-wrote with his then-wife Connie Booth into this production, melding three of his favourite episodes — The Hotel Inspectors, The Germans and Communication Problems — into one 90-minute play.

Famous scenes now nearly 50 years old have been blitzed into this big, lucrative Fawlty smoothie, topped off with a slight, frothy new ending — no doubt to be gulped down by the cult of uncritical fans who just want to laugh at Manuel all over again.

**A** PART of me does wonder, what is the point? But the point seems to be to relish another opportunity to revel in the magnificence of a certain kind of Englishman, a hero shrouded in his tweeds and Faragist prejudices and terrible fear of his wife, Sybil.

And also to marvel at a global cultural phenomenon that sprung from the modest parameters of a 22-bedroom seaside hotel and a run of only two television series and 12 episodes. It took Cleese and Booth six weeks to write each episode and, after they had finished, they were never inclined to go back. Why meddle with perfection, they thought. And perhaps they were right.

Yet here we are, inside a London theatre, looking at a lovingly familiar scene. Stage left, the light is pooling through a bay window as the sun rises on

another Torquay morning. Stage right, there is the reception desk with its cubbyholes and telephones, its coat stand and key hooks. From the barometer on the hall wall to the dado rail and the flock wallpaper, from the double swing doors that lead from the dining room to the kitchen, we know exactly where we are and what to expect.

Such is the power of the show's popularity that from the moment the new Basil Fawlty (Adam Jackson-Smith) walks on stage, the audience start laughing. They laugh before he has even said a word. They laugh when they see Manuel (Hemi Yeroham, in an unconvincing wig) bumbling into his latest calamity. They laugh at the chainsaw laugh of Sybil (Anna-Jane Casey).

They laugh when Polly (Victoria

Fox) tries to guess the name of Basil's winning horse. They laugh when The Major (Paul Nicholas) gets his gun to kill a rat.

There is an absolute eruption of hilarity every time Manuel utters his famous catchphrase: 'I know nothing.' And the audience even laugh when the infamous moose head first makes its appearance on stage. In this new Fawlty Towers terrain, nothing but absolutely nothing has changed. The moose still even has a 'touch of mange about it,' but the audience don't seem to mind.

Perhaps that is because Fawlty Towers represents something so much more in the national consciousness than a mere comedy television series. It is also an entire cultural world; a testament to human failure, the kind of British affair that plumbs

the depths of embarrassment and salutes our globally unsurpassable love of wince and the deluded loser.

From Dad's Army (Captain Mainwaring) to Rising Damp (Mr Rigsby) to Only Fools and Horses (Del Boy) to The Office (David Brent), there is no character we love more than the small man trying to act big. Fawlty Towers was also blessed by a cast rich with superb slapstick and physical comedy talents, not least Cleese himself.

'Basil is universal,' he wrote in a recent essay. 'His Englishness is to do with trying to remain calm and not managing to do so... What makes him such a deeply loved character is that people have sympathy for him, they can see that he is trapped.'

Despite the threat of cancel



First-rate farce: The Hotel Inspectors scene in the play and, inset, on television

culture and what Cleese calls 'too much change' in the world of television, fans will be delighted to hear that Basil still calls people cretins, he still goose-steps in front of his German guests and still relishes the fact that Sybil has an ingrowing toenail 'machete-ing its way through the nerve'.

He even still shouts at a deaf old lady having trouble with her hearing aid, which was the only part of the evening I found cruel — although back in the day I thought it was hilarious, which probably says more about me than it does about Basil.

**T**HE hope is that Fawlty Towers, after bringing laughter and pleasure to generations, will reinvigorate new audiences via the collective experience of seeing it in the theatre. If there is a downside, it is that the play only emphasises how utterly brilliant the original performances were, from the lead roles to incomparable smaller turns by the likes of Bernard Cribbins, Joan Sanderson and Robin Ellis.

Yet gag by gag, quip by quip, we find ourselves back in 1970s Torquay, still deep in thwart, sarcasm, class wars, silly foreigners, snobbery and the war with Germany. When Cleese and Booth first wrote their peerless scripts back in 1975, the war had ended only 30 years previously — now, of course, we are nearly 50 years further on.

Times have changed. We have evolved. Do British audiences still find the Germans funny? Well, of course we bloody do. Just please don't mention the war.



# Britain downplayed 'gobsmacking' Covid lab leak information

## US shared intelligence that pointed finger at China

By **Colin Fernandez**  
Science Correspondent

THE UK Government downplayed the 'high likelihood' that Covid-19 emerged from a lab leak in China because of resistance from scientific advisers, it was claimed yesterday.

US officials shared their views on the origin of the virus in a call with other members of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance – the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

But the 'lab leak' theory was downplayed in Britain because of resistance from government scientists who favoured the idea that Covid 'jumped the species barrier' from animals to humans, according to US sources.

Taking part in the January 2021 phone call were Mike Pompeo, Donald Trump's secretary of state, and the UK's then foreign secretary Dominic Raab and their counterparts.

The call – previously reported by The Mail on Sunday – was 'open', meaning unencrypted, in the hope the Chinese government would intercept the call, it is claimed.

The allegations, made by unnamed officials speaking in The Sunday Telegraph yesterday, are likely to increase calls to open the Covid Inquiry to the question of where the virus originated.

One US source who worked on the intelligence said: 'We saw several pieces of information and thought they were gobsmacking. They obviously pointed to the high likelihood that this was indeed a lab leak.'

An intelligence dossier revealed the Chinese military worked with the Wuhan Institute of Virology in the years leading up to the pandemic, and some lab researchers fell sick shortly before the virus was first recorded nearby.

Other revelations showed Chinese scientists carried out 'gain of function' research, whereby a



Laboratory testing: Two scientists working at the Wuhan Institute of Virology

### US 'let China eavesdrop on call to Raab'

Mail on Sunday, March 28, 2021

virus is genetically manipulated to show different behaviour, such as becoming more infectious, or to become infectious against different species.

The UK Government, including Boris Johnson, initially rejected the claim that Covid had been created by scientists, saying in June 2021: 'The advice that we have had is that it doesn't look as though this disease of zoonotic origin came from a lab.'

Two former officials said the evidence was not taken seriously because ministers saw lab leak claims as a 'radioactive American

political issue' that was discredited by public disagreement between government scientists and Mr Trump.

One official said: 'Once the thing became fundamentally political, the ability to pursue it internationally really just collapsed because no one else was interested in touching it.'

'I think [Five Eyes] were kind of annoyed by the way the issue had become treated in US politics.'

The two sources cited by The Sunday Telegraph both separately named Sir Jeremy Farrar, then a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, as a key opponent of the lab leak theory in the UK Government.

Sir Jeremy and 26 other scientists rejected the lab leak theory in February 2020, signing a statement which said: 'We stand together to condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.'

While many scientific experts

say an animal-to-human interaction is the most likely cause of the first infection, some figures, most notably Michael Gove, say the virus was 'man-made'.

Mr Gove told the Covid Inquiry in November there was a 'significant body of judgement that believes that the virus itself was man-made – and that presents its own set of challenges'.

Both the FBI and US Department of Energy have said they believe a lab leak is the most likely cause of the disease. UK ministers are facing calls to widen the Covid Inquiry to include an investigation into the origins.

A UK Government spokesman said: 'There are questions that need to be answered about the origin of Covid-19, not least so we can ensure we are better prepared for future pandemics. The UK supports the World Health Organisation in its study of the origins. It is important China and other countries co-operate fully.'

By **Science Correspondent**

A PAYMENT system to help those left disabled after having a vaccine and families of those who died is to be reviewed after a rise in claims following the pandemic.

Health Secretary Victoria Atkins has asked officials in her department to look at how the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme (VDPS) could be reformed.

It comes amid concerns that it is struggling to cope following a huge number of claims from those suffering from side-effects after having the Covid-19 jab.

Claims rose to 4,008 last year – up from 480 in 2022, 26 in 2020 and 27 in 2019, official figures

## Vaccine payouts review as claims soar after pandemic

show. Separate data reveals that up to April 26 this year, 11,022 claims were made to the scheme in connection with Covid jabs.

It is not a compensation scheme but is intended to 'ease the present and future burdens of those suffering from severe vaccine damage, and their families'. Victims and families are still entitled to sue for compensation.

Financing the scheme has risen from £600,000 in 2021-22 to £16.1million in 2023-24. Its one-off

£120,000 payment has not risen in line with inflation since 2007. Minister Esther McVey is understood to be among those calling for reforms to the scheme.

Last week, drugs firm AstraZeneca admitted in court papers that its Covid vaccine can cause a rare side-effect. It is facing claims that the jab caused death and serious injury in 75 cases.

Charlet Crichton, from charity UKCVFamily, which supports those suffering from Covid vac-

cine side-effects, told The Sunday Telegraph: 'Ministers say you can use the £120,000 payment to fund litigation – but you can't, because vaccine damage cases are long, drawn out and costly.'

A Department of Health spokesman said: 'We have already scaled up and modernised the VDPS to allow cases to be processed more quickly, including by digitising the application process and increasing the number of administration staff.'



## Traffic chaos as today is... 'Mayhem Monday'

By **Camron Charters**

DRIVERS have been warned to expect heavy traffic on 'mayhem Monday' as millions hit the roads after the bank holiday weekend.

More than 2.6 million motorists face being stuck for hours on motorways today with the Met Office forecasting a glum day in much of England with rain, clouds and cold weather.

The RAC has warned drivers to avoid making journeys from 10am to 3pm because the motorways such as the M5 will be at their busiest – and encouraged families to plan their journeys in the early morning or evening as they warn of the busiest bank holiday since the end of the pandemic.

Alice Simpson from the RAC said: 'With Covid travel restrictions a thing of the past, catching up with friends and family is still the first priority.'

The Met Office has forecast a mix of rain and sunny spells, with temperatures reaching highs of 21C. A spokesman said: 'Anywhere could catch some rain so people should be prepared for that.'

## Girl aged ten killed in blaze at family home

A GIRL of ten died in a devastating house fire early yesterday which left her mother and three siblings in hospital.

The woman, 37, and other children were able to escape and were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Their sister was found inside the property in Bradford and pronounced dead at the scene. She had shared a bedroom with two sisters aged 11 and six.

Their brother, three, got out of the two-storey property but their mother had to be carried out. Their father, a teacher at a local college, was not at home.

Police, who were called at 1am yesterday, said the blaze was 'not suspicious'. Floral tributes have been left at the scene.



# Sleep easy... weekend lie-ins can keep you happy

THERE'S nothing like enjoying a long lie-in at the weekend after a busy week.

Now experts have found that it's not only relaxing but may have health gains as those who get 'catch-up sleep' are less likely to suffer symptoms of depression.

Researchers analysed data on nearly 8,000 people who completed an assessment of depressive symptoms and answered questions about their sleep.

By **Xantha Leatham**  
Deputy Science Editor

They discovered that nearly half got catch-up sleep by spending longer in bed at the weekends.

Overall those who slept one or two hours longer at weekends were up to 46 per cent less likely to show signs of depressive symptoms. These can include

persistent feelings of sadness and a lack of interest in once-enjoyable activities.

Analysis revealed that the benefit of weekend lie-ins on these symptoms were mainly present in those who slept six hours or less on weekdays.

The link also appeared to be stronger in men and those under 65, said a report in the *Journal of Affective Disorders*.

The academics from Central South

University in Hunan, China, concluded: 'Weekend catch-up sleep of zero to two hours was related to decreased odds of depressive symptoms.'

However previous studies have indicated that weekend lie-ins can increase the risk of diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Experts found that those who slept later at weekends ate less healthily and their gut health was impacted.

# Fraudster used dead daughter as bait to con £440,000 from well-wishers



Manipulative: Susan Goose

**EXCLUSIVE**

By **Andrew Levy**

A CON artist used her dead daughter as 'bait' to swindle seven people out of nearly half-a-million pounds, the son of one of the victims has revealed.

Susan Goose, 63, manipulated Jennifer Esler into bank-rolling a bogus legal battle for an inheritance from a man she claimed had sexually abused her daughter Chloe, who died in a car crash.

Grandmother-of-six Mrs Esler, 71, handed over money for eight years – losing her house, business and marriage in the process.

Goose was jailed last month for six years after admitting fraud by false representation between 2011 and 2024 against five victims. Two other fraud offences were taken into consideration.

Mrs Esler has now told the Mail: 'It will take me a long time to recover from this, if ever.'

Her son Daniel Lingwood, 27, added: '[The sentence] is not enough. She'll be back out and she'll be doing the same thing. She's ruined lives and destroyed families.' Goose groomed victims



Killed in car crash: Chloe Goose, 14, died in 2006

in Norfolk before claiming she needed money for a civil case over an inheritance.

She took £440,000 from them, Norwich Crown Court heard, although the actual figure is believed to be higher.

Police discovered that she blew £130,000 after making 2,600 payments to gambling websites.

A Proceeds of Crime hearing later this year may shed light on where the rest of the money went.

Mr Lingwood believes his

## 'Staggering ruthlessness'

mother lost £252,000 in total – although the figure cited in court was about £149,000.

Goose gained Mrs Esler's trust by paying her son's rent when he moved into the annexe of her five-bedroom family home in Sheringham, Norfolk, in 2015.

She then confided in Mrs Esler, a

mother-of-four, about how she had lost her own daughter.

Goose later produced a letter which stated that she was locked in a legal battle for a £40,000 inheritance but needed £2,000 to fund it.

Mr Lingwood, a management accountant, explained: 'Then she upped the ante saying the inheritance was going to end up near enough to £10million.'

'The story went from an inheritance, to [saying] the guy she was inheriting from had sexually abused her daughter. [That] this guy "felt bad" for what he did.'

'She was using her daughter as bait. This was the same with everyone. In court, I heard this from four people. Sometimes she was chasing the money from the person who had caused her daughter's death.'

Chloe Goose, 14, died in 2006 after a car driven by a 19-year-old man crashed into a shop in Hethersett, near Norwich.

Mr Lingwood and his stepfather



Lost home: Jennifer Esler, 71, and son Daniel

had no idea what was happening to Mrs Esler until it was suddenly announced in late 2017 that the family home had got to be sold because she had defaulted on loans she had taken out to fund the payments to Goose.

Mrs Esler's relationship with her partner collapsed amid the financial strain and in July she suffered a mini stroke from the stress and worry.

She lost her thriving crab dressing business and, a year later, was living in a tiny flat, relying on food banks to eat.

Explaining why his mother kept paying, Mr Lingwood said: 'She had the option of cutting her losses or continuing to pay in the hope she'd get her money back.'

Mr Lingwood voiced his concerns to police who investigated the claims and Goose was arrested on January 5 this year.

Following the court case, Detective Constable Dave Block said: 'The longevity and extent of her ruthlessness is staggering.'

## Now diesel drivers face a £250 fee... just to park!

Daily Mail Reporter

DIESEL car drivers are being charged as much as £250 more per year to park near their homes.

Analysis found that on-street parking permits are more expensive for diesel vehicles in several parts of the country.

Eighteen of London's 32 boroughs have introduced a parking surcharge for diesel cars.

Hackney is the most expensive area in the capital, with diesel car drivers charged an extra £250 for on-street parking.

This is followed by Islington, which charges an additional £220, and Merton, which charges £150 in extra permit fees.

Outside of London, Brighton and Hove City Council has excluded diesel cars from its cheapest permits, meaning drivers can pay up to £62.05 more.

Diesel car drivers are also hit with extra parking costs in Edinburgh and Bath.

Luke Bosdet, of the AA, said the extra charges were 'simply a council cash grab'. He added that permits should be used to 'regulate on-street parking for the benefit of residents, not as a tool to demonise car choice'.

A Hackney Council spokesman said it introduced a diesel surcharge in 2015 to combat the 'public health crisis' from 'London's toxic air'.

Darren Rodwell, for the Local Government Association, said diesel surcharges – revealed by the Press Association news agency – were 'a matter for each council'.

## Tehran's latest weapon? Rap!

IRAN is using rap music to promote hardline Islamist values – as a dissident singer faces the death penalty.

Dozens of Iranian rappers have been arrested since the early 2000s, and last month Toomaj Salehi was sentenced to die over charges linked to a period of nationwide unrest.

Salehi, 33, was arrested in 2022 after releasing songs criticising the Iranian regime.

Now the Islamic Republic is commissioning musicians to 'influence young people', it has been reported. One exiled Iranian hip-hop singer, Ghogha, told website France 24 that rappers are singing pro-government lyrics, posing with politicians, and earning up to £8,000 a month in streaming revenue.



# LOCAL ELECTION FALLOUT

By **Cameron Roy**

A GREEN Party councillor who shouted 'Allahu Akbar' after being elected helped force a university rabbi into hiding by falsely accusing him of killing children while serving in the IDF.

Mothin Ali, 42, declared his election to Leeds Council a 'win for the people of Gaza' in a rowdy victory speech where he shouted: 'We will not be silenced. We will raise the voice of Gaza. We will raise the voice of Palestine. Allahu Akbar (God is greatest)!'

But the newly elected politician has become shrouded in further controversy after comments from his TikTok account were unearthed from October 8 – the day after Hamas's terrorist attack which killed 1,600 and took 250 hostage.

Instead of condemning the attacks, Mr Ali labelled Israel 'white supremacists' and claimed Gaza was 'the biggest concentration camp the world has ever seen'.

He went on to brand rabbi Zechariah Deutsch, a chaplain at the University of

# Green zealot's false claims that forced rabbi into hiding

Leeds, a 'kind of animal,' an 'absolute low-life,' 'absolutely disgusting' and 'shameful,' and falsely claimed that he had deliberately tried to 'kill women and children' in Gaza.

Mr Deutsch, his wife Nava and their two children were moved to a safe location on police advice after the hate

**'We will not be silenced'**

campaign intensified with 'hundreds' of malicious calls to the family, including threats to kill the rabbi, to rape and kill Mrs Deutsch and to murder their children.

In a recording of one phone call to Mrs Deutsch – heard

by the Mail – the caller said: 'Tell that Jewish son of a bitch we are coming for him.' Mr Ali declined to comment yesterday when approached by MailOnline. The Green Party was also contacted.

The campaigner, who runs a gardening YouTube channel with his wife and children, suggested that Hamas's atrocities were justified because 'Palestinians have the right to resist occupying forces'. He urged viewers to 'support the right of indigenous people to fight back'. He also accused Israel of trying to 'erase the legitimacy of the native population'.

The Leeds Beckett University graduate, who is the director of his own accountancy firm, started his TikTok account just before the war

in Gaza began and has since then frequently posted his ramblings on the subject.

After his election victory in the Gipton and Harehills seat with 3,070 votes, he claimed people were 'fed up' of being 'let down' by the Labour council.

In 2009 Mr Ali founded My Family Garden, which is a plot of land growing a variety of organic produce from the UK and Bangladesh.

He said his mission was to keep alive traditional growing techniques that have been passed down to him. His YouTube channel has 53,000 subscribers.

Mr Ali is also a qualified mufti, which is a Muslim legal expert who is empowered to give rulings on religious matters.



**Victorious: Mothin Ali after his election win**

Continued from Page One

him with an extraordinary set of 18 demands, including ending Britain's military ties with Israel and recognising the state of Palestine.

Last night senior Tories said they feared the elections will mean town halls end up being dominated by debates over foreign affairs rather than local services.

Ex-Cabinet minister Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg told the Mail: 'People are entitled to their views but foreign affairs is a matter for the House of Commons, not local councils.'

'This is a consequence of the Left's attempt to segment society and create a coalition of minorities rather than a unified whole. This is very divisive for the country at large.'

Former Home Office minister Sir John Hayes added: 'I find it disturbing when you have people standing for election not because they care about making a contribution to building a better Britain, but because they are more interested in events overseas. It's important that people can express their views on foreign affairs, but that should not be the basis for standing to govern a local authority.' Tory candidate

**'Deranged zealots in their party'**

and former No 10 chief of staff Nick Timothy said: 'Of course it alarms people that politicians scream "Allahu Akbar" about a foreign war in a British local election held to decide who collects the bins.'

'As ever, the usual liberal suspects prefer to turn a blind eye, or even defend it.'

The war has loomed large over Westminster since Hamas's terror attack of October 7 triggered deadly reprisals by Israel.

Sir Keir suffered the biggest rebellion of his leadership in November when ten frontbenchers resigned or quit over his refusal to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

But Thursday's local elections were the first time that large numbers of pro-Palestine campaigners have stood for election, mostly in areas of the North West with large Muslim populations.

It will lead to concerns about growing sectarianism in British politics. In Oldham, independent candidates won eight of the 21 seats available, with several of them explicitly campaigning in support of Palestine. In Pendle,

Lancashire, pro-Palestinian independents won five of the 12 seats up for grabs. There was a similar surge in Bradford, where nine of the 30 seats went to independents. Seven of the candidates either criticised Labour directly for its Gaza stance, or made pro-Palestinian statements.

Mothin Ali, a Green Party candidate in Leeds, said he would 'raise

the voice of Palestine – Allahu Akbar!' during his victory speech, although Palestine did not feature on his party profile page.

Tory peer Lord Jackson of Peterborough said the Greens 'will rue the day it admitted these deranged zealots into their party for cheap opportunistic short-term reasons'.

In the West Midlands mayoral election, pro-Palestine independ-

ent Akhmed Yakoob came third with 69,621 votes.

Before the count there had been an anonymous briefing to the BBC – condemned by Labour HQ – that the party would lose the contest as a result of the 'Middle East not West Midlands', and that Hamas were 'real villains'.

Sir Keir told Sky News: 'I say directly to those who may have



**Campaign: Kaleel Khan**



**Highlighting issue: Blackburn Independents with balloons in Palestinian flag colours**

# The Palestine sympathisers riding wave of support for wartorn Gaza

CANDIDATES across northern Britain were elected to councils after expressing support for the Palestinian cause.

**KALEEL KHAN**, who campaigned as a pro-Palestinian independent candidate in the Thameside Council elections in Greater Manchester defeated long-serving Labour incumbent Dave McNally.

His campaign website reads: 'The Labour Party's failure to declare the Israeli actions in Gaza a potential genocide is a disgrace.' It was one of two seats Labour lost to an independent. Law graduate **AISHA**

**KOUSER** was one of eight independent candidates to win a seat on Oldham Council also in Greater Manchester.

Ms Kouser was among several candidates to express her support for Palestine while running for election and she included the red, white, green and black flag on her campaign material.

She won more than double the votes of her nearest rival – the Labour candidate – after describing herself as a 'voice for Palestine' in the run-up to the election. Meanwhile, the Palestinian flag was also used

by a group of prospective councillors standing as **BLACKBURN INDEPENDENTS**. Seven of the nine were elected to Blackburn with Darwen Council. On their website, the group said they were motivated by the 'perceived lack of adequate attention and support from both the Labour and Conservative parties'.

They added: '[We] aspire to bring a fresh perspective to the political arena, advocating for justice, and addressing the gaps left by mainstream politics regarding the Palestinian cause.'



**Rosette: Aisha Kouser**

voted Labour in the past, but felt on this occasion they couldn't, that across the West Midlands we are a proud and diverse community. I have heard you. I have listened.

'And I am determined to meet your concerns and to gain your respect and trust again in the future.'

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# A yell of 'Allahu Akbar' defined these local elections. Our democracy will break apart if the sectarian voting which it embodies takes hold in Britain



**COMMENTARY**  
By **Daniel Hannan**

**I**T WAS the moment that defined the local elections, though you won't have seen it on the BBC. Mothin Ali, newly elected to Leeds City Council, punched his fist in the air and, to the delight of his supporters, yelled: 'We will raise the voice of Gaza, we will raise the voice of Palestine. Allahu Akbar!'

Palestine, rather than council tax, children's services or bin collections, got him elected. The most cursory glance at the results shows Labour's vote collapsing in areas with large Muslim electorates, notably Bradford, Blackburn and Oldham.

In the West Midlands, Akhmed Yakob, an independent standing mainly on a platform of solidarity with Gaza (plus more burial spaces for Muslims and more housing) won more than 69,000 votes, taking more than 20 per cent of the vote from Birmingham proper and nearly costing Labour the mayoralty.

If I were looking at the results from a narrowly partisan point of view, I might allow myself a grim smile. The rise of George Galloway and assorted Muslim radicals is not a problem for the Conservative Party.

Indeed, an extrapolation from Thursday's vote shows Sir Keir

*'Identity politics does not work in an open society'*

Starmer falling short of an overall majority — a very different picture from recent opinion polls and constituency surveys, which predict Labour winning by more than 100 seats.

But what is happening goes way beyond party politics. We are seeing something that has for a long time been almost unknown in mainland Britain, namely sectarian voting.

Until now, we have been good at assimilating settlers. Greek and Turkish Cypriots have lived alongside one another in the same North London streets, leaving their quarrels at the door. Likewise Turks and Kurds, Serbs and Croats.

This unremarked and rather beautiful fact is most striking when we consider the story of most Britons of South Asian heritage.

The partition of India in 1947 was accompanied by indescribable violence. People were tortured, mutilated, raped, burned alive, blinded with chilli powder, boiled in cauldrons, hacked to pieces.

Bands of 'goondas' (ruffians) slaughtered patients in their hospital beds, children in their classrooms, worshippers in their mosques, temples and gurdwaras. Trains would arrive from across the new border with blood seeping from every aperture.

I read several eye-witness accounts of the atrocities some years ago, and can barely bring myself to think about, let alone write about, what happened.

But here is the extraordinary thing. Migrants to the UK came disproportionately from the provinces most affected by

the violence — above all Punjab. The children of victims and perpetrators made a decision to live alongside one another as good neighbours. Muslim, Sikh or Hindu: no one wanted to dredge up the bad times.

What has changed? How is it that communities that were willing to put aside enmities that affected their own families are now agitated about fighting in a place thousands of miles from either their ancestral or their current homes?

There have been two malign developments. First, there has been what I can only call an Arabisation of Islam. Most first-generation Muslims in Britain

were from the Sufi tradition that emphasises personal piety.

But from the late 1970s, a different and increasingly fundamental form of Islam gained ground. And today this is more popular among younger Muslims than their elders.

The bigger change is in how we think of ourselves as a nation. When the first settlers came from Punjab, Gujarat, Kashmir and Bengal, Britain's prevailing ethic was individualism. All citizens were responsible for their own actions. People were not answerable for what their ancestors had done.

That ethic is much more unusual than is sometimes realised.

India and Pakistan never properly got over the trauma of partition. They went on to fight repeated wars, and their border is the most militarised on Earth. In a way, that is more understandable.

But in Britain, our moral code, like our legal system, emphasised personal autonomy. Vendetta, carrying your quarrel against your enemy's family, is the default setting of a tribal species like ours. Britain was unusual in making it unthinkable.

Until now. The claim of identity politics is that we are all defined by our group, whether on grounds of race, gender or sexual identity. Starting around 2015, a phenomenon that sociologists call the 'Great Awakening' gathered pace. Instead of being taught that they were equal citizens, students were told that they needed to be aware of where their group slotted into an imagined pyramid of oppression.

The danger of woke is not that it is nonsense, but that it is perilously seductive. We evolved in kin-groups, and are easily stirred

up against supposed outsiders. It is Britain's historic value of common citizenship that requires patient education, both of new arrivals and the young.

In a society where people are now categorised, not on the basis of their behaviour, but by whether an ancestor owned or worked on a Caribbean plantation, is it any wonder that tribalism is making a comeback?

The war in Gaza is the immediate focus point, but this could be just the beginning.

Notice, for example, the only parts of London where Sadiq Khan lost votes compared to last time in 2021: Brent and Harrow (where many British Hindus live) and Ealing and Hillingdon (many Sikhs). Grateful as I am for Conservative votes, I'd much rather not have sectarianism of any kind.

For one thing, it does no favours to the communities concerned. If the main parties stop competing for your vote, you lose influence.

For another, it encourages

*'The Great Awakening has gathered pace'*

complacency. In my 21 years in the European Parliament, the worst examples of corruption I saw were in parties representing a national minority, where voters felt they had to vote for 'their' team on religious or linguistic grounds. We see something similar in Northern Ireland.

But the biggest problem is that identity politics is not compatible with an open society. We can't live together in a free democracy if two babies born on the same day come into the world with a set of pre-existing grievances.

What can be done? For one thing, the mainstream parties must work harder to engage with voters as individuals rather than pitching for bloc votes via community leaders.

There ought to be a long-term opportunity here for the Tories. British Muslims are more likely than the general population to be self-employed, to be owner-occupiers and to identify with the UK as a whole rather than with any of the constituent nations. There is the only great religion founded by a businessman, and its precepts emphasise the sanctity of property.

In Muslim-majority countries, the more religious parties tend, accordingly, to be more market-oriented. But here, because of the 'Great Awakening', everything is seen through the prism of race and oppression.

Changing that perception is ultimately a job for teachers. British children should leave school identifying primarily as citizens of this country, and with a measure of pride in our achievements, from stamping out the slave trade to defeating Nazism.

Simply to state the problem is to realise how deep-rooted it is. But if we don't tackle it, our democracy will break apart.

■ **LORD HANNAN** is International Secretary of the Conservative Party and serves on the Board of Trade.

*'The war in Gaza is the immediate focus point, but this could be just the beginning'*



## LOCAL ELECTION FALLOUT

# Now polls predict

## Rishi warns of a disaster for Britain if SNP prop up Keir

By **Martin Beckford**  
Policy Editor

KEIR Starmer has not yet 'sealed the deal' to win the general election, Rishi Sunak believes, after experts said Britain was on course for a hung Parliament.

A Cabinet ally of the Prime Minister yesterday insisted it was still 'all to play for', despite the Conservatives losing almost 500 councillors, a Red Wall by-election and all but one mayoral race last week.

Senior Tories have seized on a projection of the local election results by respected pollsters, which found that Labour is falling short of the lead it needs to secure a majority, and believe the gap will narrow as Opposition leader Sir Keir comes under further scrutiny.

Downing Street also hopes that by the time of the general election voters will feel better off thanks to tax cuts and an improving economy, while deportation flights to Rwanda will help deliver the crucial pledge to stop the boats.

Last night Mr Sunak told The Times: 'These results suggest we are heading for a

## Dominic Lawson

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hung Parliament with Labour as the largest party. Keir Starmer propped up in Downing Street by the SNP, Liberal Democrats and the Greens would be a disaster for Britain. The country doesn't need more political horse trading, but action.'

But the PM faces buffeting from both sides of the party over how to respond to the dire local elections, despite rebels abandoning a plot to replace him as leader.

Defeated West Midlands mayor Andy Street warned against a drift to the Right that would alienate mainstream voters while former home secretary Suella Braverman urged the PM to be more radical on tax cuts and legal migration to win back Tory supporters who are 'on strike'.

Told yesterday that the PM's unpopularity was dragging his party down, Transport Secretary Mark Harper said: 'The country's leading experts have forecast that on the results this week, you'd have a hung Parliament. That means Keir Starmer is not on course to win a majority. And that's before an election campaign where Labour's lack of policy would come under scrutiny.'

The analysis by Professor Michael Thrasher, based on 2 million council ward votes in England, puts Labour on course to win 294 seats in the Commons – ahead of the Conservatives on 242, but 32 short of a majority.

However, other commentators say the 'national equivalent vote' share cannot accurately predict

By **Policy Editor**

SUELLA Braverman has warned the Conservatives will be 'lucky to have any' MPs left after the election as she urged Rishi Sunak to move to the Right to win back voters.

The former home secretary admitted she regrets backing the Prime Minister but said it was too late to change leader and there was no 'Superman or Superwoman' who could save the Tories.

As debate raged over how Mr Sunak should respond to last week's local election results, she urged him to implement radical Right-wing policies to win back voters who have gone 'on strike'.

Mrs Braverman said he should make major tax cuts rather than just 'tweaking' the system, cap legal migration and pull Britain out of the European Court of Human Rights.

She also questioned why MPs have voted more on regulating pedicabs and banning smoking than on healthcare reform or fixing elderly care.

Rejecting Downing Street's line that the 'plan is working', Mrs Braverman told the BBC: 'There's no disguising the

### 'No Superman or Superwoman there'

fact that these have been terrible results for the Conservatives and they suggest that we are heading to a Labour government and that fills me with horror.

'I love my country, I care about my party and I want us to win and I'm urging the Prime Minister to change course, to, with humility, reflect on what the voters are telling us and change the plan and the way that he's communicating and leading us.'

Asked why the Tories should not change leader, she replied: 'We don't have enough time and it's impossible for anyone new to come and change our fortunes. There's no Superman or Superwoman out there who can do it.'

Asked what Mr Sunak should do differently, she said 'our voters are on strike' and that lifelong supporters had

## Tories should not be trailing to a man with the charisma of a peanut, says Suella



assurances from Rishi Sunak that he was going to put a cap on legal migration, that he was going to do something about the European Convention on Human Rights, that he was going to fix this transgender ideology in our schools; he hasn't done that.'

Mrs Braverman said the Tories should not be trailing in the polls to a 'rabble of hard-Left maniacs' in the Labour Party led by Sir Keir Starmer, whom she said had 'the charisma of a peanut'.

Meanwhile an ally of Mrs Braverman suggested she should be brought back into the Cabinet to represent the 'authentic Tory' wing of the party.

Former home office minister Sir John Hayes told Times Radio: 'I believe Suella leaving the top table wasn't great from that point of view.'

An ex-minister who has already submitted a letter of no confidence in Mr Sunak demanded the return of Boris Johnson to frontline politics. On Sky News, Dame Andrea Jenkyns also rejected a plea by defeated West Midlands Mayor Andy Street for the party to campaign from the centre and not 'drift to the Right'.

**Call for action: Suella Braverman yesterday**

## Reform 'handed the West Mids mayoralty to Labour'

WAVERING Conservative voters who opted for Reform in the West Midlands mayoral election handed the seat to Labour, Tories said yesterday.

Reform candidate Elaine Williams picked up 34,471 votes in a contest which saw Andy Street ousted by Labour's Richard Parker by just 1,508 ballots.

Ministers and backbenchers lamented the insurgent Reform party for splitting the vote.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper told Sky News: 'Any Conservative who chooses to vote Reform just gets more Labour people elected... the opposite of what those people want to see.'

the parliamentary results as it is based on only those who cast ballots on Thursday, does not include Scotland where there were no council elections, and assumes voters will pick the same parties come the general election.

Mr Harper told Sky News the results were 'disappointing', but insisted: 'Keir Starmer hasn't sealed the deal with the public. So

that means there's a fight to be had. The Prime Minister is up for that fight.' He rejected calls for the Government to change direction, telling the BBC: 'We have a plan and the plan is working.'

A No 10 source said the poll analysis raises 'serious questions about the ability of Keir Starmer's Labour Party to seal the deal at the next election to win a major-

## Only 18% of Londoners backed Khan for mayor

LESS than a fifth of Londoners voted to give Sadiq Khan a third term in office, despite the mayor boasting of 'record support' in the capital.

The Labour mayor earned 43.8 per cent of the vote, compared with Tory Susan Hall's 32.7 per cent – but the voter turnout figure was only 40.5

per cent. This means that Mr Khan's mandate came from only 17.7 per cent of the London electorate.

MP Paul Scully, who ran to be the Tory mayoral candidate, blamed his party's failure on a 'negative' campaign. 'You can't just sit there and moan from the sidelines,' he said.

ity'. 'At the moment, he's on course for a coalition with the Liberal Democrats, SNP and Greens.'

The insider said that while voters may be happy to choose councillors based on local issues, they could choose differently come the general election, adding: 'I don't think voters know what Keir Starmer really stands for.'

Labour election campaign co-

ordinator Pat McFadden agreed the party had 'more to do', telling GB News: 'We know we've still got work to do to win the trust of the British people to stop the chaos that we've seen in recent years and turn the page on the Tory years and that's what we'll be trying to do between now and whenever the PM calls the general election.'

Comment – Page 14



# a hung Parliament



## The fact is that Starmer STILL hasn't sealed the deal with British voters



**Stephen Glover**

**M**EDIA pundits are mostly united in believing that the Tories were hammered last Thursday, and are heading towards a catastrophic defeat at the general election.

There's certainly evidence to support this view. In Blackpool South, where there was a lone by-election, Labour enjoyed a massive 26-point swing from the Tories, who were nearly pushed into third place by Reform UK.

And although Ben Houchen was re-elected as Tees Valley mayor, the Conservatives were vanquished by Labour in every other mayoral contest, even if the margin of victory was wafer-thin in the West Midlands.

Overall, the Tories lost 473 councillors, and ended up with a slightly lower tally than the Liberal Democrats. Remember, though, that these local elections covered only parts of England.

So, yes, it was a dreadful performance, and almost as bad as the most pessimistic predictions.

But if one digs down into the numbers, the picture is somewhat less gloomy for the Tories, and distinctly less bracing for Sir Keir Starmer.

Labour's share of the vote was 34 per cent, while the Conservatives' was 27 per cent. Extrapolating Thursday's results is dangerous because turnout was much lower than at a general election, while local issues played a bigger role. Not only much of England but all of Wales and Scotland were excluded.

Labour's showing implies a small majority or hung parliament in the forthcoming nationwide election, rather than the kind of landslide achieved by Tony Blair in 1997. New Labour then won just over 43 per cent of the vote – almost 10 percentage points more than in Thursday's elections.

Labour's performance put them only 7 percentage points ahead of the Tories, whereas recent polls have been showing leads of 20 percentage points or more.

The fact is that Sir Keir Starmer hasn't sealed the deal with voters. Labour is being damaged by the defection of some Muslims because of its principled stand on Gaza. More than that, some people evidently remain uncertain about what Sir Keir, the master of U-turns, actually stands for.

Am I clutching at straws? I don't think so. My suggestion is not that the Tories merely have to apply a touch on the tiller to pull off a stunning victory in an election very likely to take place in October or November. I certainly don't think that.

But I do think the result could be much closer than many observers are predicting, if only the Tories get their act together, start showing some discipline, and go on producing popular policies.

The prerequisite of a Conservative recovery, without which everything else will be a waste of time, is to rally around Rishi Sunak. He's obviously not a perfect Prime Minister but he's the only one the

Tories have got, and they had better get used to that.

If reports of Conservative rebels sheathing their daggers are true, there's a chance that the party will present a united front to voters. This means that the Suella Bravermans and Robert Jenricks of this world must stop writing critical articles or making provocative statements telling Mr Sunak what he must do.

Voters aren't stupid. They know that when leading Tories say that they support Rishi, but he really must get on and do A, B, and C, they are speaking with forked tongues.

Whether the Tories can re-establish order, given their propensity for fratricide, may be reasonably doubted. I believe there's a possibility that they will do so, because the alternative is political oblivion. They must realise that the smallest grumble about Rishi will be taken up and amplified by the anti-Tory media.

**A**S FAR as policies are concerned, Mr Sunak has admittedly often been slow to act, but he does tend to get there in the end. Another tax cut a couple of months before the election might persuade voters that the Conservatives, unlike Labour, really do believe in lower taxes.

Someone – and the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, may be too lightweight for this task – must sit on the large, self-satisfied specimen of humanity that is the Governor of the Bank of England, and tell him that now is the time to start cutting interest rates.

Some illegal migrants may be put on aeroplanes to Rwanda in July, which would mark a kind of resolution to a painful saga. Just as important are the next batch of immigration figures. A sharp decline in the number of visas

being handed out suggests that the Government is finally gripping this issue.

Uncontrolled immigration will be of the greatest concern to voters over the next few years. Labour has produced no convincing policies to restrict either legal or illegal arrivals. Here is a clear opportunity for the Tories.

Slow though he has sometimes been in getting to the starting line, Rishi can persuade voters that he's more to be trusted on defence (where Labour has refused to match the Government's pledge to increase spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP) and welfare reform.

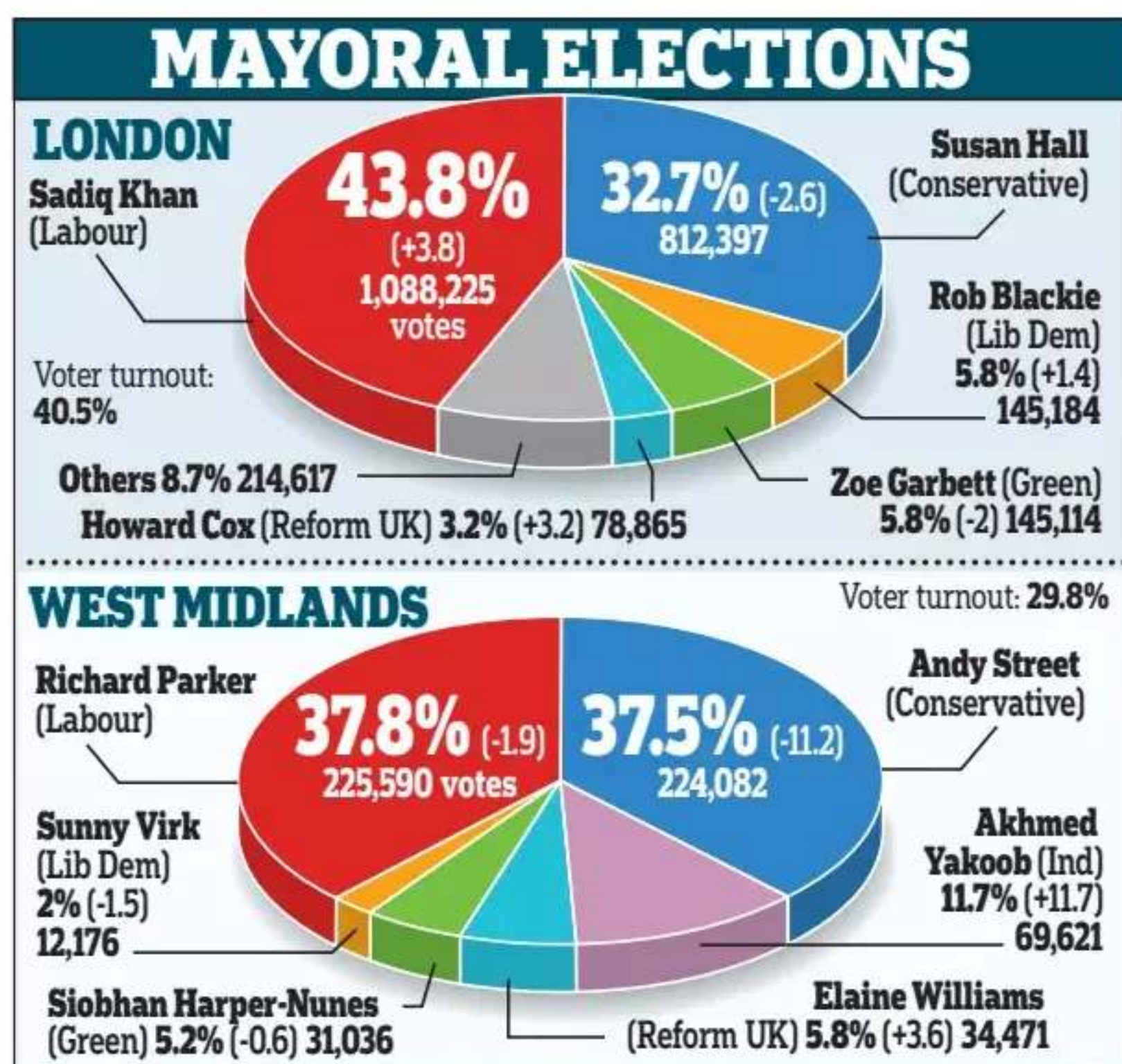
Having lost the West Midlands mayoral contest by a whisker, Andy Street warned the Tories not to 'drift' to the Right. If he means that they should shun popular and necessary policies on tax, immigration, defence and welfare, he's absolutely wrong.

In a way, the greatest danger to the Conservatives is not Labour but Reform UK, which won 17 per cent of the vote in Blackpool South. As it fielded candidates only in a sixth of wards in the local elections, it caused limited damage to the Tories.

Most of Reform UK's prospective voters are probably disgruntled Conservatives. If they can be persuaded that Rishi & Co have finally got the message, many of them could be won back at the general election.

The past can't be undone. The parties at No10 during the pandemic, the messy defenestration of Boris Johnson, the lunacies of Liz Truss – all these have left a stain on the Tories, and made many people question their probity and competence.

But the die isn't cast. Look at the share of the vote on Thursday. The Conservative Party can avoid a wipeout – so long as it doesn't try to wipe out Rishi.





# Tears at vigil for sword victim Daniel

By **Matt Strudwick**

**HUNDREDS** of mourners yesterday gathered at an emotional vigil for Daniel Anjorin who was killed in last week's sword attack.

More than 300 people gathered by Hainault Underground Station, north-east London, in memory of the 14-year-old who was stabbed to death nearby.

Marcus Arduini Monzo, 36, appeared in court last week accused of being behind the 22-minute rampage that left Daniel dead and four others injured. He will appear at the Old Bailey tomorrow.

Mourners were in tears yesterday during a moment of silence for the schoolboy. Although his family were not at the vigil, heart-broken loved ones joined in with a rendition of Bill Withers' 1972 song Lean On Me.

Harris, a 17-year-old boy who asked for his surname to remain anonymous, told the crowd: 'He was a kid that was not in any type



*Emotional: Mourners gather yesterday in Hainault, London*

of trouble. I'm not just saying that. He never did anything wrong. He focused on school, he got good grades, he [went] to church.

'His family are appreciating all your support. They've noticed everything you guys are doing... On their behalf, thanks to all of you.'

On Saturday Arsenal paid tribute to Daniel, who supported the team, with a round of applause during their game against Bournemouth.

His family later released a statement in memory of their 'most

loved and amazing son'. The statement, released through the Metropolitan Police, said: 'It is difficult for us at this time to process what has happened to him and that he will never come home.'

'Daniel had left the house for school and then he was gone. Our children have lost their loving and precious brother and we have lost the most loved and amazing son.'

The family sent their 'best wishes' to the other victims and thanked the community for their support.



*Killed: Daniel Anjorin*

# Spacey show WILL air despite fightback

By **Inderdeep Bains**  
Deputy Chief Reporter

A DOCUMENTARY featuring fresh allegations against Kevin Spacey will air tonight – despite an astonishing backlash from the embattled actor.

Channel 4's Spacey Unmasked includes the testimonies of ten men who accuse the fallen Hollywood star of unwanted sexual behaviours spanning almost 40 years.

The actor, 64, was acquitted of nine sexual offences in a case involving four men at Southwark Crown Court last year. He also won a US civil lawsuit in 2022 after being accused of an unwanted sexual advance.

The two-part documentary, which concludes tomorrow, is understood to feature claims from new complainants, including three British men, who were not involved in previous legal proceedings. But Spacey has said he will 'no longer be speechless' in a slew of vehement denials.

In an interview with former GB News presenter Dan Wootton, which was posted on X, he said: 'I take full responsibility for my past behaviour and my actions. But I cannot and will not take responsibility or apologise to anyone who's made up stuff about me or exaggerated stories.'

## As French call for British help to protect skies at Paris Olympics...

# It's RAF to le rescue!

By **Andy Jehring**

FRANCE defending its skies at the Olympics this summer with a revolutionary anti-drone system was supposed to be a moment of national pride

But after a series of embarrassing testing failures, there is chatter across the Channel that the French have been forced into the most humiliating climbdown – and called in the British.

With less than three months to go before the opening ceremony,

## 'Macron had to beg Britain'

France has had to bolster its much-vaunted 'Parade' kit with systems said to include RAF tech and manpower.

While the French armed forces insisted to the Mail there was 'not any support requested' from the UK, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed it has offered 'equipment and personnel'.

And France's satirical newspaper Le Canard Enchaîné has said President Emmanuel Macron had to 'beg' Britain, and



## Sacre beurre... uproar at vegan croissant

A PARISIAN 'virtue-signalling' bakery has cooked up a culinary contretemps – by launching a butter-free vegan croissant.

Rodolphe Landemaine, who has five shops in the French capital, is now *l'enfant terrible* of the boulangerie scene after he declared: 'I'm changing the world.'

M. Landemaine, who also makes other vegan pastries, said his business is growing fast with new branches

planned in other French cities, including Bordeaux and Lyon.

But Olivier Boudot, a cookery teacher, told the BBC: 'It's difficult for me to even talk about making a croissant without butter.' And dairy farmer Sophie Lenaerts, 57, from Amiens, claimed vegan croissants were symbolic of 'industrial madness' and 'virtue-signalling'.

But while he may have fired up the French foodies, M. Lande-

maine hasn't been brave enough to actually use the word 'vegan'. He said: 'It's not an easy word for French people to get used to. It's very difficult for them to give up on butter and eggs.'

Meanwhile, other Parisian bakers yesterday reclaimed a record by creating the world's longest baguette, measuring 46ft – nearly three times the height of the Arc De Triomphe.

*Tips for Emily in... Rome – Page 40*

mocked his government for the 'humiliation supreme'.

The Parade system won the French defence procurement agency's tender to develop an anti-drone system in 2022 at a cost of €350 million.

It can detect threats, and jam and immobilise them. It can also allow police drones to capture devices with nets and shoot down drones directly – though this is a last resort, as debris can kill or injure those on the ground.

'It's annoying that this is coming out publicly but, unfortunately, contrary to the official

line, things aren't really working as we'd like,' a senior security source told the AFP news agency last month. Le Canard reports that the French Air Force is 'threatening to send back the six Parade systems it received without paying for them'.

The opening ceremony will be along the Seine, rather than at the Stade de France, but the river is vulnerable to drone attacks and snipers, officials fear.

An MoD spokesman said: 'We are working across Whitehall departments on providing UK support to the security operation

for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

'Our specialist search dog units will assist with venue security, and the RAF will offer equipment and personnel to help counter potential unauthorised drones.'

A spokesman for the French armed forces ministry said it had to bolster the Parade system but insisted: 'There is not any support requested from the UK following the results of the tests of the anti-drone system.'

A spokesman for Thales, which developed Parade, said its system – based on 'advanced processing

algorithms' – had 'demonstrated its relevance' at the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

They added: 'Given the stakes involved, it is normal that the development of these algorithms and the fine-tuning of these sensors is requiring some effort and time, but the most important thing is to be ready for the Olympic Games 2024 with a system that armed forces operators have fully adopted.'

They said that the firm is 'fully mobilised to ensure that this system is fully operational for the Olympic Games'.



# One year on, a low-key Coronation anniversary for the King

## But will he meet Harry this week?



**EXCLUSIVE**  
By **Rebecca English**  
Royal Editor

POMP and pageantry reigned at his Coronation one year ago. But, after a whirlwind 12 months, it's understandable King Charles would prefer much less fanfare this time around.

The King will celebrate the first anniversary of his Coronation today in low-key style with close friends at Windsor.

Even his wife, Queen Camilla, is unlikely to be present as she is with her own family at her private Wiltshire home, Ray Mill House.

It is understood that His Majesty wishes to mark the day 'in his mother's mould' with very little fuss, as his accession is so intrinsically bound with the sad loss of Queen Elizabeth.

But it is still unknown whether he will meet with his youngest son, Prince Harry, when he flies into London this week.

Buckingham Palace will acknowledge the anniversary on social media, while there will be military salutes in London.

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery will fire a 41-gun royal salute with 71 horses, pulling six First World War-era 13-pounder field guns.

Over at the Tower of London, the Honourable Artillery Company regiment will fire a 62-gun royal salute. There will be further tributes in Edinburgh, Cardiff, York and Hillsborough in Northern Ireland.

But there will be little in the way of family 'celebrations', particularly from the King himself, who will more than likely simply enjoy a private dinner.

Charles will return to London tomorrow, having been given doctors' permission to undertake more public engagements again while he continues cancer treatment. It was claimed at the week-



Fanfare: Being crowned last year

end that Prince William is concerned that his father is taking on too much.

Prince Harry is likely to fly into the capital tomorrow ahead of a service at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the tenth anniversary of his Invictus Games on Wednesday afternoon. However, the Mail

### 'Marking it in his mother's mould'

understands that reports he plans to use the trip to meet with his father again are a little premature, with nothing in the diary yet.

Buckingham Palace has repeatedly declined to comment, determined not to inflame public discourse around the issue. But it is

known that the King has a hugely busy week ahead of him.

Yesterday he was out and about in Gloucestershire where he attended church.

He has official meetings on Wednesday morning followed by his expected appearance at the first Buckingham Palace garden party of the season.

Straight afterwards he will meet with the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, and hold his weekly Privy Council meeting.

The Mail also understands that the King has a yet-to-be announced public engagement on Thursday after which he will retire, most likely to Windsor, to continue his recovery.

It is possible that a meeting could still be scheduled, particularly if Harry personally asks to

meet his father. But, as it stands, it is difficult to see the pair meeting at all – and, if they are able, any meeting will be brief.

The pair last met in February when Harry flew to London after the King announced he had been diagnosed with an undisclosed form of cancer.

Charles, who was about to leave London for Sandringham, kept his helicopter waiting but their meeting at Clarence House lasted barely half an hour.

Harry later told Good Morning America that he hoped his father's illness could 'reunify' the family.

However Prince William has no plans to meet with his estranged brother and will be at Windsor undertaking an investiture before heading off to the West Country for more official duties. He has

been particularly upset by Harry's behaviour after facing criticism in his memoir, *Spare*.

Queen Camilla was not present when he met the King last time and it is unlikely she will be around this week either.

It comes as a Mail on Sunday poll showed King Charles receiving a major vote of confidence with the majority of Britons believing he is doing a good job.

A landmark poll to mark the first anniversary of his Coronation shows a strong increase in support for the monarch in the last 12 months.

Some 60 per cent of those polled believe the UK should keep the monarchy, with just 28 per cent preferring a republic.

*Comment – Page 14*



Out and about: King Charles leaves church in Gloucestershire yesterday

Picture: CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE



Decay: Royal Lodge in Windsor

## Duke's crumbling mansion risks royal row

By **Claire Duffin**

WITH its peeling paint and cracked brickwork, it seems a far cry from a royal residence.

But this is Prince Andrew's home in Windsor, in an image that risks reigniting his row with King Charles over the repair bill.

The Mail revealed last year that the King wants to evict Andrew from Royal Lodge and move him to a more modest property.

Sources said His Majesty has made clear he is unwilling to pay indefinitely for his brother to be guarded around the clock at the 19th-century, Grade II-listed

property, which has a pool and 90 acres of land. The security bill alone is estimated to be costing Charles more than £3million a year.

The disgraced duke, who has no apparent income, is said to be unable to meet the £400,000-a-year upkeep of the property.

But he has refused to leave the Queen Mother's 30-room former home.

It was reported in October that he did a deal to stay at the lodge, where he lives

with his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, if he kept up repairs. A source told the Sunday Mirror: 'The Duke of York has a clear responsibility for the upkeep of the Royal Lodge estate, which is certainly not happening.'

'The state of the residence will be of great concern to the King after everything that has gone on and been discussed in regards to the house. Prince Andrew was told he must take charge of the necessary renovations or he will have no cause to stay.'

Buckingham Palace and the Crown Estate declined to comment.



# Surge of anti-Semitism in UK is among the highest in Europe

BRITAIN has seen the fourth-highest rise in anti-Semitic incidents in Europe since the October 7 Hamas attacks, 'staggering' figures have revealed.

Amid rising concern about US-style pro-Palestine protests at UK universities, a dis-

By **James Tozer**

turbing international league table yesterday showed hate crimes aimed at Jewish people leapt from 1,662 to 4,103 last year – up 146 per cent.

In Europe, only France, Switzerland and Bulgaria recorded a higher rate of increase

– prompting campaigners to warn that Britain was 'succumbing to a racist mob'.

Disturbingly, the UK also witnessed 58 per cent more assaults on Jewish people between October 7 and the end of 2023 than the US, despite having just one twentieth as many Jews.

The alarming figures come as

universities were accused of deserting Jewish students over pro-Palestinian protests sweeping the country.

On Saturday, Edward Isaacs, president of the Union of Jewish Students, said that campus bosses had not been 'allies' to his members and were not making them feel 'included'.

Figures compiled in an annual report on anti-Semitism by Tel Aviv University and the respected Anti-Defamation League found a sharp increase in incidents since October 7 last year in a string of countries.

Subsequent analysis by the Daily Mail found that the percentage rise in the UK was only topped by France – home to Europe's biggest Jewish population and where there was a 284 per cent increase in anti-Semitic incidents – Switzerland and Bulgaria.

Outside Europe, recorded incidents in Australia – home to 118,200 Jews – rocketed by 737 per cent, from 79 in October and November 2022 to 662 in the same

## Tell police of hate speech on campus, says minister

UNIVERSITY bosses must alert the police if there is 'illegal hate speech' or extremism during campus protests, the Education Secretary has said.

Gillian Keegan warned vice-chancellors of 'alarming levels of division and violence' at universities in the US where pro-Palestine activists have clashed with counter-protesters.

Protests have spread to British universities, with students setting up tents.

University officials have been summoned to Downing Street this week to discuss the issue.

In a letter, Mrs Keegan tells them: 'I know a great deal of work is already under way to plan emergency responses to any escalation of protests... enabling students of all faiths to complete their studies without fear of intimidation or discrimination... Where there is evidence of possible criminality, including illegal hate speech or supporting a proscribed terrorist organisation such as Hamas, it is crucial that you contact the police.'

continue, the curtain will descend on the ability to lead Jewish lives in the West'.

'With bomb threats against synagogues becoming a daily occurrence, Jewish existence in the West is forced to fortify itself, and the more it does so, the more the sense of security and normality is undermined,' he added.

### 'Succumbing to a racist mob'

period 12 months later. A spokesman for the Campaign Against Antisemitism said yesterday: 'These staggering figures are the latest confirmation of the surging anti-Semitism that we are seeing across all areas of British life since the October 7 Hamas attack.'

'As this report shows, this is not a problem unique to Britain, but Britain is not faring well, and every country must act to protect its Jewish community.'

'This is not the tolerant Britain that we cherish: it is a Britain succumbing to a racist mob.'

Highlighting how incidents were on the rise globally even before October 7, the report's authors warned the Hamas terror outrage had 'helped spread a fire that was already out of control'.

Professor Uriya Shavit, head of the Centre for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, cautioned that 'if current trends

## Gloomy farmers say wet weather is the last straw

FARMERS' confidence in their outlook has collapsed to an all-time low with more than four-fifths in England and Wales saying they have been negatively affected by months of wet weather.

All areas of farming expect to see decreased production in the next year, a poll by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) found.

The survey revealed 65 per cent of farmers said their profits are declining or their business may not survive. Tom Bradshaw, NFU president, said extreme weather was part of 'the perfect storm' along with other problems such as increased costs and inflation.

Experts have warned that lower yields from key crops could lead to higher food prices.



'We were dairy, now we're a trout farm'



UK Government

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SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE





# Emily Blunt: I've kissed Hollywood's finest... and some of them made me want to throw up

By **Dolly Busby**  
Showbusiness Reporter

**SHE'S** kissed many a heartthrob in her box office hits including Cillian Murphy, Matt Damon and most recently Ryan Gosling.

But Emily Blunt has revealed she wanted to be sick after smooching some of her co-stars.

Asked whether she ever 'wanted to throw up' after kissing an actor, the actress replied: 'Absolutely, absolutely...I wouldn't say it's extreme loathing, but I've definitely not enjoyed some of it.'

Ms Blunt, 41, said that she has developed techniques for kissing co-stars she's not attracted to and is well-versed in creating 'chemistry'.

She told American radio host Howard Stern: 'I think my feeling is I've got to find something I love about everybody. I have to find something



*Smooch: With co-star Ryan Gosling*

- even if it's one thing. It might be like they have a nice laugh or I like how they speak to people, they're polite. I mean, it might be something random.

'But find something you love about that person or something you love about them as the character and then kind of lean into that.'

The Oscar-nominee, who is married

to US actor John Krasinski, added: 'I have had chemistry with people; I have not had a good time working with them...'

'Chemistry is this strange thing. It's an ethereal thing that you can't really bottle up and buy or sell. It's there or it's not. And you can manufacture it.'

'I've been doing this long enough. I could have chemistry with this water bottle at this point. You know how to conjure it. But it's just easier when you have a natural rapport with someone.'

But Ms Blunt reassured listeners that her connection with Gosling, who plays her love interest in new action movie *The Fall Guy*, was genuine.

She added: 'I love his wife, Eva. I love their children, and I feel like I'm very lucky to be friends with a gem of a person like him.'

# Cyclist who killed OAP, 81, avoids court 'because speed limits don't apply to bikes'

By **Cameron Charters**

**THE** son of a pensioner who was killed when a speeding cyclist crashed into her has criticised a legal loophole which means the rider cannot be prosecuted.

Gerard Griffiths says the law should be changed to force cyclists to adhere to speed limits after his mother Hilda was hit by Brian Fitzgerald in London in June 2022.

Mrs Griffiths, 81, was walking her paterdale terrier Oscar in Regent's Park when she was struck by the cyclist, suffering head injuries. Only days before, she had told her son: 'Those bloody cyclists are getting worse, you know.'

Mr Griffiths, 52, told the Mail: 'The law has to change to make everyone equal', adding that it was 'fundamentally wrong' that cyclists do not have to adhere to speed limits.

Police and prosecutors felt there was no charge which applied to Mrs Griffiths' case and were unable to proceed against Mr Fitzgerald - a director at finance firm Credit Suisse. Speed limits do not apply to cyclists. The limit in Regent's Park is 20mph and Mr Fitzgerald was cycling at 29mph on the day of the crash.

Mrs Griffiths died after 59 days in hospital, meaning her death was not registered as a 'road death', because the law requires the person



**Cycling at 29mph: Brian Fitzgerald**



**Head injuries: Hilda Griffiths, 81**

to have died within 30 days of the crash.

Mr Griffiths said: 'The galling thing is her death certificate does not register on the statistics for road deaths.'

'The law has to change to make everyone equal. You

## 'The law has to change'

have got a two-tier system on the roads. Anyone driving a motor vehicle has to adhere to the speed limits and cyclists are exempt.

'That is fundamentally

wrong because it has been proven that cyclists cycling at speed can kill. That is something going forward we would like to change. It is easier said than done.'

Mr Fitzgerald is part of the Muswell Hill Peloton cycling club in north London. He told Inner West London Coroner's Court that he had 'zero reaction time' and extended his 'sympathies' to the family, according to the Sunday Telegraph. He was in a 'fast group' of cyclists doing timed laps round the park on the day Mrs Griffiths was struck.

Mrs Griffiths had worked

as a nursery teacher and lived close to her son, who works as a caretaker.

Speaking about the past two years, Mr Griffiths said: 'It was a shock to the system. You have the strength of your friends and loved ones around you, and you pull through it - you have to.'

'In her retirement she got great pleasure in going to the park and meeting other dog walkers and people, having a chat.'

Jean Harkin, the assistant coroner, recorded a verdict of 'accidental cycling collision death'.



**Suffering for her craft: Emily Blunt on red carpet**



# Daily Mail

## COMMENT

### Perils of pandering to sectarian politics

FROM his profile on the Green Party website, Mothin Ali comes across as a most agreeable soul. An accountant by profession, he volunteers for charity, loves horticulture, and is passionate about 'community wellbeing'.

On being elected to Leeds City Council, however, he presented an angrier and far more sinister face. As supporters unfurled a Palestinian flag behind him, he launched into a rant about Labour's failure to back a Gaza ceasefire.

'We will not be silenced,' he said. 'We will raise the voice of Gaza. We will raise the voice of Palestine. Allahu Akbar (God is great).'

Quite what Leeds city council is supposed to do about the war in Gaza, or why it should have any part in the role of a local councillor, was unclear, but Mr Ali's election was not some eccentric one-off.

In a raft of northern wards with large Muslim communities, Labour was forced out by a loose affiliation of independent and Green candidates united more by a loathing of Israel than any concerns about local transport or bin collection.

In some areas Labour's vote fell by up to 40 per cent, giving Sir Keir Starmer a serious electoral headache. He says he wants to 'win back the trust' of pro-Palestinians, but how far will he go to do it?

As we have seen from the swastikas brandished at marches across the country, anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism often go hand in hand. So, would the Labour leader be prepared to turn a blind eye to bigotry for short-term political gain?

And if he did support a permanent Israeli ceasefire, what would the zealots demand next? Recognition of Hamas? An embargo on trade with Israel?

The Labour leader has a sorry record of flip-flopping on major issues. If he is to retain any moral credibility, he must stand firm on this one.

Pandering to sectarianism would be an affront to democracy and a betrayal of British Jews. It would also torpedo his claim to have purged Labour of anti-Semitism.

### Time for Tory unity

DESPITE their drubbing in the local polls, there may yet be a narrow path to Tory recovery before the general election.

Labour's vote was down on last year and psephologists believe they are not yet certain of a Westminster majority. Also the turnout was pitifully low, as disenchanted Conservatives stayed at home.

Rishi Sunak's overriding mission is to coax them back into the fold. He's already taking the fight to Sir Keir on tax, immigration and identity politics. He must double down on those and the many other issues where Labour is weak.

Above all, Tory MPs must show unity and self-belief. There isn't much time to turn things around. But with hard work and a sense of common purpose, it can be done.

### King's testing year

IN the year since his coronation, King Charles has had much to deal with. The illness of the Princess of Wales, the continuing Harry and Meghan saga and, of course, his own cancer treatment.

Thankfully he's now well enough to come back to work. Charles has been a steady hand on the royal tiller since the death of his beloved mother, as demonstrated by a Mail on Sunday poll at the weekend showing strong support for both him and the institution he heads.

To the chagrin of republicans everywhere, the monarchy appears to be safe in his hands for the foreseeable future.

# If Labour fight this dirty when they are miles in front, imagine how low they'll sink if the polls narrow

**N**O prizes for guessing the most compelling political message delivered in last week's council elections. Unfortunately, it was also a lie.

This was an image of the Prime Minister, next to his signature, accompanied by the words: 'Do you think working people deserve a retirement? Rishi Sunak doesn't. Want to keep your pension? Don't risk it with Rishi Sunak. Vote Labour.'

And many millions did (though for plenty of other reasons, besides).

This cruel fiction was justified by Labour on the grounds that the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, said the Conservatives have a long-term plan to remove the tax known as National Insurance. And many people imagine that the money raised by this goes directly and solely to provide the state pension.

In fact, as Alex Brummer pointed out in the Mail: 'The cash raised on payroll from employers and employees goes straight into the Exchequer; it is just another form of income tax, imposed exclusively on workers. In the UK there is no tradition of ring-fenced taxes.'

Moreover, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility, £138 billion will be spent on the state pension this year, over three times more than the total raised by National Insurance contributions.

### Revulsion

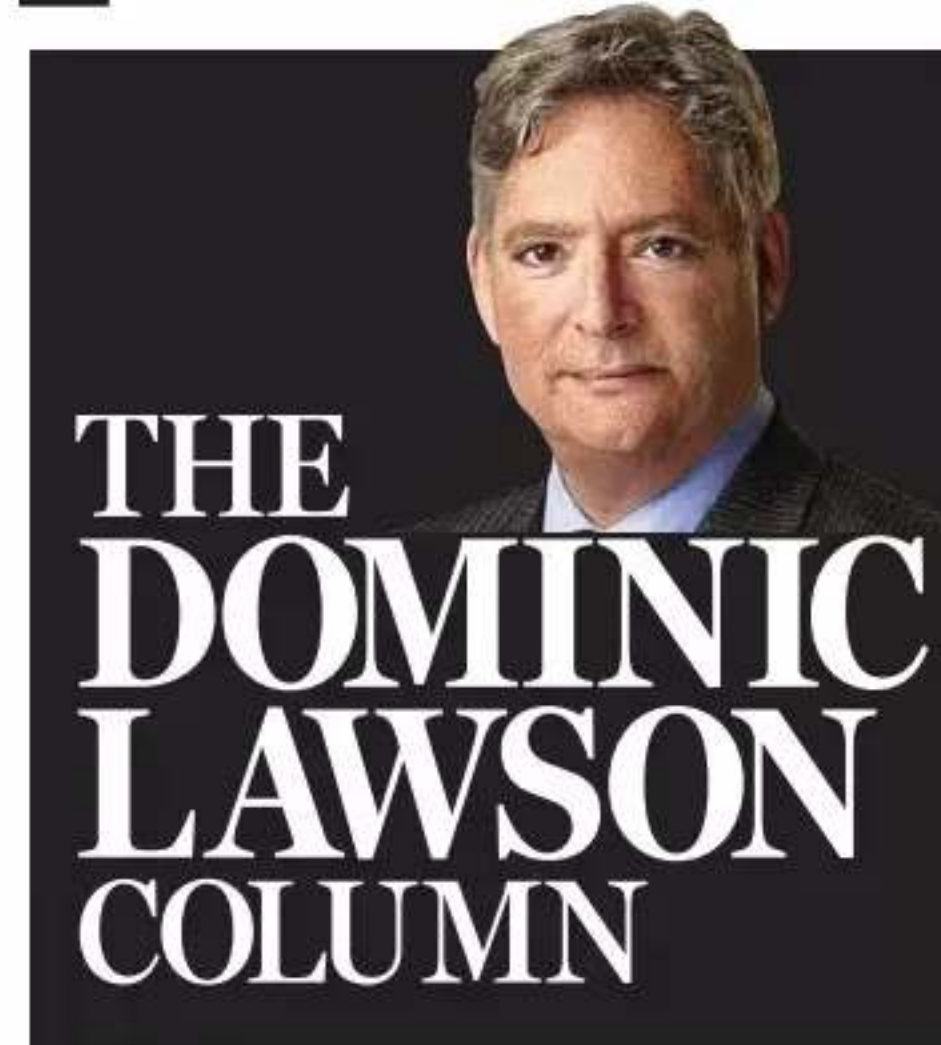
Keir Starmer and his team understand all this, which is why I described their claim as a lie — defined as a false statement known to be untrue by the person saying it.

The best that can be said is that this deliberately dishonest social media campaign was less lurid than the 'attack ad' Labour put out during the local election campaign last year. That used exactly the same image of Rishi Sunak, with his signature, next to the words: 'Do you think adults convicted of sexually assaulting children should go to prison? Rishi Sunak doesn't.'

This attempt to portray Sunak as the paedophiles' pal was based on the numbers of such offenders who did not serve jail-time since 2010 (when the Conservatives have been in office).

In fact, Sunak was not even an MP for part of that period and, as it happens, Sir Keir Starmer, as the former Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), was on the sentencing council for a number of those years.

The former Labour Home Secretary Lord (David) Blunkett was one of a number of the party's most experienced figures to express their revulsion. Blunkett said he had been left 'close to despair' by what he termed the 'deeply offensive' advertisements. But as the Sunday Times noted at the time: 'Labour strategists are cock-a-hoop with how the adverts have landed. The first [of these ads put out on Twitter]



has received 20.8 million views, making it arguably the most successful Labour attack in recent memory.'

Starmer is a man who, by all accounts, behaves with decency and kindness in his personal life. But he is also a football fanatic, and applies to politics the ethics of professional football — which is that the dirtiest of tricks can be excused if it brings victory to your side. But if the other side does the same, that is outrageous and unacceptable.

And it seems the Labour leader is still furious at the way, during a Commons debate in February 2022, the then Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that, as DPP, Starmer had spent the majority of his time 'prosecuting journalists and not prosecuting Jimmy Savile, as far as I can make out'. In fact, Starmer, while head of the DPP, was not involved in the (non) charging decisions in 2009 over Savile, though later he apologised for the organisation's 'shortcomings'.

One result of Johnson's jibe across the despatch box was that Starmer, by his own account, encountered 'people calling me a paedophile protector in the street'. But the then Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, explicitly distanced himself from Johnson's remark, telling a press conference the same day: 'I wouldn't have said it.'

### Calculated

Johnson himself later told broadcasters: 'Let's be absolutely clear, I'm not talking about the Leader of the Opposition's personal record when he was DPP. I totally understand that he had nothing to do personally with those decisions.'

By contrast, Labour's claims that Sunak 'doesn't think adults convicted of sexually assaulting children should go to prison' were part of a coldly calculated strategy, not blurted out once in the heat of a parliamentary debate: and Starmer's team, unlike Johnson, have never suggested the slightest contrition.

Sunak himself is not completely averse to dishing it out. For example, when raising the fact that, in his career as 'a

lefty lawyer' (to quote the PM), Starmer had represented the Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir, which the Government has since proscribed as a terrorist organisation. And when in an interview with Piers Morgan, he was asked if he was saying that Starmer is a 'terrorist sympathiser', the PM refused to deny it: 'The facts speak for themselves. These things speak to people's values.'

But what are Starmer's values, politically? Since being elected Labour leader on a platform which might be described as 'Corbynism without Corbyn', he has consistently discarded all the policies he had promised he would pursue if in government.

Nationalising the big six energy companies, dropped. Abandoning private sector 'outsourcing' by the NHS, dropped. Abolishing university tuition fees, dropped. Increasing income tax for the highest earners, dropped. Scrapping the Conservatives 'heinous' two-child benefit cap, dropped. The taxpayer-funded £28 billion 'Green growth' plan, dropped.

Next? Well, as the Rwanda scheme for deporting illegally trafficked migrants, which Starmer said he would scrap, seems actually to have some deterrent value, the Labour-supporting New Statesman reports that the party might now retain it.

### Schism

The point is this: the more Starmer scraps all the Left-wing pledges which radically differed from the programme of the Conservative government, the more Labour relies on making things up to suggest a gulf in values which no longer exists at the level of real policies.

And by claiming that the evil Tories are about to cancel the state pension, Labour can create an imaginary schism in which they are still on the side of the working man (or woman) in a way the Conservatives aren't.

It is not coincidental that the last time Labour tried this tactic was during the 1997 general election, under Tony Blair, who, as the then Conservative PM John Major wistfully put it, had left him feeling as though he had gone swimming in the River Thames, left his clothes on the bank, and found that Blair was wearing them.

In the final weeks of that campaign, too, Labour claimed the Conservatives would 'abolish the state pension'. An outraged Major declared: 'I'd leave politics rather than abolish the state pension'.

Then, as now, Labour perpetuated this lie when miles ahead in the opinion polls. And then, as now, you'd think that it was only necessary to keep reminding the public about the division and decay within a Conservative Party that had turned to devouring itself, for Labour to achieve victory. It raises the question: if Labour fights this dirty when more than 20 points ahead in the opinion polls, how will it behave if things get squeaky?





from Tom  
Leonard

IN NEW YORK

**I**T WAS probably just as well that lorry driver Larry Walters didn't tell the authorities about his travel plans. After all, aviation officials tend to take a dim view of unlicensed pilots soaring thousands of feet upwards into the path of passenger jets while sitting in a garden chair suspended from 42 helium balloons.

And so, having taken off from his fiancée's tiny back garden in the Los Angeles suburb of San Pedro one morning in July 1982, he rapidly disappeared from sight.

Lawnchair Larry, as he became known, was next spotted by airline pilots at 16,500ft (more than three miles up) preparing to shoot his weather balloons with an air pistol so he could descend gradually to the ground. Or at least that was the plan.

The 33-year-old Vietnam War veteran had longed to become an air force pilot but could not because of his poor eyesight. However, after seeing a weather balloon hanging from a military surplus store when he was 13, he got an idea of how he could find another way to fly.

The enterprising or — depending on your point of view — utterly insane Walters had hoped to reach the Mojave Desert 250 miles to the north-east of LA but 'only' travelled 20 miles before landing in Long Beach, hitting power lines and causing a blackout.

Now, the magnificent pilot and his terrifying flying machine are being celebrated in a new musical, *42 Balloons*, that has opened at The Lowry theatre in Salford, Greater Manchester. Producer Andy Barnes calls the musical 'a very human story about dreams'.

He adds: 'It has elements that we have all experienced at one time, coupled with the most extraordinary ideas that, we as humans, come up with.' Or as Walters rather more succinctly put it at the time: 'A man can't just sit around.' His mother, he admitted, was less charitable and 'thought maybe I was possessed by the devil, or perhaps post-Vietnam stress syndrome. She wanted me to see a psychiatrist.'

**H**IS unorthodox vessel consisted of an aluminium outdoor chair purchased from a department store for \$109, 13 plastic gallon jugs of water for ballast, a parachute, a lifejacket, an altimeter, a Timex watch, a two-way radio, two litres of Coke, two torches as headlights, an air pistol, sandwiches, a road map of California, a compass and the 42 weather balloons, each 7ft in diameter and with a volume of 33 cubic feet.

He didn't bother with a safety belt as the chair was tilted back 10 degrees so he didn't think he'd be tipped out of it.

His fiancée, Carol Van Deusen, financed most of the operation and suggested he launch from her back garden, as there was a hospital just down the road.

The pair, helped by a few friends — the other members of what Walters grandly called his 'ground crew' — inflated the balloons overnight and told suspicious police officers who inquired about

the contraption that grew to 150ft in height that they were making a TV advert.

The chair, which Walters named *Inspiration*, was tethered by a nylon guy rope to the bumper of a friend's car outside the house. The balloons, attached to the chair by four ropes, were arranged in four tiers above the chair. Walters thought he would majestically ascend to just 100ft, eat a leisurely sandwich and, all being well, keep going.

However, he had miscalculated — his craft was over-ballooned. When his ground crew released it, it shot up at a rate of 800ft a minute, the force snapping the tethering rope and knocking off his glasses. His girlfriend pleaded with him to come down but there was 'no way in heck', he said, he was ending it now.

At first, the experience of going up and up in a piece of garden furniture was something to savour. 'The higher I went, the more I could see, and it was awesome,' he recalled. 'Sitting in this little chair and, you know man, unreal... I could look up the coast, like, for ever.'

At one point he caught sight of a private plane — it was below him. But after passing 10,000ft, at which point he should have started breathing with the aid of an oxygen tank (he didn't have one), he was drifting aimlessly into controlled airspace over LA.

A TWA airline pilot radioed in to say he had seen a man in a lawn chair with a pistol in his hands. A

**High-flier:**  
Lawnchair  
Larry in  
1982 and,  
inset, 2009  
film *Up*

Delta airline pilot reported seeing the Walters flight crossing the primary approach corridor to LAX airport. 'We have a man in a chair attached to balloons in our ten o'clock position, range five miles,' he told air traffic control.

Numb with cold and struggling to breathe, Walters realised it was time to come down. He had calculated he would need to shoot seven balloons to ensure a controlled descent to the ground, and — having popped them — put the gun in his lap while he read the altimeter.

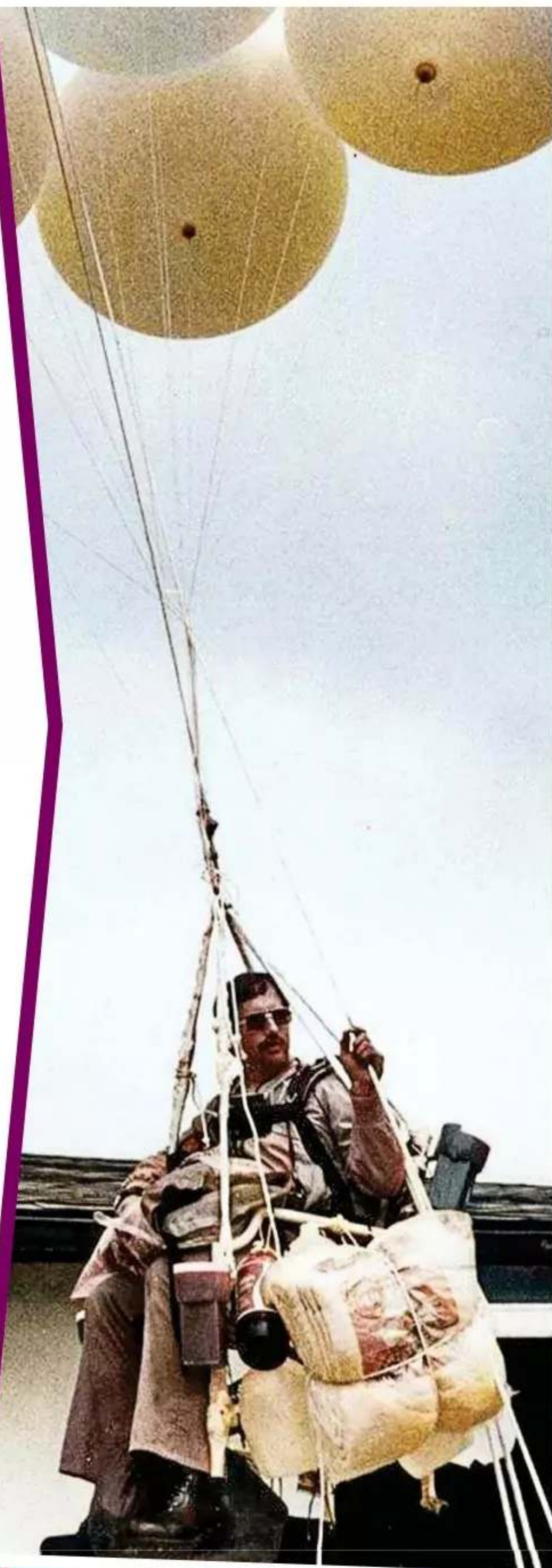
The chair lurched forward in a gust of wind and the air pistol was knocked into the ether. To his horror, the craft started ascending again. Walters considered using his parachute but he'd only done a single jump and he wasn't remotely confident.

A subsequent official hearing was told he would have been carried to 50,000ft and turned — as he put it — 'into a Popsicle'.

But providence intervened. Walters began to hear the hiss of slowly-escaping gas — the balloons were starting to leak helium and he was descending again. At around 13,000ft, he turned on his CB radio to speak to an operator at an emergency rescue unit. 'Did

He set off with a compass,  
sandwiches and litres of Coke  
— and ended up buzzing an  
airport and causing a blackout

# The lorry driver who took to the skies...*in a lawn chair suspended from 42 helium balloons*



Picture: DISNEY/PIXAR

you say you have a cluster of 35 balloons?' asked the operator, his voice rising in shock. 'Just tell Carol that I love her and I'm doing fine,' answered Walters.

As the chair descended, its dangling cables became entangled in a power line. Mercifully, the non-conducting plastic tethers spared Walters from being electrocuted, although the Long Beach neighbourhood had a 20-minute power blackout.

By bizarre coincidence, Walters scraped across the roof of an off-duty airline pilot, who was stunned into silence as he observed the event lying by his swimming pool. Lawnchair Larry

touched down unharmed about 45 minutes after he had taken off and was arrested by police.

'We know he broke some part of the Federal Aviation Act and, as soon as we decide which part it is, some type of charge will be filed,' said a safety official. He was fined \$4,000 — later reduced to \$1,500 — for offences including operating a 'civil aircraft for which there is no airworthiness certificate' and entering an airport traffic area without communicating with the control tower.

Walters became a national celebrity and was paid to appear

TURN TO NEXT PAGE



## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

in adverts for Timex watches but fought against the mockery that came his way. 'I call it American ingenuity,' he boasted to sceptical chat show host David Letterman. 'I had confidence in myself and the craft. I really knew what I was doing.'

However, his moment in the spotlight was short-lived. Having left his lorry-driving job, he struggled to make money as a motivational speaker. After breaking up with his girlfriend after 15 years, he never married or had children.

Tragically, in 1993, Walters, who had complained of how his life had felt empty, hiked

to his favourite spot in a forest and shot himself.

For most people, his flight must have served as a nightmarish warning to the curious. For a few, however, it has been — just like the name of his craft — inspirational.

Although Walters wasn't the first to try taking to the sky with helium balloons, he was the first to hit anything like the altitude he did. Apart from featuring in the 2009 animated Pixar film *Up*, cluster ballooning is now an extreme sport.

In 2007, an Oregon petrol-station proprietor 'flew' 240 miles in a lawn chair powered by balloons. In 2010, American Jonathan Trappe

crossed the English Channel suspended by balloons. However, in 1992 a Japanese adventurer headed off over the Pacific and was never seen again. A Brazilian priest who went up in 2008 strapped to 1,000 helium balloons drowned in the Atlantic.

Stunt magician David Blaine reached 24,900ft in 2020 but he had oxygen, satellite positioning, remote control ballast and balloon-popping miniature explosives. So not a patch on the man whose flying chair is preserved in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC.

'It was no death wish,' Walters said. 'But you couldn't pay me to do it again.'

# Andrew Pierce



## Galloway has the Red Queen in his sights

**Y**OU may think she'd be dancing in the streets after the Tories suffered their worst local election results in 40 years, but Labour's deputy leader Angela Rayner is worried.

Not only is she continuing to feel the heat over whether she broke the law with her living arrangements in 2015, but now it also seems she may be in line for her very own 'Portillo moment'.

Last week's results revealed a clear threat to her 4,200-strong majority in Ashton-under-Lyne.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer's stance on the war in Gaza led to the loss of neighbouring Oldham Council, and back in February, George Galloway and his 'Workers Party' won the by-election in nearby Rochdale.

Galloway's party has already nabbed former cricketer Monty Panesar as a candidate in the next



General Election. Ominously for the 'Red Queen', Galloway tells me: 'We will be the challenge to Keir Starmer's Labour party at every turn.' Watch out Angela — George is out to get you.

**PS:** Panesar backed Tory MP Zac Goldsmith in the 2016 London mayoral election. Then he hoped Labour's 'Sadiq Khan would pass the baton to me as Mayor of London'. Now he insists: 'My aspiration is to become Prime Minister.' Sounds like Monty spent too much time fielding at silly point.

### Meet Vlad the hilarious

**FORMER** Labour defence secretary Lord (George) Robertson is one of the few public figures who can recall when Vladimir Putin had a sense of humour. 'I gave him an English language book as a

gift,' he tells the *New Statesman*. 'An antiquarian book, *Gossip In The Tsar's Court*.' He told Robertson: 'I practise my English by reading out loud. So now my dog is a perfect English speaker.'

**LIZ** Truss's well-nourished aide Jonathan Isaby shared pictures (on Facebook) of food he devoured while accompanying the former PM on her recent trip to the U.S. It included a large plate of alligator meat. Liz is clearly serious about draining the swamp.

**NO WONDER** Dan Poulter MP, who defected to Labour last week from the Tories, is quitting Parliament at the next election. For his work as a psychiatrist, which he carried out while he was an MP, he was paid £7,237 a month in addition to his £90,000 MP's salary, which adds up to about £100 an hour.

**A** TORY MP who is standing down at the General Election has revealed he was caught naked by a former female Cabinet Minister. Robert Halfon, 55, MP for Harlow, underwent a number of operations — and his nurse was none other than Mail columnist Nadine Dorries. Halfon, who says being an MP was his dream job since childhood, adds: 'I can legitimately say she is the only MP to see me in my birthday suit.'

## EVERYBODY'S DOING IT!

**REMEMBER** long-ago when conversations between the monarch and politicians were confidential? David Cameron notoriously bucked the trend, bragging about how the Queen 'purred' down the phone after the Scots voted against independence in 2014.

Now former Labour culture secretary Ben Bradshaw has shared that the Queen was concerned for Gordon Brown's welfare after Labour lost the 2010 election. He says: 'I'm not supposed to talk about it, but everyone else does.' So that's alright then.

**ARMANDO** Iannucci, the mastermind behind political satire *The Thick Of It*, tweets: 'I've voted. Where I am, it was only for a Police Commissioner, but that's still a big deal since I live in Gotham City.'

andrew.pierce@dailymail.co.uk

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# Farewell Yosser... Trailblazer Bernard Hill dies aged 79

By **Matthew Lodge**

FOR millions of TV viewers, the desperate plea of 'gissa job' instantly brings back memories of the trailblazing Boys from the Blackstuff – and the fearsome character Yosser Hughes.

It was a role that for many defined the industrial decline of the early 1980s – and set Bernard Hill, who has died aged 79, off on a stellar career.

Hill, who went on to land major roles in *Titanic* and *Lord of the Rings*, first played the manic job-seeking Yosser in Alan Bleasdale's TV play *The Black Stuff* about a gang of Liverpudlians trying to make a living in hard times.

The sequel series won plaudits and brought Hill to the attention of Hollywood, later playing Captain Edward Smith in the 1997 Oscar-winning *Titanic* and the embattled King Theoden in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

But it was as Yosser Hughes that Hill, a father of one, captured the imagination and had the phrase 'gissa job' echoing in the nation's playgrounds.

One episode even saw him telling his lookalike, then Liverpool midfielder Graeme Souness (playing himself):

**'A thoroughly decent guy'**

'You look like me. Magnum, as well.' Last night, the Mail Sport columnist called Hill a 'fabulous actor' and a 'thoroughly decent guy', adding: 'He was very generous with his time and offered all the help we needed.'

Hill's death yesterday morning came just hours before he was due to return to TV in Martin Freeman drama *The Responder*, on BBC One last night.

Lindsay Salt, director of BBC Drama, said: 'Bernard blazed a trail across the screen, and his long-lasting career filled with iconic and remarkable roles is a testament to his incredible talent. From *Boys from the Blackstuff*, to *Wolf Hall*, *The Responder*, and many more, we feel truly honoured to have worked with Bernard at the BBC. Our thoughts are with his loved ones at this sad time.'

Actress and musician Barbara Dickson, who starred with him in a 1974 musical based on the Beatles called *John, Paul, George, Ringo... and Bert*,



Tache: With Liverpool star Graeme Souness in *Boys from the Blackstuff*



Captain: In *Titanic* in 1997 Battle: As Theoden in *Lord of the Rings* trilogy



was among those paying tribute, describing him as a 'marvellous actor'.

Alongside a snap of them together, she wrote: 'It was a privilege to have crossed paths with him. RIP Benny x.'

Born in Blackley, Manchester, into a family of coal miners, Hill attended acting school with *The History Boys* star Richard Griffiths, before moving into television. After bit parts in *Hard Labour* and *I, Claudius*, he got his *Blackstuff* big break in 1982.

The series won a Bafta for best drama in 1983 and was listed as the seventh

best TV show ever made on a British Film Institute list in 2000.

James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster *Titanic* marked the start of a late career renaissance for Hill, who was then picked by *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson to play King Theoden. Hollywood kept calling, with Hill appearing in Halle Berry horror *Gothika* and tennis-themed romantic comedy *Wimbledon*. The actor lived in Suffolk and is survived by his wife Marianna and their son Gabriel.

Christopher Stevens – Page 47



Bafta winner: Hill as Yosser Hughes in 1982 drama

By **Martin Beckford**  
Policy Editor

NEW restaurants, shopping centres and offices must be built with separate toilets for men and women under laws announced today.

Updated regulations mean newly-constructed public buildings across England will have to include single-sex facilities from later this year.

Ministers hope the change will end the spread of 'gender-neutral' bathrooms that women have to share with men using urinals or cubicles.

It is the latest in a series of moves by the Government aimed at protecting the rights of women and girls, including stopping transgender patients being allowed on female wards in NHS hospitals. Schools have also been told they must provide separate loos for boys and girls.

Last night women and equalities minister Kemi Badenoch said: 'These regulations will guide

# About time too! Building rules to ensure separate toilets for men and women

organisations to design unisex and single-sex toilets, ending the rise of so-called "gender-neutral" mixed sex toilet spaces, which deny privacy and dignity to both men and women.

'Today's announcement will also create better provision for women so that our particular biological, health and sanitary needs are met.

'This is following our work last week limiting the use of mixed-sex wards in the NHS and dem-

onstrates how this government is committed to ensuring single-sex spaces are protected for all.'

Housing minister Lee Rowley said: 'We know all members of society value safety, privacy and dignity, and this new legislation will help ensure the right facilities are in place for everyone.

'It is vital that new buildings, particularly in public spaces, are serving the community with right toilet provision.'

The new building regulations

will be published in the next few weeks and will come into force later this year.

They will stipulate that 'non-domestic buildings' in England must provide separate single-sex toilets for women and men.

If there is not space for separate facilities then developers will be allowed to build self-contained 'universal' toilets; fully enclosed rooms with washbasins for individual use.

The rules will apply to new

buildings or those that are undergoing a major change of use, with the exception of prison cells, care homes, nurseries and schools.

The changes were first proposed by ministers in July 2022 and then put out to consultation.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities said that 81 per cent of those who responded 'agreed with the intention for separate single-sex toilet facilities'.



**W**HEN Britain's biggest private house — a megamansion called Witanhurst, on Highgate Hill in North London — went on the market in 2008, it was close to a ruin.

The roof was riddled with leaks, the floorboards were warped and cornices embellished with gold leaf were blighted by mould.

Given that this 90,000 sqft property had a total of 65 rooms (including 25 bedrooms) and a ballroom 70ft long and 20ft high, with an elaborate ceiling that takes six months to paint, it amounted to the country's ultimate doer-upper.

The enormity of the task ahead put off a string of would-be buyers, until one with the vision to see past the devastation — and pockets deep enough to fund the process — stumped up the £50 million asking price.

His name was Andrey Guriev. Over the next decade or so, the Russian fertiliser billionaire presided over a massive renovation, which — at its peak — involved an army of decorators, plumbers, carpenters and landscape gardeners burning through £2 million a week.

The old service wing was demolished and replaced with a three-storey villa called the Orangery, and five-and-a-half acres of ornamental gardens were landscaped.

But the most ambitious element of the project was the construction of what is reputed to be the biggest basement ever constructed in London. At more than 40,000 sqft, it houses a swimming pool, a sauna, massage rooms, a gym, a cinema, staff quarters and parking spaces for 25 cars.

But Guriev, 64, had precious little time to enjoy his British dacha. In 2022, shortly after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, he was sanctioned by the West and issued with a travel ban thanks to his status as a crony of Vladimir Putin.

And now he faces the possibility of losing Witanhurst altogether.

In April, a case listed as Gorbachev v Guriev got under way at London's Commercial Court. Alexander Gorbachev (no relation to the late Soviet leader), a former director of Guriev's company PhosAgro, is suing him for £2.7 billion: the 25 per cent stake in PhosAgro that he claims



by Dominic Midgley

Virgin Islands. The property is now valued at more than £300 million.

Not a bad capital appreciation for a property that was built in 1913 by the Liberal MP and soap magnate Sir Arthur Crosfield on an 11-acre plot for £1 million (£96 million in today's money). Witanhurst means 'Parliament on the hill' in Old English.

In addition to a glass rotunda, it has 365 windows — one for each day of the year.

Sadly, Sir Arthur did not have long to enjoy the charms of this great edifice. He lost a fortune in a failed Greek mining venture and died shortly afterwards on a train journey through southern France, after falling out of the window of a sleeping car.

While Witanhurst is the jewel in the crown of Guriev's Western assets, others that may have caught 62-year-old Alexander Gorbachev's eye are a £7 million 'triplex apartment' overlooking the Thames and a 267ft superyacht called Alfa Nero that lies abandoned in Antigua.

If he is to wrest these from his former colleague's grasp, he must first persuade Judge Pelling that he is, indeed, the rightful owner of a quarter share in PhosAgro.

Unfortunately for him, however, his case — in the absence of a formal contract — relies on proving that they had a *verbal* agreement, reached during a series of meetings in 2005 at locations including a London pub and a sauna.

Such an arrangement was not unusual when the two men first went into business together in the mid-1990s.

In those days, when President Boris Yeltsin sold off hundreds of billions of pounds' worth of state assets in a series of sweetheart deals with unscrupulous opportunists, Russia was known as 'the Wild East' and many deals were done on little more than a handshake.

In the course of researching my biography of Chelsea FC's former owner Roman Abramovich 20 years ago, I discovered that, when he and his business partner Boris Berezovsky acquired the oil giant Sibneft, they did so with nothing in writing to say how the shares were to be divided.

It later emerged that while Berezovsky saw himself as a 50-50 partner, Abramovich considered him to be nothing more than a top-level Kremlin fixer, whom he had showered with gifts, such as yachts and real estate, and paid 'more than \$2.5 billion'.

Their dispute spilled over into



Trappings of wealth: The Gurievs' daughter-in-law Valeria atop a motorbike

the British courts in 2012 when, after the biggest private litigation battle in British history, a judge threw out Berezovsky's claim that the two had an 'oral agreement' that they were equal partners.

Like Boris and Roman, Gorbachev and Guriev were something of an odd couple from the start. While Gorbachev was gregarious and personable, Guriev was an introvert who had married his childhood sweetheart and, at one point, lived in the same modest apartment building as his driver.

Gorbachev's troubles date from the moment Putin turned against Russia's richest man, the oil oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who was a 50 per cent shareholder in PhosAgro.

In 2003, Khodorkovsky was arrested, charged with fraud and ended up in a prison camp near the Chinese border. Gorbachev, fearful of being targeted by association, fled for London.

For years, Guriev kept Gorbachev happy by making payments to an offshore company opened in his name.

But when PhosAgro was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 2011, Gorbachev found, to his consternation, that his name was not on the list of shareholders.

When Guriev tried to fob him off by offering to buy him out for \$30 million, Gorbachev angrily refused the offer.

The current action dates back to October 2018, when Gorbachev had Guriev served with legal papers while the latter was shopping on

Berkeley Street in Mayfair. A video of the incident appears to show bodyguards attempting to shield Guriev from the process server, and the papers were eventually given to one of his assistants.

Guriev argued that this meant he had not been properly served. But at a court hearing in Manchester in 2019, a judge ruled that the assistant was an appropriate proxy and proceedings continued.

Gorbachev is not the first disgruntled PhosAgro employee to seek satisfaction via the British

threatened to kill me, demanding that I drop this lawsuit,' he told MailOnline early last year.

Sychev also claimed his car was sabotaged three times in an attempt to kill him.

'The cars were new and expensive Jeeps and in the first case everything happened quickly at high speed on the highway,' he said.

'According to the woman driving behind me, she saw that sparks of fire suddenly flew out from under the wheels of my car, and immediately after that the front wheel with the accompanying iron fasteners came off.

'This huge wheel flew at this woman's car and she miraculously dodged it.

'My car crashed into a truck moving parallel and turned into a pile of scrap metal that cannot be restored. I survived thanks to the airbags.

'The second incident was two weeks later, also at high speed on the motorway, which was quite empty at the time.

'I felt that the car began to behave strangely and it almost did not listen to the steering wheel. I stepped on the brakes but the brakes didn't work.

'I was able to stop only by inertia after about two minutes, and only by happy chance avoided colliding with cars or people. Video shows that sparks of fire were flying from under the car.'

He added: 'The third incident occurred a month later and then the wheel also fell off, but this time

**'The people I had worked for wanted to kill me'**

courts. Igor Sychev, a tax lawyer, says the company promised him a substantial bonus amounting to 1 per cent of the company's worth after he negotiated a massive tax discount with the Russian authorities, but Guriev failed to pay up.

When he embarked on legal action, however, Sychev claims he became the subject of 'assassination attempts' by Putin cronies, and his enemies 'bribed his lawyers' and 'threatened to murder his wife and children'.

'The oligarchs repeatedly

## A 267ft-long superyacht lies abandoned

he is entitled to, plus the value of the dividends he has missed out on since the company was floated in 2011.

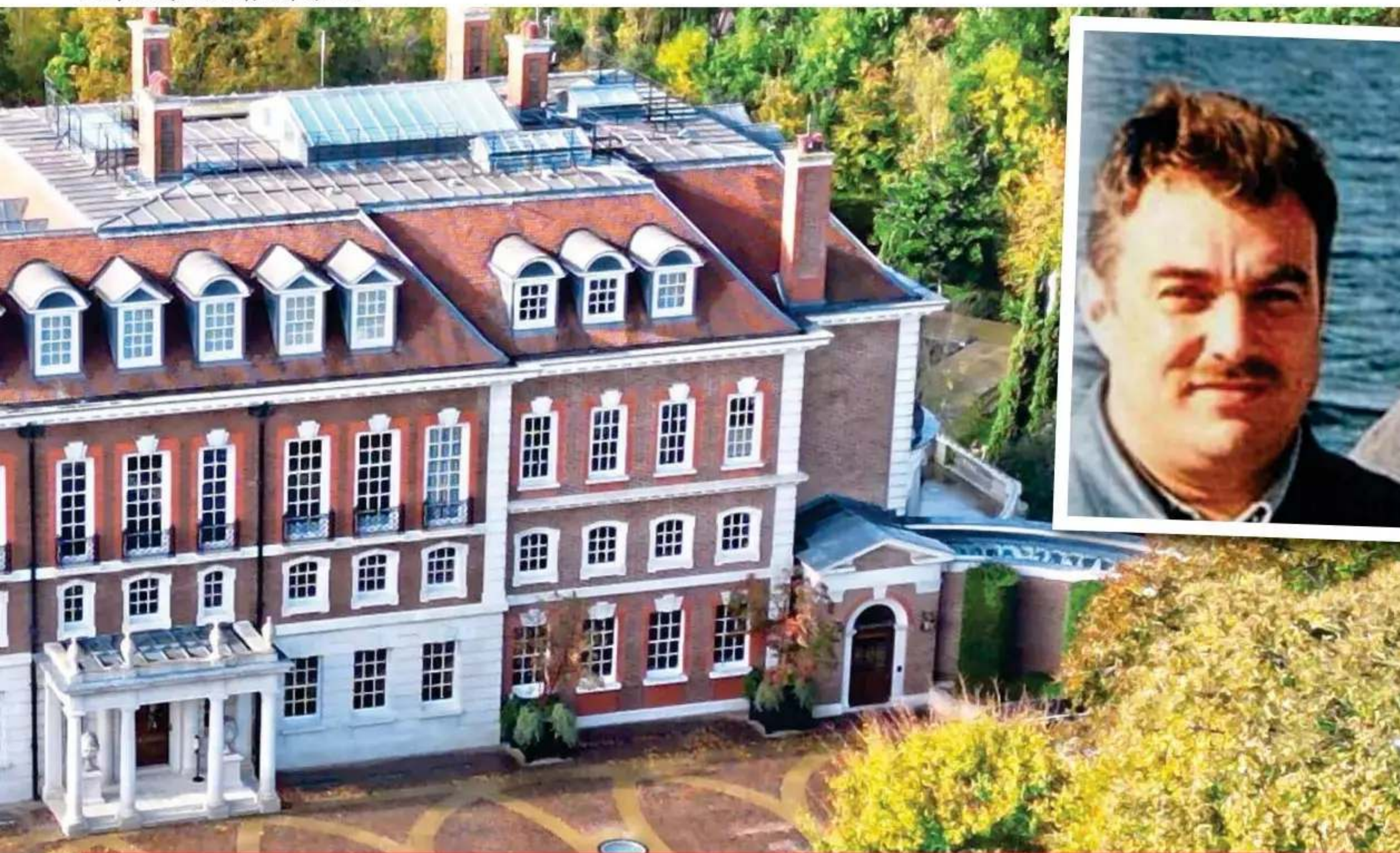
In the normal course of events, the two men would be exchanging cold stares on a daily basis in Court 19 at the Rolls Building, a modern, purpose-built courthouse in the heart of London.

But thanks to his travel ban, Guriev is unable to appear in London. The presiding judge, His Honour Mark Pelling — accompanied by the warring legal teams — is, therefore, in the United Arab Emirates to take his evidence over four days, from tomorrow, on neutral territory at the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts.

It's a sign of how attached Guriev is to his vast London home that he is cooperating with the process at all. After all, the oligarch — who is worth an estimated £7.5 billion — could quite easily ignore the British courts and refuse to pay any penalty they judged him to be liable for.

In that case, however, his foreign assets could be seized, and they include Witanhurst — acquired via an offshore company called Safran Holdings, registered in the British





# Built by a soap magnate in 1913, how Britain's biggest mega-mansion is now at the centre of a bitter court fight between two warring Russians

...and the last man who crossed its owner claims assassins targeted him three times

**Rivals: Witanhurst in Highgate, and (inset) Alexander Gorbachev, left, with ex-colleague Andrey Guriev**

it happened at a low speed when approaching a traffic light.

'After that, I crashed into a parallel car, but because of the low speed no one was injured.

'It was incredibly difficult for me to realise that the people I worked for for 18 years wanted to kill me.'

A spokesman for PhosAgro described the allegations as 'wild and unsubstantiated'.

While Sychev is happy to speak out, Guriev has never given an interview on anything other than business.

Biographical details are sketchy, but he is believed to have grown up in Lobnya, a town near Moscow, where he was a teenage martial arts champion — a passion he shared with the judo-loving Putin.

Guriev and his wife Evgenia went to

*His wife owns two of Elton John's Rolls-Royces*

the same school and are reported to live in a mansion in Forest, a gated community on the outskirts of Moscow, in an area popular with oligarchs.

Unlike her low-profile husband, Evgenia is said to have a taste for the high life and owns a stable of classic and luxury cars, including two Rolls-Royces that once belonged to Elton John.

But it is their daughter-in-law Valeria who appears to have embraced the trappings of wealth with the most gusto.

Images on social media showed her sitting astride a motorcycle in a short black skirt, swigging champagne from the bottle on a yacht and posing with a revolver strapped to her bare leg.

According to The New Yorker magazine, she also documented trips to the Bolshoi opera house in Moscow, Monte Carlo nightclub Twiga and the Michelin-starred restaurant Per Se in New York.

However, she turned her accounts private a few years ago after she became the subject of an online pile-on over her Instagram slogan worthy of Marie Antoinette: 'I'm too pretty to work.'

The same cannot be said of her plump, balding husband Andrey Guriev Jr, who stepped down as CEO of PhosAgro in 2022.

The Gorbachev v Guriev case is scheduled to last for six weeks and so, by the middle of June, Gorbachev will know whether he is destined to be one of life's embittered also-rans or the proud owner of the biggest private house in Britain.

■ **DOMINIC MIDGLEY** is the author of *Abramovich: The Billionaire From Nowhere*.

Pictures: ALAMY/VEASTWEST



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May 6, 2024  
ON THIS  
DAY

#### FROM THE DAILY MAIL ARCHIVE

MAY 6, 1974

**CLIPPIE** Mrs Doreen Barnett's dream of becoming a bus driver was thwarted by her workmates yesterday. A ballot among the 180 men and 20 women at her depot decided that driving was for men only. A union spokesman said: 'She is a respected colleague but people feel it is not the done thing for women to drive buses and take a rather Victorian view.'

MAY 6, 2000

**KEN LIVINGSTONE** took control of London yesterday and threw down the gauntlet to Tony Blair. The Left-winger who was kicked out of County Hall 14 years ago warned the Prime Minister that he would pay a high political price if he did not pay attention to the London result.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NAOMI SCOTT, 31.

The actress from Essex was one of the three Charlie's Angels in the 2019 film version, played Princess Jasmine in Guy Ritchie's live-action remake of Disney's Aladdin and starred in Netflix drama Anatomy Of A Scandal.

**PRINCE ARCHIE**, five. The first child of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex is sixth in line to the throne. His name inspired that of his parents' production company, Archewell. When his grandfather became King, he became Prince Archie and goes by the surname Sussex.

#### BORN ON THIS DAY

**RUDOLPH VALENTINO** (1895-1926). The sex symbol and silent star, dubbed 'the original Italian stallion', starred in The Sheik and The Eagle. After his sudden death, it was reported that women killed or attempted to kill themselves over the news. His ghost is said to haunt countless tourist spot in LA.

**ORSON WELLES** (1915-1985). The U.S. actor wrote, directed, produced and starred in Citizen Kane, named the best film ever made. He was just 25 and quipped: 'I started at the top and have been working my way down ever since.'

#### ON MAY 6...

**IN 1994**, Paula Jones sued President Bill Clinton, asking for \$700,000 in damages for sexual harassment.

**IN 2004**, the final episode of U.S. sitcom Friends was broadcast.

#### WORD WIZARDRY

##### GUESS THE DEFINITION

**Vilipend** (coined 1529)

A) To speak with contempt. B) A file of documents. C) Make flattering speeches.

Answer below

#### PHRASE EXPLAINED

The answer's a **lemon**: meaning 'no' or 'nothing doing'; an early 20th century American phrase — the acidic fruit denoted a sharp or sarcastic reply to a question that was deemed ridiculous.

#### QUOTE FOR TODAY

'I think truffle oil is one of the few ingredients that doesn't belong in anyone's kitchen. It is ruinous of most recipes.'

Martha Stewart,

U.S. entrepreneur and TV cook

#### JOKES OF THE DAY

WHAT do you get when you pamper a cow? Spoiled milk.

Guess The Definition answer: B.

Compiled by **ETAN SMALLMAN**  
and **ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD**



# Hamas aid crossing attack leaves peace hopes in tatters

By **James Tozer**

A HAMAS attack on an aid crossing that killed Israeli troops was last night branded proof that the terror group is using Palestinians as 'human shields', dashing hopes for an end to the violence in Gaza.

The escalation came as the latest round of ceasefire talks were 'near to collapse', with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flatly ruling out any end to the war.

It follows US President Joe Biden reportedly putting a shipment of ammunition bound for Israel on hold amid university campus protests against his support for the country.

Ten rockets were launched

## 'Killing their own to hurt Israel'

from close to civilian shelters in southern Gaza towards the Kerem Shalom crossing yesterday – killing three soldiers and injuring 11, the Israeli military said.

As a result, it was closed to aid trucks travelling from Israel, just as the head of the UN World Food Programme warned of a 'full-blown famine' in northern Gaza.

The Israeli military branded the attack 'a clear example of the terrorist organisation's systematic exploitation of humanitarian facilities and

added: ' Hamas shoots rockets from civilian centres at humanitarian crossings. This tells you everything you need to know.'

But Hamas sources insisted the target was an Israeli military base and denied using civilians as human shields.

It came as talks between Hamas negotiators and Egyptian and Qatari mediators in Cairo threatened to break down. Mr Netanyahu said Israel is willing to pause

fighting to secure the release of more than 130 hostages believed to be held by Hamas.

But Hamas insists any ceasefire must be part of an end to the ongoing war in Gaza.

Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant warned the deadlock meant further military action targeting Rafah – where more than a million displaced Gazan residents have taken refuge – would 'begin in the very near future'.

# Quality holiday snaps from Gina.

## Thanks to no EU roaming fees this year.

## KUROSU

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Today's difficulty rating ★★☆☆

EVERY day in the Mail you can play Kurosu, the most addictive brainteaser since Sudoku. There are two rules:

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By **Dolly Busby**  
Showbusiness Reporter

HER comeback musical flopped after theatre-goers branded it boring, with many walking out at the interval.

Now Sheridan Smith has revealed her upset about the show *Opening Night* ending two months early.

'I was just heartbroken for the company,' said the actress, 42. 'I felt that I'd let them down in a way, that I couldn't sell it.'

Despite the disappointment, however, she has no regrets and won't be put off new projects.

'I feel bad for the team and all the work they put in but I'm at that age now where I want to be challenged,' added Ms Smith.

'I want to do new things, I don't want to do the same old boring

# Sheridan: I'm heartbroken my show flopped – but it made me face my demons

stuff. I would do it again in a heartbeat so I have no regrets.'

*Opening Night* tells the story of a functioning alcoholic actress Myrtle Gordon, played by Ms Smith, who gets a second chance and is based on the 1977 film of the same name starring Gena Rowlands.

But the play has been plagued with difficulties, such as poor

reviews, and will now end its run at the Gielgud Theatre, London, on May 18 instead of July 27.

Producers blamed a 'challenging financial landscape'. Announcing the news in April, they said the play 'may not have had the life we had hoped for'.

Ms Smith, whose many roles include starring in TV drama *Cilla*, admitted the part had

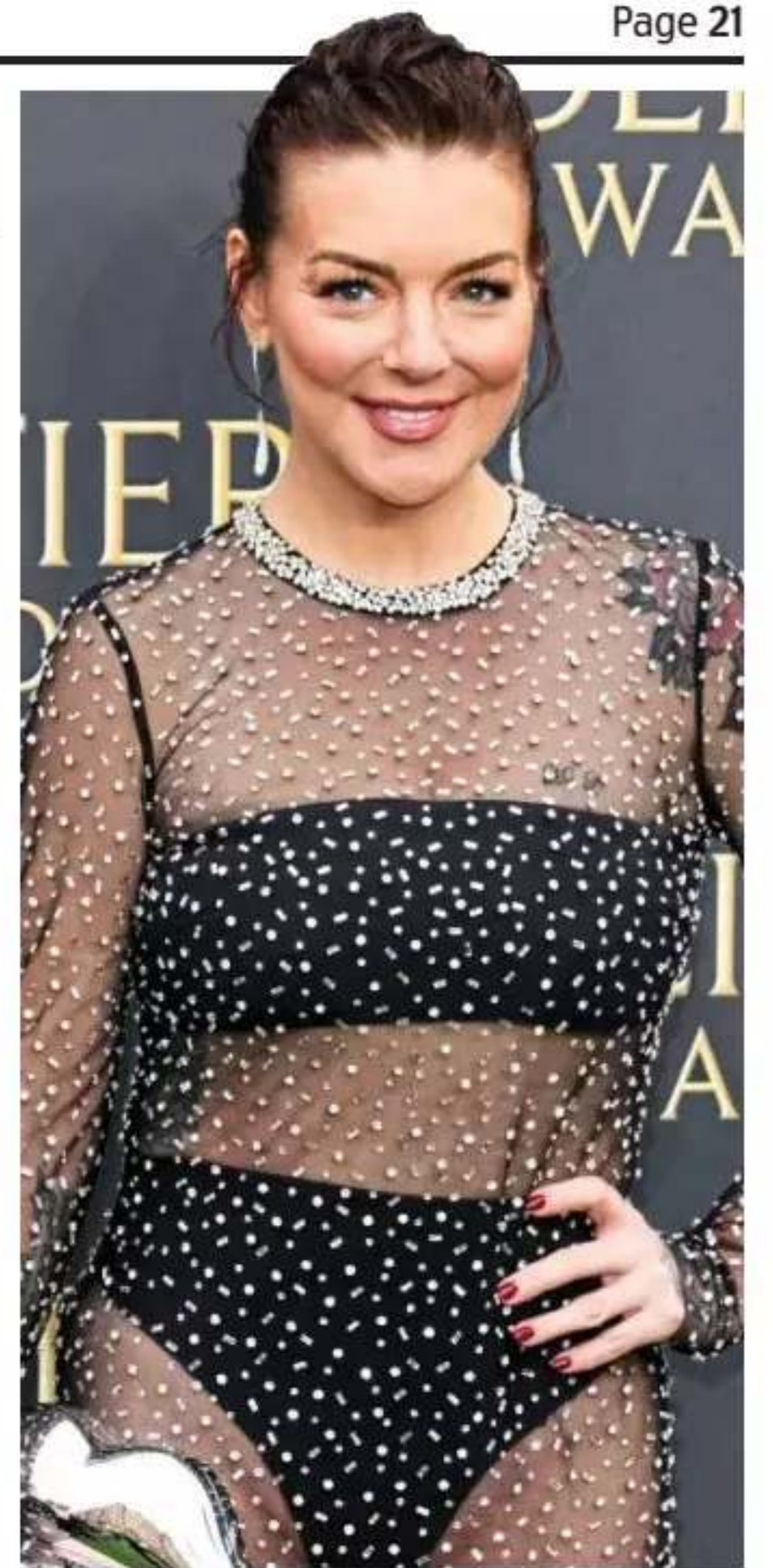
forced her to confront her own demons after suffering a highly publicised breakdown while performing in *Funny Girl* in the West End in 2016.

'I was very ashamed of that time of my life, and I wanted to do this part to prove that I could do it, that I could face my demons head on,' she told *The Sunday Times Style* magazine.

'I'm so much stronger than I was back then. I went off the rails a bit, dated all the wrong people, obviously my breakdown.'

'Now I feel like I'm a mum, I'm very grateful for everything I've got in my life. I feel like the best is yet to come.'

Ms Smith has a three-year-old son, Billie, with former boyfriend Jamie Horn. They split up in 2021 after three years together.



Stronger now: Sheridan Smith

# SAS officer broke ranks to report Afghan 'war crimes'

By **Cameron Charters**

A HIGH-RANKING Army officer told police the SAS was committing war crimes by murdering prisoners in Afghanistan, it emerged yesterday.

Known only as N1466, the officer risked reprisals against his family when he claimed 'cancer had infected' one SAS unit. He said the crimes were so serious, the entire regiment needed a 'complete overhaul'.

Between 2009 and 2013, he was responsible for all SAS overseas operations – meaning he focused on British military activity in Afghanistan. According to a Sun-

## 'Weapons planted on dead bodies'

day Times investigation, the officer tipped police off about a safe which held evidence from an SAS soldier detailing allegations of murder.

The officer's actions resulted in a massive inquiry, with 6,000 classified documents being disclosed by the Ministry of Defence.

They include witness accounts from serving soldiers, emails to No 10 warning of the crisis, as well as police investigators' diaries.

Foreign Secretary David Cameron was prime minister when the allegations came to light. Detectives from the Royal Military Police kept diaries alleging a cover-up.

In their notes, investigators said

weapons were allegedly planted on the bodies of the deceased and a raft of top-secret computer files relating to the SAS were deleted.

Tory MP Johnny Mercer, then a defence minister, wrote in emails that he believed the SAS was guilty of wrongdoing during the war.

But a civil servant toned down Mr Mercer's email, arguing that 'bland is best'.

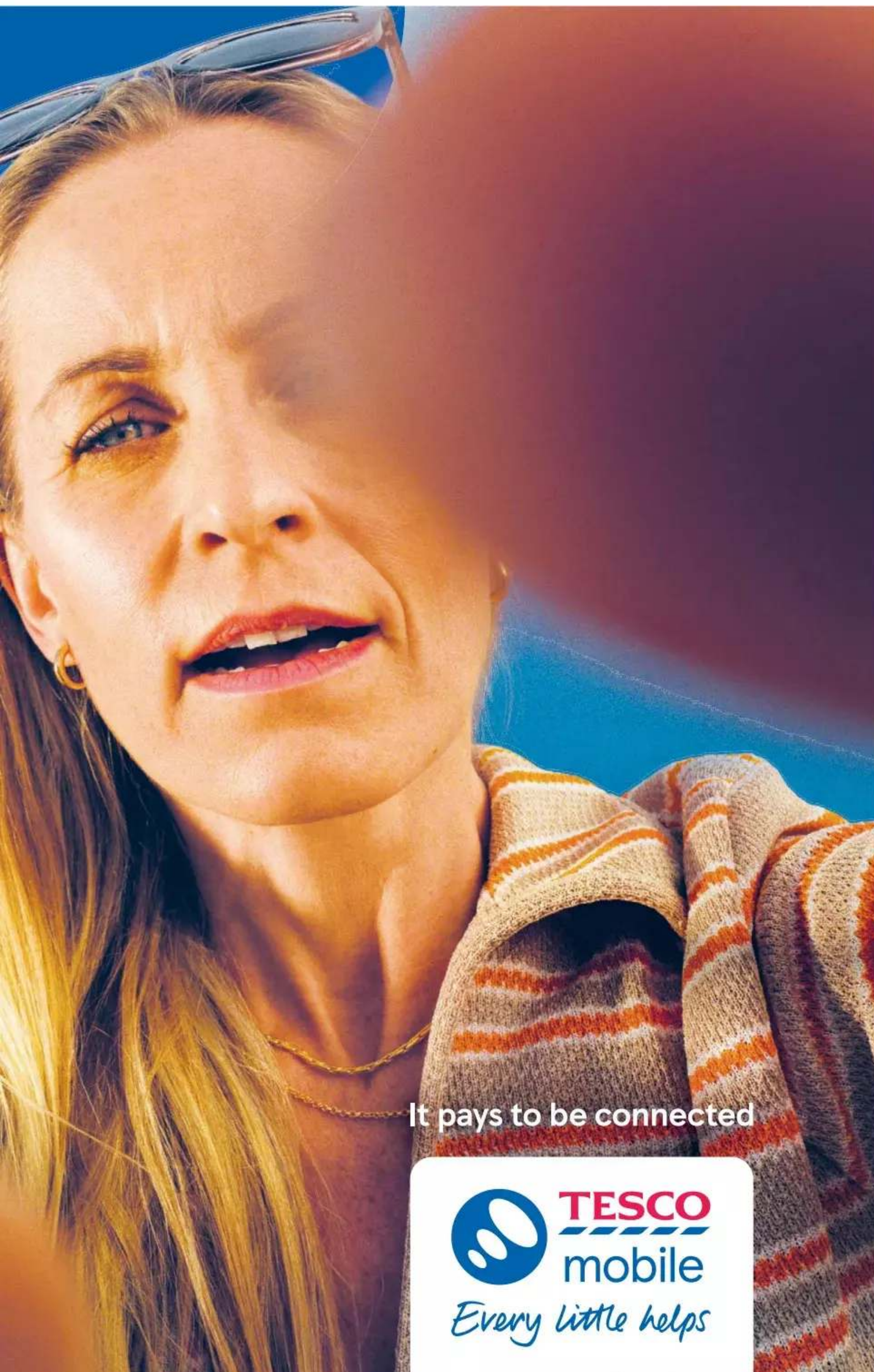
The inquiry was eventually shut down – but subsequent stories by *The Sunday Times* and the BBC put pressure on the Government to open up a fresh inquiry.

This is called the Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan and documents released from this revealed the decision by N1466 to make his claims.

In the raft of emails, letters and documents released, a lieutenant colonel wrote: 'I find it quite incredible the amount of Bs [Afghan males, Bravos] that [the SAS unit] send back into a building who then decide to get weapons/grenades and engage the [SAS unit] knowing that it will achieve nothing.'

In certain emails relating to a raid, commanders stopped calling victims EKIA (enemy killed in action) and changed it to EJK (extra-judicial killings).

The Ministry of Defence said: 'The MoD is fully committed to supporting the inquiry. It is not appropriate for us to comment on allegations which may be within the scope of the statutory inquiry.'



It pays to be connected

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**A**S THE monster who was responsible for creating the Gestapo and building the first Nazi concentration camps, Hermann Goering was one of Hitler's most ruthless henchmen.

Yet nothing could have prepared a team of amateur archaeologists for what they were about to find in the basement of his former home in the Wolf's Lair — the Nazis' headquarters in what is now north-eastern Poland.

Set in dense forest, with barbed wire, guard towers and minefields all around, the once-impregnable complex of some 200 houses, bunkers and other buildings was where Hitler and senior Nazis planned the barbarities of the Holocaust and military campaigns such as Operation Barbarossa, their invasion of the Soviet Union.

They destroyed much of the base before fleeing the Red Army in January 1945 and today the mossy ruins are a tourist attraction drawing more than 200,000 visitors a year — among them a Gdansk-based team of German and Polish history buffs.

For years the archeological researchers have been unearthing ordinary items such as crockery and tools. But this month they revealed how, back in February, they entered the ruins of Goering's once-imposing brick home and noticed a concrete ledge which had at one time supported a wooden floor. While digging for the nails which might have held it together, they found a human skull.

They called the police, who disinterred five skeletons in all — among them the tiny skull of a newborn baby, nestling between an adult's shin-bones. Thought to have been a family — three adults, a teenager and the baby — all had been buried naked. They were also missing their hands and feet.

Yet even that was not the most chilling detail. Scattered around the bodies were so-called 'thunderstones' — the bullet-shaped fossils of extinct squid-like creatures called belemnoids.

In ancient times, it was believed that the Gods hurled these down from the heavens during thunderstorms and they became revered as talismans, divinely appointed means of securing victories in battle and other good fortune.

According to traditional Germanic belief, keeping thunderstones at home could even protect against lightning.

**O**KTAVIAN Bartoszewski, one of the team who discovered the remains, suggests that the bodies may have been placed in the foundations to ensure the success and prosperity of those who lived in the building.

'Goering and other Nazis believed in the occult, so perhaps these people were sacrificed,' he said. 'A find like this gives you goosebumps.'

While an investigation continues into who the victims were — and how and when they were killed — the theory that they might have been offered up in some kind of sadistic black magic ritual is not as far-fetched as it might seem. After all, the Nazis were obsessed with all things supernatural.

In this, they took their lead from Hitler himself. Among the most heavily annotated books in the Fuhrer's personal library was Magic: History, Theory, Practice, penned by Ernst Schertel, an eccentric sadomasochist and nudist.

In his signed copy of the 1924 volume, Hitler underlined sentences such as 'Satan is the fertilising, destroying-constructing warrior' and 'he who does not carry demonic seeds within him



by David Leafe

will never give birth to a new world'. Hitler was also a firm believer in 'world ice theory', a bizarre explanation of the origins of life which had come to an Austrian engineer in a dream at the turn of the century.

This suggested that the universe was created when moons made of ice crashed into each other, eventually resulting in biological mutations which produced races of both superhumans and monstrous humanoids — the latter, in Hitler's mind, being the Jews and anyone else who did not fit in with his crazed ideas of Aryan superiority.

While this sounds like the stuff of comic books, Hitler took it so seriously that by the mid-1930s it had taken hold as the uniquely German alternative to Einstein's theory of relativity — the writings of the Nobel Prize-winning physicist being among the many Jewish works that went up in flames during the Nazi book burnings of 1933.

In the huge intellectual gap left by this wanton destruction, it mattered not whether there was scientific proof behind a particular idea. All that counted was whether it might be twisted to support Nazi ideology, as with the special Witch Division set up by SS chief Heinrich Himmler in 1935.

Himmler was convinced that witches had really existed in eastern Europe, and the job of the division's 17 employees was to scour through thousands of execution records and prove that these 'wise women' of 'pure German blood' had been hunted to death by a Jewish-Catholic conspiracy.

Claiming at a conference in Stuttgart in 1938 that some 500,000 such 'witches' had been burned 'after terrible torments', Himmler amassed a 13,000-volume library on the occult — the most complete collection of books on witchcraft ever compiled.

Had Germany not lost the war, he would have housed it in Wewelsburg Castle, a forbidding Renaissance fortress 300 miles west of Berlin. After Himmler



**How five skeletons discovered under Goering's house at Wolf's Lair, buried naked surrounded by ancient talismans and missing their hands and feet could prove to be...**

# VICTIMS HUMAN

acquired the lease in 1934, he used slave labour from a nearby concentration camp to convert it into a grotesque Nazi Hogwarts — a place of supposedly mystical power where future leaders of the SS would be indoctrinated in his mishmash of crackpot beliefs.

In Himmler's mind, the SS was an elite organisation in the tradition of King Arthur and the 12 Knights of the Round Table.

Viewing himself as the reincarnation of the castle's first occupant, the medieval King Heinrich, the former chicken farmer demanded that SS members address him as such and appointed 12 of them as his 'knights'. They

met in a shadowy, candlelit crypt with 12 pillars, each guarded by a sacred flame. There, under a domed ceiling featuring a Swastika, they performed occult rites in celebration of the Third Reich.

**W**ITHIN another chamber, there was a crystal representing the Holy Grail — the cup that Christians believe Jesus drank from at the Last Supper and the object sought by the knights of Arthurian legend.

So convinced was Himmler that this fabled treasure could help

Germany win the war that he even used an official visit to Franco's Spain in October 1940 as a cover for conducting a fruitless search in the mountains of Catalonia where the Grail was rumoured to have been hidden.

Like Hitler and many other senior Nazis, he also believed that the Aryan 'master humans' had once lived in the lost city of Atlantis, but fled to the Himalayas after their mythical island was sunk by a divine thunderbolt.

The fact that Atlantis was entirely imaginary, dreamt up by the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, had not stopped Himmler dispatching an expedition to





Hitler at the Reichstag in 1939. Inset, one of the skulls recently found under Goering's house, along with fossilised Belemnites

Pictures: PIOTREK FUNDACJA LATEBRA/YOUTUBE/GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

German Navy that this might be down to the use of radar and sonar, along with more sophisticated code-breaking.

Instead, they listened to a U-boat captain named Hans Roeder who was a dowsing in his spare time and suggested that the enemy must be using such unconventional methods to detect German ships.

He was given permission to set up a special 'institute' to do the same. At its headquarters in Berlin, a large map of the Atlantic was spread out and a pendulum, made of a metal cube attached to a short string, was swung above a model battleship as it was moved around.

As American historian Eric Kurlander explains in his book *Hitler's Monsters: A Supernatural History Of The Third Reich*, if the pendulum 'reacted' at any point, that was seen as a sign that there was a battleship at the real location.

'Day after day dowsers were forced by the SS to stand with their arms stretched out across the nautical charts just in case the pendulum made the slightest movement,' wrote Kurlander.

'In order to increase their likelihood of making predictions there were a number of clairvoyants constantly in a trance.'

**C**OMPARED to this pseudo-scientific bilge, the reverence of propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels for the prophecies of the 16th-century French seer Nostradamus seems almost sensible.

Goebbels' diary for November 23, 1939, nearly three months into the war, reports that he went early to bed and 'spent a long time reading. Nostradamus's prophecies. Very interesting for those of us today. Hopefully the daring commentary is right. Then England will have nothing to laugh about.'

'I tell [Hitler] about the prophecies. Given the times we're in, they're astounding. The Führer is very interested.'

By the end of the war, Goebbels was more interested in horoscopes. Hiding in the Berlin bunker in the final days before the city fell to the Red Army, he sent for copies of Hitler's birth chart and pointed out to the Führer that although it showed both the outbreak of war and their current disastrous situation, it also claimed an inevitable victory for the Nazis and peace by August 1945.

According to Goebbels, it was all just a matter of waiting for planetary change — yet another example of the deluded beliefs which convinced the Nazis that unseen forces were on their side, but which also, thankfully, helped lose them the war.

It remains to be seen whether the unfortunate family whose skeletons were recently unearthed at the Wolf's Lair were the victims of some ghoulish sacrifice, or whether their demise had a more prosaic cause.

But whatever the truth, they offer a chilling new glimpse into the Nazis' characteristic mix of pseudo-science with profound, inhuman evil.

# of a NAZI SACRIFICE

Tibet shortly before the war began, apparently to find traces of this vanished civilisation.

In all this arrant nonsense he was encouraged by his 'personal astrologer' Wilhelm Wulff, who quickly learned to give only those readings which would please Himmler, telling him that he was 'positive and forceful' and had doubtless been 'a lord or knight from remote times'.

The Führer was also known to be interested in astrology.

As early as 1923 he had taken heed of an earlier prediction that a man with his birth date would sweep to power, although his attempt to overthrow the German

government in the notorious Beer Hall Putsch in Munich later that year ended in imprisonment.

**H**E SUBSEQUENTLY retained the services of Karl Krafft, a Swiss astrologer who had warned of 'dark powers' at work in November 1939. Hitler ignored the warning and attended an anniversary celebration of the putsch in the beer hall — leaving just before a bomb exploded, killing seven people. Among his supporters in the original putsch was Rudolf Hess who went on to

become Deputy Führer, but piloted himself to Britain in a stolen fighter plane in 1941, apparently to broker a peace deal.

The timing of his flight was decided with his astrologer Ernst Schulte Strathaus, who advised him that a rare alignment of planets and celestial bodies would make the night of May 10 an auspicious time to fly.

It proved anything but, with Hess being arrested after running out of fuel and being forced to bail out over a Scottish farm.

Denouncing him as a traitor, a furious Hitler believed that other senior Nazis might be similarly persuaded that the heavenly

constellations were in favour of their defection, so he immediately ordered a mass arrest of German astrologers, fortune-tellers and other occultists. Hess's astrologer would spend the rest of the war in a concentration camp.

Yet, despite this crackdown, the Nazi regime continued to place extraordinary reliance on practitioners of the dark arts and dowsing — the practice of using forked rods or pendulums to divine for hidden substances such as water or minerals — in particular.

When the British began to turn the tide in the Battle of the Atlantic in the summer of 1942, it did not seem to occur to the



## EXCLUSIVE

By Richard Marsden

A MURDER victim's family have told of their fury after discovering her killer was an illegal immigrant who should have been deported 20 years ago.

Zimbabwe-born Obert Moyo, 46, had been able to stay in this country despite three previous attacks on women.

He was jailed for life last week with a minimum term of 27 years for stabbing his former partner Perseverance Ncube, 35, through the heart with a foot-long meat skewer in front of her children aged ten and 12.

As he was sentenced, it emerged that jealous Moyo had overstayed on his visa in the early 2000s and went on to commit crimes against women prior to the murder in Salford.

Ms Ncube was an Avon lady known as Percy. Her sister Christine Chiriseri, 28, said the family only discovered the killer was an illegal immigrant after his arrest.

She added: 'I was very angry and upset because all of this tragedy could have been avoided if people had done their jobs properly.'

'We all felt very let down by the Home Office and the people who should have made sure he was deported.'

Ms Chiriseri, who is taking care of the children, said: 'I am reeling over everything that has happened.'

'I am trying to move on from the whole situation but I still have to process and understand what happened.'

'I still feel very angry. It was a short-term relationship and it cost my sister her life.'

Moyo, who admitted murder, had been convicted of harassing women in 2007 and 2009, with the latter leading to a six-month sentence. In 2013, he was jailed for ten years with an extended licence for attacking another ex-partner in Brighton.

The victim was working at a care home when Moyo broke in through a window by unscrewing it and burning it with a blowtorch.

Once inside and armed with numerous weapons including two knives and a screwdriver, he went on to repeatedly punch her, cut her with the

knife and strangle her. He was convicted of wounding with intent, threats to kill and aggravated burglary.

On his release, instead of deporting him as an 'over-stayer', the Home Office fitted him with a tag.

The murder trial at Manchester Crown Court heard Moyo failed to tell his probation officer as part of his licence conditions that he had started a new relationship with Ms Ncube, a single mother with jobs as a child-minder and a bookkeeper.

Moyo forced his way into Ms Ncube's home on November

10 last year and attacked her in her bedroom before chasing her into the street and stabbing her.

Detective Sergeant Fiona Manning said: 'Percy's family deserves answers as to why this man... was allowed to remain in this country illegally. Had Moyo been deported, Percy's children would still have a mother.'

A Home Office spokesman said: 'The Government is doing everything possible to reduce legal challenges and to increase the numbers of foreign national offenders being removed.'

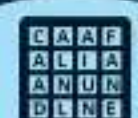
# Migrant who killed his ex with skewer in front of children should have been kicked out of UK TWENTY years ago



Jailed for life: Obert Moyo with his victim, mother-of-two Perseverance Ncube

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# Crazy for you... 1.6m fans cram Rio beach for Madonna gig



Always in vogue: Madonna on stage

By **Dominique Hines**

SHE never does anything by halves and Madonna proved that again with a mammoth concert in front of an astonishing 1.6million fans.

Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro was turned into a gigantic dancefloor for the record-breaking crowd on Saturday night.

Yesterday Madonna, 65, posted a clip on Instagram captioned: 'Blame it on Rio. Thank You, Brazil!'

She wore her usual risque outfits but also delighted the audience by donning a Brazil football shirt.

The free event ended Madonna's Celebration world tour marking her 40-year pop career.



Into the groove: Vast crowd on Copacabana beach for star's free concert in Brazil

## Police quiz six ex-neighbours in Rayner 'two homes' probe

By **James Tozer**

ANGELA Rayner faces renewed pressure after it emerged six of her former neighbours have been questioned by police in the 'two homes' probe.

One resident has even said they are prepared to give evidence in court contradicting the account of the Labour deputy leader.

Ms Rayner maintains that an ex-council house she sold for a £48,500 profit in 2015 was her 'principal property'.

But neighbours say she was actually living at her husband's house a mile away.

Police are now investigating potential breaches of electoral law, a failure to pay capital gains tax and whether a single-occupancy



Investigation: Angela Rayner

lived there, and he wasn't strong enough to deal with the likes of us,' the 64-year-old said.

'I have given a statement to the police, and I said to them I am happy to say in court that she told me she was the landlady.

'If she says she lived at Vicarage Road, I am saying she is a liar.'

His intervention comes after Sylvia Hampson, 83, who still lives next-door to Ms Rayner's then husband Mark's former house in Lowndes Lane, said the Labour frontbencher is 'a f\*\*\*ing liar' if she was saying she hadn't lived there with him.

Mrs Hampson has been interviewed twice by police who have also spoken to her son and another pensioner who has lived opposite her on Lowndes Lane for more than 20 years.

A Labour spokesman said: 'Angela has been clear that she will co-operate with any investigation.

'We remain confident that she has complied with the rules. 'It's now appropriate to let the police do their work.'

### 'She said she was the landlady'

council tax discount was falsely claimed by Ms Rayner.

She claims legal advice she received exonerates her from any wrongdoing, and has said that if the police find she has broken the law she will stand down as Sir Keir Starmer's number two.

Several of her former neighbours in Stockport, Greater Manchester, have now been spoken to by officers. The Mail on Sunday revealed yesterday.

Among them is Chris Hinett, who recalls Ms Rayner telling him she was the landlady of the ex-council house in Vicarage Road, which is at the centre of the probe, after he intervened when another neighbour's son kicked a football through a window of the house.

'She told me she was the landlady of the house and her brother

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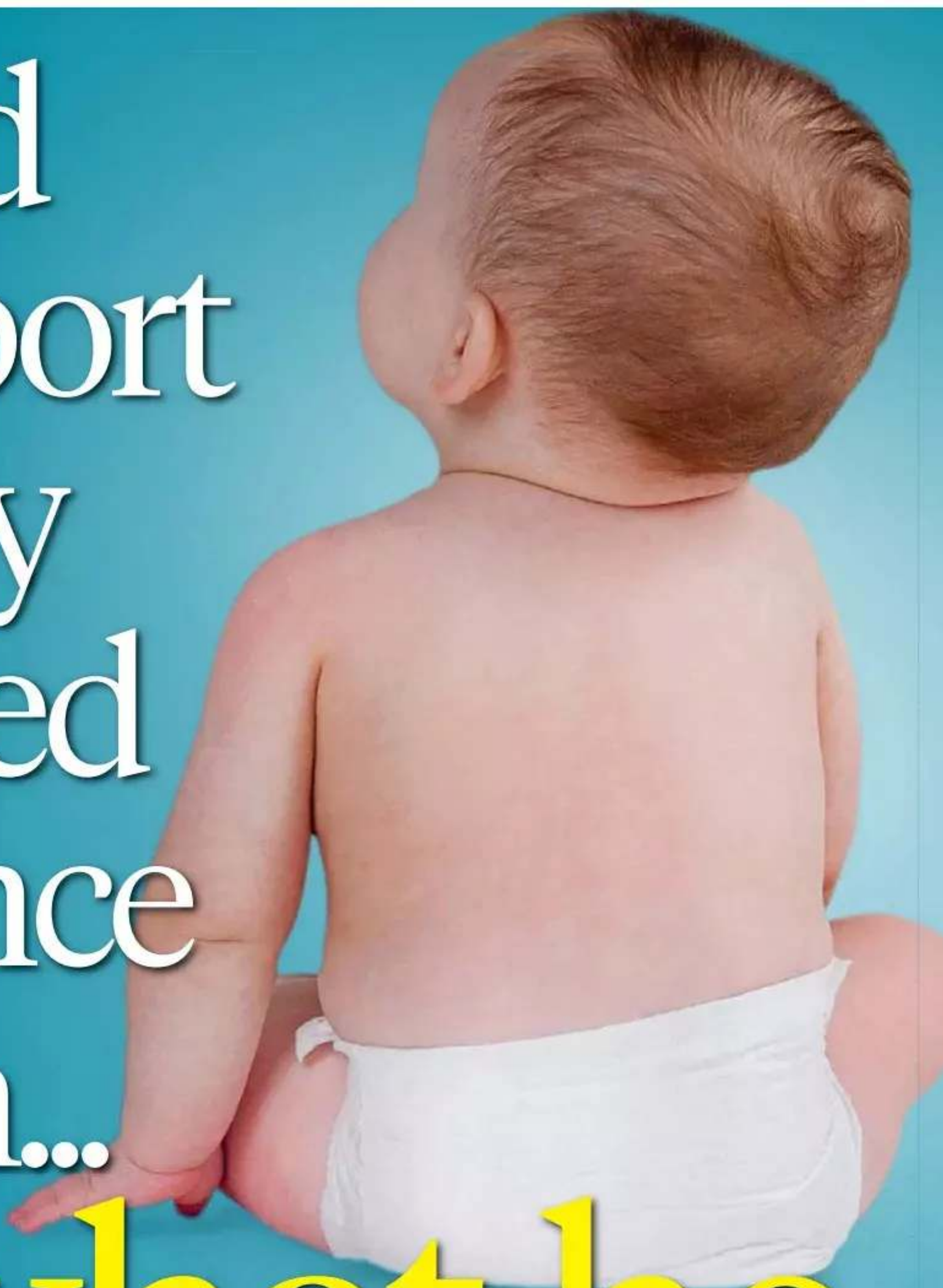


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CINDY CRAWFORD

My husband  
made me abort  
our IVF baby  
and destroyed  
my last chance  
to be a mum...



Picture: GETTY

# I hate what he has done to me

**A** MONTH ago, my husband and I went away for a weekend break. The hotel we were staying in had organised an Easter egg hunt for the excited junior guests, and watching the delight on one little girl's face caused a familiar, terrible cascade of emotion. A torrent of grief and regret, which I struggled to hide. It was the little girl's age that pro-

by Anonymous

voked it. She was seven, as I discovered when she told the receptionist while we waited to check in behind her family. The same age my daughter would be now — had I not had the termination which ended my chance of ever having a child. Plenty of women terminate accidental pregnancies, of course, and either go

on to regret it or never give it a second thought. But this was no accident. The pregnancy I ended happened as a result of IVF.

What's more — and worse I suppose if that were possible — is that I blame my husband for it all. It is his fault I will never have a child like that lovely little girl. How did I get myself into this situation in my life, where I am married to a man who I both love with all my heart and resent to the point of fury?

Alex and I are both 47 and met at university. We spent our 20s and early

30s working abroad, producing documentaries, and, at that point, both wanted a family. During half-hearted discussions, we agreed that we'd start one in our mid-30s and so, after my 36th birthday, we started trying.

Logically I knew I'd left it quite late. I'd read the statistics about fertility falling off a cliff after 35 but I didn't dwell on them, naively assuming they didn't apply to women like me. Yet, after a year of trying, we still hadn't

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Picture: PEOPLE IMAGES/GETTY



# Get out of your sex rut with the foreplay trick that always works

**I**F YOU find the idea of sex slipping down your 'to do' list, it might console you to know you are not alone.

A survey published this year by my online sex education platform, Beducated, found that a paltry 40 per cent of us rate our sex lives positively. One in five of the 1,800 respondents confessed to being completely out of sync with their partner.

It seems there's a silent epidemic of apathy and miscommunication in the bedroom. But the good news is there are solutions, if you're stuck in a sex rut. Read on to find out...

## Charge batteries

IN LONG-TERM relationships, women often see a faster drop-off in libido than their partner. But intimacy is like a phone battery that needs to be charged every single day.

Dr Juliana Hauser, Beducated's libido and desire expert, suggests thinking of the sexual connection between you as a 'runway rather than a pit stop'.

Make a point of peppering your day with small gestures like a wake-up kiss to build connection. Such little tweaks will accumulate through the day, making you more receptive to intimacy.

## Hit the gym

YOUR mental and physical health plays a vital role in how you feel about yourself. Our data found regular physical activity — even as little as once a week — boosts sexual desire and confidence, with gym-goers 22 per cent likelier to report being 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their sex lives.

Physical activity delivers a rise in feel-good hormones and, usually, body confidence.

Dr Juliana says this will certainly improve your ability to stay sexually active for longer.

Let's be honest, the results can impact your attraction too.

## Sniff his sweaty shirt

DON'T underestimate the power

by **Mariah Freya**  
SEX COACH

of smell! We are highly sensitive to the pheromones in our partner's sweat and women may have evolved in such a way that a man's smell can trigger ovulation and a surge in libido.

If you seldom cuddle, you could be missing out on the libido-boosting effects of his scent.

So give him a big hug when he gets back from work or sneak a sniff at his sport shirt.

## The REAL foreplay

STRESS is a huge mood killer: 61 per cent of our survey participants said it directly impacts on their sex life.

It can be really tricky to switch from one role (parent, worker, dogbody) into a space where you sexually connect. So don't even think about any kind of sexual foreplay until you've cleared libido-limiting and stress-inducing mental clutter.

Dr Juliana recommends dumping distractions by writing a 'to do' list and leaving it in the kitchen. Put your phone out of reach — there's nothing sexy about doom-scrolling.

## Flip your sex script

DON'T let sex become a repetitive chore. Dr Juliana's 'Four Quadrant' exercise is a great way to spice things up.

Sit down together and write a list of every kind of sexual action you can think of. Then, working individually, put each action into one of four quadrants:

- Something you have tried and want to try again.
- Something you have tried and don't want to do again.
- Something you haven't tried and are curious to try.
- Something you haven't tried and are pretty certain you don't want to try.

Going over your charts can

spark ideas for experiences you might both like to try (and give you the chance to call 'time' on activities you no longer enjoy).

## Plan a non-food date

PUTTING sex in the diary can be a gamechanger for couples who struggle to find time to be intimate. But a big fancy dinner will only leave you feeling bloated and sleepy.

Get those creative juices flowing instead. Earmark an evening to read an erotic novel together, sign up for a tango class or relax on a spa day. Time spent relaxing together can have a huge intimacy-boosting effect.

## Stare into his eyes

STUDIES show men often stare deeply into a woman's eyes at the beginning of a relationship, yet over time the habit fades. But women crave 'the gaze' and this simple act can re-ignite a dormant libido.

Try this exercise: sit opposite each other somewhere comfortable and spend two minutes looking into each other's eyes.

Dr Juliana suggests trying this with your bodies not touching, and then again with your knees brushing for more intensity.

## Let's talk about sex

FEELING unable to voice your desires, needs, and boundaries is a very big issue: a staggering 95 per cent of our survey respondents said they wished for better communication.

If the thought of talking about sex makes you uncomfortable, try post-orgasm pillow talk when oxytocin (the bonding hormone) is flooding your body.

Try asking: What do you fear about sex? What do you desire when it comes to sex?

■ **Mariah Freya** is founder and CEO of *Beducated.com*.

■ **Dr Juliana Hauser** is a therapist and author of *A New Position On Sex*, published Autumn 2024 (*dr-juliana.com*).

As told to **LOUISE ATKINSON**

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conceived. After appointments with various specialists, we were given perhaps the worst verdict of all: 'Unexplained infertility.'

Doctors suggested we dial down the stress by reducing our working hours, increase our time relaxing together, and keep on trying.

For the next three years we did, and planned our work and social lives almost exclusively around my fertile window each month. But still, nothing happened.

The obvious answer was to try IVF. We weren't eligible on the NHS where we live, and the prospect of success for a woman my age was pretty bleak, too.

But Alex was so keen for us to keep trying that he even suggested we draw up names. 'The body conceives what the mind believes', was his theory.

Yet another blood test showed that the quality of my eggs had nosedived. If we carried on trying naturally then each month I had less than 5 per cent chance of falling pregnant and, even if we tried IVF using my eggs, that number was pushed up to just 9 per cent.

Using a donor was, statistically, the more successful option, and our chances were suddenly between 30-34 per cent.

As my 40th birthday approached and with my periods still arriving each month like clockwork, I broached a last-ditch idea with Alex: using a donor egg with his sperm.

I had looked into this and discovered that, in Ukraine, the process was fairly speedy compared to other countries. Obviously this was before the war, when Ukraine's fertility 'industry' was still one of the largest in Europe.

Unlike the UK, there were no waiting lists for eggs and the laws ensured the donor remained anonymous. Plus it was far cheaper than other countries — just £4,000, including flights, accommodation and medical treatment. I emailed Alex the clinic details and held my breath for his response.

Over a series of evenings, we then talked it through — over FaceTime because he was working away.

To my mind, it shouldn't have come as a surprise to him: we'd touched on it in the past as a plan B and now I wanted us to make it a reality. I had been mulling it over for months and I assumed he had, too.

Still, without speaking in the flesh, we settled on starting this new plan when he returned to London in a month's time.

Full of excitement, I began making arrangements.

Over the next three months we flew out to the fertility clinic on two different occasions — first for Alex to leave a sperm sample, then a second time once the embryo was ready to be transferred into my body.

I was very groggy during and after the embryo transfer, and Alex never left my side. He was so loving, organising a taxi to take us back to the hotel. Everything seemed okay, but it was all such a blur that I didn't even think to ask how he was feeling about it all. At the clinic the attention was squarely on me —

not him. Two weeks later I took a test and, marvellously, it was positive. I was over the moon, but when I told Alex he seemed oddly withdrawn. I put it down to him working long hours and carried on getting excited, planning who to tell first.

At our eight-week private scan, the sonographer picked up the little heartbeat and I burst into tears of joy, while Alex looked on. The expression on his face was not one of unbridled joy. He seemed shell-shocked.

Outside the clinic, I lightly touched on how laid-back he was. He looked at me and said quietly: 'You know, I'm not sure I'll bond with a baby that isn't actually ours.'

I was speechless. We drove home in silence. It was as the front door closed that Alex gave it to me with both barrels. He accused me of pushing him into the whole 'exercise' without talking it through properly.

That night he slept in the spare room while I lay awake distraught. I'd genuinely assumed we were on the same page.

Surely he'd fall in love with our child once he or she was born?

For the next few days I was battling terrible morning sickness so I avoided broaching it, hoping he'd calm down.

But, five days after the scan, as I was curled on the sofa watching TV, Alex came home from work and said we needed to talk.

Now my world came crashing down around my ears. The idea that the egg donor could be 'anyone' made his skin crawl, he said. He felt that he didn't know *anything* about the egg donor to whom he was about to be linked

forever. While we knew basic medical history, that was it.

Alex was concerned that if she had lied about her medical background, how would the clinic know? How did we know she wasn't being exploited in some way? We'd have no idea of our child's heritage.

He asked how my parents would feel if we didn't tell them the truth saying: 'They'll be looking for a family likeness and they won't find one.' As far as he was concerned, the whole thing had been a terrible mistake.

His parting shot was that he wasn't sure he could stay in our marriage if 'you' go ahead.

Had we had the fertility treatment at home, we'd have been encouraged to have counselling first, which would have mitigated this.

Deep down I blamed myself for rushing headlong into becoming a mother at any cost.

But why on earth did he not say anything beforehand? He was there the very moment I had the embryo transferred.

The logical part of me tried to reconcile myself with the idea that he'd push these thoughts aside when we were parents. But, in my heart, I knew Alex. It would be an argument he'd bring up time and again if we went through with it.

While I wanted to be a mum, more than that I didn't want to live the rest of my life without him. I knew perfectly well we'd be over if I carried on.

The prospect of bringing up a child on my own seemed bleak. How would I do it? I've seen so

*Why didn't he say anything beforehand?*



“I’m now married to a man I both love with all my heart and resent to the point of fury”



Picture: KATARZYNA BIALASIEWICZ / GETTY

many friends struggle as lone parents, hand on heart I couldn't knowingly do that to myself or my future child.

And then there was the most dreaded thought: what if Alex left me for someone else and had children with her? It was as though a gun were being held to my head.

A week later I told him I'd decided to have a termination and the look of relief on his face as he opened his arms to give me a hug said it all. Inside I felt a mixture of profound anger and sadness. And yet I knew it was the right decision — for him.

I can't remember the day I had the procedure — it was so painful my brain seems to have wiped it from my memory — but I told Alex not to accompany me. I needed to do it alone. The guilt I experienced that day was enough without him being there, too.

I'm painting Alex out to be a demon, yet he is a kind and generous husband in many ways.

He is one of life's good guys; he makes me laugh, whatever the weather he does the last dog walk, he gets along better with my father than I do. He just could not reconcile himself to becoming a father this way.

Afterwards I took a week off work and went to stay with my mum in Spain. I cried on and off throughout. Mum thought it was because we were struggling to start a family — I didn't tell her

the truth. When I returned home, we sent off the paperwork formally requesting the clinic destroy the two frozen embryos we still had in storage there. And that was it.

I didn't know it at the time, because I clung to the remote possibility we would still get pregnant naturally, but that had been my last chance to become a parent.

Today, seven years on, sadly I take some comfort in knowing I'm not the only one to have felt pressure to terminate because the ramifications of introducing an anonymous donor into their lives hadn't been thoroughly discussed. One woman, who is now a

other half, the day she emailed the clinic asking them to destroy the embryos, her due date.

She and I have bonded over our misery and I'd say she's had it harder than me because her ex went on to start a family with a much younger woman.

As for me, you may wonder how I am possibly still with Alex?

Surely the whole episode doomed our relationship? But no, we are still together.

Many times I have been a heartbeat away from walking out on him. On the anniversary of my due date, which I remember every year, I feel it all over again and hate what he has done to me.

But, as strange as it sounds, I don't want to leave him and the life we have created. In part it's a lack of bravery, but also because in some ways I understand why he did what he did. Becoming a father wasn't the be-all and end-all for Alex, whereas becoming a mother felt that way to me.

Oddly, what I find harder to deal with, is his reticence around the whole sorry subject.

The truth is, we have barely talked about it. The first time I tried, he picked up his jacket, clipped on the dog's lead and walked out telling me he'd be back when I'd 'calmed down'.

Back then he was still open to the idea of being a father, but only if it happened naturally. Well, it didn't, and that ship has now

sailed because I'm firmly in perimenopause. Miracle babies might happen in books and films, but they are less apparent in real life.

To the outside world, our life is an enviable one. We go on exotic holidays, we have our beloved dog, we still both have successful careers. To anyone looking at our relationship, we must seem very close. I know he sees my sadness, but he won't ever acknowledge it — he has just erased that part of our life.

But papering over those feelings hasn't worked for me.

I never found out the sex of the embryo I so briefly carried, but I felt she was a girl — and seeing children of about the age she'd be, like that seven-year-old on the Easter egg hunt, still feels like a knife to the heart.

I recognise I must carry some of the blame. I wanted us to become parents so much, I had no qualms about any of the issues that troubled Alex. He wrestled with it, but in the end was not prepared to have a child 'with' a donor. I have come to accept this.

While the fertility industry in this country and others continues to seduce women like me with the promise of holding our 'own' baby, for some men, like Alex, if they can't be a father the natural way, then they don't want to be one at all. I only wish I had found that out sooner.

■ Names have been changed.

*I've often been a heartbeat away from walking out on him...*

friend, had her donor egg termination when her other half decided to end their relationship. She found herself 12 weeks pregnant and it was too much pressure for him.

Just like me, she can recount those awful milestones: the bombshell conversation with her

Styling: LIZ HEMMINGS

Comme des Garçons, £100, [ssense.com](https://www.ssense.com)Happy, £325, [anyahindmarch.com](https://www.anyahindmarch.com)Alphabet, £240, [chloe.com](https://www.chloe.com)

Life's  
**LITTLE**  
luxuries  
DESIGNER  
COIN PURSES

Pouch, £80.00, [fortnumandmason.com](https://www.fortnumandmason.com)Panama, £225, [smythson.com](https://www.smythson.com)Croc print, £185, [mulberry.com](https://www.mulberry.com)Embossed, £90, [jasperconran.com](https://www.jasperconran.com)Frame, £130, [viviennewestwood.com](https://www.viviennewestwood.com)



# HOW TO DRESS LIKE A GROWN UP

Shane Watson



## Suddenly, your brand of trainers really matters!

**T**RAINERS! Who knew they were this big a deal? Suddenly, the humble sports shoe is top of the news.

First Rishi Sunak wore Adidas Samba trainers thereby ruining them for the many fashion-conscious Samba wearers, including the new editor of Vogue, Chioma Nnadi. Sir Keir Starmer and Nigel Farage were also photographed in Adidas Gazelles; and then came news the most coveted trainer is by New Balance for Miu Miu and costs £780, if there were any left, which there aren't.

Everywhere I've been in the past few weeks people are (only half-jokingly) asking which brand they should be wearing, having never given trainer style a thought.

It's now clear that the old assumption — trainers are not suitable for fifty-somethings — is out of date and you can wear trainers at any age, and not just if you're expecting to kick a football (Starmer's excuse). And suddenly trainer owners everywhere are waking up to their potential: the power to turn the fashion dial right up or to give the everyday a spritz of style.

Trainers are now without doubt the neatest, easiest, most cost-effective and practical way of keeping in the fashion loop. So here's everything you need to know (at the time of going to press, things move fast in trainer world) to help you make your choice...

■ **TRAINERS** count as smart casual footwear... if they are a) clean, and b) some combination of leather and suede, or the vegan equivalent (no technical fabric if you want to wear them to the office).

The reason Sambas (£90, [arket.com](http://arket.com)) became so popular is because they come in white with black/navy stripes, stone suede detailing and a slim gum sole. They're smart casual with a capital S, and look like they're made to be worn with tailoring rather than track pants.

By the way, the woman interviewing Sunak on Sambageddon day was wearing white New Balance trainers with a grey N and a platform sole, still smartish, but more casual and minus the fashion points you get with the style of the moment. Worth noting: imitations work, but there's nothing quite like the real thing when it comes to trainers.

■ **IF YOU'RE** a disillusioned Samba wearer, the new cool and smart trainer on the block, Onitsuka Tiger's Mexico 66 SD (£195, [onitsukatiger.com](http://onitsukatiger.com)) with the distinctive swooping side stripes, is already the number one choice of fashion editors. Get them in white with blue and red stripes and you've got this year's white trainer, plus.

■ **THE** plain white and pretty trainers moment has officially passed. Vejas, with the V in coloured leather, no longer cut the mustard, notwithstanding its eco credentials.

Now, the trainers of the moment are retro, old-school and suede — the kind seen on campus in the 1970s — in

vintage colour combinations. The Adidas for Gucci trainers in colourways like burgundy and turquoise kicked off this trend a couple of years ago and now it's flying: another retro design from Adidas, the SL72 (£79.99, [office.co.uk](http://office.co.uk)) has a thicker white sole, looks fractionally more like a running shoe than regular Gazelles, and comes in 12 colour combinations, including my favourite maroon, almost yellow and brown.

Adidas Handball Spezial (£89.99, [office.co.uk](http://office.co.uk)) are similarly colourful and covetable.

Otherwise, for anyone disinclined to wear a trainer that dads feel comfortable in (plenty of men are wearing Spezials), the new hot style on the block is Nike's Cortez vintage suede (£131, [farfetch.com](http://farfetch.com)) in preppy colours such as green with a turquoise flash on the heel.

Beige suede and cream trainers are popular too, including New Balance's RC42 style (£89.99, [office.co.uk](http://office.co.uk)).

uk), and you get a lot more sole with New Balance.

■ **IF YOU'RE** looking for a fashion forward trainer, flatter retro running styles are streaking ahead. But with trainers, it's about finding the one that suits your needs, and if you need more support or height, then Marks & Spencer's version — it does a 'side detail' style in stone, green, white and navy (£35, [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)) — is a good alternative.

■ **FOR** feverish fashion followers, designer collaborations with trainer brands are the new It Bags. The ones currently making the fashion crowd drool include Adidas and Wales Bonner, and the New Balance and Miu Miu collection. Miu Miu's 530 SL flat style in cinnamon brown with orange laces sold out instantly, but there are plenty of imitators. Fans might easily make do with Adidas Gazelles in burnt orange and brown (£89.99, [office.co.uk](http://office.co.uk)).



Chic: Jennifer Lopez in Adidas Samba OGs



Casual: Olivia Wilde in Adidas x Gucci Gazelles

## M&S's new underwear is designed

EXCLUSIVE  
by Julia Lawrence

**A** LONG with a good proportion of honest women beyond a certain age, I'm always on the lookout for a cheeky new way to turn back time.

Miracle, ion-charged, peptide-boosting correction serum with Vitamin K-infused goji berries and bee venom? Oh yes, slap it on. I'll give anything a go.

Apparently, we still-vain and solvent fifty-somethings spend thousands every year in the pursuit of something that will hoick that, smooth this and disguise both this and that, thereby fooling the world into thinking we've completed fewer circuits of the sun than we actually have. And I'm always up for a painless and clever new trick, if I think it might buy me a few extra years, or a compliment or two.

And who would have thought it... the answer I've been searching for all these



Boost: The new £15 pants from Marks & Spencer

years may lie not in a jar, but in the knickers I put on every morning.

Marks & Spencer will today introduce its first 'bottom-enhancing pants' — a £15 pair of shorts that promises to help replenish what time has taken away. These pants are not just intended to give you a bigger bottom, but a more youthful one, by enhancing and 'boosting' the buttocks, making them appear higher and rounder.

Young bottoms are different from old ones, you see. At puberty, girls start producing more oestrogen which encourages fat stores to accumulate on the hips and buttocks. Evolutionary psychologists suggest we are wired to find this plump shape more pleasing, as it provides a visual indication of a woman's youth and fertility.

Then, of course, in our 40s and 50s, comes the menopause and everything falls off a cliff. As we age, oestrogen levels drop, fat naturally atrophies and the skin can become loose, making your bottom look as if it's flattening out and sagging. As lovely youthful plumpness disappears, nasty old silhouette-ruining cellulite makes its presence more obvious.

Unlike breasts, bottoms have the advantage of being behind us, so we're not afforded daily reminders of their gradual demise. Then came Kim Kardashian, with a rear end resembling a pair of bowling balls wrapped in a tea-towel, and bottom enhancement became the latest 'big thing' in cosmetic surgery.

Today, if it really bothers her enough — and she has ample cash — a woman can spend around £8,000 to have hyaluronic acid injections in her buttocks or, more drastically, go

for a pair of silicone implants, both highly invasive procedures.

Which, I must admit, perplexes me somewhat. There is no official breakdown of the ages of these women spending all that money, and enduring all that pain, but I'd guess there aren't many of them of my generation. The prominent, round, muscley and elevated behind is an aesthetic that appeals to women in their 20s and 30s. And yet, when I was their age, every girl I knew wanted a smaller bottom, or even no bottom at all.

As a typically, pear-shaped woman, who's had to work hard to maintain a size 10, I envied those skinny, androgenous girls whose jeans shorts seemed to hang effortlessly



WITHOUT



WITH

Dress, £35, [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com); shoes, £65, [monsoon.co.uk](http://monsoon.co.uk)

Dress, £65, m





# HOW TO EAT 30 PLANTS A WEEK

Will you take up Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's healthy challenge?

4 PAGES  
OF RECIPES  
TO PULL  
OUT AND  
KEEP

**S**TOVETOP dishes are the perfect go-to meal when stomachs are rumbling.

They provide a great opportunity to enhance your diet with as many plants as possible, aided by everyday ingredients you can often find in your fridge, store cupboard or spice rack.

The wonderful thing about this style of cooking is that your pan is 'open', so you can fling ingredients in as you go and smell and stir as you cook, tasting a spoonful now and then to get a really good sense of what you are creating.

In the last day of this series from my new book, I am sharing some of my best-loved recipes to show you that putting 30 different plants on your plate every week is easier than you might think — even adding them to puddings!

By plants, I means fruit and vegetables, but also nuts, seeds, grains, herbs and spices.

A diet rich in plants has been shown to have some incredible health benefits, such as improving your gut health and energy levels, and with these easy recipes, I will show you it is an easy win.

A favourite recipe is green beans with chickpeas and olives.

This bubbling and flavourful dish is fantastic served as a starter or as part of a mezze spread, with a dollop of yoghurt and a lemon wedge on the side. It is also fantastic as a side to lamb, fish or roast chicken.

It's easy to make plants the main event — see my recipe for black bean, corn and tomato soup, on the next page.

But plants can also be the celebrated co-stars to your meat dishes, instead of playing the mere extras to limelight-hogging animal proteins.

**G**ONE are the days of 'meat and two veg'; instead, meat and five, six or seven veg are winning much deserved plaudits.

Plants also pair well in meaty dishes — such as the nuts, herbs and spices that make my rustic on-the-bone chicken korma really sing, all while counting towards your 30-plants-a-week tally. A vital factor when putting dishes such as this together is being more selective with the meat you're eating.

Eating less meat of better quality is good for us, good for the animals that provide the meat and better for the planet, too. A higher-welfare

chicken or shoulder of lamb will cost more, but with these tasty recipes to hand, you'll be making it go further.

It's also good to know that sweet treats don't have to be 'bad for you'. When they're full of plants, they can make a positive contribution to your daily nutrition.

If you dial down the sugar

and mix it with whole foods such as nuts, fruits, seeds and wholegrain flours, you create dishes rich in plant proteins and fibre.

Take my nutty, seedy frangipane tart: it uses a little sugar but also has lots of almonds, pumpkin and poppy seeds.

And you'll see that the

hob-nobby, half-wholemeal shortcrust pastry has had a multi-plant upgrade, too.

Trust me, soon you will be filling your kitchen with delicious smells to get everyone's mouths watering. All the while hitting — perhaps even exceeding — that 30-plants-a-week target. Enjoy!

## Braised green beans with chickpeas and olives

*THIS is lovely eaten soon after cooking, but arguably even better the next day. So make the dish in advance and store in the fridge for a day or two, removing it an hour or so before serving to bring to room temperature.*

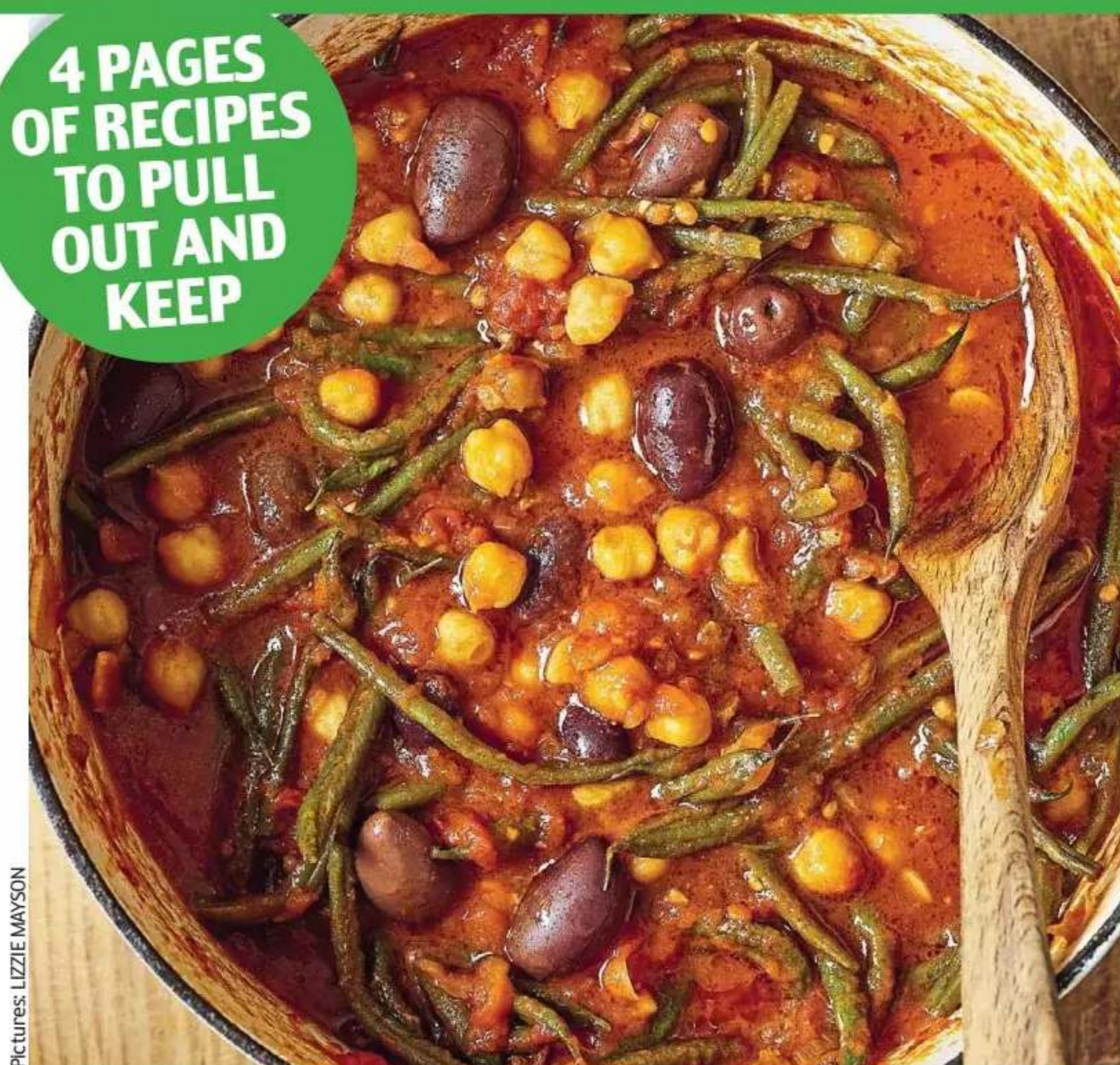
**SERVES 4 AS A SIDE OR STARTER OR 2 AS A MAIN**

- Oil or fat for cooking
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely sliced
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- A pinch of dried chilli flakes
- 2 x 400g tins peeled plum tomatoes
- 300g green (French) beans, trimmed
- 400g tin chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 100g pitted black olives, like Kalamata
- Sea salt and black pepper

### TO SERVE

- 4-5 tbsp natural yoghurt and/or 50g feta
- A handful of parsley, mint or basil (or a mix), leaves picked and roughly chopped
- A pinch of dried chilli flakes (optional)
- Lemon wedges

**HEAT** a splash of oil or knob of fat in a flameproof casserole dish or large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion with a pinch of salt and fry gently for at least 15 minutes, until very soft, golden and slightly caramelised — the more time you give the onion the better, as long as you don't burn it! Use a little more oil during cooking, if needed. Add the garlic, tomato puree, ground spices and chilli flakes. Cook, stirring, for a couple of minutes, taking care not to burn the garlic. Add the tinned tomatoes, crushing them as they go in and picking out any stalky ends or bits of skin. Add a splash of water to the empty tins to get the last of the juice; add this too. Bring to a simmer and cook for about 15 minutes until the tomato sauce is reduced and thickened. Add the green beans, chickpeas and olives and season, then simmer for a further 25 minutes until the beans are tender. Serve warm or at room temperature with yoghurt, herbs, chilli flakes, if using, and lemon wedges.



Pictures: LIZZIE MAYSON

# Get more goodness on your plate

by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall



# HOW TO EAT 30 PLANTS A WEEK



## Rustic on-the-bone chicken korma

*THIS is a gorgeous, creamy, nutty chicken curry, with lots of lovely spices that make it really sing.*

### SERVES 5-6

- 1 large free-range chicken (about 1.8kg), jointed (or 6 thighs and 6 drumsticks)
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- 2 tsp coriander seeds
- 5 cardamom pods, bashed and seeds extracted
- Oil or fat for cooking
- 1 onion, sliced
- 3cm piece of fresh ginger, coarsely grated
- 3cm piece of fresh turmeric, grated, or 1 tsp ground
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 tsp garam masala (or a mild curry powder)
- 1 tsp dried chilli flakes
- 400g tin peeled plum tomatoes
- 400g tin coconut milk
- 50g ground almonds
- Sea salt and black pepper

### TO FINISH (OPTIONAL)

- A handful of coriander leaves, chopped
- Brown rice (cook according to packet instructions)

**TAKE** the chicken out of the fridge 30-45 minutes before cooking to bring it to room temperature. Preheat the oven to 170c/150c fan/gas 3. Toast the cumin, coriander and cardamom seeds in a large heavy-based pan for 3-4 minutes

until fragrant and starting to crackle. Tip the seeds out on to a plate and leave to cool for a minute, then grind to a coarse powder using a pestle and mortar. Set aside. In a little oil, brown the chicken in 2 or 3 batches, skin side down, turning occasionally until nicely browned. Remove and place in a deep ovenproof dish or tray. Repeat to colour the rest of the chicken pieces. Set aside. Now add a little more oil or fat to the pan, followed by the onion, ginger, turmeric, garlic, crushed toasted spices, garam masala (or curry powder) and chilli flakes. Sweat for 15-20 minutes over a medium-low heat, stirring regularly, until the onions are very soft but not brown. Add the tinned tomatoes, crushing them as they go in (and picking out any stalky ends or bits of skin). Turn up the heat and cook for a few minutes, stirring occasionally to reduce and thicken the sauce. Add the coconut milk, ground almonds and salt and pepper, to taste. Give it a good stir and gently bring to a simmer. Pour the creamy tomato mixture over the chicken in the roasting dish or tray. Mix well to ensure the chicken is well coated and then cook in the oven for 20 minutes. Take out the dish and turn the chicken pieces, then return to the oven for 10 minutes. Serve the curry scattered with chopped coriander leaves if you have some to hand, and with brown rice on the side.

## Lamb and barley cabbage parcels

*THESE parcels are inspired by Eastern European flavours. I've used the larger outer leaves to wrap the parcels. The tender inner leaves can be used to make a kraut slaw to serve on the side.*

### SERVES 4

- 1 large Savoy cabbage
- Oil or fat for cooking
- 300g lamb mince
- 1 onion, finely sliced
- 1 carrot, scrubbed or peeled and fairly finely chopped
- 1 celery stick, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, finely sliced or grated
- ½ tsp dried chilli flakes
- 50g pearl barley (or spelt)
- 400g tin peeled plum tomatoes
- A glass of white wine
- 400ml vegetable or lamb stock
- A bunch of dill, roughly chopped, or parsley, leaves picked and finely chopped
- Sea salt and black pepper

**FIRST** prepare the Savoy cabbage. Remove and discard any very tough or damaged dark outer green leaves. Then carefully remove 12-14 large, bright green leaves for the parcels. Place the leaves, spine side up, on a large board and use a potato peeler to shave down the stalk (to make them more pliable for wrapping); don't worry if they rip a little. Immerse the whole cabbage leaves, a few at a time, in a large pan of simmering salted water for 2 minutes, then drain and refresh in cold water; drain well and set aside. To make the filling, place a large, wide ovenproof pan over a medium heat and add a little oil or fat. When hot, add the lamb mince and some salt and pepper and brown for 5-10 minutes,

using a wooden spoon to break up the meat as it fries. If the lamb releases a lot of fat, pour this off. Remove the meat from the pan with a slotted spoon and set aside on a plate. Now add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan and saute over a medium-low heat for about 10 minutes, until softened and lightly coloured. Add the garlic and chilli flakes, stir and cook for another minute or so. Add the barley (or spelt) and tinned tomatoes, crushing them as they go in. Stir well, increase the heat and cook for 5 minutes, to reduce the liquor until rich and saucy. Return the browned mince to the pan and pour in the wine and stock. Season with salt and a few twists of pepper, stir well and bring back to a gentle simmer. Cook for 20 minutes or so, until the grain starts to swell and become tender. Remove from the heat and stir through the dill or parsley. Set a colander over a bowl, tip the lamb filling into the colander and let the liquor drip through for 5 minutes. Keep this liquor. Preheat the oven to 200c/180c fan/gas 6. To make each parcel, lay a cabbage leaf on a board and place a heaped tablespoon of the lamb filling in the centre. Fold both ends of the cabbage leaf over and fold the sides over the filling, creating a tightly packed parcel. Place the parcel back in the pan, with the fold underneath to help secure it. Repeat to make the rest of the parcels. Ideally, they should fit snugly in the pan in a single layer. Pour the strained liquor on top. Put the pan in the oven and bake the parcels for 25-30 minutes until they are golden. Serve 2 or 3 parcels per person, with any remaining juices spooned over and a pile of kraut slaw, made from inner leaves.



*A HEARTY but zingy tomato soup with crunchy corn and punchy lightly pickled red onions.*

### SERVES 4

- 1 small red onion, finely sliced
- Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lime
- Oil or fat for cooking
- 2 red onions, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1-2 medium-hot green chillies, such as jalapeno, deseeded and finely chopped
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 4 tbsp tomato puree
- A handful of coriander stalks (keep leaves for later)
- 400g ripe tomatoes, cored, deseeded and finely chopped, or a 400g tin peeled plum tomatoes
- 400g tin black beans or





## Layered gratin of greens

*THIS lovely vegan dish is a delicious layering of creamy greens, cabbage and spuds, with a crispy nutty topping.*

### SERVES 4

- 100g cashew nuts
- A little olive or rapeseed oil
- 350ml hot vegetable stock
- 1 tsp English mustard
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil or butter
- 1 large onion, halved and sliced
- 1 large leek (about 300g), trimmed and cut into 5mm rounds
- 3 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 250g spinach, coarse stalks removed, roughly shredded
- 1 Savoy or January King cabbage
- 600g floury potatoes, such as Desiree or Maris Piper, scrubbed
- Sea salt and black pepper

### FOR THE TOPPING

- 30g buckwheat groats
- 30g walnuts or hazelnuts, roughly bashed
- 1 tbsp olive or rapeseed oil
- A few sprigs of rosemary, leaves picked, or 10 sage leaves, chopped

SOAK the cashew nuts in cold water for 3 hours. Lightly oil a shallow oven dish (at least 1.5 litre capacity). Drain the soaked cashews, put them into a blender with the hot stock and mustard and blitz to a smooth, creamy liquid. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Heat the oil or butter in a large

frying pan over a medium-low heat and add the onion and leek with a pinch of salt. Cover the pan and sweat the veg for 5 minutes or until they soften, then remove the lid and cook for a further 15 minutes or until they are very soft and golden. Add the garlic and cook for 2 minutes, then stir in the spinach and leave it to wilt for 2-4 minutes. Pour in the cashew cream and stir to combine: this creamy mix of alliums and greens is one layer. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 190c/fan 170c/gas 5. Separate the cabbage leaves, keeping them whole. Bring a large pan of water to the boil. Blanch the cabbage leaves in batches, simmering them for just 2 minutes, then drain and refresh in cold water. Next, thinly slice the potatoes into 3mm thick rounds. Arrange an overlapping layer of potatoes in your oven dish, then a thin layer of the creamy cashew greens, followed by an overlapping layer of cabbage leaves. Season well with salt and pepper. Repeat these layers then top with a third layer of potatoes. Trickle a little olive or rapeseed oil over the surface then cover with foil and bake for 35-40 minutes. Now, mix the topping ingredients in a bowl. Scatter over the surface. Return to the oven for 10-15 minutes, until browned and crispy.

## Braised black bean, corn and tomato soup

blackeyed beans, drained and rinsed

- 700ml vegetable stock
- 2 corn-on-the-cob, or 400g frozen sweetcorn
- 150g frozen peas (optional)
- Juice of 1 lime
- Sea salt and black pepper
- Pickled red onion

### TO FINISH (OPTIONAL)

- A handful of coriander leaves, chopped
- 4-6 tbsp soured cream or Greek-style yoghurt
- 1 ripe avocado, peeled, stoned and chunkily diced
- A squeeze of lime or lemon juice

FIRST, prepare the pickled red onion. Put the sliced onion

into a bowl with the lime zest and juice and a pinch of salt. Scrunch it all together then set aside to pickle while you make the soup. Heat a little oil or fat in a saucepan over a medium-low heat, then add the onions and saute for 6-8 minutes or until softened and lightly coloured. Add the garlic, green chilli, cumin and tomato puree and cook, stirring, for a minute or two. Toss in the chopped coriander stalks. Now add the tomatoes (if using tinned tomatoes, crush them as they go in, picking out any stalky ends or bits of skin). Tip the black beans into the pan, pour in the stock and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil

and simmer gently for 15-20 minutes until the tomatoes have broken down. Meanwhile, if using fresh corn, slice the kernels off the cobs. Add the corn kernels (fresh or frozen) to the pan, plus the peas, if using, and simmer for 5 minutes more. Remove from the heat and add the lime juice, then taste to check the seasoning and adjust if necessary. Ladle the soup into warmed bowls and top with a sprinkling of pickled red onion. Finish with a scattering of chopped coriander leaves, plus a little soured cream or yoghurt, avocado and a squeeze of lime or lemon juice if you like.



### SWAPS

USE kale or cavolo nero instead of Savoy cabbage. Swap the onion with a couple of shallots and the leek with fennel.



# HOW TO EAT 30 PLANTS A WEEK

## Hob-nobby shortcrust pastry

*THIS pastry is a great all-rounder. The oats, poppy or flax seeds give it a lovely hob-nobby texture. Just leave out the sugar for savoury recipes.*

**MAKES ENOUGH TO LINE A 24CM TART TIN**

- 120g fine plain wholemeal flour

- 100g plain white flour, plus extra to dust
- 50g porridge oats
- 20g golden caster sugar (omit for a savoury tart)
- 30g poppy seeds or ground flax seeds (optional)
- A pinch of salt
- 125g chilled butter, diced or coarsely grated
- 1 medium egg, beaten

**COMBINE** the two flours, oats, sugar, poppy or flax seeds if using, and the salt in a large bowl, or the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and

either rub in with your fingertips, or pulse in the processor, until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Add the beaten egg, gradually – either to the bowl, working it in with a table knife, or trickling it into the processor with the motor running. Add a little cold water too, just enough to bring the pastry together into large clumps; don't overwork it. Tip the pastry on to a floured surface and use your hands to bring it together, then knead it briefly into a ball. Flatten it into a thick disc, then wrap and chill it in the fridge for at least 30 minutes, ideally 1-2 hours, before using.



## Maple and nut butter flapjacks

*THIS is my plantiest flapjack yet. The mix of dried fruit, nuts and seeds can be varied as you like, and it's pretty much the more types the merrier.*

**MAKES 10-12**

- 200g porridge oats
- 100g seeds, such as sunflower or pumpkin (or a mix)
- 1 tsp caraway or fennel seeds (optional)
- 50g dried apricots (unsulphured), or dried apple or pear, chopped
- 50g sultanas or raisins
- 50g nuts, such as hazelnuts, walnuts, almonds or macadamias, roughly chopped
- 150g organic peanut butter or other nut butter
- 30g soft light brown sugar
- 3-4 tbsp coconut or olive oil (or melted unsalted butter)
- 2 tbsp maple syrup (or honey)

**PREHEAT** the oven to 200c/180c fan/gas 6. Line a 20cm square oven tin with baking paper. Mix the oats, seeds, spice seeds if using, dried fruit and chopped nuts together in a large bowl. Put the nut butter, sugar, 3 tbsp oil (or butter) and maple syrup (or honey) into a saucepan, place over a low heat and stir gently until everything is melted and well blended. Pour on to the oat mixture and stir well to combine. If the mixture doesn't quite come together, mix in another 1 tbsp oil (or melted butter). Tip the flapjack mixture into the prepared tin, spread out and press down with the back of a spoon into an even layer. Bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes until lightly golden (and a little darker at the edges). Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin. Once cooled, cut the flapjack sheet into 10 or 12 slices. These will keep in an airtight container for a week.



### SWAPS

**INSTEAD** of serving fruit on the side, you can bake it into the tart. This works best with fairly firm ones such as pears, or a dried fruit.

*MADE with at least two kinds of nuts and seeds and attractively speckled with poppy seeds, this tart looks and tastes delicious.*

**SERVES 8**

- Hob-nobby pastry (see above)

### FOR THE SEEDY FRANGIPANE FILLING

- 100g almonds, hazelnuts or pistachios (or a mix)
- 100g pumpkin or sunflower seeds (or a mix)
- 200g unsalted butter, softened
- 80g golden caster sugar
- 3 medium eggs (at room temperature), beaten
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 30g poppy seeds
- 25g extra pumpkin seeds or flaked almonds for topping the tart

### TO FINISH (OPTIONAL)

- Fresh berries or cherries
- A dollop of yoghurt or crème fraîche

**PREHEAT** the oven to 180c/160c fan/gas 4. Roll out the hob-knobby shortcrust pastry on a floured surface, as thinly as you can, turning it once or twice and dusting with a little more flour.

Use it to line a 24cm round loose-based fluted tart tin, pressing the pastry into the corners and trimming the excess. Place the tin on a baking tray. Prick the pastry base in a few places with a fork. Line with baking paper, then add a layer of baking beans or dried beans or rice. Bake in the oven for 15 minutes, then remove the paper and beans and return the pastry case to the oven for 5-10 minutes, until it looks dry and cooked and is just starting to colour. Leave the pastry case to cool a little. For the filling, tip the nuts and pumpkin/sunflower seeds on to a large baking sheet, spread them out and toast in the oven for 8-10 minutes, until fragrant and starting to turn golden, stirring once halfway through to ensure even colouring. Take out the tray and lower the oven setting to 170c/150c fan/gas 3. Tip the toasted nuts and seeds into a bowl and leave to cool for at least 10 minutes. Once cooled, transfer to a food processor and blitz until the mix is the texture of ground almonds.

Using a free-standing mixer, or an electric hand whisk and bowl, beat the softened butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Now whisk in the beaten egg, a little at a time, adding a shake of flour with each addition. Once half of the egg is incorporated, stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula, then continue. Finally, mix in the blitzed nutty seed mixture and the poppy seeds, until just incorporated. Spoon the frangipane into the baked tart case, spreading it evenly. Sprinkle a few whole pumpkin seeds or flaked almonds evenly over the surface and bake for 30 minutes. Turn the oven setting up to 200c/180c fan/gas 6 and cook for another 10-15 minutes until the frangipane is firm and golden brown on top. Leave to cool on a wire rack for at least 15 minutes before removing from the tin. Serve at room temperature, cut into slices, with fresh berries or cherries, plus a dollop of yoghurt or crème fraîche, if you are using it.

## Frangipane tart

■ **ADAPTED** from *How To Eat 30 Plants A Week* by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall (Bloomsbury, £25). © Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall 2024. To order a copy for £21.25 (offer valid to 19/05/24; UK P&P free on orders over £25) go to [mailshop.co.uk/](https://mailshop.co.uk/) books or call 020 3176 2937.





ed to give you more curves. As they hit the shelves today, our writer asks...

OUT



£85, [sosandar.com](https://www.sosandar.com); shoes, [onsoon.co.uk](https://www.onsoon.co.uk)

their hips. Ironie, isn't it, that women would probably be using the bum I'd longed to appear in my youth. As with fashion, perceptions of body ideals tend to follow cyclical patterns and it's hard to know there is a completely new and painless way for women to want to follow this trend, now in that mecca of underwear, bras, of course, have been around for years. Worn as much for comfort as for aesthetic reasons, they've been through all manner of guises and we crossed the shapewear line in 1991 with the invention of the Wonderbra — made famous by the 'Hello Boys' ad campaign, featuring model Eva Herzigova. Elevating, and accentuating the

# Would you wear pants that give you a BIGGER bottom?

WITH



WITHOUT

Shirt, £29.50, [marksandspencer.com](https://www.marksandspencer.com); trousers, £139, [karenmillen.com](https://www.karenmillen.com); shoes, £24.99, [hm.com](https://www.hm.com)



WITH

shape of the bust with padding, the Wonderbra is another anti-ageing ploy, making breasts appear plumper and perkier — therefore younger — without the need for enhancement surgery.

When asked to trial the pants, I was mildly offended — at first. What's wrong with my bottom, I thought. It does what it's designed to do, and I hadn't really looked at it in years. But then I recalled an incident recently when I accidentally put on my running shorts the wrong way round and was baffled to find they were actually a better fit.

In my 50s, it turned out the extra material was proving much more useful at the front, supporting my tummy, than it was at the back,

where my bottom had obviously left the party some time ago, taking the balloons with it.

At first sight, they resemble a pair of control pants, but these have removable pads added, which sit on top of your buttocks like a couple of lightweight 'chicken fillets'.

They're surprisingly comfortable, and rather snug. I imagine they'd be very handy on a picnic, where you'd have your own, bespoke little cushion protecting you from the cold, hard earth, but possibly might prove too warm for an evening where tights might be worn, too.

Once they're on, the effect is... curious. In a pair of trousers, the difference is instantaneous and, to my mind, rather too much. Rather

than youthful and perky, my bottom looked like I'd gained 10lb, but without the 'collars and cuffs' complete package of a larger bosom and plumper, less lined face.

That's the problem with these intervention measures: I equate it with doing small house renovations. Once you paint the skirting board, the walls look scruffy — then the carpet, then the curtains, then the furniture, until you find yourself in a situation where you've ripped your whole house apart.

In a fitted dress, however, the silhouette is much more flattering. Being effective control pants, they also do a good job holding in your stomach and nipping in the waist.

But would anyone else notice, I

wondered? My husband was invited to step into the marital Venus fly trap when I asked him if he noticed anything different about me.

'New jeans?' he ventured nervously, before I told him I actually had a new bottom. 'But what's wrong with your old bottom?' he asked... he's well trained.

It's a novel idea, and I imagine some women who are self-conscious about their lack of curves will welcome this new addition to their wardrobe. There is something about the traditional, hour-glass shape that adds a touch of elegance to a simple, fitted dress. But for now, I think I'll be sticking to the rear end nature, and time, gave me. Unless, of course, I'm invited to a picnic.



WITHOUT

Jumper, £85, [marksandspencer.com](https://www.marksandspencer.com); jeggings, £55, [sosandar.com](https://www.sosandar.com); shoes, £79, [johnlewis.com](https://www.johnlewis.com)



WITH



WITHOUT

Silk satin shirt, £230, [withnothingunderneath.com](https://www.withnothingunderneath.com); skirt, £99, [hobbs.com](https://www.hobbs.com)



WITH

Photography: LEZLI+ROSE. Hair and make-up: BETHANY RICH. Styling: CAMILLA RIDLEY-DAY. Fashion Assistant: KATHRYN WINTER



## INSPIRE

# As Emily In Paris heads to Rome, a native offers some waspish advice

## Ditch those *white trainers*, don't order *pasta* as a main course and never drink *Aperol spritz*

Dear Emily

I HEAR you're taking time out from irritating the French and have popped over from Paris to Rome. Well, take it from someone who knows: don't assume it will be all *la dolce vita* and pizzas.

Yes, the Italians may seem less obviously sniffy than the French (most people do) and you might argue that Rome is more provincial than Paris. But believe me, the Italians can be just as tricky. If not more so.

Half-Italian, I've had a home in France for 23 years, so allow me to give you the benefit of my experience.

One of the first encounters I had with my Italian father took place at the Antico Caffè Greco, an 18th-century café on one of Rome's most fashionable streets where, among other illustrious patrons, Byron and Keats used to drink coffee.

I was a nervous teenager, three weeks into a relationship with a father I'd been estranged from since I was two years old due to my parents' divorce.

My father and I sat down at one of the round marble tables. When the waiter arrived, I suavely ordered a cappuccino, one of the few Italian words I knew at the time. 'Non è possibile!' shrieked my father. 'How can a daughter of mine shame me so.'

I had committed the unspeakable crime of ordering a milky coffee after midday. Something no self-respecting Italian would ever do. My father almost disowned me on the spot.

WHEN I heard you were heading to Rome, Emily, my heart sank. I sat through your TV series at my home in Languedoc, watching through my fingers as you mangled the French language, wore appalling clothes and assumed every man you met was trying to have sex with you. That last one is a lot more likely in Italy, incidentally.

I can only hope you have become a little less gauche and that you've now ditched your beastly beret and Breton stripes, because they will go down just as badly with the Romans as they did with the Parisians. Let me give you some tips that will save you from your



When in Rome... don't wear 'sneakers', Emily! (Lily Collins, above left and main picture)



Picture: CAROLE BETHUEL/NETFLIX

by Helena Frith Powell

next faux pas, or from being a *brutta figura* as the Italians say.

Sadly, it seems from recent pictures of the new series that you'll be getting off on the wrong foot by wearing what, like most Americans, I assume you call 'sneakers'.

Notwithstanding the city's famously cobbled streets, no chic Roman would be seen dead in trainers outside of a tennis court at the exclusive Aniene (full name Circolo Canottieri Aniene) club.

Opt for loafers (preferably Tod's, Gucci or Salvatore Ferragamo), ballerina pumps or wedges that are easy to walk in.

Rome is a city you get to know by walking, and you won't get far in the vertiginous Louboutins Parisians favour.

You will hear the phrase '*bella figura*' a lot. This does not mean having a beautiful figure; it is far more profound than that. It is at

the heart of everything Italians wear, do and say.

It loosely translates as dressing well, being well educated (not, heaven forbid, *maleducato* i.e. rude) making a good impression and being intelligent all rolled into one. It combines style, dignity, education, elegance and even propriety. It is the single most important piece of advice I can give you. If you maintain a *bella figura* you can't go wrong.

For most people, the easiest part is dressing well. So at least do that, Emily. Please. No more of the garish outfits that make you, as my daughter puts it, 'stand out like a clownfish'.

Rome is all for a relaxed and casual style, but it has to be stylish. Invest in some classic Italian designs, well-fitted and made from good fabrics.

And don't assume that just because you managed to survive Parisian woman judging you, the women in Rome will be easy to deal with. Remember, there is only one thing a Frenchwoman fears, and that's an Italian woman.

While we're on the subject of

natives, if you found French men lecherous and a tad too attentive, you ain't seen nothing yet.

Pictures of you filming with handsome actor Eugenio Franceschini hint at an Italian love interest, which seems fitting – Italian men have one mission in life, and that is to seduce. Wherever you go, you will hear cries of '*ciao bella*', from boys on scooters, men walking past you, taxi drivers waiting in line, even policemen in impeccably pressed uniforms.

MY MOTHER, who is 81, lives in Umbria. A few weeks ago a plumber came to fix her shower. He spent more time flirting with her than sorting out the plumbing.

'You Italian men don't care how old, how ugly, how infirm a woman is, do you?' she teased.

He shook his head. '*Basta che respira*,' came the reply ('As long as she's breathing').

Emily, the next thing we need to talk about is food. Please remember that in Italy, pasta – be it spaghetti, penne, linguine, riga-

toni, or farfalle (and, yes, you should know the difference between them and many more) – are all starters. Please do not embarrass yourself by trying to order it as a main course, unless you identify as a seven-year-old.

And I know you Americans love what you call 'parmesan cheese' with everything (NB: it's just parmigiano), but if you ask for it with spaghetti alle vongole the waiter might just escort you to the airport.

In fact, any pasta dish that contains fish or seafood does not work with parmesan because it overpowers the delicate flavours.

Remember, too, that Italy is the home of leather accessories and sunglasses. Do not skimp on these. Romans will notice, and they will judge you. People, especially women, are looking at your shoes and your bag, and they will form an opinion of you based on them.

I'm sure you will go out for drinks at some stage. Can you please not embarrass yourself by ordering an Aperol spritz? It's for tourists only. If you want to look like a local, then order a Campari and soda. The same applies to limoncello, which you drink only when offered either by a restaurateur or a host.

I'm sure if you bear all the above in mind, you will be fine. Just don't be a *brutta figura*. I can't bear to watch if you do.

■ HELENA FRITH POWELL is the author of *Ciao Bella – Sex, Dante & How To Find Your Father In Italy*, published by Gibson Square Books.

Best Helena

## DESIGN DOUBLES

BLOWOUT



PINK chiffon, long and floaty, Dolce & Gabbana... I'm hearing 'summer chic'! With the warmer months upon us, there's no better time to invest in such a versatile luxury dress. Effortlessly elevate this kimono-sleeve number with strappy stilettos or dress it down with brown leather sandals (£3,750, [dolcegabbana.com](https://dolcegabbana.com)).



This week  
KIMONO DRESS

LOOKING for something that screams elegance and glamour, but without a four-figure price tag? Of course, Karen Millen has just the solution. This flattering kimono frock will take you from beach to restaurant in one sophisticated fell swoop, for a fraction of the price (£219, [karenmillen.com](https://karenmillen.com)).

Styling:  
KATHRYN  
WINTER

BUDGET





# DR MAX THE MIND DOCTOR

Let NHS psychiatrist Max Pemberton transform your life

## We need more female doctors in the NHS... but there is a downside

**D**OES the sex of your doctor matter? In general, I'd say it shouldn't really make a difference, although there are some times, for example during intimate examinations, when it could be a consideration.

Having said that, I was fascinated by the results of a study carried out by UCLA and published in the journal *Annals Of Internal Medicine*, which found the death rate for female patients treated by women doctors was lower compared with those treated by male physicians.

The researchers who conducted the study were at a loss to explain their results, although they suggested it might be down to male doctors underestimating the severity of a female patient's illness.

I would tend to agree: there's no obvious biological explanation for this difference between the sexes, so the answer must be a psychological one, based in the unconscious bias of male doctors.

Previous research has certainly shown that male medics underestimate their female patients' pain levels, gastrointestinal and cardiovascular symptoms and stroke risk, so it seems a reasonable conclusion.

It's also possible that some women feel more comfortable describing their symptoms to a woman doctor, which in turn means they may receive more appropriate care, tailored to their needs.

Thank goodness, then, that more women are coming into the

medical profession — and the days of them being considered 'unsuitable' and lacking the necessary mental and physical stamina for the job are over.

This used to be particularly true for women who wanted children.

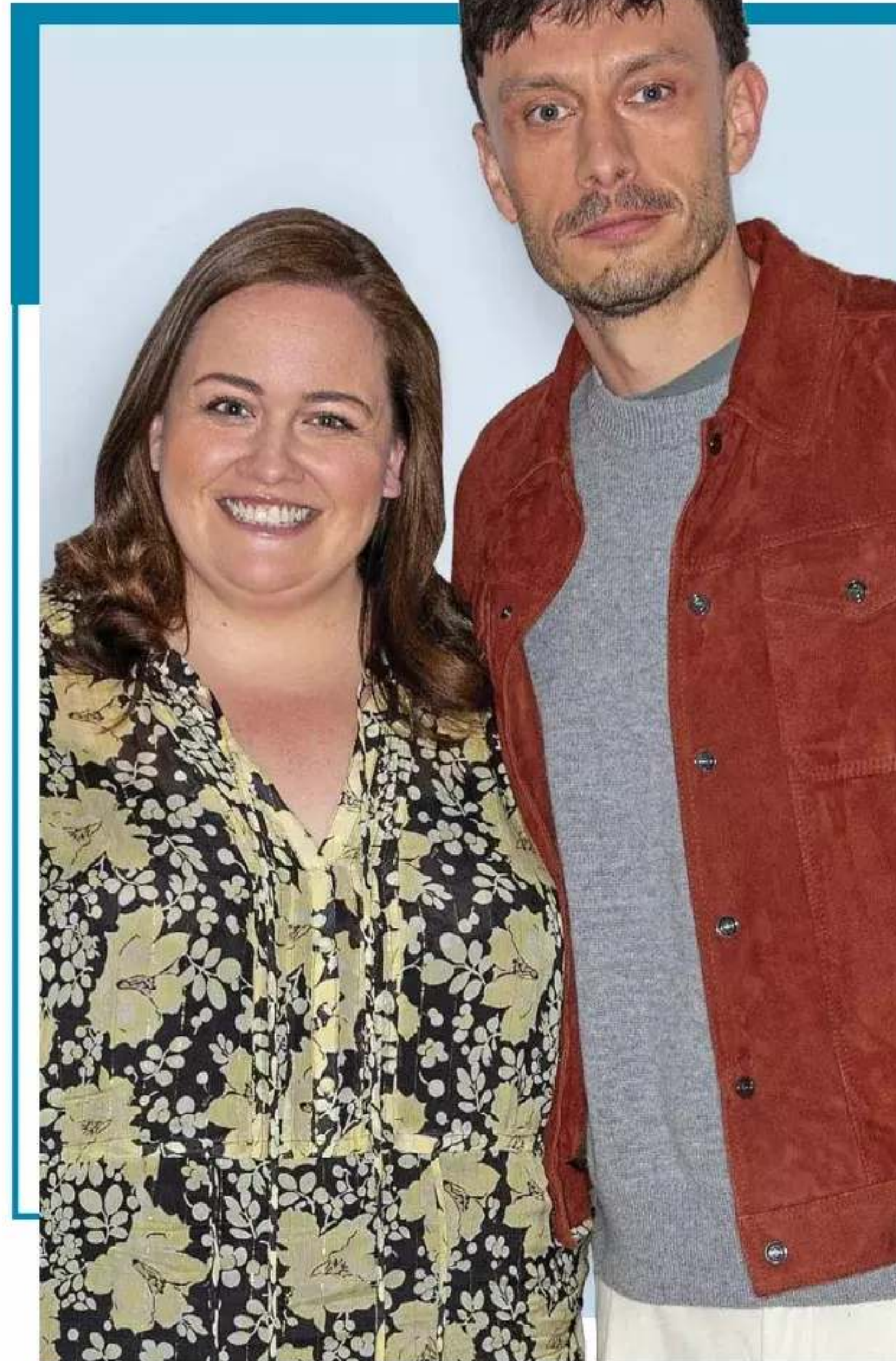
When I was at medical school I remember an old female professor of mine telling me that she was one of only three women in her entire year in medical school in the 1950s when women were frequently ignored when they put their hands up in seminars, and tolerated at best.

The idea that as a woman you might pursue a career in anything other than family medicine, or paediatrics, was deeply frowned upon.

Those who did make it to be doctors must have been tough as old boots to survive in such a hostile, sexist world.

How times have changed! When I was at medical school, 25 years ago, mine was the first year there was an equal split between the sexes. Some medical schools now have 80 per cent female students, which is an astonishing shift.

Of course, it's a good thing that more women are entering the



Hit: Jessica Gunning and Richard Gadd star in *Baby Reindeer*

medical profession, but should we not consider what this means for the landscape of our health care in the future?

At the moment, just over half of registered doctors are men. As more and more women enter the profession, we may well see an increase in doctors working part-time.

Thirty-eight per cent of female consultants work part-time compared to five per cent of male consultant physicians. Two-thirds of GPs are women — with a large proportion opting for less than full-time work.

**W**E SHOULD see a corresponding increase in the number of places at medical school to account for this, but we don't.

While the number of medical school places has slightly increased in recent years, this is only to allow for increased need in personnel on the current model, not to allow for more of the workforce working part-time in the future.

This problem is not unique to the UK — the U.S., Canada, across Europe and Japan have seen shifts in the numbers of women entering the medical

profession, have struggled to plan for part-time workers and so they have had problems with a shortage of doctors. The problem is already affecting both hospitals and primary care.

Thank goodness we have moved on from those awful, sexist days of yore where women doctors were a minority and ostracised in the profession — especially if women experience better results with female doctors.

But we must account for the shift in gender balance — and the increase of part-time working that this brings — by attracting more students and doctors or we face a medical workforce disaster.

## I've seen the truth behind *Baby Reindeer*

**HAVE** you seen *Baby Reindeer* on Netflix? I was hooked.

The drama is an autobiographical story written by Richard Gadd (who plays the lead, Donny), detailing his experiences of being stalked as a man in his 20s. Featuring Jessica Gunning, who gives a compelling performance as the stalker, Martha, it is gripping and unexpectedly funny.

As someone who has worked with a number of victims of stalking, as well as people who have been stalkers, I found it offered a nuanced and perspicacious view of the complex psychology of how this situation can develop, as well as portraying the ambiguity and uncertainty the victim feels. It also gives a well-rounded and heartbreaking insight into how an obsession starts through misreading signs.

It's one of the most powerful and accurate portrayals of the utter devastation and long-term effect stalking can have on a victim I've seen.

■ **ALMOST** half of all patients never or rarely see the same GP, according to a poll for the *Liberal Democrats*, which starkly underlines a serious shift in medicine.

We've moved away from doctors knowing their patients and building up trust over the years. Increasingly, a visit to your GP means sitting in front of someone who barely glances up from their keyboard, reciting a list of symptoms, then walking away clutching a prescription.

This dreadful experience flies in the face of evidence that shows the extraordinary value of a proper doctor-patient relationship. One thing I treasure about being a doctor is getting to know my patients — particularly in mental health. Some of my patients have trusted me with things they've shared with no other human being. This has enabled me better to help them.

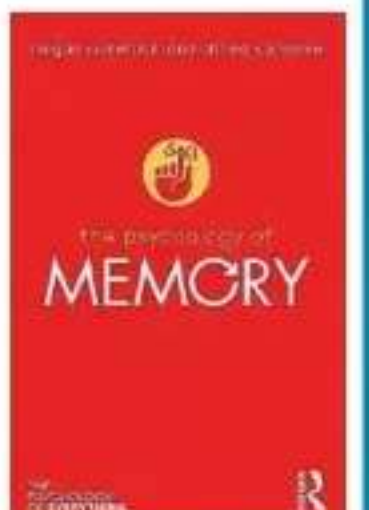
■ **THE** number on the transplant waiting list is at its highest in a decade but the number of donor organs has yet to recover after the pandemic. When I worked on a liver unit I saw so many in desperate need of transplants. I can think of nothing more wonderful than to leave the gift of life when you die.

## DR MAX PRESCRIBES... THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MEMORY

*The Psychology Of Memory* by Dr Megan Sumeracki and Dr Althea Need Kaminske  
**SHORTLY** before sitting down to write this I lost my keys. For the second time today. Does this happen to you? If so, don't worry. It doesn't

necessarily mean your memory is bad.

Our brain forgets things on purpose so it can store other information, say the scientists who have written this book, which also suggests ways to remember names and numbers.





# INSPIRE

**E**IGHT months ago, the mood in my therapy room shifted considerably. Clients who had been suffering from very low self-esteem were suddenly bounding in, filled with a new-found enthusiasm for life.

The reason was obvious and needed none of my diagnostic skills. They had all lost a considerable amount of weight using Ozempic, and after years of struggling with poor body image they finally had the figure they always wanted. A few confidently predicted they wouldn't be needing me for much longer.

Then just as quickly as they hit this euphoric mental high, they came crashing down again. And I wasn't in the slightest bit surprised.

Within a few months, the same clients had lost their glow. They were back in my therapy

by Sally Baker  
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

room looking lower than ever and a new condition was now top of my treatment list — one I christened 'Ozempic sadness'. These clients had swapped one set of problems for another, just like those I was treating ten years ago who had bariatric surgery when that was the weight loss trend *du jour*.

They're confused about why they look better, but feel worse. As a therapist the answer was obvious. Because their over-eating wasn't the problem. It was just a symptom of something deeper that was yet to be addressed.

From working with these clients, I've been able to identify five of the most consistent

causes of 'Ozempic sadness' and the best ways to tackle them. Of course, this emotional turmoil can strike people who are struggling with any kind of weight loss — it could even play a part in the vicious regain cycle so many yo-yo dieters experience.

So if you find you keep sabotaging yourself every time you lose a few pounds or are stricken by a low mood now you're newly slim, read on to discover how you can tackle your problems — and really enjoy your new body.

## How to handle the pain when comfort eating stops

OVER-EATING is never about being greedy or eating too much, or being lazy. It's always about one thing. You can find your trigger by asking yourself this one question: what am I trying to bury with food?

Then, consider: how does it serve you, focusing so much of your brain energy and time on what you've just eaten, or what you'll eat next? What would you have to address if you weren't over-thinking about food? If you were being very honest about your thoughts and feelings.

One lady I treat, in her sixties, found that taking Ozempic got rid of her appetite, so she would sit in her armchair for hours at night, over-thinking all the things that could go wrong in her life. These dark, catastrophic thoughts were just getting bigger and bigger, now that she didn't have the distraction of food to occupy her mind.

For people like her — who have car doors filled with sweets, or desk drawers stuffed with biscuits — comfort eating has always been a crutch. They enjoy the sensation of food in their mouths; the crispiness, the crunch, the pleasure they get from each bite. Ozempic turns that off like a light switch, and it leaves a huge void.

Comfort eating always masks turmoil. For some it's the bullying they went through at school. For others, it's the fear of a big birthday — typically 40, 50 or 60 — and feeling like they aren't where they want to be in life.

One of my clients was sent away to boarding school at eight and has never dealt with the impact of feeling rejected by his family. Even if you think it's 'just' a matter of a few extra biscuits or helpings, it rarely is.

**How to tackle it:** You need to 'break state', get up, move around, and take three breaths in and out. If you still feel tempted to eat, call a friend; by the time you've done these things, the urge will often have passed.

## Opening the door to past trauma

FOR some clients the euphoria of fitting into that much-loved dress simply cannot outshine the sadness they now feel at not experiencing the joy of freely eating. In some cases, food was their only pleasure — and now it's gone.

Worse still, the gap that food leaves creates an open door for buried trauma to emerge. A lot of the time the problems run back to childhood.

In the worst cases, it can be sexual abuse, or the anxiety of living in a chaotic household perhaps because of an alcoholic parent. Food is the one substance available to everyone from childhood, and so they use it when things are hard, and continue doing so throughout their lives.

For one client whose partner died five years ago, taking Ozempic made it suddenly feel as though the agony of their loss was yesterday. The sadness was unbearable. Others feel themselves focusing on the profound grief at having never resolved a conflict before a loved one died.

Their method of self-soothing, of swallowing down uncomfortable emotions, has gone now because they can't use food. But they're not equipped to self-soothe in other ways.

That pushes many to switch their addiction. If food can't give them the

happiness they crave, they'll frequently start drinking more. Another client I see has begun compulsively shopping to fill the gap that not over-eating has left. It's all about searching for a dopamine or serotonin (the 'happy hormones') hit from another activity.

This problem is more pronounced among women. We have so much more emotional investment in our food, and feel under more pressure to look good than men do. Men aren't as emotionally complicated.

When clients come to me saying weight loss has made them feel emotionally empty, we have to identify what started those feelings. Unless you've pinpointed it, resolved it and then let it go, you'll live with the unprocessed trauma forever.

**How to tackle it:** If the trauma is of a particularly serious nature, you're going to have to seek professional help. Memories buried alive don't die: if there's something that you know you haven't addressed, you must do so with a therapist or counsellor, or you won't be able to move forward.

## Family jealousy at the new you

LOSING a large amount of weight can totally change the family dynamic, particularly if everyone in the family is overweight. You can be seen as breaking the mould.

Before, everyone ate the same food, shared the same lifestyle and was in the same position. They understood each other — now, one person is outside all of that and has rejected the old norm. Some people will see this as a criticism of them.

One woman I treat told me her family said she has betrayed them by becoming a normal size for the first time. I explore this in my new book, *The Getting Of Resilience From The Inside Out*, which unpicks family dynamics and early life experiences that can lead to self-sabotaging behaviour, including compulsive over-eating.

This problem is most pronounced among mothers and sisters, and some of the fallout is severe. I treated a mother and two daughters, of whom the eldest girl was on Ozempic.

Her mum and sister couldn't understand why she was pulling away from them and fracturing their relationship. But losing weight had changed her identity. She couldn't face being surrounded by her unhealthy family while on this new path. Their lifestyles had become too different.

There is also jealousy, particularly among sisters when one can afford Ozempic (many of my clients pay around £240 per monthly jab) and the other can't.

**How to tackle it:** Protect yourself, and set boundaries. Some family members aren't good for us, and if your relatives aren't being supportive, and are pushing you off track, see and speak to them less. Family should make you feel good, not depleted.

## Questioning your relationship

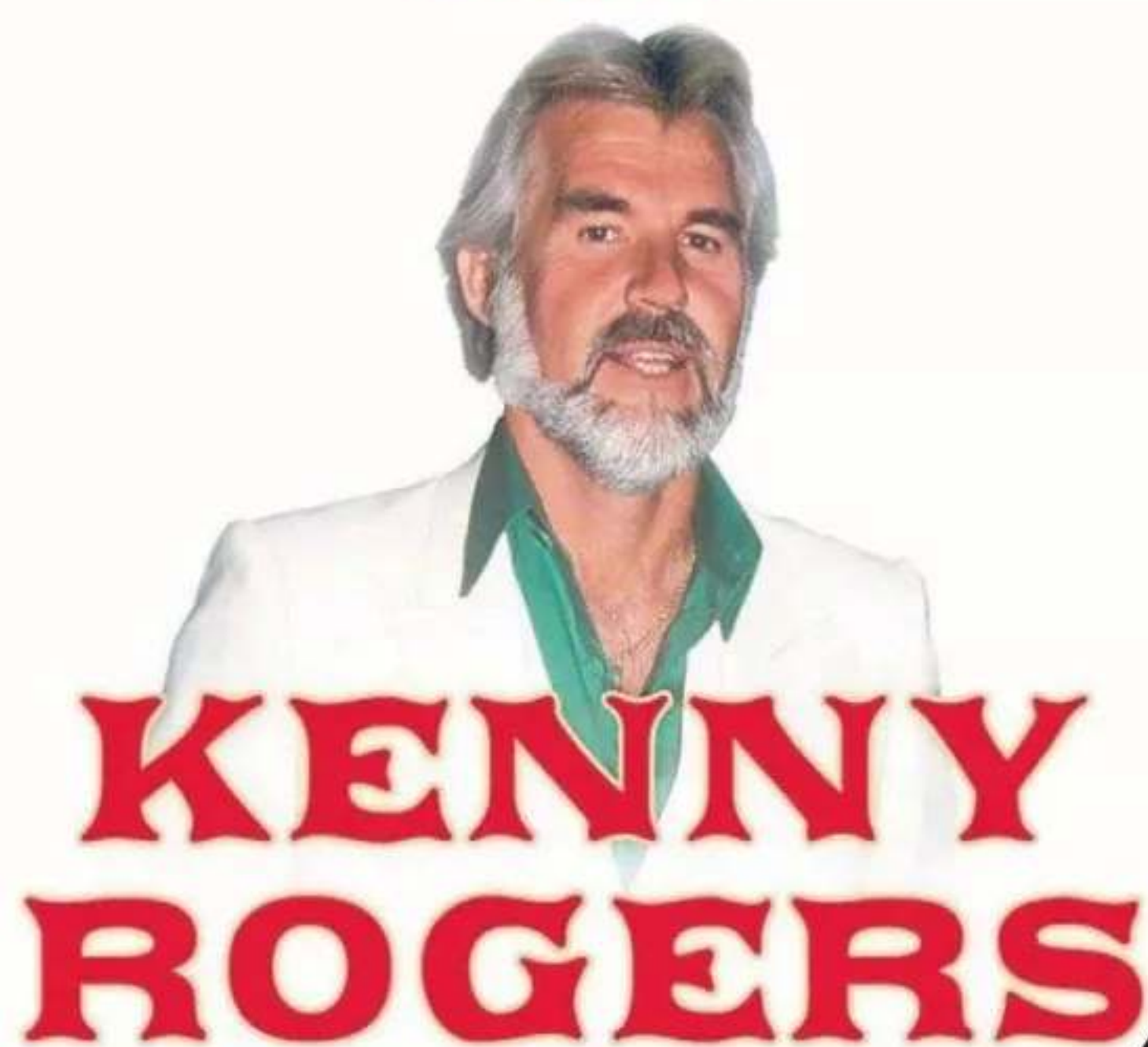
FOR many larger women, their partners are their feeders, just as when one partner gives up alcohol, and the other pushes them to 'just' have a glass of wine. It's hard to maintain boundaries when you're being undermined by a romantic partner.

People often feel left out of the new journey their other half is on, and they're also fearful. They wonder, if my wife loses weight, will she stray? Will she be more attractive to other people? Anyone who loses a vast amount of weight has a significantly higher divorce rate because you become a different person.

It's never just about your size. If your partner hasn't changed in any way, you may start to question how much you still have in common.

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### TRACK LIST

#### ● Disc one

- 1 Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town
- 2 Lucille
- 3 Coward of the County
- 4 Lady
- 5 Through the Years
- 6 Don't Fall in Love With a Dreamer (with Kim Carnes)
- 7 The Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp
- 8 Long Arm of the Law
- 9 Sweet Music Man
- 10 Something's Burning
- 11 Love Will Turn You Around
- 12 Scarlet Fever
- 13 But You Know I Love You
- 14 Today I Started Loving You Again
- 15 Laura (What's He Got That I Ain't Got)

#### 16 Love the World Away

- 17 While the Feeling's Good
- 18 Momma's Waiting
- 19 I Wish That I Could Hurt That Way Again
- 20 A Love Song
- 21 Goodbye Marie
- 22 She's a Mystery

#### ● Disc two

- 1 We've Got Tonight (with Sheena Easton)
- 2 The Gambler
- 3 She Believes in Me
- 4 Blaze of Glory
- 5 Sail Away
- 6 You Were a Good Friend
- 7 Love Or Something Like It
- 8 We Could Have Been the Closest of Friends
- 9 Share Your Love With Me
- 10 I Wasn't Man Enough
- 11 Home-made Love

#### 12 Calling Me

- 13 How Long
- 14 I'll Take Care of You
- 15 Goin' Back to Alabama
- 16 The Fool in Me
- 17 I Don't Need You
- 18 The Last Ten Years (Superman)
- 19 All My Life
- 20 Am I Too Late
- 21 Sayin' Goodbye
- Disc three
- 1 Just Dropped In
- 2 Daytime Friends
- 3 You Decorated My Life
- 4 You Are So Beautiful
- 5 Green, Green Grass of Home
- 6 Desperado
- 7 You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' (with Dottie West)
- 8 Abraham, Martin and John/Precious Memories
- 9 The Good Life

#### 10 Reuben James

- 11 Every Time Two Fools Collide (with Dottie West)
- 12 Anyone Who Isn't Me Tonight (with Dottie West)
- 13 Baby I'm-a Want You (with Dottie West)
- 14 'Til I Can Make It On My Own (with Dottie West)
- 15 All I Ever Need Is You (with Dottie West)
- 16 What Are We Doin' in Love (with Dottie West)
- 17 Love Lifted Me
- 18 Buried Treasures
- 19 San Francisco Mabel Joy
- 20 I Can't Unlove You
- 21 My World Begins and Ends With You
- 22 Tulsa Turnaround
- 23 When a Child Is Born
- 24 My Favorite Things

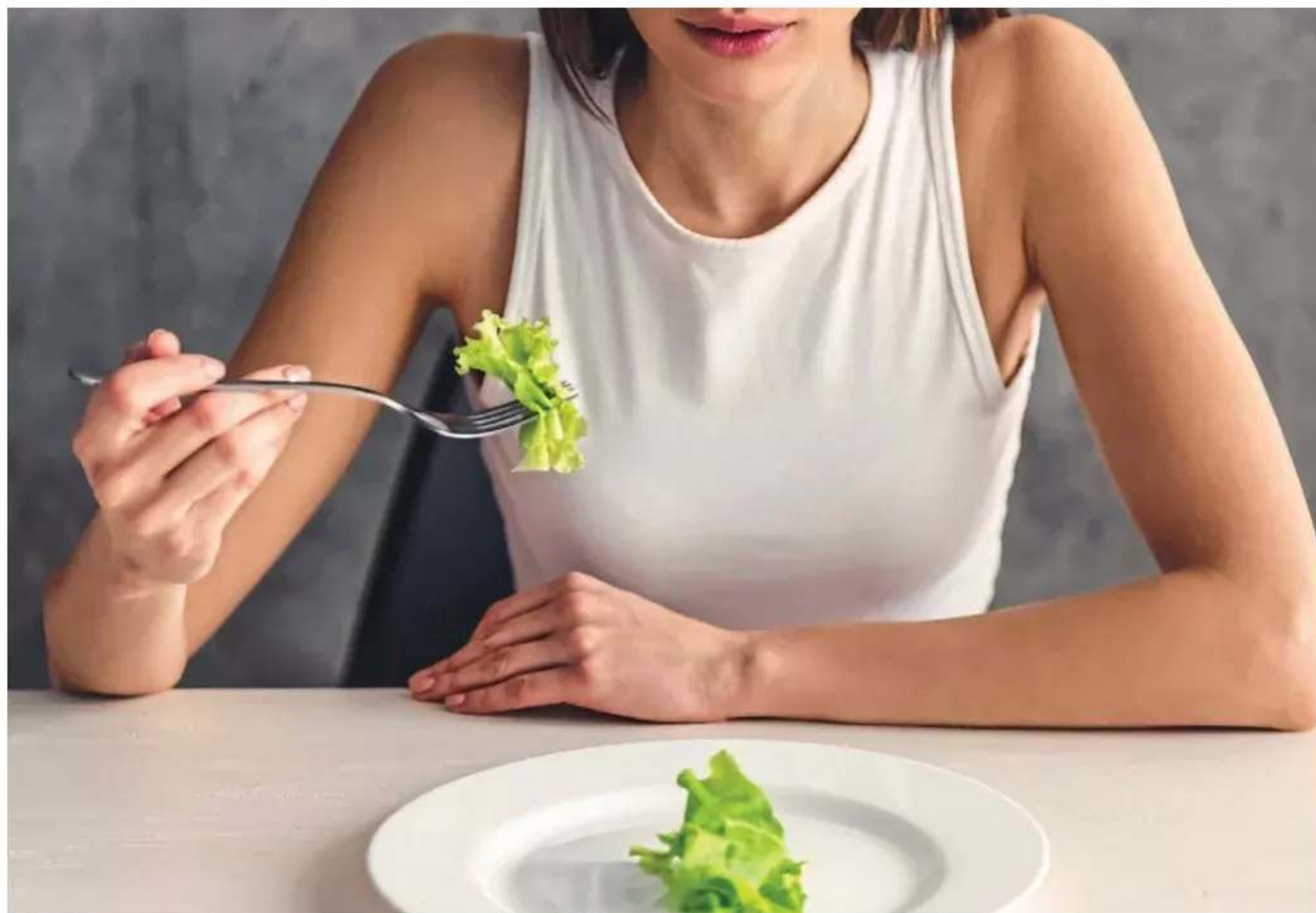
Mail readers can now own this wonderful 67-track CD collection for the special price of just **£8.99 including p&p**. To view the full track listing and order a copy, either for yourself or as a gift for a friend or loved one, visit [music2you.co.uk/kenny](http://music2you.co.uk/kenny)

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Most of us think losing weight is the key to happiness. But here a psychotherapist reveals why looking better can make you feel worse...



Picture: VADIMGUZHYA/GETTY IMAGES

# The five surprising reasons so many women are suffering 'OZEMPIC SADNESS'

Losing weight, especially if you have never succeeded before, also feels precarious.

Clients often tell me they don't want to go home to a partner who's ordering another takeaway. They want to be around people who are doing yoga and eating salads. If you're not getting that at home, you may look for it somewhere else.

Without the distraction of food, you may begin to ask yourself why aren't my husband and I having sex any more? Why doesn't he come near me? Why don't I want to go near him? Once these questions are exposed, they cannot be ignored.

**How to tackle it:** Stay committed to your goal. Come up with a short phrase or mantra — such as, 'I love you, but I need to do this for me'; or 'I know this makes you uncomfortable, but it's my choice.'

Repeat it every time they try and push you, and they'll stop.

## Friends become frenemies

IF SOMEONE in a friendship group has something the others want, it can cause a serious rift. I see this with women who start getting Botox and fillers when their friends can't afford it, and weight loss jabs are creating that same wedge between them.

Taking Ozempic marks a change of lifestyle and priorities. This can have a serious effect on women's social lives, too. With no appetite or desire to drink (a side-effect reported by some who take the drug), women simply stop going out with friends, because those situations are too hard to navigate.

When your entire friendship group is laughing at your glass of

soda water, it can feel like they're judging you, and vice versa. By the time it's nine o'clock and they start repeating all of their same stories it really stops feeling fun.

But reducing your social life can trigger serious loneliness. One of the drivers of over-eating and wanting to lose weight for many people is loneliness, so Ozempic may just be returning you to the source of your problem.

Like my clients on antidepressants, the medication ultimately has a numbing effect. Yes, it can get rid of the worst symptoms (in this case over-eating), but it also gets rid of the happiest feelings too. It makes their life feel very grey. That, plus the loss of social life, can be incredibly hard to deal with.

Some experts say Ozempic is a lifetime drug, and that once you start injecting it, you'll have to do

so forever. My question is, why shouldn't you be able to maintain that weight loss without it? If you can't — and studies suggest weight gain for those that come off it is high — it's because you never processed any of the reasons why you became overweight in the first place. I can guarantee those reasons were never about a lack of willpower or being greedy. In fact, they were never about food.

**How to tackle it:** Friends are for a life or a season, and sometimes you outgrow them. If yours don't want to be there for you in this slimmer period of your life, maybe that friendship has run its course and it's time to find new ones?

■ *THE Getting Of Resilience From The Inside Out* by Sally Baker is published on Thursday, by Hammersmith Books

As told to CLAUDIA CONNELL

## Is it just ME

Or is tipping culture out of control?

Tipping once meant bunging the bin men and the postie a fiver at Christmas.

'Thank goodness it's not like that here,' we'd say when a friend would return from the US with tales of how they were expected to tip everyone from the chamber maids at the hotel to the servers behind a bar.

But no more. Today, at a time when many services have shot up in price and people are feeling the pinch, tipping culture feels completely out of control.

If you hoped a cashless society would put an end to it, think again. It's even worse! Wretched 'digital tipping' has become commonplace in hairdressers, nail bars and beauty salons.

I was recently asked if I wanted to bung my stylist £40 on top of the £200 I'd just forked out for highlights and a cut. Try-

*'It shouldn't be on the customer to ensure staff receive a living wage'*

ing hard to hide my screen, I opted for £15.

Most of us understand that some workers are on low pay and that tips boost their income.

But we're all struggling and it shouldn't be on the customer to ensure staff receive a living wage — that's the employer's job.

One American has told me that some self-service checkouts at their supermarkets now ask if you want to leave a tip. Who are they tipping? The shopper has taken the groceries off the shelf and packed them in bags themselves!

Wouldn't it be great to get back to the days when tips were given as a thank you for exemplary service... and not just because someone did their job?

BY CLAUDIA CONNELL





INSPIRE

# Hannah Betts Better...not younger

I'M AN advocate of keeping up with beauty vogues: to feel current, stay abreast of breaking tech and for pure joy. That said, talon trends have passed me by lately.

Vast, claw-like artifice has recently been the thing, but I like nails to bear some relation to reality. Unless using a deep berry, I favour natural, pinkish shades — opaque enough to mask all faults, while basically being sheer.

Yet these options haven't been in fashion since the early 2000s. If you are of the same mind, allow me to be the bearer of brilliant news: now is our nail era! And it has never been easier to achieve professional results at home.

Leighton Denny MBE, the first manicure guru to be awarded a gong for his services, elaborates: 'It's all about that barely there, "your nails but better" aesthetic.

'We're talking pared-back yet super-sophisticated, perfectly polished nails — a real shift away from the ultra-long, thick nail extensions we were seeing. It's the "no make-up make-up" look for hands; glossy, dewy, neutral shades.'

Leighton's advice to his celebrity fans, such as Adele, Kate Moss, Joan Collins, Cindy Crawford and assorted Spice Girls, includes 'sandwiching' colour between a base and a top coat.

THE former is akin to double-sided sticky tape; the latter must be reapplied every couple of days to extend your manicure for an extra week or so. Apply two thin, even coats of colour rather than one dense layer, and 'cap your tips'. 'The first chips start at the tips, so seal with your polish and top coat,' says Leighton.

He also advises regular nail 'facials', saying: 'My mantra is to treat your talons as you would your complexion — hence my focus on skin care for nails. 'My Renovate Nail Repair Cream & Buffer (£14, [leightondenny.com](http://leightondenny.com)) acts like a deeply nourishing, resurfacing facial. You can't over-moisturise nails — never let them dry out.'

His Hand Rebirth Intensive Hand Cream (£14) is potent stuff, while I love his Nail Rebirth Intensive Nail Repair Capsules (£17.50) for post-gel rehab.

Nails Inc founder Thea Green tells me that almond is the shape

## How to make your manicure last an extra week - and the colour you need now

### Race you to it!

EMMA LEWISHAM Supernatural Vitale Elixir (£85, [spacenk.com](http://spacenk.com)) is scientifically proven to reduce muscle contractions responsible for wrinkles by 91 per cent after 24 hours, via a neuropeptide relaxant complex targeting neuroinhibitors. It may sound daunting, but initial stock sold out in six hours at the launch.



soft-cornered square, back from its 1990s and 2000s heyday.

For a one-stop shop restorer/fashionably shimmering look, Nails Inc's Gimme Strength (£9, [boots.com](http://boots.com)) is the winner. Rich in vegan collagen, it is powered by high levels of active oils to revive ravaged talons in three weeks. It acts as a nail highlighter, too. I'm addicted. Use it on its own, or as a base.

As for hues, Nails Inc boasts juicy peaches by way of its Apricot Crush four-piece set (£22, [nailsinc.com](http://nailsinc.com)), as well as plenty of pale, moody blues.

Plant Power Vegan Nail Polish in Sky's My Limit (£9) is a duck-egg tone to suit warm skins, while NailPure Nail Polish in Regents Place (£15) is a celestial sky shade for cooler ones. Or you

may be beguiled by the 'neon French', a modernised French 'mani care' of the Peace & Pilates Nail Polish Duo (£15), which contains a beige nude and a neon yellow for edgy tips.

My personal nail obsession comes from Essie's new Jelly Gloss range (£8.99 each, [superdrug.com](http://superdrug.com)): translucent washes of colour offering a sort of lipgloss for nails.

I am besotted with Orchid Jelly, a sheer, blue-toned lavender. It is my Goldilocks 'just right' varnish — opaque enough to conceal my sins, with a glassy quality to it, too.

Essie's UK ambassador Michelle Humphrey tells me: 'The sheerness of the range makes it super-easy to create nail art varying from ombre to geode effects. It's also great for hectic midlife women seeking subtle colour that won't reveal the flaws in their technique, or show chips as it ages.'

Trend or not, Orchid Jelly is my forever lacquer.



Picture: FELICITY INGRAM/TRUNK ARCHIVE

## Budget body beautiful

■ **Aveeno Skin Renewal Gentle Body Scrub** (now £7.45, [sephora.co.uk](http://sephora.co.uk))

SENSITIVE skin can also be dry, rough and bumpy — exfoliate with this oat formula.



■ **Dove Pro Age Body Lotion** (£7, [boots.com](http://boots.com))

A BUDGET yet brilliant lotion inspired by face cream. It descales, plumps skin and reduces age spots.



■ **Garnier Body Superfood Sensitive Oat Milk & Probiotic** (now £4.99, [superdrug.com](http://superdrug.com))

THIS offers deep, lasting, hydration via 98 per cent natural origin ingredients.



■ **Neutrogena Deep Moisture Express Body Mist** (£6.99, [boots.com](http://boots.com))

BORED with waiting for heavy body creams to sink in? Simply spray this aerosol on and go.



■ **Vichy Capital Soleil Tan Illuminating Sun Protection Water Spray SPF50** (£14.62, [boots.com](http://boots.com))

THE easy formula boasts beta-carotene for a golden glow.



## My icon of the week

### DITA VON TEESE

THE burlesque star, 51, dyes her own (naturally blonde) locks, touching up with Just For Men Hair Colourant (£7.69, [boots.com](http://boots.com)). She uses Eminence Apricot Calendula Nourishing Cream (£88.26, [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)) and Retrouve Revitalizing Eye Concentrate Skin Hydrator (£325, [niche-beauty.com](http://niche-beauty.com)) to keep her youthful glow. After her stage performances, she removes her full body make-up with Dr Bronner's Soap (from £5.80, [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)).



Picture: PRESS AGENCY/PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

## COSMETIC CRAVING

IN 1932, Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel launched her first high jewellery collection, which celebrated her obsession with stars.

Later, she declared: 'I wanted to cover women in constellations. See these comets, where the head glitters on a shoulder, and the sparkling tail slips behind to fall down in a shower of stars.'

Behold the inspiration for the

19th jewel in Chanel's Les Exclusifs de Chanel scent collection, Comète Eau de Parfum (from £215, [chanel.com](http://chanel.com)). In-house perfumer Olivier Polge concocted this most feminine of scents, which smells of 'stardust'.

It's subtle, iridescent and powdery, with cool iris and heliotrope in a dancing cherry blossom accord. Luminous and optimistic.





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### Antibacterial Clean

There's nothing better than a home that's full of life, but often, there's a different kind of life deep in your carpets that can't be removed by vacuuming alone. That's why the smart solution is to use the VAX Platinum SmartWash carpet washer - together with VAX antibacterial solution, the VAX Platinum SmartWash kills over 99% of bacteria\* leaving your carpets looking clean and smelling fresh.



### Motion Sense Technology

The VAX Platinum SmartWash is the UK's first carpet washer with Motion Sense technology; there's no trigger, it automatically washes and dispenses clean water and solution when you push forward and dries when you pull back - meaning it's effortlessly simple to use, and with the dry/only mode, it helps dry your carpets in as little as an hour.



### Clean with Ease

To get cleaning, all you need to do is add water and solution - Platinum SmartWash does the rest. FlexForce brushbars deliver powerful cleaning force to shift spills and lift stains, for a deep clean that's just as easy as vacuuming, but 7 times more effective<sup>Δ</sup>. When you're done, simply lift out the dirty water tank and pour away. The brushbars are also easily removed, meaning maintenance is simple and SmartWash is kept performing at its best.



### Clean More Than Carpets

The VAX Platinum SmartWash's sleek design ensures it is easy to manoeuvre throughout the home. Including a stretch hose, SpinScrub hand tool and 2-in-1 antimicrobial wash tool, the Platinum SmartWash can be used to deep clean and tackle stains on stairs, upholstery, pet beds and even the car. Save £100 on the VAX Platinum SmartWash today, Now £199.99 was £299.99.

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† When using dry only mode. Δ Cleaning effectiveness on carpet, tested according to IEC 62885-3:2014 part 5.2.1. For further information email [claimsinfo@VAX.co.uk](mailto:claimsinfo@VAX.co.uk). \* When used with VAX Platinum Antibacterial solution, use biocides safely, always read the label & product information before use. See [vax.co.uk](https://vax.co.uk) for delivery options.

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**FRENCH FLAVOURS**  
**Marcus Wareing Simply Provence, 6.30pm, BBC2**

IN PROVENCE in France, the tomato trumps the potato for popularity, and Michelin man Marcus Wareing (pictured) will be sharing the region's simple secrets with us in his brand-new daily series. From his base in St Remy, Marcus will head out and about to meet food producers and chefs, and to learn traditional recipes from locals. Marcus is one of those chefs who can show us all how to elevate our home cooking and who always puts fresh ingredients centre stage. If you're looking to learn some French classics with a British twist, and to soak up the idyllic Provencal vibe, don't miss Marcus in action. And there will be more fresh and vibrant flavours over on Channel 4 at 8pm as Jamie Oliver continues his new series Jamie Cooks Spring.



**PICK OF TODAY'S TV**

**SPACEY UNMASKED, 9PM, CH4**

CONTINUING a run of powerful factual programming on Channel 4, including the recent Russell Brand exposé, this two-part documentary (concluding tomorrow) digs deeper into the untold story of Hollywood actor Kevin Spacey (pictured). He was cleared of charges brought against him in the English courts last year, but the ten men featured here were not involved in that trial and their testimonies are framed around the key phases of Spacey's life story, over a period of five decades. These move from his childhood — remembered by his Rod Stewart-impersonator brother

Randy — to his career-making role in The Usual Suspects, for which he won an Oscar (a second followed for American Beauty in 2000), and beyond. The men interviewed all allege unwanted sexual advances or assaults from Spacey. Many of them are ex-military, some were young and concerned for their acting careers if they spoke out. Most of them are heterosexual and all of them underline the difficulty men feel reporting or openly discussing abuse of this kind. As one former serviceman recalls after being overwhelmed in front of the cameras: 'Strength is important to me, has been my whole life. Men aren't supposed to let this get under their skin.'



	BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV 1	CHANNEL 4
	<p><b>6.00</b> <b>Breakfast</b> (HD)</p> <p><b>9.30</b> <b>Morning Live</b> (HD) Gethin Jones hosts the magazine show.</p> <p><b>10.45</b> <b>Big Little Crimes</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>11.15</b> <b>Homes Under the Hammer</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>12.15</b> <b>Bargain Hunt</b> (HD) Archive clips.</p> <p><b>1.00</b> <b>BBC News at One</b>; Weather (HD)</p> <p><b>1.20</b> <b>BBC Regional News</b>; Weather (HD)</p> <p><b>1.30</b> <b>Doctors</b> (AD,HD) Scarlett's mock driving test doesn't go well.</p> <p><b>2.00</b> <b>Planet Earth III: Narrated By Kids</b> (AD,HD) A special Earth Day episode, narrated by children across the UK.</p> <p><b>3.00</b> <b>Escape to the Country</b> (HD) A rural retreat in Berkshire or Hampshire.</p> <p><b>3.45</b> <b>Garden Rescue</b> (HD) A whimsical wonderland in Biggleswade.</p> <p><b>4.30</b> <b>The Finish Line</b> (HD) New series. Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene host the quiz in which contestants race in moving podiums across the studio floor to try to win £5,000.</p> <p><b>5.15</b> <b>Pointless</b> (HD) Alexander Armstrong is joined by co-host Gabby Logan.</p> <p><b>6.00</b> <b>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse</b> (AD,R,HD) Animation.</p> <p><b>6.30</b> <b>BBC News at Six</b>; Weather (HD)</p> <p><b>6.50</b> <b>BBC Regional News</b>; Weather (HD)</p>	<p><b>6.30</b> <b>Bargain Hunt</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>7.15</b> <b>Money for Nothing</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>8.00</b> <b>MasterChef</b> (AD,BSL,R,HD)</p> <p><b>9.00</b> <b>BBC News</b> (HD)</p> <p><b>12.15</b> <b>Impossible</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>1.00</b> <b>Snooker: The World Championship</b> (HD) Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the third session of the final from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where eight frames are scheduled to be played.</p> <p><b>4.15</b> <b>The Secret Genius of Modern Life</b> (AD,R,HD) Hannah Fry uncovers secrets behind the technologies of the modern world, beginning with the bank card.</p> <p><b>5.15</b> <b>Flog It!</b> (R,HD) Paul Martin presents from Burton Constable Hall.</p> <p><b>6.00</b> <b>Richard Osman's House of Games</b> (R,HD) With Rav Wilding, Sian Gibson, Jean Johansson and Iain Stirling.</p> <p><b>6.30</b> <b>Marcus Wareing Simply Provence</b> (HD) New series. The chef explores the secrets of simple seasonal French food, beginning by going on a mission to discover Provence's ultimate simple tomato recipe.</p>	<p><b>6.00</b> <b>Good Morning Britain</b> (HD)</p> <p><b>9.00</b> <b>Lorraine</b> (HD)</p> <p><b>10.00</b> <b>This Morning</b> (HD) A mix of celebrity chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions.</p> <p><b>12.30</b> <b>Loose Women</b> (HD) Celebrity interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective.</p> <p><b>1.45</b> <b>News</b>; Weather (HD)</p> <p><b>1.50</b> <b>Regional News</b>; Weather (HD)</p> <p><b>2.00</b> <b>Alan Titchmarsh's Gardening Club</b> (AD,HD) David Domoney offers a masterclass on water features.</p> <p><b>3.00</b> <b>Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom</b> (2018) (12) (AD,HD) While trying to protect genetically engineered dinosaurs, Owen Grady and Claire Dearing uncover a conspiracy. Action sequel, starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard.</p> <p><b>5.30</b> <b>In for a Penny</b> (AD,R,HD) Stephen Mulhern sets challenges to members of the public.</p> <p><b>6.00</b> <b>The Chase</b> (R,HD) Bradley Walsh presents as contestants Abigail, Payal, Donna and Leanne work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize.</p>	<p><b>6.30</b> <b>3rd Rock from the Sun</b> (AD,R) Three episodes of the U.S. sitcom.</p> <p><b>7.45</b> <b>Everybody Loves Raymond</b> (AD,R,HD) Four episodes.</p> <p><b>9.40</b> <b>Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix Highlights</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>11.10</b> <b>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</b> (R,HD) Gordon Ramsay heads to New Jersey's Spanish Pavillion.</p> <p><b>12.05</b> <b>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</b> (R,HD) A struggling restaurant in West Babylon, New York.</p> <p><b>1.05</b> <b>Find It, Fix It, Flog It</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>2.10</b> <b>Countdown</b> (HD) Cheryl Baker joins Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner.</p> <p><b>3.00</b> <b>A Place in the Sun</b> (R,HD)</p> <p><b>4.00</b> <b>Narrow Escapes</b> (AD,HD) Vic, Jo and baby William cruise the Peak District looking for the perfect place to open their café boat for the season.</p> <p><b>5.00</b> <b>Come Dine with Me: The Professionals</b> (HD) New series. More professional chefs battle it out in the kitchen to win £1,000, starting with three Sheffield restaurants.</p> <p><b>6.00</b> <b>Four in a Bed</b> (HD) From the Plough Inn in Ripple, Kent.</p> <p><b>6.30</b> <b>Channel 4 News</b> (HD)</p>
<b>7 PM</b>	<p><b>7.00</b> <b>The One Show</b> (HD) Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas present.</p> <p><b>7.30</b> <b>EastEnders</b> (AD,HD) Honey tries to convince Billy to give Stevie a chance, but his patience is tested when he hears that Stevie took Lexi, Will and Janet to lunch.</p>	<p><b>7.00</b> <b>Snooker: The World Championship</b> (HD) Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and concluding session of the final from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 18 frames will be crowned champion. Luca Brecel secured an 18-15 victory over Mark Selby 12 months ago to win the title for the first time in his career, but both of 2023's finalists were eliminated in the first round this year. With commentary and analysis from Steve Davis, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, Shaun Murphy, John Parrott, Joe Perry, Dennis Taylor, John Virgo and Rob Walker, and reports provided by Abigail Davies.</p>	<p><b>7.00</b> <b>Regional News</b> (HD) (Followed by Weather)</p> <p><b>7.10</b> <b>News</b> (HD) The headlines. (Followed by Weather)</p> <p><b>7.30</b> <b>Emmerdale</b> (AD,HD) Moira meets Ruby for lunch but has revenge in mind.</p>	<p><b>7.00</b> <b>Wildlife Rescue</b> (AD,HD) Essex is full of the joys of spring, but there's a duckling emergency at a local swimming pool.</p>
<b>8 PM</b>	<p><b>8.00</b> <b>MasterChef</b> (AD,HD) The first group of eight face an Invention Test. The larder has been stocked with fine foods, so the only limitation will be the contestants' imaginations.</p>		<p><b>8.00</b> <b>Coronation Street</b> (AD,HD) Liam helps himself to Paul's medication, Dee-Dee delivers disappointing news to Roy, Bernie catches Denny stealing, and Alya discovers that Adam has salvaged her work placement.</p>	<p><b>8.00</b> <b>Jamie Cooks Spring</b> (AD,HD) <b>PICK</b> Jamie celebrates the homegrown vegetables of his spring garden, and demonstrates recipes for a spring greens ravioli, a green chicken curry and a new take on pizza.</p>
<b>9 PM</b>	<p><b>9.00</b> <b>Blue Lights</b> (AD,HD) Lee is the new boss in Mount Eden. Under pressure from Canning to get results, Shane leads Tommy into danger. Seamus O'Hara stars. <b>PICK</b></p>		<p><b>9.00</b> <b>Beat the Chasers — Celebrity Special</b> (HD) Bradley Walsh hosts as Neil Delamere, Michelle Ackerley, Charlie Stayt, Danny Sebastian and Rick Edwards take on the quiz experts.</p>	<p><b>9.00</b> <b>Spacey Unmasked</b> (AD,HD) <b>PICK</b> Part one of two. Documentary about the allegations of sexual harassment and abuse made against Kevin Spacey, following the outcomes of the court cases held against him.</p>
<b>10 PM</b>	<p><b>10.00</b> <b>BBC News at Ten</b> (HD)</p> <p><b>10.20</b> <b>BBC Regional News</b> (HD) (Followed by Weather)</p> <p><b>10.30</b> <b>Have I Got a Bit More News for You</b> (R,HD) Martin Clunes hosts the satirical quiz, with guests Lyse Doucet and Chloe Petts.</p>	<p><b>10.00</b> <b>Rush</b> (2013) (15) (HD) <b>FILM CHOICE</b> Formula One drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda develop a fierce rivalry over the course of the 1976 championship. Fact-based drama, with Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Bruhl and Olivia Wilde.</p>	<p><b>10.00</b> <b>News</b> (HD) The latest headlines. (Followed by Weather)</p> <p><b>10.15</b> <b>The Magnificent Seven</b> (2016) (12) (AD,HD) <b>FILM</b> A remote frontier town falls under the control of a ruthless industrialist, who uses the locals as forced labour in his mines. A woman goes in search of help, recruiting a band of seven hired guns to protect the town and train the people to fight back. Remake of the classic western, starring Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt.</p>	<p><b>10.15</b> <b>Rescue: Extreme Medics</b> (AD,R,HD) David has been thrown 50 yards off his quad bike and impaled on a metal fence, while 59-year-old Jacqui has multiple injuries after her car fell down an embankment.</p>
<b>11 PM</b>	<p><b>11.15</b> <b>Dua Lipa Live Lounge Special</b> (HD) The artist performs three tracks from her new album, <i>Radical Optimism</i>.</p> <p><b>11.45</b> <b>Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star</b> (AD,R,HD) Alexis Stone judges special effects make-up.</p>	<p><b>11.50</b> <b>Countryfile</b> (BSL,R,HD) Sean Fletcher discovers how Rutland Water has transformed the area into a wildlife haven, and Charlotte Smith investigates the increasing number of ticks in the countryside.</p>		<p><b>11.15</b> <b>Sky Coppers</b> (AD,R,HD) Following the work of the West Midlands Police Drone Unit as they pursue suspects trying to hide up trees, discarding drugs and running away from the scene of a crime.</p>
<b>12 MNT</b>	<p><b>12.45</b> <b>The Repair Shop</b> (AD,R,HD) The experts restore a model car, a set of military bagpipes, a pair of jazz musician statues and a locket. <b>1.45</b> Weather for the Week Ahead (HD) <b>1.50</b> BBC News (HD)</p>	<p><b>12.45</b> <b>Darren McGarvey: The State We're In</b> (AD,BSL,R,HD) Exploring the UK's justice system. <b>1.45</b> How To with John Wilson (AD,BSL,R,HD) <b>2.15</b> How To with John Wilson (AD,BSL,R,HD) <b>2.50</b> This Is BBC2 (HD)</p>	<p><b>12.35</b> <b>Shop on TV</b> (HD) <b>3.00</b> It's Showtime! (AD,BSL,R,HD) The story of a group of working-class men who bought a racehorse. <b>4.10</b> Unwind with ITV (HD) <b>5.35</b> Gino's Italy: Secrets of the South (AD,BSL,R,HD) Gino D'Acampo explores Puglia and Basilicata.</p>	<p><b>12.15</b> <b>24 Hours in A&amp;E</b> (AD,R,HD) <b>1.10</b> <b>FILM</b> Name Me Lawand (2022) (PG) (BSL,HD) Documentary about a profoundly deaf boy from Iraq. <b>2.45</b> Grand Designs Australia (AD,R,HD) <b>3.40</b> Couples Come Dine with Me (BSL,R,HD) <b>4.30</b> Location, Location, Location (R,HD) <b>5.25</b> The Perfect Pitch (R,HD) <b>5.50</b> Countdown (R,HD)</p>

(R) Repeat. (HD) High Definition. (AD) Audio Description. (b/w) Not in colour. (BSL) British Sign Language.

Family viewing Generally suitable for all Caution recommended



**POLICE DRAMA**  
**Blue Lights, 9pm, BBC1**

TENSIONS in Mount Eden — stirred up by military veteran turned pub landlord turned rising criminal kingpin Lee Thompson — lead to dire consequences when new boy Shane, under pressure from DS Canning, tries new tactics to get intelligence. Grace and Stevie have requested new assignments and, teamed with Annie (Katherine Devlin, pictured), the two women face a difficult choice when dealing with a domestic repeat offender.

**FILM CHOICE**  
**Rush, 10pm, BBC2**

THRILLING Formula One drama from Ron Howard, a master tension-builder (think Apollo 13). Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Bruhl star as James Hunt and Niki Lauda, whose contrasting styles went bumper to bumper over the 1976 season.

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00 Milkshake!** Brave Bunnies (R,HD) **6.05** Peppa Pig (AD,R,HD) **6.25** Pip and Posy (R,HD) **6.30** Odo (R,HD) **6.40** Tweedy & Fluff (R,HD) **6.45** Fireman Sam (R,HD) **6.55** Thomas & Friends: All Engines Go! (HD) **7.05** Peppa Pig (AD,R,HD) **7.15** Paw Patrol (R,HD) **7.30** Pip and Posy (R,HD) **7.35** Paddington (R,HD) **7.55** Milo (R,HD) **8.10** Paw Patrol (R,HD) **8.25** Peppa Pig (AD,R,HD) **8.45** Pop Paper City (R,HD) **8.55** Meet the Experts (R,HD) **9.05** Milkshake! Secret Life of the Forest (R,HD) **9.15** **Jeremy Vine** (HD) **11.15** **Storm Huntley** (HD) **12.45** **Friends** (AD,R,HD) **1.40** **5 News at Lunchtime** (HD) **1.45** **Home and Away** (R,HD) **2.20** **In Love with Murder** (2023) (12) (AD,HD) Thriller, starring Alicia Leigh Willis and Sallie Glaner. **4.00** **Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** (HD) Colin organises a Halloween-themed family fun day. **5.00** **Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** (HD) Andy and Matt celebrate their wedding anniversary. **5.55** **5 News Update** (HD) **6.00** **Police Interceptors** (R,HD) **6.55** **5 News Update** (HD) **7.00** **Traffic Cops** (R,HD) A day trip to Scarborough turns into a high-speed pursuit. **7.55** **5 News Update** (HD)

**8.00** **Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders** (HD) PC Brian Camsell pursues two reckless drivers in Newcastle city centre in the early hours of the morning.

**9.00** **Inside the Force** (HD) PCs Jordan Vasey and James Boyd Bell are called to a suspected domestic incident, but upon arrival the suspect is struggling to breathe and in need of medical help.

**10.00** **Police Code Zero: Officer Under Attack** (R,HD) PC Mike Davey and his dog face a man armed with knives, while in London, a routine car stop late at night suddenly turns into a life-threatening incident.

**11.05** **Police: Suspect No 1** (R,HD) Following the work of police as they attempt to identify those responsible for criminal acts, beginning with an armed robbery in Norfolk.

**12.05** **Traffic Cops** (R,HD) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show (HD) **3.00** 10 Years Younger in 10 Days (R,HD) **3.50** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (AD,R,HD) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (BSL,R) **5.05** House Doctor (BSL,R) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 (HD) **5.40** Thomas & Friends (BSL,R,HD) **5.50** Pip and Posy (BSL,R,HD)

▲ Particularly liable to offend

# Final performance that shows Hill's powerful presence was undimmed

**W**HAT a way to take his final curtain. Bernard Hill, an actor of unmatched power, and celebrated by two generations for vastly different roles, died yesterday — hours before his final performance aired.

As fraught copper Chris Carson answered a call to a burgled house in *The Responder*, those who (like me) have been fans of Hill since the 1980s took one look at the geezer in the battered armchair with the walking frame and chorused: 'Gissa job!'

He might have been better known to the under-50s as the heroic King Theoden in *The Lord Of The Rings*. But at the start of the Thatcher years, Hill was Britain's best-known actor — the face of the recession — playing Yosser Hughes, a Scouse tarmac-layer who loses his job, in *Boys From The Blackstuff*.

Yosser was unemployable but desperate to work. His catchphrases — 'Gissa job!' and 'I can do that!' — became national slogans.

Hill, who was 79, worked little

**HAIRSTYLES OF THE WEEKEND:** The Romanian espionage thriller *Spy/Master* (BBC4), set in the Cold War under Ceausescu's sadistic regime, showcases a magnificent array of 1970s thatches, sideburns and bushy brows. There really must have been something in the water back then.

on telly in recent years, picking his jobs with clinical care. Right to the end, his screen presence was undimmed. Merely sitting in front of the TV and glowering in *The Responder*, he exuded a malevolent power that far exceeded all the threats and violence of this drugs-and-corruption drama.

His reunion with the son he hadn't seen for years was also the most foul-mouthed scene of a very swearsy episode. I counted more than 80 F-words in the hour, which might be the highest ratio since Peter Capaldi's turn as a spin doctor in *The Thick Of It*.

When Hill, playing a miserable old git called Tom, protested that he always loved his son, patrol car driver Chris (Martin Freeman) exploded: 'Bleep off! Don't bleeping say that! You bleeping loved us? I remember you putting my bleeping head through a door just because I spilt your bleeping baccy on the kitchen lino, old bleeping bleep. Bleeping love? Bleep!'

This grimly gripping thriller by

**WELSH TV VARIATIONS**

**BBC1:** 1.20pm Wales Today; Weather. **6.00** The Merthyr Mermaid. **6.50** Wales Today; Weather. **10.20** Wales Today; Weather. **10.30** Paranormal: The Girl, the Ghost and the Gravestone. **10.55** Have I Got a Bit More News for You. **11.45** Dua Lipa Live Lounge Special. **12.15am** Britain's Next Make-Up Star. **1.15** The Repair Shop. **ITV:** 7.00pm News Wales at Six; Weather. **10.14** ITV Cymru Wales Weather. **S4C:** 6.00am Cyw. **12noon** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo. **12.30** Heno. **1.00** Dan Do. **1.30** Welsh Whisperer — Ni'n Teithio Nawr! **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **2.05** Prynhawn Da. **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **3.05** Alun, Chris a Kiri yn Seland Newydd. **4.00** Awr Fawr. **5.00** Stwnsh. **6.00** Sain Ffagan. **6.30** Rownd a Rownd. **6.58** Newyddion S4C. **7.00** Heno. **7.30** It's My Shout: Short Films from Wales. **7.45** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **8.00** Cysgu O Gwmpas. **8.25** Garddio a Mwyr. **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd. **9.00** Ffermio. **9.30** Drych. **10.30** Iaith ar Daith.

**CHRISTOPHER STEVENS**  
**WEEKEND TV**

*The Responder* (BBC1) ★★★★★

Tony Schumacher started with the scorched intensity of 2022's first series, and floored the accelerator. Living in squalor and facing eviction, Chris loathes his job rounding up drunks and crackheads, and is constantly fighting the temptation to

take backhanders. At the urging of his old boss, who promises him life behind a desk as a reward, he agrees to frame a drug dealer. That goes wrong so quickly, he's facing the threat of ten years in prison before his shift is over.

The allusions to varieties of

illegal activity come so thick and fast that viewers need a criminal mind to understand all the implications.

When rookie cop Rachel (Adelayo Adedayo) spins off the road and crashes into a hedge, her partner Eric (Ian Puleston-Davies) reacts with stunned gratitude: 'You just bought me a new conservatory.'

He's talking about compensation for fake whiplash injuries.

A scam like that would never occur to Yosser Hughes.

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PICK OF DIGITAL & ON DEMAND TV

NEW GOLD MOUNTAIN, ACORN TV

IT'S 1857 in the Australian outback and tensions are running high between the Chinese and European gold miners working on a remote site. As the politically savvy head of the Chinese camp, Leung Wei Shing already has a fight on his hands to stop his people becoming the victims of violence and racism, but when the battered body of a dead white woman is found wearing Chinese clothing, all hell threatens to break loose. It may be set amid lush Australian landscapes, but this four-part mini-series has all the feel of a

classic western, shot through with mud, menace, gunfights and the constant threat of mob violence. Yoson An (pictured) is fantastic as the beleaguered and charismatic leader of the Chinese miners, but he's not the only performer worth watching here. Look out, too, for Vikings star Alyssa Sutherland as a newspaper owner with an agenda of her own, Ozark's Christopher James Baker as an Irish immigrant and The Letdown's Alison Bell as the snooty wife of the (real-life) British Commissioner.



ANIMATED ANTICS  
Monsters At Work, Disney+

PIXAR'S Monsters, Inc is a vibrantly silly cartoon tale of the creatures who emerge at night to scare sleeping kids... but by the end of the film, the monsters realised laughter was better than scream power. Which is where this sequel show picks up, as a new monster learns his trade. Original voice stars John Goodman and Billy Crystal return as Sully and Mike, alongside new characters voiced by Mindy Kaling,



Henry Winkler and Superstore's Ben Feldman, and the new, second series is now on Disney+.

CELEBRITY PARENTS  
Gemma And Gorka: Life Behind The Lens, 8pm, W

A NEW series for this down-to-earth, real-life show that follows Strictly couple Gorka Marquez and Gemma Atkinson (pictured) as they adjust to life with their second child, baby boy Thiago.

FOOTBALL FANATICS  
Welcome To Wrexham, Disney+

WHEN Tinseltown luminaries Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney bought Wrexham AFC, it was hard to know what to make of it all. Few would have predicted an Emmy Award-winning series about their ingenious and good-hearted stewardship, or for the club to be promoted back to the Football League. The new, third series of this lovely show picks up after the promotion, and includes an appearance from Hollywood star Chris Pratt. Watch episodes weekly, with a new one arriving every Friday.

ENTERTAINMENT & FACTUAL

ALIBI

Sky 109 Virgin 114  
9.40am Death in Paradise. 7.00pm Elementary. 8.00 Death in Paradise. 10.00 Murdoch Mysteries. 11.00 Elementary.

ANIMAL PLANET

Sky 162 Virgin 178  
12noon Animal Cribbs. 1.00 Dodo Heroes. 2.00 Animal Cribbs. 3.00 Dodo Heroes. 4.00 Dogs 101. 5.00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue. 6.00 Animal Cribbs. 7.00 Dodo Heroes. 8.00 Killer Whales. 9.00 Man-Eating Zombie Cats. 10.00 Alaskan Bush People. 11.00 Coyote Peterson: Brave the Wild.

BBC THREE

Freeview 23 Sky 115 Virgin 107  
7.00pm The Next Step. 7.45 Galaxy Dance. 7.55 Corey Baker's Dance Race. 8.00 Gavin & Stacey. 9.00 I Kissed a Girl. 9.50 High: Confessions of an Ibiza Drug Mule. 10.35 The Big Proud Party Agency. 11.35 Galaxy Dance. 11.45 I Kissed a Girl.

COMEDY CENTRAL

Sky 112 Virgin 132  
9.00pm Rhod Gilbert's Growing Pains. 10.00 Impractical Jokers. 10.30 Lee Evans Live at Wembley.

DAVE (DAYTIME)

Freeview 19 Sky 111 Virgin 127  
11.10am Top Gear USA Special. 12.10pm Gavin & Stacey. 4.00 Red Bull Soapbox Race 2023. 6.00 Rick Stein's Road to Mexico.

DISCOVERY

Sky 125 Virgin 177  
11.00am Wheeler Dealers. 1.00pm Building Off the Grid. 3.00 Gold Rush. 4.00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue. 6.00 American Chopper. 7.00 Wheeler Dealers. 8.00 Expedition Bigfoot. 9.00 Wheeler Dealers World Tour. In Poland, Mike and Elvis find a weathered Polski Fiat 126. 10.00 Roadworthy Rescues. Derek tries to convert a 1966 Oldsmobile F-85 into a timeless cruiser. 11.00 Combat Dealers.

DRAMA (DAYTIME)

Freeview 20 Sky 143 Virgin 116  
11.40am The Bill. 12.40pm Classic EastEnders. 2.00 Father Brown. 6.00 Keeping Up Appearances. 6.40 Last of the Summer Wine.

E4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 13 Sky 135 Virgin 106  
11.00am Modern Family. 12noon The Big Bang Theory. 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine. 3.00 Modern Family. 4.00 Young Sheldon. 5.00 The Big Bang Theory.

5STAR (DAYTIME)

Freeview 32 Sky 128 Virgin 126  
11.00am Traffic Cops. 2.00pm Police Interceptors. 5.00 Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. 6.00 Home and Away.

5 ACTION

Freeview 33 Sky 150  
11.45am FILM: The Four Musketeers. (1974) (PG) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Oliver Reed. 1.55pm Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders. 8.00 Police Interceptors. 9.00 FILM: Cliffhanger. (1993) (15) A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone. 11.15 FILM: Unforgiven. (1992) (15) Two gunslingers help a bounty hunter kill a pair of cowboys who attacked a prostitute. Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.

5 SELECT

Freeview 46 Sky 153 Virgin 138  
11.20am FILM: Carry On Sergeant. (1958) (U) Comedy, starring William Hartnell. 1.05pm FILM: Carry On Teacher. (1959) (U) Comedy, starring Ted Ray. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. 4.00 Columbo. 5.45 Entertainment News on 5. 6.00 Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. 8.00 Scenic Railway Journeys. 9.00 Britain's Killer Hurricane of 1990. 10.30 Air Crash: Disaster Revealed.

5 USA (DAYTIME)

Freeview 21 Sky 141 Virgin 120  
12noon Law & Order. 6.00 NCIS.

FOOD NETWORK UK

Freeview 43 Sky 140 Virgin 190  
11.00am The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. 7.00pm Bake Off: The Professionals. 8.00 John Torode's Asia. 9.00 Adam Richman Eats Britain. 9.30 Secret Eats with Adam Richman. 10.00 Hairy Bikers' Meals on Wheels Back on the Road. 11.00 Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.

GOLD

Sky 110 Virgin 124  
11.05am Last of the Summer Wine. 12.25pm Keeping Up Appearances. 1.05 Ever Decreasing Circles. 1.45 Open All Hours. 2.25 Ghosts. 3.40 Dad's Army. 4.20 Are You Being Served? 5.00 Last of the Summer Wine. 6.20 Open All Hours. 7.00 Keeping Up Appearances. 7.40 Dad's Army. 9.00 Ghosts. 10.55 Billy Connolly Does. 11.55 Ghosts.

GREAT! TV

Freeview 50 Sky 157 Virgin 170  
11.00am FILM: The Novel Murders: Garage Sale Mystery VI. (2016) (PG) 1.00pm FILM: Garage Sale Mysteries: The Art of Murder. (2017) (PG) 3.00 FILM: The Beach Murders: Garage Sale Mystery. (2017) (PG) 5.00 FILM: Murder by Text: Garage Sale Mystery. (2017) (PG) 7.00 M\*A\*S\*H. 9.00 The Avengers. 10.00 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). 11.00 The Persuaders!

ITV2 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 6 Sky 118 Virgin 115  
11.00am Dawson's Creek. 12noon Secret Crush. 1.00 Dress to Impress. 2.00 Family Fortunes. 3.00 Veronica Mars. 4.00 Dawson's Creek. 5.00 Dress to Impress. 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase.

ITV3 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 10 Sky 119 Virgin 117  
10.15am The Royal. 11.20 Heartbeat. 1.30pm Classic Emmerdale. 2.35 Classic Coronation Street. 3.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Big Four. 5.55 Heartbeat.

ITV4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 26 Sky 120 Virgin 118  
10.30am BattleBots. 11.30 Robin of Sherwood. 12.35pm Magnum, P.I. 1.45 FILM: The Sting. (1973) (PG) 4.20 FILM: Cahill, U.S. Marshal. (1973) (15) Western, starring John Wayne. 6.25 FILM: Live and Let Die. (1973) (PG) James Bond battles the dictator of a Caribbean island intent on flooding America with limitless supplies of heroin. Spy adventure, with Roger Moore, Yaphet Kotto and Jane Seymour.

MORE4 (DAYTIME)

Freeview 18 Sky 136 Virgin 147  
10.25am A New Life in the Sun. 11.30 Come Dine with Me. 2.10pm

TIME	BBC 4	E4	ITV2
	9 (Scot 24)	13	6
7.00pm	Coast Sea anglers from Zimbabwe fish off the coast of Yorkshire	Hollyoaks Freddie is digging for gold.	Family Fortunes Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show in which the Wilsons from Worcester take on the Popat family from Harrow for a chance to win £30,000
7.30pm	7.15 Great Railway Journeys Chef Rick Stein crosses Mexico by train from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean	Modern Family Phil, Jay and Luke wage war against three generations of Thorpes	Bob's Burgers Tina befriends a mean girl at school
8.00pm	8.05 The Abbey with Alan Bennett Three-part series, taking an in depth look at what goes on behind the scenes at Westminster Abbey. First broadcast 1995	Teen First Dates Two youngsters, Daisy and Marlon, go on a date, and Josh and Mason are set up on a double date with identical twins Isabel and Millie	Bob's Burgers Gene upstages Bob on a television show
8.30pm			
9.00pm	Britain's Lost Masterpieces In Cardiff Art Gallery, the experts investigate an overpainted Madonna. Last in series	Made in Chelsea Sam Vanderpump invites the gang for a weekend at a country mansion, where a drinking game gets out of hand and Jazz is left feeling regretful	Family Guy Peter campaigns for immigration rights
9.30pm			
10.00pm	Civilisation The Reformation in 16th-century Europe	Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up To Cancer, Race Across the World, Love Is Blind, The Dog Academy and Outlast	Family Guy Meg falls for an attractive medical student
10.30pm	10.50 Civilisation Art historian Kenneth Clark takes up the theme of protest and communication as he assesses the effect of the Reformation in 16th-century Europe		Family Guy Lois runs for mayor
11.00pm		11.05 First Dates A choirmaster and an investment banker have a date (To 12.05)	Family Guy Peter goes back in time
11.30pm	11.40 Peter Rice: An Engineer Imagines A tribute to the engineer (To 12.40)		American Dad! Stan is furious to learn Francine was once engaged (To 12.00)

RADIO

RADIO 4

FM: 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW: 198KHZ

5.30am News Briefing. 5.43 Prayer for the Day. 5.45 Farming Today. 6.00 Today. 9.00 Start the Week. 9.45 Cafe Hope. 10.00 Woman's Hour. 11.00 The Invention of China. With Misha Glenny. 11.45 The Miners' Strike: Return Journey. 12noon News. 12.04 You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.45 Assume Nothing: The Last Request. Laura McDaid goes in search of her ex's birth mother, 20 years after his assisted suicide. 2.00 The Archers. 2.15 The Train at Platform 4. By Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis. 2.45 Felicity Ward - Appisodes.

Four in a Bed. 5.00 FILM: Dad's Army. (1971) (U) The ragtag Home Guard soldiers try to apprehend three German aviators. Comedy based on the TV series, starring Arthur Lowe. 6.55 Car S.O.S.

NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC

Sky 129 Virgin 183  
10.00am Car S.O.S. 1.00pm Tut's Treasures: Hidden Secrets. 4.00 Air Crash Investigation. 8.00 Eyewitness WWII: Invasion Italy. 9.00 Air Crash Investigation. 10.00 Trafficked: Underworlds with Mariana Van Zeller. 11.00 Air Crash Investigation.

PBS AMERICA

Freeview 84 Sky 174 Virgin 187  
9.35am Military Masterminds. 11.50am The Seabees on Iwo Jima. 1.00pm Europe's Forgotten Border. 2.05 The War. 9.45 Military Masterminds.

PICK OF TODAY'S RADIO

JENNI MURRAY PLAYS MOTOWN, 6PM, BOOM RADIO

IT'S 60 years since the first British Motown hits, with Where Did Our Love Go from the Supremes and My Guy by Mary Well. For an hour this evening, Daily Mail columnist Jenni plays some of her favourites and shares her memories: 'Every Saturday we'd meet in

the Barnsley bus station heading for the record shop. We had six shillings and eight pence in our pockets.' It's part of an evening dedicated to Motown, but some classics will also be popping up through the day. Listen on your digital radio or at boomradiouk.com.

3.00 PICK Great Lives. 3.30 History's Secret Heroes. Helena Bonham Carter tells the story of a young circus performer 4.00 The Switch. 4.30 Soul Music. Elton John's Tiny Dancer. 5.00 PM; Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 It's a Fair Cop. Cases of domestic violence.

7.00 The Archers. There's a race against time in Ambridge, and one resident faces a nightmare situation. 7.15 Front Row. Arts news and reviews. 8.00 The Briefing Room. A discussion on the U.S. border crisis. 8.30 BBC Inside Science. How Covid-19 has altered science.

REALLY

Freeview 17 Sky 142 Virgin 128  
1.00pm The Yorkshire Auction House. 7.00 Antiques Road Trip. 9.00 The Yorkshire Auction House. 10.00 The Repair Shop. 11.00 Help! My House Is Haunted.

SKY ARTS

Freeview 36 Sky 130 Virgin 123  
12noon Cirque du Soleil: Delirium. 1.45 Tina Turner - What's Love Live. 3.55 The Shadows: The Final Tour. 6.45 Roy Orbison Forever. 8.00 Andre Rieu: Falling in Love Again. 9.00 The Michelangelo Code: Secrets of the Sistine Chapel. 11.15 Len Phillips Swing Orchestra's 100 Years of Big Bands.

SKY ATLANTIC

Sky 108  
10.10am True Blood. 12.25pm Billions. 2.45 Mary & George. 10.00

The Regime. 11.05 House of the Dragon. 12.15am Succession.

SKY COMEDY

Sky 114 Virgin 112  
11.40am Entourage. 12.50pm Eastbound & Down. 2.10 Girls. 3.20 Entourage. 4.30 Mr Mayor. 5.00 Will & Grace. 6.00 The Office (US). 7.00 The Conners. 8.00 Will & Grace. 9.00 Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. 9.40 Veep. 11.00 Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. 11.45 Real Time with Bill Maher.

SKY DOCUMENTARIES

Sky 121 Virgin 188  
12noon Mr Dynamite: The Rise of James Brown. 2.15 Superswede. 4.00 The Directors. 5.00 Premier League Legends. 5.30 The Last Movie Stars. 7.00 100 Foot Wave. 8.00 Rolling Stone: Stories from the Edge. 9.00 The Jinx Part Two.



ITV3	ITV4	MORE4	SKY MIX	QUEST	DAVE	DRAMA	5STAR	5USA
10	26	18	11	12	19	20	32	21
<b>6.55 Heartbeat</b> An informant reveals two local hoodlums are planning to raid a shipment of gold bullion, prompting Shiner to set up an ambush to catch the would-be thieves	<b>6.25 Live and Let Die (1973,PG)</b> James Bond battles the dictator of a Caribbean island intent on flooding America with limitless supplies of heroin. Spy adventure, with Roger Moore in his first appearance as 007, alongside Yaphet Kotto and Jane Seymour. Includes FYI Daily	<b>6.55 Car S.O.S</b> Tim and Fuzz try to fix up a 1959 MGA roadster	<b>Star Trek: Voyager</b> B'Elanna experiences strange visions involving forbidden love and betrayal during a visit by a delegation of telepaths	<b>Find It, Fix It, Flog It</b> Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien search for more items to fix up and sell on, visiting the Isle of Wight to meet a couple who have lots of unwanted militaria	<b>Richard Osman's House of Games</b> With Sara Barron and Anton Du Beke	<b>7.20 Last of the Summer Wine</b> An unfortunate incident means that Foggy has to be rescued from the police. Peter Sallis and Brian Wilde star	<b>GPs: Behind Closed Doors</b> Doctors travel to communities across the country in a custom-built mobile surgery to offer face-to-face appointments, beginning in Swindon	<b>NCIS</b> A covert identity created for one of Gibbs's undercover cases 20 years previously resurfaces after a murder victim is found to be using the alias. Starring Emily Wickersham
<b>Vera</b> A woman is murdered but her son survives the attack, only to fall beneath the ice of a frozen pond as he makes his escape. DCI Vera Stanhope wades in and drags him out, and against all the odds he pulls through. As the investigation unfolds, Vera realises the key to the case lies deep in the boy's memory	<b>Central Intelligence (2016,12)</b> A rogue CIA agent turns to an old classmate for help when he is targeted by his own organisation. Action comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart. Includes FYI Daily	<b>7.55 Grand Designs</b> Kevin McCloud meets architect and shed fanatic Micah Jones, who plans to transform an old agricultural building in Co Down	<b>The Rookie</b> Nolan gets a lesson in respect after his arrest of a gang member leads to a free-for-all on his life. Chen and Bradford pull over <i>Saved By the Bell</i> actor Mario Lopez	<b>Salvage Hunters: The Restorers</b> French polisher Alex is excited to work on a 100-year-old table. Meanwhile, Paper conservator Ashleigh works on a mouldy poster	<b>8.20 Would I Lie to You?</b> David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Nikki Fox, Miles Jupp, Nish Kumar and Joe Lycett. Comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon	<b>Miss Marple: Murder at the Vicarage</b> An unpopular colonel is found dead in the vicarage of St Mary Mead and investigations reveal no shortage of suspects – including the vicar and members of the victim's family. Christmas edition of the whodunnit from 1986, starring Joan Hickson and Paul Eddington	<b>Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly</b> Graeme Hall deals with a Chihuahua who enjoys stunting his owner's love-lives, and a Dachshund who hates public transport	<b>NCIS</b> Tony's con-artist father provides the agents with expert knowledge of the black market when a forged painting is connected to the murder of a Navy lieutenant
<b>DCI Banks</b> Part one of two. Banks and the team investigate the murder of teenager Ellie Clayton, daughter of a high-profile internet entrepreneur		<b>Car S.O.S</b> Tim and Fuzz head to Rochdale to rescue an Opel Manta GTE, which is owned by a former amateur rally driver	<b>A League of Their Own: U.S. Road Trip 2.0</b> The boys race one another across New York City to deliver a sandwich to a VIP customer on a yacht	<b>Outback Opal Hunters</b> The Blacklighters are hit with a double dose of disaster	<b>Meet the Richardsons</b> Jon upsets Alexander Armstrong	<b>9.35 QI</b> With Cally Beaton, Jamali Maddix and Josh Widdicombe	<b>Ambulance: Code Red</b> Critical care paramedic Rob and doctor Adam fight to save the life of a boy who has been stabbed in the street	<b>NCIS</b> The agents look into the death of a driver who was found after a car accident. Parker's dad assists the team in their investigation
		<b>The Lancaster Bomber at 80 with David Jason</b> The actor narrates a look at the origins and legacy of the iconic Second World War aircraft	<b>An Unexpected Killer</b> When the death of an elderly millionaire sparks a huge police investigation, shocking secrets are unearthed, as well as a killer no one saw coming	<b>Life Below Zero: Canada</b> A group of people grapple with deadly weather while trying to find food, water and shelter. Can they make a success of their challenging lives?	<b>10.20 QI</b> Jen Brister, Jimmy Carr and Chris McCausland join regular panellist Alan Davies on the comedy quiz, with Sandi Toksvig asking questions on the theme of smorgasbord	<b>New Tricks</b> The team reopen a case originally worked on by a corrupt colleague of Sandra's father, leading the detective to seek the truth about her family's shady past	<b>Cold Case Killers</b> The stories behind the Babes in the Wood case of 1986, when two nine-year-old girls were found dead in a Sussex park	<b>Law &amp; Order: Special Victims Unit</b> The detectives investigate the murder of a poster boy for a pressure group. Guest starring George Segal
<b>DCI Banks</b> Part two of two. Morton uncovers new leads	<b>11.15 The Motorbike Show</b> Henry Cole rides an Africa Twin through the backroads of Oxfordshire, and reveals Alan Milyard's extraordinary new Kawasaki (To 12.15)	<b>24 Hours in A&amp;E</b> A 39-year-old is rushed to St George's with internal bleeding from his femoral artery (To 12.05)	<b>Britain's Most Evil Killers</b> Jason Marshall, who tortured and murdered a man in his home, filming the whole ordeal (To 12.00)	<b>Bennetts British Superbikes</b> Highlights from the second round of the season, held at Oulton Park (To 12.00)	<b>The Shield</b> Pilot episode of the police drama, chronicling the turbulent day-to-day life of a group of corrupt Los Angeles cops and their put-upon captain (To 12.00)	<b>11.20 Soldier, Soldier</b> The company are put through a specialist training exercise, supervised by Veteran explosives expert, Sergeant Lewis. With Jerome Flynn (To 12.30)	<b>Killer at the Crime Scene</b> The fatal shooting of a skateboarder in Liverpool (To 12.00)	<b>Law &amp; Order: Special Victims Unit</b> A man who was accused of rape and kidnap is killed – and Benson is alarmed to find herself implicated in the murder (To 12.00)
<b>11.50 The Royal</b> Dr David Cheriton arrives at St Aidan's (To 12.45)								



■ PROFESSOR Alice Roberts chooses an extraordinary character to be included in the pantheon of **GREAT LIVES (3PM, RADIO 4)**, the medieval Queen Emma (pictured), who managed to marry two kings and become the richest woman in England. Born in Normandy, she came to be the wife of Aethelred the Unready in 1002. She then survived the invasion of the Danes and went on to marry King Canute. Joining in praise of Emma are authors Patricia Bracewell and Professor Janina Ramirez.

**9.00 Start the Week.** Adam Rutherford leads a discussion on protest and patriotism.  
**9.45 Cafe Hope.** A community laundrette run by a charity.  
**9.59 Weather.**  
**10.00 The World Tonight.** Presented by Jamie Coomarasamy.  
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: You Are Here.**

**11.00 The System.** By Ben Lewis. Starring Iain de Caestecker.  
**11.30 Counterfeit Characters.** What AI and digital technology mean for actors.  
**12midnight News and Weather.**  
**12.30 The Miners' Strike: Return Journey.**  
**12.48 Shipping Forecast.**  
**1.00 As World Service.**

**10.00 FILM:** Bowling for Columbine. (2002) (15) Michael Moore's Oscar-winning documentary exploring America's love affair with firearms, going beyond public opinion to research corporate and political influence.

#### SKY HISTORY

**Sky 123 Virgin 131**  
**1.00pm** Clash of the Gods. **6.00** Alexander the Great. **8.00** American Pickers. **9.00** Lost U-Boats of WWII. **10.00** Secrets of the Lost Liners. **11.00** The UnXplained with William Shatner.

#### SKY MAX

**Sky 113 Virgin 111**  
**11.00am** Movie Megastars: Made in the 80s. **1.00pm** Rob Beckett's Smart TV. **7.00** TV's Greatest Gameshows. **9.00** FILM: Fist of Fury. (1972) (18) A martial arts expert embarks on a mission of

revenge against his kung fu teacher's killers. Action adventure starring Bruce Lee. Dubbed in English. **11.00** Hold the Front Page.

#### SKY SCI-FI

**Sky 139 Virgin 122**  
**11.00am** Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files. **12noon** FILM: Jungle Run. (2021) Sibling adventurers go in search of their missing father, only to be attacked by jungle animals. Action adventure, starring Richard Grieco. **2.00** The Swarm. **10.00** FILM: Train to Busan Presents: Peninsula. (2020) (15) Four years after the outbreak, military man Jung-seok undertakes a dangerous mission in the middle of Seoul. Thriller, starring Gang Dong-won.

#### SKY WITNESS

**Sky 107 Virgin 110**  
**12noon** Caught on Dashcam. **3.00** Nothing to Declare. **6.00** Caught on

Dashcam. **9.00** The Cleaning Lady. **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. **11.00** The Rookie: Feds.

#### W

**Freeview 25 Sky 132 Virgin 125**  
**9.00am** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. **8.00pm** Gemma and Gorka: Life Behind the Lens. **9.00** Inside the Ambulance. **11.00** Red Flag.

#### YESTERDAY

**Freeview 27 Sky 155 Virgin 129**  
**11.00am** War Factories. **12noon** Great British Railway Journeys. **1.00** Antiques Roadshow. **2.00** Bangers & Cash. **4.00** WW2 – Frontlines. **5.00** War Factories. **6.00** Antiques Roadshow. **7.00** Secrets of the London Underground. **8.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **9.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. A Reliant Scimitar GTC and a Honda CBR are restored. **10.00** Bangers & Cash. **11.00** Abandoned Engineering.

## SPORT

### EUROSPORT 1

**Sky 413 Virgin 521**  
**11.30am** Live Cycling: Giro d'Italia. **4.45pm** Cycling: Tro-Bro Leon. **5.45** Cycling: Tour of Flanders. **6.00** Olympic Games: The Power of the Olympics. **6.30** Mountain Biking. **8.00** Cycling: Giro d'Italia. **9.00** Giro d'Italia: The Breakaway. **9.30** Bennetts British Superbikes. **10.30** Speedway Grand Prix. **11.30** Cycling: Giro d'Italia.

### SKY MAIN EVENT

**Sky 401 Virgin 501**  
**11.30am** Live SWPL. Rangers v Celtic (Kick-off 12noon). **2.30pm** Live EFL. Crawley Town v Milton Keynes Dons (Kick-off 3pm). **5.15** Live EFL. Crewe Alexandra v Doncaster Rovers (Kick-off 5.30pm). **7.30** Live MNF. Crystal Palace v Manchester United (Kick-off 8pm). **11.00** Sky Sports News. **11.30** Back Pages Tonight.

### SKY PREMIER LEAGUE

**Sky 402 Virgin 502**  
**1.00pm** Premier League. **6.30** Live Premier League. Crystal Palace v

Manchester United (Kick-off 8pm). **11.00** Premier League Icons.

### SKY CRICKET

**Sky 404 Virgin 504**  
**10.55am** Live County Championship Cricket. Lancashire v Kent. **2.50pm** Live Indian Premier League. Mumbai Indians v Sunrisers Hyderabad. **7.00** Dreams of a Nation. **8.00** Best of ICC WT20. **9.00** IPL.

### SKY MIX

**Sky 416 Virgin 510**  
**10.55am** Live County Championship Cricket. Lancashire v Kent. **6.30pm** Talking Cricket. **7.00** Formula 1. **8.00** Fight Night. **9.00** PGA Tour Golf. **10.00** DP World Tour Golf. **11.00** Fight Night.

### TNT SPORTS 1

**Sky 410 Virgin 527**  
**11.00am** W-League Football. **12.30pm** Live: The FA Futsal Women's Super Series. Bloomsbury Futsal Women v Hartpury Futsal Club Women (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live National League South.

Worthing v Braintree Town (Kick-off 3pm). **5.30** FIA Formula E Preview. **6.30** Premier League Stories. **7.00** Premier League Interview. **7.30** Live: Serie A. Udinese v Napoli (Kick-off 7.45pm). **9.45** Goals Reload. **10.15** Fight Week. **10.45** Sport in Focus. **11.00** WWE Raw Highlights.

### TNT SPORTS 2

**Sky 411 Virgin 528**  
**1.00pm** European Rugby Challenge Cup. **3.00** Champions Cup. **5.00** Live: Serie A. Salernitana v Atalanta (Kick-off 5pm). **7.00** Sign Up – Into Football. **7.45** Around the Block. **8.00** Live Ligue 1. Lille v Lyon (Kick-off 8pm). **10.00** National League North. **11.30** NBA on Fire. **12midnight** NBA Tip-Off. **12.30** Live NBA. Knicks v Pacers.

### TNT SPORTS 3

**Sky 417 Virgin 529**  
**9.00am** Serie A. **2.00pm** WSL Championship Tour. **3.00** Europa League Highlights. **3.30** A-League Women. **5.30** WRC Magazine. **6.00** A-League. **8.00** Fishing. **9.00** Live MLB. Phillies v Giants.

## MOVIES

### FILM4

**Freeview 14 Sky 313 Virgin 428**  
**11.00am** Tad the Lost Explorer and the Secret of King Midas. (2017) (U) **12.40pm** Charlotte's Web. (2006) (U) **2.30** Evolution. (2001) (PG) **4.35** Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) (PG) **6.40** Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. (2008) (12) **9.00** Moonfall. (2022) (12) Sci-fi, starring Patrick Wilson. **11.35** Terminator Salvation. (2009) (12) **1.50am** Freaks. (2019) (15)

### GREAT! ACTION

**Freeview 42 Sky 323 Virgin 426**  
**11.30am** Cowboy. (1958) (U) **1.30pm** Garden of Evil. (1954) (PG) **3.40** Silverado. (1985) (PG) **6.25** City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold. (1994) (12) **9.00** Missing in Action. (1984) (15) **11.10** Who Dares Wins. (1982) (18)

### GREAT! MOVIES

**Freeview 34 Sky 321 Virgin 425**  
**12.40pm** Seabiscuit. (2003) (PG) **3.30** Sweet Home Alabama. (2002)

(12) **5.45** Australia. (2008) (12) **9.00** Gone Girl. (2014) (18)

### GREAT! ROMANCE

**Freeview 52 Sky 319 Virgin 424**  
**10.00am** Royally Ever After. (2018) (PG) **12noon** Christmas with a Prince. (2018) (PG) **2.00** Christmas with a Prince: Becoming Royal. (2019) (PG) **4.00** A Winter Princess. (2019) **6.00** A Royal Christmas Ball. (2017) (U) **8.00** Royal New Year's Eve. (2017) (PG) **9.50** Once Upon a Holiday. (2015) (PG)

### SKY DRAMA

**Sky 310 Virgin 410**  
**11.00am** Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. (2004) (15) **12.55pm** Zero Dark Thirty. (2012) (15) **3.35** Don't Worry Darling. (2022) (15) **5.45** Spotlight. (2015) (15) **8.00** The King's Speech. (2010) (12) The stammering son of George V seeks the help of an eccentric Australian speech therapist as he rises suddenly to the throne. Fact-based drama, with Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush. **10.05** Cicada. (2020)

(15) As they continue to recover from separate traumatic events, two young men gradually start to fall for each other. Drama, starring Matthew Fifer and Sheldon D. Brown. **11.50** Call Jane. (2022) (12)

### SKY PREMIERE

**Sky 301 Virgin 401**  
**11.25am** Monolith. (2023) (15) **1.05pm** The Equalizer 3. (2023) (15) **3.05** Oppenheimer. (2023) (12) **6.05** The Cinema List: True Stories. **6.25** Out of Darkness. (2022) (15) **8.00** The Equalizer 3. (2023) (15) **10.00** Oppenheimer. (2023) (12)

### TALKING PICTURES TV

**Freeview 82 Sky 328 Virgin 445**  
**11.35am** The Outer Limits. **12.35pm** The Ghost of Greville Lodge. (2000) (PG) **2.25** Go Go with Matt Monro. **3.00** The Saint. **4.05** Look at Life. **4.15** Black Beauty. (1971) (PG) **6.25** A Lifetime Ago with The Baim Collection. **7.00** The Footage Detectives. **8.00** Enemy at the Door. **9.05** Genghis Khan. (1965) (PG) **11.40** Alibi Breaker. (1937) (PG)



**ARIES Mar 21 - Apr 20** THE spoken word might be our most obvious form of communication. But even if we speak the same language as someone, it doesn't mean we'll truly understand one another. It's easy to be so influenced by what we expect people to say that we don't listen. Our desire to connect is so strong that we hide our views and ideas in case they cause disapproval. In our desire to maintain good relationships, we forget the value of honesty and authenticity. Today brings a chance to speak your truth. Take it! *I've got much more to tell you. Your latest four-minute forecast is packed with insight. Call 0906 751 5601.*

**TAURUS Apr 21 - May 21** YOU might not realise it, but you've got reasons to celebrate. Not only have you accomplished a lot, you're about to achieve more. So don't, whatever you do, dismiss an opportunity as 'unrealistic'. Or ignore something that looks 'too good to be true'. Recognise it. Seize it. And give thanks for its arrival in your world. Then, look for another. With Venus, your ruler, in your sign, the only person capable of stopping you benefitting from good fortune right now is... you! So believe in your entitlement to success. You deserve this. *To hear how your life could change for the better, call your latest week-ahead forecast: 0906 751 5602.*

**GEMINI May 22 - June 22** AS SATURN links to Pluto, it's important to stay calm and sensible. You don't want to get carried away. No matter the cause (whether it's drama or a dream), take a breath before leaping into action. The planet of transformation is obscuring reality. Which means it's easy to make mountains out of molehills. The trick is to pause, stand back, and let things unfold. By tomorrow, you'll be better able to judge the need to respond. And don't let anyone else pressurise you into taking action either. Be firm and strong today. *There's excitement in the skies. Find out how to maximise your luck this week. Call 0906 751 5603.*

**CANCER June 23 - July 23** CERTAIN aspects of your world aren't going to plan. You feel you have misread signs or been misunderstood. And as a consequence, you think you've 'missed out'. But that couldn't be further from the truth. The only way you'll be left behind is if you choose to be. So, it's time to stop moping and start doing. With your perceptivity, you can transform situations that aren't right and

# OSCAR CAINER

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THE final episode of Friends aired 20 years ago today. Unlike many sitcoms, its popularity endures; younger generations relate to the characters and their close-knit bonds. As Saturn and

Pluto form a testing alignment, we might find ourselves having to deal with interpersonal challenges. But if we remember the value of our friendships, we can strengthen bonds that last.

make them work for you. You can instigate change. The coming New Moon opens a door of hope. You need to be prepared to step straight through it. *Just four minutes on the phone could change your life. For your latest week-ahead forecast, call 0906 751 5604.*

**LEO July 24 - Aug 23** SOME struggle to be kind-hearted and compassionate. But as a generous Leo, these qualities are natural attributes. Yet right now, you're in more of a strong and stropy mood. Your patience is wearing thin. To move things along, being firmer and more authoritative seems like a tempting option. But it's not. Sure, strength and stamina are good. But if you ask what you can do to help, you're much more likely to get a positive response. Be at your most charming today. You'll find it works much better than being bossy. *Your week-ahead forecast could be one of the most rewarding calls you make. Call 0906 751 5605.*

**VIRGO Aug 24 - Sep 23** THE advice 'quit while you're ahead' might sound simple. But it presumes we can identify that moment. And it's not always easy to tell where we are. Life's more complicated than a race around a track: it's hard to tell how other people are doing and compare our progress to theirs. And we all know that comparisons are odious. Today, if you're doing what you're doing for the right reasons, you need to keep doing it. Don't think about anyone else's target or success rate. Just know that you're on a good path... and doing OK. *I've got a special message for you. Give me four minutes and I'll give you the key to your future. Call 0906 751 5606.*

**LIBRA Sep 24 - Oct 23** IT'S one thing to be aware of where your limits lie, but feeling constrained by boundaries isn't good. With Venus, your ruler, in its other celestial home, you're encouraged to explore creativity. Which doesn't necessarily mean starting your novel or getting a paintbrush out. It's more to do with finding a way to release your energy. Doing so will free you from a limited mindset and enable you to see what you currently can't. When you learn how to get past something that's been restricting you, you'll feel more inspired. *The future is waiting for you. When you get there, you are going to love it! Call 0906 751 5607.*

**SCORPIO Oct 24 - Nov 22** SOCIAL media platforms and online games have changed our attention span. We crave dopamine hits, the next level, more 'likes'. The idea of working towards achieving something sometimes feels a dying art form. But maybe that's too harsh. Maybe it's just that we're more easily discouraged when processes take time. As Saturn makes a tricky link to your ruler, Pluto, there are things you must do in order to grow more powerful. But if you try, the gains you make will ensure that future challenges are much easier to deal with. *Your four-minute, week-ahead forecast is jam-packed full of important news. Call 0906 751 5608.*

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 - Dec 21** SOME people are convinced something will happen. Other folk are certain the opposite will occur. So, who are we supposed to believe? Everyone, from astrologers and weather forecasters to statisticians seems to think they know

what the future holds! We all draw on past experience and use it to construct a picture of the future as we believe it will be. Which is perfectly natural. Unless, of course, our doubts and fears influence our predictions. Today, if you believe in yourself, a dream could start to come true. *Lift your spirits. Change your life! Your four-minute forecast has great news. Call 0906 751 5609.*

**CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 20** AS YOUR ruler Saturn links with Pluto, today brings serious thoughts about profound matters. That might not sound thrilling. But as you contemplate a tricky issue, you'll learn something of value. You've recognised a powerful force, which needs to be skilfully dealt with. Whether this energy comes from a person or a situation, it's challenging. But with greater understanding, you'll give yourself the tools to work with it in a way that benefits you. You're accessing the skills to transform an oppressive scenario. That's good. *Want to hear some priceless information about your week ahead? Call 0906 751 5610.*

**AQUARIUS Jan 21 - Feb 19** IF YOU push a tricky scenario too far, what's the worst that could happen? You might end up having to retrace your steps. But if you don't push it far enough, you'll never know how far you could've gone. There. That's your advice for today! Keep going. Just because you're being challenged doesn't mean you should give up. Having said that, the Saturn/Pluto link suggests a shift in attitude will help. Take what comes your way less seriously and you'll find yourself perfectly positioned to make a great choice. *Do yourself a favour; treat yourself! There's exciting news in your forecast. Call 0906 751 5611.*

**PISCES Feb 20 - Mar 20** WELCOME to another day on life's rollercoaster! What's in store for you today? Are you expecting to reach dizzying heights of success? Or to be plummeted down into scary uncertainty? The moments of stability we crave are, after all, only lulls between discombobulating dramas. But that's the nature of life on this spinning ball of rock! If I were you, I'd prepare for an adventure today. Although Saturn's link to transformative Pluto brings challenges, with the right mindset, dealing with them could be fun! *In a week of celestial creativity, transform your life. For your week-ahead forecast, call 0906 751 5612.*

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## LETTERS

Write to: Daily Mail Letters, 9 Derry Street, London W8 5HY  
email: letters@dailymail.co.uk

# Brave police who merit our thanks

ANOTHER bloody crime, the Hainault sword attacks, hit the headlines last week and another young life was snuffed out in a most hideous way. Two police officers were injured.

I have been critical of the police today, largely in regard to the standard of management and lack of real policing experience of senior officers who are simply managers. But the officer on the street needs support, which may be sadly lacking.

My late husband was a detective inspector in the Met and an authorised shot.

As a young PC, he was awarded a Queen's Commendation for his part in disarming a man who was waving a loaded gun about. He was dedicated to the job.

After 28 years' service, he died suddenly of a heart attack in 1989 at the age of 46, and looking back it seems obvious that the stresses of policing took their toll on him.

How much worse is the situation we find our country in now.

We are quick to criticise officers who may face terrifying threats, but slow to say thank you.

MAGGIE MORSE,  
Brynamman, Dyfed.

## Woke and broke

WHATEVER their political leanings, people are sick of the woke ideals the Scottish National Party have stood for.

They have failed miserably, so any leader planning to pursue the same line as the SNP should bin the idea immediately. I also agree with Emma Cowing's commentary (Mail) that both Yousaf and Sturgeon's obsession with gender politics represented an off-the-scale contempt for women.

T. THOMPSON, Banbury, Oxon.

## Countering theft

WHEN I was growing up in the 1930s, the first thing one saw on entering a shop was a counter (or several counters). Behind them would be assistants waiting to serve; and behind the assist-

## Straight to the POINT

■ **WITH** drinks prices rising so fast, we may soon have to reply to a barman's 'What can I get you?' with 'Only looking, thanks.'

TOM GILSENAN, Dublin.

■ **WOULD** I get away with spitting at Ashley Dalton, Labour's equality chief, if I said I identified as a llama?

LESLEY JONES,  
Royal Wootton Bassett, Wilts.

■ **LIFE** is short. Make sure you spend as much time as possible on the internet, arguing with strangers.

F. CLARK, Stock, Essex.

■ **I'VE** had a hard few days at work recently, so I'm thinking of treating myself to a nice bottle of extra virgin olive oil.

IAN MacDONALD,  
Billericay, Essex.

ants were all the goods on offer, well protected.

The supermarkets paved the way for shoplifting, with everything quite openly in front. A return to 1930s-style shopping would have its advantages.

DOUG BROWN,  
Great Oakley, Essex.

## Rafah threat

WHY would Israel's Prime Minister, on the eve of a potential agreement for the release of the hostages, make a provocative statement that the invasion of Rafah will go ahead regardless?

His comments will not help the delicate negotiations.

Mr Netanyahu insists that only military pressure will see the return of the hostages, yet the first and only humanitarian ceasefire back in November saw the successful return of more

than 100 hostages, plus a pause in the fighting to deliver much-needed aid to the Palestinians.

K. HAWKER, Sherborne, Dorset.

## Pay French by results

TO ENSURE an efficient deal with the French, Mr Sunak and his advisers should have stipulated that for each boat they failed to stop, our annual payment would be reduced.

That might have been an incentive for them to work enthusiastically, whatever their view of the UK in relation to Brexit.

Name and address supplied.

GOD help the French policeman who punctured a migrant dinghy. He could have lost the French government millions of pounds from us. They are probably dusting down the guillotine already.

W. HANNIS, Tewkesbury, Gloucs.

## CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF A LOVED ONE

HAVE you lost a relative or friend in recent months whose life you'd like to celebrate? Our column on Friday's letters page tells the stories of ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives.

Email a 450-word tribute and a favourite photo to: [lives@dailymail.co.uk](mailto:lives@dailymail.co.uk) or write to: Extraordinary Lives, Daily Mail, 9 Derry Street, London W8 5HY, including your phone number.



Bowing out: Humza Yousaf announces his resignation

## How the SNP failed Scotland

I SUGGEST that choosing yet another First Minister is not the real issue facing Scotland. If we seriously want to improve people's lives, the question is: should the Scottish Parliament continue? Does anyone actually believe it has improved any part of Scottish life? Everything of any importance is worse than it was before: health, housing, education, transportation, roads, policing, the economy and the environment. Had Scotland been consistently governed by people who wanted only to improve things, the experiment might have succeeded. Instead, the Parliament was taken over by separatists whose break-up-the-UK obsession has badly damaged Scotland. Take the police service. There was absolutely nothing wrong with the well-established eight regional forces we had before

2013. The decision to merge them into one was political. Now Police Scotland, with Gaelic on every police vehicle, looks just a little bit like An Garda in the Republic of Ireland. That pleases the separatists. But is our police service now more effective or efficient? No. Does it cost a lot less? No. Are people getting a better service? Definitely not. The same stupidity can be seen in every area of 'Scottish Government' activity. They couldn't run a tap. The separatists have all but ruined our country, and instead of quietly allowing them to select another overpaid failure, there should be an outcry aimed at ending the farce that is the Scottish Parliament. Turn the building into an exhibition centre and tell all those currently in there to go and get real jobs.

R. L. McCALLUM, Glasgow.

## Covid wisdom

DANIEL HANNAN (Mail) says world scientists got everything wrong on Covid and are grabbing new powers to make the same mistakes next time.

He refers to Sweden but does not give the full global picture. Singapore had the world's lowest Covid fatality rate, which suggests its scientists and government got it right with their approach, including mass testing and masking up from the outset.

MARK ILES, Newark, Notts.

## Shady solution

AN ARTICLE in Good Health rightly explained the need for wearing sunglasses even on cloudy days, to protect the eyes.

My solution is polycarbonate safety glasses, which block UV. These are stylish, available from DIY stores for about £4 a pair,

and it's not a problem if you sit on them, either.

I. HOLLOWAY, Potters Bar, Herts.

## Butty basics

NO CONNOISSEUR of the bacon sandwich (Mail) would accept butter or toast. Thick, soft white bread dipped in bacon fat, with streaky bacon, is the only way.

BOB CARSON, Whitby, N. Yorks.

MY DEAR old dad referred to butter in a bacon sandwich as 'greasing the fat sow's bottom'. I agree with him that butter just makes the sandwich too greasy.

NICK WOOTTON,  
Wallasey, Wirral.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

Leviticus 26:12

# DEBATE Do all-male crews work best in the Navy?

FURTHER to recent reports of alleged sexual assaults in the Royal Navy, before the introduction of women to serve on ships and submarines, there was no problem. The men just went about their work undistracted. It was always going to happen that once you put females in close confinement with male sailors, if relationships didn't start aboard, they certainly would ashore. Their lordships at the Admiralty thought more about diversity and sexual discrimination than about the practicalities. Neither the men nor their wives were consulted, as their superiors thought they knew better. I think it is unfair to put men in such a position, as during a war they should

be concentrating on the job at hand, not worrying about their female crew members, as men always do. If a torpedoed ship was sinking, would it be everyone for themselves or would the men be ordered to stand back and allow women into the lifeboats first? I spent 17 years in the Navy and I'm glad it was then all-male. Yes, women played an invaluable part in support services and that's where I believe they should be, not aboard warships.

Name supplied, Rochester, Kent.

SO MEN cooped up in submarines make advances to women. No surprise there — they are high-testosterone fighting men. Women on board cause temptation and compete with men for promotion. The

WRNS did a fine job in World War II performing non-combat roles and can do so again. Let's leave it to the boys.

ROSE MOLONEY, Findhorn, Moray.

IT IS odd that whenever there is a shortage of manpower (if I'm allowed to use the word) in the Armed Forces, the answer is invariably a call for greater diversity, which would mean recruiting more women. Given that the Royal Navy is finding it impossible to man (that word again) its ever-reducing fleet, the calls to embrace diversity have become still more strident.

I am convinced this is one reason why recruitment is proving difficult.

DES MORGAN, Swindon, Wilts.

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

WIN our Letter Of The Week Magic Mug, courtesy of Printer Pix. These reveal our Daily Mail Letter Of The Week design when hot. To create personalised photo gifts (see example, below), visit [printerpix.co.uk](http://printerpix.co.uk). The Letters Editor will announce the Letter Of The Week each Friday. Write to: Daily Mail, Letters, 9 Derry Street, London W8 5HY or email [letters@dailymail.co.uk](mailto:letters@dailymail.co.uk), including your full postal address and telephone number.



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ANSWERS TO  
CORRESPONDENTS

Compiled by Charles Legge

QUESTION

Were the events depicted in *The Train*, starring Burt Lancaster, true?

THE *Train* (1964) was loosely based on the non-fiction book *Le Front De L'Art* by Rose Valland. Valland was a French art historian and member of the French Resistance. She worked at the Jeu de Paume Museum in Paris, where she secretly recorded details of the looting of art treasures by the Nazis.

Shortly before the Liberation of Paris on August 25, 1944, Valland learned that General Heinrich Baron von Behr had planned to loot, via train, a massive haul of art containing almost 1,000 paintings, including works by Cezanne, Degas, Gauguin, Modigliani and Picasso.

The plot was foiled using a well-timed railway worker strike, resulting in the priceless works being blocked into a sid-

QUESTIONS

Q: What's the oldest recipe for tomato ketchup?  
*Bernadette Edwards, Swindon, Wilts.*

Q: Were any automobiles manufactured in China under the dictatorship of Chairman Mao?  
*James Dickie, Crawley, West Sussex.*

Q: Samuel Johnson once said: 'I should have thought it not possible to find a Monboddio; yet he exists.' What is known of Lord Monboddio?  
*Samantha Bain, Aldershot, Hants.*

# Foiled: the great Nazi train robbery



**Saviour: Burt Lancaster in *The Train***  
ing before they were rescued by the Free French forces. The film depicts, in spectacular gun-toting style, a fictionalised version of these events.  
*Justin Wright, Malvern, Worcs.*

**QUESTION** Did the composer Benjamin Britten suffer from OCD?  
BENJAMIN Britten was a brilliant 20th-century composer, celebrated for his operatic works including *Peter Grimes*. Britten was difficult and anxious but he didn't suffer from OCD. This idea stems from one of many anecdotes that surround his life. One evening while

touring with his 1946 opera *The Rape of Lucretia*, librettist Ronald Duncan was surprised to find Britten hobbling along the corridor of his Edinburgh hotel. 'What I am trying to do,' he explained, 'is walk down the corridor and back without touching any of the red lines on the carpet.' When Duncan asked why, Britten replied: 'If I can get up and down the corridor without touching the lines it will mean that I am a composer.'  
*Becca Williams, Hereford.*

**QUESTION** Have two actors ever had a falling out over who gets top billing in a film?  
FURTHER to the earlier answer, a famous battle over top billing took place between Jimmy Durante and Ethel Merman when starring in Cole Porter's 1936 stage musical, *Red, Hot And Blue*. The dispute was resolved by having their names arranged in an 'X'. An up-and-coming young actor called Bob Hope appeared below.  
*J. S. Bowles, Luton, Beds.*

■ IS THERE a question to which you want to know the answer? Or do you know the answer to a question here? Write to: Charles Legge, Answers To Correspondents, Daily Mail, 9 Derry Street, London W8 5HY; or email [charles.legge@dailymail.co.uk](mailto:charles.legge@dailymail.co.uk). A selection is published, but we're unable to enter into individual correspondence.

TODAY'S RECIPE: Lettuce wraps with sweet satay dip

Quick healthy lunch. Serves 2.

Ingredients

Little Gem lettuces, outer leaves only, or loose-leaf lettuce

1 cooked chicken breast, chopped

1 carrot, grated

¼ cucumber, sliced

2 radishes, thinly sliced

Handful of coriander or mint leaves

For the dip:

2 tbsp peanut or almond butter

1 tbsp sweet chilli sauce

½ tsp soy sauce

1 lime, ½ juiced, ½ cut into wedges

Method

1 For the dip, combine the peanut butter, chilli sauce, soy sauce and lime juice in a bowl, loosening with a splash of cold water if needed, so it's a drizzling consistency.

2 Lay a couple of lettuce leaves on a plate and pile a little chicken and some of the veg on each piece. Scatter over the coriander or mint leaves, and squeeze over some lime juice. Drizzle over some of the satay dip, then roll the lettuce around the filling. Serve with the remaining satay on the side for dipping, if you like, and the lime wedges for squeezing over.

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SOLUTIONS TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLES

SUKO

7	9	3
27	21	
6	5	4
14	18	
2	1	8

SUDOKU

8	7	1	6	2	9	4	3	5
9	6	4	3	5	7	8	2	1
3	5	2	4	8	1	7	9	6
6	2	8	1	4	5	3	7	9
1	4	9	8	7	3	6	5	2
5	3	7	2	9	6	1	8	4
7	9	6	5	3	4	2	1	8
4	8	3	9	1	2	5	6	7
2	1	5	7	6	8	9	4	3

SUGURU

2	4	2	5	4	2
3	1	3	1	3	1
5	2	4	5	2	5
1	3	1	3	1	4
2	4	2	4	5	3
3	1	3	1	2	1

FUTOSHIKI

3	5	2	1	4
2	1	5	4	3
1	3	4	2	5
4	2	3	5	1
5	4	1	3	2

ACROSS: 13 Classic car. 14 Proctor. 15 Oblige. 16 Lavish. 17 Upbraid. 18 Admit. 19 Gags. 20 Shoal. 21 Trill. 22 Riding. 23 Poise. 28 Buttery. 30 Affixed. 33 Antiserum. 36 Rub out. 38 Ounce. 39 Exile. 40 Exceed. 42 Bluff. 43 Obvious. 44 Drag up. 46 Eats. 49 Oppo. 51 Latest. 53 Risible. 55 Avert. 59 Cordon. 60 Noose. 61 Trice. 62 Molten.

GIANT CROSSWORD

63 Pinstripe. 65 Pet name. 66 Dismiss. 70 Decor. 71 Endive. 73 Cloak. 75 Flick. 80 Chin. 82 Litre. 83 Twisted. 84 Remote. 85 Orders. 86 Charade. 87 Out of sight.

DOWN: 1 Bleach. 2 Aspirant. 3 Fishy. 4 Acquire. 5 Tribal. 6 Speak. 7 Border. 8 Strands. 9 Prominence. 10 Coati. 11 Flagpole. 12 Agog. 24 Student. 25 Trite.

26 Fired up. 27 Line-ups. 29 Usual. 31 Fungi. 32 Ever. 34 Wombat. 35 Tier. 37 Offload. 41 Chervil. 45 Gullet. 47 Plenary. 48 Biltong. 50 Provide. 52 Slog. 54 Idiom. 56 Reels. 57 Fete. 58 Ambit. 60 Nip and tuck. 64 Spoonfed. 67 Milkmaid. 68 Give way. 69 Mandate. 72 Entrap. 74 Lotion. 76 Catchy. 77 Flesh. 78 Riven. 79 Croft. 81 Hard.

PUZZLE PRIZE WINNERS

Saturday, April 13

Giant Crossword: £750 to David Bliss, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Week beginning April 15

Daily Sudoku: £500 to John Dear, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Daily Word Search: £500 to Jennifer Hayward, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hants.

Daily Codeword: £750 to Mr R. Plumpton, Warrington, Cheshire.

Daily Cryptic Crossword: £500 to Alistair Christie Hill, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Weekly Accumulator: Luxury Cross pen to Robert Jones, Morley, W. Yorks.

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Wed 19 Cádiz, Spain

Fri 21 Arrecife, Lanzarote

Sat 22 Las Palmas, Gran Canaria

MARCH 2025

Sun 2 Philipsburg, St. Maarten (depart late night)

Mon 3 Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands

Tue 4 - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (arrive late pm – overnight – depart early pm)

Wed 5 Known for its pristine beaches, lush rainforests and rich colonial heritage, it's a destination that invites travellers to explore its diverse terrain, indulge in its culinary delights and immerse themselves in the rhythms of merengue and bachata

Fri 7 Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

Sun 9 - Puerto Limón, Costa Rica (overnight)

Mon 10 Costa Rica's overwhelming natural beauty attracts visitors from all over the world. Extraordinarily vibrant birds, inquisitive primates and reef-dwelling marine life exist within its protected national parks and biological reserves, untouched by mass tourism. Explore the lush rainforests, mangrove swamps, numerous volcanoes and crystalline waters of this Central American isthmus, then meet the laidback 'Ticos' locals that call it home

Thu 13 Cozumel, Mexico (depart early pm)

Fri 14 Belize City, Belize

Sat 15 Roatan Island, Honduras

Mon 17 Port Royal, Jamaica

Located in one of the oldest regions of Jamaica, Port Royal has a colourful history and was known for being a pirate hub in the Caribbean during the 17<sup>th</sup> century

Fri 21 Hamilton, Bermuda

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# City & Finance

City Editor: Alex Brummer

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## £31bn

### Takeover bid that Anglo American is fending off

# Almost beyond redemption

**A**SK a fund manager investing in UK shares what is his or her biggest problem and the answer you are likely to get is: redemption.

The investment gurus are not seeking absolution for their sins, financial or otherwise. They are, however, pointing to a crisis of confidence in the UK stock market.

Redemption is the technical term for investors pulling their money out of a fund.

Over the past months and years, redemptions by small savers from funds that invest in UK shares have been taking place on a worrying scale.

March was the 32nd month in a row where there were net withdrawals from UK equity funds by British private investors, according to the Investment Association.

Savers took out more than £13.5bn in 2023, which was the worst year on record, on top of £12bn the year before.

The exodus is terrible for the UK stock market and the wider economy. This level

## Ruth Sunderland

GROUP BUSINESS EDITOR

of redemptions means fund managers don't have the cash on hand to invest in up-and-coming British companies.

In open-ended funds, they are having to dip into resources to give savers their money back.

In order to buy into a new and potentially profitable opportunity, they would have to sell an existing holding.

If an opportunistic bidder comes along with a lowball offer for a UK company, fund managers are under pressure to accept, because they need the cash.

Instead of backing British companies,

small investors here are supporting foreign corporations, particularly in the US.

It happened on a grand – in both senses of the word – scale at Coutts.

The posh private bank used by the Royal Family has switched more than £2bn of its clients' money out of the London stock market and put it overseas. Unpatriotic, maybe, but it is hard to blame anyone, given the respective returns.

There is no great mystery as to the attractions of the US market.

Savers everywhere want to buy into the Magnificent Seven tech stocks: Amazon, Alphabet, Nvidia, Tesla, Meta, Microsoft and Apple.

**T**HE movement of money across the Atlantic is gathering pace.

The amount invested in US equity funds in the latest quarter is more than double the £625m that sloshed in during the final three months of 2023.

As broker AJ Bell puts it, the UK funds industry 'is going through a dark age'.

More than £50bn has been withdrawn

from the UK by small savers in the past two years, which is a shocker.

The various reforms put forward by the Government have gone nowhere.

The Great British Isa is a good idea in principle but unlikely in itself to turn the tide.

Bold moves are needed such as the scrapping of Stamp Duty on share purchases.

Another smart measure would be to raise the minimum contributions on auto-enrolment pensions. These stand at 3pc of qualifying earnings for an employee and 5pc for the employer, which is nowhere near adequate and should be doubled. That would provide investment capital and give people a better chance of a decent retirement.

Labour is attempting to exploit the loss of credibility the Tories suffered in the financial world in the Truss-Kwarteng interlude.

The party has gone so far as to state in its plan for financial services that it will 'unashamedly champion' the sector as 'one of the UK's greatest assets'.

We shall see, but someone needs to.

By Emily Hawkins

A FORMER business minister has urged officials to roll out the red carpet to convince Unilever to list its ice cream arm in London.

Ministers and London Stock Exchange bosses should take an 'activist approach' to ensure the UK doesn't miss out to Amsterdam or New York, Tory MP Greg Clark told the Daily Mail.

Six years ago, Clark was part of a charm offensive that persuaded the Magnum and Ben & Jerry's maker not to move its headquarters from London to Rotterdam.

The company was forced to back down after a public backlash from shareholders.

Now, the consumer goods giant is holding talks with three exchanges over a potential float of its £15bn ice cream arm.

Clark, who was business minister from 2016 to 2019, said: 'It was an important vote of confidence in the UK when Unilever chose London as its headquarters. At the time, the Government and the LSE were persuasive in communicating to shareholders and to the Board the advantages of a London listing. I hope that they are taking a similarly activist approach with this opportunity.'

A float in the US or Netherlands would be a kick in the teeth to the embattled City as it already faces a wave of departing firms.

London is the home of Unilever's listing and the birthplace of Wall's, which started in an Acton factory in 1922. So far UK offi-

## Former minister's plea on float...

# Don't let London lose out on Unilever

Sought after: Unilever wants to float its ice cream arm, promoted here by Eva Longoria

cial have not spared many details over how they plan to make the case for London.

But Unilever boss Hein Schumacher has confirmed there has been 'regular updates with people in [UK] government'. But

the Dutch government is confident it is a frontrunner due to commitments from Unilever in 2020 after it opted for the UK as its official base.

Last month Schumacher said he would look 'at all the options',

and 'dedicated project teams are progressing the work at pace'.

A decision will be taken over the next 18 months.

There are also fears a private equity predator will snap up the business.

## Royal Mail jobs safe in my hands, says Czech Sphinx

THE billionaire bidding for the Royal Mail has insisted he would not slash any jobs if he succeeds.

Daniel Kretinsky is preparing to table a new takeover offer ahead of a May 15 deadline.

The company, which was privatised in 2013, is struggling with heavy losses and missed delivery targets. But Kretinsky, known as the Czech Sphinx, has privately made assurances that there would be no compulsory redundancies as part of his plans.

He has also promised not to split up parent company International Distributions Services.

The reassurances come after the Communication Workers Union (CWU) wrote to Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch over its concerns that the bid 'could present a number of threats to both the workforce and the company'.

Last month Royal Mail rejected an 'opportunistic' £3.2bn bid – or 320p per share – from Kretinsky.

Shares are trading at a low price, closing at 275p on Friday.

By Emily Hawkins

LONDON'S junior market has seen its liquidity plunge as investors turn to the US.

Companies on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) have suffered from a 15.4pc fall in the average value of the daily trading of their shares.

This underscores wider con-

cerns about the UK stock market as firms continue to be snapped up by foreign predators or choose listings overseas. Average liquidity fell to £248,990

for the year to February – down from £294,300, according to accountancy firm UHY Hacker Young. It said the decrease was partly fuelled by British inves-

tors trading in stocks listed elsewhere – like tech stocks such as Nvidia.

Colin Wright, at UHY Hacker Young, said: 'Whilst AIM remains

a key trading platform, the drop in its liquidity shows that more needs to be done to help keep UK stock markets as attractive trading and investing venues.'

A stream of companies have given up their listings on AIM, falling by 70 to 738 at the end of March. Just one firm has joined while ten listed last year. In 2007 there were 1,700 companies.



# De Sousa breaks his duck in the Guineas

By **MARCUS TOWNEND**

THE resurrection of Silvestre De Sousa's career was complete when the 43-year-old landed his first Classic by winning the 1,000 Guineas on 28-1 shot Elmalka yesterday.

The three-time champion jockey only returned to racing in March after a 10-month ban for breaching Hong Kong's strict anti-betting rules. The last-to-first win on Roger Varian-trained Elmalka, who was only running for the third time, had a touch of fortune for De Sousa.

James Doyle was in the saddle when the filly was third in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury last month but his No 1 retainer with Wathnan Racing meant he was in France yesterday. Brazilian De Sousa said: 'I have been trying to win a Classic for so long, it is an amazing feeling to get one. I am picking up the leftover rides and working hard behind the scenes. 'I just want my opportunity back. I love British racing. It is my home. It is where I started out and where I want to finish one day.'

Elmalka was taken off her feet in the early stages but ate up the ground in the final furlong as she clawed back the eventual third Ramatuelle, who paid the price for hitting the front too early under Aurelien Lemaitre. Notable Speech, a 16-1 shot, beat Rosallion by a convincing length-and-a-half on Saturday to land the 2,000 Guineas. Favourite City Of Troy flopped and finished ninth.

BEVERLEY RTV	
<b>1.55</b> —EBF RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES (2) (2-Y-O) £30,000 added (£16,200) 5f (13)	
1 (7) AZUINTEJUNGLE N Tinkler 9-7.....R Scott	
2 (6) BOBBY JONES N Tinkler 9-7.....F McManoman	
3 (11) SPACE RAIDER Craig Lidster 9-7.....W Pyle	
4 (1) SPRING CORN 9 T Easterby 9-7.....D Allan	
5 (3) STIRRUP CUP T Easterby 9-7.....D Fentiman	
6 (12) 3 CALL ME HARSWELL 11 R Fell & S Murray 9-2 J Hart	
7 (10) GREEK GIFT K R Burke 9-2.....P-L Jamin	
8 (8) J STREET Craig Lidster 9-2.....T Eaves	
9 (13) 0 JUNO STAR 19 P McBride 9-2.....D Tudhope	
10 (9) 2 LARCHILL LASS 11 (BF) K R Burke 9-2.....C Lee	
11 (4) L OWT FOR NOWT 36 O Pears 9-2.....C Hardie	
12 (5) 4 STAT GODDESS 11 Craig Lidster 9-2.....S Gray	
13 (2) SYBARIS JEWEL B Ellison 9-2.....B Robinson	
Probable SP: 15-8 Larchill Lass, 4 Spring Corn, 5 Call Me Harswell, 10 Greek Gift, 14 J Street, Azuinte jungle.	
<b>2.30</b> —HANDICAP (5) (3-Y-O) £8,650 added (£4,527) 5f (10)	
1 (6) 00L- TICKTYBOO 257 N Tinkler 9-9.....R Scott	
2 (10) 38-4 WILLOLARI 12 (B) D Carroll 9-6.....H Shaw	
3 (4) 275- MECCA'S DUCHESS 195 M Dods 9-4.....C Beasley	
4 (1) 71-2 BRUMMELL 20 J Camacho 9-2.....Ryan Sexton	
5 (8) 93L- CROOKED CROWN 217 (D) (G) P Midgley 9-1.....P Mulrennan	
6 (3) 2L-7 VINTAGE LOVE 10 G Tuer 9-0.....S De Sousa	
7 (9) 633- LA LA LUCRATIVE 188 G Tutty 8-13.....S Gray	
8 (2) 635- QUEENS ROAD REVUE 281 T Easterby 8-11.....D Allan	
9 (7) 596- MALIBU SUNRISE 310 T Easterby 8-11.....D Fentiman	
10 (5) 4L-7 OUR NEIL 52 B Ellison 8-4.....C Hardie	
Probable SP: 7-2 Brummell, 5 Willoлари, 6 Mecca's Duchess, Queens Road Revue, 8 Vintage Love.	
<b>3.05</b> —HANDICAP (5) (3-Y-O) £8,650 added (£4,527) 7f 96yds (10)	
1 (3) 710- MIDNITE RUNNER 212 (D) M Dods 9-10.....C Beasley	
2 (2) 30L- BAZBALL 27 (V) (S) K R Burke 9-9.....A Breslin (3)	
3 (1) 8-41 PRINCESS ALEX 9 (D) (S) K R Burke 9-8.....C Lee	
4 (6) 433- PUELLA LAW 174 J & S Quinn 9-6.....J Hart	
5 (8) 51- KINDEST NATION 41 (D) H Palmer 9-6.....P Mulrennan	
6 (9) 8-35 MYSTERYOFTHESANDS 16 T Easterby 9-2.....D Allan	
7 (7) 551- KORROOR 230 (D) J Camacho 9-2 T Kiely-Marshall (7)	
8 (5) 66-3 BUTTERCROSS FLYER 10 (D) C Lidster 9-2 W Pyle (5)	
9 (10) 07L- ALFIE BOY 226 T Easterby 9-0.....S B Kirrane	
10 (4) 636- CASSANOS LAD 14 (V) (BF) M & D Easterby 8-10 B Garrity	
Probable SP: 4 Princess Alex, 9-2 Kindest Nation, 5 Puella Law, 6 Midnite Runner, 7 Korroor, 10 Mysteryofthesands.	
<b>3.40</b> —FILLIES' HANDICAP (5) £8,650 added (£4,527) 7f 96yds (13)	
1 (4) 7-13 HOSTELRY 18 (GS) R Carr 7-9-9.....Joanna Mason	
2 (10) 60-1 ARDBRACCAN 16 (PT) (D) (GS) M Appleby 5-9-9 F Larson (3)	
3 (11) L-6L SHANDY STAR 16 (BE) (S) R Fell & S Murray 4-9-9.....J Peate (3)	
4 (1) 312- GENTLE ELLEN 199 (S) (D) N Barron 5-9-8.....C Rodriguez	
5 (7) 97-1 PRINCESS NYLA 10 A Brown 4-9-8.....R Scott	
6 (9) 211 DO I DREAM 14 (S) B Haslam 5-9-5.....S Feilden (7)	
7 (5) 351- STRANGERONTHESHORE 213 (P) (C2) (G) N Tinkler 6-9-5.....F McManoman	
8 (2) 516 LAURA'S BREEZE 38 (D2) L Bailey 4-9-3.....B Garrity	
9 (6) 14-4 DANDY'S ANGEL 14 (C5D) (GS) J Wainwright 7-9-3.....Ryan Sexton	
10 (13) 3L-7 CLIPSHAM GOLD 44 (H) (D) (G) S G West 5-9-2.....Molly Gunn (7)	
11 (3) 95L INANNA 53 (D) Brian Toomey 4-9-0.....J Fanning	
12 (12) 413 POWDERING 23 (D) M Herrington 4-9-0.....T Eaves	
13 (8) 3L3 WILLOW BABY 9 J Ward 4-8-10.....S De Sousa	
Probable SP: 7-2 Ardbaccan, 4 Do I Dream, 6 Gentle Ellen, 7 Hostelry, 8 Willow Baby, 10 Laura's Breeze.	
<b>TRACK FACTS:</b> R-H course. GOING: Soft-good to soft in places. STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low, particularly in sprints. Top jockey: Daniel Tudhope. Top trainer: T Easterby. First run since wind surgery: 4.50 Missmimi. Headgear first time: 2.30 Willoлари, 4.15 Coloane, Gordonstoun,	

ROBIN GOODFELLOW

1.55 Larchill Lass  
2.30 Vintage Love  
3.05 Princess Alex  
3.40 Ardbaccan  
4.15 Mister Sox  
4.50 She's Got Bottle  
5.25 Seahorse Syd

GIMCRACK

1.55 Larchill Lass  
2.30 BRUMMELL (nap)  
3.05 Midnite Runner  
3.40 Gentle Ellen  
4.15 Mister Sox  
4.50 Calcutta Dream  
5.25 Pearl Sands

NORTHERNER - 1.55 LARCHILL LASS (nap);  
2.30 Brummell (nb).

4.15—HANDICAP (6) £8,150 added (£4,266) 7f  
96yds (10)

1 (7) 6-01 SWATCH (Silbex) 8 (S) Alice Haynes 5-10-2S De Sousa  
2 (10) 3-92 MISTER SOX 10 (P) (D) (S) T Easterby 4-9-11..D Allan  
3 (2) L57 TO THE BAR 10 (PT) (D3) A Haynes 6-9-9..T Jakes (5)  
4 (8) 3-75 ORIGINAL THINKER 10 (P) H Bethell 4-9-9..J Fanning  
5 (4) 2-42 EY UP ITS JAZZ 9 (DBF2) (S) T Coyle & K Wood 5-9-8.....T Eaves  
6 (3) L-64 GORDONSTOUN 4 (TV) (D3) (GS) L Bailey 6-9-7 D Tudhope  
7 (9) 624 HEADABOVETHEREST 4 (T) R Menzies 4-9-7..P Mulrennan  
8 (5) 856 DR RIO 12 (C&D) (GS) D Carroll 8-9-3.....H Shaw  
9 (1) L5-7 COLOANE 10 (H) R Fell & S Murray 4-9-2.....J Hart  
10 (6) 7LL TWILIGHT JAZZ 7 (P) (D) P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 4-9-12 G Wood

Probable SP: 9-4 Swatch, 7-2 Mister Sox, 5 Ey Up Its Jazz,  
8 Headabovetherest, 10 Original Thinker.

4.50—HANDICAP (6) £8,650 added (£4,527) 1m  
100yds (12)

1 (9) 761 SHE'S GOT BOTTLE (Silbex) 5 (C&D) (S) R Fell & S Murray 5-10-0 D Tudhope  
2 (7) 350 ROSE-AID 27 G Tutty 4-9-9.....R Scott  
3 (10) 038 DOUGIES DREAM 28 (P) (D4) (S) N Tinkler 5-9-8.....F McManoman  
4 (1) 68-6 SUNNY ORANGE 12 (P) (G) T Easterby 4-9-8.....D Allan  
5 (11) 5-06 MOUSH 11 (P) L Bailey 4-9-7.....B Garrity  
6 (6) L98 RUN SIMBA 10 (P) R Menzies 4-9-6.....K Stott  
7 (12) 214 CALCUTTA DREAM 18 (H) M & D Easterby 6-9-4.....J Mason  
8 (3) 774 DISTINCTION 34 (V) (S) J Mackie 6-9-3.....C Beasley  
9 (4) 8L- L JOSIEBOND 209 (P) (C&D) (GS) M Walford 8-8-13J Hart  
10 (2) 620- CLOUTHERHOLME 169 (HP) (C&D) (GS) Mrs A Duffield 7-8-10 J Fanning  
11 (5) 0-6P CAPERNOITY 3 P Niven 4-8-9.....C Hardie  
12 (8) 6L-6 MISSMIMI 244 Miss T Jackson 4-8-9.....JP Sullivan

Probable SP: 3 She's Got Bottle, 5 Calcutta Dream,  
7 Distinction, Sunny Orange, 8 Clouterholme.

5.25—HANDICAP (6) (3-Y-O) £8,150 added  
 (£4,266) 1m If 207yds (6)

1 (5) 0-76 SPARTAN WARRIOR 14 (P) Ollie Sangster 9-11 K Stott  
2 (2) 617- SEAHORSE SYD 192 (B) (D) O Pears 9-10.....C Hardie  
3 (1) 64-L PEARL SANDS 79 B Ellison 9-7.....B Robinson  
4 (4) 154 PATRONAGE 13 N Tinkler 9-3.....R Scott  
5 (6) L-87 MISS GALIWAY 13 Harry Eustace 9-0.....P-L Jamin  
6 (3) L90 TURKISH TIGER 8 B Rothwell 8-12.....W Pyle (5)

Probable SP: 13-8 Pearl Sands, 3 Patronage, 4 Spartan  
Warrior, 5 Seahorse Syd, 8 Miss Galway.

4.50 Moush, 5.25 Spartan Warrior. Longest travel-  
ler: Spartan Warrior (5.25) 208 miles. Drop in Class:  
2.30 Ticktyboo is down 3 grades on last run (Class  
2 to Class 5); 3.05 Midnite Runner (3); Alfie Boy (2);  
5.25 Pearl Sands (2).

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HAMILTON	
2.05 — CAPITAL THEORY (J Fanning) 11-4(2ndFav) 1; Euchen Glen 10-1 2; Two Brothers 7-2 3. 6 ran. (C Johnston). 4/4. 4/4. Tote: 3.75; 1.90, 3.90. Ex: 23.10. Tf: 83.50. CSF: 27.35. NR: Sir Chauvelin.	
2.35 — AIRMAN (D Nolan) 4-1 1; Gaenari 5-4F 2; Capo Vaticano 9-4(2ndFav) 3. 7 ran. (R Fahey). nk. 1/4. Tote: 5.00; 2.20, 1.20. Ex: 10.90. Tf: 17.30. CSF: 9.27.	
3.10 — GISELLES IZZY (A Mullen) 11-2 1; Honour Your Dreams 10-3 2; Son Of Sangers 3-1(2ndFav) 3. 6 ran. (I Jardine). hd, ns. Tote: 7.00; 2.60, 1.80. Ex: 25.00. Tf: 61.10. CSF: 23.04.	
3.50 — MY LITTLE QUEENS (J Garrity) 6-4F 1; Bulldog Spirit 9-1 2; Jaminoz 10-1 3. 8 ran. (R Fahey). 4/4. nk. Tote: 2.50; 2.60, 1.10, 2.90. Ex: 17.30. Tf: 101.08. Tf: 105.80. CSF: 16.34.	
4.23 — ARKENSTAAR (C Beasley) 2-1F 1; Natzor 16-5(2ndFav) 2; Black Friday 17-2 3. 7 ran. (M Dods). 1/4. hd. Tote: 3.00; 1.60, 1.90. Ex: 8.40. Tf: 42.13. Tf: 39.90. CSF: 8.44. NR: Detective.	
4.58 — GOOD MORNING ALEX (P Mulrennan) 11-8F 1; Emu War 11-1 2; Naturalia 25-1 3. 8 ran. (D & N Barron). 5l, hd. Tote: 2.38; 1.10, 2.40, 4.60. Ex: 13.90. Tf: 264.28. Tf: 133.40. CSF: 18.69.	
5.30 — CATHERINE CHROI (A Mullen) 5-4F 1; Stormy Pearl 7-2 2; Burj Malinka 3-1(2ndFav) 3. 7 ran. (I Jardine). 2l, nk. Tote: 2.25; 1.20, 1.90. Ex: 5.90. Tf: 10.51. Tf: 11.20. CSF: 6.09. NR: Conquest Of Power.	
<b>Placepot</b> £64.00. <b>Q'pot</b> £10.30.	
<b>NEWMARKET</b>	
1.50 — FRIENDLY SOUL (K Shoemark) 10-1 1; Kalpana 4-6F 2; Kitteridge 22-1 3. 8 ran. (J & T Gosden). 1/4. 12l. Tote: 11.00;	

RACING RESULTS	
1.90, 1.01, 5.00. Ex: 22.60. Tf: 306.70. CSF: 17.36.	
2.25 — STAY ALERT (David Egan) 5-1 1; Running Lion 6-4F 2; Caernarfon 7-1 3. 6 ran. (H Morrison). 3/4. 5/4. Tote: 6.00; 2.70, 1.85. Ex: 15.00. Tf: 57.70. CSF: 12.34. NR: Novus.	
3.00 — BAGUE D'OR (M Barzalona) 6-1 1; Vaguely Royal 16-1 2; Intino 11-2(2ndFav) 3. 11 ran. (J Ferguson). 1/4. nk. Tote: 7.30; 2.45, 3.65, 2.25. Ex: 103.50. Tf: 566.24. Tf: 423.20. CSF: 99.97. NR: Torcello.	
3.40 — ELMALKA (S De Sousa) 28-1 1; Porta Fortuna 11-1 2; Ramatuelle 9-2(2ndFav) 3. 16 ran. (R Varian). nk, shd. Tote: 44.10; 10.30, 3.50, 2.40. Ex: 402.30. Tf: 1160.10. Tf: 5556.10. CSF: 297.10.	
4.15 — MOUNTAIN BREEZE (W Buick) 7-4F 1; River Seine 11-2 2; Miss Collada 14-1 3. 10 ran. (C Appleby). 2/4. hd. Tote: 2.75; 1.01, 2.25, 4.55. Ex: 10.70. Tf: 155.80. CSF: 11.38.	
4.50 — THE ACTOR (S M Levey) 11-4(2ndFav) 1; Tropical Storm 6-1 2; Al Qudra 9-2 3. 7 ran. (R Hannon). nk, 1/4. Tote: 3.75; 1.60, 2.75. Ex: 19.20. Tf: 59.40. CSF: 18.03.	
5.25 — BLACK RUN (T Marquand) 9-2 1; Sun God 9-1 2; Sea The Thunder 9-4F 3. 7 ran. (P & O Cole). 1/4. 6l. Tote: 5.50; 2.35, 5.15. Ex: 41.20. Tf: 152.00. CSF: 43.14.	
Jackpot Not won, pool of £14,368.80 carried over.	
<b>Placepot</b> £61.10. <b>Q'pot</b> £21.30.	

SALISBURY	
2.10 — DAKOTA POWER (Miss Megan Jordan) 9-1 1; Amaysmont 9-2(2ndFav) 2; Beau Jardine 6-1 3. 13 ran. (R Teal). 2l, 2/4. Tote: 11.40; 3.20, 2.10, 2.40. Ex: 73.50. Tf: 282.37. Tf: 427.40. CSF: 48.27. NR: Inclement Weather.	
2.40 — RUNNING QUEEN (C Fallon) 10-3 1; Betty Clover 5-2JFav 2; Convo 5-2JFav 3. 7 ran. (Ollie Sangster). 1/4. 3/4. Tote: 4.34; 1.80, 1.60. Ex: 11.70. Tf: 30.40. CSF: 11.88. NRs: Fondest Dream, Fregola.	
3.20 — SUB THIRTEEN (W Carson) 4-1 1; Connie's Rose 3-1(2ndFav) 2; Safari Dream 11-4F 3. 5 ran. (A Carroll). ns, 2l. Tote: 5.00; 2.00, 2.00. Ex: 14.80. Tf: 36.70. CSF: 15.75.	
3.55 — FAST SOCIETY (R Homby) 7-4F 1; King's Scholar 6-1 2; Synthesize 10-1 3. 7 ran. (A Balding). 2/4. 1/4. Tote: 2.75; 1.20, 2.80. Ex: 6.70. Tf: 60.80. CSF: 12.51. NRs: Ever Driven, Spartan Times.	
4.30 — KOTARI (Jason Watson) 11-8F 1; Hakuna Babe 13-8(2ndFav) 2; Mildyama 12-1 3. 5 ran. (G & J Moore). 10l, 3/4. Tote: 2.38; 1.10, 1.40. Ex: 3.50. Tf: 12.50. CSF: 3.93. NR: Pride Of Nepal.	
5.05 — SAM HAWKENS (R Kingscote) 4-9F 1; Marhaba Million 2-1(2ndFav) 2; Wahoo King 33-1 3. 4 ran. (R Hannon). 4/4. 10l. Tote: 1.45; Ex: 1.30. Tf: 1.90. CSF: 1.53.	
5.35 — WARRANTY (T Whelan) 7-1 1; Young Merlin 9-2 2; Basillette 2-1F 3. 9 ran. (Miss S West). 55l, 55l. Tote: 8.00; 1.90, 1.40, 1.30. Ex: 33.30. Tc: 86.02. Tf: 139.30. CSF: 37.48.	
<b>Placepot</b> £31.20. <b>Q'pot</b> £4.60.	

BATH SSR	
<b>2.15</b> —HANDICAP (6) (3-Y-O) £5,700 added (£2,983) 5f 160yds (10)	
1 (5) 534 IT'S SHOWTIME 11 (B) C Allen 9-10.....L Morris	
2 (9) 23-3 FOREVER EIGHTEEN 20 (BF2) N Tinkler 9-10.....A Jary (5)	
3 (8) 52-4 ANGLESEY LAD 37 D Loughnane 9-8.....Laura Pearson	
4 (1) 455 SMOOTH SILESIE 9 L Williamson 9-8.....Billy Loughnane	
5 (4) 09-0 LADY TWILIGHT 33 G & J Moore 9-6.....R Hornby	
6 (6) 37-6 FORGOTTEN TREASURE 18 W Knight 9-4.....C Fallon	
7 (3) 6-75 MONKEY MISS 18 D & C Kubler 9-4.....R Kingscote	
8 (2) 290 BIRKIE BOY 19 (G) J S Moore 9-0.....Millie Wonnacott (5)	
9 (7) 460 TRES CHIC 14 (S) J S Moore 9-0.....Sharq Mohd (7)	
10 (10) 857 MAJOLICA 18 S Hodgson 9-0.....Alfie Redman (7)	
Probable SP: 5-2 Forever Eighteen, 5 Anglesey Lad, 6 Forgotten Treasure, 7 It's Showtime, Monkey Miss.	
<b>2.50</b> —MAIDEN STAKES (4) (2-Y-O) £9,650 added (£5,211) 5f 10yds (9)	
1 (8) BANK ON KENT P Evans 9-7.....A Rawlinson	
2 (2) DISTANT RUMBLE R Teal 9-7.....C Fallon	
3 (4) 46 MAJESTIC HEIGHTS 21 R Hannon 9-7.....J Leavy (5)	
4 (3) RED SANDS A Walker 9-7.....Billy Loughnane	
5 (5) SIEGEN R Hannon 9-7.....P Dobbs	
6 (2) STAR ANTHEM 17 C Cox 9-7.....R Kingscote	
7 (1) HARMONIA 14 P Evans 9-7.....F Marsh	
8 (7) JANE GARFIELD S Kirk 9-2.....L Keniry	
9 (9) TOOLATONEGOTIATE Daisy Hitchens 9-2.....T Whelan	
Probable SP: 11-10 Star Anthem, 9-2 Siegen, 6 Red Sand, 10 Majestic Heights, 12 Bank On Kent, 14 Distant Rumble.	
<b>3.25</b> —HANDICAP (6) £5,700 added (£2,983) 5f 10yds (9)	
1 (2) 5-32 PROFIT AND LOSS 21 (T) (D2) (G) G Baker 5-9-11.....A Keeley (3)	
2 (4) 30-2 JOY CHOI 8 (D) (S) M Saunders 6-9-10.....J Gordon	
3 (1) 73-7 SYMBOL OF HOPE 14 (P) (C&D3C2D) (GS) J & R Flint 6-9-9 J Leavy (5)	
4 (3) 34-5 UNDER CURFEW 16 (C&D3) (G) A Carroll 8-9-8.....Jack Doughty (7)	
5 (7) 73L AUTUMN ANGEL 21 (C) A Carroll 5-9-8.....L Morris	
6 (5) 147 SISTERS IN THE SKY 13 (P) (S) G Harris 5-9-4.....F Marsh	
7 (6) 451 VIEWFROMTHESTARS 25 (V) (D) M Usher 5-9-1.....Alicia Perkins (7)	
8 (8) 24-5 WE'RE REUNITED 26 (B) (C&D) (G) M Blake 7-8-13.....Billy Loughnane	
9 (9) 454 LIBERTY BAY 26 (D) (S) M Usher 6-8-11.....G Rooke	
Probable SP: 5-2 Profit And Loss, And Joy Choe, 5 Viewfromthestars, 7 Under Curfew, 8 Sisters In The Sky.	
<b>4.00</b> —HANDICAP (5) £7,100 added (£3,716) 1m 2f 37yds (11)	
1 (11) 355- MIDSUMMER MUSIC 174 R Teal 4-9-10.....J Leavy (5)	
2 (2) 323 CIOTOG 58 (C2) M Loughnane 6-9-9.....Billy Loughnane	
3 (6) 826 MOONLIT CLOUD 23 (C&D2BF2) (GS) D Ivory 6-9-9.....L Keniry	
4 (8) L11- AFLOAT 270 (H) (D2) (GS) R Guest 4-9-9.....C Fallon	
5 (5) 2-24 STAGE SHOW 18 Alexandra Dunn 4-9-7.....F Marsh	
6 (10) 156- CARP KID 244 (P) (C&D4) (GS) J & R Flint 9-9-6.....W Cox	
7 (1) 2LL- GALLIMMUS 192 (P) (D3) (G) J Gallagher 4-9-6.....J Mitchell	
8 (7) 9-67 CELEBRATING ETHEL 21 A Carroll 5-9-4.....J Gordon	
9 (3) 355 BLOODHOUND 15 C Hills 4-9-3.....R Kingscote	
10 (9) 324 HOTAUGUSTNIGHT 8 (P) S Hosie 4-9-3.....L Morris	
11 (4) 42-6 ROYAL TOAST 21 A Carroll 4-9-2.....Millie Wonnacott (5)	
Probable SP: 4 Afloat, 5 Ciotog, Bloodhound, 6 Midsummer Music, 8 Hotaugustnight, 10 Moonlit Cloud.	
<b>TRACK FACTS:</b> L-H course. GOING: Good to soft-soft in places. STALLS: 5f & 6f centre; remainder inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints. Top	

ROBIN GOODFELLOW

2.15 Forever Eighteen

2.50 Star Anthem

3.25 Under Curfew

4.00 Afloat

4.35 Fleurir

5.10 Amerigo Vespucci

5.45 ANDROMEDAS KINGDOM (nap)

GIMCRACK

2.15 Anglesey Lad

2.50 Star Anthem

3.25 Joy Choi

4.00 Afloat

4.35 Fleurir

5.10 Bramble Jelly

5.45 Moon Over The Sea

4.35—HANDICAP (4) £9,500 added (£4,972) 1m (8)

1 (6) 27-L LUT TOSS 21 (H) James Owen 4-9-11..... A Keeley (3)

2 (5) 320- LUNATICK 184 (D) H Morrison 4-9-6..... R Hornby

3 (2) LL-7 SIGNCASTLE CITY 11 (G) R Hannon 4-9-6..... P Dobbs

4 (3) 621- FLEURIR 281 (D) (S) R Varian 4-9-6..... J Mitchell

5 (8) 23-L SECRET STRENGTH 21 (P) (G) & J R Flint 5-9-2..... W Cox

6 (7) 11-5 RING OF LIGHT 21 (D) H Candy 6-8-13..... T Whelan

7 (1) 726- ON THE CARDS 129 M Tregoning 4-8-11 B Loughnane

8 (4) 258- MAWADA J179 A Wintle 4-8-10..... F Marsh

Probable SP: 6-4 Fleurir, 11-2 Hat Toss, 6 On The Cards, Signcastle City, 7 Lunatick, 8 Ring of Light.

5.10—HANDICAP (6) (3-Y-0) £5,700 added (£2,983) 1m (12)

1 (10) 8L-5 NEWFANGLED 19 J Portman 9-11..... R Hornby

2 (2) 76-8 BEACH POINT 19 (BF) W Knight 9-11..... C Fallon

3 (9) 94-9 TOMORROW DAY 17 (T) M Usher 9-9..... T Heard (3)

4 (3) 87-6 RUNNING DEAL 26 J Portman 9-9..... Olivia Tubb (7)

5 (5) 7-64 MEET ME IN MERAKI 26 P Evans 9-7..... R Kingscote

6 (11) 788 KEEN INTEREST 36 Alice Haynes 9-7..... K O'Neill

7 (4) L9-L WESTON COURT 14 R Harris 9-7..... L Keniry

8 (8) 57-3 BRAMBLE JELLY 7 D F Davis 9-6..... O Lewis (7)

9 (7) 641 AMERIGO VESPUCCI 13 (PT) (D) (G) R Newland & J Insole 9-6 Billy Loughnane

10 (1) 626- CLEAR JUSTICE 181 (P) G & J Moore 9-3..... L Morris

11 (6) 77L ESCAPE THE GRAPE 37 (P) T Ward 9-3..... T Whelan

12 (12) LLL C'EST ENCORE 54 (E) S Hodgson 9-3..... W Cox

Probable SP: 3 Amerigo Vespucci, 7-2 Bramble Jelly, 5 Beach Point, 6 Newfangled, 8 Meet Me In Meraki.

5.45—HANDICAP (6) £5,700 added (£2,983) 1m (13)

1 (6) 8LL DEVORE 75 (P) M Loughnane 4-9-11..... Billy Loughnane

2 (1) 332 MOON OVER THE SEA 23 (C&DBF) (S) A Carroll 5-9-9 Jack Doughty (7)

3 (2) L2-6 GALACTIC GLOW 17 (PT) (C3) (G) J Tickle 7-9-9..... T Fisher (3)

4 (3) 7L9- DOURADO 145 (V) (D3) (GS) P Chamingos 10-9-9..... L Keniry

5 (9) 14-1 ANDROMEDAS KINGDOM (5lbex) 8 (C&DD) (S) M Appleby 6-9-9 L Morris

6 (7) 0-56 BHUBEZI 8 (V) P Chamingos 6-9-8..... T Heard (3)

7 (13) 46/4 JAMES PARK WOODS 16 (D) (S) D F Davis 8-9-6..... O Lewis (7)

8 (12) L-65 DAPPLED LIGHT 32 (D) A Wintle 4-9-5..... F Marsh

9 (4) 328- PURPLE POPPY 163 J Fox 6-9-4..... Georgia Dobie (3)

10 (11) L9- LSAO TIMOTHY 17 (H) R Stephens 4-9-0..... R Kingscote

11 (8) 896 WOOD FARM WAG 7 (B) Mrs N Evans 4-9-0..... J Bryan

12 (10) 0-L6 DANESFORT 8 (P) A Wintle 5-9-0..... G Rooke

13 (5) 7L8 MUSAYTIR 26 (P) G Harris 6-9-0..... K O'Neill

Probable SP: 3 Moon Over The Sea, 4 Andromedas Kingdom, 7 Sao Timothy, Dappled Light, 8 James Park Woods.

jockey: Liam Keniry. Top trainer: C Cox. Placed in the race last year: 3.25 Symbol of Hope (1st). Head-gear first time: 5.10 Escape The Grape, Tomorrow Day, 5.45 Danesfort, Wood Farm Wag. Longest traveller: Forever Eighteen (2.15) 217 miles. Drop in Class: None today. First run since wind surgery: 4.00 Midsummer Music.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW

2.55 Ryan's Rocket

3.30 Ideal Des Bordes

4.05 Quick Draw

4.40 Art Of Diplomacy

5.15 Onemoreforthorad

5.50 InouI Machin

GIMCRACK

2.55 Excelero

3.30 Fasol

4.05 Quick Draw

4.40 Art Of Diplomacy

5.15 Onemoreforthorad

5.50 Playtogetaway

4.40—HANDICAP HURDLE (4) £10,000 added (£5,281) 3m 110yds (10)

1 22-1 ART OF DIPLOMACY 39 (D2) (S) P & M Bowen 8-12-0 C Hammond

2 125- HONNEUR D'AJONC 40 (P) (GS) Mrs J Williams 7-11-11..... Ciaran Gettings

3 11-4 TZARIMIX 176 (T) (S) Jonjo & A O'Neill 6-11-10..... M Kendrick

4 3L-6 KEPAGE 45 (TV) (S) D Pipe 10-11-10..... J Tudor

5 75-4 GETALEAD 15 (T) (S) K Pickard 8-11-7..... H Cobden

6 18-3 ISLAND RUN 35 (D) (S) P Hobbs & J White 7-11-5..... M G Nolan

7 L17- SAN PEDRO 22 (P) (D2) (S) C Gordon 7-11-5 F Gordon (5)

8 021- REDBRIDGE RAMBLER 43 (M) K Keighley 6-11-5 H Atkins (7)

9 5L-6 HALIFAX 10 (PT) (D) G Harris 7-11-3..... C Ring

10 L31- FOXINTHEBOX 714 (D) O Murphy 8-11-0..... L Stones (3)

Probable SP: 4 Art Of Diplomacy, 11-2 Island Run, 6 Redbridge Rambler, 7 Honneur D'Ajonc, Kepage, Foxinthebox.



# 'We worry someone is going to drive their car off the M1'

## Exhausted players hit out at relentless schedule

**T**HREE-QUARTERS of England's male professional cricket stars fear for their safety when travelling home late after matches, with the players' union urging the ECB to come up with a less congested fixture list to avoid a 'disaster' at the wheel.

The revelation comes after the Professional Cricketers' Association canvassed opinion from the 18 first-class counties, with 81 per cent of players arguing the schedule 'causes physical concerns' and 76 per cent worried about 'unsafe travel'.

The domestic calendar, said a PCA statement, was 'not fit for purpose'. Former Test captain Joe Root said: 'The creation of minimum standards to protect travel windows and player

By **LAWRENCE BOOTH**  
Wisden Editor

welfare is non-negotiable.' Amid evidence of cricketers almost falling asleep at the wheel and one player driving half a dozen team-mates around in a minivan, the main area of concern is the T20 Blast, with 2024 seeing 52 instances of teams playing matches on successive days.

Warwickshire, for instance, who take part in the tournament as Birmingham Bears, play a floodlit game at Chester-le-Street on May 31, then have to drive 200 miles south for a game the next day at Edgbaston.

'Back-to-back games have gone up considerably and are only looked at through a commercial lens,' said Daryl Mitchell, the PCA chief operating officer. 'There needs to be balance. Over 10 per cent of our membership accessed our mental health

services last year. The relentless schedule is a factor. There are reports of players who have got off the team bus, driven home and forgotten how they got there.

'Our CEO, Rob Lynch, is worried about getting a call in the early hours when someone has driven off the M1. It scares us.'

The PCA also believe a bigger gap between games will raise standards.

Root said: 'You're trying to find a way of getting county cricket as close as you can to the international game.

'There's a large number of players who don't think the schedule is conducive to high-level performance. If we can make players safer and the output a higher quality, English cricket is going to be winning.'

An ECB spokesman said: 'The players have an important voice in discussions around this and we are committed to working with them and first-class counties.'



## ARCHER SENDS STUMPS FLYING

**JOFRA ARCHER** continued his preparations for next month's T20 World Cup with a match-winning all-round performance in helping Barbados club side Wildey to a domestic final.

Archer, recently named in England's 15-man provisional squad both for the World Cup and the four-match T20 series against Pakistan that precedes it, wore his England helmet and smashed 54 not out from 20 balls with five sixes, for his third successive half-century to help his team

to 191 for six against Carlton. He then took three for 16 to set up a 33-run win and ease Wildey into the final of the Barbados T20 Cup, which will happen after he flies home. One of his wickets went viral when a Carlton batsman had his off-stump blown away and it cartwheeled spectacularly. Archer, who has not played for England since March 2023, will begin his World Cup build-up in earnest in the Pakistan series, which starts at Headingley on May 22.

**LAWRENCE BOOTH**

### WINDSOR SSR

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
2.00 Charlie Mason	2.00 Charlie Mason
2.35 Haya	2.35 Usuario Amigo (nb)
3.10 Vibrato	3.10 Vibrato
3.45 Luciento	3.45 College Choir
4.20 Sergeant Pep (nb)	4.20 Stone Circle
4.55 Theworldsnotenough	4.55 Calm Waters
5.30 On Edge	5.30 On Edge
6.00 Storm Valley	6.00 Dubai Immo

NEWMARKET - 2.35 Usuario Amigo (nb); 3.45 COLLEGE CHOIR (nap).

### 2.00 -CAMERON SMART MEMORIAL HANDICAP (5) (3-Y-0)

101 (5) 2232-21	DIFFERENT BREED 103 S Hodgson 9-9	W Carver (3)
102 (6) 2432L-3	JOHNNY JOHNSON 30 B Millman 9-5	R Coakley
103 (2) 618-813	CYPRIOI DIASPORA 2 (DBF) (S) B Millman 9-4	NON RUNNER
104 (4) L64	DARK FANDANGO 282 C Hills 9-3	H Doyle
105 (3) 84513-2	KISS AND RUN 17 (D) (S) R Cook & J Bridger 9-2	D Probert
106 (1) 21437-7	CHARLIE MASON 17 (D) A Carroll 8-13	Rossa Ryan

Probable SP: 7-2 Different Breed, 5-2 Kiss And Run, 9-2 Dark Fandango, 5 Johnny Johnson, 8 Charlie Mason.

FAVOURITES: - - - 1 2 - 3 0 (W 9-4).

2023: Hiatus 3 9 6 (Kevin Stott) 5-1 C Allen drawn (3) 8 ran.

### 2.35 -GABBY FULLBROOK MEMORIAL NOVICE STAKES (DIV 1) (5)

201 (6) 20-	QUIET SEA 333 (H) Harry Charlton 4-9-11	D Muscutt
202 (4) 6-5	BIG LOU 13 A Watson 3-9-3	H Doyle
205 (5) 55	FORTNUM 17 G Boughiey 3-9-3	Grace McEntee (3)
206 (12) 5	GILDED WATER 18 W Haggas 3-9-3	T Marquand
207 (10) 74	HUTCHENCE 144 R Beckett 3-9-3	H Crouch
208 (11) 5-8	MILETUS 16 C Hills 3-9-3	Rossa Ryan
209 (13) 87	TIME TESTED 13 M Bell 3-9-3	Jay Mackay (7)
210 (9) 3	USUARIO AMIGO 20 James Owen 3-9-3	C Shepherd
211 (3) 42-3	HAYA 29 (BF) A Balding 3-8-12	D Probert
212 (2) 0L	POST MISTRESS 144 H Morrison 3-8-12	G Bass (3)
213 (1) 5-8	MILETUS 16 C Hills 3-9-3	Rossa Ryan

Probable SP: 7-2 Usuario Amigo, 9-2 I Can't Believe, 5 Haya, 13-2 Quiet Sea, 7 Hutchence, 15-2 Gilded Water, 10 Anyhdous, 14 Miletus, 16 Big Lou.

FAVOURITES: - - - 1 0 - 1 1 1 AGES: - - - 3 - 3 - 3 3

2023: Royal Cape 3 9 3 (Oisín Murphy) 1-2 Fav H Morrison drawn (3) 9 ran.

### 3.10 -GABBY FULLBROOK MEMORIAL NOVICE STAKES (DIV 2) (5)

301 (13) L6	ACHERNAR 33 (T) H Palmer 4-10-2	H Davies
302 (11) 7	A MAJOR PAYNE 18 M Bell 3-9-3	H Crouch
303 (2) 6	GALYX 16 J Channon 3-9-3	C Bishop
304 (9) 15-	LETMEBETHBOSS 247 W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-3	L Edmunds
305 (7) 70-	MONKEY ISLAND 221 B Meehan 3-9-3	S M Levey
306 (10) 0-2	NORMANDY LEGEND 33 (H) J Ferguson 3-9-3	D Muscutt
307 (6) 6-0	PARADOXICAL 16 S Kirk 3-9-3	C Shepherd
308 (4) 42	VIBRATO 39 J & T Gosden 3-9-3	K Shoemark
309 (5) 9	ANGLEPOISE 33 R Beckett 3-8-12	Rossa Ryan
310 (12) LU	COSMOS ARTIST 7 R J Smith 3-8-12	E Greatrex
311 (1) 59	GELICEAUX 184 (H) E Walker 3-8-12	T Marquand
312 (8) 99	HOT PATOOTIE 32 S Dow 3-8-12	P Bradley
313 (3) 59	HOT PATOOTIE 32 S Dow 3-8-12	P Bradley

Probable SP: 9-4 Free Speech, 5-2 College Choir, 9-2 Luciento, 5 Memories Maker, Topsy Tiger.

FAVOURITES: - - - 0 (W 9-8).

2023: Enochdhu 3 9 8 (Rob Hornby) 15-2 J Portman drawn (3) 7 ran.

### 3.45 -MICK AND JOAN COE MEMORIAL HANDICAP (5) (3-Y-0)

401 (2) L53	COLLEGE CHOIR 75 W Haggas 9-8	T Marquand
402 (3) 3472	MEMORIES MAKER 9 C Johnston 9-7	F Norton
403 (1) 5412-33	FREE SPEECH 19 E Dunlop 9-7	Rossa Ryan
404 (5) L4613-6	TIPSY TIGER 10 (S) W Stone 9-7	H Doyle
405 (4) 49-65	LUCENTIO 13 (PT) J & T Gosden 9-4	K Shoemark

Probable SP: 9-4 Free Speech, 5-2 College Choir, 9-2 Luciento, 5 Memories Maker, Topsy Tiger.

FAVOURITES: - - - 0 (W 9-8).

2023: Enochdhu 3 9 8 (Rob Hornby) 15-2 J Portman drawn (3) 7 ran.

**TRACK FACTS:** JACKPOT MEETING. Figure of eight course. GOING: Soft. STALLS: 1m inside; remainder centre. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints. Top jockey: Tom Marquand. Top trainer: R Hannon. Headgear first time: 2.35 Anyhdous, 3.10 Geliceaux, Killamey Lake, 3.45 Luciento. Longest traveller: Memories Maker (3.45) 238 miles. Drop in Class: 2.35 Quiet Sea is down 3 grades on last run (Class 2 to Class 5); Gilded Water (3); Hutchence (2); Haya (2); 3.10 A Major Payne (3); 4.55 Soldier's Class (2); Waistcoat (2). First run since wind surgery: 3.10 Letmebethboss.

### 4.20 -DOWNLOAD THE RACEDAY READY APP HANDICAP (4)

501 (2) 27138-7	ABLE KANE 9 (D3) (GS) B Millman 7-9-9	R Coakley
502 (1) 1341-74	SERGEANT PEP 21 (CD2) (S) C Cox 4-9-6	Rossa Ryan
503 (8) 32731-7	AMAZONIAN DREAM 21 (C&DD) (GS) B Millman 5-9-5	J Gilligan
504 (3) 25220-5	GEMINI STAR 27 (D3) (S) Alice Haynes 4-9-3	H Doyle
505 (11) 2139-3	STONE CIRCLE 23 (D3) (GS) M Bell 7-9-0	H Crouch
506 (7) 7-71613	BIG R 19 (D2) E J-Houghton 4-8-13	C Bishop
507 (4) 8231-5	LADY DREAMER 19 (TV) (C&DD) (G) T Ward 4-8-13	S M Levey
508 (9) 42214-0	PIERCE 236 (P) (S) G & J Moore 4-8-12	R Clutterbuck
509 (10) 2435-63	TIRIAC 9 (P) (DBF3) (S) J Channon 4-8-11	D Probert
510 (5) 462115	GLAMOROUS EXPRESS 39 (T) (D3) A Carroll 5-8-11	W Carson
511 (6) 578-71	SNUGGLE 14 (C&D) (GS) L Dace 4-8-5	M Ghiani

Probable SP: 5 Stone Circle, 6 Tiriac, 13-2 Sergeant Pep, 7 Snuggle, Big R, 8 Glamorous Express, Gemini Star, 10 Amazonian Dream, Lady Dreamer.

FAVOURITES: 0 1 0 3 0 0 - 1 2 2 (W 9-4). AGES: 6 4 8 4 8 5 - 4 4 6

2023: Indian Creak 6 8 13 (Rose Dawes) 5-2 J Channon drawn (4) 6 ran.

### 4.55 -GET RACEDAY READY HANDICAP (6) (3-Y-0) £7,200 added

601 (10) 633-3	JUAN SOLO 117 S Kirk 9-9-0	C Shepherd
602 (9) 40L	SOLDIER'S CLASS 65 E Dunlop 9-9-0	H Doyle
603 (1) 5-50	WALSTOAT 16 R Hannon 9-8	S M Levey
604 (11) 46L-566	GUINS AND FLOWERS 68 Mrs L Morgan 9-7	D Muscutt
605 (7) 597-246	MASONBROOK MEADOW 31 Seamus Mullins 9-7	G Downing
606 (4) L78	SCOTTISH BREEZE 33 M Bell 9-7	H Crouch
607 (6) 886-L	MAXIM DE WINTER 33 (P) J Portman 9-6	C Bishop
608 (3) 856-612	MAGNIFICENT MATCH 6 (D) (G) R Eddery 9-6	K Shoemark
609 (5) 459-1	THEWORLDSONTEOUGH 14 (C&D) T Ward 9-5	T Marquand
610 (8) 9-81281	INTERESTPENALTIES 13 A Carroll 9-3	W Carson
611 (2) 779-2	CALM WATERS 7 B Millman 9-1	J Gilligan

Probable SP: 7-2 Theworldsnotenough, 4 Calm Waters, 9-2 Magnificent Match, 6 Interestpenalties, 7 Juan Solo, 16 Walstcoat, Scottish Breeze.

FAVOURITES: - - - 1 (W 10-0).

2023: Sparks Fly 3 10 0 (R Ryan) 11-10 Fav D Loughnane drawn (9) 9 ran.

### 5.30 -TIPS FOR EVERY RACE AT RACEDAY-READY.COM HANDICAP (5) £8,400 added (£4,397) 5f 21yds (10)

1 (10) 41110-2	ON EDGE 14 (P) (CD) (GS) C Mason 6-9-10	Gina Mangan (3)
2 (9) 9-27416	LIBRA TIGER 14 (D) (S) Mrs L Morgan 5-9-9	D Muscutt
3 (7) 3L-5488	SUGILL HILL 21 R Eddery 4-9-8	D Keenan
4 (6) 3412-73	WILLINGLY 9 (P) (D3) (S) M Usher 7-9-7	Brandon Wilkie (5)
5 (5) 74-9442	ABOLISH 40 (P) A Carroll 8-9-7	Rossa Ryan
6 (8) 66L-4L	SO SMART 9 (D) (S) G Harris 5-9-6	C Hutchinson
7 (2) 0L6-465	ROMAN SPRING 14 (P) R Cook & J Bridger 4-8-13	R Clutterbuck
8 (4) 734-227	JACQUELINEA 58 (D2) (G) P McEntee 5-8-9	Grace McEntee (3)
9 (3) 7644-78	BAMA LAMA 16 (C2D) (S) B Millman 6-8-7	H Doyle
10 (1) 199-L03	ALI JEWELS 13 (B) (D) (S) Martin Dunne 4-8-4	Jack Enright (7)

Probable SP: 11-4 On Edge, 7-2 Abolish, 6 Willingly, 15-2 Ali Jewels, 8 Libra Tiger, 10 Sugar Hill, 12 Roman Spring, 14 Jacqueline, 16 So Smart.

FAVOURITES & 2023: No corresponding race.

### 6.00 -DOWNLOAD THE RACEDAY READY APP HANDICAP (6) £10,000 added (£5,234) 1m 2f (16)

1 (5) 3606	ANGELICA K 17 S Hodgson 4-9-9	W Carver (3)
2 (12) 1L1LL-7	ROBERT WALPOLE 115 (H) (D) (G) D Faulkner 7-9-9	D Costello
3 (16) 64L-318	ROSCHIO 23 (T) (D) (G) B Johnson 6-9-9	Rossa Ryan
4 (15) 7-L88L6	DAPHNE MAY 23 (CD2) (GS) G & J Moore 6-9-8	T P Queally
5 (6) 64452-4	DOTTIES STAR 168 P Phelan 5-9-8	P Bradley
6 (14) 09LL-01	DUBAI IMMO 18 (P) (D) W Stone 5-9-7	H Doyle
7 (13) 67325-7	LUCIDITY 30 E Dunlop 4-9-7	D Muscutt
8 (3) 780-	NOSTROMO 203 R Teal 4-9-6	L Edmunds
9 (7) 2-31857	CURTIZ 31 (D2) H Morrison 7-9-6	T Marquand
10 (10) 553-135	STORM VALLEY 53 M Crawley 4-9-4	C Shepherd
11 (8) 853-217	STORM VALLEY 53 M Crawley 4-9-4	C Shepherd
12 (12) 442-024	FULLFORWARD 31 (B) (C) (G) M Madgwick 4-9-4	W Carson
13 (4) 25334-6	HOOVES LIKE JAGGER 387 (G) A Carroll 6-9-3	C Bishop
14 (2) 73-L632	HIGH COURT JUDGE 23 David Dennis 4-9-3	C Hutchinson (3)
15 (9) 67468L	NO SUCH LUCK 265 (HT) (D2) R Ingram 7-8-10	R Clutterbuck
16 (11) 6L5177	TEIMUR KHAN 140 (G) A Carroll 9-8-9	Gina Mangan (3)

Probable SP: 5 High Court Judge, 6 Dotties Star, 7 Roscioli, 8 Trojan Truth, Dubai Immo, 10 Fullforward, Storm Valley, 12 Daphne May, Angelica K.

FAVOURITES: - - - 1 (W 9-5). AGES: - - - 6

2023: Mr Zee 6 9 2 (Adam Farragher) 3-1 Fav M Blake drawn (7) 13 ran.

### WARWICK RTV

### 2.40 -MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) £7,750 added (£4,093) 2m 5f (14)

1 41P- KIT'S COTY 79 (S) E Lavelle 6-12-0	B R Jones
2 34P- JUST SOPHIE 105 (P) Noel Williams 6-11-11	James Davies
3 521- MIDNIGHT GOLD 329 (P) N Mulholland 7-11-10	R McLernon
4 32P- ANNIE MAGIC 45 (P) (D) (S) J Scott 8-11-9	B Carver
5 L15/ TRUMP LADY 831 (C&D) (S) S Hosie 9-11-9	B Postle
6 0/P- WELL VICKY 128 (S) A Ralph 7-11-5	D Bass
7 537- AFTER MANY DAYS 40 H Daly 5-11-5	S Sheppard
8 8P2- CLARAROSE 24 (T) D Skelton 6-11-2	F Gillard
9 647- CAUGHTINASPELL 129 O Murphy 6-11-2	S Bowen
10 F3P- DARS'S DARLING 179 Sue Smith 8-11-2	T Midgley (3)
11 126- GRAIN OF HOPE 18 E Lavelle 4-10-12	R Patrick
12 5LU- POLLYONESOCK 103 D Greenall & J Guerrero 6-10-7	H Brooke
13 5PP- OUR FRIEND MO 29 (P) Jonjo & A O'Neill 6-10-7	R T Dunne
14 050- MISS GHILLIE 83 W Greatrex 6-10-5	H Bannister

Probable SP: 4 Midnight Gold, 5 Clararose, 7 Grain Of Hope, 8 After Many Days, Caughtinaspell, Kit's Coty.

### 3.15 -MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 1) (4) £7,500 added (£4,084) 2m (10)

1 686- APPLES MOON 17 Nicky Martin 5-11-2	S Bowen
2 115- AVAKATE 90 A King 6-11-2	T Cannon
3 PPP- DARQUESSE 110 C Dyson 6-11-2	N Schofield
4 23/5- GET SKY HIGH 23 D Skelton 9-11-2	F Gillard
5 263- HOT FIZZY LIZZY 186 D Skelton 5-11-2	K Woods
6 00- MISTING 147 N King 5-11-2	B R Jones
7 06- RED PANDA 35 (H) C Longson 5-11-2	Lilly Pinchin
8 U25- TAKE A HIKE 46 D J Jeffreys 6-11-2	Sean Houlihan
9 53L- WOOLBERRY 143 E Lavelle 5-11-2	H Bannister
10 DAME SARRA F123 Noel Williams 4-10-10	James Davies

Probable SP: Evens Avakate, 4 Get Sky High, 11-2 Hot Fizzy Lizzy, 7 Woolberry, 16 Dame Sarras.

### 3.50 -MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 2) (4) £7,500 added (£4,084) 2m (9)

1 34-# BARRA BLUE 24 F O'Brien 5-11-2	L Harrison
2 719- CHER TARA 51 D Skelton 5-11-2	F Gillard
3 1/53- IDYLLE SAUVAGE 37 D McCain 6-11-2	B Hughes
4 705- IRISH CHORUS 51 A King 5-11-2	T Cannon
5 3- IRISH LULLABY 36 (H) O Greenall & J Guerrero 5-11-2	H Brooke
6 0P8- J'ENTILLE 24 O Signy 5-11-2	B R Jones
7 040- LOVE AT SEA 452 T Gallagher 6-11-2	S Bowen
8 626-# THE LAST DROP 32 R Phillips 5-11-2	F Lambert (3)
9 P4- HONEYBUN 47 D Skelton 4-10-10	K Woods

Probable SP: 5-4 Irish Lullaby, 9-2 Idylle Sauvage, 11-2 Barra Blue, 13-2 The Last Drop, 10 Irish Chorus.

### 4.25 -NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (4) £10,500 added (£5,545) 2m 54yds (5)

1 311- FISTON DE BECON 22 (T) (D2) (S) O Murphy 9-12-0	S Bowen
2 540- IN THIS WORLD 19 D Skelton 6-11-11	F Gillard
3 3/43- GITCHE GUMEE 142 (P) A King 6-11-6	T Cannon
4 504- ONEWAYORTOTHER 84 T Lawes 6-11-3	H Bannister
5 335- ISHOLO DU VIVIAN 31 (BF) D McCain 6-10-2	B Hughes

Probable SP: 11-8 Fiston De Becon, 7-2 In This World, 9-2 Onewayortother, 6 Isholo Du Vivian.

### 5.00 -HANDICAP CHASE (4) £10,750 added (£5,677) 2m 4f (7)

1 5P4- DREAM IN THE PARK 43 E Lavelle 7-11-11	H Bannister
2 L31- GOD'S OWN GETAWAY 13 (D) D Skelton 6-11-9	K Woods
3 13L- STROLL ON BY 101 (BF) C Longson 7-11-7	Lilly Pinchin
4 423- WILL STING 13 (P) L Wadhams 9-11-5	T Cannon
5 341- AMERICAN GERRY 12 (P) H Morrison 8-11-4	D Bass
6 L1- TRAPISTA 27 (S) Jonjo & A O'Neill 7-11-4	R McLernon
7 127- MILTIADES 104 (T) (D) (S) H Daly 8-11-2	A Stevens (5)

Probable SP: 11-4 Trapiستا, 10-3 God's Own Getaway, 4 American Gerry, 5 Dream In The Park, 8 Stroll On By.

**TRACK FACTS:** L-H course. GOING: Good-good to soft in places. Top jockey: Tom Cannon. Top trainer: D Skelton. Placed in the race last year: 6.05 He Is A Cracker (2nd). Headgear first time: 2.40 Just Sophie, 3.15 Red Panda, 4.25 Gitche Gumee, 5.35 Homme D'Un Soir. Longest traveller: Pride Of Paris (6.05) 160 miles. Drop in Class: 5.35 Kado De Joie is down 2 grades on last run (Class 2 to

### ROBIN GOODFELLOW

2.40 Grain Of Hope	2.40 Midnight Gold
3.15 Avakate	3.15 Avakate
3.50 Irish Lullaby	3.50 Honeybun
4.25 Fiston De Becon	4.25 Fiston De Becon
5.00 Will Sting	5.00 American Gerry
5.35 Jeudidee	5.35 Davice
6.05 Newtonian	6.05 Prince De Juille

### 5.35 -HANDICAP HURDLE (4) £10,000 added

1	11L- ISABELLA BEE 156 (D2) (S) F O'Brien 7-12-11	L Harrison
2	313- JEUDIDEE 193 (T) (DBF) (GS) K Bailey 5-12-0	D Bass
3	2L6- HOMME D'UN SOIR 35 (V) (D) (S) B Arahamian 8-11-13	S Bowen
4	13P- WALK OF NO SHAME 96 (D2) (S) Jonjo & A O'Neill 7-11-12	R McLernon
5	451- DAVIDOC 22 (T) (D) B Pauling 6-11-12	B R Jones
6	102- COMMANDING VIEW 26 (D) (S) Mrs M Rowley 6-11-10	T Cannon
7	32U- SKIP MAHLER 200 M Walford 7-11-9	J Hamilton
8	L16- KADO DE JOIE 43 (S) N Henderson 4-11-6	R T Dunne
9	243- KING'S CASTLE 25 (T) J Scott 7-10-13	B Carver
10	P28- CUBAN COURT 65 N King 6-10-13	Lilly Pinch
11	L3- TROASURED COMPANY 26 (D) (S) S Smith 8-10-7 N Schofield	
12	OL0- ROCK ON TOMMY 12 (T) (D4) (S) O Murphy 9-10-2	



PETER CARLINE  
at the Crucible

**K**YREN WILSON shone in the Crucible spotlight and is more than halfway to winning a maiden World Snooker Championship title after a commanding first day against underdog Jak Jones.

Wilson won the first seven frames and compiled four century breaks on his way to a 10-4 lead last night as he imposed his will on the jaded Welshman.

Jones — who labelled rivals who criticise his perceived slow style of play as ‘pathetic’ — fought back from 7-0 down, reducing the arrears to five frames to give the crowd at least hope of play in today’s final session.

As he has done all tournament, Wilson looked comfortable from the start and shone in the big moments as he played a dangerous opponent on his own terms. His 129



# Kyren seizes control over dawdling Jak

**HISTORY IN THE MAKING?**

■ **LARGEST margins of victory in Crucible world snooker finals:**

1989	S DAVIS.....18
	J Parrott.....3
1993	S HENDRY .....18
	J White .....5
1983	S DAVIS.....18
	C Thorburn.....6
2004	R O'SULLIVAN.....18
	G Dott.....8
2008	R O'SULLIVAN.....18
	A Carter.....8
2020	R O'SULLIVAN.....18
	K Wilson.....8

break was the first in the opening frame of a final since Stephen Hendry's 136 against Jimmy White in 1993.

Runs of 52, 66, 62, 84, 125 and 90 followed as the world No 12 sped into a 7-0 lead.

It matched the start made by John Parrott in the 1991 final, on the way to winning his only world title with 18-11 win over White.

Wilson's start was so special it had only been bettered by Steve Davis. In 1985, the six-time world champion led Dennis Taylor 8-0, only to lose 18-17 on the final black.

For Jones, a 200-1 pre-tournament outsider and the world No 44, he initially melted under the heat in his first ranking tournament final. His plight was not helped by playing a well-rested man in the

form of his life. While Kettering-based Wilson reached the final after beating David Gilbert on Saturday afternoon, Jones was forced to scrap through a 12-hour tussle with Stuart Bingham in his 17-12 semi-final victory.

Jones, who has only scored two centuries on his run to the final, failed to compile big breaks against Bingham and could not disrupt the metronomic Wilson's rhythm.

The relief was palpable when he won his first frame with a 65 break at the end of the first session and celebrated with a smile and a fist pump.

And while thoughts turned to Parrott and his record 18-3 final defeat by Davis in 1989, Jones began the evening session in gutsy fashion, with a 75 break reducing arrears.

Cwmbran-born Jones then took his third frame in a row to make it 7-3, but Wilson stopped the run with a nerveless 125 to restore his five-frame lead and then extended it in a

vital frame before the mid-session interval.

In his only other appearance in the Sheffield showpiece, Wilson trailed Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2 in the opening session four years ago and went on to lose 18-8.

Wilson, 32, learned from that painful defeat. He blamed a poor night's sleep and consuming too much beer and pizza the evening before.



This time he was the one on the front foot, producing an array of top quality, high-scoring snooker, frequently winning frames with one visit.

The pattern of the first session was never likely to be repeated, but Wilson showed his class and mettle to keep Jones's resurgence at bay, splitting the session 2-2.

But the Nando's-loving Welshman showed his spice after the mid-session interval, winning a crucial frame after a rare Wilson miss with the rest to make it 9-4.

Wilson responded with another rapid century — the 122 was his fourth of the final — to keep the pressure on as his dreams of a first world title began to loom on the horizon.

While 30-year-old Jones is not short of fighting qualities, surely it is too much to ask for another famous Monday night finish in this storied old theatre.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **BASKETBALL**

BBL Championship play-off quarter-finals: Sheffield 86 Leicester 69 (Sheffield win series 2-1).

■ **CRICKET**

SECOND TWENTY20 INTERNATIONAL — **Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury** Stadium: Zimbabwe 138-7 (20 overs); Bangladesh 142-4 (18.3 overs). Bangladesh win by 6 wickets.

IPL — Dharamshala: Chennai Super Kings 167-9 (20 overs); R D Chahar 3-23; H V Patel 3-24; Punjab Kings 139-9 (20.0 overs); R A Jadeja 3-20). Chennai Super Kings win by 28 runs.

Lucknow: Kolkata Knight Riders 235-6 (20 overs); S P Narine 81; N u Murid 3-49; Lucknow Super Giants 137-10 (16.1 overs); H Rana 3-24; V C Vinod 3-30). Kolkata Knight Riders win by 98 runs.

■ **GOLF**

LIV Golf Singapore Sentosa Golf Club, Singapore — Final round (USA unless stated, Par 71): 198 — B Koepka 66 64 68; 200 — M Leishman (A) 67 67 66; C Smith (A) 71 65 64; 201 — T Gooch 68 66 67; 202 — T Pieters (Bel) 66 67 69; T Hutton (Eng) 68 68 66; 203 — J Niemann (Chi) 67 69 67; D Johnson 67 70 66; K Na 66 70 67.

■ **NETBALL**

Vitality Superleague: Severn Stars 56 Cardiff Dragons 41.

■ **RUGBY UNION**

INVESTEC CUP SEMI-FINALS

LEINSTER ..... 20 NORTHAMPTON..17

Leinster — T: Lowe 3. C: R Byrne. P: R Byrne.

Northampton — T: Hendy, Seabrook. C: F Smith 2. P: F Smith.

YESTERDAY

TOULOUSE.....38 HARLEQUINS...26

Toulouse — T: Lebel, Mauvaka, Flament, Dupont 2, Mallia. C: Kinghorn 3, Ramos.

Harlequins — T: Smith, W. Evans, Murley, T Green. C: Smith 3.

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG

SATURDAY

GLOUCESTER.....40 BENETTON T...23

Gloucester — T: Hathaway, Blake, Hastings, Clarke, Thorley. C: Hastings 3. P: Hastings 2, Englefield.

Benetton Treviso — T: Smith, Lucchesi 2. C: Alborno. P: Alborno 2.

SHARKS.....32 CLERMONT A...31

Sharks — T: Koch, Mapimpi. C: Masuku 2. P: Masuku 6.

Clermont Auvergne — T: Jurand 2, Newsome. C: Belleau 2. P: Belleau 4.

RFU CHAMPIONSHIP — Saturday:

Bedford 32 Doncaster 29, Ealing Trailfinders 57 Amptill 14, Hartpury RFC 57 Caldy 36.

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE**

BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

SATURDAY

HULL K R.....40 ST HELENS.....20

Hull K R — T: May, Lewis, Broadbent, Hiku, Litten, Hadley, Hall. G: Lewis 6.

St Helens — T: Welsby, Blake, Hurrell 2. G: Percival 2.

LEIGH.....28 CASTLEFORD...28

Leigh — T: Moylan, Ipape, Charnley, Leutele, Lam. G: Moylan 4.

Castleford — T: L Senior 2, Hoy, Wood, I Senior. G: Milnes 4.

Wigan.....9

Warrington.....10

St Helens.....10

Hull K R.....10

Catalans D.....10

Salford.....10

Leeds.....10

Huddersfield.....10

Leigh.....9

Castleford.....10

Hull.....10

London Broncos.....10

P W D L F A Pts

7 0 2 264 126 14

7 0 3 226 135 14

7 0 3 229 110 14

7 0 3 254 149 14

7 0 3 218 152 14

7 0 3 198 186 14

6 0 4 204 172 12

5 0 5 234 181 10

2 1 6 188 172 5

2 1 7 180 292 5

1 0 9 104 352 2

0 0 10 82 394 0

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP — Barrow 24 Batley 14, Featherstone 36 Halifax 16, Swinton 12 Bradford 38, Widnes 16 Doncaster 14, York 16 Whitehaven 36.

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP 1 — Keighley 18 Hunslet 26, Oldham 74 Newcastle 0, Rochdale 56 Cornwall RLFC 24, Workington 16 Midlands Hurricanes 26.

## CRICKET SCOREBOARDS

### Root and Brook pile on runs for Yorkshire

JOE ROOT scored his second century in a row as Yorkshire took control against Glamorgan at Headingley yesterday. A week after hitting 119 against Derbyshire, he eased his way to 156 from just 165 balls, putting on 265 with 22-year-old opener Finlay Bean, who fell for a career-best 173 from only 189.

Harry Brook then whacked 65, taking his tally for the summer to 388 runs at 77, with a strike-rate of almost 95. Trailing by 298, Glamorgan reached stumps on the third day on 171 for three.

West Indies Test quick Jayden Seales picked up five for 29 as Sussex moved clear at the top of Division Two with a thumping win at Derby by an innings and 124 runs. Seales twice found himself on a hat-trick as the hosts slipped from 71 for two to 109 all out.

Kent are eyeing up a first win of the season, despite lower-order half-centuries from George Bell and wicketkeeper Matthew Hurst as Lancashire followed on at Old Trafford.

With Kent needing just 164 for victory, Zak Crawley fell leg-before to George Balderson for a single, before they closed on 71 for one.

At Lord's, centuries from Sam Robson and Leus du Plooy gave Middlesex a first-innings lead against Leicestershire.

**LAWRENCE BOOTH**

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

(Day 3 of 4)

**Division One**

**Lancashire v Kent**

OLD TRAFFORD: Kent, with nine 2nd-innings wkts in hand, require 93 runs to beat Lancashire.

KENT — First Innings 261

Second Innings

Z Crawley lbw b Balderson .....1

B Compton not out .....14

\*D Bell-Drummond not out.....39

Extras (b10, lb5, nb2) .....17

Total (1 wkts 24 overs) .....71

Fall: 5.

Bowling: Bailey 3-0-13-0, Balderson 5-1-17-1, Lyon 9-1-17-0, Williams 3-1-4-0, Hartley 4-2-5-0.

LANCASHIRE — First Innings 92

Second Innings

(Overnight: 119-4)

G Balderson c Bell-Drummond .....48

b Leaning.....12

T Bruce b Agar.....12

G Bell c Finch b Agar.....65

\*M Hurst c Bell-Drummond .....58

b Parkinson.....35

T Hartley b Parkinson.....35

T Bailey lbw b Agar.....1

N Lyon not out.....0

Extras (lb6, w1, nb12) .....19

Total (106.3 overs) .....332

Fall: 50, 101, 103, 104, 122, 197, 275, 329, 332.

Bowling: G Stewart 13-2-48-0, Agar 21-4-65-3, Gilchrist 18-2-69-2, Evison 9-0-30-1, Parkinson 33-5-70-3, Leaning 7-1-21-1, Denly 5-1-23-0.

P W L D Bt Bl Pts

Essex.....5 2 1 2 12 14 74

Somerset.....5 1 0 4 11 13 72

Surrey.....4 2 0 2 11 12 71

Warwick.....4 0 0 4 13 10 55

Durham.....4 1 0 3 6 4 50

Worcs.....4 0 1 3 10 11 45

Notts.....4 0 1 3 8 11 43

Hampshire.....4 0 1 3 4 5 31

Kent.....3 0 1 2 3 7 26

Lancashire.....3 0 1 2 3 5 24

**Division Two**

**Yorkshire v Glamorgan**

HEADINGLEY: Glamorgan, with seven 2nd-innings wkts in hand, are trailing Yorkshire by 127 runs.

GLAMORGAN — First Innings 221

Second Innings

E Byrom c Coad b Bess.....30

W Root b Moriarty.....35

\*S Northeast not out.....46

K Karlson run out.....15

C Ingram not out.....43

Extras (nb2) .....2

Total (3 wkts 56 overs) .....171

Fall: 56, 72, 93.

Bowling: Coad 5-0-29-0, Fisher 3-1-2-0, D Moriarty 23-6-61-1, Bess 19-4-48-1, Root 3-0-5-0, Revis 3-0-15-0.

YORKSHIRE — First Innings

(Overnight: 295-2)

F Bean b Crane.....173

J Root lbw b Harris.....156

H Brook c Sub b Crane.....65

\*J Tattersall st Cooke b Crane.....55

M Revis b Crane.....0

D Bess not out.....0

Extras (b9, lb6) .....15

Total (7 wkts dec 94.1 overs) .....519

**Derbyshire v Sussex**

DERBY: Sussex (24pts) beat Derbyshire (3) by an innings and 124 runs.

DERBYSHIRE — First Innings 246

Second Innings

\*D Lloyd lbw b Seales.....26

L Reece b Hudson-Prentice.....15

\*B Guest b Lamb.....17

W Madsen lbw b Lamb.....13

M Lamb lbw b Seales.....10

A Donald b Seales.....1

Anuj Dal lbw b Seales.....1

Z Chappell c Haines b Carson.....21

J Morley b Seales.....0

D Dupavillon not out.....3

D Tickner ret ht.....0

Extras (lb1, nb2) .....3

Total (26 overs) .....109

Fall: 33, 49, 71, 76, 77, 77, 88, 88, 109.

Bowling: Robinson 6-1-18-0, Seales 8-0-29-5, Hudson-Prentice 4-0-31-1, Lamb 4-0-10-2, Coles 2-0-14-0, Carson 2-0-6-1.

**SUSSEX — First Innings**

(Overnight: 357-5)

C Pujara c Guest b Dupavillon.....113

J Carson c Guest b Dupavillon.....37

F H-Prentice c Madsen b Morley.....34

D Lamb st Guest b Morley.....37

O Robinson c Donald b Morley.....18

J Seales not out.....4

Extras (b6, lb13, nb16) .....35

Total (109.4 overs) .....479

Fall: 18, 108, 176, 317, 335, 384, 393, 442, 462.

Bowling: Dupavillon 20-0-89-3, Z Chappell 16-3-74-0, Tickner 19-4-71-1, Anuj Dal 17-2-62-1, J Morley 25-4-0-117-3, Reece 9-2-32-2, Lloyd 3-0-15-0.

**Middlesex v Leicestershire**

LORD'S: Middlesex, with two 1st-innings wkts in hand, are leading Leicestershire by 101 runs.

LEICESTERSHIRE — First Innings 306

MIDDLESEX — First Innings

(Overnight: 64-1)

S Robson c Handscomb b Green.....162

M Holden c Kimber b Currie.....26

L du Plooy c Cox b Currie.....131

R Higgins b Green.....7

S Eskinnazi b Mike.....25

N Fernandes c Currie b Ahmed.....31

\*J Davies not out.....1

T Roland-Jones c Patel b Ahmed.....9

H Brookes not out.....1

Extras (lb1, w3, nb2) .....6

Total (8 wkts 103 overs) .....407

Fall: 27, 64, 316, 329, 342, 392, 396, 406.

Bowling: Scriven 20-1-76-0, Mike 18-1-93-2, Green 23-4-81-2, Currie 20-3-66-2, R Ahmed 20-1-86-2, L Kimber 2-0-4-0.

P W L D Bt Bl Pts

Sussex.....4 2 0 2 16 11 74

Leics.....4 0 0 4 15 9 56

Northants.....4 0 0 4 14 8 54

Middlesex.....4 1 0 3 5 8 53

Yorkshire.....4 0 1 3 8 12 44

Derbyshire.....5 0 1 4 4 8 43

Gloucs.....4 0 1 3 7 8 39

Glamorgan.....3 0 0 3 5 5 34





# CHAMPIONS CUP



**ALEX BYWATER**  
at the Stadium  
de Toulouse

## TOULOUSE

T: Lebel, Mauvaka,  
Flament, Dupont 2,  
Mallia  
C: Kinghorn 3, Ramos

**38**

## HARLEQUINS

T: Smith, Evans, Murley,  
Green  
C: Smith 3

**26**

**D**ANCING along to upbeat trance music, Toulouse's fanatical support stood 10 deep to welcome Antoine Dupont and Co to this European semi-final.

As they did so, they unfurled a giant banner on which was written the slogan 'Red Kingdom'. The home fans booed the arrival of Harlequins stars Joe Marler and Marcus Smith.

Marler embraced the abuse, breaking into a trademark grin and holding his hand to his ear. Home heroes Dupont, Romain Ntamack and Englishman Jack Willis lapped up the adulation.

Welcome to Toulouse's backyard. Their kingdom. This match took place at the city's football ground rather than the usual Stade Ernest-Wallon, but the same mantra applies. Toulouse refuse to countenance losing at home. And so it was once again.

Harlequins gave it everything. And more. As they launched a stunning second-half fightback in the home of rugby's equivalent of Real Madrid's *Galacticos*, their scrum coach Adam Jones pleaded for cool heads.

English rugby's great entertainers ignored him, embracing the chaos of a remarkable occasion.

It was nearly enough for what would have been the greatest win in their history. In the end, Jack Walker's late sin-binning proved crucial.

Walker made contact with the head of Dupont. The home crowd called for blood. Walker saw yellow not red, but the colour of the card was immaterial as it stemmed Quins' momentum just when it was at its peak. The impact was terminal.

First-half breakdown problems and line-out issues were also costly, and Toulouse march on to face Leinster in Tottenham in the

final on May 25. 'The damage was done in the first half,' said Quins head coach Danny Wilson. 'Breakdown turnovers against the best side in the world lead to tries.'

'We will look back on this game and be frustrated but I am proud of the boys for winning the second half. The problem was the counter-ruck in the first half. We switched off in that area. We were aware that was coming.'

Harlequins captain Stephan Lewies struck a similar note: 'If you give Toulouse 28 points on a platter it's going to be tough. If you take away our errors, it's what could have been.'

Toulouse started at breakneck speed. Pace, power, panache. It was all on show and red shirts were everywhere. Home wing Matthis Lebel opened the scoring from a botched Quins line-out.

After wins at Racing 92 and Bordeaux, Harlequins were targeting a third French away scalp of the season. But although they scored first-half tries through Smith and Will Evans, they were too often blitzed at the contact area and counter-rucked off the ball.

Toulouse hooker Peato Mauvaka was outstanding, scoring once. Thibaud Flament also pounced on a Quins error and

the magnificent Dupont crossed twice, as he always seems to do.

The hosts' lead was 31-12 at the break, but soon it looked like the tables could be turned.

Cadan Murley finished acrobatically in the corner and then Tyrone Green ran a lovely line to cross. Smith's boot made it 31-26.

All of a sudden it was Harlequins who were rampant. They had tidied up their breakdown issues and stole a couple of Toulouse possessions, but then came Walker's mistimed lunge at Dupont.

'When they slow down replays endlessly they are going to lead to

## CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL

**LEINSTER**  
v **TOULOUSE**

Kick-off: May 25, 2.45pm,  
Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.  
TV: **LIVE** on ITV4 and TNT Sports.

refereeing decisions,' said Wilson. 'It hurt us when we had momentum and were right in the game.'

Down to 14 and behind on the scoreboard with time running out, Walker's card immediately changed the game's complexion.

When he was sent to the sin-bin, Toulouse had not scored in the second half. With a man advantage, they soon put that right.

Juan Cruz Mallia dived over in the corner to end discussion over the final result. There was still time for Marler to have a needless dust-up with Tomas Ramos, which cost Quins a penalty.

Dupont said: 'At half time we said we wouldn't lower our intensity because we know Harlequins never give up.'

'But we didn't get out of our half very well and when they have momentum, they're hard to stop.'

'Now we have a chance to raise the trophy. We'll be against a familiar opponent who will want it as much as us, having lost in the last two finals.'



**Sucker punch:**  
Juan Cruz Mallia's try sinks Quins  
GETTY IMAGES

# Valiant Quins cut down in the Red Kingdom

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# The agony of missing their one shot will haunt Saints for years

**N**O WONDER Northampton were so deflated at the end. That was their shot. That was when the stars aligned for the Saints and it may be some time before that happens again.

Having seemed down and out in Dublin on Saturday night, they were within three points and the force was with them, but they couldn't quite claim the prized scalp of Leinster, losing 20-17.

After the Champions Cup semi-final ended in agonising fashion, their director of rugby, Phil Dowson, provided a realistic take on where it leaves them.

Asked if Northampton could become regular contenders at this exalted level, he said: 'We would love to be in that situation, but it is probably a bit soon to say because we are losing some players, so it's about recruitment. Next season is a new story and we're going to make sure we finish this story first.'

This is the harsh reality for the Premiership teams attempting to break the dominance of Leinster and the powerhouse French clubs, led by Toulouse and La Rochelle.

Windows of opportunity don't stay open for long. The Saints are losing a core of their best pack at the end of this season, with the impending departure of the iconic Courtney Lawes, England flanker and regular captain Lewis Ludlam, Paul Hill, Alex Moon and the Waller brothers Alex and Ethan. Returning to the heights

**Chris Foy**

**WORLD OF RUGBY**

of a last-four close encounter at sold-out Croke Park is no formality for Northampton. Their experience of pushing Leinster to the precipice should provide a confidence boost as they seek domestic glory in the coming weeks and will serve the younger Saints well in years to come.

But this team will disband, so a rebuild is in order. Dowson has to recruit carefully, within a strict budget, and new

**Gutted: Saints' Alex Coles at Croke Park**

AFP



arrivals will need to be moulded. That's the difference between the English hopefuls and their rivals.

The French clubs can afford to keep signing proven Test superstars and Leinster have lured a leading All Black in Jordie Barrett, for a career-prime sabbatical next season, while backed by a formidable talent factory and a player-management alliance with their union.

Being a long-term contender is beyond English clubs now. Saracens had to breach the salary cap to remain in the hunt for so many years. Exeter soared and conquered, but soon faded.

Northampton suddenly found that they had an unexpected shot at glory. It didn't work out, but Lawes believes it will aid their Premiership prospects.

On Saturday, the Saints must shake off any emotional baggage to strive for a bonus-point win at home against Gloucester, in order to clinch a home semi-final.

'We've proved that we have got what it takes against one of the best teams in the world,' said Lawes, who is moving to Brive in the summer.

'We've got a lot of young lads who have not played in anything like that pressure before. It is fantastic for us and gives us confidence.'

Soon though, the great back-rower will be gone, leaving a void which will be almost impossible to fill.

## Nights like Billy's bender are going out of fashion – and that's not all good

still have their place. Rugby is not all about science, it is about heart and soul, too.

Building tight connections is vital. It doesn't have to involve alcohol, but that has been the standard model.

One tale that sticks in the memory is the aftermath of an Argentina win against Wales in Cardiff. As the chastened home players trudged off dutifully for ice baths, the victorious Pumas got stuck into a crate of cider in

their changing room. Having a release valve amid so much commitment to a tough profession is still acceptable.

Unwind, lose inhibitions, sing together and reinforce collective spirit.

Sharing a post-match beer with an opposite number isn't the worst rugby ritual, either. Maybe one day they will be just as at ease swapping stories over an energy drink or a protein shake...

## SPORTS AGENDA

EDITED BY MIKE KEEGAN



### STARS SET TO SLUM IT IN STANDS AFTER EUROS SQUAD EXPANSION

THE increase in squad sizes at the Euros from 23 to 26 may see players going straight from the stands on to the pitch. In a move authorised by Gareth Southgate, nations will now be able to name as many as 15 substitutes. However, it is understood that the benches at Germany's grounds have been made on the assumption that there would be 12 subs — and there is not enough time to bring in bigger ones. It means some stars may have to sit near the punters, with additional seating already being planned. Nations have also been informed by UEFA that dressing rooms will be prepared on the assumption that squads will consist of 23 players, so they may well feel a little cramped.

THE PREMIER LEAGUE have written to clubs ahead of the conclusion of the season to warn them to be on guard against the prospect of pitch invasions.

The League have shared a document entitled 'Pitch Protection Good Practice Guidance' which sets out the dos and don'ts at a time when fans of many clubs traditionally storm the field of play. Clubs have been told to monitor social media in real time during games as fans have previously orchestrated invasions online. Sprint stewards, whose introduction was revealed by *Mail Sport*, have been instructed to face the pitch at all times so they can race to intercept any encroachers.

Clubs have also been reminded to ensure they have the tools necessary to deal with any protesters who try to attach themselves to goalposts.

AGENDA readers may recall that Manchester City faced the prospect of a final-day clash with a Barry Manilow concert at the new Co-op Live arena, which has been built in the shadows of the Etihad Stadium. However, one, rare positive from the utter debacle that has seen the music venue's opening repeatedly put back, is that officials may no longer need to worry. The veteran crooner says he has a 'back-up plan' — namely a date at the nearby AO Arena — should the shambles remain unfixed by May 19. Take That and rapper A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie have already switched to the AO Arena after a variety of issues at the £356million new-build, a joint venture between Americans Oak View Group, City and One Direction star Harry Styles.

THE one-time 'Kingmaker in Sport', Sheik Ahmad al Sabah, is to be suspended from membership of the International Olympic Committee for 15 years following his conviction in Swiss courts for fraud and deception. An IOC letter seen by *Reuters* confirms the decision, which has been made over ethics breaches.

The development represents a huge fall from grace for the powerful Kuwaiti, who only eight years ago was being tipped as a future IOC or FIFA president.

However, if IOC president Thomas Bach thinks this will be the end of Ahmad's political manipulation in world sport, he is very much mistaken. Ahmad will now be able to operate in the shadows with nothing to lose.

IT was interesting to see Sky Sports take the feed direct from Lancashire for their County Championship clash with Kent at Old Trafford. It is understood that the broadcaster struck a deal with the county, whereby they would use the footage and provide their own commentators and graphics. *Agenda* understands Lanes have not been paid for providing the feed but are free to use the final product on their YouTube channel. Given the extra leeway afforded to counties by the ECB, some see this as a potential avenue to generate revenue at a time when certain areas of domestic cricket are rarely televised.

THE BBC, who often champion their Northern credentials following their move to Salford, have organised a breakfast with journalists, director general Tim Davie and chief content officer Charlotte Moore to mark the launch of what they have termed 'the BBC's Summer of Sport 2024'. Davie, Moore and on-screen presenters will preview the broadcaster's coverage of Wimbledon, the Euros and the Olympics at the shindig on Wednesday. The venue? Shaftesbury Avenue, central London.

### THE LAST WORD

IN THE aftermath of the Billy Vunipola saga in Majorca, squad socials may soon become a dying tradition, but not because of any criticism or controversy. Times are changing. Old habits are fading.

During his exclusive interview with *Mail Sport*, the Saracens No8 said: 'I don't think the younger generation coming through are as big drinkers. They are so (focused) on their recovery. They know a lot more about the effects of it (alcohol) and take that into consideration a lot more than when I first came into the league at 18. It was used to socialise and get to know each other.'

It is an interesting observation about a cultural shift but, when there is sufficient restraint, these bonding outings and trips





By  
**JONATHAN  
McEVROY**

# The top 20 F1 drivers of all time

*From Moss to Max, Lauda to Lewis and a playboy to the Professor, this is my ranking*

**P**ICKING the best in any sport is difficult. Times change. Perceptions alter. Nostalgia plays tricks. The here and now is uniquely vivid.

In motor racing, the task is even harder. While a football is still essentially a football (if made of different materials), Formula One divides between the era of immediate peril and one of more distant peril. It is still dangerous and always will be but the change confuses accurate assessment between one era and another.

It is a personal list. Forgive me.

## 20 NIGEL MANSELL

WAS there a more tenacious driver? Or were many more loved by the British public?

He seemed to spend his life travelling uphill, the nearly man who wore his heart on his sleeve. His tyre cruelly blew in the Adelaide decider in 1986 and then he was beaten to the title by Nelson Piquet in 1987, before finally triumphing in 1992 at the age of 39, abetted by a brilliant Adrian Newey-designed Williams.

At Ferrari, he was *Il Leone*.

The defining image of his glory years was the crowds that spilled on to the tarmac at Silverstone to hail him: Mansell-mania in action.

## 19 MARIO ANDRETTI

HIS achievements on either side of the Atlantic were extraordinary. By the time he came to Europe, he was already the winner of the Indianapolis and Daytona 500s.

A man of charm and courtesy, but no little competitiveness, he was an emblem of the American dream. Born near Trieste early in World War Two, he spent seven years in a dispersed people's camp, making it to the USA in 1955. Superbly versatile, he won the 1978 world title with Lotus.

## 18 NELSON PIQUET

A MASTER at getting a team to work around him, he excelled under Bernie Ecclestone's leadership at Brabham, where he won two of his three world titles in collaboration with legendary chief designer Gordon Murray.

He moved to Williams, where he used his intelligence to get the better of Mansell, and called the Briton a blockhead with an ugly wife. The squabbling fell just short of fisticuffs.

## 17 SIR JACK BRABHAM

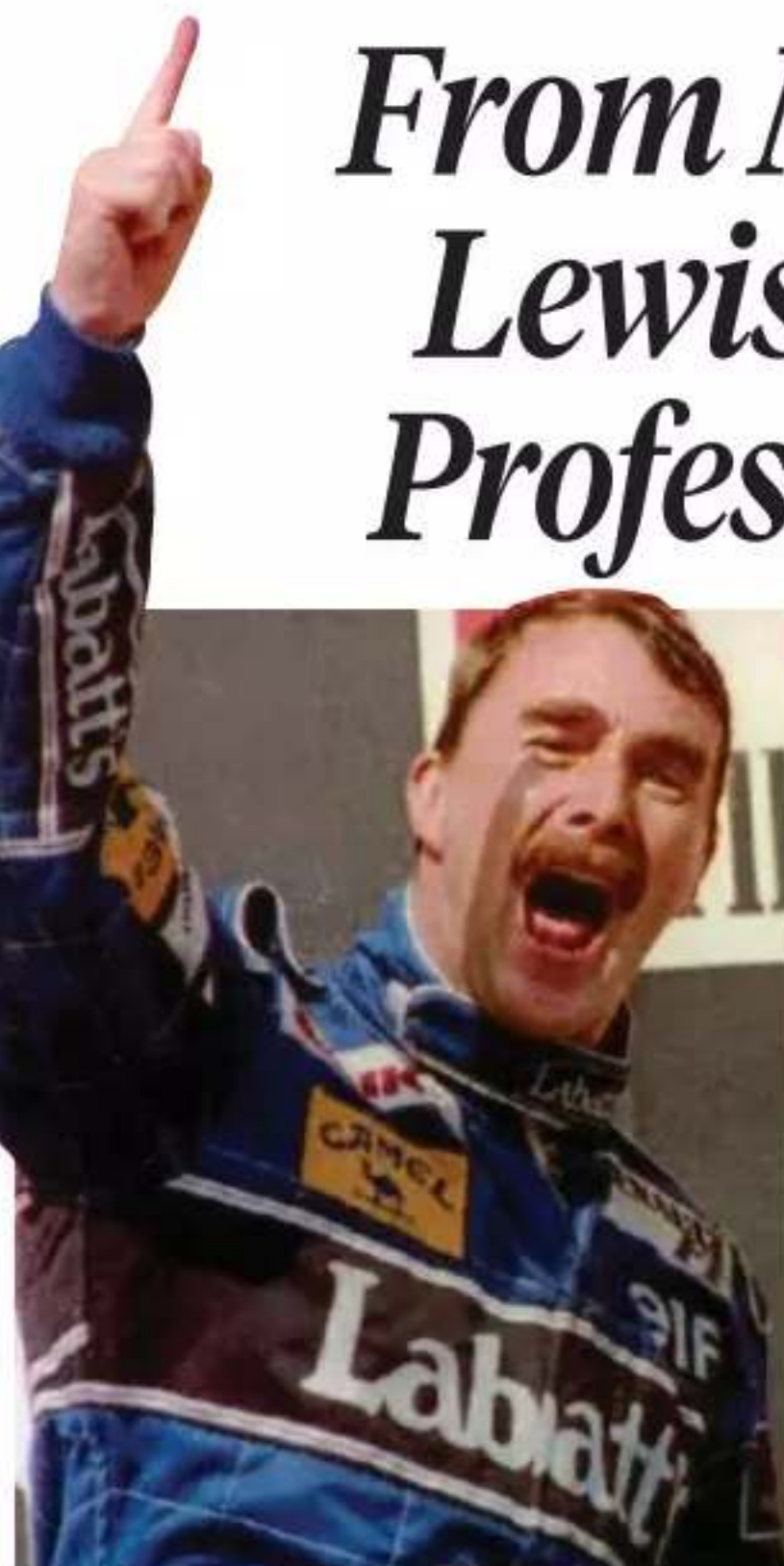
A RETICENT, sometimes truculent, character yet a royal of Australian sport.

Grandson of a cockney green-grocer who emigrated to Australia in 1885, Brabham remains the only man ever to win the world title for a team bearing his name. He was 40 at the time, claiming the third of his championships.

He died in 2014, the last champion from the 1950s to go.

## 16 NICO ROSBERG

HE will always be the man who beat Lewis Hamilton to the title in the same machinery. Never as gifted as his erstwhile friend, the cerebral German screwed himself to his task in 2016, having been clobbered by his Mercedes teammate for years. Who else would have shown the same powers



At last: Mansell wins the 1992 Championship aged 39 ALLSPORT

of resilience? He even stopped cycling in the summer break to lose one kilogram in leg muscle and credited his pole at Japan, by a hundredth of a second, to this.

He retired immediately after taking the championship, knowing a repeat was beyond him.

## 15 JAMES HUNT

THE great playboy once inspired a queue of BA stewardesses to form outside his bedroom door. Showing immense bravery he won the 1976 world championship driving on through blinding fantails of rain in Fuji in his title decider with Niki Lauda.

For a too-brief period, before his lifestyle distracted him, Hunt was the best on the grid. He died too young, 45 of a heart attack, taking with him a cavalier spirit but leaving behind an indelible mark.

## 14 SEBASTIAN VETTEL

A BRILLIANT front-runner. His glory days came at Red Bull, with his four titles in consecutive years from 2010. The blown diffuser era, the car sucked to the ground, best suited him. He made good use of it and Ferrari came calling with £50million a year.

Alas, his time in Italy did not deliver the prize he wanted. He might have won the title in quick red cars in 2017 and, more so, in

2018, but it seemed Hamilton may have got inside his head.

## 13 GRAHAM HILL

ONLY man to win the Triple Crown — Monaco, Le Mans and the Indianapolis 500.

A charismatic figure with his neatly trimmed moustache, he was one of the most well-known figures of the Swinging Sixties.

He won two titles and was 'Mr Monaco' for his five wins there. Some considered him overbearing. Stewart, however, told me he was the fairest man he ever met.

## 12 NIKI LAUDA

A HERO of sport, recognisable by the scars he suffered in the fire at the Nurburgring in 1976. So disfigured was he that skin was taken off his thigh to rebuild his face. Six weeks later he returned at Monza, his wounds weeping as he pulled on his balaclava.

A three-time world champion, he understood that success depended not only on his skills as a driver, but in making the team tick for him. Later, a decisive executive chairman of Mercedes during Hamilton's glory years. He died aged 70 of lung failure, a fighter finally consumed by the fire.

## 11 ALBERTO ASCARI

LIT the fire of Italian motorsport after World War Two. Ferrari's first world champion, in 1952, and again in 1953, many reckoned him faster than even Juan Manuel Fangio. Ascari crashed into the Monaco harbour in 1955 fighting for the lead and died a week later at Monza. Fangio said: 'I've lost my greatest opponent.'

## 10 FERNANDO ALONSO

DOES Alonso ever have an off day? He barely has an off session. He is unerringly consistent and enduringly brilliant.

He goes on at Aston Martin to his mid-40s, shifting perceptions of the possible in the modern era. Two world titles badly undersell him, and to think the last came nearly 20 years ago. One memory is his 2017 Indianapolis 500 debut. He drove like a god, all the American drivers looking up in awe. I

am convinced he would have won, but for his Honda engine blowing.

A Dick Dastardly, he only has near-misses to show for a championship-barren time at Ferrari.

But what a racer.

## 9 JIM CLARK

MANY devoted fans of 'Jimmy', the modest Borders farmer, would rate him highest on any list.

His death at Hockenheim in an F2 race in 1968 rocked the foundations of the sport, for, like Ayrton Senna a generation later, he had seemed invulnerable, and so blisteringly fast his peers were cowed. His win in Belgium in 1963 in pouring rain stands comparison with anything in the annals.

Through an eight-mile course past farmhouses, walls, pylons and trees, he lapped the field.

## 8 SIR JACKIE STEWART

AN extraordinary figure in the history of motor racing. In an age when death might be a corner away and drivers' faces were studies of terror as they prepared to race, Stewart shut this out and kept his head while all around him lost theirs. 'Mind management,' he called it.

He fought with typical doggedness for safety improvements, saying that if he let the matter rest he would have been a more popular champion, but perhaps a dead one. Later a grand prix winner as owner of his eponymous team, he is now an elder statesman. Who else could say the late Queen was guest of honour at his 80th birthday party?

## 7 ALAIN PROST

TO watch The Professor, as he was called, sashay from corner to corner with minimal steering input was to witness serene driving at the most rarefied level.

Stewart esteemed Prost as better than Senna, for being less brutal at the wheel and for driving within himself rather than on the edge. Ecclestone rated him the finest driver he ever saw until Max Verstappen came along.

He was denied his fourth title when Senna rammed into him in

Number one?  
Schumacher on  
the podium after  
his 2004 victory in  
Germany GETTY IMAGES



Suzuka in 1991, but was not to be denied while driving for Williams in 1993, aged 38.

## 6 SIR STIRLING MOSS

A NATIONAL treasure, and the most famous sportsman in the world before Muhammad Ali started playing to global TV audiences. Never a world champion but he would have been had his abiding sense of sportsmanship not precluded it, when he campaigned for Mike Hawthorn to be reinstated in Portugal in 1958.

The appeal was successful, and Hawthorn became the first Briton





Men of the people: Hamilton crowdsurfs after his famous 2016 Silverstone win (top), as Fangio gives a thumbs up in 1952 GETTY



#### 4 MICHAEL SCHUMACHER

SO good, he nearly killed the sport. After titles at Benetton, he drove Ferrari to their first championship for 21 years, the first of his five successively in red. A Maranello hero for ever.

He was loved by his team down to the last mechanic, despite a reputation for Teutonic cold. He fought his brother Ralf to win the 2003 San Marino Grand Prix only hours after their mother died.

Lightning quick, mould-breakingly fit, he gave no quarter. He could take this too far, famously punting Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve in title deciders.

And parking his car in Monaco in 2006 to scupper Alonso's final qualifying lap was a dark art.

#### 3 AYRTON SENNA

A FIGURE of myth, a legend augmented by his untimely death at Imola 30 years ago this month.

Many acclaim him as the greatest of all time, for there was his aura as well as his ability.

That combination, and a rivalry with Prost that defined both their careers, caused his home city of Sao Paulo to turn up in their millions to line the streets for his last earthly journey. Fiercely competitive, he conjured feats of brilliance that defied logic. His opening lap in the wet at Donington in 1993, from fifth to first, was mesmeric. Has there ever been a better lap?

Perhaps his in qualifying in Monaco in 1988, when he said he drove it as if not conscious.

#### 2 SIR LEWIS HAMILTON

IF he had never driven in Formula One again after his debut season he would still rank impossibly high in any imaginary pantheon.

The opening seconds of his career in Melbourne were a harbinger of the wonders that were to come, as he passed Alonso, his world champion McLaren team-mate. He was on his way to his first of nine podiums in a row.

His showpiece victory came in the wet at Silverstone in 2008, when he finished one minute ahead, like an amphibian.

That he never made a professional foul is greatly to his credit.

Hamilton is a trailblazer and statistically the greatest of them all. A crowning title at Ferrari would make him so, if Verstappen doesn't press his own claims.

#### 1 JUAN MANUEL FANGIO

THE Argentine has won more plaudits for the brilliance of his driving than anyone. Even Hamilton calls him the 'OG' — the Original Gangster. Stewart is sure he was the best and Moss considered him beyond comparison.

A five-time world champion in a record four teams, he has another testament to his greatness that will surely never be eclipsed: he won 24 times, almost modest by modern standards, but did so in just 51 grands prix. That is a 47 per cent strike rate. He remained fêted all his life, a dignified figure elevated to the status of a man with no racing equal.

## Insiders feel 'elite' set-up will narrow gap to rivals

From Back Page

bands and foam rollers. The aim is to increase blood flow to muscles through activities such as skipping and jogging. Players will also take part in dynamic mobility exercises, such as lunges, which open up the knees and hips.

The existing players' car park will be reconfigured to make space for the area, which is one of a number of enhancements which officials hope will create an 'elite environment that promotes elite performance'. A landscaping project will also take place, to screen the area from prying eyes.

The wide-scale work also includes the building of a winter garden, which will provide a 'year-round amenity space' and afford protection from the notorious Manchester climate. Currently, a series of balconies are used for meetings but they are only a realistic option in the warmer months. United also want to bring in 247 extra square metres of first-floor office space and a number of additional canopies, while an extra layby will be introduced next to the medical centre for ambulance use in the event of

**THE VERDICT**  
SEE CENTRE PAGES

an emergency. One of the aims of the refurb is to provide more natural light to the ground floor of the building and views of the outside world, with extensions to existing levels of glazing creating a more modern feel.

Insiders have expressed the view that Carrington, which opened in 1999, has fallen behind the facilities of United's rivals and that the works are aimed at addressing that shortfall. Many of the amendments are out of the marginal gains playbook, which Brailsford used to great success in the cycling world.

This season United have endured more than 60 separate injuries to players, with 24 first-teamers affected at some stage.

In previous years, work carried out at Carrington has centred on the club's academy and women's sides. Since the arrival of Ratcliffe and Ineos at the turn of the year, focus on assisting the first team has stepped up. After completing their purchase of 25 per cent of the club, they agreed to inject a much-needed £245m to improve infrastructure.

**TO FIND OUT WHO WON  
LAST NIGHT'S MIAMI  
GRAND PRIX, GO TO:  
[WWW.DAILYMAIL.CO.UK/SPORT](http://WWW.DAILYMAIL.CO.UK/SPORT)**

to win the title. By a single point from Moss. What worth had titles after that? Would one have made him Hawthorn's equal? Ha. Or two, twice as good? Laughable.

After Fangio's retirement in 1958 and his own career-ending shunt in 1962, Moss was the best F1 exponent in the world, as well as the best all-round driver full stop. He remained a byword for a certain English style all his long life.

#### 5 MAX VERSTAPPEN

UNQUESTIONABLY the greatest driver of today. Yes, his Red Bull is dominant but so have

other cars been, yet nobody has made the advantage count so emphatically. Why did nobody else ever win 10 successive races?

He was born with the right genes: his mother Sophie Kumpfen was a star karter; his father Jos has F1 pedigree. He was then reared by Jos's school-of-hard-knocks, learning the nuts and bolts of karting. He is the perfect fusion of nature and nurture.

Brutally tough on track when he needs to be, he can conjure blinding speed with a flick of a switch. When his career is over, his name may lead all the rest.





# Harlequins blown away as Toulouse march on to final

PAGE 64

# SPOILT BRAT!

## Keane slams Erling's angry reaction to being subbed

By JACK GAUGHAN

ROY KEANE returned fire yesterday in his war of words with Erling Haaland, calling the Manchester City striker a 'spoilt brat'.

The former Manchester United captain slammed Haaland for his angry reaction to being substituted against Wolves on Saturday, after the Norwegian was taken off having scored four goals.

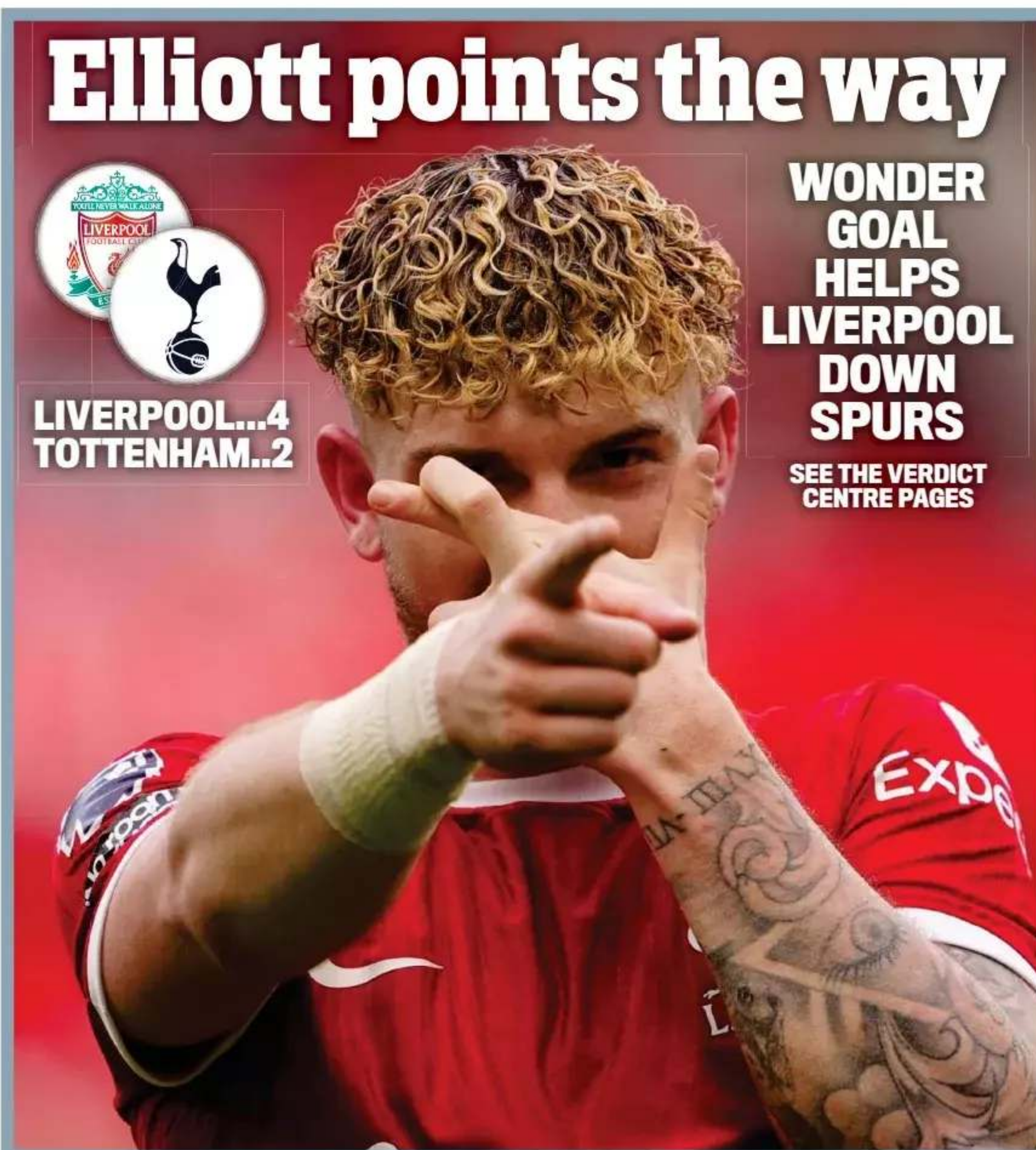
Keane, speaking on Sky Sports, said: 'We saw Haaland brought off, not too happy, behaving like a spoilt brat. When you have the spat with the manager and you're star man... it doesn't help if results aren't going your way, but because they win the game and he scores goals, it's almost forgotten about.'

When asked if it was OK for Haaland to be annoyed at being substituted, Keane continued: 'No, no. No, it's not.'

In March, Keane — who had several run-ins with Haaland's father Alf-Inge during his playing days — described the Norwegian's general play as that of a League Two striker, which led to Haaland hitting back following City's win over Wolves. Haaland's response was short and to the point as he said: 'I don't really care that much about that man, so that's all right.'

Keane had previously said: 'The level of his general play is so poor. In front of goal he's the best in the world, but his general play for such a player... it is poor. He has to improve that. He's almost like a League Two player.'

## Elliott points the way

LIVERPOOL...4  
TOTTENHAM...2WONDER  
GOAL  
HELPS  
LIVERPOOL  
DOWN  
SPURSSEE THE VERDICT  
CENTRE PAGES

Fingers crossed: but there was nothing lucky about Elliott's screamer to make it 4-0 PA

United hope Carrington overhaul will cut injuries

EXCLUSIVE  
By MIKE KEEGAN

MANCHESTER UNITED plan to carry out a major overhaul of Carrington this summer as Sir Jim Ratcliffe and his Ineos team attempt to transform the club's fortunes.

Mail Sport understands that substantial works are planned at the training ground, with the marginal gains fingerprints of sporting director Sir Dave Brailsford clear to see.

At the centre of the multi-million-pound redevelopment will be a new 'pre-activation and player performance' zone. United have suffered with injuries for some time and the hope is that the new warm-up area will help lower the risk of players picking up knocks. The plans will also see a huge increase in the amount of natural light that pours into the building thanks to a series of giant new windows around the exterior, along with more modern, open-plan office spaces.

Such is the focus on providing an optimum environment for the first team, the club's laundry operation will move to a new extension at a nearby building to ensure the attention within the walls is purely on football.

While officials have kept tight-lipped on costs, the budget for the project is thought to be in the multiple millions as Ratcliffe and his team use the off-season to accelerate change.

'Pre-activation' involves exercises, often with the use of resistance

TURN TO PAGE 67, COL 5

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## QUICK CROSSWORD

9,781

## ACROSS

- 1 Lightweight metal (9)  
6 Pronoun (3)  
8 Absolute ruler (6)  
9 Trembling poplar (5)  
10 Former British coin (6)  
11 \_\_\_ Granger, actor (7)  
13 Authorise (7)  
16 One of two (6)

- 18 Come into (5)  
19 Any bone of the wrist (6)  
21 Form into a knot or bow (3)  
22 Stand for (9)

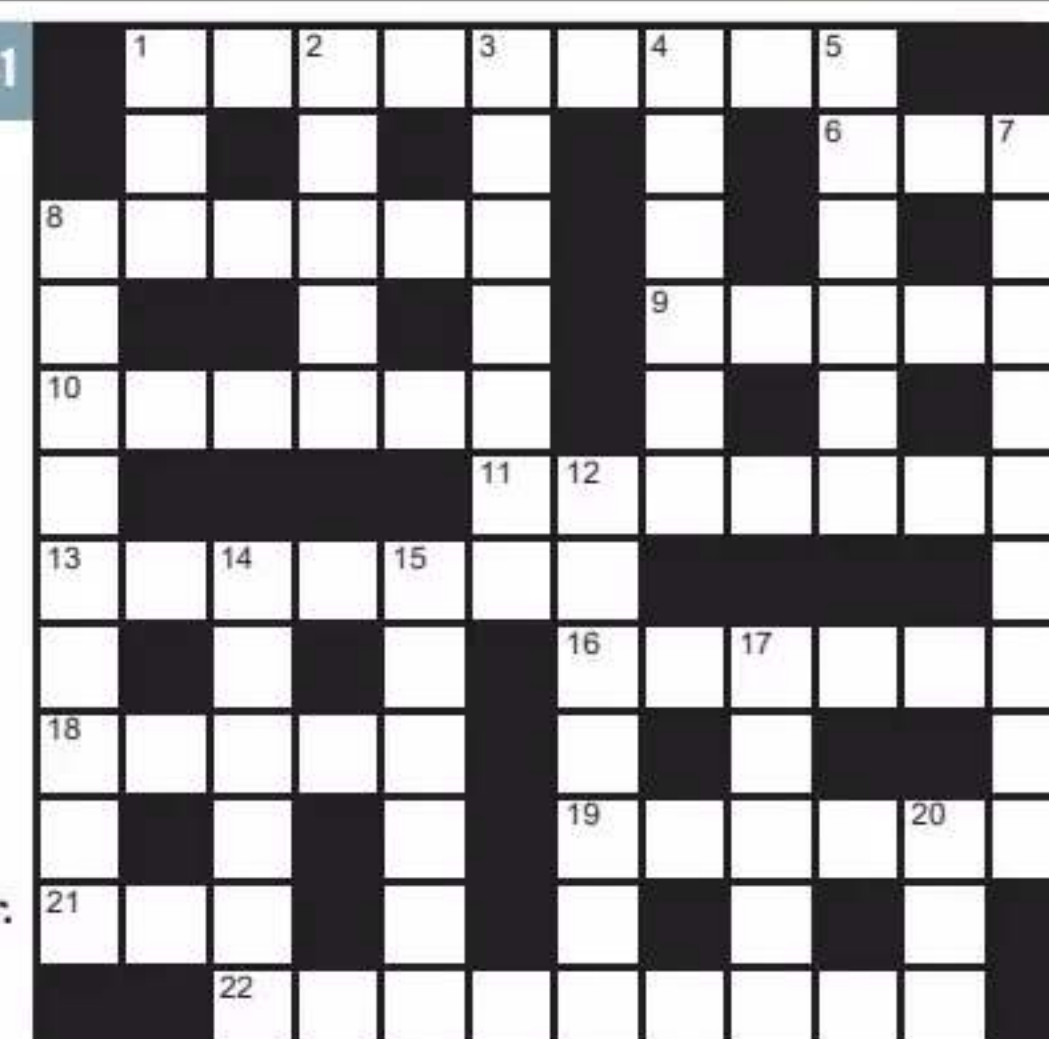
## DOWN

- 1 Mixture of wonder and dread (3)  
2 Shoe part (5)  
3 Concentrated (7)  
4 Breathe in (6)

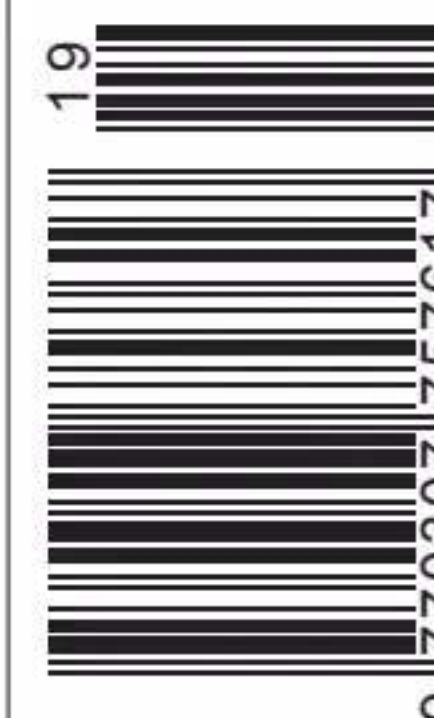
- 5 Short-sightedness (6)  
7 Abnormal (9)  
8 Partly or completely unlike (9)  
12 Golden syrup (7)  
14 One who makes ceramic ware (6)  
15 Excite (4,2)  
17 Abrupt (5)  
20 Perform on stage (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION (NO 9,780) - ACROSS: 1 Take to task. 6 Send-up. 7 Moans. 9 Barrel. 10 Aid. 11 Do up. 14 Beat. 15 Ely. 16 Hector. 17 Ounce. 18 Of note. 20 Cyberspace. DOWN: 1 Toe. 2 Kidnap. 3 Tapers. 4 Temple. 5 Seafarer. 6 San Diego. 8 Sedative. 9 Buoyancy. 12 Wheeze. 13 Echoes. 14 Bosnia. 19 The.

SOLUTION TOMORROW



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# THE VERDICT

Salah and Klopp friends again  
as Liverpool batter Spurs

LIVERPOOL....4 TOTTENHAM....2  
PAGES 2-3

# Jackson FIVE!

Chelsea striker's  
double caps  
rout against  
awful Hammers



CHELSEA.....5  
WEST HAM....0

MATCH ANALYSIS  
PAGES 6-7



Grin and can't bear it: Nicolas Jackson is all smiles after scoring number five, much to David Moyes' disgust

GETTY IMAGES

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# All friends again as Mo stars for Klopp

## Salah spat with manager forgotten as shoddy Tottenham humbled

**M**O SALAH'S return to centre stage was welcome and the Egyptian King didn't let anyone down with a goal and two assists in a thrilling penultimate game at Anfield for Jurgen Klopp.

But having led 4-0 against shambolic opposition displaying the worst aspects of Ange-ball, it was Liverpool who then suffered late jitters by conceding twice and becoming anxious about the mother of all comebacks. The conclusion at full time was that both sets of entertainers have huge vulnerabilities that need to be fixed.

Nothing is yet mathematically certain but all the evidence was presented why Liverpool will not be this season's Premier League champions and Tottenham will not be in the Champions League.

Even so, the sight of Salah in full flow, determined to help give Klopp a deserving farewell, was the main takeaway for the thousands who created a fantastic atmosphere on the Kop. There was a sadness in seeing the two Liverpool titans at each other's throats a week ago at West Ham. Neither man deserves their relationship issues to overshadow the closing of a glorious era, and they won't.

Klopp had the maturity to reinstate Salah to his starting line-up. The player justified the decision from the opening minute, giving Spurs left back Emerson Royal the most torrid of his 100 Premier League appearances. It was almost merciful when Ange Postecoglou removed the defender on 61 minutes.

Spurs certainly showed character in the final half-hour but that doesn't gloss over the way in which they had earlier capitulated to a fourth consecutive defeat — their worst run since 2004. The obsession with playing out from the back, even when their defenders looked uncomfortable and Liverpool pressed like demons, got them into repeated trouble.

Goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario remonstrated with his defenders after conceding a second goal on the stroke of half-time. Worse was to come when Cristian Romero and Emerson clashed at the interval with the Argentine hard-man grabbing his teammate before Vicario separated them.

That 'clear the air' approach didn't have any immediate benefits. Spurs allowed Liverpool to quickly score twice more and it was only the later arrival of Richarlison that genuinely altered the match flow.

'A hugely disappointing outcome. There probably is a lack of confidence,' conceded Postecoglou. His verdict on the public friction between his players? 'They care, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that.'

Klopp acknowledged his side's inconsistency within the 90 minutes. 'We were outstanding until we were not good,' he said.

Spurs had learned in the dressing room before kick-off of Aston Villa's defeat at Brighton but any hope it would give them a morale boost in their top-four race proved bogus. Instead, it was Liverpool inspired by Salah's presence.

Social media had blamed the player for his spat with Klopp but Anfield was clearly keen to move on and gave Salah's name an extra-loud cheer when it was read out before kick-off. He didn't take

**JOE BERNSTEIN**

at Anfield



<b>LIVERPOOL</b>	Salah 16, Robertson 45, Gakpo 50, Elliott 59	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTTENHAM</b>	Richarlison 72, Son 77	<b>2</b>

long to have an impact. An impudent cross-shot with the outside of his boot thudded against the crossbar and a run down his favoured right channel ended with a good save by Vicario with Romero hacking Harvey Elliott's rebound off the line.

It was no surprise Liverpool struck after 16 minutes. Cody Gakpo crossed to the far post where Salah had lost marker Emerson, allowing him to head home from close range.

On Sky Sports, Gary Neville made the point:

'That's Salah's 18th league goal of the season. It's a hell of a stat, hitting those numbers when people say he's not having a good season.'

With their title hopes effectively over, Liverpool played with a freedom which suited the late-afternoon sunshine. The busy

Vicario saved from Elliott, Gakpo and Luis Diaz, who also went close with an acrobatic volley.

Spurs, with chief creator James Maddison on the bench, couldn't string two passes together. That was particularly worrying given the number of times they tried to keep possession close to their own goal — and couldn't.

Liverpool's inevitable second arrived on the stroke of half-time. Vicario once again performed miracles to keep out Salah's shot from point-blank range but the ball fell

**Mixed emotions: a cheery Klopp embraces Postecoglou** AP



kindly to the incoming Robertson, who tapped in.

If Postecoglou was hoping a dressing-room chat would help, it didn't. After 50 minutes, Emerson was so busy concentrating on Salah he allowed Elliott to dispossess him. Elliott curled in a beautiful cross and Gakpo was able to hang in the air Michael Jordan-style to head in.

When Salah set up Elliott to score the best goal of the game after 59 minutes to make it 4-0 — the youngster finding the top corner from 25

yards — a dismayed Postecoglou made a triple change.

Remarkably, it altered the party mood at Anfield quite dramatically. Richarlison seemed to enjoy being villainised for being a former Evertonian and put Spurs on the board with a neat side-foot finish from Brennan Johnson's cross after 72 minutes.

Five minutes later, the Brazilian stayed onside to tee up Son, who clipped his finish over Alisson.

Anfield was suddenly anxious. Salah missed a golden chance from three yards to make the game safe and there were audible groans when seven minutes of stoppage time was signalled.

Alisson made a few saves and Joe Gomez had to be alert to clear after Maddison wriggled into the penalty area on a slalom run.

The over-riding emotion at full time was relief. Both for the victory and the fact they'll be able to salute both Klopp and Salah instead of being forced to choose sides.

Not that the manager will admit to having any favourites. Asked about his enthusiastic reaction to Elliott's strike, he responded: 'I smiled at all the scorers!'

### HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal.....	36	26	5	5	88	28	60	83
Man City.....	35	25	7	3	87	33	54	82
Liverpool.....	36	23	9	4	81	38	43	78
Aston Villa...36	20	7	9	7	73	53	20	67
Tottenham...35	18	6	11	6	69	58	11	60
Newcastle...35	17	5	13	7	78	56	22	56
Chelsea.....35	15	9	11	7	70	59	-11	54
Man Utd.....34	16	6	12	5	52	51	1	54
West Ham...36	13	10	13	5	56	70	-14	49
Bournemouth.36	13	9	14	4	52	63	-11	48
Brighton.....35	12	11	12	5	53	57	-4	47
Wolves.....36	13	7	16	4	49	60	-11	46
Fulham.....36	12	8	16	5	51	55	-4	44
C Palace.....35	10	10	15	4	45	57	-12	40
Everton.....36	12	9	15	3	38	49	-11	37
Brentford...36	9	9	18	5	52	60	-8	36
Nottm F.....36	8	9	19	4	45	63	-18	29
Luton.....36	6	8	22	4	49	78	-29	26
Burnley.....36	5	9	22	3	39	74	-35	24
Sheff Utd (R)..36	3	7	26	3	100	65	16	

**LIVERPOOL** (4-3-3): Alisson 6; Alexander-Arnold 7, Quansah 7, Van Dijk 6, Robertson 7 (Gomez 64min, 6.5); Elliott 8 (Szoboszlai 84), Endo 6 (Bajcetic 65, 6), Mac Allister 6.5 (Gravenberch 75, 6); **SALAH 8.5**, Gakpo 7, Diaz 7 (Nunez 75, 6).

**Scorers:** Salah 16, Robertson 45, Gakpo 50, Elliott 59. **Booked:** Alexander-Arnold.

**Manager:** Jurgen Klopp 7.5.

**TOTTENHAM** (4-3-3): Vicario 7; Porro 6, Romero 7, Van de Ven 6.5, Emerson 4.5 (Skipp 61, 6); Bissouma 5, Sarr 5.5 (Lo Celso 75, 6), Bentancor 5 (Maddison 61, 6.5); Kulusevski 6 (Richarlison 61, 7), Son 6.5, Johnson 6.5.

**Scorers:** Richarlison 72, Son 77. **Booked:** Sarr, Emerson, Bissouma, Van de Ven.

**Manager:** Ange Postecoglou 6.

**Referee:** Paul Tierney 7.

**Attendance:** 60,075.





Red letter day: Elliott unleashes a powerful shot past Vicario and into the top corner to put Liverpool 4-0 up

GETTY IMAGES

MO MAKES HISTORY

MO SALAH became the first player in Premier League history to score 10+ goals and provide 10+ assists in three consecutive seasons...

2023-24	
Goals	18
Assists	10
2022-23	
Goals	19
Assists	12
2021-22	
Goals	23
Assists	13

12 SALAH has now scored 12 Premier League goals against Tottenham, his second-highest return against a single opponent after Manchester United, against whom the Egyptian has 14 goals.



Heading in the right direction: Salah nods Liverpool in front after 16 minutes

GETTY IMAGES

Ange: We had bust-up because we care

ANGE POSTECOGLOU defended his Tottenham side after they fell to a fourth straight loss on an afternoon when two of his players were involved in a bust-up on the pitch. With Tottenham trailing 2-0 at half-time, Cristian Romero and Emerson Royal broke into an argument in the middle of the pitch and came face-to-face before goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario separated them. 'They care. They are not going to be happy with the current situation,' said the Spurs boss. 'Because they care, they want to improve. There's nothing wrong with that if it stays constructive. They want to change the situation and not just accept it.' Spurs went four goals down in the second half before the introduction of Richarlison, who got a goal and an assist as the visitors restored some respectability, but this is now their worst run in the league since 2004, when Jacques Santini was sacked. And Postecoglou stressed that his side

AADAM PATEL at Anfield

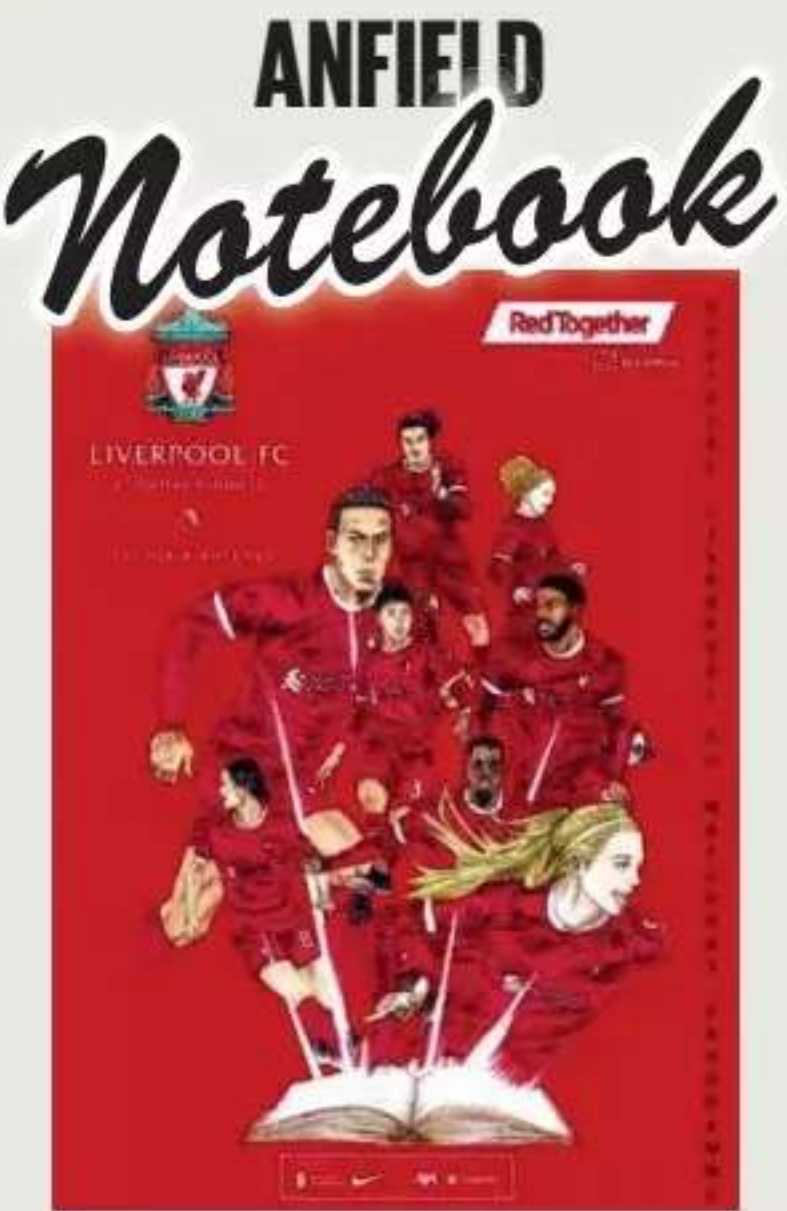
doesn't have a mentality problem, despite blowing the opportunity to make a late push for fourth place after Aston Villa's defeat at Brighton had left the door open. 'It's got nothing to do with mentality,' he said. 'If you come to Anfield and don't try to play, maybe that shows that you don't have the mentality. We definitely tried to play so it's not a mentality issue at all. In fact, it's the polar opposite of that. We're short absolutely but it gives me something to work with.' Spurs have conceded 13 goals in their last four but Postecoglou took pride from their display after failing to score at Stamford Bridge and St James' Park in their last two away games. 'It's a disappointing outcome but at least we were more like ourselves than in our last two away games where we



Flashpoint: goalkeeper Vicario has to separate Romero and Emerson (right) as tempers flare

SKY SPORTS

didn't try and play football,' he said. Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp was delighted with his side as they returned to winning ways in his third-last game. 'Did I expect us to be 4-0 up? No. Did I expect us to be at 4-2 and Alisson has to make two more worldie saves? No. For us, it means we are third - we cannot change that probably any more in either direction. I really liked the way we played, how we played together.'



BY AADAM PATEL

AS part of Jurgen Klopp's farewell, Liverpool will release a documentary featuring interviews with Sir Alex Ferguson, Carlo Ancelotti, Pep Guardiola, Mauricio Pochettino and others. Mail Sport understands that the media team at Anfield have a multi-episode series in the works for the German's final season at the club.

FAIR to say that Mohamed Salah was a man on a mission from the outset. His name got an extra loud cheer from the Anfield crowd pre-match and he tried to score from an outrageous angle early on and hit the bar. Salah gave Liverpool the lead and assisted Harvey Elliott's clincher. The Egyptian has now scored 25 goals in all competitions this season and for those doubting him, he has reached that landmark in six of his seven seasons at Anfield.

BOTH managers here were a yellow card away from a one-match touchline ban, but there was no sign of Jurgen Klopp picking up a tactical booking to ensure he will be in the dugout for his final game at Anfield on May 19. He will have to be extra careful for his penultimate game at Aston Villa next Monday.

FOR all the hype that initially surrounded Ange Postecoglou, Spurs have lost four Premier League games in a row for the first time since 2004. That previous run included Jacques Santini quitting. It is highly unlikely Spurs will make a managerial change but the last few weeks will have given Postecoglou a better idea of who he wants in his squad next term.

THE biggest applause of the afternoon was reserved for 19-year-old Stefan Bajcetic, who made his first Premier League appearance since March 2023. It was an impressive cameo from the Spaniard, who burst on to the scene last season, only for injury to ruin this campaign.

SON HEUNG-MIN made his 300th Premier League appearance, becoming just the third player to reach this milestone for Spurs after Hugo Lloris (361) and Harry Kane (317). He has now scored in five consecutive Premier League games against Liverpool, the joint-longest run against them, matching Leicester's Jamie Vardy between 2016 and 2017.



# THE PREMIER LEAGUE IN SIXTY SECONDS

By TARA ANSON-WALSH

## HAT-TRICK HERO

**41** ERLING HAALAND'S hat-trick was the 41st scored by a Man City player in the Premier League, with only Liverpool netting more in the competition's history (42).

**HIS treble was also the 30th Premier League hat-trick at the Etihad.**

**HOTBEDS FOR HAT-TRICKS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE:**

Etihad Stadium	30
Anfield	29
Old Trafford	27
Stamford Bridge	26
Highbury	19

## SOLACE FOR FOREST

NOTTINGHAM FOREST picked up their first away win in the competition since their 3-1 victory at Newcastle on Boxing Day.

**FOREST'S AWAY FORM:**

Jan 20: **LOST** 3-2 v Brentford  
Feb 4: **DREW** 1-1 v B'mouth  
Feb 24: **LOST** 4-2 v Aston Villa  
March 10: **LOST** 1-0 v Brighton  
March 16: **DREW** 1-1 v Luton  
April 7: **LOST** 3-1 v Spurs  
April 21: **LOST** 2-0 v Everton  
May 4: **WON** 3-1 v Sheff Utd

## ALEXANDER THE GREAT

**20** ALEXANDER ISAK is the first Newcastle player to score 20 goals in a Premier League season since Alan Shearer's 22 in 2002-03.

## SPURS FLATTENED

TOTTENHAM have lost their last four consecutive games in the Premier League, their longest losing run since a run of six in November 2004.

**SPURS' LAST FOUR GAMES:**

**X** 4-0 v Newcastle (a)  
**X** 2-3 v Arsenal (h)  
**X** 2-0 v Chelsea (a)  
**X** 4-2 v Liverpool (a)

## BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE

**9** CHELSEA have won nine of their last 11 games at Stamford Bridge in the PL. Since the start of December, the Blues have the joint-most home wins (nine, level with Arsenal) and home points (28, level with Man City).

**PS** WEST HAM have already conceded 70 goals in the Premier League this season, their joint-most in a single campaign in the competition since the 2010-11 season.



## TOM PRENTKI

at the Amex Stadium

**BRIGHTON**

Pedro 87

**1**

**ASTON VILLA**

**0**

IT has been a damaging week for Aston Villa, with a shock home defeat by Olympiacos wounding their Europa Conference League bid and then this tired loss denting their hopes of qualifying for the Champions League.

Joao Pedro's late goal was the difference in the scoreline, but the difference in performances was stark, with Roberto De Zerbi's side fully deserving of victory.

The goal, scored on the rebound after Robin Olsen saved Pedro's initial effort from the penalty spot, was the first Brighton have managed since Danny Welbeck's strike at Anfield on March 31. This was their first win in seven games.

For Villa, victory would have all but assured their return to elite European competition for the first time in 42 years. But their place remains in doubt, although Tottenham's continued decline is helping the cause.

Boss Unai Emery made two changes to the team that lost 4-2 to the Greeks in their semi-final first leg, with Pau Torres and Diego Carlos returning to the starting line-up.

'We need fresh players,' said Emery, despite refusing to use injury or fatigue as an excuse for the performance. 'Against Arsenal a few weeks ago it was the same, more or less, and we won.'

Emery was still without injured keeper Emi Martinez so Olsen again deputised as the manager admitted 'it's not easy to replace the best goalkeeper in the world'.

Olsen, though, was Villa's best performer as they looked like that first leg defeat had taken it out of them.

It was Brighton, in particular Simon Adingra, who were the better performers. He had the game's first shot, cutting in off the left and shooting tamely at Olsen. Five minutes later, Adingra had a more powerful effort which Olsen beat away.

There were handfuls of empty seats at the normally full Amex, reflective perhaps of the Seagulls taking just two points from their last 18 available, a run which has seen their season peter out.

They again came close to taking the lead when Welbeck connected with Billy Gilmour's corner with his shoulder and the ball looped narrowly over.

The most entertaining sight of the half was Emery's gesturing as he relentlessly paced his technical area. He left the fourth official in no doubt about his thoughts on a challenge on Leon Bailey and also offered him his sweater in protest at Ollie Watkins not getting a free-kick for a pull on his shirt.

Villa were dealt a blow when Morgan Rogers was forced off with an injury after 25 minutes, necessitating a reshuffle with Matty Cash on to replace him.

Watkins, or any Villa forward in fact, saw little of the ball in the first half, but the England striker



Decisive: Pedro reacts quickest to head the only goal of the game past Olsen, after the Villa keeper

# Villa flagging with finish line in sight

did have one beautiful touch to take him away from Lewis Dunk and into the Brighton penalty area before being dispossessed.

It was a game of few chances, but Brighton had a flurry of them just before the break.

First, Welbeck played in Adingra who collided with Olsen as the keeper raced from his line to gather the ball. Then the Ivory Coast winger latched on to a cross from Pedro, but failed to make a firm connection at the far post.

Adingra also picked out Pascal Gross, who looked to have got round Olsen before the keeper recovered well to save his shot.

Villa had more purpose after the break, but were again indebted to Olsen as he denied Pedro at point-blank range after Adingra had come infield from his left-wing berth to wreak havoc.

The chances were stacking up

and another came and went as substitute Julio Enciso fired over when well placed after John McGinn missed his clearance.

The Amex erupted when Gross touched in Igor Julio's cross at the near post, but it was disallowed after a lengthy VAR check for offside.

Then, 11 minutes from time, the same situation played out at the other end. Bailey blocked Adingra's attempted pass and the ball fell straight to McGinn, who slotted it in before VAR stood up the on-field decision of offside.

With the game into its final 10 minutes, Welbeck went close with a looping header from Enciso's cross before referee Robert Jones pointed to the spot after Ezri Konsa clipped Adingra's heels following a one-two with Pedro.

Pedro stepped up and saw his effort brilliantly saved by Olsen to

his right, but he reacted quickly to head in the rebound.

'We are suffering in the last two months, we are losing too many games and we have to accept it,' said De Zerbi, who conceded Villa had not been at their best.

'Since October we are playing without seven, eight, sometimes 10 players. We didn't show an amazing game in terms of quality, but we showed a big attitude.'

**BRIGHTON** (3-4-3): Verbruggen 6; Veltman 6, Igor 6, Dunk 6; Webster 6, Buonanotte 5 (Enciso 61min, 6), Gilmour 6 (Baleba 88), Gross 7; Pedro 7, Welbeck 7 (Moder 88), **ADINGRA** 9 (Barco 90).

Scorer: Pedro 87.

Booked: Gross, Adingra. Manager: Roberto De Zerbi 7.

**ASTON VILLA** (4-4-1-1): Olsen 8; Carlos 7, Konsa 6 (Moreno 90), Torres 6, Digne 7 (Chambers 90); Bailey 5, McGinn 6, Luiz 6, Rogers 6 (Cash 25, 6), Diaby 6 (Duran 73, 6); Watkins 5. **Booked:** Cash.

Manager: Unai Emery 6.

Referee: Robert Jones 6. Att: 31,596.





had initially saved the Brighton striker's 87-minute penalty at the Amex

GETTY IMAGES

# De Zerbi delighted to take advantage

By TOM PRENTKI

ROBERTO DE ZERBI admitted Brighton did not beat 'the true Aston Villa' after his side ended a miserable run with their first win in seven games. Joao Pedro's late goal, scoring from the rebound after his penalty had been saved by the excellent Robin Olsen, proved the difference, but the Seagulls were the better side throughout.

'To be honest, Villa were not themselves, maybe a little tired,' said the Italian. 'They are playing in the Europa Conference League and they have a lot of injuries. I am proud because we played a great game against one of the best teams in the Premier League. Playing against Unai Emery's teams is very tough. We played well, we deserved to win, we could have scored more goals. I think Olsen was the best player for Villa.'

There is clearly a great deal of mutual admiration between De Zerbi and Emery and a symmetry in the narrative of their seasons. Both have thrown themselves full throttle into league and European

campaigns and suffered a string of injuries as a result. While the best Brighton can now hope for is a top-half finish, a first-ever qualification for the Champions League remains in sight for Villa. 'Maybe, perhaps, but it's not an excuse for us,' said Emery when De Zerbi's assessment of his team's fatigue was put to him.

'We lost and we didn't deserve more. We competed and we tried to stop them. They created more chances than us and they were dangerous. We needed the goalkeeper and he was here. Robin Olsen was fantastic.'

Emery now faces a trip to Greece on Thursday where they trail Olympiacos 4-2 after the first leg of their Europa Conference League semi-final. 'The most important thing now is rest,' he added. 'Thursday is more difficult for us against Olympiacos, but we will be there. We must try to recover players.'

2

VILLA had just two shots against Brighton, their fewest in a top-flight match since May 2016 (also two). Only against Manchester United in August 2005 have they ever had fewer in a PL match (one).

NEW

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# We made it easy for Blues to run riot, rages Moyes

DAVID MOYES questioned his West Ham players' mental toughness after conceding five goals in consecutive away matches. The Hammers, who were also thrashed 5-2 at Crystal Palace last month, folded meekly at Stamford Bridge and were 3-0 down by half-time. 'It's happened several times this season, which I've certainly not enjoyed,' said Moyes. 'Players not in their positions, running out of position, opening up too easily. 'We were lacking toughness, leadership, mental toughness. We've now had two away games where we've conceded five. 'The manager will always take the responsibility because that's what you do in this job, you have to prepare them and get them right, set them up. Somewhere along the line the players have to take responsibility for doing their jobs, being hard to play against, being aggressive and competitive. I question if we were all that in the first half.' Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino, meanwhile, hailed his 'intelligent' players for learning from past mistakes. Pochettino was particularly pleased by the Blues' fourth goal, which saw Noni Madueke unselfishly set up team-mate Nicolas Jackson for a tap-in. Madeuke and Jackson were involved in a heated row during Chelsea's 6-0 victory over Everton last month, with both players attempting to

**KATHRYN BATTE**  
at Stamford Bridge

take a penalty instead of designated taker Cole Palmer. Both were heavily criticised for their antics but Pochettino insisted yesterday's performance showed his young team has matured. 'The assist from Noni to Jackson, that showed that we learn, that we are smart,' Pochettino said. 'The situation with the penalty against Everton, we received many criticisms but a young team always needs to make mistakes to improve. We are able to improve because we are smart and intelligent people. I think today was a great (example) of how the group is starting to feel between them. 'This process always takes time. You never know if it's going to take one month, six months or a year. The most important thing is that they start to set the principles and feel and live like a group of players that are creating links to compete. 'That is the reality. I am so pleased because we (the staff) are part of this process, helping them to grow and be more mature and improve all aspects. 'It's only the first step, a massive step, but it is a step that we wanted to reach. From there, we can evolve in all the other aspects. 'Without principles, without things that we're starting to show, it's impossible to evolve other aspects.'



1 Floodgates open: in-form Palmer fires home for 1-0



AP Volley good: Gallagher lashes in Chelsea's second



5 At the double: Jackson keeps cool and passes the ball past a despairing Areola for his second and Chelsea's fifth

# Whisper it, but Chelsea

**A**FTER so much incoherent mumbling, Chelsea are finally beginning to make a little sense.

Not enough to trust them, but sufficient for Mauricio Pochettino to articulate a strong case for continued employment beyond this summer.

As ever, any talk of revivals ought to be weighed against the calamities that have followed each of their new dawns in this strangest of campaigns. But there is also no doubt that Pochettino has orchestrated a reasonable upturn, with victory over Tottenham now followed by this exuberant demolition of another London rival.

In what was their fourth win in seven league games, Chelsea were excellent. There was no ambiguity around that and no suggestion either that this was a one-man effort. Unlike a number of their

**RIATH AL-SAMARRAI**

at Stamford Bridge



**CHELSEA**

Palmer 15, Gallagher 30, Madueke 36, Jackson 48, 80

**WEST HAM**



high points this season, Cole Palmer wasn't the sole agent of destruction.

Sure, he was brilliant, which extends further than his latest goal — the 21st of his wondrous campaign to go with nine assists — but here he had company. Here, the load was shared. Here, the quality rotated and sparkled. Whisper it

and then forget it, because less than a fortnight ago they were walloped 5-0 by Arsenal, but here they looked like a fine team.

Conor Gallagher was naturally among the best of them. Anyone within that boardroom who sees pure profit in his performances ought to be drummed out of west London — he is pure class and indispensable, a master of winning the ball back and one of the safest pairs of boots when they have it. His goal was extremely well taken.

Then you had Noni Madueke, delivering arguably his best showing of the season. He annihilated Emerson in the battle up Chelsea's right flank, which saw a scruffy goal scored and an unselfish assist provided for Nicolas Jackson, whose own season is mirroring that of his club.

This former lightning rod for Pochettino's difficulties impressed against Spurs and got two in this mauling, which increased the

## Jackson & Co inflict a horror show as Poch's push gathers serious momentum

momentum of Chelsea's belated push for European qualification.

Now this is the tricky part — how do you contextualise a hiding when the victim is so awfully poor as the side served up by David Moyes at Stamford Bridge? They were rotten. Spineless. Gutless.

For what he has brought to West Ham, we might fairly say that his tenure deserved a more spirited end, if these do indeed prove to be his final weeks at the club. In that conversation, he was let down by this performance. Shamed by the

indifference of it. If Julen Lopetegui was watching, he might well have incurred a few reservations about the character of a squad that could draw with Liverpool and roll over so softly next time out.

This battering could be foretold almost immediately. Not necessarily through glaring opportunities but in the ease with which Chelsea regained possession and then retained it. West Ham's complicity in all that cannot be overstated — their midfield was dismally willing to be ransacked.





second



Mad for it: Madueke enjoys his header

GETTY



's fifth as abject West Ham sink without a trace at Stamford Bridge

REX

Connect four: Jackson hugs Madueke after his first

REX

# are starting to click

## Hammers European momentum

Inside four minutes we saw Moises Caicedo charging 30 yards or more unchallenged through the middle of the pitch.

Such freedoms presumably weren't in the plan, though in this case the move broke down on the edge of West Ham's area when Jackson fumbled his touch.

A moment later, Emerson was dragged out of position at left back and surrendered space for Gallagher to play a quick free-kick up the line to Jackson. Cutting in from the right, he went for the

snapshot to the near post and Alphonse Areola saved, but those two warnings illustrated what each manager was working with.

The pay-off came just shy of the quarter-hour mark, though there was a degree of fortune in it for Chelsea, with Jackson meeting a cross from Madueke and crashing his volley against Kurt Zouma's thigh. The ball could have gone anywhere but it chose Palmer and the inevitable followed — a lovely, precise hit to the corner.

For the briefest of moments, West Ham summoned some resilience, with Jarrod Bowen heading against the bar almost immediately after the restart, but it was a shortlived fight. Both Jackson and Madueke were able to surge unimpeded through Moyes's midfield towards threatening outcomes before the second strike arrived in the 30th minute.

As with the first goal, there was some good fortune, and once more

the luck went against Zouma. This time he blocked a Madueke volley and it was Gallagher who lashed in the loose ball.

Sensing a capitulation, Chelsea pushed for more and found it via Madueke. He had been left free by Tomas Soucek when Mykhailo Mudryk's corner passed overhead and was in the right spot to nudge over the line after Thiago Silva rerouted it back the other way. Watching a replay on his monitor, Moyes had a look of disgust carved into his face — set-piece errors always sting him more.

Both Gallagher and Bowen hit the opposing bars towards the end of the half, before Chelsea got the second going with another slap for their visitors. Better put, West Ham tripped themselves up.

Full marks to Trevoh Chalobah for the 50-yard through-ball that Madueke kindly squared for Jackson to tap in, but Emerson's tracking of the English winger off

the initial pass was shambolic. Jackson's second carried a higher tariff of difficulty, but he nailed the one-on-one with Areola after a ball up the middle from Caicedo.

Naturally, it started with a West Ham gaffe when Soucek mis-controlled, but Moyes was beyond gesticulating at this point. If there was any relief for him, it is that most of West Ham's fans had already gone home.

**CHELSEA** (4-2-3-1): Petrovic 7; Chalobah 8 (Gusto 83min), Silva 8 (Disasi 82), Badiashile 8, Cucurella 8; Caicedo 8, Gallagher 8; **MADUEKE 8.5** (Casadei 76), Palmer 8 (Gilchrist 89), Mudryk 7.5 (Nkunku 76); Jackson 8. **Scorers:** Palmer 15, Gallagher 30, Madueke 36, Jackson 48, 80.

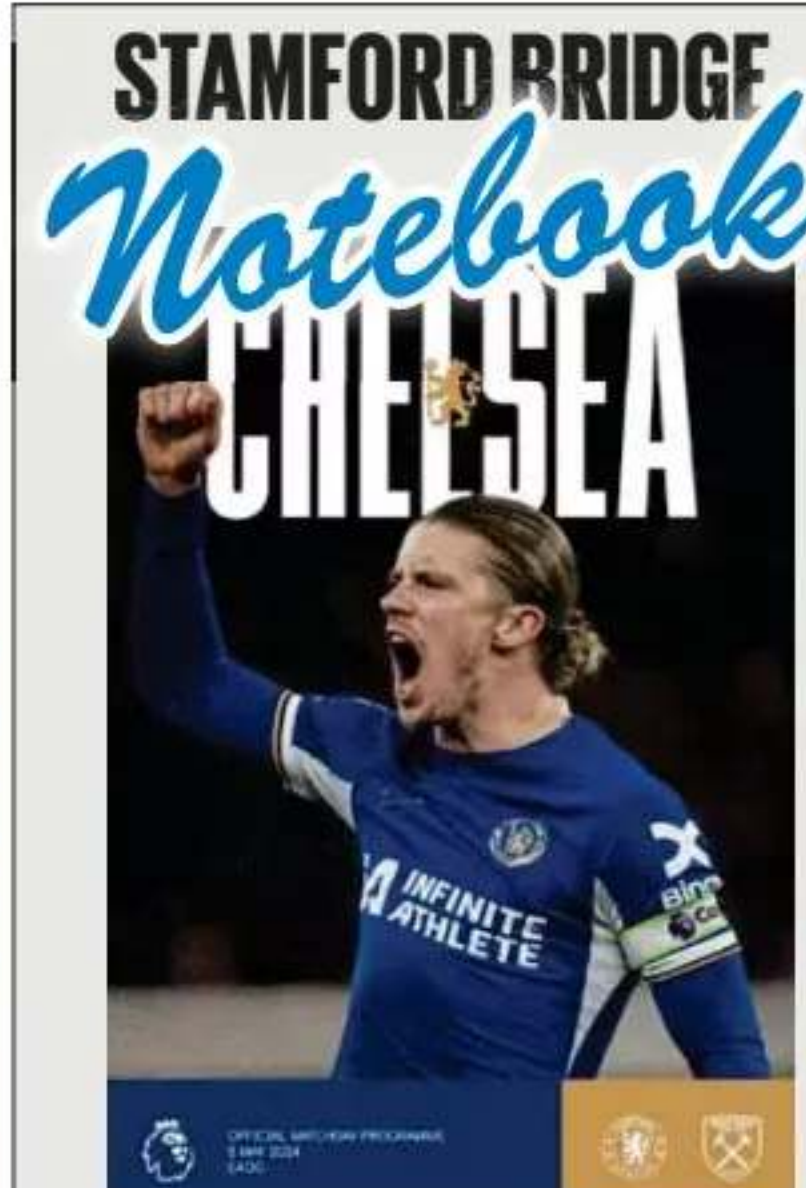
**Booked:** Cucurella.

**Manager:** Mauricio Pochettino 8.

**WEST HAM** (4-2-3-1): Areola 5; Coufal 3, Zouma 3.5, Ogbonna 3, Emerson 3; Soucek 3, Alvarez 4 (Ward-Prowse 46, 5); Bowen 6, Paqueta 3 (Cresswell 76), Kudus 5; Antonio 4 (Ings 70, 5). **Booked:** Ogbonna, Emerson, Paqueta. **Manager:** David Moyes 3.

**Referee:** Andy Madley 6.5

**Attendance:** 39,295.



### BY KIERAN GILL

WHEN Chelsea made it 3-0, David Moyes did what managers tend to do after conceding a goal by returning to his seat to watch the replay on a mini-screen. The beauty of the Stamford Bridge press box being directly behind the benches meant *Mail Sport* got to see what he was watching, and for a good few seconds before the broadcasters got around to showing Noni Madueke's tap-in, all he saw was an image of himself looking miserable as sin.

COLE PALMER, who turns 22 today, became only the third player in Premier League history to reach 30-plus goal involvements in a single season while aged 21 or younger. The other two? Robbie Fowler and *Mail Sport* columnist Chris Sutton.

MEANWHILE, Palmer has now scored 16 goals in all competitions for Chelsea in 2024 — all of them coming at Stamford Bridge. Too late to start a petition to have Euro 2024 held in SW6?

WITH Moyes set to depart West Ham this summer, one fan in the away end sacrificed a bedsheet to show his appreciation. 'Moysie,' read the banner. 'Thank you. Three years in Europe. Champions!' Though this is turning into a disastrous farewell tour, you hope that appreciation will be replicated in their last home game at the London Stadium against Luton this Saturday.

WHILE technical director Tim Steidten is no longer welcome in the West Ham changing room, Mauricio Pochettino is happy for owners Behdad Eghbali and Todd Boehly to pop in after a match. The only rule is they are not allowed to deliver unsolicited speeches to the group without Pochettino's permission, given the fallout from when Boehly branded their season 'embarrassing' after a home defeat by Brighton in April 2023.

NOT the greatest return to Chelsea for Kurt Zouma, inadvertently setting up Cole Palmer and Conor Gallagher for their goals when he tried to put in tackles.

GOOD news for Pochettino — after being unable to name a single senior outfielder on their substitutes' bench against Tottenham, Chelsea had Christopher Nkunku, Levi Colwill, Malo Gusto, Raheem Sterling and Axel Disasi back as options for this clash.



**AROUND THE GROUNDS: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SATURDAY'S ACTION >>**

ONE more win will almost certainly keep Nottingham Forest in the Premier League but their prospects beyond that are far less clear. There are doubts about the manager, their spending power and the future of key players. Nuno Espirito Santo replaced Steve Cooper last December with a simple brief: keep Forest up. During his brief tenure, Nuno has seen his team docked four points for breaking spending rules and witnessed his employers arguing regularly with referees and the Premier League. 'It has been hard for us to

**SHEFF UTD 1**  
**NOTTM FOREST 3**  
**TOM COLLOMOSSE**  
at Bramall Lane

manage all the situations,' said the Forest boss. 'The points deduction, the players that went to the Africa Cup of Nations, the referees. The only way we can do things is on the pitch. That is the big advantage we have. It is in our hands to achieve the final objective.' The situation will improve if Forest's appeal against their penalty is successful. The club expect to hear

tomorrow and even one extra point could prove crucial. Yet survival would bring more questions. Though the attacking football has improved under Nuno, the defensive numbers are grim: one clean sheet in 21 and 23 goals conceded from set-pieces, albeit some of those were during Cooper's tenure. Nuno signed a two-and-a-half-year deal and is the highest-paid manager in the history of the club, but his position will be reviewed at the end of the season. Whoever is in charge may have to manage a weakened squad. As Forest try to

stay within the spending rules limits, star defender Murillo is likely to be sold and they may listen to offers for Morgan Gibbs-White. There will definitely be an overhaul of the playing squad at Sheffield United. Having led the Blades to the Premier League in 2019, Chris Wilder knows what it takes to escape the Championship but doubts the mentality of some of his current players. There are a few gems, and midfielder Gustavo Hamer will surely have offers to stay in the top division, but most of the Blades squad are of Championship standard.



Key man: Forest boss Nuno goes to Gibbs-White (left) after beating the Blades PA

# Gunners left to pray

**N**EARLY nine months have passed since Mikel Arteta made that bizarre argument regarding his goalkeepers.

They are interchangeable, just like any other position, was the rationale given after David Raya had usurped Aaron Ramsdale for Arsenal's 1-0 victory over Everton in September.

It was put to him that it was a highly unusual strategy. 'That's strange?' he asked in reply. 'Why? Why not? We have all the qualities in another goalkeeper to do something when something is happening and you want to change momentum. Do it.'

Sure enough, those words now seem like they were misleading, a smokescreen. Or maybe Raya has just been so good that the thought of rotation has gone out of Arteta's mind.

Because 15 clean sheets later, Raya has secured the Golden Glove — the award for the most clean sheets kept by a keeper in a Premier League season — with two games still left. Everton's Jordan Pickford (12) and Fulham keeper Bernd Leno (10) lie in his wake.

It is some feat and is vindication for Arteta. After some heroic displays by Ramsdale in the previous campaign, including one stunning fingertip save to earn a point at Anfield, it was a brave move to drop him. Especially as Arsenal, before their almighty drop-off last April, led the title race throughout the season.

Raya is not perfect but Arteta has stuck with him. The Spanish goalkeeper can make mistakes, he can be vulnerable. Last weekend against Tottenham he passed the ball straight to Spurs' Cristian Romero, who scored, leaving Arsenal to navigate what became a nervous last half-hour.

Or there was Mykhailo Mudryk's goal for Chelsea in October when Raya was caught off his line, or his display against Luton in December when he made two

**ISAAN KHAN**

at the Emirates Stadium

**ARSENAL**  
Saka 45 (pen)  
Trossard 70  
Rice 90+7

**BOURNEMOUTH**

gaffes — Ross Barkley's tame effort crept under him and he flapped at a cross which allowed Elijah Adebayo to head the ball home. But Raya has bounced back each time, with the added pressure of knowing Ramsdale is raring to go if given the chance.

'We're really pleased,' said Arteta about Raya's Golden Glove following the 3-0 win over Bournemouth on Saturday that by the end of the day had maintained Arsenal's one-point lead at the top. They are praying Manchester City slip up either next Saturday at Fulham or at Spurs the following week before they host West Ham on the final day.

'It's a huge success for the team in this league to achieve that with a few games to go still,' Arteta added. 'It gives us a huge foundation to be closer to winning trophies. The contribution from everybody, including David obviously, it's really good.'

While Raya does have vulnerabilities, his strengths outweigh them. His handling of crosses is one of them. He has collected the highest percentage of crosses swung into the penalty area in the league. He is only six feet tall but what he lacks in height, Raya makes up for in athleticism and anticipation.

Often prior to the cross arriving he is already way off his line to collect the ball before it reaches an attacker. His method is laced

with jeopardy but gives Raya the chance to utilise his other main strength: ball distribution.

A number of times this season, the 28-year-old has collected a cross and launched it forward with a monstrous throw or pin-point kick downfield to set Bukayo Saka or Leandro Trossard free down the flanks — leaving the opposition scurrying back in panic.

Ramsdale will in all likelihood move on in the summer. He knows that rotation will never happen. And Arsenal will make Raya's loan move from Brentford permanent with a handshake — presumably with the Spaniard wearing that new Golden Glove.

**ARSENAL** (4-3-3): Raya 6.5; White 6.5, Saliba 7, Gabriel 6.5, Tomiyasu 7; Odegaard 8, Partey 6, **RICE 8.5**; Saka 7 (Jesus 86min), Havertz 8 (Jesus 71, 6.5), Trossard 7 (Martinelli 81).

**Scorers:** Saka 45 (pen), Trossard 70, Rice 90+7. **Booked:** Havertz, Partey. **Manager:** Mikel Arteta 6.5.

**BOURNEMOUTH** (4-2-3-1): Travers 6; Smith 6 (Aarons 89), Zabarnyi 6, Senesi 6 (Unai 80), Ouattara 6; Cook 6, Christie 6.5; Semenyo 6, Scott 6 (Billing 71, 6), Kluivert 7 (Faivre 89); Solanke 6. **Booked:** Scott, Christie, Smith. **Manager:** Andoni Iraola 6.5.

**Referee:** David Coote 5.5.

**Attendance:** 60,348.

**Rice cold: Declan Rice salutes the Arsenal fans after firing in the third (below)** GETTY IMAGES/REX



**REMAINING FIXTURES**



FULHAM (A)...SATURDAY  
TOTTENHAM (A)...MAY 14  
WEST HAM (H)...MAY 19



MAN UTD (A)...SUNDAY  
EVERTON (H)...MAY 19



VINCENT KOMPANY spoke defiantly about taking Burnley's fate to the final game of the season but in reality their relegation could be sealed in the next 48 hours. The result of Nottingham Forest's appeal against their four-point deduction for breaching the Premier League's spending rules is due tomorrow and if successful they could get two points back. That would mean the Clarets — already five points adrift of 17th-placed Forest with two games to play — are doomed before their trip to Tottenham on Saturday. But Kompany will not allow that prospect to distract his focus before a game that he describes as the 'final'. Even if Forest don't get any points back, Burnley will go down if they fail to beat Spurs — regardless of the outcome in their last fixture against Forest at Turf Moor. After

	<b>BURNLEY</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>NEWCASTLE</b>	<b>4</b>

a chastening home defeat by Newcastle, Kompany said: 'We have to look at Spurs as the final game of the season now. If we win and the other teams around us lose then all of a sudden we get the "bonus" of a last game against Forest and we have a different discussion. That's how we have to look at it.' The defeat summed up Burnley's season. If they had capitalised on a flying start it might have been different. Jacob Bruun Larsen had an early chance saved by Martin Dubravka while Lorenz Assignon had legitimate appeals for a penalty rejected by referee Anthony Taylor after he had been bundled over by Bruno Guimaraes. But once Callum

Wilson put Newcastle ahead from their first attack in the 19th minute, Eddie Howe's Europa League-chasing team took control. Sean Longstaff and Guimaraes produced clinical finishes to give them a 3-0 lead at the break. And, moments after seeing his penalty saved by Arijanet Muric, Alexander Isak made amends by scoring the fourth to become the first Newcastle player since Alan Shearer in 2003-04 to notch 20 Premier League goals in a season. By the time Dara O'Shea scored an 86th-minute consolation, many Burnley fans had left for home, already resigned to a quick return to the Championship next season. Kompany's job is safe, however. Burnley's American owners have long since made it clear he will be given the chance to bring a young and inexperienced squad back up.

RICHARD TANNER

BRENTFORD captain Christian Norgaard believes the growing criticism of the departing Ivan Toney is unfair. The England striker drew the ire of some Brentford fans for his effort during the most tepid of west London derbies. Toney was not alone in looking uninterested but manager Thomas Frank's decision to leave him on the pitch when the industrious Mikkell Damsgaard and Keane Lewis-Potter were substituted drew a brief chorus of boos. Norgaard was quick to defend Toney, insisting the 28-year-old's desire to return from a recent hip injury shows his commitment to the club he will leave this summer. 'I didn't notice any boos, so I

	<b>BRENTFORD</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>FULHAM</b>	<b>0</b>

don't know if they were maybe directed at the whole team,' said Norgaard. 'We as a team couldn't score and we needed to create more. 'He (Toney) deserves a lot of praise for what he's done for the club. He got us promoted, scored a bunch of goals both in the Championship and in the Premier League. He deserves his move. 'He's a warrior and he wants to play every game. Even if he has only one leg, it's hard to keep him back and keep him out of the game. There's a reason he's the vice-captain.'

IVAN SPECK

# City slip on the road



**F**OOTBALLING royalty was present for the procession, another record fallen to Pep Guardiola.

Forty-three home matches unbeaten now, the longest run ever produced by a Manchester City team. The previous best had stood for 103 years.

Their former midfield maestro David Silva watched on with his family, a first return to the Etihad Stadium since leaving without a proper farewell during the pandemic. He wasn't the only great to have sourced himself a ticket for the run-in, though, with Arjen Robben down in the City dressing room after this victory.

Robben played under Guardiola at Bayern Munich and made sure he congratulated City's squad for despatching Wolves and keeping the pressure on Arsenal.

The thought of prime Robben cutting in from the right in this City team is scary — how both he and

**Erling approves: Haaland reacts after his opener and (below) makes it 2-0**

**JACK GAUGHAN**

at the Etihad Stadium

**MAN CITY**

Haaland 12 (pen), 35, 45+3 (pen), 54  
Alvarez 85

**WOLVES**

Hwang 53

**5**

**1**

Silva must wish they operated behind Erling Haaland when he is in this kind of mood.

And City are in the mood: 24 goals in their last six league games since a drab draw against Arsenal that seemed to hand the title advantage over to both the Gunners and Liverpool.

Now it's in City's hands and, given the way Wolves appeared beaten from the off here, Arsenal will be praying that they are not relying on favours come the last day.

West Ham are in Manchester then and no team, in any competition, has beaten City on their own patch since Ivan Toney inspired Brentford to a late win on the eve of last season's World Cup. Only seven teams have left with a draw since. Arsenal will not fancy relying on West Ham to manage that.

So this title race — violently swinging from the best ever to boring in the court of public opinion once Guardiola's side clicked into gear — hinges on a couple of consecutive away matches for City: Fulham on Saturday before the dreaded trip to Tottenham three days later. Although winning there in the FA Cup four months ago broke their hoodoo, City are still yet to score a Premier League goal at the new stadium. Even a broken Spurs is a tricky Spurs for the champions.

'Everyone knows you cannot make one little mistake because you will lose the Premier League,'

said Guardiola. 'The players knew if we didn't win against Wolves then "ciao, ciao, bye bye, next season we see each other". You smell that Arsenal aren't going to lose in the games they have left.'

City are certainly paying attention to Arsenal although they are going about their job so calmly and clinically that it hardly matters what's happening at the Emirates. Haaland admitted he sneaked a peak at the Gunners before his four-goal burst.

'I watched a bit of the Arsenal game,' the Norwegian said. 'They won obviously but in the end it's about focusing on ourselves and getting the three points. We then focus on the next one.'

'Goal difference is always important but that's not the main focus. The main focus is winning the game as we did today. Look at the mentality of the club. It is unbelievable.'

It feels, then, that win the next two games (Spurs and Fulham away) and the title is in the bag. City's away record has improved this year — they've chalked up 37 points from 17 games, one more than all of last season — but these are two grounds where they were made to work. Julian Alvarez dug out a wonder goal to seal a win at Craven Cottage in the run-in last season, while Spurs have always had something over them.

It's by no means done but come out the other side of those and Arsenal will be left needing an unlikely snooker or two.

**MANCHESTER CITY** (4-2-3-1): Ederson 6; Walker 7, Akanji 7.5, Ake 7 (Stones 69min, 6.5), Gvardiol 8; Rodri 9, Kovacic 8; Silva 7.5 (Doku 80), De Bruyne 7.5 (Nunes 79), Foden 9 (Grealish 80); **HAALAND 9.5** (Alvarez 82). **Scorers:** Haaland 12 (pen), 35, 45+3 (pen), 54, Alvarez 85. **Booked:** None. **Manager:** Pep Guardiola 8. **WOLVES** (3-5-2): Sa 6; Semedo 4.5, Kilman 5, Toti 5; Ait-Nouri 5, Traore 5.5, Gomes 6, Lemina 5 (Bellegarde 46, 6), H Bueno 6 (S Bueno 71, 6); Hwang 6.5 (Chirewa 87), Cunha 5.5 (Sarabia 76). **Scorer:** Hwang 53. **Booked:** Gomes, Semedo, Traore, Lemina. **Manager:** Gary O'Neill 6. **Referee:** Craig Pawson 6. **Attendance:** Not provided.





# We're not scared!

## McKenna vows to embrace challenge after leading Ipswich to top flight



**JOE BERNSTEIN**  
at Portman Road

**K**IERAN McKENNA will be the Premier League's youngest manager next season but he has crammed plenty of real-life experience into his short career.

Even if Ipswich Town are written off following consecutive promotions, the 37-year-old 'rookie' isn't daunted by the undoubted tests that lie ahead. 'I moved away at 16 to fulfil one dream and had to pivot on that at 22,' reflects the Northern Irishman whose playing career was ended by injury when he was at Tottenham.

'Since then, I've had 15 years of work, sacrifice and learning. It's been an incredible journey and I am proud of what I've achieved. I was coaching in the Premier League and Champions League at 32. You want to test yourself against the best. It will be a great challenge to do that again.'

It was Jose Mourinho who first gave McKenna the chance to



On the up: McKenna is hoisted into the air by his players

move from academy coaching into the first-team set-up at Manchester United. McKenna has his mentor's self-confidence but the playing style is different. Ipswich are adventurous and swashbuckling, and it has brought remarkable success at Portman Road.

There were joyous scenes on Saturday as goals from Sam Burns and Omari Hutchinson sealed promotion after 22 years away from the top flight.

It was felt some United stars were dubious about McKenna's credentials but he is adored in Suffolk, where he has

raised training intensity and professionalism to the point where players joke about how often their body fat is tested.

'Senior football is about winning but the basis of the job is still to make players better,' explains McKenna. 'Coaching remains a big passion and I've enjoyed the leadership side as well. It's in my nature.'

'We didn't expect two promotions so quickly. It will bring challenges but we have to revel in it. There is some big, exciting stuff to come. I love it here.'

'Stepping into the Premier League is a humongous step for

### PLAY-OFFS DATES

**SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 12:**

■ Norwich v Leeds (12pm)  
■ West Brom v Southampton (2.15pm)

**SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 16:**

■ Leeds v Norwich (8pm)

**FRIDAY, MAY 17:**

■ Southampton v West Brom (8pm)

**FINAL: SUNDAY, MAY 26**

every department here but we embrace it.'

The club's American owners will give it a go. One priority is keeping successful loanees Hutchinson (Chelsea), Jeremy Sarmiento (Brighton) and Kieffer Moore (Bournemouth).

The Tractor Boys certainly won't want to lose their special bond with the community.

Defender Luke Woolfenden, who has been at the club from the age of 11, was almost in tears as he celebrated on Saturday. 'With 10 minutes left, I heard this voice from the crowd shout "Woofy". I thought I recognised it and turned round. It was one of my best mates Harry from Sunday League. It blew my mind,' said the defender, clutching a well-deserved beer.

## Hollywood star Ferrell takes a stake in Leeds

By AADAM PATEL

**WILL FERRELL** is the latest celebrity to invest in Leeds United with the Hollywood actor purchasing a stake in 49ers Enterprises, who bought the club last summer.

Ferrell, best-known for his roles in *Anchorman*, *Elf* and *Zoolander*, joins fellow actor Russell Crowe, swimmer Michael Phelps and golfers Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas as a minority investor at Elland Road.

The 56-year-old will not be involved in decision-making at Leeds, with the day-to-day running still in the hands of the San Francisco-based ownership group. 49ers Enterprises is the strategic arm of the NFL team San Francisco 49ers.

Ferrell is also a part-owner of MLS side Los Angeles FC. Last year, he attended a game at Wrexham, who are co-owned by actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney and a few days later, he was at Anfield for the Merseyside derby.

It has been a season of contrasting fortunes for celebrity investors, with Wrexham going up to League One but Birmingham, backed by NFL legend Tom Brady, relegated from the Championship. Leeds finished third in the Championship and will face Norwich in the first leg of the play-off semi-finals on Sunday as they bid to return to the Premier League.

## WEEKEND RESULTS AND TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Arsenal.....	36	26	5	5	88	28	60	83
2 Man City.....	35	25	7	3	87	33	54	82
3 Liverpool.....	36	23	9	4	81	38	43	78
4 Aston Villa.....	36	20	7	9	73	53	20	67
5 Tottenham.....	35	18	6	11	69	58	11	60
6 Newcastle.....	35	17	5	13	78	56	22	56
7 Chelsea.....	35	15	9	11	70	59	11	54
8 Man Utd.....	34	16	6	12	52	51	1	54
9 West Ham.....	36	13	10	13	56	70	-14	49
10 Bournemouth..	36	13	9	14	52	63	-11	48
11 Brighton.....	35	12	11	12	53	57	-4	47
12 Wolves.....	36	13	7	16	49	60	-11	46
13 Fulham.....	36	12	8	16	51	55	-4	44
14 Crystal Palace	35	10	10	15	45	57	-12	40
15 Everton.....	36	12	9	15	38	49	-11	37
16 Brentford.....	36	9	9	18	52	60	-8	36
17 Nottm Forest	36	8	9	19	45	63	-18	29
18 Luton.....	36	6	8	22	49	78	-29	26
19 Burnley.....	36	5	9	22	39	74	-35	24
20 Sheff Utd (R) .	36	3	7	26	35	100	-65	16

\*Everton deducted 8 points

\*\*Nottm Forest deducted 4 points

### CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

ABERDEEN.....(0) 1	ST JOHNSTONE.....(0) 0
Mioviski 68 (pen)	15,537
CELTIC.....(2) 3	HEARTS.....(0) 0
Furuhashi 4, 21	
O'Riley 87 (pen)	59,038
DUNDEE.....(0) 1	ST MIRREN.....(1) 3
Mellon 76	Gogic 38, Tanser 59
MOTHERWELL.....(2) 4	LIVINGSTON.....(0) 1
Bair 21 (pen), 68	Nouble 77
Nicholson 45, Casey 74	4,161
ROSS COUNTY.....(1) 2	HIBERNIAN.....(1) 1
Murray 21, White 88	Maolida 15
	3,856

### YESTERDAY

RANGERS.....(1) 4	KILMARNOCK.....(1) 1
Silva 45+8, Davies 62	Tavernier 12 (og)
Lawrence 71	
Southar 90+3	
	P W D L F A GDPTS
Celtic.....35	26 6 3 85 27 58 84
Rangers.....35	26 3 6 78 25 53 81
Hearts.....35	19 6 10 46 37 9 63
Kilmarnock.....35	13 13 9 44 38 6 52
St Mirren.....35	13 7 15 42 46 -4 46
Dundee.....35	10 11 14 46 59 -13 41
Hibernian.....35	10 12 13 48 54 -6 42
Aberdeen.....35	10 11 14 37 49 -12 41
Motherwell.....35	9 13 13 50 53 -3 40
Ross County.....35	8 9 18 34 59 -25 33
St Johnstone.....35	7 10 18 25 50 -25 31
Livingston (R).....35	4 9 22 25 63 -38 21

### FRIDAY

LUTON.....(1) 1	EVERTON.....(1) 1
Adebayo 31	Calvert-Lewin 24 (pen)
	11,873

### SATURDAY

ARSENAL.....(1) 3	BOURNEMTH.....(0) 0
Saka 45 (pen)	Iwosard 70
Rice 90+7	
BRENTFORD.....(0) 0	FULHAM.....(0) 0
	17,090
BURNLEY.....(0) 1	NEWCASTLE.....(3) 4
O'Shea 86	Wilson 19
	Hudson-Odoi 27, 65
	Guimaraes 40
	Isak 55
	21,781
MAN CITY.....(3) 5	WOLVES.....(0) 1
Haaland 12 (pen), 35,	Hwang 53
45+3 (pen), 54	
Alvarez 85	Attendance not provided
SHEFF UTD.....(1) 1	NOTTM FOR.....(1) 3
Brereton-Diaz 17 (pen)	Hudson-Odoi 27, 65
	Yates 51
	28,516

### YESTERDAY

BRIGHTON.....(0) 1	ASTON VILLA.....(0) 0
Pedro 87	
CHelsea.....(3) 5	WEST HAM.....(0) 0
Palmer 15, Gallagher 30	
Madueke 36	Jackson 48, 80
LIVERPOOL.....(2) 4	TOTTENHAM.....(0) 2
Salah 16	Richarlison 72
Robertson 45	Son 77
Gakpo 50, Elliott 59	
	60,075

**LEADING SCORERS:** 25 Haaland (Man City); 21 Palmer (Chelsea), 20 Isak (Newcastle); 19 Watkins (Villa); 18 Solanke (Bournemouth), M Salah (Liverpool).

### CINCH SCOTTISH CH'SHIP Friday:

Ayr 3 Dunfermline 3, Dundee Utd 4 Partick 1, Inverness CT 3 Morton 1, Queen's Park 2 Airdrieonians 0, Raith 5 Arbroath 0.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH — Play-off Final: Brackley 1 Boston Utd 2.
CLEARER WATER IRISH CUP — Final: Cliftonville 3 Linfield 1 (AET).
SPORTS DIRECT IRISH PREMIER — Promotion/Relegation Play-off, 2nd leg Friday: Ballymena 2 Institute 0 (Agg: 2-1).
SSE AIRTRICITY LGE — Prem Friday: Bohemians 1 Shamrock Rovers 1, Dundalk 0 Shelbourne 0, Galway Utd 0 Derry City 0, Sligo Rovers 0 Waterford 1, St Patrick's Athletic 1 Drogheda Utd 0.

### SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

BIRMINGHAM.....(0) 0	NORWICH.....(0) 0
Paik 55	27,680
COVENTRY.....(0) 1	QPR.....(2) 2
Allen 83	Chair 33, Fox 40
29,102	
IPSWICH.....(1) 2	HUDDERSFIELD.....(0) 0
Burns 27	
Giraud-Hutchinson 48	29,011
LEEDS.....(1) 1	SOUTHAMPTON.....(2) 2
Pirou 21	Armstrong 18
	Smallbone 35
	36,766
LEICESTER.....(0) 0	BLACKBURN.....(0) 2
	Semodics 68, 90+4
	32,117

MIDDLESBRO.....(1) 3	WATFORD.....(0) 1
Latte Lath 28	Hoedt 73
Bangura 78, Jones 84	
28,289	
PLYMOUTH.....(1) 1	HULL.....(0) 0
Edwards 40	16,881
ROTHAM.....(2) 5	CARDIFF.....(1) 2
Hugill 25, 69	Phillips 38
Eaves 45, 57 (pen)	Tanner 47
Nombe 63	
10,547	
STOKE.....(3) 4	BRISTOL CITY.....(0) 0
Cundle 25, Campbell 45	
Manhoef 45+2, 49	28,243
SUNDERLAND.....(0) 0	SHEFF WED.....(2) 2
	Palmer 29
	Windass 38
	41,222
SWANSEA.....(0) 0	MILLWALL.....(0) 1
	De Norre 72
	17,661
WEST BROM.....(1) 3	PRESTON.....(0) 0
Mowatt 45+2 (pen)	
Bartley 61, Furlong 68	25,386

Leicester (C).....46	31	4	11	89	41	48	97
Ipswich (P).....46	28	12	6	92	57	35	96
Leeds.....46	27	9	10	81	43	38	90
Southampton.....46	26	9	11	87	63	24	87
West Brom.....46	21	12	13	70	47	23	75
Norwich.....46	21	10	15	79	64	15	73
Hull.....46	19	13	14	68	60	8	70
Middlesbrough.....46	20	9	17	71	62	9	69
Coventry.....46	17	13	16	70	59	11	64
Preston.....46	18	9	19	56	67	-11	63
Bristol City.....46	17	11	18	53	51	-2	62
Cardiff.....46	19	5	22	53	70	-17	62
Millwall.....46	16	11	19	45	55	-10	59
Wolves.....46	15	12	19	59	65	-6	57
Watford.....46	13	17	16	61	61	0	56
Sunderland.....46	16	8	22	52	54	-2	56
Stoke.....46	15	11	20	49	60	-11	56
QPR.....46	15	11	20	47	58	-11	56
Blackburn.....46	14	11	21	60	74	-14	53
Sheff Wed.....46	15	8	23	44	68	-24	53
Plymouth.....46	13	12	21	59	70	-11	51
Birmingham (R).....46	13	11	22	50	65	-15	50
Huddersfield (R).....46	9	18	19	48	77	-29	45
Rotherham (R).....46	5	12	29	37	89	-52	27

### CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1

COVE RANGERS.....(2) 3	EDINBURGH CITY.....(1) 1
McGowan 22	Marshall 4
Meggison 38	
Connell 87 (pen)	506
FALKIRK.....(1) 2	ALLOA.....(2) 2
Nesbitt 45+1	Sammon 29, 45
Spencer 85 (pen)	7,163
HAMILTON.....(2) 4	KELTY HEARTS.....(1) 1
Morgan 7	Johnston 42
Hastie 25, 81	
L Smith 78	
	835

MONTROSE.....(0) 3	QN OF SOUTH.....(2) 2	83
Callaghan 52	Mumbongo 18, 42	
Quinn 64, 82		87
STIRLING.....(1) 1	ANNAN.....(1) 1	
McPake 37	Luissint 4	1,630
	P W D L F A GDPTS	
Falkirk (C).....36	27 9 0 96 28 68 90	
Hamilton.....36	22 8 6 73 28 45 74	
Alloa.....36	16 8 12 60 55 5 56	
Montrose.....36	15 8 13 58 57 1 53	
Cove R.....36	14 7 15 58 63 -5 49	
Kelty Hearts.....36	12 8 16 48 63 -15 44	
Qn of South.....36	11 8 17 46 53 -7 41	
Annan Ath.....36	9 12 15 55 68 -13 39	
Stirling.....36	10 9 17 39 58 -19 39	
Edinburgh (R).....36	3 5 28 38 98 -60 8	

### CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2

BONNYRIGG ROSE (0) 4	FORFAR.....(0) 0
Watson 49, Connolly 54	
Wardell 75, Martyniuk 85 (pen)	
EAST FIFE.....(0) 1	SPARTANS.....(0) 2
Shepherd 55	Craigie 47
	Thompson 89
	577
ELGIN.....(0) 0	CLYDE.....(2) 3
	Scully 15, 38
	Rennie 84
	1,002
PETERHEAD.....(2) 2	DUMBARTON.....(0) 1
Shanks 7	D Wilson 48
J Brown 35	
811	
STRANRAER.....(1) 2	STENMUIR.....(0) 0
Dolan 35	
Edgar 77	
	738

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GDPTS
Stenmuir (C).....36	18	14	4	50	31	19	68
Peterhead.....36	16	12	8	58	39	19	60
Spartans.....36	15	13	8	53	43	10	58
Dumbarton.....36	16	9	11	56	44	12	57
East Fife.....36	11	11	14	46	47	-1	44
Forfar.....36	9	15	12	38	45	-7	42
Elgin.....36	10	10	16	35	59	-24	40
Bonnyrigg R.....36	9	12	15	47	48	-1	39
Clyde.....36	9	11	16	46	58	-12	38
Stranraer.....36	9	9	18	38	53	-15	36




PREVIEW

Monday Night

SELHURST PARK, KICK-OFF 8pm - LIVE ON SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

By CHRIS WHEELER

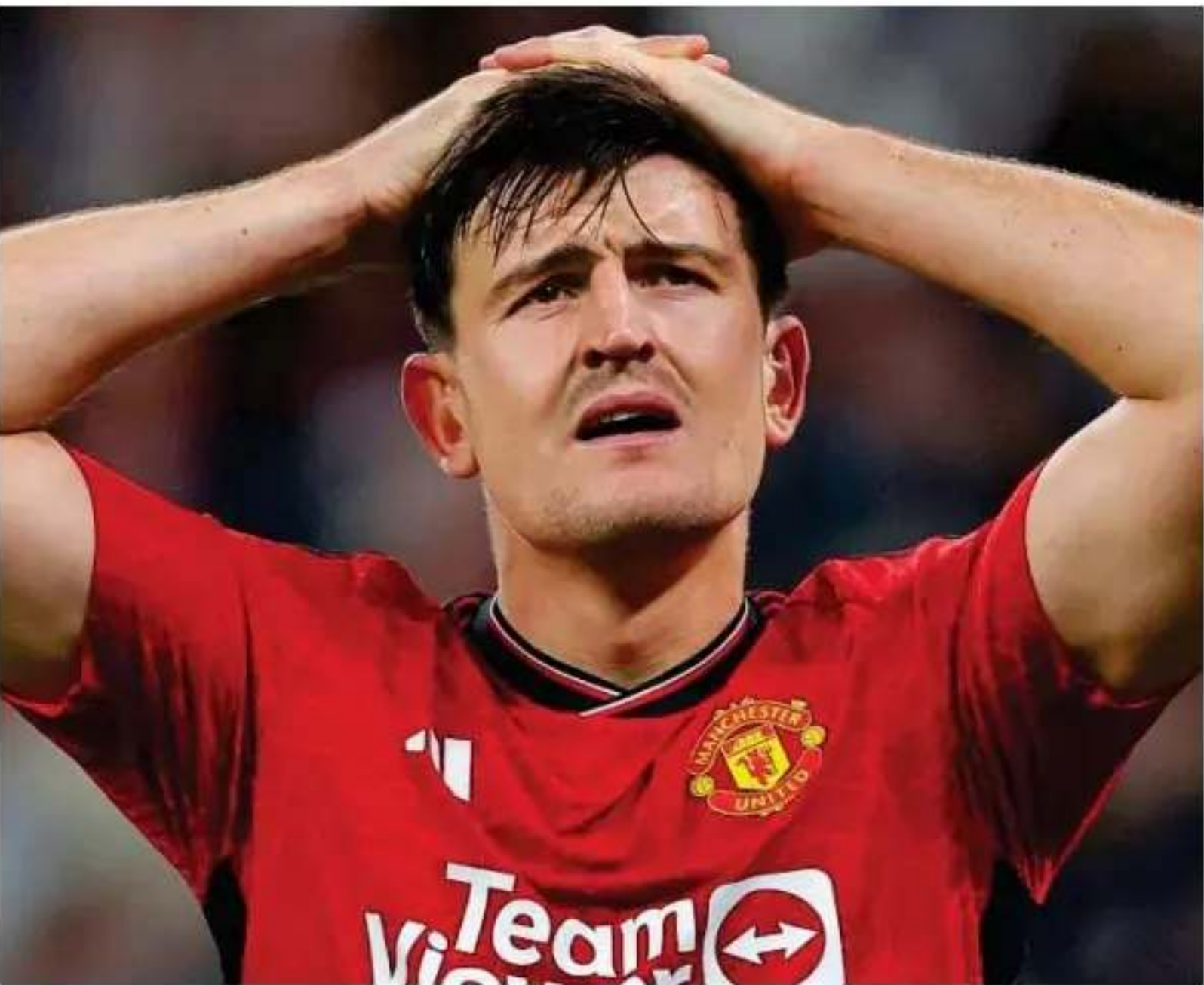


**M**ANCHESTER United were dealt yet another injury blow yesterday after Harry Maguire suffered a muscle injury in training and was ruled out for about three weeks.

The injury won't affect Maguire's chances of playing for England at the Euros this summer, but means he will miss United's final four Premier League games and is a doubt for the FA Cup final against Manchester City on May 25.

United already had Casemiro playing as an emergency centre back alongside Maguire due to injuries to Lisandro Martinez, Raphael Varane, Victor Lindelof and Willy Kambwala.

It could mean they are without a recognised centre back against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park tonight, although Jonny Evans returned to training on Friday and may be available. Manager



Pain game: Maguire will miss three weeks

GETTY IMAGES

# Maguire adds to Erik's injury crisis

Erik ten Hag said: 'For over 10 years I am managing, I never had this experience. So huge, so many injury issues, it happens once in 10 years. Hopefully now we can wait another 10 to have so many.'

As well as the five missing centre backs, United are also set to be without Marcus Rashford, Luke Shaw, Scott McTominay, Anthony Martial and Tyrell

Malacia against Palace. Captain Bruno Fernandes is a doubt but has not missed a game through injury in more than four years at United and Ten Hag is hopeful he will be fit in time.

'Bruno is a real fighter,' said Ten Hag. 'He is always available, never misses a game and always plays to a good level. Last year for instance, when we played Brighton in the (FA Cup) semi-

final, he played with an ankle so thick it was unbelievable.'

Ten Hag also played down comments from Fernandes last week that he will assess his future at United after the Euros. 'That was taken out of context,' said the Dutchman, adding that Fernandes will 'definitely' see out a contract that runs until June 2026. 'I know he is Manchester United and he is very happy to be here.'

Meanwhile, United will look to sell Jadon Sancho this summer following face-to-face talks with the outcast in Germany.

Ten Hag revealed that a delegation — believed to be chief transfer negotiator Matt Hargreaves and former football director John Murtough — met with Sancho during his loan spell at Borussia Dortmund.

Ten Hag said last week that Sancho's improved form in Germany 'shows he represents a high value for United'. As well as helping to raise the player's price tag, it is understood that Dortmund's progress to the brink of the Champions League final has also triggered significant bonuses in his loan deal.

'We are close in that process,' said Ten Hag, who hasn't had any direct contact with Sancho. 'We had a visit with him and we'll keep going with this process. We'll continually be in contact and communicate with him.'

It's still possible the situation could change, particularly if Ten Hag is sacked, but United are looking to recoup as much as possible of the £73million fee paid to Dortmund in 2021, when they signed the former Manchester City player on five-year deal worth £250,000 a week.

# City let it slip late on to blow title race wide open

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE	
MANCHESTER CITY	1
ARSENAL	2

NEUTRALS have Stina Blackstenius to thank after her two late goals for Arsenal against Manchester City ensured the conclusion to the WSL title race will be thriller.

City's battle with Chelsea is on a knife edge and could come down to goal difference — as long as Chelsea do not slip up in their game in hand at Tottenham on May 15.

After going ahead through a fine finish by Lauren Hemp, City gradually allowed the Gunners into the game. And it was Blackstenius who stepped up, pouncing on a corner pinging around in the box in the 89th minute. Then, three minutes later, Kim Little's cross found the Swede's head and she converted. City boss Gareth Taylor said: 'We will pick ourselves up. We've always reacted well to negative results. We wanted to be in control and we've lost a bit of that.'

Chelsea later thumped Bristol City 8-0 in Emma Hayes' final home game to move one ahead of City on goal difference.

TARA ANSON-WALSH

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# Matt Barlow



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ON MONDAY

## Bromley complete amazing journey from Britain's worst team to Wembley glory boys

**B**ROMLEY were once so bad they inspired a feature film. It was based on a delightful book by Dave Roberts called *The Bromley Boys: The True Story of Supporting the Worst Team in Britain*.

Published in 2008, the story revolves around the campaign of 1969-70, when they were relegated from the Isthmian League and the simple charms of following a club generally mired in misery, flirting with extinction as crowds dipped under a hundred, while growing up.

Yesterday, Bromley beat Solihull Moors on penalties in front of more than 23,000 at Wembley Stadium to secure promotion from the National League and next season they will compete in the EFL for the first time in their 132-year history.

'Bromley will bring the freshness of a club with a burning desire to kick on,' said manager Andy Woodman. 'There's a stadium taking shape and plans in place. Work will start on the pitch. I think it will be refreshing.'

'You can see the crowd, what it means to them. I'm delighted for everybody connected to the club. It will be a massive lift for the town. We've had some tough days and more than anything it's a relief to get out of this league.'

Bromley is London's biggest borough in terms of area with a population of 335,000, so there is no reason why they should not



Champagne moment: Webster (right) starts the party

establish themselves in the top 92 clubs in the country. They have a fine heritage, winning the first Amateur Cup in 1949 when they beat Romford in front of 90,000 at Wembley.

More pertinently, these days they are well-run and ambitious, making steady improvement during the last decade to become one of the strongest teams in non-League, winning the FA Trophy in 2022 and appearing

regularly in the promotion play-offs. To be the man finally taking them up provides Woodman with a sense of pride. He has been best mates with Gareth Southgate since their days as apprentices at Crystal Palace, but whereas studious Southgate was always tipped for management, not so many expected Woodman to warm so naturally to the role.

As a player and a goalkeeping coach, he had a reputation as a

bit of a joker, but he has turned Bromley into serious contenders since his appointment in 2021 and rejected chances to leave for Gillingham and other EFL clubs because he wanted to repay the trust of club owner Robin Stanton-Gleaves.

'I have got a chip on my shoulder because of one or two comments from people I shouldn't have listened to,' said Woodman after his victory. 'Why don't they think an ex-goalie coach can't be a good manager? That hurt me, but I thank them for that.'

To win the final on penalties is one up on Southgate. Michael Cheek twice put Bromley ahead. His first, scored just before half time, was controversial as he sent Alex Whitmore tumbling before finding the net.

Referee James Durkin, son of the former Premier League referee Paul, decided there was no foul. Joe Sbarra levelled soon after the interval, Cheek's second was a penalty and Solihull's second equaliser was scored by Jamey Osborne.

For the fourth successive year, the National League promotion final went into extra-time.

Bromley sub Alex Kirk twice hit the woodwork but it was destined for a shootout, in which Grant Smith made two saves and captain Byron Webster got the winner.

Bromley are no longer Britain's worst team, far from it, in fact. They are flying high and destined for the EFL next season.

Author Roberts, who died in 2021 aged 66, is sure to be looking down on them with a smile.

IPSWICH TOWN'S positive vibes spread far beyond the confines of Suffolk this season.

Jim Magilton, the club's former midfielder and manager, led Cliftonville to their first Irish Cup triumph since 1979 by beating Linfield on Saturday. And Jamie Clapham, who along with Magilton was part of the last Ipswich team promoted to the top-flight in 2000, has led Loughborough Students to promotion in the United Counties North.

REMEAO HUTTON played the most for an outfield player in the EFL this season after clocking every minute of 47 league games. Is that an error? No. It was a quirk of his January move from Swindon, where he played 27 games, to Gillingham, where he played 20. The full back was on the pitch for 4,230 minutes in League Two. Curtis Nelson, of Derby, and Matt Grimes, of Swansea, played 4,140 minutes, or every minute of the regulation 46 games.

JENS LEHMANN'S swoop to buy the Invincibles trademark is a transaction with a familiar whiff of Premier League arrogance in a year when Falkirk became the fourth club to post an unbeaten league campaign in Scotland. The Scottish League One champions came from two down to draw 2-2 with Alloa in front of more than 7,000 on Saturday thanks to a late penalty by Brad Spencer, son of former Chelsea and Scotland striker John Spencer. Falkirk join Celtic, Rangers and Kilmarnock as Invincibles north of the border, if that's OK with Lehmann.

### Managers often not the only victims

OMER RIZA is part of the collateral damage in the latest managerial reset at Watford.

He devoted six years to developing young players in various age groups in the club's academy while, for four of those, also coaching England's youth teams. Before that, he was a youth coach at Leyton Orient, stepping up as caretaker manager and preserving what little remained of the club's dignity at the time as they crashed out of the EFL. There was a long playing career before that. He graduated from Arsenal's academy, moved to West Ham, played in Holland and the EFL before six years in Turkish football and a return to England, where he started a coaching career in non-League football.

Riza has a wealth of experience at all levels of football. He is fully qualified, passing his UEFA Pro Licence in 2022 in the company of Steven Schumacher, John Mousinho and Richie Wellens, who are all now managing in the EFL.

At Orient, he worked to develop young players such as Steven Alzate and Josh Koroma. At Watford there were Ryan Andrews and James Morris and at England Kobbie Mainoo and Jamie Bynoe-Gittens.

When he accepted a first-team role as part of Valerien Ismael's backroom staff last year, it seemed like the opportunity he had been waiting for, but managers have never seemed more disposable at Championship level. Ismael was sacked in March and his coaches went with him, clearing the decks for Tom Cleverley to step up. It can take years of hard work and dedication to climb the coaching ladder, but overnight you can be knocked back to the bottom on a whim.

At 44, with more than a decade of solid coaching experience behind him, Riza must now wait patiently for the next opportunity. Let's hope it comes soon.

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# MailPuzzles

## SUDOKU

FILL in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. **SOLUTIONS TOMORROW**

2	6		4				3	
7				8				
		8		3		5		2
5								
	2					1		
			3		5	4	9	
1	8		2					3
					9	7	4	
9	4		1				8	

Difficulty rating ★★★★★

1	6	4		9	7	2		
2			1					
5			8	2		1		
7		2						5
					2	3	4	7
4	9							1
6	7		9					
				1	6	9	3	

Difficulty rating ★★★★★

## PRIZE SUDOKU

5					1		3	
6	9		7				2	
			6					4
	1	9				8		
7				8				
				1	9	7		
		2	8		3			
		7	4				6	
8				2	5			

**WIN £500**

REVEAL the three shaded squares for your chance to win £500. **HOW TO ENTER:** Call 0901 292 5009 and leave today's three-number answer (reading left to right) and your details. Or text **SUDOKU** to 65700 with your answer and name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One weekly winner chosen from all correct entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Full terms apply, see Page 54.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

		1		2				3		4		
5		6						7				8
9										10		
11												
											12	
13								15		16		
						17						
			18							19		
20												
21								22				
23										24		

PLAY our accumulator game! Every day this week, solve the crossword to find the letter in the pink circle. On Friday, we'll provide instructions to submit your five-letter word for your chance to win a luxury Cross pen. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply. Entries cost 50p.

### WRITE YOUR LETTERS IN THESE SQUARES

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	

## WIN A LUXURY CROSS PEN

SEE BELOW

### ACROSS

- To disagree with and attempt to prevent (6)
- School, 19th-century school of French landscape painters stressing realism (8)
- Criminal or violent behaviour, often resulting in another's death (4,4)
- Dairy food used to make classic bearnaise sauce (6)
- Traditional double-decker buses with rear open platforms (12)
- Ranganathan, comedian who presents The Weakest Link (6)
- Film series with an instrumental theme tune by Harold Faltermeyer (3,3)
- '\_\_\_\_, baby', catchphrase of the title character in 1991 film Terminator 2: Judgment Day (5,2,5)
- A grilled, Italian-style sandwich (6)
- The only son of Winston Churchill, who served as an MP during World War II (8)
- Handle \_\_\_\_ song by The Traveling Wilburys released in 1988 (4,4)
- Jane, actress who played Daphne Moon in Frasier (6)

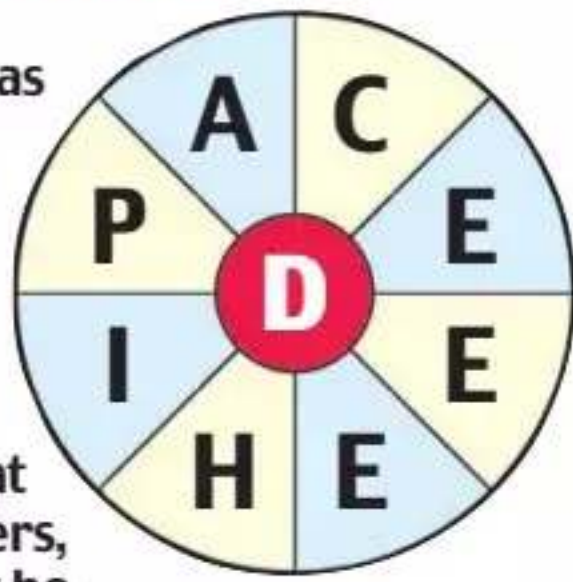
### DOWN

- Gambling game with a wheel that has green zero pockets (8)
- A scene of uproar and confusion (6)
- Edible part in the leg of a crustacean with pincers (8)
- A break or pause in continuity (6)
- Forms of ceremony and etiquette observed by diplomats and heads of state (8)
- Characteristic of a young male (6)
- Richard, Victorian biologist who coined the term 'dinosaur' (4)
- A shop with branches in many places (8)
- \_\_\_\_ pass, phrase for a task that will bring criticism on whoever gets it (8)
- The \_\_\_\_ Of Zenda, 1894 adventure novel by Anthony Hope (8)
- Hugh, actor who played Senator Tom James in Veep (6)
- A crowning moment or point (6)
- \_\_\_\_ Bax, composer born in 1883, noted for symphonic poem Tintagel (6)
- Hindu goddess of darkness and destruction (4)

SOLUTION TOMORROW

## WORD WHEEL

YOU have ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and at least three others, and letters may be used only once. You can't use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Verbs ending in 's' permitted. Clue for today's nine-letter word: That boy took part of the poster as a protective helmet. **RATING:** 15 words, average; 20, good; 25, very good; 30 or more, excellent. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**



## SUDOKU X

				5			1
						6	
5			2				
						4	

PUT 1-6 once in each row, column, diagonal (highlighted to form an X) and horizontal 3x2 box (ruled). **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

## NAME GAME

HIDDEN in the grid is the name of an actress. Answer the questions, then rearrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

**BOX 1:** U.S. actress Leighton Meester (pictured) is married to which of these actors?  
Adam Sandler (T)  
Adam Driver (S)  
Adam Brody (E)

**BOX 2:** Jean Alesi is a former French professional in which sport?  
Football (A)  
Tennis (G)  
Motor racing (C)

**BOX 3:** James and Sean, the sons of Paul McCartney and John Lennon, recently released a song of what name?  
Blackberry Way (P)  
Primrose Hill (E)  
Strawberry Swing (N)

**BOX 4:** What type of creature is a stonechat?  
Bird (L)  
Frog (U)  
Insect (R)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**BOX 5:** Doug Watson is the head coach of which country's national cricket team?  
Australia (T)  
New Zealand (K)  
Scotland (F)

**BOX 6:** What is the primary function of a soporific drug?  
To induce sleep (O)  
To improve mood (X)  
To remove pain (N)

**BOX 7:** Who wrote the 1847 novel The Children Of The New Forest?  
Charles Kingsley (A)  
Frederick Marryat (D)  
Catherine Sinclair (V)

**BOX 8:** Ackee and saltfish is a dish originating in which country?  
Mexico (N) Jamaica (A) Brazil (Y)

**BOX 9:** Romandy is the French-speaking historical and cultural region of which of these countries?  
Canada (S)  
Belgium (W)  
Switzerland (I)

Friday's solution:  
**JEAN RENO**  
(1J, 2A, 3N, 4E, 5R, 6O, 7N, 8E)



Picture: PA

## TRAIN TRACKS

LAY tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

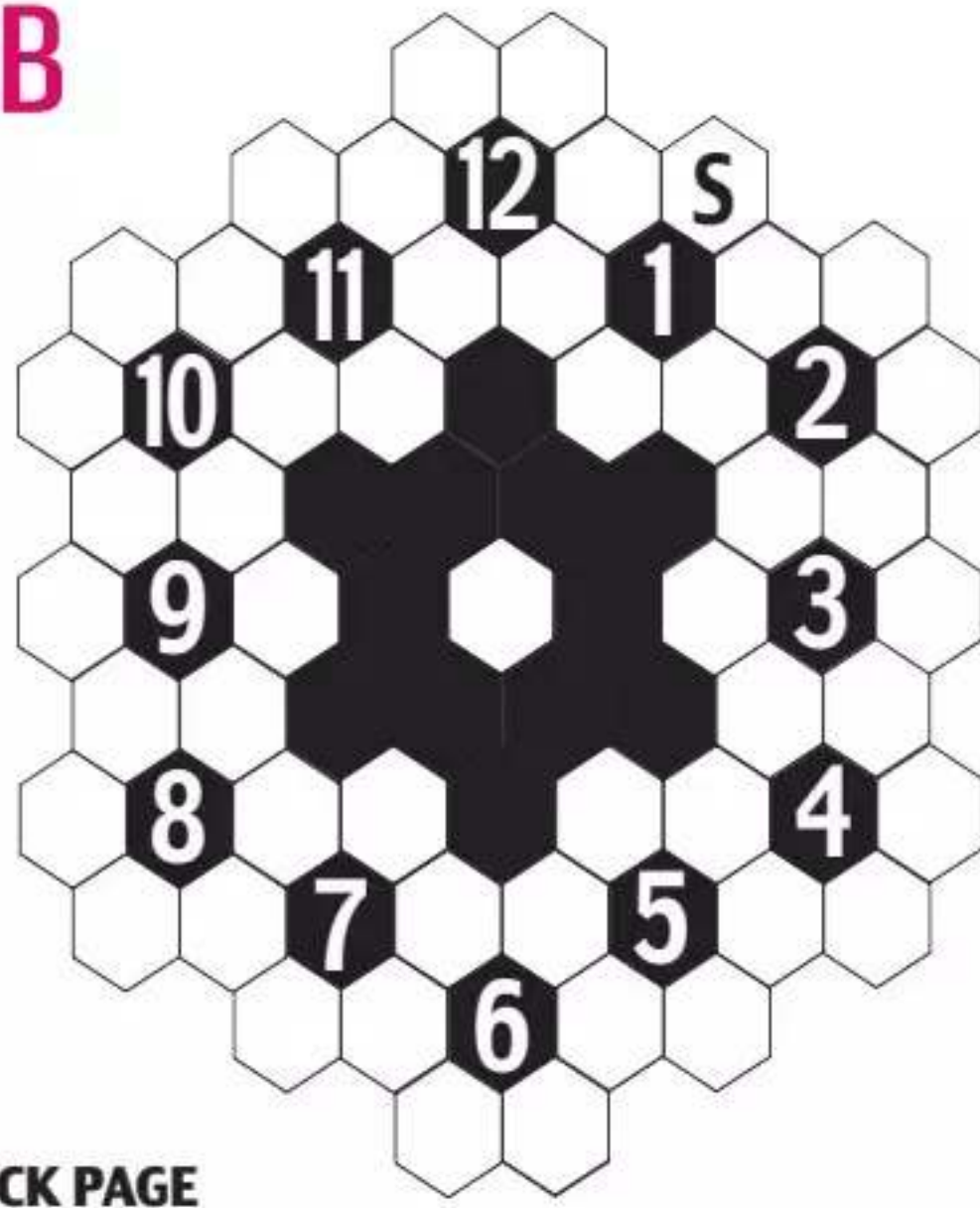
	2	6	5	6	8	3	4	2	
									4
									4
									4
									6
									4
									4
									5
									5



## HONEYCOMB

ALL the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1. Answered
2. Noisier
3. Relapse
4. One of two
5. Limp
6. African tree
7. Not there
8. Plant fluid
9. Quite
10. Gather
11. Go off track
12. Fondly

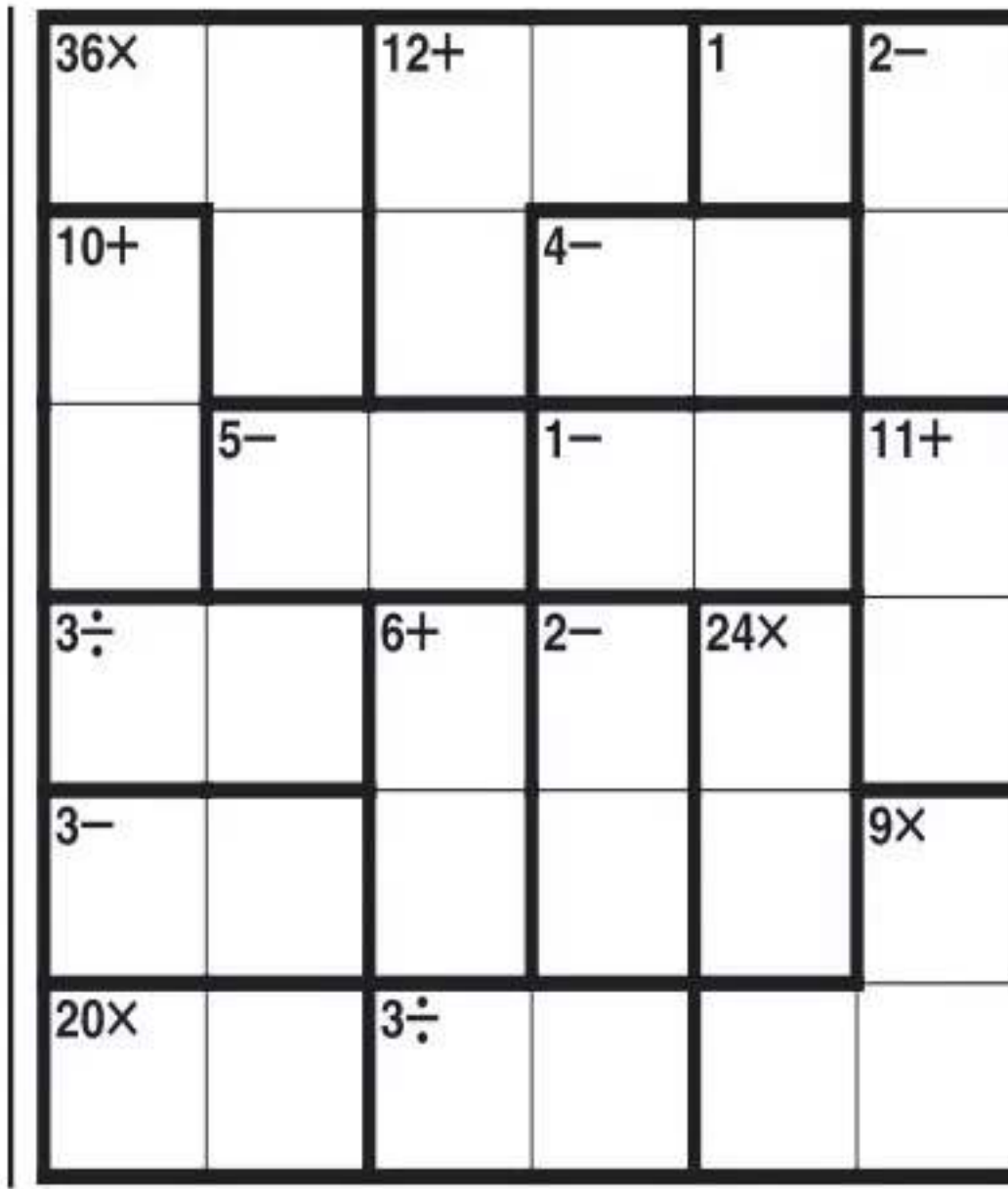
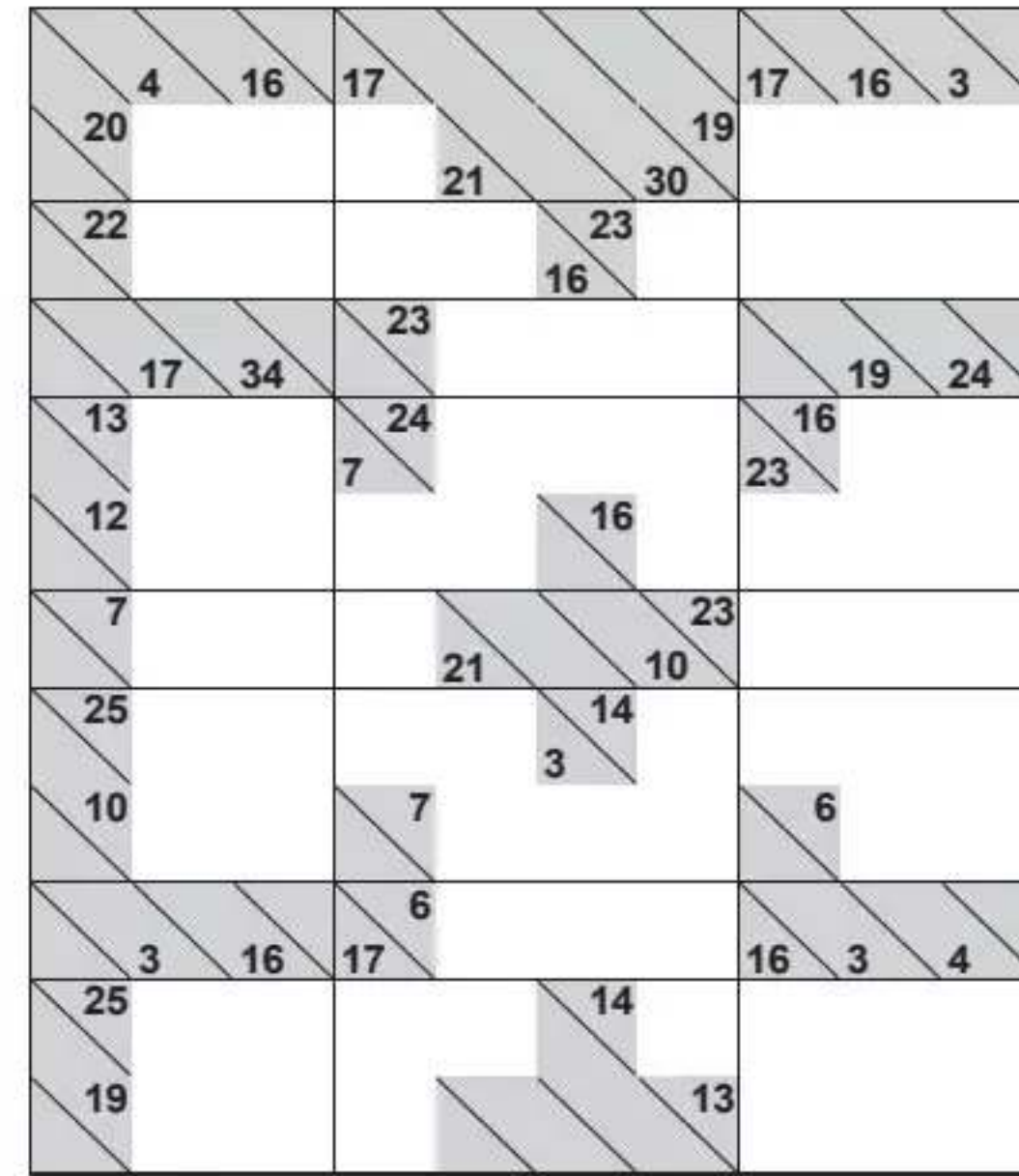


SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

## KAKURO

FILL in the blank squares of the grid using only the numbers 1 to 9, without repeating any number in any line of blank squares. The lines must be filled in with numbers which add up to the total in the shaded box at the top or beginning of each line. A number in the bottom half of a shaded box gives a downwards total; in the top half, it's a horizontal total.

SOLUTION TOMORROW



## MASTERQUIZ

1. Burns Night is celebrated in which month?
2. The last living specimen of which carnivorous marsupial, also called the Tasmanian tiger, is thought to have died at Hobart Zoo in 1936?
3. Which David Bowie song supplied the title for the sequel to the BBC TV series Life On Mars?

4. Which Chinese player won the 2024 World Women's Snooker Championship?
5. Which Turkish dish comprises thin layers of filo pastry that contain nuts and honey?
6. Which colourless liquid, formerly used as an anaesthetic, is also called trichloromethane?

SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

## MINDBENDER

1. In a sale, two surfboards are both reduced in price by 25 per cent, leaving a £60 price difference between the two. If the pre-reduction price difference was a third of the price of the more expensive surfboard, how much was the cheaper board originally?

2. What connects shooting, whispering and winning?
3. Which cocktail may blend MOLL'S TONIC?
4. Which is the odd one out: Trevor Philips, George Clinton, Niko Bellic, Tommy Vercetti?
5. Which three-letter word completes the following longer words: ab---, f---d, aro---, ---rs?

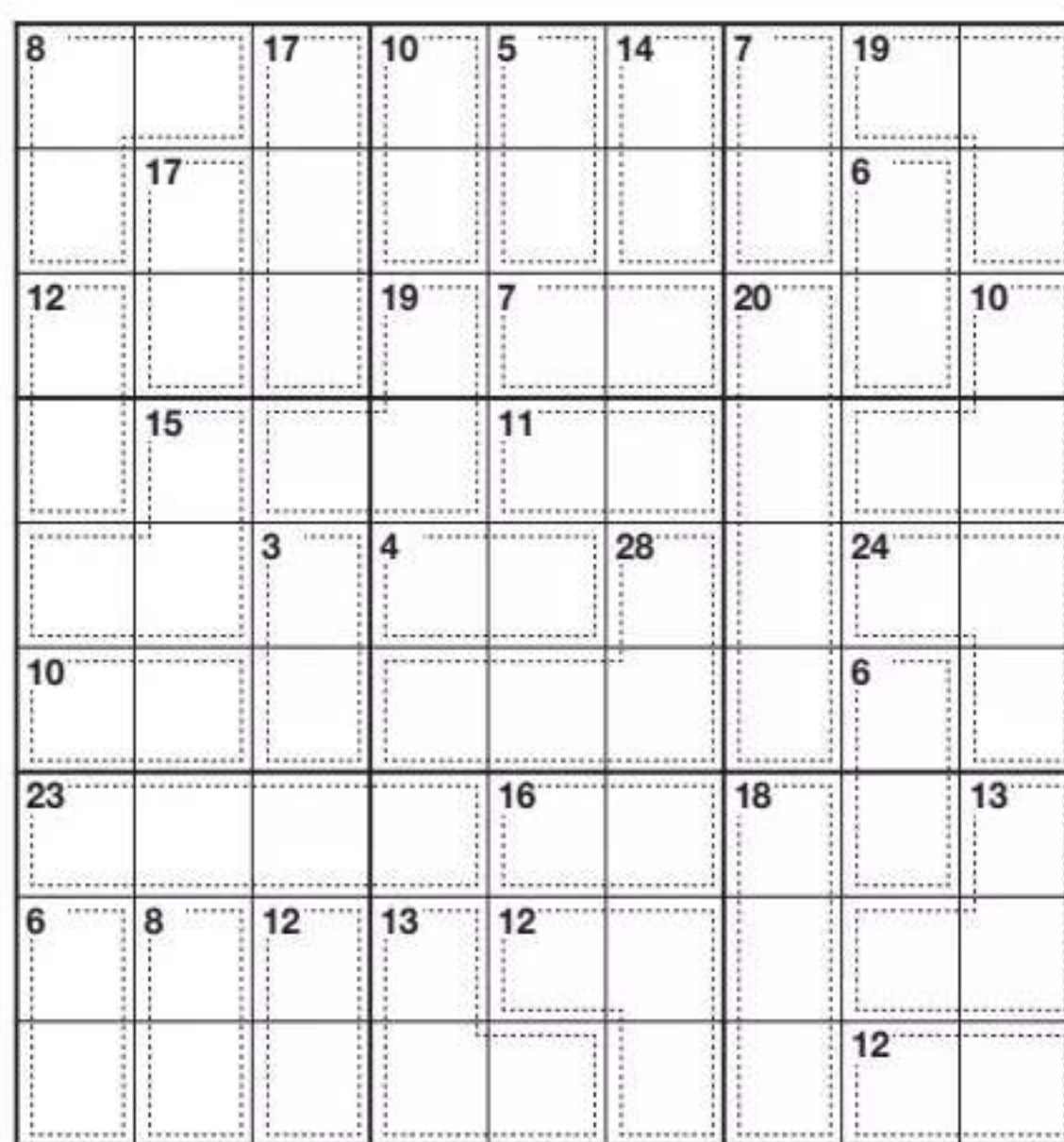
SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE

## KILLER SUDOKU

FILL in squares in the grid so each row, column and each 3x3 square contains all digits from 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the number in the top-left corner. Numbers can't be repeated within each set of cells.

SOLUTION TOMORROW

NEED A CLUE? Call 0901 293 6238 or text KILLER to 65700 and receive four clues to today's puzzle. Calls and texts cost £1 plus your standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.



## PITCHERWITS™



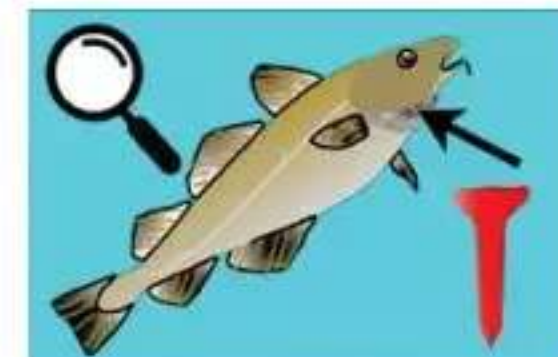
1a. Relocation local to Kirby? Could be classic, Pop! (10)



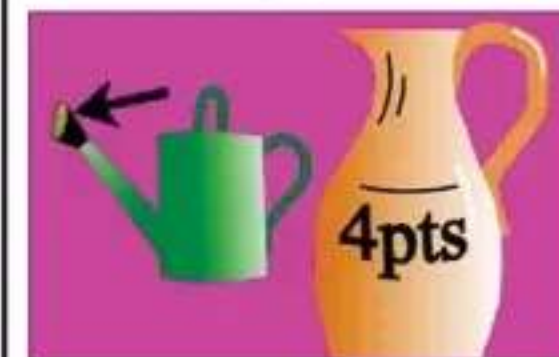
9a. Is this an atomic vault? What a massive step! (7,4)



11a. Make room for a cat going crazy on a commode (11)



16a. What courts can do spreading flu, but with dignity (4,6)



4pts. Quest with a broken razor to find a gemstone (4,6)



10d. Between state that's binomial but without a structure (2,5)



6d. Grapple with a dye that produces a patchy monotone (6,4)



10d. Fell, but not necessarily in Lake District (7)

## ACROSS

- 1 Picture Clue
- 7 Sticky liquid making a spray about-turn! (5)
- 8 Arrivals? No Sir, a kind of insect stage (5)
- 9 Picture Clue
- 11 Picture Clue

- 14 Square bread bun like an ugly creature (5)
- 15 It's a mistake to follow a trial (5)
- 16 Picture Clue

## DOWN

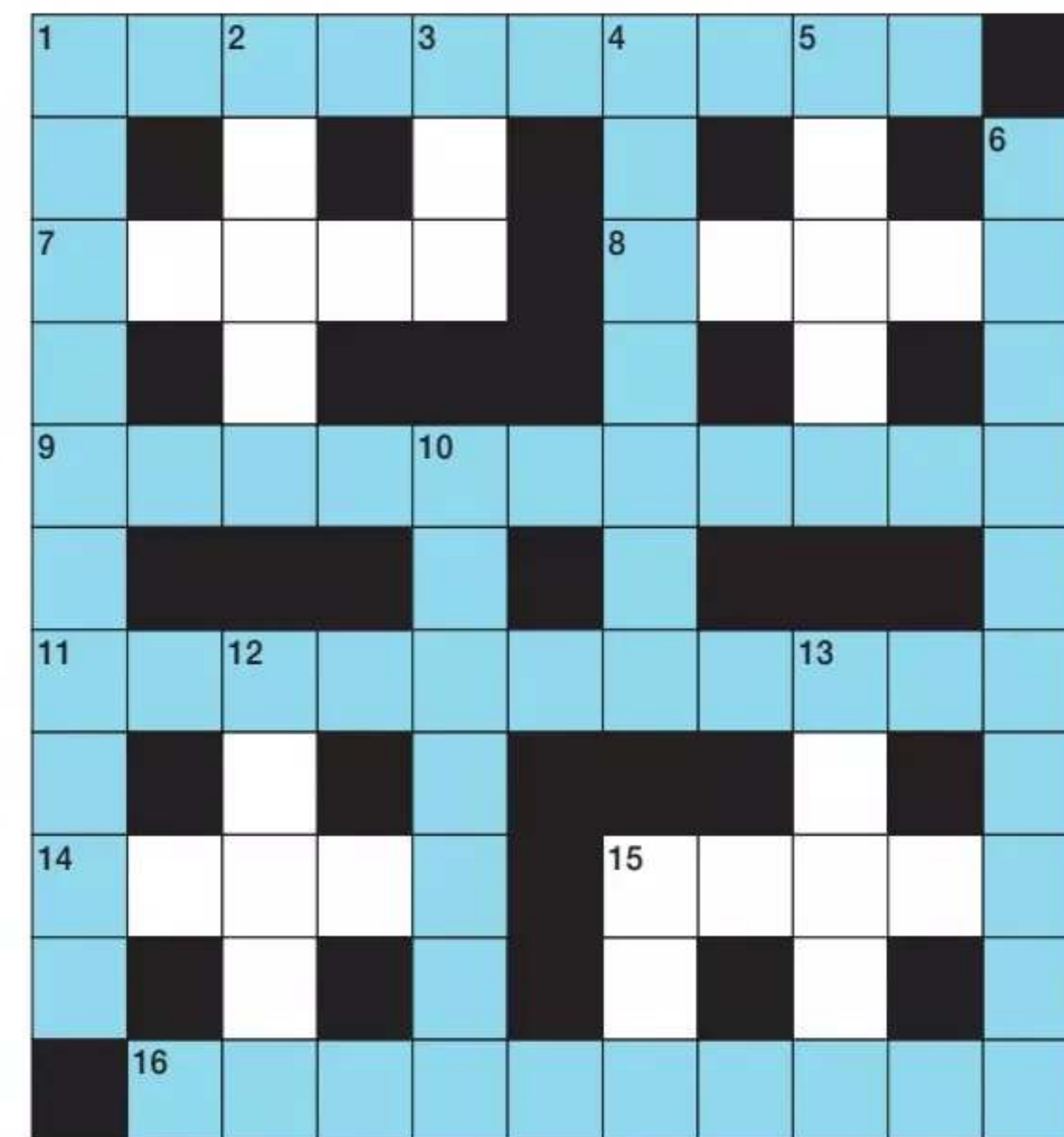
- 1 Picture Clue

PIT your wits against Pitcherwits — the exciting puzzle where some of the answers are in pictures! The solutions to the visual clues fit into the shaded spaces on the grid.

SOLUTION TOMORROW

## PITCHERWITS BOOK

TO ORDER Daily Mail Pitcherwits Vol 6 by Professor Rebus for £6.29, go to [mailshop.co.uk/books](http://mailshop.co.uk/books) or call 020 3176 2937. Free UK delivery on orders over £25.



- 2 Roundabout, not to be acerbic and nasty (5)
- 3 Snake in a Christmas pudding? (3)
- 4 Picture Clue
- 5 Massive regal expression (5)
- 6 Picture Clue

- 10 Picture Clue
- 12 Doles out crocodiles in spring bloomers (5)
- 13 An atmosphere to the left of the ear (5)
- 15 Lemur, reading 'non-flyer' from left and right (3)

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION — ACROSS: 1 Income group. 5 Law. 7 Who. 8 Barbara. 10 Echoing. 11 Top dogs. 14 Gas. 15 Hum. 16 Trunk routes. DOWN: 1 Isle of Wight. 2 Moor. 3 Gala. 4 Proper names. 6 W B Yeats. 7 Waggish. 9 Brood. 12 Punk. 13 Olio.

## MAILWORD

## ACROSS

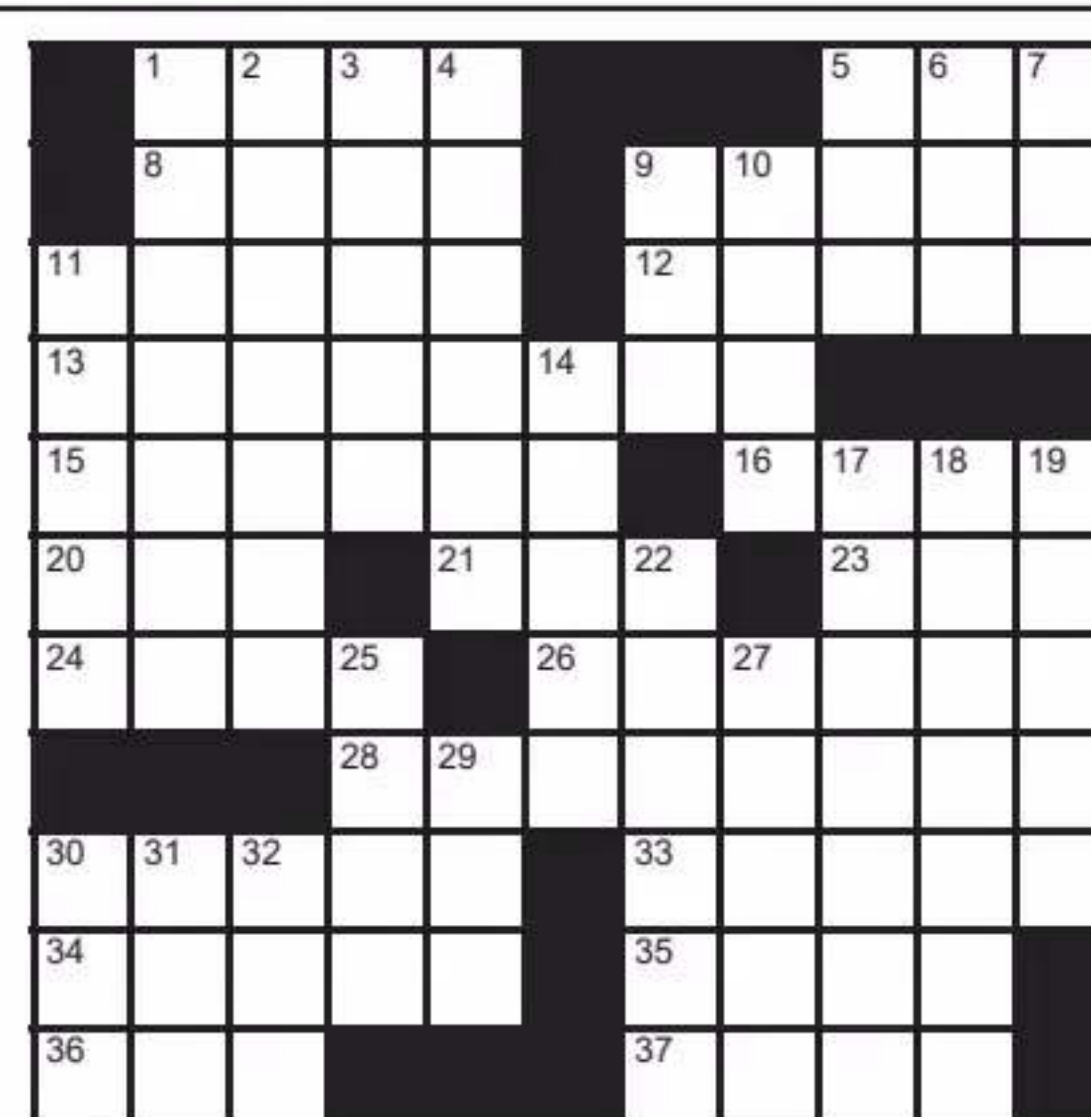
- 1 Increases
- 5 Exercise venue
- 8 Outer garment
- 9 Indian dignitary
- 11 European river
- 12 Burst
- 13 Flying machine
- 15 Concrete component
- 16 Egg centre
- 20 --- Longoria, actress
- 21 Turf
- 23 Fasten
- 24 Badger's dwelling
- 26 Communicate
- 28 Demote
- 30 Symbol of Lebanon

## DOWN

- 1 Accomplish
- 2 Coward, informally
- 3 Waltz, e.g.
- 4 Rear sections of boats
- 5 Wildebeest
- 6 Affirmative response
- 7 Encountered
- 9 Umpire, in short
- 10 Bohemian
- 11 Speed contests

- 14 Circular reef
- 17 Narcotics
- 18 Pays attention
- 19 Struck with part of the leg
- 22 Fuel
- 25 Public vehicle
- 27 Succulent
- 29 Before
- 30 Costa Rica's time zone
- 31 Biblical prophet
- 32 Depression

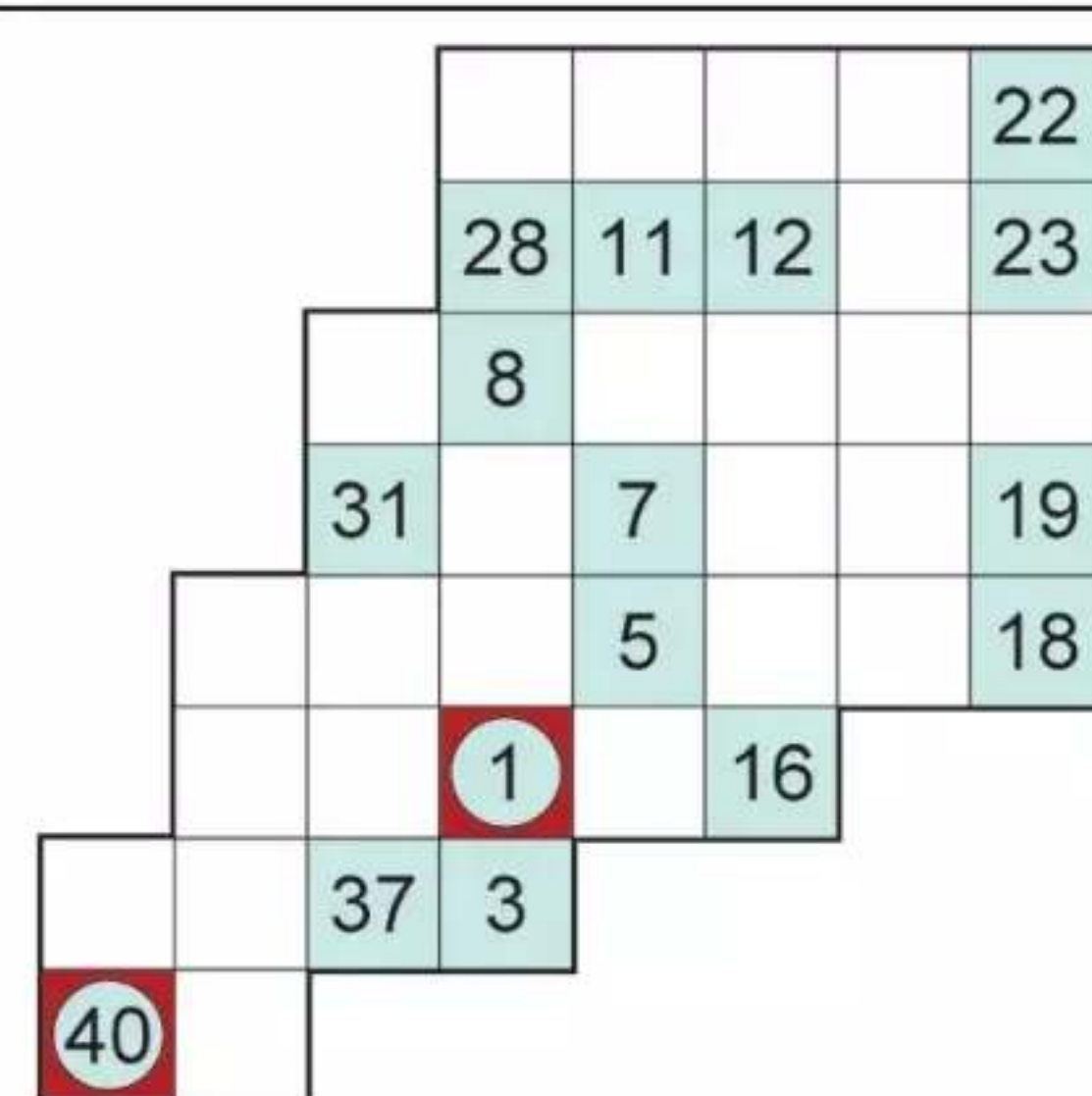
SOLUTION TOMORROW



## HIDATO

COMPLETE the grid so that all the numbers, 1 to 40, connect consecutively — horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Hint: you don't have to begin with 1 or 40. Working on the mid-numbers might give you a better start.

SOLUTION TOMORROW





## KENKEN

EACH row and column should contain 1 to 6 without repeats. Numbers in cages must combine to produce the target number shown at start of that cage using, in any order, the mathematical sign given. Single-box cages can be filled with the number given.

**SOLUTION TOMORROW**

	B	W	U	
J				T
A				Y
J				E
	S	S	E	

## GLADIOLUS NINE TO FIVE

FIT the scrambled letters of the given word into the grid to form six five-letter words across and down.

**SOLUTION TOMORROW**

## WORLD'S SMALLEST, HARDEST CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- Alliance (4)
- Montgomery is its capital (abbr) (2)
- Sanctimonious person (sl) (2)
- Pattern of tartan (4)

### DOWN

- European sea fish (4)
- Crown representative (abbr) (2)
- Fault-finding (inf) (4)
- (Chem symbol) Platinum (2)

**SOLUTION TOMORROW**

1	2		3
4			
		5	
6			

## CROSS NUMBER

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION

			8	25
	5			27
		9		25
7				22
30	17	25	23	24

Today's challenge time: 5 mins 13 secs

Your working time:  mins  secs

FILL each square with a number, 1 to 9. Horizontal squares add up to totals on right. Vertical squares add up to totals on bottom. Diagonal squares through centre add up to totals in top and bottom right.

**SOLUTION TOMORROW**

## CODEWORD

EACH number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Today 1 represents B, so fill in B every time the figure 1 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

COMPLETE Codeword to reveal the word in the shaded boxes.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Call 0901 293 6232 and leave your answer and your details or text 65700 with the word CODE, your answer and then your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One weekly winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Saturday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 54.

1	2	3	3	1	4	5		6	2	7	4	8
4		9				2		4		2		2
10	11	12	13		14	3	4	6	6	2	8	15
3		8		16		3		2		17		12
15	6	4	8	2	8	4	4	18	15			11
		15		9		10				8		7
8	2	15	19	3	6		11	6	12	20	2	17
2		2				21		20		2		
21		9	7	6	11	22	19	9	6	2	17	
2		8		9		23		17		4		19
12	3	2	9	24	9	23	2		25	8	4	18
6		17		9		3				11		14
15	20	4	9	3		2	26	14	2	12	6	15

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

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**NEED A CLUE?** Text the word CODEWORD to 65700 to receive FOUR clues to today's puzzle or call 0901 293 6200. Texts and calls cost £1 plus your standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.

**WIN £750**

## SCRABBLE® BRAND

The board on the right shows four rows of letters from a typical Scrabble game. Use each row to form a word of 2-7 letters and write it in the blank squares provided. Then add up the score for each row. Don't forget to use the double and triple word and letter scores — and add a 50-point bonus for every 7-letter word. Blank tiles can be used for any letter but have no score. See tomorrow's paper for the solution.

SCRABBLE® and SCRABBLE® Tiles are registered trademarks. All rights in the game are owned in the USA by Hasbro Inc, in Canada by Hasbro Canada Inc, and elsewhere by J.W. Spear & Sons Ltd, a subsidiary of Mattel, Inc.

T	L	O	O	Y	I	Y
E	R	Z	B	E	L	T
L	L	S	T	I	E	D
B	E	B	L	O	E	W

Triple Score on 4th Letter	
Triple Word Score	

PAR SCORE 85-95

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Friday's solution:  
MERGERS 80  
ADMIRE 60  
WEEDING 74  
OXIDATE 81  
JUDD'S TOTAL: 295

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C	C	I	I	N	W	Z	K	T
L	A	P	W	P	N	V	V	R
H	N	N	A	W	O	I	U	I
H	O	B	G	D	D	M	G	P
A	B	R	K	O	R	I	J	L
L	R	A	M	X	C	B	T	E
I	U	N	Q	F	W	J	O	S
U	O	D	H	X	Q	U	L	E
Q	B	Y	Z	D	Q	M	V	C
E	E	H	T	N	I	S	B	A
T	J	A	K	W	J	N	D	L

## WORD SEARCH

THE listed words can all be found in the grid — running forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally — EXCEPT ONE. For a chance to win, discover which word from the list can't be found in the Word Search.

**WIN £500**

ABSINTHE  
BOURBON  
BRANDY  
COGNAC  
GIN

RUM  
TEQUILA  
TRIPLE SEC  
VODKA  
WHISKY

**HOW TO ENTER:** Call 0901 293 6234 and leave your answer and details or text 65700 with the word WORD, your answer and your name. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. One winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Answers change daily at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 54. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

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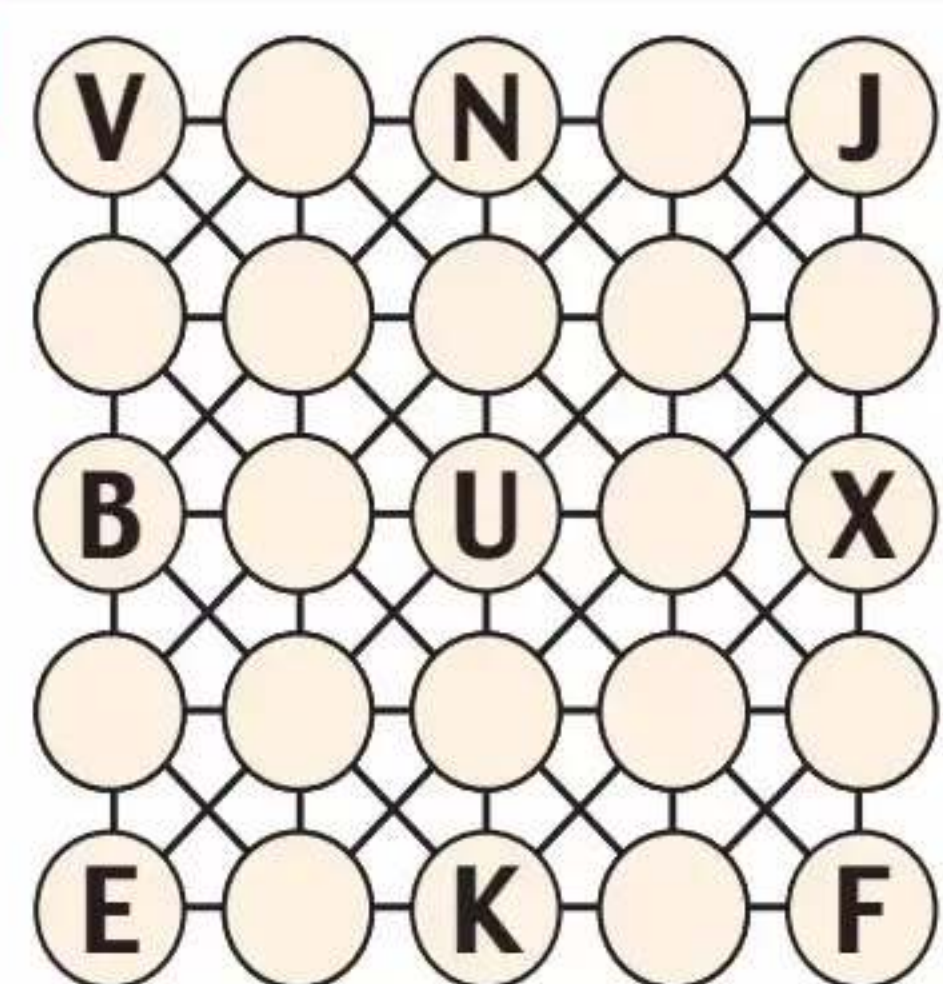
## QUICK QUIZ

- The region of Transylvania is in which country?
- In which classic film were the leading roles Scarlett and Rhett?
- Particularly associated with May Day, what kind of dancers would traditionally be organised into a side trained by a foreman?
- What colour is the chemical element sulphur?
- West Egg and East Egg are fictional locations in which 1920s novel?

**SOLUTION: PULLOUT BACK PAGE**

## GOGEN

BARGE  
BAY  
FLICKS  
JOUST  
RANDOM  
RUGBY  
TOXIC  
VANQUISH  
WRAP



INSERT letters to form listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. Insert all remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so all listed words are spelt out.

**SOLUTION TOMORROW**



# Mail Puzzles

## BRIDGE MASTERCLASS

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

WIN  
£500

♠ K J 9 6  
♥ A 10 7  
♦ K 10 7  
♣ Q 5 4

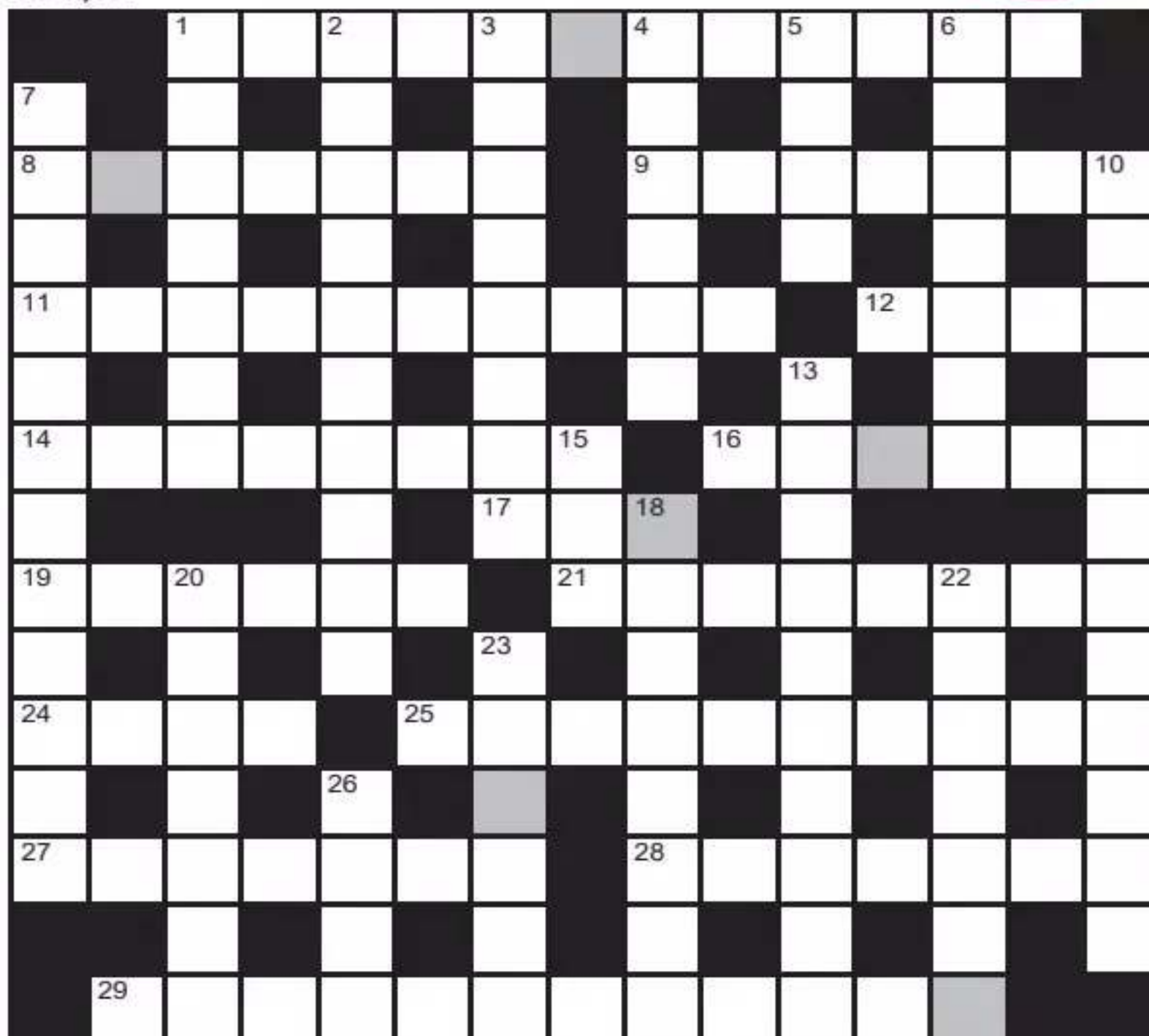
YOUR right-hand opponent deals and, at Love All, opens 1♠. What would you bid?

READERS have asked for some guiding rules about interference bids, so this week I will deal with at least a part of this vast subject.

The first thing to remember is that it is only the opening bidder who has to have in the region of 13 points — an intervening bidder can bid on significantly less. Also, it is important to make the right bid, to describe your hand to your partner as accurately as possible. On the hand above, you have a good quality 13 points (14 if you count tens) and would certainly open — best would be one (weak) No Trump. But over an opening bid, there is nothing sensible you can bid. You have no biddable suit except opener's spades; you are not strong enough for an intervening No Trump; and you can't double, as partner would understand this as being for take-out. One of the hardest bids in bridge to learn is No Bid — use it now.

PETER DONOVAN

No 17,351



FOR your chance to win, solve the crossword to reveal the word reading down the shaded boxes.  
**HOW TO ENTER:** Call 0901 293 6233 and leave today's answer and your details, or TEXT 65700 with the word **CRYPTIC**, your answer and your name. Texts/calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. Or enter by post by sending the completed crossword to Daily Mail Prize Crossword 17,351, PO Box 28, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GF. Please include your name and address. One weekly winner chosen from all correct daily entries received between 00.01 Monday and 23.59 Friday. Postal entries must be date-stamped no later than the following day to qualify. Calls and texts must be received by 23.59; answers change at 00.01. UK residents aged 18+, excl NI. Terms apply, see Page 54.

### ACROSS

- 1 Tour lots here possibly and have total control? (4,3,5)
- 8 Train station not supported by outstanding male (7)
- 9 Perhaps, catch inspector linked to second failure (7)
- 11 Talk by European before row about a woman running house? (10)
- 12 On a regular basis, four join summit in Japan? (4)
- 14 Disregard a team behind place (3,5)
- 16 Brave U.S. lawyer confronting criminal group (6)
- 17 Still inspired by pretty etching (3)
- 19 Hothouse feature troubling choir director (6)
- 21 Enticement in short to tour fancy parks to see plant (8)
- 24 Part of problem marring noted novel (4)
- 25 Study embargo blocking much of deal in smuggled goods (10)
- 27 Kept round river or went off to wander? (7)
- 28 Support soldiers beset by terrible needs (7)
- 29 Plucky pair with energy to be of use in conservation area? (4,8)

### DOWN

- 1 Begin again painting, say, after break (7)
- 2 Helper said to mobilise for authority? (10)
- 3 Article on fine long-standing comic (3,5)
- 4 Northern racket in, say, final stage (6)
- 5 Expel French writer after ignoring public relations (4)
- 6 Prompts Greek character to enter revised list on island (7)
- 7 A path followed by doves? (5,7)
- 10 Rotating spanners when going over water? (5,7)
- 13 Action in court here uncovered bribe (10)
- 15 Spike, maybe, put up for slippery thing (3)
- 18 Insensitive tourist's first to go over ruined castles (8)
- 20 Cold Italian region and English county (7)
- 22 Price shortly publicised about current area of grassy land (7)
- 23 Parking on less modern land reclaimed from the sea (6)
- 26 Heap of combustible material probably removable on vacation (4)

**NEED A CLUE?** Text TIP to 65700 to receive FOUR answers to today's crossword, or call 0901 293 6236. Texts and calls cost £1 plus standard network charges. Today's clues available between 00.01 today and 23.30 only.

## SOLUTIONS TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLES

### SUDOKU

5	6	4	8	7	2	3	9	1
2	3	9	1	6	4	5	8	7
7	1	8	3	5	9	2	4	6
8	7	3	6	2	5	9	1	4
6	9	1	4	3	8	7	2	5
4	2	5	9	1	7	6	3	8
3	4	7	2	8	6	1	5	9
1	8	6	5	9	3	4	7	2
9	5	2	7	4	1	8	6	3

### WORD SEARCH

Missing: SPINOZA

B	E	N	T	H	A	M	N	W
Y	O	N	X	O	E	B	I	B
J	A	Z	X	N	H	F	T	L
P	O	E	C	T	Y	U	W	Z
V	Z	C	O	N	M	H	S	C
S	A	E	L	S	E	D	C	K
S	A	N	O	K	R	A	W	E
K	M	R	L	R	A	W	E	G
A	T	D	X	A	M	N	P	Y
H	G	A	R	T	R	E	N	C

### NINE TO FIVE

B	L	O
G	R	E
B	E	G
A	V	A
E	L	E

### BEVERAGES

### HIDATO

58	63	64	66	76	75	74	70
59	62	57	56	65	67	77	69
60	61	55	78	68	72	71	73
49	51	54	60	79	74	70	72
50	48	52	53	44	43	7	6
24	47	46	45	42	8	5	4
25	23	21	19	14	41	9	10
26	22	20	18	17	16	15	13
27	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
29	28	31	32	33	34	35	36

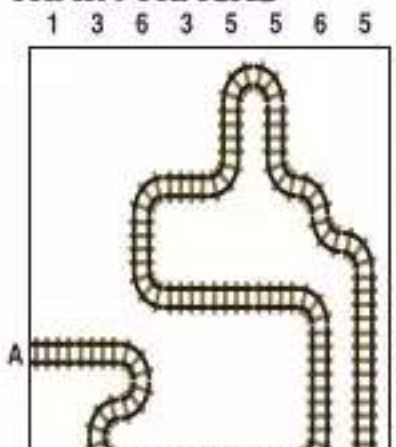
### CROSS NUMBER

9	8	5	3	25
7	6	4	9	26
8	5	3	7	23
6	9	8	4	27
30	28	20	23	22

### KAKURO

1	3	5	7	2	1
5	2	1	7	9	1
5	3	9	8	7	5
9	7	4	6	1	5
8	9	6	2	1	2
6	1	2	4	3	4
1	9	2	3	1	2
1	2	4	8	9	7
3	1	6	8	9	7
4	2	6	8	9	2
3	1	7	5	4	9

### TRAIN TRACKS



## 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

START on left with number given and follow instructions as you go across. In 30 seconds, beginners have to complete their own challenge; intermediates have to complete their own challenge and the beginner's; advanced players have to complete their own challenge and the intermediate's.

### SOLUTION BELOW

www.30secondchallenges.com

	Beginner	100	÷5	-2	÷9	×36	÷8	×11	+15	÷6	×20	YOUR ANSWERS
Intermediate	23	+57	TIMES ITSELF	5% OF IT	11/16 OF IT	4/5 OF IT	5/8 OF IT	-5	5/7 OF IT	×6		
Advanced	42	×2 1/3	25% OF IT	×8	11/14 OF IT	50% OF IT	-49	325% OF IT	15/35 OF IT	×15		

### KENKEN

6	5	3	4	1	2
4	2	6	3	5	1
5	4	2	1	6	3
3	1	4	5	2	6
1	6	5	2	3	4
2	3	1	6	4	5

### KILLER SUDOKU

4	2	7	6	8	1	9	5	3
5	6	9	3	4	7	1	8	2
3	8	1	2	5	9	7	6	4
7	4	3	8	9	2	5	1	6
8	5	6	7	1	4	3	2	9
9	1	2	5	6	3	8	4	7
2	9	5	4	7	8	6	3	1
6	7	4	1	3	5	2	9	8
1	3	8	9	2	6	4	7	5

### SUDOKU X

1	4	2	5	6	3
3	6	5	2	4	1
4	2	3	1	5	6
5	1	6	4	3	2
6	5	1	3	2	4
2	3	4	6	1	5

### GOGEN

P	M	Y	L	K
X	S	I	R	B
G	E	D	N	T
F	O	U	A	J
C	Q	W	H	V

### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 17,348

**ACROSS:** 1 Cowslips. 5 Placid. 9 Prolific. 10 Garlic. 12 Ugly. 13 Lamentable. 15 Daddy-long-legs. 19 Up-to-the-minute. 23 Mock orange. 25 Dome. 28 Unions. 29 Snapshot. 30 Tweeds. 31 Leathery. **DOWN:** 1 Cop-out. 2 Whorl. 3 Loin. 4 Primacy. 6 Least. 7 Calabrese. 8 Decrease. 11 Demo. 14 Edit. 15 Detective. 16 Lom. 17 Gaul. 18 Surmount. 20 Elan. 21 Ingenue. 22 Vestry. 24 Owned. 26 Ochre. 27 Spot. **MAILWORD:** **ACROSS:** 1 Tray. 5 Spite. 10 Reno. 11 Ellen. 12 Amour. 14 Naked. 15 God. 16 East. 18 Ivy. 19 Steers. 22 Can. 23 Oil. 24 Awn. 26 Legume. 28 Wee. 29 Ores. 30 Hew. 31 Ad-hoc. 34 Smite. 36 Souze. 37 Odes. 38 Knees. 39 Pert. **DOWN:** 1 Tragic. 2 Removal. 3 Anodyne. 4 You. 5 Senseless. 6 Plate. 7 ilk. 8 Tee. 9 End. 13 Resources. 17 A time. 20 Rawhide. 21 Sweetener. 25 Newest. 27 Goose. 31 Ask. 32 Don. 33 Hue. 35 Mop.

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

**ACROSS:** 6 Primary. 7 Oiler. 9 Fran. 10 In the tooth. 11 The Lambs. 13 Oswald. 15 Lara. 17 Peake. 18 Gate. 19 Batter. 20 Greenham. 23 Diagnostic. \*

## SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES

**QUICK QUIZ:** 1 Romania. 2 Gone With The Wind. 3 Morris dancers. 4 Yellow. 5 The Great Gatsby.

### MINDBENDER:

1 £160. 2 They may all precede gallery. 3 Tom Collins. 4 George Clinton; the others are Grand Theft Auto characters. 5 Use. Abuse, fused, arouse, users.

### MASTERQUIZ:

1 January. 2 Thylacine. 3 Ashes To Ashes. 4 Bai Yulu. 5 Baklava. 6 Chloroform.

### HONEYCOMB:

1 Solved. 2 Louder. 3 Revert. 4 Either. 5 Hobble. 6 Baobab. 7 Absent. 8 Nectar. 9 Rather. 10 Huddle. 11 Derail. 12 Dearly.

### KUROSU

O	X	O	X	X	O
X	O	X	O	O	X
O	X	X	O	O	X
X	O	O	X	X	O
X	O	X	X	O	O
O	X	O	O	X	X

**30-SECOND CHALLENGE:** Beginner: 380. Intermediate: 450. Advanced: 585.

26 Reed. 27 Anita. 28 Destiny. **DOWN:** 1 Lionel Bart. 2 Radium. 3 Gynt. 4 Foregone. 5 Elmo. 6 Perth. 8 Rotblat. 12 Slang. 14 Wagon train. 16 Arabica. 17 Personal. 21 Excess. 22 Avery. 24 Grip. 25 Todd.

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