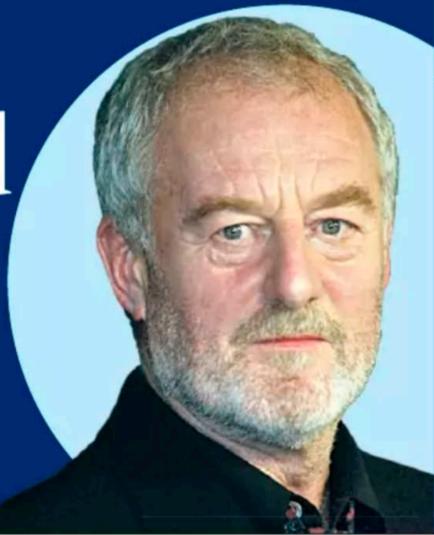


'An incredible talent'

Bernard Hill

1944-2024



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Labour sets sights on 'blue wall' seats at next election

Rowena Mason
Whitehall editor

Labour is planning to target the south of England heavily at the general election as the local election results show some "blue wall" seats are turning red, Keir Starmer's election chief has said.

The shadow cabinet minister Pat McFadden said Labour was advancing in southern Tory heartlands and it was wrong to think the Liberal Democrats were the only challengers to the Conservatives in the south.

Speaking to the Guardian, he said it was now the case that Labour "controls twice as many councils in the south-east as the Tories", pointing to gains in Rushmoor, Crawley, Swindon, Thurrock, Basildon and Southend. "The story of parts of the blue wall turning red is under-noticed," he said.

Thursday's local and mayoral elections had given Labour the "confidence and belief" that it can win a general election convincingly, he said.

Rishi Sunak faces turmoil in his party after its heavy losses, as the

rightwing former home secretary Suella Braverman said the prime minister's "plan is not working" and "at this rate we will be lucky to have any Conservative MPs at the next election".

The prime minister faces a schism over whether to swing to the centre to tackle the threat from Labour and the Lib Dems or to the right to try to squeeze Reform UK's vote share.

Labour's targeting of the south shows its spreading ambition after winning convincingly in the local elections across much of the "red wall" in the north of England and the Midlands won by Boris Johnson back in 2019.

It had a landslide 26% swing at the Blackpool South byelection and took the mayoralties in the North East, East Midlands, West Midlands and York and North Yorkshire.

The Lib Dems made gains across the south and south-west, adding more than 100 seats and suggesting the party would do well in the home counties at a general election. Labour made advances in areas of Kent and Essex, and councils such as Rushmoor, which includes the garrison town of Aldershot. **4** →

Israel shuts down local offices of Al Jazeera

Jason Burke
Jerusalem

Israeli authorities shut down the local offices of Al Jazeera yesterday, hours after a government vote to use new laws to close the satellite news network's operations in Israel.

The move, which comes amid faltering indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas for a ceasefire, was branded a "dark day for the media" by critics and raised new concerns about the attitude to free speech of Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline government.

Israeli officials said the move was

justified because Al Jazeera was a threat to national security. "The incitement channel Al Jazeera will be closed in Israel," Netanyahu posted on social media after the unanimous cabinet vote.

A government statement said Israel's communications minister had signed orders to "act immediately" to close Al Jazeera's offices in Israel, confiscate broadcast equipment, cut off the channel from cable and satellite companies, and block its websites.

The network, which is funded by Qatar, has been critical of Israel's military operation in Gaza, from where it

has reported around the clock during the seven-months-long war.

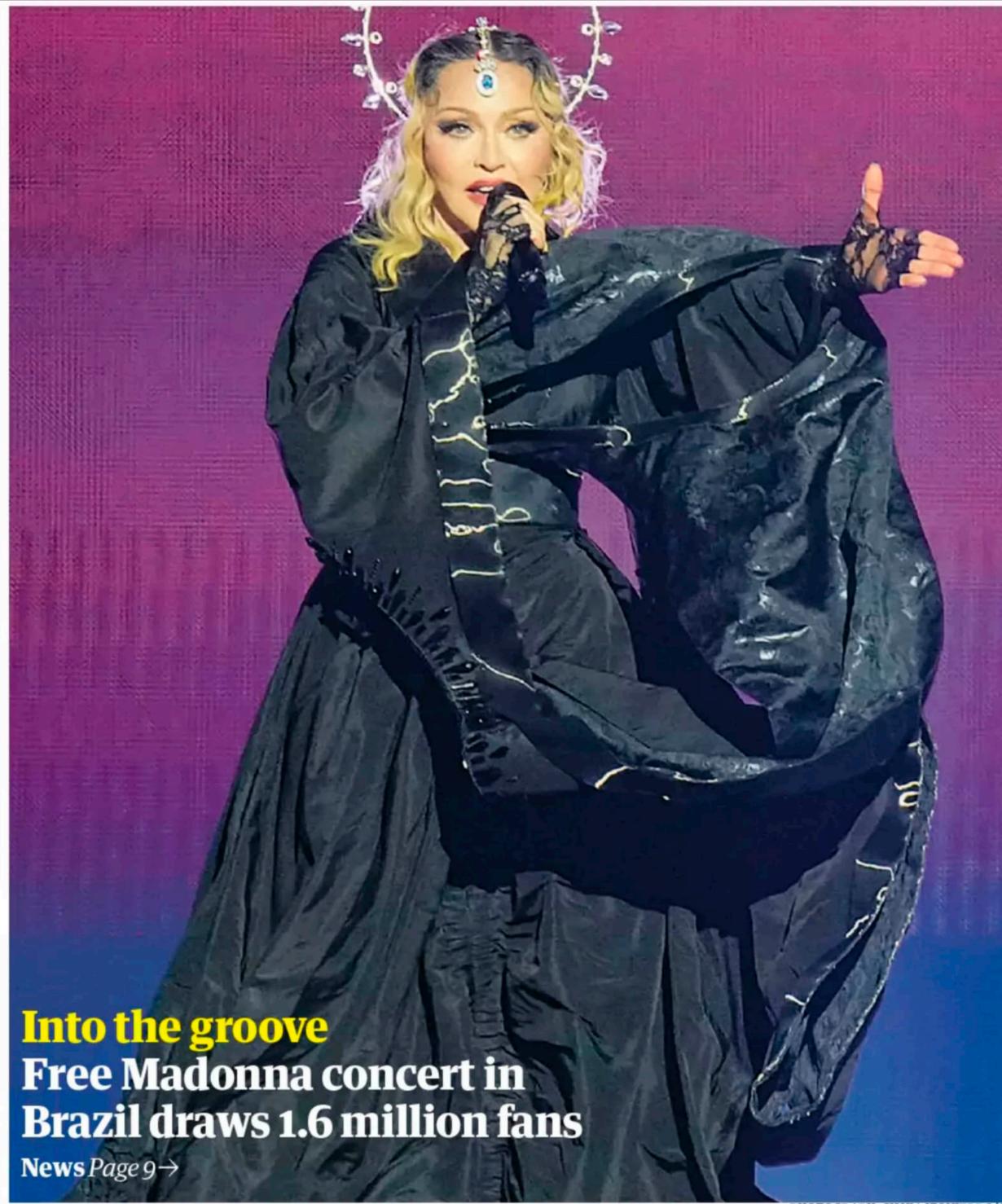
Al Jazeera said the accusation the network threatened Israeli security was a "dangerous and ridiculous lie" that puts its journalists at risk.

"Al Jazeera Media Network strongly condemns and denounces this criminal act that violates human rights and the basic right to access of information," the network said in a statement. "Al Jazeera affirms its right to continue to provide news and information to its global audiences."

A "final report" listing the restrictions placed **15** →

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PHOTOGRAPH: SILVIA IZQUIERDO/AP

Football Elf actor takes stake in Leeds

Will Ferrell has become the latest Hollywood celebrity to invest in the English game

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News



◀ The protest organised by Republic in Trafalgar Square, London, yesterday, the day before the first anniversary of King Charles's coronation

PHOTOGRAPH: JACK TAYLOR/GETTY IMAGES

Republican rally marks coronation anniversary as support for king rises

Emily Dugan

A 15-foot dinosaur called "Chuck the Rex" was the centrepiece of a rally yesterday calling for the abolition of the monarchy ahead of the first anniversary of King Charles's coronation.

It will be a year since the king's coronation today, and gun salutes across the capital will commemorate his reign.

About 100 people attended the rally in Trafalgar Square, London, which was organised by the campaign group Republic, with parallel events in Edinburgh and Cardiff.

Protesters chanted "abdicate, abdicate" in front of two large yellow banners that read "abolish the monarchy" and "change the country for good".

Graham Smith, chief executive of Republic, said the dinosaur represented the anachronism of monarchy. "The fossilised remains should be in a museum where we can have a look at it, and then we can enjoy actually living in a modern democracy," he said.

Smith and other Republic members were arrested last year for taking part in a pre-agreed protest on the day of the coronation. Smith was detained for 14 hours and launched a legal action against the Metropolitan police last year.

He told the crowd the action was continuing. "We need to challenge the monarchy and the royals because it is a corrupt institution - they are a lazy people, they have not earned their position and they need to be kicked out," he said.

He continued: "We want a constitution and a system and a democracy

that actually celebrates our very best principles and values. This won't just be a matter of principle, it will change the way we govern ourselves and therefore change the society and the way that we see ourselves not as subjects, but as citizens."

Smith said the public was "forced to compromise our values and principles" and compared the scrutiny of politicians with that of the monarchy.

'We want a system that celebrates our very best principles and values'

Graham Smith
Republic chief executive

Train drivers to strike over three days in new action

Gwyn Topham
Transport correspondent

Rail passengers face a week of disruption as train drivers embark on another round of industrial action today, despite tentative attempts by the industry to restart talks.

Drivers in the Aslef union will strike for 24 hours at each of England's national train operators over the course of three days from tomorrow until Thursday, while an overtime ban will apply nationwide from today until Saturday.

Most operators will not run any trains on their strike days, affecting some cross-border services to Wales and Scotland. The overtime ban will also reduce schedules and

severely disrupt some operators who depend on voluntary shifts to run their services.

Tomorrow, the first wave will affect commuter routes into London, with drivers striking at c2c, Greater Anglia, Great Northern, Thameslink, South-eastern, Southern/Gatwick Express and South Western Railway. It will be followed on Wednesday by a 24-hour strike at Avanti West Coast, Chiltern Railways, CrossCountry, East Midlands Railway, Great Western Railway and West Midlands Trains; and at LNER, Northern and TransPennine Express on Thursday.

The union said it would continue to strike for an improved pay offer, with some of its members now going five years without a pay rise and the last talks breaking down a year ago.

A hint of movement came when the Rail Delivery Group, representing train operators, emailed Aslef late last week to suggest discussions about a framework for formal talks, which the union said it welcomed.

An RDG spokesperson said it had "written to the Aslef leadership to try and find areas of common ground that will allow us to move to formal negotiations".

The Aslef general secretary, Mick Whelan, told members he would "explore this avenue in an effort to resolve this dispute".

The union rejected a two-year deal in early 2023 worth 4% annually, but with changes to working conditions attached. In percentage terms, the rise was less than that offered to other parts of the industry.

Speaking before this next set of rolling strikes, Whelan said: "We don't want to be doing this. Nobody wants to be losing money, but unless we do this, nobody is going to come to the table and talk to us. So we're left in a position whereby the only way that we can articulate our voice is to take action." Aslef members voted overwhelmingly in February to continue industrial action.

Headed: "I'm out there talking to my people most nights of the week in branch rooms and elsewhere, and they want to keep going. They want a resolution. And after 22 months, why would you stop? We have to believe there will be an endgame; we have to believe there will be a resolution to this. After half a decade without a pay rise, should we stop and go another half a decade without?"

"We criticise MPs for spending thousands of pounds on second homes ... but we don't criticise (Prince) William for spending £4.5m of our money on doing up not his second home, or his third home, but his fourth," he said.

Smith told the Guardian that the first year of the king's reign had seen a surge in interest in the idea of abolishing the monarchy. "We have grown enormously in the last 12 months, we've got more money, more members, more activists. There's no way we could've organised this two years ago. Charles is not the queen [Elizabeth II]. I mean, the queen was the monarchy for a lot of people."

While a poll published yesterday suggested an increase in support for King Charles, it also indicated a rise in people believing the UK should become a republic.

An Ipsos poll for the Mail on Sunday found 56% believed Charles was doing a good job as king, up from 49% last year. It also found that 28% of people supported Britain becoming a republic, compared with 22% four months before Queen Elizabeth's death in 2023.

The campaigner Peter Tatchell was one of the speakers. He told the Guardian: "Monarchy symbolises elitism, privilege and deference. It's totally incompatible with a modern 21st-century democracy. The royals have, between them, 23 palaces and residences, 700 servants and a combined personal wealth of £2bn."

Tatchell said that support for the monarchy was slipping, pointing to the enthusiasm for republicanism among young people. The latest Ipsos poll found a third of young people said it "would be better" if the monarchy was abolished, compared with just one in six older people.

Shortly after the rally, the archbishop of Canterbury praised the king's "sense of duty" as Charles returned to public events following his cancer diagnosis.

Justin Welby said: "His openness in sharing his condition has been characteristic of his willingness to help and support others."

The government has argued that the offer would take the average pay of a train driver to £65,000, but it also demanded "modernisation" and workplace reform as part of the settlement.

Whelan said: "There was no workplace reform. Nobody could explain to me how cutting people's sick pay makes a railway run quicker, or more resilient, or improves performance. It was a land grab for Ts & Cs [terms and conditions]."

"We've done 17 pay deals in the last 12 months across the rest of the rail industry," including in Scotland and Wales, the Elizabeth line, and for freight and open access rail operators. "None of them required any of these changes - this has got nothing to do with running a railway."

An RDG spokesperson said the strikes would "inflict further damage on an industry that is receiving up to an additional £54m a week in taxpayer cash following the Covid downturn".

The wave of action is the fourth week of rolling strikes staged by Aslef since December, after it altered its tactics in a dispute that has lasted almost two years.



Kind of a big deal: Will Ferrell invests in Leeds as A-list actors fall for football

Louise Taylor

The Hollywood actor Will Ferrell has enhanced Leeds United's new-found status as a celebrity magnet by becoming the latest household name to invest in the football club.

Leeds are struggling to escape English football's second tier, the Championship, but that has not deterred Ferrell, the star of *Elf* and *Anchorman*, from joining his fellow actor Russell Crowe, the leading golfers Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas, and the Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps in signing up as a minority investor at Elland Road.

Club officials yesterday declined to comment on reports that Ferrell, 56, had followed thousands of co-investors from the worlds of sport and entertainment and become a so-called "limited partner" at a club taken over by the San Francisco-based 49ers Enterprises in a £170m buyout last summer. Nonetheless, it is understood an announcement he has bought "a significant minority stake" will be made this week.



◀ Ryan Reynolds, the co-owner of Wrexham FC with fellow actor Rob McElhenney, hosted Ferrell at Wrexham's stadium last year

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW ASHTON/GETTY IMAGES

Ferrell, whose wealth is estimated at about £127m, is already a co-owner of the Major League Soccer franchise Los Angeles FC but has now become transfixed by English football.

In February 2023, Ferrell attended a Wrexham match at the invitation of the Welsh club's owners, his friends and fellow actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney. At the time there were suggestions he might be about to join them by becoming a director of Wrexham, but it now appears he was simply on a voyage of discovery through English football. Two days later, Ferrell turned up at Anfield to

watch Liverpool beat Everton 2-0 in the Merseyside derby.

While Reynolds and McElhenney continue to celebrate Wrexham's promotion to League One, Ferrell will now presumably be reduced to a bag of nerves as Daniel Farke's Leeds, who have just finished third in the Championship, prepare for a two-legged promotion playoff semi-final against Norwich. Should Farke's players prevail, Leeds - relegated from the Premier League last May - will then be a Wembley final against either Southampton or West Bromwich Albion away from returning to the top tier.

▼ Ferrell watching Los Angeles FC, the club he co-owns. He joins several well-known investors in Leeds, left

PHOTOGRAPH: LEOPOLDO SMITH/GETTY



Ferrell first publicly revealed his fascination for English football during a trip to watch Manchester City's 3-1 win over Aston Villa last season. In the course of that visit to the Etihad Stadium, the actor, famed for a series of comedic roles, met the City midfielder and former Villa star Jack Grealish, subsequently posting selfies of himself alongside the England international on social media.

Leeds fans will doubtless be pleased he ignored one piece of advice from Grealish. "Great to meet my new British friend Jack Grealish at the Etihad today," Ferrell commented. "He told me to buy Birmingham City and to get them relegated to League Two." Birmingham, backed by the NFL great Tom Brady, were relegated to League One, England's third tier, on Saturday.

At the time Ferrell told Sky Sports: "I don't really have a side over here. I just enjoy following all the storylines. It's obviously a very good league."

Ferrell is following in the footsteps of Crowe, who has said he became a Leeds fan after watching the team on the BBC's Match of the Day as a child.

A source told the Sun: "The 49ers will be announcing Will's involvement in the coming days and he's looking forward to sprinkling a little stardust on the club."

"He loves soccer and has been particularly impressed by the passion of the English game. His aim now is to see Leeds back where they belong - in the Premier League. As far as Will and the 49ers are concerned this is a serious investment opportunity."

On taking control at Elland Road, 49er Enterprises split itself into two sections: general partners and limited partners. The US firm's mission statement is to exploit business and investment opportunities for the San Francisco 49ers NFL franchise.

Despite some "limited partners" investing a few million pounds in the club, they cede control of decision making at Elland Road to Leeds's general partners, which include the Australian businessman Peter Lowy, the American entrepreneur Rudy-Cline Thomas and Jed York, whose parents own 90% of the San Francisco 49ers.

Sign of the times: council scraps apostrophes in street names

Mabel Banfield-Nwachi

A council has incurred the wrath of residents and linguists after announcing it would avoid using apostrophes on street signs to avoid problems with computer systems.

North Yorkshire council is ditching the punctuation mark, saying it can affect geographical databases.

It said all new street signs would be produced without one, regardless of whether they were used in the past.

Some local people expressed reservations about removing the apostrophes and said it risked "everything going downhill".

Sam, a postal worker in Harrogate, highlighted the sign for St Mary's Walk that had been erected in the town without an apostrophe. "I walk past the sign every day and it riles my

blood to see inappropriate grammar or punctuation," she told the BBC.

Someone had drawn an apostrophe on the sign with a marker pen, which the former teacher said was "brilliant". She suggested the council was providing a bad example to children who spend a long time learning the basics of grammar.

Dr Ellie Rye, a lecturer in English language and linguistics at the University of York, said apostrophes were a relatively new invention and context usually allowed people to understand differences in meaning. "They differentiate between two St Marys walking down the street arm in arm, and 'I live on St Mary's Walk'

but in practice those two statements aren't ambiguous. If I say I live on St Mary's Walk, we're expecting a street name or an address of some kind."

North Yorkshire council said it was not the first to opt to eliminate the apostrophe from street signs. In 2014 Cambridge city council did the

same thing but bowed to pressure and reinstated the apostrophe after complaints.

A spokesperson for North Yorkshire council said: "All punctuation will be considered but avoided where possible because street names and addresses, when stored in databases, must meet the standards set out in BS7666 [the naming system set up by the British Standards Institution]."

"This restricts the use of punctuation marks and special characters (eg apostrophes, hyphens and ampersands) to avoid potential problems when searching the databases as these characters have specific meanings in computer systems."



Sam Postal worker

▼ There were mayoral wins for (clockwise from left) Richard Parker, Claire Ward and Sadiq Khan; and for Chris Webb in the Blackpool South byelection PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES; PA



West Midlands



East Midlands



Blackpool



London

Labour will target southern 'blue wall' seats, says campaign chief

← Continued from page 1

Downing Street insisted yesterday that the prime minister would not be changing direction and wanted to stick to his plan.

Braverman called for a campaign to leave the European convention on human rights and set a migrant cap. She acknowledged it was too late to oust Sunak while admitting she regretted having backed him for the leadership. One of her allies, the Tory MP John Hayes, suggested a reshuffle was needed to bring back major figures from the right.

The transport secretary, Mark Harper, one of Sunak's supporters, pointed to analysis by the polling expert Michael Thrasher saying the local results showed Labour only had a nine-point lead. "There is a fight

to be had," he told broadcasters. "The next election is not a foregone conclusion."

Sunak seized on the same analysis, urging the Tories to "come together as a party and show the British people we are delivering for them". The prime minister told the Times that a coalition of Labour, the SNP, the Lib Dems and the Greens "would be a disaster for Britain".

Other experts said it was not possible to translate the local election vote in England to national results across the UK because people vote for different parties at a general election.

As there were no elections in Scotland, the analysis also assumes Labour would win a solitary seat north of the border as it did in 2019. Recent polling suggests the party could in fact take more than 20 seats.

The Conservatives lost 474 council seats compared with the last local election count. Labour gained 186, the Lib Dems 104 and the Greens 74.

Reform UK won just two council seats but got a high vote share in some areas where the party stood. It came within 150 votes of the Tories' second place in the Blackpool South parliamentary byelection.

McFadden said Labour had pursued a strategy that was "ruthlessly focused on the seats and the councils that will make a difference and there was no better example than in the West Midlands where we put a lot of resources in knowing it was on a knife-edge. That organisational effort helped us get over the line.

"I'm always the first person to say of course there's more work to do, but apart from the results, which were tremendous and beyond our expectations, one of the results of the last few days is to give us a confidence and belief that we haven't had for a long time.

"Because Labour has got too used to losing, and even some of its own supporters and voters have said we support Labour but we always lose. But what the weekend's results show is that Labour doesn't have to always lose and the Tories are beatable ... we go into it with more belief because of what's happened in the past few days."

Labour sources said it would be targeting parts of Kent and Essex, as well

'Chaos & Decline'

Chaos, drama, sleaze and scandal - it sounds like the background to a TV show, but it could also describe 14 years of Conservative government.

It's this overlap that Labour is seizing on as the party releases *Chaos & Decline*, a spoof five-episode series stitching together broadcast clips of low moments under Conservative rule that pokes fun at Tory MPs while telling of the damage wreaked on UK society and the economy.

A two-minute season trailer video will air each day on that spoof streaming platform, *Conflux.uk*, starting from today. The site states: "After 14 years, *Chaos & Decline* is coming to an end. If you vote for it to."

Jonathan Ashworth, the shadow paymaster general, said: "The Tory chaos has been like a tragic soap opera where every episode brings more psycho drama, scandals and broken promises. There is a real cost to this, and it's paid by the British people every day ... The country needs change. With Keir Starmer, Labour has been put back into the service of working people and we are ready to turn the page and finally give Britain its future back." Rachel Hall

as other parts of the home counties and Hampshire, putting resources in where the local elections show support for the Tories is softening.

The results were not uniformly positive for Labour. Parts of the country turned to independents and the Greens, particularly where some voters were disappointed with Labour's stance on the war in Gaza.

Labour lost its majority on Oldham council, and its vote share in the West Midlands was dented by support for the independent candidate Akhmed Yakoob.

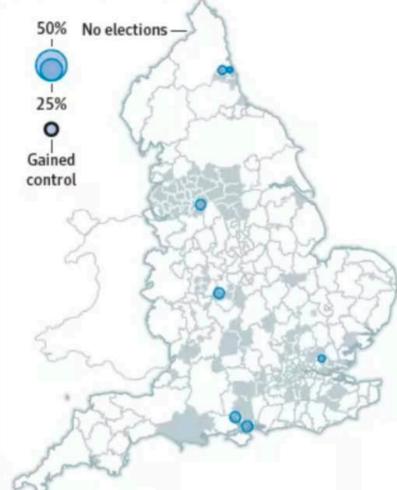
McFadden said: "I understand why people feel strongly about this issue because it's a humanitarian crisis and we want to help those people in Gaza who are affected by that. But two things have affected our position all the way along: one is defending Israel's right to defend itself in the face of what happened on October 7 and the second is working for a better future for the Palestinian people. Those two things will continue to inform our position."

With the Tories already claiming Labour could turn to other parties to form a pact in a hung parliament, McFadden said he was clear that would not happen.

Asked on Sky News if he could imagine Labour and the SNP working together, he said: "Our aim is to win a majority, to govern, to meet the mood for change, and we're not planning any alliances or pacts with anyone."

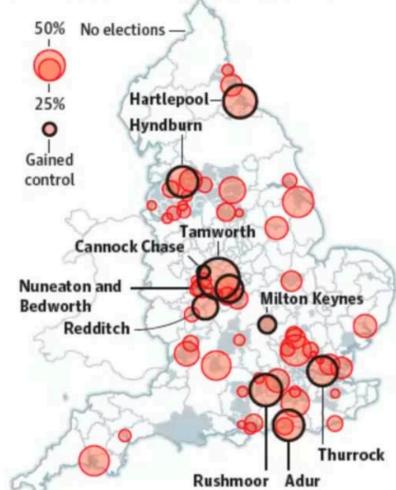
Where did each party gain ground?

Conservative
Net seats gained as a % of seats elected



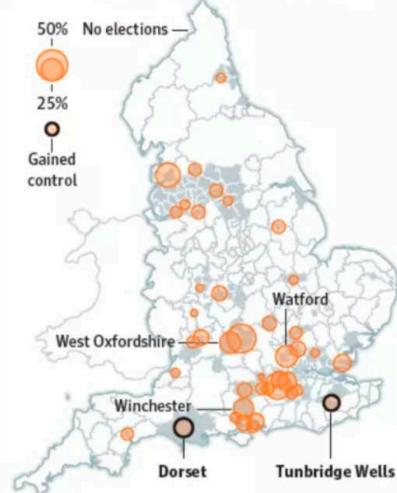
A handful of gains will do little to relieve Tory anxieties

Labour
Net seats gained as a % of seats elected



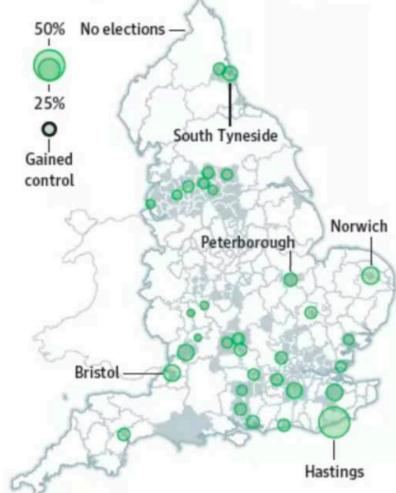
Labour had some of its biggest wins in the West Midlands and east of England

Liberal Democrats
Net seats gained as a % of seats elected



Gains in Watford, West Oxfordshire and Winchester

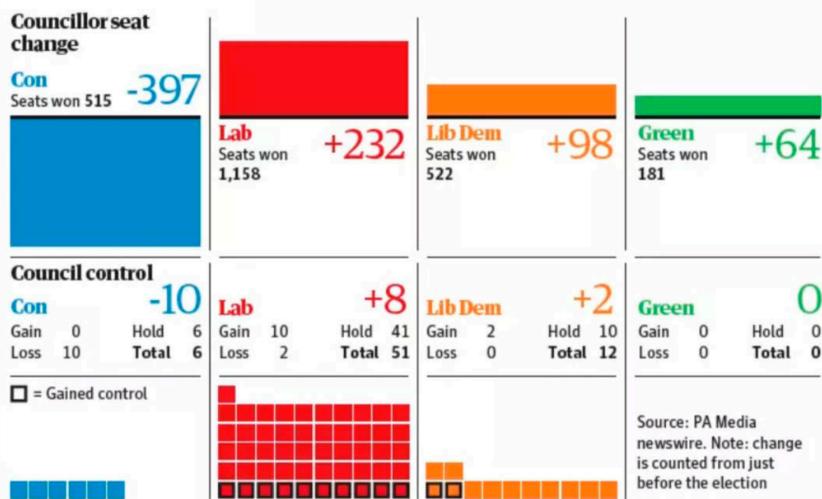
Green
Net seats gained as a % of seats elected



Greens became the largest political group in Hastings, where they gained eight seats

English council elections: how England voted

More than 2,000 seats were voted for in 107 councils



Regional and city mayors



Other mayoral races:
East Midlands won by Claire Ward. North East won by Kim McGuinness. Salford won by Paul Dennett. South Yorkshire won by Oliver Coppard. York & North Yorkshire won by David Skiaith

Gaza stance Party will 'work hard' to regain Muslim support after losing votes

Robert Booth
Social affairs correspondent

A senior Labour official has insisted the party wants better lives for Palestinian people as it prepares to shift its campaigning to win back voters opposing its position on Gaza.

Pat McFadden, the party's national election co-ordinator, said it would "work to get people's support back" as analysis showed that despite huge gains in council seats, seizing the West Midlands mayoralty and Sadiq Khan, the Muslim mayor of London, winning a third term, there was an almost 18% drop in the Labour vote in areas where more than a fifth of people identified as Muslim.

After an analysis of 930 wards by Prof Will Jennings, of the University of Southampton, showed the scale of the protest vote over Labour's support for Israel over Gaza and the time it took to call for a ceasefire, McFadden told the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme the situation in the Middle East was a "high foreign policy priority" for Labour, adding: "The better lives that people want for the Palestinian people is something the Labour leadership shares."

As the party digested the results

▼ Ali Milani, the chair of the Labour Muslim Network, warned the party of the 'feeling of betrayal within the Muslim community'



- which saw declines in the Labour vote in parts of Oldham, Bolton and Elswick in Newcastle - Ali Milani, the chair of the Labour Muslim Network, warned of "pain in the hearts and the feeling of betrayal within the Muslim community".

"We are now seeing the electoral consequence of that," Milani said. "If I was a Labour MP in Bradford or Birmingham or Leicester or parts of London or Manchester, I would be seriously concerned."

Labour's candidate for West Midlands mayor, Richard Parker, only just beat the Conservative incumbent, Andy Street, partly because an independent candidate, Akhmed Yakoob, won nearly 43,000 votes after a campaign focused on Gaza - seizing vote share from Labour. If he had increased the number of votes he took from Labour by just over 1,500, Parker would have lost.

But Jennings urged caution in mapping the swings on to a general election. "What this highlights is certainly that Labour is in an uncomfortable position on Gaza," he said. "And it is not just Muslim voters.

"But in a general election, when we are looking at an anti-incumbent mood and there are fewer small parties and independents, we shouldn't expect the pattern to be repeated."

There are 20 constituencies in the UK with a more than 30% Muslim electorate, according to analysis by the University of Essex. All of them elected a Labour MP at the 2019 general election. But an 18% drop in the Labour vote in several of these would not be enough to let in a rival party.

In Birmingham Hodge Hill, 79% of voters backed the former Labour Treasury minister Liam Byrne in 2019. Naz Shah won with 76% in Bradford West, Sam Tarry won with 66% in Ilford South, and John Ashworth, the shadow paymaster general, won with a similar majority of 67%.

The leaking of support from areas with larger than average Muslim populations may become more significant in the medium to long term if Labour finds the polls narrow once in government.

The senior Labour MP Ellie Reeves took some comfort from the view that "independents always tend to do better in local elections", but said: "We have recognised the strength of feeling on this issue. We have called for an immediate ceasefire, we have also said there should absolutely be no ground offensive on Rafah."

Asked if Labour regretted its earlier stance on the conflict, she said: "Keir Starmer has always been clear that our position would always respond to what is happening there."

At the weekend, Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, said: "I don't deny there are people who are feeling let down, and I want them to know we've heard. We will take that on the chin, and we'll work hard to win people's trust back at future elections."

Momentum Future 'hanging in balance' after co-chair quits

Aletha Adu
Political correspondent

Momentum's future is "hanging in the balance" after the leftwing grassroots group's co-chair resigned and quit Labour to campaign for the Green party and independent candidates instead.

Hilary Schan said she had begun reflecting on her role in Labour in October when councillors first expressed their frustrations over the leadership's "unwillingness to show value to the humanity of Palestinian lives".

Schan took over from Jon Lansman with her co-chair Kate Dove in 2020. Her departure from the group after four years to many insiders marks "the beginning of the end of hardline stubborn leftwingers" within Labour, but also the start of a new coalition of leftwing voices outside of the party.

"Momentum's future looks pretty bleak without Hilary and will be hanging by a thread," a leftwing Labour source said.

Schan said she had waited until the end of the local elections campaign as she was supportive of Worthing Labour council leader

Beccy Cooper and did not want to disrupt the group's efforts to get the public voting. "There's no doubt there's been a purge of left voices in Labour. They've felt the impact like in Oldham, for example. Keir Starmer stood on a pledge of uniting the party. By doing this he's alienating a large element of the party who are considering looking elsewhere ahead of the general election."

The former Momentum co-chair will join the We Deserve Better campaign, which she believes will help build an alternative by electing candidates who, along with socialist Labour MPs, can "pressure Starmer to finally listen to progressive voters he has taken for granted".

We Deserve Better, launched by Owen Jones, is seeking to mobilise the 200,000-plus people who have left the Labour party to campaign for socialist and pro-Palestine Green and independent candidates.

Schan has resigned from Labour alongside two councillors in Worthing, including the deputy leader Carl Walker.

Keir Starmer said on Saturday that he was determined to win back the trust of those who had snubbed his party in the local elections as a result

of his stance on Gaza. "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," he said.

The party failed to regain control of Oxford after a string of prominent defections over its messaging on the crisis in the Middle East and, in a similar blow, lost control of Oldham council in Greater Manchester to independents.

Momentum insiders believe at least 50 councillors linked to the group were elected during the local elections, and there remains a "significant minority" of leftwingers who are also Labour members "who can still get their voices heard" within the party.

The Guardian understands Momentum has faced internal battles over just how much the group publicly criticises the party, encompassing its policies and disciplinary and complaints process.

Voicing support for Jeremy Corbyn after he was blocked from standing as a Labour MP last year became a huge source of conflict, but a number of leftwingers have expressed their shock at Momentum's initial hesitancy to express support for Diane Abbott and the length of her suspension, noting that even Labour MPs who are not leftwingers have voiced their support for her.

The Labour party declined to comment.

Sunak faces calls to move right and 'fix' Conservatives' election plight

Rowena Mason
Whitehall editor

Rishi Sunak will face pressure to adopt hard rightwing policies such as a migration cap and scrapping European human rights law this week, with Suella Braverman saying he needs to "own and fix" a disastrous set of local results.

Sunak's allies yesterday insisted he wanted to stick to his plan and that it was working, as plotters against his leadership accepted they did not have the support to challenge him.

But Braverman issued an extraordinary broadside against Sunak on a BBC news programme, saying she regretted voting for him to be leader but that it was too late to get rid of him. She also said the party would be "lucky to have any MPs" if it continued on the same path.

Urging him to change course, she called for more conservative policies, such as withdrawing from the European convention on human rights, a move that would be hugely unpopular with moderate Conservatives.

Braverman told the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg: "I love my country, I care about my party and I want us to win, and I am urging the prime minister to change course, to - with humility - reflect on what voters are telling us, and change the plan and the way that he is communicating and leading us."

Asked about whether she wanted to see a change in leader, Braverman said: "I just don't think that is a feasible prospect right now. We don't have enough time and it is impossible for anyone new to come and change our fortunes, to be honest. There is no superman or superwoman out there who can do it."

Instead she called on Sunak to "own" the result, adding: "Therefore he needs to fix it." One of her allies, John Hayes, called for a reshuffle that would take her back into the cabinet.

Robert Jenrick, the former immigration minister and communities secretary, along with ex-minister Neil O'Brien, are to publish a pamphlet this week urging more action to bring down migration before the election.

However, Sunak is looking at a

'It is impossible for any new [leader] to come in and change our fortunes'

Suella Braverman
Former home secretary

schism in the party, as other senior Tories dismissed Braverman's diagnosis that a swing further to the right was needed. Some Tories believe Sunak needs to tack to the centre to take votes from Labour and the Liberal Democrats in marginal seats, while others believe the best strategy is squeezing the Reform UK vote on the right.

Andy Street, the former West Midlands mayor who narrowly lost to Labour on Saturday, said: "The thing everyone should take from Birmingham and the West Midlands is this brand of moderative, inclusive, tolerant conservatism, that gets on and delivered, has come within an ace of beating the Labour party in what they considered to be their backyard - that's the message from here."

Robert Buckland, a Tory MP and former justice secretary from the One Nation wing of the party, told GB News the British public were "putting their fingers in their ears" about the Conservatives because they were engaged in too much infighting.

"The more we talk about factions and ideology and the less we focus on business, on growth, on jobs, on housing, all those issues that actually people are talking about ... then I think we've become an irrelevant rump," he said.

"The Conservative party wins elections not by being soft and mushy but by reflecting the views of the British public, by being in alliance with them ... We've been the party of the nation for generations. I believe we can get back to that, but we need to focus on what people are talking about."

Sunak was largely absent from the airwaves this weekend, apart from appearing at Ben Houchen's Tees Valley victory on Friday - a sole pocket of good news for the Conservatives.

However, the transport secretary, Mark Harper, a longtime supporter of Sunak, gave a round of broadcast interviews insisting the prime minister's plan was working. He said the party still had "everything to fight for" and pointed to there being only nine points between the Tories and Labour in the vote share in England.

Another option being floated by some Conservative MPs is whether to give Boris Johnson a role in the election campaign, despite his difficult relationship with Sunak.

Andrea Jenkyns, on the right of the party, told Sky News's Sunday Morning with Trevor Phillips: "I would like to see real common-sense conservatism, honouring our manifesto commitments. I would like to see the return of Boris on the frontline of politics, whether that's going for a seat in the next election and being front and centre of our election campaign."



'Own the mess'?

PM likely to shun centrists and dig deeper into hole

Rowena Mason
Whitehall editor

As the terrible council and mayoral results rolled in for the Conservatives on Friday night, was there any part of Rishi Sunak that regretted sealing Boris Johnson's fate as prime minister by resigning as his chancellor less than two years ago?

This could have been Johnson's defeat, hurtling towards a Labour landslide at a general election, with Sunak and his allies plotting how to replace him thereafter.

Instead, Sunak has almost 400 disappointed councillors, ousted Tory council leaders, panicking MPs, and a scathing, sacked former cabinet minister, Suella Braverman to contend with - on top of polls that suggest he is heading for certain defeat. Even his close ally Mark Harper could only muster

a claim that the general election was "not a foregone conclusion" for Labour.

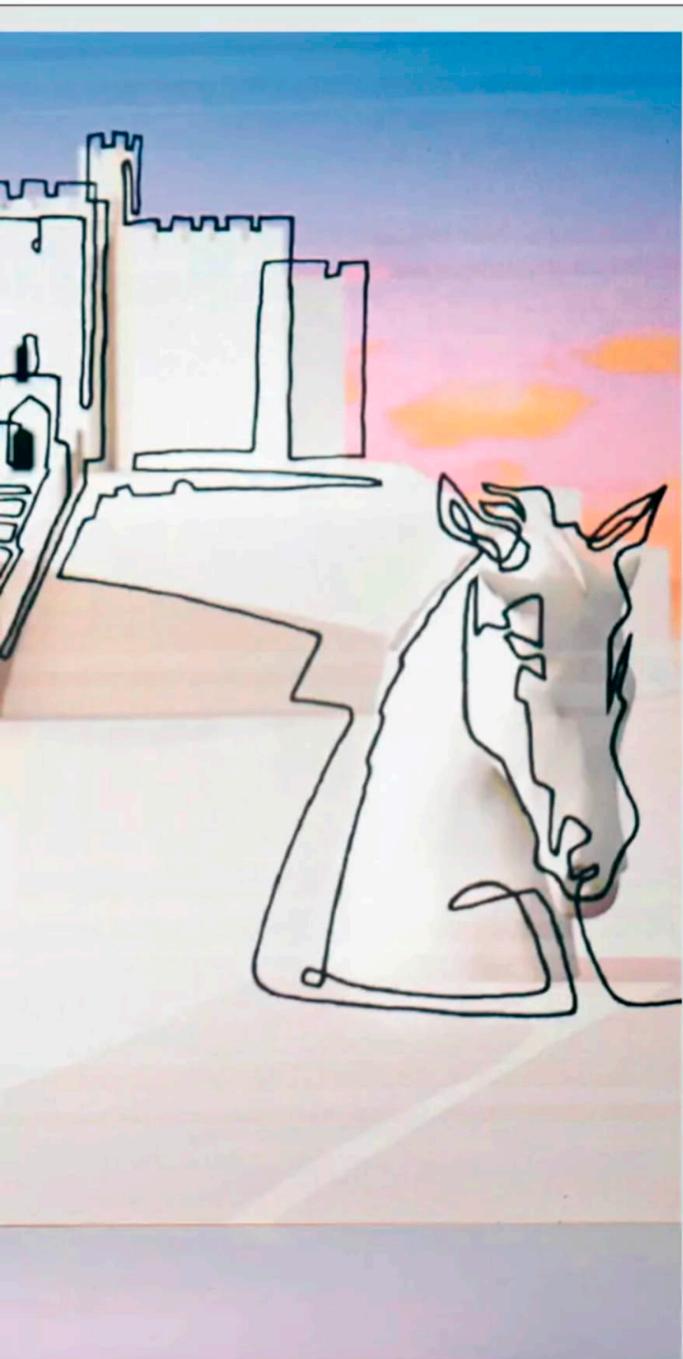
Adding to Sunak's woes, the Sunday papers contained talk of Johnson brooding on a political comeback from his moated

mansion in Oxfordshire, and whispers that the former prime minister's team has been talking to Nigel Farage about what happens next.

The one glimmer of light was Ben Houchen, a supporter of Johnson, holding on to the Tees Valley mayoralty with a reduced majority. Sunak appeared alongside Houchen, who had "forgotten" his blue rosette, on Friday afternoon, but the mayor made it clear he owed none of his success to the Westminster government by making no mention of the prime minister in his victory speech.

Sunak's allies are intent on





◀ Suella Braverman on Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg yesterday. Her wing of the Conservative party argues the prime minister should move to the right to see off the threat of Reform UK

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF OVERS/BBC/PA

staying the course in the face of calls from both the right to tack in their direction to see off Reform UK and Farage, while centrist MPs believe a wipeout is best avoided by moving towards the middle ground.

But Sunak's plan, containing more of the same policies on getting flights to Rwanda off the ground and further tax cuts, seems unlikely to make much difference either to voting intention or to quell his critics in the party.

Braverman's wing argues that more hardline policies such as capping migration and pledging to withdraw from the European convention on human rights would help reduce the appeal of Reform, the party led by Richard Tice, with Farage hovering in the background.

Reform came within 120 votes of knocking the Tories into third place in Blackpool South but failed to convert its poll share into more than two council seats. Nevertheless, the right has a case that, unlike its predecessor Ukip, Reform is taking votes off the Tories rather than Labour.

The other side argue that the greater threat comes from Labour and the Liberal Democrats, who

◀ Ben Houchen made no mention of Sunak in his speech after holding on to the Tees Valley mayoralty

PHOTOGRAPH: MOLLY DARLINGTON/REUTERS

are the principal opponents in all marginal seats the Tories are fighting - and that a swing to the centre ground makes more sense.

This was David Cameron's tactic in 2015, remaining largely on the centre ground with major policies on housing and tax, while throwing red meat to the anti-EU voters with the promise of a referendum. When polling time came, Ukip performed well in some areas but failed to make sweeping gains and was widely seen as squeezed by the major parties.

There is little sense, though, that Sunak, an instinctive rightwinger on the economy and Brexit, has an appetite to move to the centre and every sign that the coming election will feature more anti-migrant policies and the rhetoric of culture wars.

In the Telegraph yesterday Braverman called for Sunak to "own" the mess that the Tories are in, saying: "The hole to dig us out is the PM's, and it's time for him to start shovelling."

The problem for the Tories, and with Braverman's mangled metaphor, is that Sunak appears to believe more of the same shovelling in the same direction is the right answer - digging himself and his party further into the hole, rather than attempting to climbing out of it.

Liberal Democrats Davey: 'Tories will be looking over their shoulder terrified'

Rowena Mason

The Lib Dems have added more council seats than any other party over the last parliament, gaining more than 750 in the last five years, largely in the south-west and south of England.

As Ed Davey's party won more seats than the Conservatives in the local elections last week, the Lib Dems said Tories would be "looking over their shoulder terrified" as the general election approached.

Data analysis by the party shows that the Lib Dems have gained 768 seats, Labour 545 and the Greens 480, while the Conservatives have lost 1,783.

The scale of the Conservative losses, with many councils falling to no overall control or Labour and Lib Dem coalitions since 2019, is likely to add to worries among Tory MPs about keeping their seats at the general election.

The Lib Dems have taken control of councils in Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Somerset and Surrey.

The party could be responsible for toppling some of the biggest Conservative names at the general election, such as the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, and the housing secretary, Michael Gove, in Surrey, the justice secretary, Alex Chalk, in Cheltenham, and Jacob Rees-Mogg in Somerset.

The Lib Dems have not improved their national polling much recently, remaining on about 10%. Its national share of the vote in the local elections was about 17%, three percentage points down on 2023, but it appears to be building up support in pockets rather than across the country.

The party's strong gains in local elections suggest its strategy of focusing on key strongholds could help deliver seats at the general election.

Visiting Dorset, where the Lib Dems took control of the council by taking 13 seats off the Tories, Davey said Conservative MPs in the region would be worried.

"This victory in Dorset is an historic and stunning result for the Liberal Democrats," he said. "People here in Dorset and right across the country are fed up with this chaotic and out-of-touch Conservative



◀ Ed Davey, celebrating in Winchester, said the Lib Dems were back in the West Country and would be the main Tory challengers

PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA WIRE

SNP Activist ends bid for leadership and paves way for Swinney

Mabel Banfield-Nwachi
Severin Carrell

A Scottish National party activist has pulled out of the race to become its new leader and has endorsed John Swinney as Scotland's next first minister.

Graeme McCormick, who stood to become SNP president in 2023, had claimed he could gather the 100 signatures needed from 20 party branches to mount a challenge for the leadership.

McCormick's decision not to pursue a leadership bid leaves Swinney, the former deputy first minister of Scotland, as the only official candidate after Humza Yousaf announced he was stepping down. The deadline for nominations is noon today.

McCormick said he reached the nomination threshold of 100 signatures but chose to back Swinney after a "lengthy and fruitful conversation", and said this could be a "fresh start".

In a statement last night, he said: "John and I agreed the challenges which the SNP, our government and our people face, and explored new thinking on a range of issues which I am confident, as they are advanced, will inspire activists both within the SNP and wider independence movement in the following weeks and months.

"This is a fresh start for our members and our politicians, and I'm sure that John's determination to deliver independence will be rewarded at the forthcoming general election.

"I have therefore concluded that I shall not proceed with my nomination for party leader but instead support John Swinney's nomination for party leader and first minister of Scotland."

McCormick's supporters had argued it would have been undemocratic for the party's leader to win the contest unopposed. He won applause from hardliners when he denounced the SNP's caution over mounting a second independence referendum



▲ John Swinney is expected to be announced as SNP leader today

government and they're voting for change with the Liberal Democrats.

"From tackling issues with the NHS and the local environment to supporting people with the cost of living crisis, I know the new Liberal Democrat team on Dorset council will do everything they can to give people here a fair deal.

"After our victory in Somerset two years ago and our stunning successes in Devon last year, this win in Dorset confirms that the Liberal Democrats are back in the West Country and will be the main challengers to Conservative MPs here whenever the general election is called."

The Green party also performed well at the local elections, adding about 74 seats, and becoming the largest party on Hastings borough council. It also became the largest party in Bristol, just short of an overall majority on the city council.

It also won its first seats on councils including Newcastle upon Tyne, Sefton in Merseyside, Redditch in Worcestershire and South Norfolk.

The party will also be targeting seats such as North Herefordshire and Waveney Valley in East Anglia at the general election.

without Westminster's approval as "flatulence in a trance" during last year's party conference.

One of McCormick's backers, Iain Lawson, earlier attacked Swinney for criticising the planned challenge, and in another online post accused Swinney of being entitled and "raging" that an ordinary member was going up against him.

Swinney, who described himself as the candidate to unite the party after a "difficult" few years, said an election contest would delay the SNP's essential rebuild. He signalled he would win any potential contest, telling Sky News that party members "probably know the outcome" between the two potential candidates.

His call for SNP members to realise the urgency of the need to restore public confidence in the party was underlined by a poll by Norstat for the Sunday Times Scotland, which said support for the party in a Westminster election had slumped to 29%.

The poll, the first to be carried out since Yousaf suddenly quit last week, put Labour on 34% and the Scottish Conservatives on 16%. Those figures suggest the SNP could lose 28 Westminster seats, a fall from 43 MPs at present to 15. Labour, which has only two Scottish seats, would win 28.

Swinney is expected to be named as the next SNP leader today and could replace Yousaf as first minister after a Holyrood vote later in the week.

The SNP did not comment.



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Copacabana beach turns dancefloor as Madonna thrills Rio at free concert



◀ Madonna fans watch her perform on the final stop of her Celebration tour (far left) with an estimated 1.6 million swarming Copacabana beach in Rio

PHOTOGRAPHS: LUCAS LANDAU/REUTERS; FERNANDO MAIA/RIOTUR/GETTY IMAGES

▼ Madonna, 65, performs during her free concert, with a set that included her global hits Like a Virgin and Like a Prayer

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDRE COELHO/EFA



Ashifa Kassam and agencies

With the world-famous statue towering over it from Corcovado mountain, Rio de Janeiro is well used to Christ the Redeemer. For one night only this weekend, it also had Madonna.

An estimated 1.6 million people thronged the area around Copacabana beach on Saturday night, turning its vast stretch of sand into a massive dancefloor for a free concert by the pop star as she completed her world tour. “Here we are in the most beautiful place in the world,” Madonna, 65, told the tightly packed crowd. Pointing out the ocean view and the mountains, she added: “This place is magic.”

In the run-up to the concert, the city had been buzzing, with fans lined up outside the stately Copacabana Palace hotel in the hope of catching a glimpse of the star. The city’s airport fielded an estimated 170 extra flights as fans poured in from around the world.

City officials estimated that 1.6 million people turned up for the concert, some watching from brightly lit apartments or hotels overlooking the beach, while others looked on from boats anchored nearby.

As drones and helicopters flew overhead, Madonna offered up a dazzling show, playing classics from Like a Virgin to Like a Prayer, and cycling through dozens of set and costume changes.

Flanked by giant screens, the singer began her show with her 1998 hit Nothing Really Matters, eliciting a huge cheer from the crowd.

“Oi, Rio!” she called out in Portuguese. The response was swift, carried by more than a million voices: “Oi, Queen Madonna!”

The singer also paid an emotional tribute to “all the bright lights” who have been lost to Aids as she sang Live to Tell, against a backdrop of black and white photos featuring people who died from the illness.

The Brazilian pop artists Anitta and Pablio Vittar, as well as younger musicians from samba schools, participated in the show.

The show - which Madonna’s official website described as the biggest-ever in her 40-year career - marked the final stop on her Celebration tour. A series of giant screens and 18 sound towers had been spread out along the beach to ensure that the massive crowds could enjoy the event.

Fans, many of whom lined up hours or even days ahead of the



◀ Many Madonna devotees lined up for hours and even days to get a good view of the star, who also paid tribute to ‘all the bright lights’ who have been lost to Aids

‘I have never seen such a powerful show. It’s unimaginable’

Madonna fan

concert to get a good view, hailed Madonna’s performance. “I have never seen such a powerful show,” one told the BBC. “It’s unimaginable, very much out of the ordinary,” she added.

“Madonna is spectacular,” said another. “There’s no concert better than Madonna’s.”

City officials, on high alert after a young Brazilian fan died at a Taylor Swift concert last year due to heat exhaustion, ordered firefighters to cool down fans by spraying water before the concert. Free drinking water was also handed out as temperatures hovered around 27C (81F) during the late night show.

More than 3,000 police officers were deployed around the concert area, where the Rolling Stones and Rod Stewart have also drawn million-strong crowds.

Across Rio, anticipation over the concert had been building for days. Bars and restaurants served up “Like a Virgin” cocktails, while the singer’s image beamed out from billboards, souvenirs and T-shirts.

As hotel capacity climbed to an estimated 98% in Copacabana, Rio officials estimated that the concert would inject as much as 293m reais (£46m) into the local economy.

Hundreds attend vigil for boy, 14, killed in Hainault attack

Neha Gohil

A candlelit vigil in tribute to Daniel Anjorin, a teenaged boy who was killed in a sword attack while walking to school in east London, was attended by more than 300 people yesterday.

Daniel, 14, was killed in the attack



▲ Daniel Anjorin ‘focused on school and got good grades’, a friend said

in Hainault, east London, with a samurai sword. He suffered fatal wounds to his neck and chest. Four other people were injured in the attack.

The vigil was held at the car park for Hainault underground station, metres away from the scene of the attack. Although Daniel’s family were not present at the vigil, several paid tribute to him and provided messages of support to the family, including a 17-year-old boy who knew Daniel.

Harris, who did not want his surname to be mentioned, told the crowd: “He was a kid that was not in any type 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, community-wise, fundraiser-wise, Arsenal as well. They’ve noticed it all. On their behalf, [I] thank all of you.”

Marcus Arduini Monzo, a dual Spanish-Brazilian national living in Newham, was charged with the murder of the teenager along with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of grievous bodily harm, aggravated burglary, and possession of a bladed article.

In a statement issued by the

Metropolitan police, the family 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. We would like to send our best wishes to the other victims of this unthinkable incident.”

At the Premier League match between Arsenal and Bournemouth on Saturday, Arsenal paid tribute to Daniel, who was a fan of the club, including a moment of applause in the 14th minute of the match.

Girl, 10, dies and three children treated in hospital after Bradford fire

Mark Brown
North of England correspondent

A 10-year-old girl died and a woman and three children were treated in hospital after an early morning house fire in Bradford.

West Yorkshire fire and rescue service sent three crews to the fire at a residential property in the Bolton Outlanes area of the city at 1.05am yesterday.

Police said the girl had been inside the house and was pronounced dead

at the scene. A 37-year-old woman and three children aged 11, six and three were taken to hospital for treatment with non-life-threatening injuries.

Pictures from the scene show a shattered and fire-scorched window on the upstairs floor of the semi-detached house. Police and fire investigators were working to establish the cause of the blaze but officials said it was not being treated as suspicious.

DCI Zaheer Abbas, of West Yorkshire police, said: "This is an



▲ The girl was pronounced dead at the scene of the house fire in the Bolton Outlanes area of Bradford

absolutely tragic incident in which a young child has lost her life. Our thoughts are with her family at this time. Our investigation with the fire service has deemed that the fire was not suspicious.

"The family are being supported by specially trained officers, a file will now be prepared for the coroner in due course."

The fire service said it had sent three crews, two from Bradford and one from Shipley, which used two hose reels and four breathing apparatuses at the scene.



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Artist hopes for £1m at auction of rare signed portrait of Churchill

Harriet Sherwood

At the age of 90, and with a successful career as a sports artist under his belt, there is one work of which Paul Trevillion is particularly proud.

Perhaps surprisingly, it is not among his portraits of legendary stars such as Sugar Ray Robinson, Pelé, Muhammad Ali, George Best, Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods.

It is an image of another of Trevillion's heroes: a pen and ink drawing of Winston Churchill, created in 1955, and carrying a rare signature of the war leader.

Now, to mark the 80th anniversary of D-day in June and the 150th anniversary of Churchill's birth in November, Trevillion has decided to auction the portrait.

He hopes it will fetch more than £1m - the sum it was insured for when it went on display in 2017 at the National Football Museum in Manchester. Some of the proceeds will go to charity.

Trevillion, who was born in Tottenham, north London, in 1934, decided to create an image of Churchill after he read about the former



▲ Paul Trevillion's 1955 pen and ink portrait of the wartime leader

prime minister's dismay over a portrait commissioned by parliament to mark his 80th birthday in 1954 by the acclaimed artist Graham Sutherland. The painting was later destroyed.

"Churchill's birthday had been completely ruined by Sutherland's portrait," said Trevillion. "I decided to do another portrait for his next birthday."

Trevillion's work was based on "images in my head that I'd seen of Churchill when I was a child in the blitz. He was always smiling, with his V for victory sign. Those images of him helped me through the night-time bombing."

The picture was sent to Churchill, by then retired and in ill health, through contacts of Trevillion's employers. The former prime minister and the budding artist, then only 21, spoke on the phone. "He said: 'Churchill here, is that Trevillion? Be at [a Mayfair address], 10.30 on Wednesday. Oblige.' Then the phone went dead."

Trevillion was nervous about meeting his hero. "When I walked in, Churchill was seated. He put out his hand. I went to shake it, and he held it. He said he was expecting someone much older. He asked if I'd been evacuated in the war, which I hadn't. 'You're a boy from the blitz,' he said."

Churchill signed the picture, telling Trevillion: "There have been a lot of portraits painted of me, but this one I really like. It's the only one I've ever signed." (There are some suggestions that a 1932 portrait by Paul Maze was also signed by Churchill.)

For decades, the portrait has been stored in a bank safe deposit box, with occasional periods on display.

Trevillion's work as an artist began when he stood on the terraces at White Hart Lane, home to Spurs, sketching players on the pitch below. "At school, I never passed an exam - I was only interested in art," he said.

A breakthrough came when the People published a comic strip, *Hey Ref!*, which was later renamed *You Are the Ref*. From 2006 to 2016, it appeared in the *Observer* and the *Guardian* website. He was also one of the artists behind *Roy of the Rovers*.

He drew countless sporting greats. Muhammad Ali "never remembered my name - he just called me 'artist', he wrote in the *Observer* when the boxer died in 2016.

The news moved Trevillion to finish a portrait of Ali that he had begun 52 years earlier.

Trevillion is planning to approach the auction house Christie's for help in selling his portrait of Churchill.

Among the organisations he hopes to support are Peace Fields Project, a children's football charity, and the Churchill Foundation.



▲ Bernard Hill as the captain of Titanic in the 1997 film PHOTOGRAPH: AJ PICS/ALAMY

'Mesmerising' star of Boys from the Blackstuff, Bernard Hill, dies aged 79

Mark Brown

Bernard Hill, the stage, television and film actor who rose to fame for his unforgettable portrayal of Yosser Hughes, has died at the age of 79.

Hill played the seminal character with the famous "gizza job" catchphrase in Alan Bleasdale's 1982 BBC series Boys from the Blackstuff. It helped launch a stellar career that included playing the captain of the Titanic in James Cameron's 1997 film, and Théoden, king of Rohan, in Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings film trilogy.

Hill's agent Lou Coulson said the actor died in the early hours of Sunday.

One of the first to pay tribute on Sunday was the singer Barbara Dickson who worked with Hill in Willy Russell's 1974 stage musical John, Paul, George, Ringo ... and Bert.

Dickson said on X: "A really marvellous actor. It was a privilege to

have crossed paths with him. RIP Benny x."

Hill played John Lennon in the musical, one of a number of Merseyside characters that the Manchester-born actor became famous for portraying.

None more so than Yosser Hughes, a jobless, desperate father of three who became an emblem of everything that was wrong in Thatcher's Britain. The character would pester and hector people saying: "Gizza job. Go on. Gizza job. I could do that," and when he wasn't head-butting people he was banging his own head against the wall, literally and metaphorically.

Hill's performance saw him nominated for a best television actor Bafta, losing out to Alec Guinness for Smiley's People. Bleasdale has described Hill's performance as Yosser as "the great, definitive performance of his generation".

Hill was reunited with Willy Russell in Shirley Valentine, starring Pauline Collins, in which he played the title character's husband, Joe.



▲ Bernard Hill's heart-breaking portrayal of Yosser Hughes in Boys from the Blackstuff (above) helped launch his successful career which included the role of Théoden in the Lord of the Rings film trilogy (left)

PHOTOGRAPH: BBC/ALLSTAR

He is posthumously back on British TV screens this weekend, playing Martin Freeman's dad in the BBC police series The Responder, set in Liverpool.

Interviewed recently about his fondness for the city, Hill said: "Liverpool is one of my favourite places, I've got a great relationship with the city. I lived there for a long time and my daughter was born there so it's like my second home."

Lindsay Salt, director of BBC Drama, paid tribute. "Bernard Hill blazed a trail across the screen, and his long-lasting career filled with iconic and remarkable roles is a testament to his incredible talent," she said.

"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."

The writer James Graham, who has adapted Boys from the Blackstuff for the stage, paid tribute, saying: "It's almost impossible to understate the extent of the impact and legacy Bernard Hill, alongside Alan Bleasdale, created when they made Yosser Hughes. How rare it is that a character can so definitively come to represent an era, both for Liverpool but way beyond.

"Yosser is often remembered as a head-butting brute, which he was. But Bernard's mesmerising and heart-breaking incarnation of a man being slowly broken, in his spirit and his mind, by the cruelty of the world around him, it's easy to forget how much heart there was there too."

When Hollywood came knocking for Hill it led to roles that included Titanic, as well as the San Quentin prison warden Luther Plunkitt in Clint Eastwood's True Crime and the friendly inventor Philo opposite Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, in The Scorpion King.

Hill enjoyed the work but said he never wanted to join other British actors moving to Los Angeles. He will be best known to many people as Théoden in the Lord of the Rings films. Asked about his experience filming in New Zealand Hill said: "I loved every minute of every day that I was on Lord of the Rings."

Hill had been due to be at Comic Con in Liverpool on Sunday. It said on X: "We're heartbroken to hear the news of Bernard Hill's passing. A great loss. Thinking of his family at this very sad time, and wishing them a lot of strength."

Music review

Triumphant tribute to early energy and late frontman

The Pogues

Hackney Empire, London

★★★★★

Patrick Clarke

With the late Shane MacGowan replaced by a succession of guests, this 40th anniversary show for the Pogues' debut album, Red Roses For Me, could so easily have been a pale imitation, glorified karaoke. And yet, it's utterly triumphant.

During this evening curated by the band's co-founder Spider Stacy, there is only a brief dedication to MacGowan and other departed bandmates Darryl Hunt and Philip Chevron, and the Dubliners' Ronnie



▲ Spider Stacy, one of the band's co-founders, curated the evening

Drew. Instead, a more fitting tribute is paid by tapping back into the tornado of energy, passion and poetry that made the Pogues thrilling to begin with.

Within a nanosecond of opener Transmetropolitan, it's pandemonium: a sell-out crowd bursting instantly into a hundreds-strong mosh, bellowing back every word. By Boys From the County Hell, it's totally feral.

A relentless band, also featuring Goat Girl's Holly Mullineaux and Fontaines DC's Tom Coll, thrive off that energy. James Fearnley wields his accordion as if he's Hendrix with a guitar. But their real genius is the space they leave for their guests to make things

their own. Experimental duo Stick in the Wheel bring a cutting edge to Dark Streets of London. Jim Slavunos conveys every ounce of sorrow in The Band Played Waltzing Matilda.

Brighton newcomers the New Eves deliver a particularly manic Waxie's Dargle. This prompts Stacy to mention MacGowan for the first time. "That one's for Shane. He's here, I can tell," he says.

Stacy is a charming presence, using his tin whistle as a conductor's baton. Under his easy control the gig sparks with spontaneity. Unruly but never unfriendly, emotional but never mawkish, there could be no finer tribute to MacGowan than this.

Public buildings in England will be forced to have single-sex loos

Mabel Banfield-Nwachi

New restaurants, offices, schools and hospitals in England will be required to have separate male and female toilets, in a move ministers claim will combat growing concerns about

“privacy and dignity” in gender-neutral facilities.

The law will mean newly built non-residential buildings require separate facilities, and cannot solely have “universal” lavatories.

According to ministers, 81% agreed with the intention for separate single-sex toilet facilities in a consultation.

About 82% agreed with the intention to provide “universal” toilets – a self-contained, and a fully enclosed toilet room with a wash-hand basin for individual use – where space allows.

The government said the new requirements would mean people of all genders have access to facilities, either through a separate single-gender space or a “universal” toilet.

However, the policy has been criticised as transphobic since it was proposed in 2021 because it offered no alternative plan for trans and

non-binary people. Campaigners for trans rights have long argued that gender-neutral toilets can be reassuring for some transgender men and women who fear discrimination in binary toilets.

The equalities minister, Kemi Badenoch, said the move will help combat the rise of gender-neutral toilet spaces, which she said “deny privacy and dignity to both men and women”.

Last week, Badenoch claimed girls at an unnamed school who did not have access to single-sex toilets

developed urinary tract infections because they did not want to use gender-neutral toilets.

In a statement about the legislation she said: “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 demonstrates how this government is committed to ensuring single-sex spaces are protected for all.”

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Stage review

Frothy fun to please the purists

Much Ado About Nothing
Globe theatre, London

★★★★☆

Arifa Akbar

The Globe so often comes under fire for tampering with tradition but here is Shakespeare’s play on love, deception, male singledom and female purity that should please the purists. Its comedy is delivered straight, as it were, complete with Elizabethan-era costumes that contain the production’s greatest wow factor.

The masked ball, in which the disguised Don Pedro (Ryan Donaldson) woos Hero (Lydia Fleming) on behalf of Claudio, is a wonder to behold. There are exquisite beaks, manes and feathers that looks like a surreal 16th-century fantasy come to life.

But there is no whiff of stuffiness in Sean Holmes’s production, which feels light and modern. There is Elizabethan dance too, although movement is less original outside the dance choreography.

War is over and a warm summer euphoria emanates from the set,

with Mediterranean orange trees climbing the back wall of Grace Smart’s stage design.

There is entrancing music, too, with instruments that include a mandolin alongside guitar, accordion and percussion. This musicality is prominent in between scenes and adds a cheeky flourish to the comedy or action.

Both Amalia Vitale’s quick, witty, ardent Beatrice and Ekow Quartey’s pompous Benedick are entertaining highlights as they exchange comic sallies. Although their bristling love/hate chemistry never quite fizzles, you feel the tenderness of their union at the end.

There is a more glaring lack of synergy between the central lovers, Hero and Claudio (Adam Wadsworth). This takes the shock out of Claudio’s rejection of Hero, so that the play’s uneasy blend of comedy and near-tragedy strikes an even greater dissonant note.

There is not a significant enough drop in tone beyond the aborted wedding either so it continues to feel like a comedy with added shouting.

The comedy sometimes verges on clownish pantomime rather than being delicately wrung from the dialogue – although the gulling scene, in which Benedick is fooled into his awkward romance with Beatrice, does not have as much ingenious physical comedy as it might.

There are problems with pace too, and the comedy becomes flat in a second act that contains too much plot and not enough time. But the strained humour of Dogberry (Jonnie Broadbent) and his gang is thankfully brief and the production, as a whole, is exuberantly put together.

Until 24 August



▲ The masked ball: a wonder to behold PHOTOGRAPH: TRISTRAM KENTON/THE GUARDIAN

National Migration



◀ Crossing the Channel was even more terrifying than crossing the Mediterranean, said one asylum seeker awaiting deportation

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS J RATCLIFFE/REUTERS

Deportees Kigali 'cannot say' how many people it may take from UK

Neha Gohil

Community affairs correspondent

Rwanda has admitted it cannot guarantee how many people it will take from the UK under Rishi Sunak's deportation scheme.

The east African country did not give assurances that the estimated 52,000 asylum seekers in the UK who are eligible to be sent to Kigali would be accepted, instead saying it would be "thousands".

On the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, Yolande Makolo, a government spokesperson, also described suggestions that Rwanda would initially welcome only 200 migrants as a "misconception".

Makolo 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."

"Journalists have been visiting the initial accommodation that we have secured since the beginning of the partnership ... That particular facility is able to take up to 200 people."

"However, we have already started initial discussions with other facilities around Kigali and further afield and these will be firmed up and signed once we know how many migrants are coming and when they are coming. So it has never been the case that we can only take 200 initially. That has been a misconception."

The Rwanda scheme involves sending some asylum seekers who arrive in the UK via irregular routes to the east African country.

People sent to Rwanda will have their asylum claims processed there and, if successful, be granted refugee status in the country. If unsuccessful, they could seek asylum in another "safe third country" or apply to settle in Rwanda on other grounds.

The controversial five-year deal was initially introduced under the former home secretary Priti Patel in 2022 to tackle the growing numbers of people crossing the Channel in small boats. However, it has faced several legal challenges, which have prevented flights to Kigali. It is estimated the Rwanda scheme has cost at least £300m already.

Keir Starmer said Labour would not keep the scheme if it won the next election. Instead its national campaign coordinator, Pat McFadden, said the party would spend the money set aside for the scheme on a "proper operation to crack down on the criminal gangs".

Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, said: "This interview shows that more people have arrived in the last week than are likely to be sent to Rwanda over the next few years, and the Conservatives are just trying to con people with their failing plans."

I will kill myself upon arrival in Rwanda, warns asylum seeker

Diane Taylor

A Syrian asylum seeker, who is locked up in a detention centre awaiting deportation to Rwanda, has said he will kill himself on arrival because he does not believe it will be a safe country for him.

Khaled, whose name has been changed to protect his identity, spoke to the Guardian from his cell in Colnbrook immigration removal centre in Middlesex. He arrived in the UK in June 2022, and has a history of suffering torture and imprisonment.

He said he and the other asylum seekers "of many nationalities" detained with him were not coping

with being locked up because of the imprisonment and persecution many had previously experienced.

He said: "Everyone is so stressed in here because of Rwanda. I was displaced in Syria for nine years and was imprisoned there. I was also detained and tortured in Libya."

"Being in detention is very triggering for me. What matters to asylum seekers is to be safe. I will not be safe in Rwanda. If they manage to send me there I will kill myself on arrival in that country."

He said he became "very scared" when he heard about Rwanda in February 2023. "I went to report last week in Birmingham. They arrested me and put me in handcuffs in a police cell. The same thing happened to two

other people who were reporting - Iraqi Kurds ... We were handcuffed again and taken in a van to the detention centre," he said.

An asylum seeker who fled from Darfur in Sudan was also too fearful to give a his real name. He arrived in the UK in June 2022 after raising the money to pay his captors in Libya to free him, travelled in a boat that almost sank crossing the Mediterranean and reached Italy.

"I would have been happy to claim asylum in Italy but Italian officials did not fingerprint me and told me to move on to France. There I was told it would be four years before they could consider my asylum claim so I waited in the Jungle [encampment] in Calais to cross to the UK. Crossing

the Channel in an overcrowded boat was even more terrifying than crossing the Mediterranean.

"When I heard about the government's plans to send asylum seekers to Rwanda at the beginning of 2023 I was very frightened. I escaped from an African country as it was not safe and I am very scared to be deported to another African country because I know it will not be safe for me."

"I was arrested last week when I went to report in Newcastle. They didn't mention Rwanda until I reached the detention centre and at first just said: 'We are deporting you to a safe third country.'"

Both men said there were long queues for fax machines and computers to contact legal representatives and to try to meet the seven-day deadline the Home Office has given asylum seekers to oppose notices of intent for Rwanda. The Home Office has been approached for comment.

Samaritans can be contacted on freephone 116 123, or email jo@samaritans.org

France Alarm at lone children held in British-run facilities

**Camille Corcoran
Rajeev Syal**

More than 350 lone children were held in UK-run detention facilities in northern France over a 21-month period, documents disclosed under freedom of information laws show.

The Home Office has admitted it failed to keep data on how many properly trained staff looked after the children held in four short-term holding facilities near Calais and Dunkirk in 2022 and 2023.

Charities and NGOs have described the numbers of detained children, many of whom were traumatised after harrowing journeys, as "alarming"

and "hugely concerning". The four holding facilities - Coquelles freight, Coquelles tourist, Calais tourist and Dunkirk - are designed to detain clandestine travellers and those suspected of having incorrect paperwork for no longer than 24 hours.

They form part of the UK's juxtaposed border controls and have been described by the Detention Forum, an NGO network, as "legal and procedural grey zones" that have "a lack of clarity, transparency and, potentially, adherence to domestic and international human rights obligations".

In total, 13,418 people were held at the sites between January 2022 and October 2023, including

369 unaccompanied children. The statistics are not in the government's annual figures.

The Home Office said it held no information on the number of safeguarding referrals that Border Force had made to UK authorities for detainees.

Authorities are required to make safeguarding referrals as part of the national referral mechanism, introduced in 2009 to help identify and support victims of modern slavery.

Imran Hussain, an executive director at the Refugee Council, said: "It's alarming to know that children who may have fled war and persecution and are on their own are being locked up in UK-run facilities in a legally grey area. Most people would be appalled by the idea that children are treated this way."

Wanda Wyporska, the chief executive of Safe Passage, said: "Given the traumas these children have fled

we know there will be considerable safeguarding needs. It's hugely concerning that so many children are being quietly detained - frightened and alone - by the UK government."

The Home Office also held no information on the number of Border Force officers trained in safeguarding and modern slavery at each site.

The four detention facilities are partly run by the contractor Mitie. Figures showed that officers completed 303 vulnerable adult warning forms - for at-risk detainees - in the 2022-23 period.

The Home Office does not hold figures on safeguarding referrals made by Mitie to the Border Force, so it is unclear whether at-risk detainees received appropriate support.

In 2019, the chief inspector of prisons carried out an inspection of the sites and found "serious concerns" with the way in which they were run.

▼ *Palestinians walk among the ruins of Khan Younis, Gaza, from which Israel removed its troops last month*

PHOTOGRAPH: ALI JADALLAH/ANADOLU/GETTY



Accept terms of ceasefire or face new onslaught, Israel tells Hamas

Jason Burke
Jerusalem

Senior Israeli officials increased the pressure on Hamas yesterday, saying Israel would refuse any permanent end to hostilities and threatening a new onslaught “in the very near future” if the militant organisation did not accept recently proposed terms for a ceasefire.

In a televised address, Benjamin Netanyahu once more rejected Hamas’s demands for a definitive end to the war in Gaza, saying that any permanent ceasefire would allow the group to remain in power and pose a continuing threat to Israel.

Speaking a day after thousands of people again rallied in Tel Aviv demanding a deal to free the remaining Israeli captives, Netanyahu said his government had “been working around the clock to formulate an agreement that would return our hostages”.

Hours later, Israel’s defence minister, Yoav Gallant, said Hamas did not appear to be serious about reaching a ceasefire deal. If a deal was not reached, he added, that would lead Israel to launch an often-threatened offensive into Rafah, a reported Hamas stronghold where about a million people displaced from elsewhere in Gaza have sought shelter, “in the very near future”.

The statements by Netanyahu and Gallant may dash recent hopes that Hamas and Israel are close to a deal to bring about an initial 40-day pause to hostilities and the release of dozens of hostages.

“Hamas remains entrenched in its extreme positions, first among them the demand to remove all our forces from the Gaza Strip, end the war, and leave Hamas in power,” Netanyahu said. “Israel cannot accept that ... Hamas would be able to achieve its promise of carrying out again and again and again its massacres, rapes and kidnapping.”

A Hamas delegation that had arrived in Cairo on Saturday announced last night that it was leaving to consult with its leadership. There has been no sign yet of a definitive response from the group to new terms proposed by mediators and accepted by Israel last week. Israel has yet to send a delegation to Cairo.

The war was triggered by surprise attacks launched by Hamas on southern Israel in October in which 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed and about 250 hostages taken. Israel’s ensuing military offensive has devastated much of Gaza, caused a humanitarian crisis and killed more

than 34,600 Palestinians, mostly women and children. Israel has said Hamas uses civilians as human shields, a charge Hamas has rejected.

Yesterday, witnesses reported shelling and gunfire in the vicinity of Gaza City, helicopter fire in central and southern Gaza, and a missile strike on a house in the Rafah area. The UN has reported continuing bombardment every day for many weeks.

Cindy McCain, the head of the World Food Programme, said on Saturday there was “full-blown famine” in northern Gaza, and appealed for an end to fighting.

Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas’s most senior political leader, said yesterday the militant group was keen on reaching a comprehensive ceasefire that would end Israeli “aggression”, guarantee Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza and achieve a serious hostage-swap deal.

In his statement, Haniyeh blamed Netanyahu for “sabotaging the efforts made through the mediators and various parties”.

Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to invade Rafah regardless of whether a truce is reached and despite concerns from the US, other countries and aid groups. About a million displaced Palestinians have fled to Rafah, which is also a major logistic hub for humanitarian assistance.

Talks between Israel and Hamas restarted in late December, just weeks after a brief ceasefire allowed 105 hostages to be exchanged for 240 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Successive rounds of negotiations have made incremental progress, though the most recent proposed deal remains very close to that discussed many months ago.

Negotiators have proposed a series of phased pauses in fighting, with further hostage releases and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from much or all of Gaza. Israel has resisted a Hamas demand for permission for civilians to return to the devastated north of the territory for fear this would allow the organisation to re-establish control there.

Aid officials said the flow of aid into Gaza remained inadequate, despite recent improvement. Yesterday, the Israeli military said it had been forced to close the recently reopened Kerem Shalom crossing at the southern end of Gaza to aid convoys after it came under mortar fire. Three Israeli soldiers were killed and three critically wounded, officials said last night.

‘Hamas remains entrenched in its extreme positions’

Benjamin Netanyahu
Israeli prime minister

'Dark day for media' as Israel moves to end local Al Jazeera operations

Continued from page 1

on the network, pre-recorded by a reporter in Jerusalem, was broadcast after the ban came into effect.

The network has previously accused Israeli authorities of deliberately targeting several of its journalists, including Samer Abu Daqqa and Hamza al-Dahdouh, both killed in Gaza during the conflict. Israel has rejected the charge and said that it does not target journalists.

The UN Human Rights Office also criticised the move.

"We regret [the] cabinet decision to close Al Jazeera in Israel," it said on X. "A free & independent media is essential to ensuring transparency & accountability. Now, even more so given tight restrictions on reporting from Gaza. Freedom of expression is a key human right. We urge govt to overturn ban."

Israel's parliament last month ratified a law allowing the temporary closure in Israel of foreign broadcasters considered to be a threat to national security.

The law allows Netanyahu and his security cabinet to shut Al Jazeera's offices in Israel for 45 days, a period that can be renewed, so it could stay in force until the end of July or until the end of major military operations in Gaza.



▲ An Al Jazeera cameraman, Zaid Aqrat, at his station's office in Ramallah on the West Bank yesterday. Israel justified its decision by saying the Qatar-funded network was a threat to national security PHOTOGRAPH: NASSER NASSER/AP

While including on-the-ground reporting of the war's casualties, Al Jazeera's Arabic-language service often publishes verbatim video statements from Hamas and other militant groups in the region, drawing sharp criticism from Israeli officials.

A campaign of judicial changes led last year by Netanyahu's coalition government, the most rightwing in Israel's history, prompted massive opposition and accusations of authoritarianism.

A recent crackdown in Israel on protesters against the war in Gaza has also raised new concerns for free speech.

The Foreign Press Association, an NGO representing journalists working for international news organisations reporting from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, accused Israel of joining a "dubious club of authoritarian governments".

"This is a dark day for the media. This is a dark day for democracy," it said in a statement.

There was also some political opposition in Israel to the move against Al Jazeera, or at least its timing.

The National Unity party, a centrist member of the ruling coalition, said that, coming as ceasefire talks appear close to failing, the action against Al Jazeera could "sabotage efforts" to free Israeli hostages in Gaza.

Qatar established Al Jazeera in 1996 to build influence around the Middle East and farther afield.

The small Gulf state, where several Hamas political leaders are based, was a key mediator in the talks but has been marginalised in recent weeks, which may have encouraged the Israeli government to act.

Israel has barred foreign journalists from entering Gaza to cover the conflict, which was triggered by Hamas attacks into southern Israel in October that killed 1,200, mostly civilians. The ensuing offensive has killed more than 34,000, mostly women and children.

Student support Palestinians praise protests at universities

Malak A Tantesh
Rafah

In the tented camps and crowded streets of Rafah, the pro-Palestinian campus protests in the US have been followed closely.

"We hear a lot of news about students' demonstrations in American universities ... When I saw that, I was very happy that there are still those who stand beside us and in support of us," said Nevin Abu Shahma, 39, who fled to Rafah from northern Gaza in the early stages of the war.

Pro-Palestinian protests that have fanned across US universities for weeks are now more muted after a series of clashes with police, mass arrests and a stern White House directive to restore order.

But similar demonstrations have spread in some form to campuses

in Britain, France, Australia and elsewhere, and on Saturday students waved Palestinian flags and chanted anti-war slogans during a ceremony at the University of Michigan.

Asmaa al-Najili, 30, who had arrived in Rafah from Khan Younis, a nearby city which was the site of heavy fighting in March, said she had used news clips of protesting students to cheer up her seven-year-old daughter.

More than a million people displaced from elsewhere in Gaza by Israel's military offensive are sheltering in Rafah, the territory's southernmost city. Most are kept up to date by social media or local radio channels.

Haitham Abu Marsa said that before the recent unrest few in Gaza had heard of the US universities where the protests have been most intense. Like many in Rafah, he



▲ Palestinians write 'Thank you students' on their tents in Rafah

said the activism seen in the US highlighted the lack of protest in support of Palestinians in the Arab world. "These protests [in the US] ... made us happy by finding people from the west who stood with our cause ... [But] at the same time it made us sad because our brothers in the Arab countries did not do what these people did," the 33-year-old said.

The war has killed more than 34,500 Palestinians, according to Gaza's local health officials, caused widespread destruction and plunged the territory into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Tens of thousands are unaccounted for.

Israel said Hamas is still holding about 100 hostages and the remains of more than 30 others.

Repeated threats by Israeli officials to launch a major military operation into Rafah have made many in the city very anxious, and some have already moved on elsewhere. Israel said Hamas leaders and four battalions of militants are based there, as well as some of the hostages.

Messages to the protesters were scrawled on a handful of tents in the camp, with one reading: "Thank you students in solidarity with Gaza. Your message has reached us. Thank you students of Columbia. Thank you students."

US campuses Unrest may harm Biden's election bid

Robert Tait
Washington

At the height of the tensions on US campuses this week, with Republicans seizing on student unrest as an election issue that could propel Donald Trump back into the White House, Joe Biden tried a middle path.

Weighing the democratic right to peaceful protest and the political necessity to stem disruption, Biden declared that "order must prevail".

"Threatening people, intimidating people, instilling fear - none of this is a peaceful protest," Biden said on Thursday. "Dissent is essential for democracy ... There's the right to protest. But not the right to cause chaos."

The comments were his most notable intervention yet in the face of campus protests against Israel's war in Gaza, which are a minefield.

As his lead over Trump among younger voters continues to slip significantly from its 2020 levels he risks alienating young voters by siding with police.

On the other hand, as riot police have moved against pro-Palestinian encampments and arrested thousands of people, senior Republican figures and Trump himself have been pushing hard to depict the US president as losing control and allowing America's universities to slide into unrest.

Fox News has lavished round-the-clock coverage to what it has portrayed as a perfect storm of "Democrat chaos", with riot police moving into occupied buildings on Columbia University's campus and open brawling at UCLA after a pro-Israel group attacked a camp.

The events have diverted attention from the Trump trial in New York, where he is facing charges over a hush-money payment to an adult film star. That has confounded hopes among Democrat strategists that details from the trial would deal a blow to the Republican campaign.

The focus of conservative media on the pro-Palestinian protests marks a shift from other areas of supposed disorder allegedly

caused by Biden administration incompetence - particularly the US-Mexico border and its inflow of asylum seekers.

Trump led the chorus on his Truth Social platform, calling for a "COMPLETE LOCKDOWN" of Columbia and other universities similar to what he claimed had been imposed on the area outside the Manhattan court where he is on trial.

Trump is attempting to capitalise on a febrile campus atmosphere in which Jewish and pro-Israel students have complained of antisemitism and being subjected to threats.

Analysts say there is scant evidence of the images of campus upheaval having a radical effect on voter attitudes - although some say this may change if protests continue into the autumn.

Biden is conscious of parallels with previous instances of student protests sweeping through American campuses, and producing arguably decisive effects in presidential politics.

In 1968, mass demonstrations against the Vietnam war spilled over into the Democratic national convention in Chicago resulting in violent street clashes with police and punch-ups on the convention floor. The anarchic scenes were followed by the defeat of the Democratic candidate, Hubert Humphrey, then the vice-president, to the Republican Richard Nixon.

Analysts, however, point out that the Gaza war does not resonate in the same way as the war in Vietnam, where more than half a million US troops were deployed by 1968.

An NBC focus group of college students opposed to US support for Israel's military offensive revealed that few planned to vote based on the issue.

Yet for Biden, even that could be a negative. Amy Walter, of the Cook Political Report, told the Wall Street Journal's free expression podcast: "If you take just a small percentage of younger people who feel very strongly about this issue and say, 'I cannot vote for Trump, but Biden is no good, I'm staying home' ... for Biden that might be a lot."



◀ The impact of the disorder is being used by the rightwing press to harm Biden's campaign - and boost Trump's PHOTOGRAPH: ETIENNE LAURENT/AFP/GETTY

'Complicit' UK students call for universities to divest from arming Israel

Neha Gohil

Community affairs correspondent

Students across Britain have said they hope pro-Palestine protests will reach the same scale as those seen in the US as they call for universities to divest from companies supplying arms to Israel.

Protests have spread across university campuses in Sheffield, Bristol and Leeds, after a crackdown in the US on protests, which led to mass arrests of students and staff.

More than 2,000 people have been arrested on university campuses in the US, garnering attention from international media and people in the besieged Gaza Strip, including Bisan Owda, a Palestinian journalist living in Gaza, who encouraged student protesters "to do more" for this "unprecedented moment" in a video posted on Instagram.

Samira Ali, 24, is one of about 100 students who stormed the library at Goldsmiths, University of London this week, occupying the first two floors. Ali, a third-year sociology student and co-organiser for Goldsmiths for Palestine, said 30 students had occupied the building, demanding the university ends "financial complicity" and condemns the war in Gaza.

"I think that it's only right what we're doing right now as students standing up for Palestine, particularly saying that it's not acceptable that the universities that we attend - particularly universities like Goldsmiths which rely on an international reputation of being a progressive university - stay silent on what's going on in Palestine, the massacres, the horrors and also be complicit in investments," she said.

Although the scale of protests on university campuses in the UK has been relatively small in comparison with the action in the US, students say they remain steadfast and anticipate more planned action.

"I think what we're witnessing now is almost an international student revolt. We obviously know what's been happening in the US ... There's a wave of encampments around Britain, which hopefully will grow. I think the potential for them to grow is huge," Ali said.

A spokesperson for Goldsmiths said it was "in dialogue with

► Hala Hanina, a Palestinian student involved in protests at Newcastle University, says more than 400 people she knew in Gaza have been killed



students", who ended their occupation over the weekend, and was fully committed to introducing meaningful support for those affected by the war, including a pledge of £120,000 a year to humanitarian scholarships for Palestinian students.

Hala Hanina, a Palestinian who has been involved in protests at the University of Newcastle, said more than 400 people she knows in Gaza have been killed. Hanina, 31, who came to the UK before October, said: "I don't have friends now. They have all either been killed or lost their families ... I'm doing this for all of Gaza that's facing a genocide, something that's unprecedented and unimaginable."

"I must do whatever is possible to be done and even

impossible, we'll make it possible ... It's so important for the student community and British community that they are fighting for justice."

There has been a renewed focus on the investments of universities since October, with protesters calling for universities to divest



▲ Samira Ali with fellow students occupying Goldsmiths' library



▲ Goldsmiths' library during the protests PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES VEYSEY/SHUTTERSTOCK

Gaza war Surgeon feels 'criminalised' after entry to France denied

Geneva Abdul

A London surgeon who has provided testimony on Israel's war in Gaza after operating during the conflict said he feels criminalised after being denied entry to France over the weekend.

Prof Ghassan Abu-Sitta, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon was due to speak on the ongoing war to the French parliament's upper house, the Sénat, on Saturday. However, after arriving at Charles de Gaulle airport on a morning flight from London, he was informed by French authorities that Germany had enforced a Schengen-wide ban on his entry to Europe.

Abu-Sitta said he had no knowledge that German authorities, who had previously refused his entry to Berlin in April, had put an administrative visa ban on him for a year, meaning he was barred from entering any Schengen country.

Abu-Sitta said: "What I find most difficult to accept is this complete criminalisation." He said he was previously told by authorities he would be unable to enter Germany for the month of April.

"I was put in a holding cell and marched in front of people at Charles de Gaulle with armed guards and then handed over to the staff in the plane, all so that I'm unable to give evidence," he said.

Instead of taking part in a conference at the Sénat to speak about Gaza, Abu-Sitta was stripped of his possessions and taken to a holding cell. Before being deported to the UK, he was able to attend the conference via video on his lawyer's phone from the detention centre.

"It was critical for me that we do this, that they're unable to silence us," said Abu-Sitta, who has worked in Gaza since 2009, as well as in wars in Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

During the months of October and November 2023, at the beginning of the conflict, Abu-Sitta operated from Gaza's al-Shifa and al-Ahli Baptist hospitals. During his 43 days, he described witnessing a "massacre unfold" in Gaza and the use of white phosphorus munitions, which Israel has denied.

Abu-Sitta is now planning on challenging the ban in German courts and is considering going to the European court of human rights.



▲ Prof Ghassan Abu-Sitta was due to speak in the Sénat about the conflict

shares and assets in companies linked to Israel and the war in Gaza.

Student protesters at the University of Warwick said they were willing to juggle exams with protests to ensure their demands are met. Fraser Amos, a PhD student in global sustainable development, said: "A lot of the main students staying overnight at the encampment, they are in their final year of university. They've got exams, there are people in the tents writing their dissertations."

However, the protests in the UK have been criticised for creating a "hostile and toxic" atmosphere for Jewish students, according to the Union of Jewish Students. Gavriel Solomons, the vice-chair of the Young National Jewish Assembly at University of Hertfordshire, said: "The last thing we need is to import an even more aggressive form of organised antisemitism from the US."

According to the president of Newcastle University's Jewish Society, Eliana Stern, Jewish students felt "very isolated compared [with] the numbers which show up to these rallies" and that some said, if not for in-person exams, "they would have finished the semester at home to avoid campus, because it feels safer".

The university said it did not invest in companies making armaments, adding: "Any proposals for defence and security collaborations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis."

The University of Warwick was approached for comment.



◀ Isabel, who was 18 at the time, says she was ostracised to the point of feeling suicidal after she reported being sexually assaulted

PHOTOGRAPH: ADRIAN SHERRATT/ THE GUARDIAN

Royal Marines

Sexual assault was dismissed as 'high jinks' - ex-trainee

Dan Sabbagh

When Isabel became a trainee for the Royal Marines band, she thought she was fulfilling a childhood dream. But within a few weeks the 18-year-old found herself subjected to what she describes as a sexual assault, an incident that was rapidly dismissed by her commanding officers as "high jinks" - and subsequently felt ostracised to the point where she became suicidal.

Isabel, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, eventually simply walked off the base, feeling overwhelmed and unable to continue. Though it is about a decade since the original episode and several years since she received compensation, it is only now she feels confident enough to describe what happened.

"I wasn't ready to talk about it. I'd obviously gone years just thinking I was a liar. It took a long time to actually recognise that what happened constitutes sexual

assault and to deal with the level of cover-up that happened," she said.

It is a story that also raises uncomfortable questions for the Royal Marines, an elite unit whose titular head, or captain general, is the king, though the Royal Navy insists that it has done "a great deal of work" in the years since to provide better support for victims of sexual harassment or abuse.

When Isabel began training, women were only allowed to join the Royal Marines band. In 2018, however, they were permitted to train to become green beret commandos - though since then none have passed out, completing the exacting training course, which ends with a 30-mile run and hike over Dartmoor.

Isabel's training began in the autumn, at the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, Devon, where band recruits learn military and medical skills alongside would-be full marines. There were fewer than 20 female recruits on the base, with their own quarters, and about 750 men.

Isabel says sexualised comments, wolf whistling and ogling were not uncommon. "People would push up against you in the queue,"

she added. "We had our troop commanders say: 'It's a man's world, you're just going to have to suck up some of this behaviour.'"

Ministry of Defence figures show the marines remain male-dominated. Of the 7,680 marines, 98.7% are male, with just 100 women. All 840 officers in the marines are male. Women make up 9.7% of the British military and 12.4% of officers are female.

Once training started, things quickly went wrong. Though Isabel did not know it at the time, she had an undiagnosed heart arrhythmia, which when combined with the intense training led to weight loss and made her condition considerably more serious. Isabel began to faint, and was in and out of the medical ward, after a dozen or so "cardiac collapses".

There was no segregation, and the environment on the ward, where she was the only female patient, was "very sexualised and very uncomfortable", more so than on the training ground, she felt.

After another medical episode, Isabel ended up staying there over a weekend. One of the soldiers repeatedly propositioned her, she said, asking her to "get round him", a reference to sexual intercourse. Then on Sunday evening, as Isabel was going to bed, another recruit "completely randomly decided to - he kind of, like, pushed his crotch up against my face". The

man "simulated ejaculation on my face", she said, and, having put alcohol gel into his hands, "rubbed this gel on to my face" to mimic ejaculating on her, with two other recruits looking on.

Disgusted, Isabel got up to wash herself off. "When I came back, he was in my bed, and it took a lot of persuading to get him out," she continued. It was obviously unacceptable behaviour, although it was years later that she concluded she was the victim of sexual assault. "This guy had entered my space to touch my body. I was quite scared, I was only 18, and I knew that was wrong."

Isolated and unsure what to do, Isabel called her mother from the ward, asking for help. The incident was in turn reported to a duty officer. Over the next couple of days, she recalls, "everything snowballed". Statements were taken from her and the men on the ward, and then she was pulled into meetings with course commanders.

One officer, Isabel said, put pressure on her to drop any call for a formal inquiry. "The officer said he's read the statements written by the boys and he's read my statement, and mine is the only one that stands out. It's very clear I initiated any sexual behaviour. He said: 'If you don't admit to high jinks, we will report this to the military police and you are more likely to get into trouble than the boys are.'"

Stunned, Isabel asked the officer to explain what he meant by high jinks. "He said: 'It means you gave as good as you get.'" Later she says she was told that one of the male recruits was invited by the same officer to agree with the statement: "You're basically sat there with your legs wide open and saying, 'Jump right in, boys.'"

Some years later, an appeal panel, considering a complaint made by Isabel, agreed that key parts of her account were accurate.

'Commanders said: "It's a man's world, you're just going to have to suck up some of this behaviour"'

Isabel Former Royal Marines band trainee

There had been a "rubbing of hand gel on [Isabel's] face", an ombudsman's appeal report said, and that she was a victim of "sexual harassment". The officer had "tried to dissuade her" from pursuing a formal complaint, it added.

Police say a sexual assault is when someone touches you sexually without permission, with an object or body part - including groping or kissing without consent. The definition of "sexual" depends on whether a reasonable person would consider the action as such.

Isabel agreed to writing off the episode as "high jinks", as she still hoped to complete training. Neither the marines nor Isabel referred the incident to police.

Soon after, Royal Marines commanders sent Isabel home for about six weeks, citing her health problems. However, she did return to Lympstone, hoping to complete the second phase of her training and return to the first in due course.

By now, Isabel's morale was increasingly fragile and she felt the base had turned against her. At the end of phase one, as other trainees were going to a passing out party, to which Isabel wasn't invited, she overheard an officer tell another trainee: "There's a female recruit upstairs, don't go near her, she's a fucking nightmare."

Eventually it became too much. "There was one night where I started thinking about suicide. I'd never suffered mental health issues before, but I knew I needed to get out," she said, and within a few days she simply walked off.

Isabel was later discharged. She made a complaint to the armed forces ombudsman and in relation to the incident, the appeal panel ultimately concluded that, had the three men on the ward still been in the marines, they would have been subject to "administrative action". That is corrective action below formal disciplinary proceedings.

The former trainee was awarded a small sum in compensation and later received a slightly larger settlement from the MoD, although it did not admit liability.

Presented with Isabel's account, the Royal Navy said any activity that fell short of the highest of standards was "totally unacceptable" - but argued that the complaints process had improved significantly today.

It added: "While we acknowledge these events may have had a significant impact on anyone involved, this case was some time ago and since then we have done a great deal of work to provide specialist support to victims and witnesses of serious crime, independently from the military chain of command."

Isabel, however, said she believes what happened to her could have happened to any other woman hoping to join the elite unit. "Because if they get groped on a night out or at work, and if they decide to report it, it's going to blow up in their face. They want to protect the chain of command. They don't want to protect women."

Samaritans can be contacted on freephone 116 123, or email jo@samaritans.org or jo@samaritans.ie

► Steve Gallant (left) and Darren Frost, the co-founders of Own Merit, helped tackle a terrorist at Fishmongers' Hall during the London Bridge attack in 2019



Attack heroes start housing scheme to support ex-inmates

Jessica Murray
Midlands correspondent

Darryn Frost and Steve Gallant are still dealing with the trauma of tackling a terrorist at Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, in 2019.

Gallant, 47, who was on day release from prison where he was serving a life sentence for murder, helped fend off the attacker alongside Frost, 43, a probation worker who had grabbed a 1.5-metre long narwhal tusk as a weapon.

Although they are still coping with the mental toll, they are now channelling their shared experiences from opposite ends of the prison system to create something positive - a first of its kind facility to house recently released prisoners and support them back into society.

"I just want people to realise that people in prison have value, they don't always have to be a societal burden," said Frost. "We're both still suffering from trauma - I have issues with memory and concentration - but we want to start a movement; shift the dialogue."

The pair have worked with prisoners to create a model of "supportive housing" that they say is cost efficient, facilitates independence and fosters community-focused living. It is named Own Merit, in memory of Jack Merritt who was killed in the attack.

They welcomed their first resident last year and hope to expand with a unique five-storey premises in Northampton town centre, housing up to 30 released prisoners with an on-site training college and restaurant.

"The anxiety about getting out of prison and finding somewhere to live is huge," said Gallant. "I saw guys

getting released basically on to the streets."

Having worked in probation for 17 years, Frost had long been passionate about improving prisoner rehabilitation, but it was the initial response to the Fishmongers' Hall attack that acted as the catalyst to do something about it.

Frost said the reaction to his heroic acts differed from that towards Gallant and another former prisoner, John Crilly, who also helped fend off the attacker, as there was a reluctance to praise them because of their past crimes.

"When [people] didn't jump at the opportunity to celebrate John and Steve's actions on that day, the epitome of rehabilitation, I thought we have to do this ourselves," said Frost. "Even now, because I'm doing this with Steve, there is a stigma. We can't even get insurance because Steve is a director and he's a lifer."

Gallant was released from prison in 2021, and has since gone on to complete a degree in business management and secure a job as a full-time charity fundraiser.

"I might have to take a step back [from Own Merit] if it becomes a big issue," he said. "It's not great, particularly when you've proven yourself, you've put in massive effort to turn your life around. It has been so rewarding bringing everything together for this, despite all the tragedy, and turning it into something useful for other people. That's the biggest gift."

A recently published report on HMP Peterborough found a third of men released from the prison ended up homeless as a result of insufficient housing support. The report also found 333 prisoners were released into homelessness in the year to January 2024.

"We spend over £18bn a year on reoffending. Clearly, the system is not working," said Gallant. "The model that we've got here, it doesn't just make financial sense and it's not just the right thing to do, but ultimately it improves public safety. Because the more successful these guys are when they come out of prison, the less chance they are to create future victims."

"The anxiety about getting out of prison and finding a place to live is huge"

Steve Gallant
Own Merit co-founder

Fungi fad hits health stores as UK eats up 'functional mushrooms'

Zoe Wood

Sipping mushroom coffee sounds like a weird camping anecdote, but more Britons are embracing this alternative morning pick-me-up as "mushroom mania" sweeps the high street.

With the food industry eager to cash in on demand for "functional foods" that promise extra health benefits, medicinal mushrooms are turning up in hot drinks, supplements and even beer.

Holland & Barrett says searches on its website for "functional mushrooms" are up 50% this month on a year ago, but a recent investigation by Which? put them in the category of "health products you don't need".

"There isn't enough evidence yet to suggest they work and the vast majority don't have authorised health claims in the UK," the consumer champion concluded of items made from mushrooms including reishi, lion's mane and chaga.

Close reading of the packaging showed the benefits were often

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derived from other ingredients with authorised health claims, such as omega-3 and vitamins B12 and D. While mushrooms may contain beneficial nutrients such as antioxidants and beta-glucan, Which? researchers said, they were essentially “incidental” in many of the supplements.

Mushroom-based hot drinks appeal to people who want to reduce their caffeine intake but also the 35% of consumers, and half of 16- to 34-year-olds, who said they were interested in food and drink with “healthy ingredients based on



▲ Which? said there wasn't enough evidence on mushroom health effects

‘ancient wisdom’ such as ayurveda and Chinese medicine”, said Kiti Soinenen, its category director of UK food and drink research.

Demand for these products is growing thanks to an advertising blitz on social media, word of mouth and the fact they are stocked more widely. While consumers often buy direct from brands such as Dirtea, Spacegoods and Reformed, they are an increasingly common sight in pharmacies and health stores.

Spacegoods is growing fast and expects to turn over £10m this year

as customers gravitate to its chocolate-flavoured Rainbow Dust which comes in colourful packaging.

Matthew Kelly, the founder of Spacegoods, said the coffee replacement, recently picked up by Boots, avoids the need to “stack” vitamins. Spacegoods has not done its own clinical studies but would like to in the future, Kelly said, adding there was a lot of evidence on its ingredients: “If it was bogus, we wouldn't have 15,000 subscribers that buy the products every month and tell us how great it is.”

Some experts point out that many people feel better when they switch to a mushroom blend not because of a fungi feelgood effect, but because they generally contain less caffeine.

Prof Nicholas Money, a mycologist at Miami University in Ohio, who previously told the Guardian some of the claims being made were “without scientific foundation and amount to little more than snake oil”, told a recent episode of BBC Radio 4's Sliced Bread programme devoted to the topic that it was “complete BS”.

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Ukraine can't afford to boycott Eurovision, says 2016 winner

Emily Dugan

Ukraine's former Eurovision winner Jamala has said her country “cannot afford” to boycott the song contest because it needs the opportunity to remind Europe of Russia's invasion.

There have been calls for artists to refuse to participate over Israel's inclusion in the competition while the war in Gaza continues.

The opening round begins tomorrow in Malmö, Sweden, after the Swedish singer Loreen won in Liverpool last year.

Jamala, who won the contest for Ukraine in 2016, said a boycott over the Israel-Hamas war was not an option for her country. She said artists needed to be “loud and creative” to remind the world about Russia's invasion of Ukraine when the public was “getting tired” of hearing about it.

The question of whether to withdraw over Israel's involvement has also plagued the UK's entrant, Olly Alexander. In a BBC documentary that will air tomorrow, he said reaction to his decision to participate had been “very extreme”, with people branding him complicit in genocide.

Jamala said Ukraine needed to take opportunities to raise awareness after the war had dropped in prominence from the news since the Russian invasion in February 2022.

“Some countries may refuse to participate (in the contest), but we don't. Especially we cannot afford to give up such a contest in time of war,” she told PA Media.

“There are many wars now in the world and, of course, it is not easy to constantly keep attention on yourself so that people do not get tired of our war. But that is our task, people who remain in Ukraine, people who are fighting, to be as loud and creative... this is the task of artists to find new ways of how to reveal and show their country.”

Ukraine's entry this year is the rapper and singer duo Alyona Alyona and Jerry Heil. Jamala, 40 (real name Susana Alimivna Jamaladinova), said she hoped they would give many interviews “and talk about the fact that the war in Ukraine continues”.

Before being chosen as the UK's Eurovision entrant, Alexander had signed an open letter calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war and describing Israel's actions in Gaza as “genocide”. Queers for Palestine launched a petition in March calling for him to boycott Eurovision over the inclusion of Israel, saying the event was “cultural cover” for an “ongoing genocide”.

Speaking in the BBC documentary, the singer said: “A lot of the contestants and myself have been having a lot of comments that are like: ‘You are complicit in a genocide by taking part in Eurovision,’ which is quite extreme. It's very extreme.”

In an interview with the Times, Alexander reportedly began to cry when discussing the fallout from his decision. He said: “Obviously, I wish there wasn't a war or this insane humanitarian crisis. I wish for peace and I have found this experience, at times, extremely ... I've just felt really sad and distressed. But I still believe it's a good thing when people come together for entertainment. That's why I wanted to do Eurovision.”

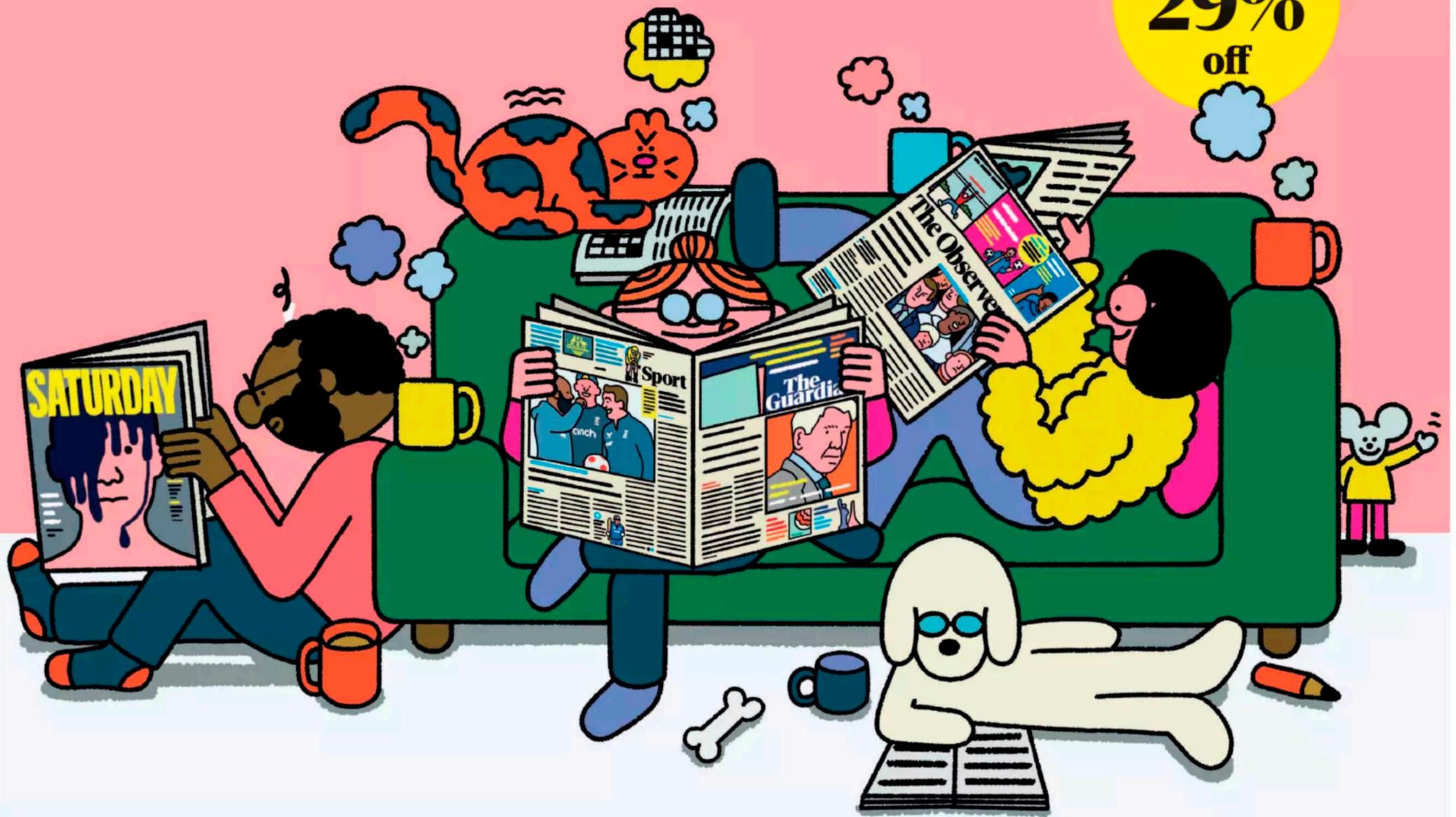
The Irish entrant, Bambie Thug, had also previously backed “an immediate and lasting ceasefire” but declined to boycott the event.

Alongside Alexander and the Danish entrant, Saba, a number of Eurovision artists said in a statement: “It is important to us to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and communicate our heartfelt wish for peace, an immediate and lasting ceasefire, and the safe return of all hostages. We stand united against all forms of hate, including antisemitism and Islamophobia.”



▲ The Ukrainian singer Jamala won Eurovision for her country in 2016

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'Monument to defiance'

An artist's plan for 1,984 copies of Orwell's classic

Severin Carrell
Scotland editor

Copies of George Orwell's masterpiece *Nineteen Eighty-Four* have been arriving at an artist's studio in Edinburgh for months. Every shape and size, posted from Ukraine, Hong Kong, Peru, Germany, Cape Cod and Sarajevo. Some are in mint condition, others dog-eared, tea-stained, heavily annotated or turned into graffitied artworks. One is a water-stained first edition; one is a secret love letter from a married woman to her first love; another, a graphic novel version, came from Orwell's son, Richard Blair. Each has been donated to a unique installation in the community hall of Jura, the Hebridean island where Orwell, in

dire poverty and desperately ill, wrote the book in the late 1940s, to mark its publication 75 years ago. Hans K Clausen, a sculptor based in Edinburgh, is collecting 1,984 copies of the book to exhibit on Jura for three days in early June. It will be an interactive, "living" sculpture where visitors are invited to open and read every volume. Many have arrived, often with overseas postmarks and customs stamps, addressed to "Winston Smith, care of Hans K Clausen". "I don't see my art project as political," Clausen said. "It has politics woven through it, but it also has a love story woven through it, so I'm interested in the novel; I'm interested in all the layers. "Often people overlook the romance and the love, and this man trying to find his own humanity. It gets lost in the Big Brother-ness of it all. So in some ways, I'm trying to be the impartial, neutral artist



▼ Hans K Clausen with some of the 1,984 copies of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* donated for his installation on Jura

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD/THE GUARDIAN

inviting people to take from it what they will," he said. One correspondent, a married woman who called herself Julia, after the hero Winston's lover, sent in her personal copy as a memorial to her first love, a man also married to someone else, her Winston. Nonetheless, Clausen said his installation, the Winston Smith Library of Victory and Truth, is designed to be "a monument [to] the defiance of the printed word". He is still taking donations, and is about 100 volumes short of the target. In return each donor receives an enamelled pin-badge as a gesture of thanks.

Clausen wants visitors to appreciate the materiality of each volume: the Russian copy printed on coarse paper; the impeccably printed Japanese edition; the hand-cut Canadian volume on thick paper; the musty odour and yellowing edges of the oldest copies; the intense annotations and highlighting in others, and the inexpert repairs with sticky tape to the ones with the battered spines. In his small studio at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, a volume from Ukraine sits alongside another from Russia; one in Arabic leans on another in Hebrew. Another came in from the Bosnian capital

Sarajevo, which bore the brunt of Serbia's war 30 years ago. Clausen has worked with secondary school pupils in Edinburgh, in London and on Jura itself, with pupils who live there but go to school on neighbouring Islay, who have customised copies with paint, scalpels and pens. A teacher and sculptor at Cape Cod community school in Massachusetts cut an intricate Big Brother artwork into his. The installation includes audiobooks on cassette and films on DVD; the audiobooks will be broadcast over loudspeakers reminiscent of the omnipresent speakers that indoctrinated the citizens of Airstrip One. Visitors to Jura will find a desk with a 1940s typewriter and a paperweight, in reference to what Winston bought in the antique shop above which he and Julia conducted their illicit affair. Clausen, who is self-financing the project after being turned down for funding, hopes the sculpture will tour. The Orwell Foundation, set-up to promote courageous writing and based at University College London, has expressed interest. "When I get home from Jura, that's my credit card maxed out," he said. "It does have to be seen. I feel like it's a commitment, that this needs to go somewhere."

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Eyewitness



▼ **Red Square, Moscow**
Rehearsals for the annual Victory Day parade to commemorate the Soviet defeat of Nazi Germany
PHOTOGRAPH: MAXIM SHEMETOV/REUTERS



World

Europe's housing crisis risks fuelling rise of far right, UN expert warns

Jon Henley
Europe correspondent

Spiralling rents and sky-high property prices risk becoming a key battleground of European politics as far-right and populist parties start to exploit growing public anger over the continent's housing crisis, experts have said.

A month before European parliament elections in which far-right parties are forecast to finish first in nine EU member states and second or third in another nine, housing has the potential to become as potent a driver of far-right support as immigration.

"Far-right parties prosper when they can exploit the social gaps that emerge out of underinvestment and inadequate government planning ... and when they can blame outsiders," said the UN's special rapporteur on the right to adequate housing.

"That's the situation many EU countries are now in," Balakrishnan Rajagopal told the Guardian. "The housing crisis is no longer affecting just low earners, migrants, single-parent families, but the middle classes. This is the social issue of the 21st century."

Shortages of affordable housing have sparked protests in Lisbon, Amsterdam, Prague, Milan and - outside the EU - London, with young people in particular raging against rents swallowing half their incomes and mortgages 10 times an average salary. The issue was a top concern for voters in last year's Dutch elections, won by the far-right Freedom party (PVV) of the anti-Islam Geert Wilders,

and it played into the rise in support for Portugal's Chega, which almost trebled its vote share in March.

"It's a theme that ticks a lot of current boxes" for far-right parties, said Catherine Fieschi, of the European University Institute. "It's easy to frame it as an elites-versus-the-people issue - and to claim migrants are being treated better than nationals."

Eurostat data shows that across the 27-member bloc, house prices soared by 47% between 2010 and 2022, with rents rising 18% over the same period. In some countries more than a fifth of households spend 40% or more of their net income on housing.

Recent academic research has established a clear link between rising rents and votes for the far right - even without strong anti-immigration messaging.

Tarik Abou-Chadi, an EU politics specialist and co-author of a study that found rising rents were reflected locally in growing support for the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party in Germany, said "fear of status loss" was a key factor.

"This data shows housing is now part of a broader package of economic and social threats and insecurities fuelling anxiety," he said. "The fear you may have to move home because you can't afford it leads to a rise in radical-right support."

The research combined detailed rental data with local responses to Germany's annual Socio-Economic Panel household opinion survey to show increasing rents were associated with greater support for the far-right AfD, especially among low-income tenants.

Much of the AfD's support is in more left-behind rural regions, where rents have stayed relatively low, and the effect was even stronger in urban areas, Abou-Chadi said, providing a possible explanation for the party's rising vote share in cities.

"What's interesting is that the relationship is there even when people's rents may not actually have increased," Abou-Chadi said. "It's not just about actual hardship but also about the worry - that threat to social and economic status."

Thus far, the AfD has made little attempt to play a housing card. In Portugal, Chega focused more on corruption than on a crisis aggravated - in cities such as Lisbon and Porto - by a boom in holiday lets and high-earning digital nomads. "But the scope for housing to become a highly significant factor in the far-right vote is very clearly there, and will only increase in the future," said Vicente Valentim, a University of Oxford specialist on Europe's far right.

Mainstream parties are starting to wake up to the threat. In January, big city mayors demanded an urgent focus on more affordable, qualitative and sustainable housing, while MEPs and housing ministers called for housing to be made a top EU priority.

Rajagopal, who recently reported on the Dutch housing crisis, said a first step should be to enshrine affordable, adequate and secure housing as a legal right. "EU countries have a long and laudable tradition of social protection, of welfarism," he said.

"But when it comes to recognition of housing as a legal human right, Europe is lagging behind international law. EU citizens cannot go to their national courts over housing. European countries recognise this, but are not doing anything about it."

Beyond that, the housing crisis in Europe - including the UK - was a product of "treating housing like any other commodity, to be bought and sold", and of abandoning state planning, Rajagopal said. "Europe drank the 1980s Kool-Aid ... markets were good, planning bad."

"But markets only really take care of themselves. If you also abandon state planning, nobody's supplying housing. And that's what allows the PVV, for example, to blame migrants for the Dutch crisis when there is no evidence migrants are to blame."

"If we want to stop the rise of the far right, starve it of some oxygen, things like housing have to be seen as fundamental rights."



'Lives are frozen' Legacy of bad policy keeps Dutch renters in high-price limbo

Jon Henley
Amsterdam

It started maybe 10 years ago, says Tamara Kuschel. Since the 1970s, the charity she works for in Amsterdam, De Regenboog, has run day shelters for homeless people. Then, in about 2015, a new kind of client began to appear. "They didn't have the usual problems of homeless people," Kuschel says. "They had jobs, friends. In every respect ... their lives were very much together. But they couldn't afford a home."

Some are not young, she says. The oldest, last year, was 72. They have, typically, recently had a breakup, had a small business fail or been unable to afford a rent rise. "We can help some," she says. "But we're just a sticking plaster, really."

In a pan-European housing crisis, the situation in the Netherlands

is next-level. According to independent analysis, the average Dutch home now costs €452,000 (£388,000) - more than 10 times the modal, or most common, Dutch salary of €44,000. That means you need a salary of more than twice that to buy one. Nationwide, house prices have doubled in the past decade; in more sought-after areas they have risen 130%. A new-build home in Amsterdam costs 16 times an average salary.

The rental market is equally dysfunctional. Rents in the private sector - about 15% of the country's total housing stock - have soared. A single room in a shared house in Amsterdam is about €950 a month; a one-bed flat €1,500 or more; a three-bedder €3,500.

Meanwhile, the waiting list in the social housing sector, which is roughly double the size of the private, averages about seven years nationally - but in the bigger cities, it can stretch to as long as 18 or 19.



▲ A housing protest in Lisbon in January. In Portugal, the populist Chega party almost trebled its vote share in March. PHOTOGRAPH: SOPA IMAGES/ALAMY

'Like a horror movie'
Deadly storms hit southern Brazil
 Page 26

'What a cool job!'
New Vatican Swiss Guards take the oath
 Page 27



A 28-year-old PhD student, who asked not be identified, said that in her first three years in the capital, she moved seven or eight times.

"The shortage is so acute, and people are so desperate," she said. "Tenants' rights are supposed to be strong, but in practice ... I've been bullied to get me to move out, physically threatened."

She knew no one under 30 living on their own, she said; many were still moving twice a year. She was now in a shared apartment, and would like to live with her partner - but neither dared move out because they might not find a place.

"That's the worst," she said. "All these next steps we're supposed to be taking at our age, they're just not possible. Everything's just ... on hold."

Others are luckier. In a peaceful neighbourhood not far from Amsterdam central station, Lukas and Misty are among 96 tenants - half of them young refugees with residence permits - of a Startblok, one of five around the capital.

Some Startblokken are much bigger, housing more than 550 young people in purpose-built "container houses", some metal, some of wood and sustainable materials, stacked four or five high. Others, like this one, are permanent, brick-built residences.

For a monthly rent averaging €400-500 after housing benefit,

every tenant - who must be aged between 18 and 27 when they move in - is entitled to a 20-25 sq metre studio, with kitchenette and bathroom, for up to five years.

There is bike storage, a bright communal lounge with table football, a laundry room and a small garden with a greenhouse. When one studio became free last month, said the project manager Jesse van Geldorp, the Startblok received about 800 applications.

Karin Verdooren, director of Lieven de Key, the housing foundation that launched the Startblok concept, said: "It's about allowing young people to stand on their own feet, establish a life, build a network in a fundamentally broken housing market."

Lukas, a German tutor, moved in last November. He pays half - or even less - the rent of friends on the outside, and loves the community spirit. Misty, 22, agrees. "Knowing



▲ Misty in her reduced-rent home in one of Amsterdam's 'Startbloks'

▲ A protest over vacant homes in Amsterdam. Investors own 25% of homes in the four big Dutch cities
 PHOTOGRAPH: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

that I won't need to look for a home at the same time as a job is such a big relief."

But the Startblokken - like the temporary accommodation programmes for "economically homeless" people in Amsterdam run by Kuschel's De Regenboog - are drops in the ocean of the Netherlands' housing crisis.

Quite how the country got here is a subject of complex and heated debate. The Netherlands was short of an estimated 390,000 homes last year; it is already falling behind on a pledge to build nearly 1m - two-thirds of them affordable - by 2030.

Some factors, such as historically low interest rates and more, often smaller, households, are beyond government control. But experts say successive administrations have stimulated demand while failing to boost supply.

In the early 2010s, a pro-market government in effect abolished the housing and planning ministry and freed up sales of housing corporation stock. Partly as a result, about 25% of homes in the four big cities are owned by investors.

Further driving up prices are measures such as mortgage tax relief, meant to aid young buyers, that have ended up helping existing owners invest in more property. At the same time, subsidies for housebuilding all but dried up.

In the rental market, the lack of homes and the number of tenants who stay in social housing despite earning more than the maximum allowed have contributed to sky-high private rents.

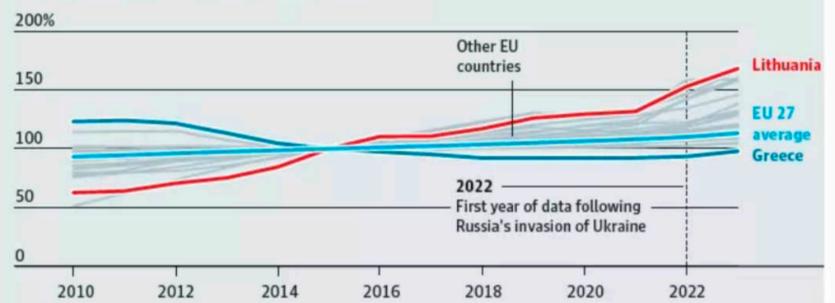
Politicians including Geert Wilders, whose far-right Freedom party (PVV) finished a shock first in November's general election, have blamed asylum seekers, foreign students and environmental laws.

But in a damning report published in February, the UN special rapporteur on adequate housing said that Dutch government policies were to blame.

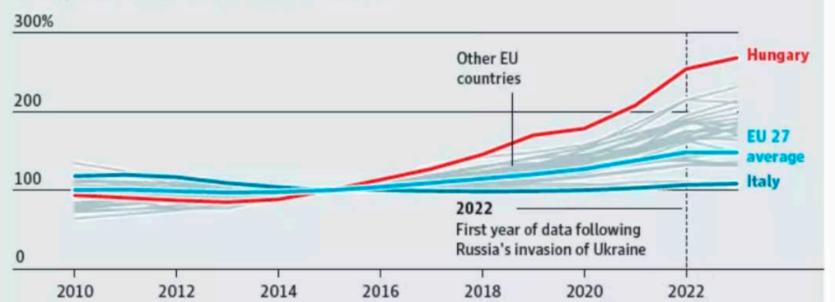
Whatever the causes, for those caught up in it the crisis it is tough. More than 1,200 people applied to De Regenboog last year, Kuschel said. One was Iris, 47, an artist and night-club worker who last year had to move out of the Amsterdam flat she had lived in for several years because developers had bought the whole building. "I stayed with friends, I couch-surfed, but it was impossible," she said. "Now I'm sharing, in a place that won't be developed for a year. I'm safe for 12 months."

Kuschel said it was hard to exaggerate the importance of a secure home: "Without it, people stop building families, building futures, putting down roots, developing, flourishing. They lose all perspective. Their lives are frozen. That's the tragedy."

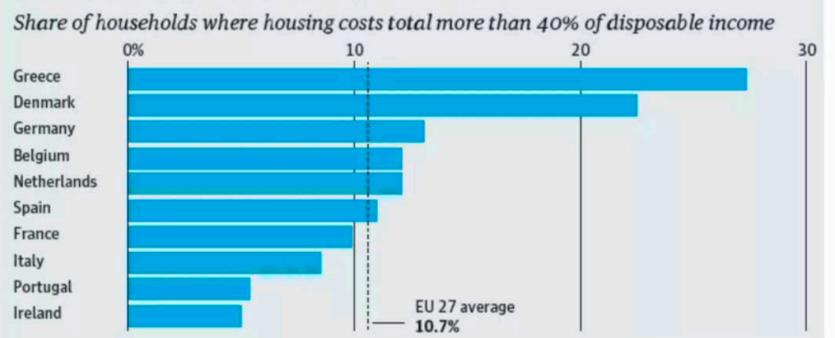
Cost of rent has risen sharply in Europe
 Change in rent prices, 2015 prices = 100



House prices have risen considerably in most European countries
 Change in house prices, 2015 prices = 100



Overburden rate in selected European countries



Source: Eurostat

Social dilemma decades in the making

Decades in the making, Europe's housing crisis is being felt from the Netherlands to Portugal, Greece to Germany, and in Britain. Prices and rents have soared, availability has plunged and housing has become a political issue.

Between 2010 and 2022, property prices across the EU surged by 47%, according to a 2023 Eurostat report. In some countries they almost tripled: Estonia recorded a 192% rise. Only in two member states, Italy and Cyprus, did they decline.

Rents, meanwhile, rose by an average of 18% over the same period, increasing in every EU state except Greece (where they have risen by 37% since 2018). Some of the biggest rises were in Lithuania, up 144%, and Ireland, up 84%.

Partly as a consequence, the proportion of households whose total housing costs account for 40% or more of their disposable income - known to policymakers as the housing cost overburden rate - which fell during the pandemic, is climbing steadily. In Germany, which has one of the highest proportion of renters in Europe at 53.5%, 13.1% of people's housing costs are above this 40% figure.

Germany is short of more than 800,000 apartments, the country's statistics office has estimated. More than 9.5 million people, often single parents and their children, live in cramped conditions.

Getting a foot on the property ladder has become harder. According to a report by Eurofound, the EU's social policy agency, last year, home ownership is sliding across the bloc, down by three percentage points or more in some countries.

In Ireland, the median age of buyers is now 39, compared with 35 in 2010. And generation Z is leaving the family home later than its predecessors: between 2007 and 2019, the age by which at least 50% of young Europeans were living independently rose from 26 to 28.

Unsurprisingly, housing is a significant worry, particularly among young people. A 2021 Eurobarometer poll found that for more than 20% of 25- to 34-year-olds in more than a third of EU member states, housing was one of their two biggest concerns - rising to 40% in Ireland.

Jon Henley

Race against time as death toll rises after rain leaves much of southern Brazil underwater

Ashifa Kassam and agencies

At least 75 people have died and more than 100 others are missing after flooding in southern Brazil that also displaced more than 80,000 people, local authorities said yesterday.

Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, arrived in Rio Grande do Sul state yesterday, along with most members of his cabinet to discuss rescue operations and reconstruction works with the state authorities.

Rescue efforts continued, with 4x4 vehicles and jetskis being used to move through waist-deep water in the race to save people from the flooding and mudslides.

A video posted online by Lula appeared to show a helicopter dropping a soldier on the roof of a house, and the soldier using a brick to pound a hole in the roof and rescue a baby wrapped in a blanket.

Storms have affected nearly two-thirds of the state's 497 cities, leading to landslides, destroyed roads and collapsed bridges as well as power and water cuts. More than 1 million people lacked access to drinking water, according to Brazil's civil defence agency.

On Thursday, a hydroelectric dam between the cities of Bento Gonçalves and Cotiporã partially collapsed, while cities in the Taquari valley such as Lajeado and Estrela were overrun by water. Helicopters flew continually over the cities as stranded families with children awaited rescue on the rooftops.

"It felt like a horror movie," Isolete Neumann, a resident, told the Associated Press last week. "People were making barricades in front of hospitals with sand and gravel."

Last week, Lula described the floods as being among the largest Brazil had ever recorded. "Never before in the history of Brazil had there been such a quantity of rain in one single location," he told reporters.

The flooding across Rio Grande do Sul has surpassed that seen during a 1941 deluge, according to the Brazilian Geological Service. In some cities, water levels were at their highest since records began nearly 150 years ago, the agency added.

In Porto Alegre, the state capital, Guaíba Lake overflowed, flooding streets. Aerial images showed residential areas underwater as far as the eye could see, with the tops of some houses barely visible.

Across the city, people stood on



▲ Military firefighters rescue a man in Canoas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
PHOTOGRAPH: RENAN MATTOS/REUTERS

'It felt like a horror movie. People were making barricades in front of hospitals'

Isolete Neumann
State resident

Polls open in Chad amid accusations of 'dynastic dictatorship'

Eromo Egbejule

West Africa correspondent

Chad goes to the polls today in its first presidential election in three decades without Idriss Déby, the former president, in contention.

Ten names will be on the ballot, but Déby's son, Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, who seized power on the day rebels shot and killed his father in April 2021, is widely expected to win.

The election was supposed to take place in October 2022, but Itno opted instead to extend the rule of his junta in the vast central African country. That decision led to protests that security agencies violently repressed, killing dozens in the process.

Among Itno's nine opponents, the closest challenger is his prime minister, Succès Masra. A favourite among young people in Chad, Masra has gone from economist to opposition politician in exile to prime minister in six years. That journey has incurred the ire of some in civil society who see him as the latest politician to be co-opted by the Déby dynasty.

In February, Yaya Dillo, an opposition leader seen as the biggest electoral threat to Itno, was killed after a confrontation at his party headquarters with security agents.

The electoral commission has said it will take four weeks for the final results to be announced. This unusual timeline has increased suspicion.

Ten candidates have been disqualified, leading to calls for a boycott and protests. Wakit Tamma, an alliance of civil society and opposition groups, has said the election is an extension of a "dynastic dictatorship".

To many Chadians, the election is less pressing than the challenges of daily life. For several weeks, electricity has been more stop-start than usual and food inflation is high. Outside the capital, N'Djamena, there is scant development.

About 1.1 million refugees are scattered around the country, having sought sanctuary in recent years from conflicts in neighbouring countries, most notably Sudan.

The refugee influx has made Chad's stability in a volatile region a matter of importance to the international community, especially with Russian paramilitaries present in nearby Libya, Sudan, Niger and Central African Republic.

"That's why you hear so little criticism from western governments about this rather undemocratic system," said Ulf Laessing, the Mali-based head of the Sahel programme at the German thinktank the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

"Everybody hopes it will just stay this way. Déby [Itno] gets elected ... and Chad stays stable and doesn't have these major security issues like in Niger, Mali or Burkina."

▲ Rescuers use boats to evacuate residents from Porto Alegre, the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, top, and from Canoas, above,

after record rainfall led to unprecedented flooding across the southern Brazilian state

PHOTOGRAPHS: CARLOS MACEDO/AP; AMANDA FERRELLI/REUTERS

rooftops, hoping to be rescued, while others in canoes or small boats navigated flooded streets. Porto Alegre's airport has suspended all flights for an indefinite period.

Rains were expected to continue in the state's north and north-east, but the volume has been declining and was expected to remain below that of recent days, according to Rio Grande do Sul's meteorology authority. Last week, as much as 150mm (6in) of rain fell within 24 hours in some areas.

"River water levels should stay high for some days," said the state governor, Eduardo Leite, on social media on Saturday, adding that it was difficult to determine how long the situation would continue.

Last week, he said: "The current event will be the worst climate disaster that our state ever faced."

Local scientists say Rio Grande do Sul's weather pattern of intense rain and drought has intensified because of the human-made climate crisis.



◀ Swiss Guards rest between training sessions at the Vatican before their swearing-in ceremony today

PHOTOGRAPH: GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE/REUTERS

Vatican Swiss Guards Preparing for life in world's smallest army

Angela Giuffrida
Rome

With their feathered helmets, ruffled collars and coloured, puffed-sleeve uniforms, the Vatican Swiss Guards are often likened by curious visitors to medieval court jesters. But while they willingly pose for photographs, the watchmen are not there to entertain.

Since the early 16th century, when Swiss mercenaries, revered for their bravery and loyalty,

marched to Rome to serve Pope Julius II, the world's smallest army has been enlisted at the Vatican to protect the pope, his residence and the city's borders.

Last week, before the swearing-in of new recruits at a ceremony planned for today, journalists were given a rare glimpse of the guards' barracks in the eastern part of Vatican City.

Dressed in their red, yellow and blue garb complete with armour and halberds, the men practised an impeccably choreographed march in the barracks' courtyard, each raising three fingers of their right hand to evoke the Holy Trinity while shouting the pontifical oath.

Among the 34 who will pledge to "sacrifice his life" to defend the pope today is Renato Peter, 22, who was recruited from a village close to Sant Gallo, one of several in Switzerland that has provided young men for the elite corps for centuries. He has dreamed of becoming a Swiss Guard since first seeing one at a Wednesday morning papal audience at St Peter's Square at the age of 12.

"In the afternoon we went to see the barracks," added Peter, who at the time was in Rome with his diocese. "I thought to myself: 'Wow, what a cool job!' I told my mum that 'one day I will be a Swiss Guard'. This dream never left me."

The guards may look quaint, but the men behind the Renaissance-style uniforms, designed by Col Jules Repond in 1914, not Michelangelo, as many believe, have undergone a competitive application process and rigorous training. Recruits must be male, Swiss, aged between 19 and 30, over 5ft 7in (1.74m), unmarried, and Catholic with "an unblemished character". They must undergo Swiss military service and commit to serving the pope for at least two years. They can get married after five years of service.

The halberd is their traditional weapon, but they are trained to use small modern-day arms, including stun guns. Since 1981, when a plainclothes Swiss Guard rushed

135

Number of Swiss Guards, which was boosted from 110 by Pope Francis after terrorist attacks in Europe

to the aid of a wounded Pope John Paul II after an assassination attempt, there has been a stronger emphasis on self-defence and anti-terrorism techniques.

In 2018 Pope Francis boosted the army's number from 110 to 135, after a series of terrorist attacks in France and elsewhere in Europe, and in preparation for next year's jubilee, when 35 million people are expected to visit the Vatican. "Like all armies, we have to be prepared to face all situations," said Cpl Eliah Cinotti, a spokesperson.

On top of the military training, the recruits are put through intense psychological tests to ensure they have the mental capacity to adapt to life as a Swiss Guard. "Many fail at that point, or perhaps they get hired and only last a few months when they realise the career is not for them," Cinotti added.

The swearing-in ceremony is held each year on 6 May, which commemorates the anniversary of the army's darkest hour, in 1527, when all but 42 of 189 guards died while defending Pope Clement VII during the sack of Rome by the mutinous troops of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

A vastly outnumbered army also prepared to die for the pontiff when Adolf Hitler's forces entered Rome during the second world war, although in the end the Germans did not attack the Vatican.

Although the army remains exclusively for men, a new barracks is being planned with the possibility of accommodating women. "It is up to the pope to decide whether women can join, and we will enact whatever he wants," Cinotti said.

The guards work in six-hour shifts, sometimes 12 on busy days. They earn about €1,200 (£1,000) a month and on their time off are free to venture beyond the Vatican.

They live together in shared dorms. "Your life is pretty much 24 hours a day together," Peter said. "But there is good camaraderie, and you make really good friendships."

Peter is nervous about the swearing-in ceremony, but he is ready to serve the pope: "This is the best part of the job - he is among the most important people in the world, and only 135 guys have the opportunity to do this."

French bakers stick it to Italy after breaking baguette record

Ashifa Kassam

For the past five years, bragging rights over the world's longest baguette have belonged not to the residents of a small village or a city in France, but to a clutch of bakers 500 miles away in Como, Italy.

Yesterday 12 French bakers set out to rectify this. Fourteen hours later, their efforts were declared a success.



▲ The previous record of 132.62m was set in Como, Italy, in 2019

"The world record for the longest baguette has been broken," tweeted the municipality of Suresnes, in the western suburbs of Paris. "The baguette made today in Suresnes measures 140.53m!!!!"

The bakers gathered early in the morning and readied themselves to beat the record of 132.62 metres.

The 2019 feat by Italy was not the first time the country had laid claim to the title of longest baguette; in 2015 a 122-metre baguette baked at the Milan Expo was certified as record-breaking.

"In Italy? That's crazy," one city resident told Le Parisien newspaper this week as he emerged from a bakery, baguette firmly tucked under

his arm. "If there's one record that should belong to us in France, it's that one."

The sentiment was echoed among the bakers who gathered at Suresnes's Terrasse du Fécheray observation deck, where their record-breaking attempt was due to unfold against a backdrop of sweeping views of Paris and the Eiffel Tower.

"I hope that we'll be able to recover the record for France," Sylvain Lecarpentier, one of those taking part, had written in a post on social media in the lead-up to the event.

In a statement publicising the attempt, organisers laid out the gruelling challenge the bakers were up against. "The dough will

be kneaded, shaped on site and then baked in front of the public in a rolling oven under a tent," it said. "It will be made according to professional standards, with wheat flour, water, yeast and salt as the only ingredients."

The baguette, which had to be at least 5cm thick for its entire length, took several hours to bake. Once complete, the municipality posted: "Now the big question is: how big is our #baguette?" It included a photo of the baguette being measured by judges from Guinness World Records.

The baguette was then cut up to be shared among the public and distributed to people living on the streets of Suresnes.



◀ A priest gives a blessing at a church in Kryvorivni, Ukraine; Vladimir Putin and Patriarch Kirill, above, at an Easter service in Moscow

PHOTOGRAPH: PAULA BRONSTEIN/GETTY

Shadow hangs over Orthodox Easter in Ukraine and Russia

Ashifa Kassam

Orthodox Easter services in Ukraine and Russia took on a political tone yesterday, as Volodymyr Zelenskyy asserted that God had a “Ukrainian flag on his shoulder” and Vladimir Putin attended a church service led by a supporter of Moscow’s invasion.

Noting that Ukraine had now been fighting Russia for 802 days, Zelenskyy called on Ukrainians to pray for each other and the soldiers on the

frontline. “And we believe: God has a chevron with the Ukrainian flag on his shoulder,” said the president, dressed in a traditional Ukrainian *vyshyvanka* shirt and khaki trousers. “So with such an ally, life will definitely win over death.”

Orthodox Christians celebrated Easter this weekend, while most western churches observed the holiday on 31 March.

In Moscow, Putin attended an Easter service led by the head of the country’s Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, a supporter of the president.

Video of the service showed Putin, dressed in a dark suit and joined by Moscow’s mayor, Sergei Sobyenin, crossing himself several times during the service in Moscow’s gold-domed Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

The patriarch prayed for the protection of the “sacred borders” of Russia and expressed hope that God would halt the “internecine strife” between Russia and Ukraine, the Tass state news agency reported.

In his Easter message, Putin did not explicitly mention the war or what Russia refers to as a “special

military operation”. Instead he thanked Kirill for “fruitful cooperation in the current difficult period, when it is so important for us to unite our efforts for the steady development and strengthening of the fatherland”.

Under Kirill’s watch the church has cracked down on internal dissent, with one priest facing expulsion for refusing to call on God to guide Russia to victory over Ukraine and another suspended for presiding over memorial services at the grave of Alexei Navalny, the opposition leader who died in an Arctic prison in February.

The sombre, politically tinged ceremonies took place as Russia launched a barrage of drones, injuring at least six people including a child, and officials said that a Russian rocket strike on Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk region killed two people.

In Pokrovsk, about 35 miles (56km)

from Donetsk city, the Russian-held capital of the region, which Moscow claims to have annexed, “rocket attacks killed two people and damaged a house”, Vadym Filashkin, Ukraine’s governor of the eastern Donetsk region, said on Telegram.

Ukraine’s air force said it had fired 24 Iranian-style Shahed drones at its territory overnight, 23 of which were shot down. “A house and out-buildings were burned down as a result of ‘Shahed’ attacks. Six people were injured, among them a girl born in 2015,” the governor of Kharkiv, Oleg Synegebov, said on Telegram.

In the latest in a string of small territorial gains for Moscow, Russia’s defence ministry said its forces had seized the village of Ocheretyne in the Donetsk region.

Since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, tens of thousands have been killed and millions more driven from their homes. In both Russia and Ukraine, leaders have sought to use religion and the church to rally society behind the war effort.

In a video message published yesterday from Kyiv’s Saint Sophia Cathedral, Zelenskyy, who is Jewish, called on Ukrainians to pray for the safe return of soldiers celebrating Easter in the trenches. He also called on Ukrainians to pray for the land and people, whose spirit “cannot be broken”.

“Ukrainians kneel only in prayer,” said Zelenskyy. “And never before invaders and occupiers.”

Additional reporting
Reuters, Associated Press
and Agence France-Presse

Teenager turns himself in after attack on lawmaker in Germany

Agence France-Presse
Berlin

A 17-year-old has turned himself in to police in Germany after an attack on a lawmaker that the country’s leaders described as a threat to democracy.

The teenager reported to police in the eastern city of Dresden early yesterday morning and said he was “the perpetrator who had knocked down the SPD [Social Democrats] politician”, police said in a statement.

The police spokesperson, Silvine Reiche, said: “He admitted the act but didn’t go beyond that.”

Matthias Ecke, 41, a European parliament lawmaker for the chancellor Olaf Scholz’s Social Democrats party, was set upon by four attackers as he put up EU election posters in Dresden



▲ Matthias Ecke was knocked down while putting up posters in Dresden

on Friday night, according to a report by the police.

Ecke was “seriously injured” and required an operation after the attack, his party said.

Scholz on Saturday condemned the attack as a threat to democracy. He said: “We must never accept such acts of violence.”

Ecke, who is head of the SPD’s European election list in the Saxony region, was the latest political target to be attacked in Germany.

Police said a 28-year-old man putting up posters for the Greens had been “punched” and “kicked” earlier in the evening on the same Dresden street.

Last week two Greens deputies were abused while campaigning in Essen in western Germany and another was surrounded by dozens of demonstrators in her car in the east of the country.

According to provisional police figures, 2,790 crimes were committed against politicians in Germany in 2023, up from 1,806 the previous year, but fewer than the 2,840 recorded in 2021, when legislative elections took place.

According to the Tagesspiegel newspaper, the interior minister Nancy Faeser is planning to call a special conference with Germany’s regional interior ministers to address violence against politicians.

Driver dies after vehicle hits gates of White House

Edward Helmore
New York

A motorist crashed into the gates of the White House for the second time since January in what police said was an accident rather than an intentional or politically motivated act.

The driver in Saturday night’s crash was pronounced dead at the scene after smashing a speeding car into an outer gate of the US president’s home and workplace.

The crash appeared to have occurred about 1,000ft (305 meters) from the White House at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and the south-east corner of the complex, near the Treasury.

In a statement on social media, the Secret Service spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi said there was “no threat to the White House” and “no threat or public safety implications”.

“Security protocols were implemented as officers cleared the vehicle and attempted to render aid to the driver who was discovered deceased,” the presidential and treasury security agency said.

In January, authorities arrested a driver who had crashed a car into an exterior gate of the White House. He was believed to have been experiencing mental health problems, according to news reports.

That incident came a couple of weeks after a man accidentally crashed his vehicle into President Joe Biden’s motorcade. He was later charged with drunk-driving.

In late May last year, a man driving a truck crashed into security barriers around Lafayette Square across the street from the White House. Investigators found the driver had a Nazi flag with him.

'He is the greatest of all time!'**Warren Buffett's annual Woodstock for capitalists**

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Business

TUC boss warns Starmer over workers' rights policy

Larry Elliott
Economics editor

Watering down Labour's plan to strengthen workers' rights would be disastrous for the party's relations with the unions and could cost votes at the general election, the president of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) has warned.

Amid reports that Keir Starmer may bow to pressure from business and amend important parts of his "new deal for workers", Matt Wrack said the Labour leader risked angering union members.

Wrack, the general secretary of the 34,000-strong Fire Brigades Union, said: "The debate on workers' rights is a key issue for all unions as we approach a general election. As a policy, it is very popular with our members but it is popular with the voters as well."

"We know Labour will come under

pressure from business interests but there should be no backtracking and no weakening. Labour needs to deliver this as one of its top priorities. If there is a rolling back there will be significant anger."

The proposed new deal for workers includes curbs on the use of zero-hours contracts, the extension of collective bargaining, and protection against unfair dismissal from day one of employment.

Wrack made it clear that unions were watching closely to see whether intensive lobbying from business had paid off after it emerged last week that Labour's plans do not involve a complete ban on zero-hours contracts and that the extension of sectoral collective bargaining will initially be confined to social care.

"We have picked up the press talk about possible rolling back. The message we had from the leader's office is there is nothing to it," Wrack said.

"I don't want to get in a slanging

match with Keir Starmer until I see what he is proposing," Wrack added, "but it would be inept in our view to backtrack on a very popular policy that will win votes and appeal to working-class voters who would traditionally be expected to vote Labour but who have drifted off."

Wrack said Labour also needed to deliver on its pledge to repeal the 2016 Trade Union Act, which placed curbs on how unions could take industrial action, and minimum service levels, under which unions are forced to maintain public services during strikes.

"I would struggle to see how Starmer could backtrack on these two commitments because he has

34,000

Number of members in the Fire Brigades Union. Matt Wrack, the TUC boss, is its general secretary

been so clear about them, but I would never rule anything out with Labour politicians."

Despite Labour's strong showing in last week's elections, Wrack said he detected little enthusiasm for the party because "people are not sure what the policy agenda is other than continuity".

Wrack said many unions had their annual conferences coming up, with the TUC holding its annual congress in September. "If the message is that Labour is rolling back on workers' rights, then the leadership can expect a hostile reception. Rolling back on this would be pretty disastrous for relations with the unions."

"It is the one thing unions have to sell to Labour voters. I am not sure what other reason there is to vote Labour."

A Labour spokesperson said: "The new deal will be a core part of Labour's offer and we will be campaigning on this ahead of the general election."

"Labour's new deal for working people was agreed at the party's national policy forum last summer building upon our green paper."

"Our commitments to bring forward legislation to parliament within 100 days to deliver the new deal and to consult widely on implementation have not changed."

Confidence of farmers in England and Wales hits record low

Jack Simpson

Farmers' confidence has hit its lowest level in at least 14 years, a long-running survey by the biggest farming union in Britain has found, with extreme weather and the post-Brexit phasing-out of EU subsidies blamed for the drop.

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) warned there had been a "collapse of confidence" and that the outlook was at its lowest since the annual poll of its members in England and Wales began in 2010.

Most farms are expecting to reduce food production next year, with arable farming particularly badly hit.

Tom Bradshaw, the NFU's president, pointed to extreme wet weather and the phasing-out of EU basic payment scheme (BPS) subsidies as key reasons for the downturn.

Bradshaw said: "Our concern today is that if members don't have confidence, then we as a country can't deliver food security."

The annual survey of about 800 farmers asked respondents to rate the prospects of their business, with the four responses all given weighted scores - very negative (-1), negative (-0.5), positive (0.5) and very positive (1). These are added up to give an overall confidence index score.

The results saw short-term confidence, covering the next 12 months, score -25, while mid-term confidence, covering the next three years, hit -22.

The previous low for short-term confidence was -18 in 2016 and mid-term confidence was -12 in 2018.

England's wettest 18-month period since the Met Office began collecting data in 1836 has left farms across the country flooded, and many unable to plant crops.

The survey revealed that 82% had seen their farms affected by the rain, with 30% saying they had experienced very negative impacts.

Analysis by the non-profit Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) last week forecast that crops could be down by nearly a fifth as a result of the wet weather, increasing the likelihood that the prices of bread, beer and biscuits will rise.

The NFU survey found that overall production intentions scored -14 over the next 12 months, the lowest since the survey began.

Arable farms appear to have suffered most, scoring -35 on the production index, while mixed farms scored -17, and poultry and eggs scored -7.

Seven out of 10 MEPs have second jobs, study reveals

Jennifer Rankin Brussels
Carmen Aguilar García

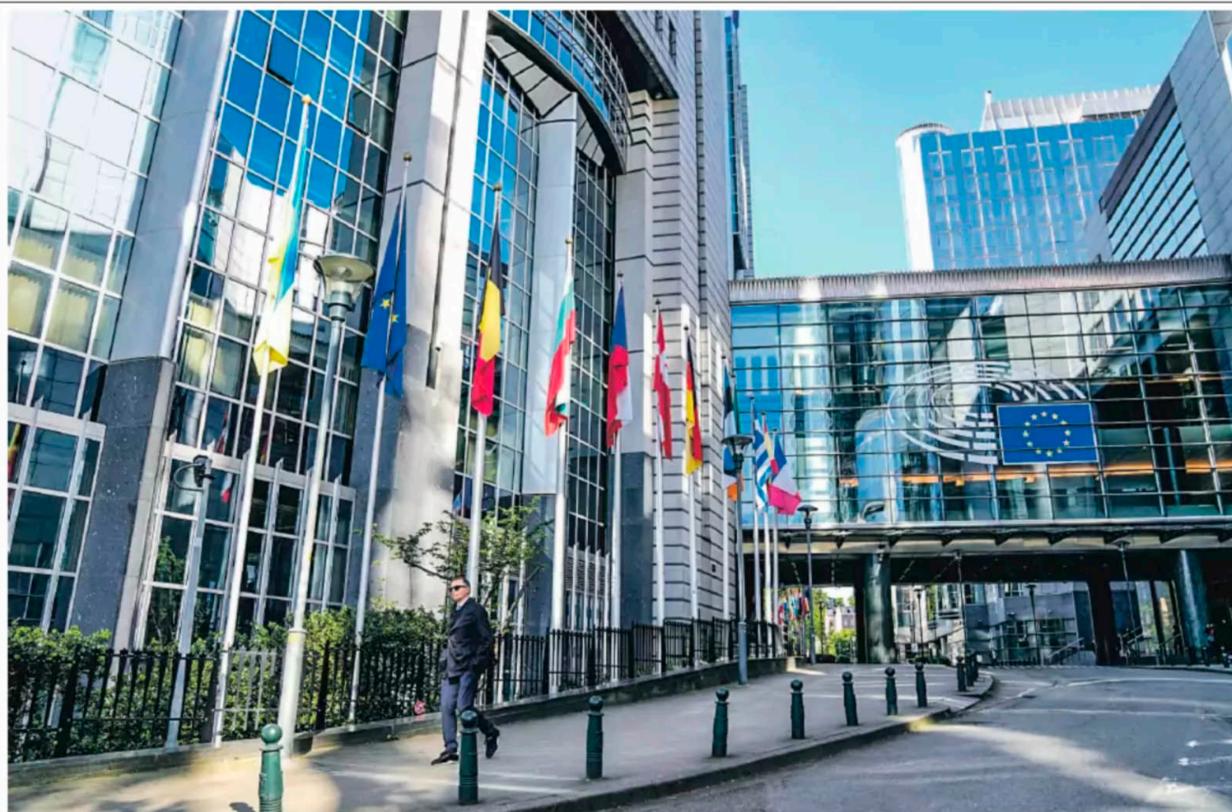
Half a dozen MEPs earn more from second jobs than as EU lawmakers, according to analysis that raises questions about potential conflicts of interest.

The campaign group Transparency International EU found 70% of the European parliament's 705 MEPs had side jobs, of which just over a quarter (26%) were paid. Six lawmakers earned more from their second job than the €120,900 (£103,000) annual gross MEP salary.

The highest-earning MEP declared €3m a year from a property business; another had a salary from his corporate law job that was almost as high as his MEP pay, while many more benefited from company board memberships and the lecture circuit.

Of the top 20 MEP earners, nine were members of the centre-right European People's party (EPP); a further six belonged to nationalist or far-right parties, or had been members of such groups in the recent past.

Also among the top 20 were two socialists; two liberals, including the former Brexit coordinator Guy



▲ Transparency International EU says its analysis raises questions about potential conflicts of interest

PHOTOGRAPH: VIRGINIA MAYO/AP PHOTO

Verhofstadt, who earned €131,988, mostly from company boards and the public speaking circuit.

László Trócsányi, a former Hungarian justice minister, earned an estimated €171,638 from a university rectorship and academic work.

French centre-right MEP Geoffrey Didier earned €115,200 from working as a corporate lawyer as well as other

earnings. He said his work as a lawyer was "totally legally compatible" with his MEP mandate, and "regarding the potential lack of time, I have been unanimously recognised as an MEP very committed in my work".

Monika Hohlmeier, a German centre-right MEP, declared €75,000 from sitting on the board of BayWa, a Munich-based conglomerate on the EU lobbyist's register. "I believe politicians should not only be active in the political ivory tower, but also have to engage outside parliament," she said.

Flemish nationalist MEP Johan Van

Overtveldt earned €30,000 sitting on a board of Nbx BV, an Antwerp-based tech company. His office said that board "focuses on international expansion plans, outside the EU. Hence, no conflict of interests."

The Guardian contacted all named MEPs for comment. None have broken any rules, but Transparency International EU said the range of second jobs raised concerns about conflicts of interest and potential foreign interference 18 months after the "Qatargate" scandal rocked the European parliament.

Tory hopes in ruins

An economic revival won't save Sunak now

Larry Elliott



Tory MPs have been busy this past week and probably not found the time to watch Shardlake, the adaptation of CJ Sansom's book set during the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s, but once the dust has settled from last week's elections they might want to take a look. This was a turbulent period. Having forced through his own version of Brexit through the break with Rome, Henry VIII then in effect nationalised the assets of religious houses dotted around England, Wales and Ireland. It was a seminal moment in the development of British capitalism and the nation state. But what should alarm Rishi

Sunak is the speed with which the monasteries went from being a mighty presence in the land to extinction. A process that began in 1536 was pretty much over by 1540. Something similar could be happening to the Conservative party. The Tories won an 80-seat majority at the 2019 general election. On the basis of last week's evidence from local elections they will do well to avoid a complete wipeout next time round. Andy Street's defeat in the West Midlands mayoral race showed how bad things are for the prime minister. Sunak still hopes an improving economy will boost his party's survival hopes, and there are three pieces of economic news coming up in the next two weeks that ought to be helpful: the interest rate decision by the Bank of England on Thursday, the growth figures on Friday and the inflation numbers the following week.

▼ Rievaulx Abbey, North Yorkshire. The monasteries went from being a mighty presence to extinction within a few years PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY LAWSON/PA



The Bank's monetary policy committee is not going to cut borrowing costs immediately but is expected to send out a signal on Thursday that a reduction will not be long in coming. The first move could come in late June, but mortgage rates will come down before that if the hint of an impending cut is strong enough. The following day, Office for National Statistics figures will show that the UK emerged from last year's shallow recession in the first three months of 2024, with the economy expanding by 0.3% or 0.4% in the first quarter of the year. Finally, the latest bulletin on

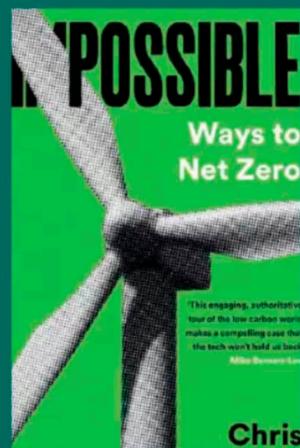
the cost of living is likely to show the annual inflation rate in April dropping from 3.2% to somewhere close to the government's 2% target, mainly due to the previous year's big jump in domestic energy bills not being replicated this year. The exit from recession and the fall in inflation will allow Sunak to say the economy has turned a corner, something the shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, will dispute in a speech tomorrow. She says there is a gulf between the message from Sunak and the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, and what voters think is happening, and that the public doesn't buy the idea that

things are getting better. There are reasons for that, Reeves will argue. The first is that numbers on a graph mean very little to people. The inflation rate is falling but that means prices are simply rising at a slower rate. The cost of the weekly shop for the average family is 25% higher than it was two years ago. A second reason why the Conservatives are not seeing any benefit from the economy is that Hunt and Sunak are celebrating a distinctly average performance. The UK, according to the latest forecast from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, will grow by just 0.4% in 2024, making it the second worst in the G7 group of large industrial nations after Germany. Likewise, an inflation rate of 2% might look good in comparison with its 11.1% peak in October 2022 but merely means the Bank is doing what it is supposed to do. There will be no victory from the jaws of defeat, as there was in 1992. The economy is going to remain in a low gear at least until the election, so the best the prime minister and chancellor can hope for is damage limitation. The result of the general election is not in doubt. A more intriguing question is whether the Tories survive defeat or go the way of the monasteries.

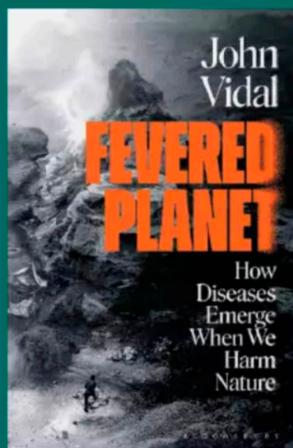
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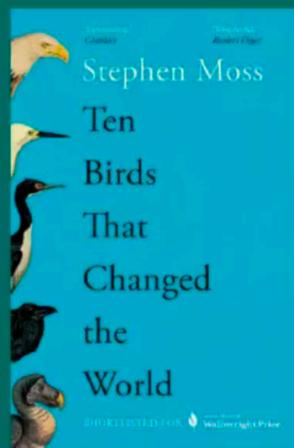
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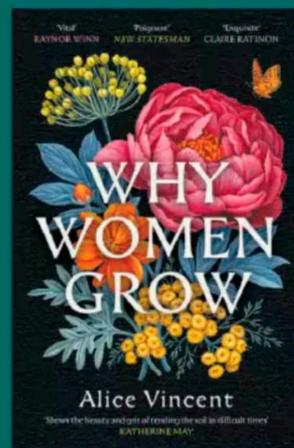
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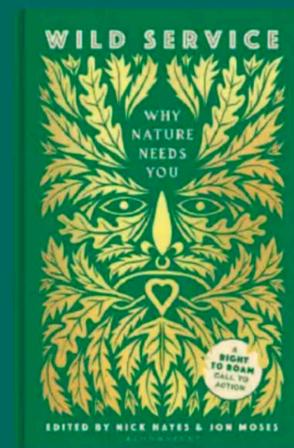
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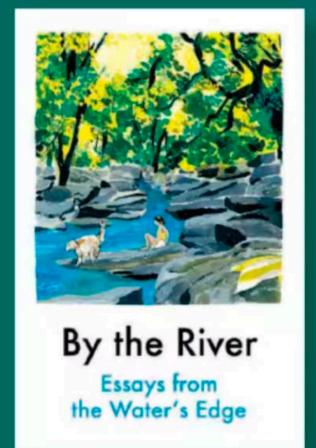
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◀ Shareholder Ivy Chen with cutouts of Charlie Munger, who died last year, and Warren Buffett at Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting

PHOTOGRAPH: SCOTT MORGAN/REUTERS

Berkshire Hathaway Buffett's successors must preserve the passion to keep crowds coming

Callum Jones
Omaha

A dawn broke on Saturday, thousands had gathered outside the CHI Health Center Arena in Omaha. Some arrived before 3.30am, standing for hours in the drizzle.

This was a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity", said Larry Blivas, 70, near the front of the line. The estate agent had travelled from Los Angeles to see "an icon", he explained.

"He's a legend," added Andrew Lee, 50, from New York.

The masses had not descended to catch a weathered rock star's farewell tour, but the annual meeting of Berkshire Hathaway, a conglomerate, chaired by a nonagenarian billionaire: Warren Buffett, 93, was about to take the stage. Many loyal fans wonder how many more times he will appear, and what the future holds for the company - and Omaha.

They call it "Woodstock for capitalists". For decades, tens of thousands of moneyed investors have flocked from across the world to the Nebraskan city for

a jamboree hosted by corporate America's answer to Lennon and McCartney.

Buffett and Charlie Munger - who died last year, aged 99 - amassed a legion of followers by transforming Berkshire Hathaway from a struggling textiles manufacturer into a sprawling global conglomerate - and generating handsome returns for shareholders along the way.

His empire, which includes a manufactured-housing business accused of exploitation, and gigantic investments in fossil fuels, is not without controversy. But to his investors, Buffett and Munger have long been heroes.

"They've made me a lot of money over the years," said Blivas. Buffett, in his view, is "the greatest of all time" - and "might not be around too much longer". When the time comes for a new generation to take charge, Blivas does not plan to turn up at 4am, as he did this weekend.

Munger's death in November marked the end of an era, and after more than half a century, Buffett is steeling disciples for the next chapter. Addressing Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting this weekend, he declared that its structure as a company,

designed by Munger, "lived beyond his lifetime, and will live far beyond mine".

Shareholders "don't have too long to wait" before his chosen successors step up, Buffett remarked at one point during the meeting. "Generally, I feel fine," he added hastily, "but I know a little bit about actuarial tables," conceding he "shouldn't be taking on any four-year employment contracts".

Greg Abel, his chosen successor, was at his side on Saturday. "One way or another, there are more than 24 hours in his day," Buffett told investors. "This place, if anything happened to me, it would be working extremely well the next day."

The prospect of Berkshire without Buffett tomorrow has, nevertheless, layered an air of apprehension across Omaha today.

The firm's shareholders diligently travel hundreds, if not, thousands, of miles to hear from the so-called sage of Omaha. Ninety-three per cent of the city's hotel rooms are said to be booked before each meeting, setting up one of the busiest weekends of the year for its businesses.

Whether Berkshire's new guard will have the same star power, and

pull such vast crowds - without the card-carrying capitalist icons who built it - is a worry for local people.

"The company is all about Buffett," said Colin Duggan, who owns and runs Kitchen Table, a downtown cafe, with his wife, Jessica. "If Buffett's not around? Yeah, we're nervous."

Buffett relocated Berkshire from New England to his hometown back in 1970, a few years after taking control. The company, and its chief executive, have stayed put ever since - and become omnipresent throughout the city.

Over the years, residents have spotted the tycoon (currently the world's ninth-richest person, according to Bloomberg, with a personal fortune of \$132bn (£105bn)) playing ping-pong with Bill Gates, eating ice-cream with Paul McCartney and having dinner with LeBron James - unlikely scenes in a city that sits not on the "elitist" coasts, but at the heart of America's Great Plains region.

Despite his extraordinary wealth, Buffett still famously lives in the five-bedroom house he bought for \$31,500 in 1958. "It's not a flashy neighbourhood, by any means. It's not a flashy house," laughed Colin Duggan, 45, who grew up in the area. "It was really, really strange to

'Keep an open mind. Come to Omaha. I not only hope you come next year, but I hope I come next year'

Warren Buffett
Berkshire Hathaway chair

see all these tourists, with cameras, taking pictures."

For all that the firm has given Omaha, Buffett claims, it has also been rewarded. Both its architects were born there, and the executives tapped to lead it forward - Abel, 61, who already oversees Berkshire's non-insurance businesses, and Ajit Jain, its vice-chairman of insurance operations, 72 - previously lived in the city.

"So what is going on? Is it Omaha's water? Is it Omaha's air?" Buffett wondered in his annual letter. "Is it some strange planetary phenomenon akin to that which has produced Jamaica's sprinters, Kenya's marathon runners, or Russia's chess grandmasters?"

"Keep an open mind. Come to Omaha in May, inhale the air, drink the water," he wrote, urging investors to introduce themselves to his sister, Bertie, "and her good-looking daughters".

Whether to hear from Buffett or meet Bertie's daughters, people came. "People love to see Warren," said Nancy, 62, who had travelled from Santa Fe, New Mexico. "Keeping the dream alive - the financial dream," added her friend Lisa, 60.

Thanking investors for coming, Buffett alluded once more to the question on so many of his shareholders' minds. "I not only hope you come next year, but I hope I come next year," he chuckled. His disciples took to their feet and applauded. "I'll see you next year," he said.

Under new management, Berkshire might continue to thrive. Profits within its insurance, railway and peanut-brittle businesses could surge; its \$336bn investment portfolio, with stakes in companies from Apple to Chevron, might swell; its stock may well scale fresh heights. But this firm was built around a fanbase: not just shareholders, but a unique, dedicated community of followers, who travel far and wide to catch the big show, buy the merchandise and jostle to get close to the stage.

While a fervent and vocal generation has emerged in recent years, it materialised online.

Young retail investors, to Buffett's dismay, mobilised on social media to coalesce around a string of "meme stocks" such as GameStop and AMC. Day-trading the hottest new fad on Robinhood could not be much further from his ardent belief in the power of long-term investment.

The challenge facing Buffett's successors will not just be to shore up profits, but to preserve the passion of Berkshire's true believers: those still prepared to put their faith in a conglomerate, rather than Reddit tips.

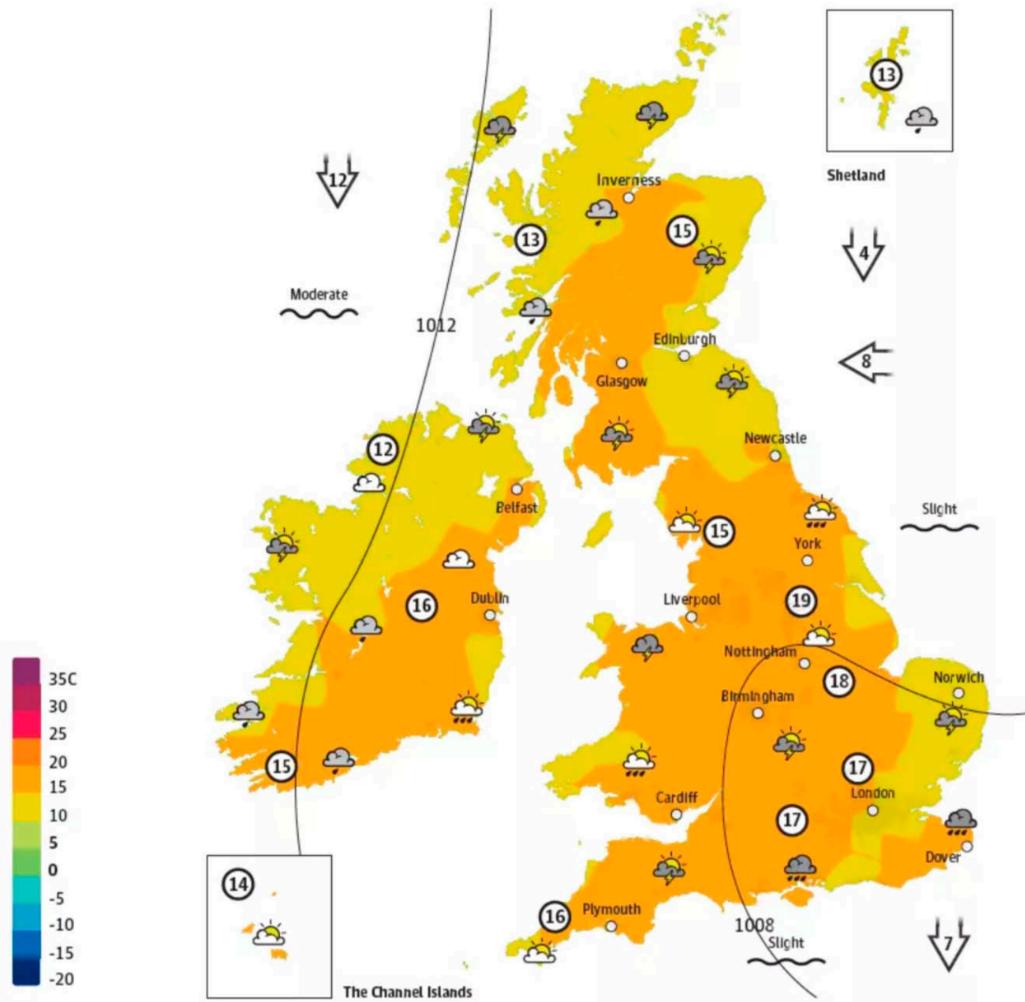
In years to come, on the morning of the firm's annual meeting, those in charge could do worse than wander Omaha's streets, and count how many investors remain willing to line up before sunrise for the best seats in the house.

Weather

Monday 6 May 2024

UK and Ireland Noon today

- Sunny
- Mist
- Fog
- Sunny intervals
- Hazy
- Mostly cloudy
- Overcast/dull
- Sunny showers
- Sunny and heavy showers
- Light showers
- Rain
- Sleet
- Light snow
- Snow showers
- Heavy snow
- Ice
- Thundery rain
- Thundery showers
- Temperature, °C
- Wind speed, mph



Forecast



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

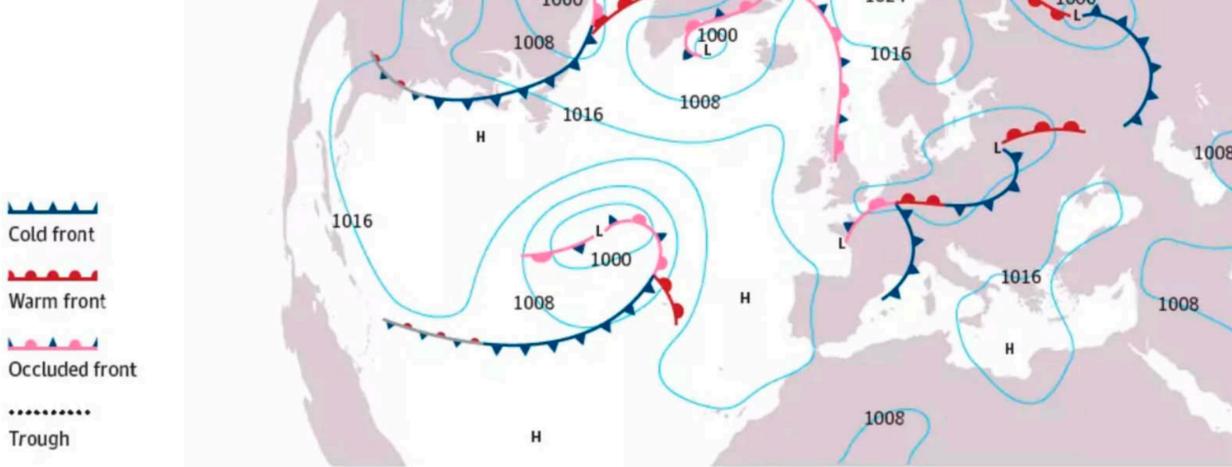
Latest	427.89
04 May 2024	427.89
Weekly average	
28 Apr 2024	427.00
05 May 2023	423.88
05 May 2014	402.00
Pre-industrial base	280
Safe level	350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

City	Low High	Precipitation	Air pollution
London	10 16	90%	Moderate
Manchester	10 18	65%	Moderate
Edinburgh	9 14	90%	Low
Belfast	7 15	25%	Low
Glasgow	10 16	90%	Low
Inverness	8 15	90%	Low
Leeds	10 19	65%	Moderate
Liverpool	10 16	65%	Moderate
Newcastle	9 14	85%	Low
Sheffield	10 19	65%	Moderate

Atlantic front



High tides

Location	Time	1st Tide	2nd Tide
Aberdeen	0038	4.0m	4.2m
Avonmouth	0631	12.8m	13.0m
Barrow	1043	9.3m	9.1m
Belfast	1023	3.5m	3.4m
Cobh	0438	4.0m	4.0m
Cromer	0603	4.7m	5.1m
Dover	1039	6.4m	6.7m
Dublin	1051	4.1m	3.9m
Galway	0422	5.0m	5.1m
Greenock	--	--	1149 3.4m
Harwich	1108	4.0m	3.9m
Holyhead	0933	5.6m	5.4m
Hull	0542	7.1m	7.5m
Leith	0144	5.3m	5.5m
Liverpool	1023	9.3m	9.1m
London Bridge	0043	6.7m	6.9m
Lossiemouth	1058	4.0m	4.0m
Milford Haven	0527	6.8m	6.8m
Newquay	0421	6.8m	6.7m
North Shields	0243	4.8m	5.0m
Oban	0515	4.0m	3.7m
Penzance	0353	5.4m	5.3m
Plymouth	0458	5.3m	5.3m
Portsmouth	1036	4.5m	4.8m
Southport	0951	9.0m	8.8m
Stornoway	0605	4.8m	4.6m
Weymouth	0517	1.3m	1.3m
Whitby	0316	5.3m	5.5m
Wick	1032	3.4m	3.3m
Workington	1047	8.2m	8.1m

Sun & Moon

Sun rises	0522
Sun sets	2032
Moon rises	0433
Moon sets	1840
New Moon	8 May

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Lighting up

Belfast	2109 to 0533
Birm'ham	2042 to 0524
Brighton	2030 to 0523
Bristol	2042 to 0532
Carlisle	2057 to 0518
Cork	2107 to 0553
Dublin	2104 to 0538
Glasgow	2107 to 0520
Harlech	2053 to 0532
Inverness	2114 to 0511
London	2032 to 0520
M'chester	2048 to 0522
Newcastle	2053 to 0513
Norwich	2031 to 0511
Penzance	2049 to 0547

Starwatch



Today we'll look at a pattern of stars, a grouping known as an asterism, that heralds the season of spring. In the northern hemisphere, this asterism is known as the Spring Triangle, but in the southern hemisphere, Autumn Triangle would be more appropriate. It is formed by three bright stars in three constellations that are prominent at this time of year.

The stars are Arcturus in Boötes, the herdsman; Spica in Virgo, the virgin; and Regulus in Leo, the lion. The chart shows the view looking south from London at 10pm this evening, and it will essentially remain unchanged all week. Look for the colour of the three stars, which is an indication of their surface temperatures. Arcturus is orange, with a surface temperature of about 4,200K (3,930°C). Spica is a brilliant blue-white at about 25,000K and Regulus is white at about 11,500K. **Stuart Clark**

Around the world

Algiers	25	Lisbon	21
Ams'dam	18	Madrid	22
Athens	23	Malaga	28
Auckland	17	Melb'rne	19
B Aires	20	Mexico C	32
Bangkok	36	Miami	30
Barcelona	21	Milan	20
Basra	33	Mombasa	28
Beijing	26	Moscow	10
Berlin	20	Mumbai	33
Bermuda	21	N Orleans	30
Brussels	16	Nairobi	23
Budapest	25	New Delhi	41
C'hagen	15	New York	22
Cairo	27	Oslo	16
Cape Town	20	Paris	17
Chicago	21	Perth	20
Corfu	23	Prague	19
Dakar	27	Reykjavik	7
Dhaka	31	Rio de J	29
Dublin	16	Rome	21
Florence	22	Shanghai	27
Gibraltar	24	Singapore	31
H Kong	31	Stock'h'm	11
Harare	29	Stras'b'g	16
Helsinki	9	Sydney	20
Istanbul	18	Tel Aviv	23
Jo'burg	26	Tenerife	25
K Lumpur	32	Tokyo	23
K'mandu	31	Toronto	20
Kabul	24	Vancouv'r	13
Kingston	31	Vienna	24
Kolkata	35	Warsaw	21
L Angeles	22	Wash'ton	25
Lagos	33	Well'ton	16
Lima	22	Zurich	16

Cricket

Trim schedule or face 'disaster', warn players

Page 35 →

Football

Bamford the leading man Leeds need to have back

Page 39 →



Sport

33



▲ Roger Bannister breaks the tape in Oxford to become the first man to beat the four-minute barrier for running a mile
AP

Breaking barriers

Bannister's towering achievement still stands the test of time 70 years on

Sean Ingle



Perhaps it takes one sporting giant to truly appreciate the towering performance of another. Exactly 70 years ago today, Sir Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes, a target that existed purely in the realms of the fantastical until, on that blustery Oxford day in 1954, he subverted the possible. How good was it? Well, when I asked Sebastian Coe to put it into a wider context last week, he replied: "On every metric, I think it is arguably at the top of all sporting achievements in the last 100 years."

That is high praise indeed from someone who was himself a double Olympic champion and broke multiple world records. And while the fact that Bannister's time of 3min 59.4sec chopped two seconds off the previous world record is staggering enough, that was only part of Coe's case. "People don't appreciate the mental barrier that he also had to break through," he pointed out. "He was a doctor. And he would say to me: 'I used to read articles in medical journals saying that if anybody tried it, they would probably die in the process'."

Coe acknowledged other significant obstacles: Bannister grew up on wartime rations, raced on a cinder track more suitable to speedway than fast times, and wore racing spikes so heavy that, when Coe held them decades later, he found that one weighed more than his two modern shoes combined.

Bannister also held down a full-time job and when he and Coe compared their training diaries before they broke their mile world records, they both

laughed: "I probably did in three days the intensity of what he did in a week and a half," says Coe of his good friend.

"He was privately very funny," he adds. "I remember having tea with him in his house at Oxford and he told me that he had Parkinson's. And I said, 'Roger, I'm really sorry, have you had a second opinion?' And he looked at me absolutely dismissively and said 'why would I do that? I diagnosed it myself: Because he was a top neurologist.'"

Before his death in 2018, I was fortunate enough to speak to Bannister a couple of times, and relive that famous day through his eyes. It began with a bowl of porridge for breakfast, a morning spent in hospital, and an earlier-than-planned train to Oxford. At this point, Bannister feared the 25mph gusts would force him to abort his attempt. But by chance he bumped into his coach Franz Stampfl who, having spent months building Bannister's aerobic and anaerobic capacities, now had to work on his mind.

"Roger, the weather is terrible, but even if it is as bad as this, I think you are capable of running a mile in good conditions in 3:56," Stampfl told him. "If you pass up today, you may never forgive yourself for the rest of your life. You will feel pain, but what is it? It's just pain."

But still he dithered. At 5.15pm - 45 minutes before the race was due to start - it began to rain and Bannister could sense his pacemakers, Chris Brasher and Chris Chataway, becoming increasingly irritated that he hadn't made up his mind. But when the squalls eased and the flag at the church tower dropped 15 minutes later, the attempt was on.

I remembered Bannister telling me how he felt so good on the first lap he shouted "faster" at Brasher, even though he flew through it in 57.7 secs. About how halfway was reached in 1:58:3 before a slower third lap meant that he needed to go under 59 seconds for the final lap. Then how the adrenaline kicked in, and history was made.

"It was as if all my limbs were caught in an ever-tightening vice," Bannister remembered in his autobiography. "Blood surged from my muscles to my brain and seemed to fell me. I felt like an exploded flashbulb. Vision became black and white. I knew that I had done it before I heard the time."

The four-minute barrier was shattered. And so were people's perceptions. Six weeks later, the Australian John Landy lowered the mark again to 3 mins 58.0sec. Yet Bannister's run still resonates, largely because of the sheer scale of the achievement and the fact it was filmed by the BBC.

This was also an era where mythical barriers were flown through, clambered over, ran down. In 1947, Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier.

Six years later, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay conquered Everest. And in 1954 came Bannister, a new king of the wild frontier. Yet because of athletics' strict rules over amateur status, he was unable to benefit financially from this achievement.

For Bannister, sport was not about money but giving one's all and learning life lessons. As he put it: "Sport is about not being wrapped up in cotton wool. Sport is about adapting to the unexpected and being able to modify plans at the last minute. Sport, like all life, is about taking your chances."

Meanwhile his legend lives on. At 6pm today, the Iffley Road track where he set his record will host a series of mile races, with several former world record holders, including Hicham El Guerrouj, Noureddine Morceli, Filbert Bayi and Steve Cram flying in to pay homage.

"And if you stopped people in the street and asked them who Roger Bannister is, a good chunk would still remember," says Coe, about the man who showed them all the way.

The week ahead



Beth England will lead Spurs out for the Women's FA Cup final

Today

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Premier League
 Crystal Palace v Man Utd (8pm)
Sky Sports Premier League
Sky Bet League Two
Playoffs: Semi-final: First leg
 Crawley v MK Dons (3pm) SSF;
 Crewe v Doncaster (5.30pm) SSF
Vanarama National League South
Playoffs: Final Worthing v Baintree (3pm) TNT Sports 1
Cricket (10.30am unless stated)
Fourth Women's T20 International
 Bangladesh v India, Sylhet (11am)
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy
 The Blaze v Thunder, Trent Bridge
Tennis
ATP/WTA Internazionali BNL d'Italia
 Rome (to 18 May) SSME
Snooker
World Championship
 Sheffield Eurosport 2/BBC iPlayer
Cycling
Giro d'Italia
 Italy (to 26 May) Eurosport 1
Darts
Players Championship
 Hildesheim, Germany (to tomorrow)
Racing
 Bath, Beverley, Kempton, Warwick, Windsor, Down Royal, Curragh

Tomorrow

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Champions League
Semi-final: Second leg PSG (0) v Borussia Dortmund (1) (8pm) TNT51
Sky Bet League One
Playoffs: Semi-final: Second leg
 Bolton (3) v Barnsley (1) (8pm) SSF
cinch Scottish Championship
Playoffs: Quarter-final: First leg
 Airdrieonians v Partick Thistle
 BBC Scotland/BBC iPlayer
Cricket (10.30am)
Third Men's T20 International
 Bangladesh v Zimbabwe, Chittagong
Racing
 Fakenham, Ffos Las, Southwell, Worcester, Ballinrobe

Wednesday

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Champions League
Semi-final: Second leg Real Madrid (2) v Bayern Munich (2) (8pm) TNT51
Europa Conference League
Semi-final: Second leg Club Brugge (2) v Fiorentina (3) (5.45pm) TNT52
Sky Bet League One
Playoffs: Semi-final: Second leg
 Peterborough (0) v Oxford Utd (1) (8pm) SSF
Cricket (10.30am unless stated)
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy
 South East Stars v Northern Diamonds, Beckenham; Sunrisers v Southern Vipers, Redlett; The Blaze v Western Storm, Trent Bridge; Thunder v Central Sparks, Old Trafford
Racing
 Chester, Fontwell, Kelso, Kempton, Newton Abbot, Gowran

Thursday

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Europa League
Semi-finals: Second leg Atalanta (1) v Marseille (1) (8pm) TNT53;
 Bayer Leverkusen (2) v Roma (0) (8pm) TNT52
Europa Conference League
Semi-final: Second leg Olympiakos (4) v Aston Villa (2) (8pm) TNT51

The main event

Manchester United v Arsenal
 4.30pm, Sunday, Sky Sports
 Mikel Arteta visits Old Trafford knowing his Arsenal side must overcome United to maintain their title challenge



Sky Bet League Two

Playoffs: Semi-final: Second leg
 MK Dons v Crawley (8pm) SSF
Rugby league
Betfred Super League
 Warrington Wolves v Hull Kingston Rovers (8pm) Sky Sports Arena

Cricket

Fifth Women's T20 International
 Charlotte, North Carolina (to Sun)
Wells Fargo Championship
 Charlotte, North Carolina (to Sun)
Sky Sports Golf
Founders Cup
 Clifton, New Jersey

Darts

BetMGM PDC Premier League
 Leeds Sky Sports Action

Racing

Brighton, Chelmsford, Chester, Huntingdon, Stratford, Tipperary

Friday

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Sky Bet League Two
Playoffs: Semi-final: Second leg
 Doncaster v Crewe (8pm) SSF
cinch Scottish Championship
Playoffs: Quarter-final: Second leg
 Partick Thistle v Airdrieonians
 BBC Scotland/BBC iPlayer
Cymru Premier League
Conference League playoffs:
 Semi-final Caernarfon v Cardiff MU

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership
 Newcastle v Bath (7.45pm);
 Sale v Leicester (7.45pm)
United Championship
 Dragons v Stormers (7.35pm) BBC
 Two; Edinburgh v Zebre (7.35pm)

Rugby league

Betfred Super League
 Castleford v Tigers v St Helens (8pm)
 Sky Sports Arena; Leigh Leopards v Salford Red Devils (8.05pm) Sky Sports Action/BBC Three/BBC iPlayer
Cricket (11am unless stated)
Fourth Men's T20 International
 Bangladesh v Zimbabwe, Chittagong (10am)

First Men's Twenty20 International

Ireland v Pakistan, Dublin (3pm)
Irish County Championship
 (first day of four)
Division One Hampshire v Durham, Rose Bowl; Kent v Worcestershire, Canterbury; Nottinghamshire v Lancashire, Trent Bridge; Surrey v Warwickshire, The Kia Oval
Division Two Glamorgan v Sussex, Sophia Gardens; Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire, Northampton

Golf

Aramco Team Series Seoul
 South Korea (to Sun)

Athletics

Diamond League Doha
 Qatar

Cycling

Itzulia Women
 Basque Country, Spain (to Sun)

Darts

Baltic Sea Open
 Kiel, Germany (to Sun)

Racing

Ascot, Chester, Market Rasen, Nottingham, Ripon, Sedgfield, Downpatrick, Cork

Cricket

Fifth Men's T20 International
 Bangladesh v Zimbabwe, Mirpur
Second Men's T20 International
 Ireland v Pakistan, Dublin (3pm)

Rugby union

Allianz Women's Premiership
 Loughborough v Gloucester-Hartpury (3pm)
Rugby league
Betfred Super League
 London Broncos v Hull FC (3pm)
Betfred Women's Super League
 Warrington Wolves v Barrow (noon);
 York Valkyrie v Leeds Rhinos (noon)
1895 Cup
Semi-finals Bradford Bulls v Wakefield Trinity (3pm); York Knights v Sheffield Eagles (3pm)
Cricket (5am unless stated)
Fifth Men's T20 International
 Bangladesh v Zimbabwe, Mirpur
Second Men's T20 International
 Ireland v Pakistan, Dublin (3pm)

Rugby league

Betfred Super League
 Wigan v Warrington (7pm);
 St Helens v Hull KR (7pm);
 Catalan v Salford (7pm);
 Leeds v Huddersfield (7pm);
 Leigh v Castleford (7pm);
 Hull v London Broncos (7pm)

BETRED SUPER LEAGUE

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wigan	9	7	0	2	264	126	+138
Warrington	10	7	0	3	266	135	+131
St Helens	10	7	0	3	229	110	+119
Hull KR	10	7	0	3	254	149	+105
Catalan	10	7	0	3	218	152	+66
Salford	10	7	0	3	198	186	+12
Leeds	10	6	0	4	204	172	+32
Huddersfield	10	5	0	5	234	181	+53
Leigh	9	2	1	6	188	172	+16
Castleford	10	2	1	7	180	292	-112
Hull	10	1	0	9	104	352	-248
London Broncos	10	0	0	10	82	394	-312

BETRED CHAMPIONSHIP

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wakefield	7	7	0	0	252	72	+180
Sheffield	7	6	0	1	224	98	+126
Widnes	7	6	0	1	190	97	+93
Featherstone	7	5	0	2	192	132	+60
Bradford	7	4	0	3	149	129	+20
Toulouse	7	3	0	4	158	130	+28
Doncaster	7	3	0	4	156	168	-12
Swinton	7	3	0	4	140	154	-14
Whitehaven	7	3	0	4	133	189	-56
Barrow	7	3	0	4	102	207	-105
Batley	7	2	0	5	109	154	-45
Halifax	7	2	0	5	94	199	-105
York	7	1	0	6	113	193	-80
Dewsbury	7	1	0	6	115	205	-90

PREMIER LEAGUE

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	36	26	5	5	88	28	+60
Manchester City	35	25	7	3	87	33	+54
Liverpool	36	23	9	4	81	38	+43
Aston Villa	36	20	7	9	73	53	+20
Tottenham	35	18	6	11	69	58	+11
Newcastle	35	17	5	13	78	56	+22
Chelsea	35	15	9	11	70	59	+11
Manchester United	34	16	6	12	52	51	+1
West Ham	36	13	10	13	56	70	-14
Bournemouth	36	13	9	14	52	63	-11
Brighton	35	12	11	12	53	57	-4
Wolves	36	13	7	16	49	60	-11
Fulham	36	12	8	16	51	55	-4
Crystal Palace	35	10	10	15	45	57	-12
Everton*	36	12	9	15	38	49	-11
Brentford	36	9	9	18	52	60	-8
Nottingham Forest†	36	8	9	19	45	63	-18
Luton	36	6	8	22	49	78	-29
Burnley	36	5	9	22	39	74	-35
Sheffield United R	36	3	7	26	35	100	-65

*Everton deducted 8pts. †Nottingham Forest deducted 4pts

Arsenal (1) 3 Bournemouth (0) 0
 Saka 45pen, Trossard 70
 Rice 90+7 60,348

Brentford (0) 0 Fulham (0) 0
 Pedro 87

Brighton (0) 1 Aston Villa (0) 0
 O'Shea 86
 Wilson 19, Longstaff 35
 Guimaraes 40, Isak 55

Burnley (0) 1 Newcastle (3) 4
 Palmer 15, Gallagher 30
 Madueke 36
 Jackson 48 80

Chelsea (3) 5 West Ham (0) 0
 Salah 16, Robertson 45
 Richarlison 72, Son 77

Liverpool (2) 4 Tottenham (0) 2
 Gakpo 50, Elliott 59
 Haaland 12pn 35 45+3pn 54
 Alvarez 85

Manchester City (3) 5 Wolves (0) 1
 Sheffield United (1) 1 Nottingham Forest (1) 3
 Brereton 17pen
 Hudson-Odoi 27 65, Yates 51
 28,516

Played on Friday
 Luton (1) 1 Everton (1) 1
 Adebayo 31
 Calvert-Lewin 24pen

Birmingham (0) 1 Norwich (0) 0
 Paik 55
 Coventry (0) 1 QPR (2) 2
 Allen 83
 Chair 33, Fox 40

Ipswich (1) 2 Huddersfield (0) 0
 Burns 27, Hutchinson 48
 29,011

Leeds (1) 1 Southampton (2) 2
 Piroe 21
 A Armstrong 18
 Smallbone 35

Leicester (0) 0 Blackburn (0) 2
 32,117
 Szmodics 68 90

Middlesbrough (1) 3 Watford (0) 1
 Latte Lath 28, Bangura 78
 Hoedt 73

Plymouth (1) 1 Hull (0) 0
 Edwards 40
 16,881

Rotherham (2) 5 Cardiff (1) 2
 Huggill 25 69
 Phillips 38, Tanner 47
 10,547

Stoke (3) 4 Bristol City (0) 0
 Cundle 25, Campbell 45
 Manhoef 45 49

Other results and cricket scoreboard

Rugby union

INVESTEC EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP
Semi-finals: Leinster 20 Northampton 17;
 Toulouse 38 Harlequins 26

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP

Semi-finals: Gloucester 40 Benetton 23;
 Sharks 32 Clermont Auvergne 31

RFU CHAMPIONSHIP

P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Ealing Trailfinders	18	15	0	3	752	385	16
Coventry	19	14	0	5	686	406	17
Cornish Pirates	18	13	1	4	530	368	12
Bedford	18	11	0	7	544	473	15
Doncaster	18	10	1	7	475	474	9
Amphill	18	9	0	9	500	535	14
Hartpury RFC	18	9	0	9	540	501	12
Nottingham	19	7	0	12	459	607	14
London Scottish	18	4	1	13	451	543	14
Caldy	18	4	1	13	376	619	7
Cambridge	18	2	0	16	326	728	9

Bedford 32 Doncaster 29; Ealing Trailfinders 57 Amphill 14;
 Hartpury 57 Caldly 36
Friday Coventry 27 London Scottish 14;
 Nottingham 7 Cornish Pirates 29

Rugby league

BETRED SUPER LEAGUE
 Wigan v Warrington (7pm);
 St Helens v Hull KR (7pm);
 Catalan v Salford (7pm);
 Leeds v Huddersfield (7pm);
 Leigh v Castleford (7pm);
 Hull v London Broncos (7pm)

BETRED CHAMPIONSHIP

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wakefield	7	7	0	0	252	72	+180
Sheffield	7	6	0	1	224	98	+126
Widnes	7	6	0	1	190	97	+93
Featherstone	7	5	0	2	192	132	+60
Bradford	7	4	0	3	149	129	+20
Toulouse	7	3	0	4	158	130	+28
Doncaster	7	3	0	4	156	168	-12
Swinton	7	3	0	4	140	154	-14
Whitehaven	7	3	0	4	133	189	-56
Barrow	7	3	0	4	102	207	-105
Batley	7	2	0	5	109	154	-45
Halifax	7	2	0	5	94	199	-105
York	7	1	0	6	113	193	-80
Dewsbury	7	1	0	6	115	205	-90

Barrow 24 Batley 14; Dewsbury 21 Toulouse 38;
 Featherstone 36 Halifax 16; Swinton 12 Bradford 38;
 Widnes 16 Doncaster 14; York Knights 16 Whitehaven 36
Friday Sheffield 10 Wakefield 36

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Leicester C	46	31	4	11	89	41	+48
Manchester P	46	28	12	6	92	57	+35
Leeds	46	27	9	10	81	43	+38
Southampton	46	26	9	11			

Rangers (1) 4 Silva 45+8, Davies 62 Lawrence 71, Souttar 90+3	Kilmarnock (1) 1 Tavernier 12og
Ross County (1) 2 Murray 21, White 88 3,856	Hibernian (1) 1 Maolida 15

CINCH CHAMPIONSHIP									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
Dundee Utd C	36	22	9	5	73	23	+50	75	
Raith	36	20	9	7	58	42	+16	69	
Partick	36	14	13	9	63	54	+9	55	
Airdrieonians	36	15	7	14	44	44	0	52	
Morton	36	12	9	15	43	46	-3	45	
Dunfermline	36	11	12	13	43	48	-5	45	
Ayr	36	12	8	16	53	61	-8	44	
Queen's Park	36	11	10	15	50	56	-6	43	
Inverness CT	36	10	12	14	41	40	+1	42	
Arbroath R	36	6	5	25	35	89	-54	23	

Friday Ayr 3 Dunfermline 3; Dundee U 4 Partick 1; Inverness 3 Morton 1; Queen's Park 2 Airdrieonians 0; Raith 5 Arbroath 0

CINCH LEAGUE ONE									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
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 Rangers	36	14	7	15	58	63	-5	49	
Kelty Hearts	36	12	8	16	48	63	-15	44	
Queen of the South	36	11	8	17	46	53	-7	41	
Annan Athletic	36	9	12	15	55	68	-13	39	
Stirling	36	10	9	17	39	58	-19	39	
Edinburgh City* R	36	3	5	28	38	98	-60	8	

*Edinburgh City deducted 6pts

Cove 3 Edinburgh City 1; Hamilton 4 Kelty 1; Montrose 3 Queen of the South 2; Stirling 1 Annan 1; Falkirk 2 Alloa 2

CINCH LEAGUE TWO									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
Stenhousemuir 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 Rose	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	

Bonnyrigg 4 Forfar 0; East Fife 1 Spartans 2; Elgin 0 Clyde 3; Peterhead 2 Dumbarton 1; Stranraer 2 Stenhousemuir 0

Yorkshire v Glamorgan

Headingley Glamorgan (2pts) trail Yorkshire (8pts) by 127 runs with seven second-innings wickets remaining.

Glamorgan First innings 221 (WT Root 51; DM Bess 4-25, D Moriarty 4-74).

Yorkshire First innings (overnight 295-2)

FJ Root b Crane.....	173
JE Root lbw b Harris.....	156
HC Brook c Sub b Crane.....	65
JA Tattersall st Cooke b Crane.....	55
ML Revis b Crane.....	1
DM Bess not out.....	0
Extras (b9, lb6).....	15
Total (for 7 dec, 94.1 overs).....	519

Fall cont 359, 431, 510, 518, 519.

Did not bat MD Fisher, BO Coad, D Moriarty.

Bowling Hamza 15-2-64-1; McIlroy 16-3-72-0; Harris 16-0-86-1; Carlson 14-1-66-0; Crane 23.1-1-152-5; Bevan 10-0-64-0.

Glamorgan Second innings

EJ Byrom c Coad b Bess.....	30
WT Root b Moriarty.....	35
SA Northeast not out.....	46
KS Carlson run out.....	15
CA Ingram not out.....	43
Extras (nb2).....	2
Total (for 3, 56 overs).....	171

Fall 56, 72, 93.

To bat +CB Cooke, TR Bevan, JAR Harris, MS Crane, JP McIlroy, Mir Hamza.

Bowling Coad 5-0-29-0; Fisher 3-1-2-0; Moriarty 23-6-61-1; Bess 19-4-48-1; Root 3-0-5-0; Revis 3-0-15-0.

Toss Glamorgan elected to bat.

Umpires I Blackwell and M Newell.

FIRST MEN'S T20 INTERNATIONAL

Chattogram Zimbabwe 138-7 (JMR Campbell 45, BJ Bennett 44). Bangladesh 142-4. Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by six wickets.

WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Abu Dhabi Ireland 110-9 (L Paul 45; KE Bryce 4-8). Scotland 112-2 (M McColl 50). Scotland beat Ireland by eight wickets.

RACHAEL HEYHOE FLINT TROPHY

Edgbaston Northern Diamonds 216 (EA Burns 49). Central Sparks 215 (E Jones 65). Diamonds beat Sparks by one run.

Northampton Sunrisers 222-9. SE Stars 223-5 (S Dunkley 67, A Davidson-Richards 50). Stars beat Sunrisers by five wickets.

Bristol Southern Vipers 295-5 (CR Knott 102, GL Adams 65). Western Storm 291-9 (HC Knight 62, FC Wilson 53, SN Luff 51, DR Gibson 51). Vipers beat Storm by four runs.

Tennis

ATP/WTA MADRID OPEN (Spain)

Men: Final: A Rublev (Rus) bt F Auger-Aliassime (Can) 4-6 7-5 7-5

Women: Final: I Swiatek (Pol) bt A Sabalenka (Rus) 7-5 4-6 7-6(7)

Golf

THE CJ CUP BYRON NELSON (Texas)

Leading third-round scores (US unless stated): 194 T Pendrith (Can) 64 67 63. 195 J Knapp 64 64 67. 196 B Kohles 65 66 65; M Wallace (Eng) 63 66 67. 198 K Kraft 64 66 68; A Norén (Swe) 64 68 66. 199 An B (Kor) 66 67 66; T Merritt 67 62 70; K Tway 69 66 64; V Whaley 70 63 66. 200 N Dunlap 66 67 67; B Griffin 69 64 67; S Jäger (Ger) 66 68 66; Z Johnson 66 67 67; Kang S (Kor) 68 68 64; Kim SH (Kor) 68 64 68; Kim SW (Kor) 68 65 67; M Lee (Aus) 66 68 66; K Mitchell 66 65 69; A Rai (Eng) 67 65 68.

BARCLAYS WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	21	17	1	3	59	14	+45	52
Chelsea	20	16	1	3	64	18	+46	49
Arsenal	21	15	2	4	48	20	+28	47
Liverpool	21	11	5	5	32	28	+4	38
Manchester United	21	10	5	6	42	26	+16	35
Tottenham	20	7	7	6	28	34	-6	28
Aston Villa	21	7	3	11	26	41	-15	24
Everton	21	5	5	11	20	37	-17	20
Brighton	21	5	4	12	26	43	-17	19
Leicester	21	4	6	11	26	41	-15	18
West Ham	21	3	6	12	19	42	-23	15
Bristol City	21	1	3	17	20	66	-46	6

Brighton (0) 0 **Aston Villa** (0) 1
2,651 Lehmann 64

Chelsea (2) 8 **Bristol City** (0) 0
Reiten 6pen 56 70 77

Nusken 23, **Charley** 74
Beever-Jones 52 88

Everton (2) 2 **Tottenham** (1) 2
Holmgard 10 Spence 45, England 48
Vanhaevermaet 15

Liverpool (1) 1 **Manchester United** (0) 0
Clark 45+3 4,567

Manchester City (1) 1 **Arsenal** (0) 2
Hemp 17 Blackstenius 89 90+2

West Ham (1) 1 **Leicester** (1) 1
Ueki 13 Howard 36

CLEARER WATER NORTHERN IRISH CUP

Final Cliftonville 3 Linfield 1

LA LIGA

Celta Vigo 3 Villarreal 2; Girona 4 Barcelona 2; Mallorca 0 Atl Madrid 1; Osasuna 0 Betis 2; Rayo Vallecano 0 Almeria 1; Real Madrid 3 Cádiz 0; Real Sociedad 2 Las Palmas 0; Sevilla 3 Granada 0; Valencia 0 Alavés 1 **Friday** Getafe 0 Ath Bilbao 2

BUNDESLIGA

Cologne 0 Freiburg 0; Dortmund 5 Augsburg 1; E Frankfurt 1 Leverkusen 5; Heidenheim 1 Mainz 1; Stuttgart 3 B Munch 1; Union Berlin 3 Bochum 4; Werder Bremen 2 B M'gladbach 2; Wolfsburg 3 Darmstadt 0 **Friday** Hoffenheim 1 RB Leipzig 1

SERIE A

Cagliari 1 Lecce 1; Empoli 0 Frosinone 0; Milan 3 Genoa 3; Monza 2 Lazio 2; Roma 1 Juventus 1; Sassuolo 1 Internazionale 0; Verona 2 Fiorentina 1 **Friday** Torino 0 Bologna 0

LIGUE 1

Brest 0 Nantes 0; Le Havre 3 Strasbourg 1; Metz 2 Rennes 3; Monaco 4 Clermont 1 **Friday** Lens 2 Lorient 0; Toulouse 1 Montpellier 2

VOLVO CHINA OPEN (Shenzhen)

Leading final scores (Chn unless stated): 198 A Otaegui (Sp) 67 66 65. 199 G Migliozzi (It) 65 67 67. 200 S Söderberg (Swe) 63 65 72; P Waring (Eng) 66 65 69; J Girschbach (Swi) 66 67 67. 201 LJ Go (Phi) 68 66 67. 202 B Stone (SA) 74 64 64. 203 J Veerman 69 68 66; M Schwab (Aut) 67 68 68. 204 A Rozner (Fr) 68 69 67. 205 Y Paul (Ger) 67 70 68; F Schott (Ger) 67 69 69. 206 J Luiten (Neth) 69 67 70; D Law (Sco) 68 71 67; C Sordet (Fr) 66 74 66; F Lacroix (Fr) 70 65 71. 207 J Svensson (Swe) 69 67 71; R Ramsay (Sco) 72 68 67; Z Lombard (SA) 66 68 73; S Jamieson (Sco) 69 70 68; S Tarrío (Sp) 70 70 67; M Penge (Eng) 71 70 66.

Snooker

SNOOZ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Sheffield)

Final (first to 18): K Wilson (Eng) led Jak Jones (Wal) 11-6

Semi-final: K Wilson (Eng) bt D Gilbert (Eng) 17-11; Jak Jones (Wal) bt S Bingham (Eng) 17-12

Cycling

GIRO D'ITALIA

Stage one (Venaria Reale-Torino, 136km): 1 J Narváez (Ecu) Ineos Grenadiers 3hr 14min 23sec; 2 M Schachmann (Ger) Bora-Hansgrohe; 3 T Pogacar (Svn) UAE Team Emirates both at same time. **Selected others:** 10 G Thomas (GB) Ineos Grenadiers +10sec

Stage two (San Francisco Al Campo-Santuario di Oropa, 161km): 1 T Pogacar (Svn) UAE Emirates 3hrs 54mins 20sec; 2 D Martínez (Col) Bora-Hansgrohe +27sec; 3 G Thomas (GB); 4 L Fortunato (It) Astana Qazaqstan; 5 F Lipowitz (Ger) Bora-Hansgrohe all at same time

Overall standings: 1 T Pogacar (Svn) 7hrs 08mins 29sec; 2 G Thomas (GB) +45sec; 3 D Martínez (Col) at same time; 4 C Uijtendroels (Bel) Visma | Lease a Bike +54; 5 E Rubio (Col) Movistar at same time. **Selected others:** 37 E Dunbar (Ire) Jayco-AlUla +06:20; 95 B Swift (GB) Ineos Grenadiers +24:53

VUELTA ESPAÑA FEMENINA (Spain)

Stage seven (San Esteban de Gormaz-Sigüenza, 126km): 1 M Vos (Neth) Visma-Lease-a-Bike 3hr 27min 56sec; 2 K Faulkner (US) EF Education Cannondale; 3 E Longo Borghini (It) Lidl Trek both +2sec.

Stage eight (Distrito Telefónica, Madrid-Valdesqui, Madrid, 89.5km): 1 D Vollering (Neth) SD Worx-Protime 2hr 43min 06sec; 2 E Muzic (Fr) FDJ-SUEZ +29sec; 3 R Markus (Neth) Visma|Lease a Bike +33sec.

Final standings: 1 D Vollering (Neth) 23hr 30min 55sec; 2 R Markus (Neth) Visma-Lease-a-Bike +1:49; 3 E Longo Borghini (It) +2:00.

Greg Wood's racing tips

Beverley 1.55 Spring Corn 2.30 Willolarupi 3.05 Korroor 3.40 Ardbraccan 4.15 Swatch (nb) 4.50 She's Got Bottle 5.25 Patronage

Windsor 2.00 Kiss And Run 2.35 Usuario Amigo 3.10 Galyx 3.45 Topsy Tiger 4.20 Tiriac 4.55 Calm Waters 5.30 Abolish 6.00 High Court Judge

Bath 2.15 Monkey Miss (nap) 2.50 Star Anthem 3.25 Joy Choi 4.00 Bloodhound 4.35 Signcastle City 5.10 Amerigo Vespucci 5.45 Andromeda Kingdom

Warwick 2.40 Midnight Gold 3.15 Get Sky High 3.50 Irish Lullaby 4.25 Fiston De Becon 5.00 Trapista 5.35 Commanding View 6.05 Just Jess

Kempton Park 2.55 Exclero 3.30 Ideal Des Bordes 4.05 Quick Draw 4.40 Island Run 5.15 Calico 5.50 Playtogetaway

Cricket

PCA warns of 'disaster' if county schedule is not cut

Ali Martin

The Professional Cricketers Association has called for a cut in domestic cricket, warning that fixture congestion is compromising performance and could even result in "disaster" on the roads as exhausted players bounce from match to match.

Figures released by the union after a country-wide study at the start of the current season show that 81% of men's players have concerns about the physical strain of the schedule and the heightened risk of injury, while 62% expressed similar worries about the impact on mental health. Two-thirds of PCA members believe there is too much domestic cricket, with the union calling the schedule "unfit for purpose".

"There is a large number of players who don't think the schedule is conducive to high-level performance," said Joe Root, the former England captain, speaking in support of the findings. "If we can make the players safer and the output of the games a higher quality, English cricket is going to be winning full stop."

The squeeze on the T20 Blast appears of particular concern, with the PCA noting 55 back-to-back fixtures for teams in 2024, up from 34 last summer. On the back of this comes a call for minimum standards regarding the number of rest days, as well as travel and accommodation provisions to ease late-night turnarounds.

Gloucestershire provide one example in June, with evening Blast games in Cardiff and Bristol on a Thursday and Friday before travelling 270 miles to Scarborough for a four-day match

against Yorkshire that starts at 11am on the Sunday.

"Back-to-back games have gone up considerably, and only looked at through a commercial lens," said Daryl Mitchell, the PCA's chief operating officer. "We understand that, but there needs to be a balance. There are reports of players who have got off the team bus, driven home and forgotten how they got there, almost on autopilot. We want to pre-empt it before anything disastrous happens."

"Our chief executive, Rob [Lynch] is worried about getting the call in the early hours of the morning when someone has driven off the M1. That scares us. [Our research shows] 76% of players have concerns about safety when travelling. I don't think it needs to be a massive reduction [in games] but we need to create some space."

There are 78 days of cricket scheduled for county first XIs this season (excluding white-ball knockout stages), with 14 Championship



▲ Joe Root has supported the PCA's call to shorten the county schedule

County Championship

Kent batters show true grit to keep fizzing Lyon at bay

Tanya Aldred

In radiant evening sunlight at Old Trafford, Nathan Lyon was causing chaos. With the ball spitting and ripping, and four men close to the bat, squatting on top of their long shadows, Kent's Daniel Bell-Drummond and Ben Compton dug into their task of survival, and digging out the 164 Lancashire had set them to win.

Lyon, sunglasses characteristically attached to his shaved head, appealed vigorously, but neither he nor Tom Hartley could make the breakthrough. Kent, despite losing Zak Crawley

to the second over of the innings, lbw for one, need another 93. Earlier, Matt Parkinson and Wes Agar finished with three wickets each, despite some plucky innings from Lancashire's young batters, Georges Balderson and Bell and Matty Hurst.

A reverse-swinging masterclass, from a zinging Jayden Seales, careered through Derbyshire's second innings, sending them flying like Smarties at a children's party, and to defeat by an innings and 124 runs.

Seales, who was twice on a hat-trick, finished with a career-best five for 29, and warm words from his head coach at Sussex, Paul Farbrace: "In the four games he's



▲ Nathan Lyon looked dangerous but failed to make a breakthrough

matches per side, 14 group games in the T20 Blast, and eight in the One Day Cup. (Should players feature in the Hundred, which has eight group games, they miss the latter).

This actually represents a drop from 2010, for example, when teams played 16 four-day matches, 16 Blast group games and 12 in the Pro40. One difference is the arrival of the Hundred, which has pushed the Blast out of the school holidays and seen counties respond with more Thursday and Friday fixtures to boost crowds.

Achieving a further reduction will be problematic, not least after a move to cut the Championship in 2022 was thwarted by county memberships. And this expression of angst from the PCA notably comes while the next County Partnership Agreement - including the split of revenues from the next broadcast deal - is being negotiated.

At the same time, the England and Wales Cricket Board is forging ahead with a plan to privatise teams in the Hundred, a seismic change to the fabric of the sport but one that is likely to appeal to a county network battling rising costs and saddled with around £200m of debt collectively.

Enticed by a potential windfall - some projections say as much as £500m could be raised by this process - the 18 first-class counties and MCC have until 10 May to give a "non-binding" agreement to further explore this "direction of travel".

Under the proposals, the eight host counties would be handed a majority 51% share of their Hundred side to keep or sell as they see fit, with the ECB selling the remaining 49%. The proceeds from the latter would be split between the counties and MCC, with 10% going to the recreational game.

Investors, expected to include those from the Indian Premier League, will be able to buy shares from both sides of the sale to claim a majority stake in a particular Hundred team. In turn they would receive up to 80% of revenues from ticket sales, sponsorship and the broadcast deal.

played for us, every single spell he's run in hard. He's never cantered in, he's never taken it easy and never not wanted to bowl."

Derbyshire's New Zealand fast bowler Blair Tickner did not bat, and announced that his wife Sarah is suffering from leukaemia and is receiving treatment in the UK. Sussex lost a point due to a slow over rate.

Yorkshire flayed **Glamorgan** to all corners of Headingley, cantering to maximum batting points with bags of overs to spare. Joe Root cruised to 156, his second hundred in consecutive games, Finlay Bean an aggressive 173, his highest first-class score, while Harry Brook and Jonny Tattersall contributed funky fifties. Mason Crane, who took a tonking, finished with five for 152. Glamorgan lost three wickets - including Kiran Carlson unlucky to be run out off Root's shin pad at silly point - before Sam Northeast and Colin Ingram dug in.

Hundreds for Sam Robson and Leus du Plooy helped **Middlesex** past 400 at Lord's, with a couple of wickets for **Leicestershire's** Rehan Ahmed.



Feeling on top of the world

McLaren's Lando Norris raises an arm in salute after winning his first grand prix in Miami

ANTONIN VINCENT/DPPI/SHUTTERSTOCK

Britain's Norris seizes moment to land historic maiden victory

Giles Richards
Miami



Finally then, the grand spectacle in the sunshine which is how the Miami Grand Prix sells its high-end extravaganza of excess and expense delivered on the hype, as did the star of the show as Britain's Lando Norris scored his first Formula One win.

It has been a long time coming but Norris deserved it and delivered definitive notice that given the machinery he is more than capable of putting the world champion, Max Verstappen, to the sword.

This was the Super Bowl-esque event in a destination city which Formula One's owners crave and for the spectators dancing and drinking with abandon in the fan zones it met the criteria. Norris was exceptional, he took some good fortune from the timing of a safety car but then had to deliver for 24 laps with flawless precision, as the triple world champion Verstappen loomed in his mirrors.

Norris not only held his nerve but demonstrated, as he has made clear in the past, he has no fear of taking on Verstappen as long as he is in a straight head to head fight. This was the moment and Norris had to deliver through perhaps the most intense, pressurised, 24 laps of his life.

It has been some time coming, the debut win for the 24-year-old from Glastonbury was taken at his 110th grand prix after he made his debut at the Australian GP in 2019. He has claimed eight second places and might have had a win in Russia in 2021 only to be unlucky with late rain but he has repeatedly demonstrated the skill and verve to compete with the best at the very front.

For Norris then, who has long shown exceptional promise, this was the vindication for a driver who is much admired. Verstappen had looked to be in control out front until the race was turned on its head around the mid point. McLaren had taken a chance on leaving Norris out long before his pit stop and from where he inherited the lead.

Verstappen had pitted on lap 24 and when Logan Sargeant crashed out, tangling with Kevin Magnussen on lap 29, it prompted a safety car under which Norris gained a free stop, ensuring he emerged once more in the lead from Verstappen.

He duly held his lead at the restart on lap 33 as Verstappen struggled to bring his tyres up to speed and Norris opened a gap with his fresher rubber but it was impossibly tense as the British driver put in a series of flawless laps he knew were vital.

A series of fastest laps followed,



▲ McLaren chief Zak Brown congratulates Lando Norris

they began ticking away and as unlikely as it seemed, Verstappen it appeared had nothing more to bring, complaining he lacked grip. For once it was Norris in complete command at the front, delivering on what he has always said he could do.

The safety car had fallen in his favour but Norris held his nerve with an absolute iron will to close out like a champion. The lead grew as the laps counted down until he took the flag and a historic first victory by 7.6 seconds from Verstappen.

His laughter and shrieking celebration from the cockpit was exultant and he was sportingly clapped by Lewis Hamilton as the seven-time champion drew level with him on the in-lap.

"I love you all, thank you so much.

We did it Will," he bellowed to his race engineer, Will Joseph. "I guess that's how it's done, finally. I knew it when I came in this morning, I said today is the day for opportunities. Thanks Mum, thanks Dad, this one's for my grandma." He then threw himself upon his team, crowd surfing into their welcoming arms.

The crowd too stood to acknowledge his feat with raucous approval. For three years the fans have been coming to the track which winds its way round the Hard Rock stadium in Miami Gardens and they have yet to see anyone but Verstappen take victory. That the Dutchman's stranglehold was broken by a driver so popular in the US and in making history as he did so was the sporting drama they appreciated with enormous acclaim.

"I am very happy for Lando it's been a long time coming and it's definitely not going to be his last one, he deserved it today," said Verstappen, who nonetheless extended his lead in the title race to 35 points from Red Bull teammate Sergio Pérez who was fifth.

By the time the champagne was flowing, that the fans had a good time was palpable. Finally a new winner in Miami and proof positive there is a place for bopping about in a bikini while quaffing cocktails in F1 just as there is a place for standing in a waterproof in sheets of rain on a grassy knoll at Spa, as long as there is a great show on track.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz were third and fourth. Pérez was fifth for Red Bull, Hamilton and his teammate George Russell sixth and eighth for Mercedes.

Full results

1	Lando Norris GB	25pts
	McLaren	1hr 30mins 49.876 sec
2	Max Verstappen Neth	18pts
	Red Bull	+7.612sec
3	Charles Leclerc Mnc	15pts
	Ferrari	+9.920sec
4	Carlos Sainz Sp	12pts
	Ferrari	+11.407sec
5	Sergio Pérez Mex	10pts
	Red Bull	+14.650sec
6	Lewis Hamilton GB	8pts
	Mercedes	+16.585sec
7	Yuki Tsunoda Jpn	6pts
	Visa RB	+26.185sec
8	George Russell GB	4pts
	Mercedes	+34.789sec
9	Fernando Alonso Sp	2pts
	Aston Martin	+37.107sec
10	Esteban Ocon Fr	1pts
	Alpine	+39.746sec

Also finished	11 Nico Hülkenberg Ger Haas +40.789sec
	12 Pierre Gasly Fr Alpine +44.958 sec
	13 Oscar Piastri* Aus McLaren +49.756 sec
	14 Guanyu Zhou Chn Kick Sauber +49.979 sec
	15 Daniel Ricciardo Aus Visa RB +50.956 sec
	16 Valtteri Bottas Fin Kick Sauber +52.356 sec
	17 Lance Stroll Can Aston Martin +55.173 sec
	18 Kevin Magnussen Den Haas +1:04.683 sec
	19 Alexander Albon Tha Williams +1:16.091sec
Not classified	20 Logan Sargeant US Williams 28 laps
Championship standings	Drivers: 1 Max Verstappen 136pts; 2 Sergio Pérez 101; 3 Charles Leclerc 98; 4 Carlos Sainz 85; 5 Lando Norris 83; 6 Oscar Piastri 41; 7 George Russell 37; 8 Fernando Alonso 33; 9 Lewis Hamilton 27; 10 Yuki Tsunoda 14
	Constructors 1 Red Bull 237pts; 2 Ferrari 189; 3 McLaren 124; 4 Mercedes 64; 5 Aston Martin 42; 6 Visa RB 19; 7 Haas 7; 8 Alpine 1; 9 Williams 0; 10 Kick Sauber 0
	*Fastest lap: O Piastri 1min 30.634sec

Racing

O'Brien team still in dark over City Of Troy's poor Guineas run

Greg Wood

Newmarket

Aidan O'Brien's Ballydoyle stable headed away from Newmarket after the Guineas meeting yesterday with the favourite for next month's Oaks and two of the top three in the betting for the Derby, but that does not really tell the tale of a difficult weekend for Ireland's most powerful yard.

The main positive for O'Brien was the sight of Ylang Ylang running a fine trial for the Oaks as she stayed on into fifth in a blanket finish to the 1,000 Guineas behind the surprise 28-1 winner, Elmalka. There are still no further clues to explain the bitterly disappointing performance of City Of Troy, the odds-on favourite, in Saturday's 2,000 Guineas, however, or any indication of whether last year's champion juvenile will head to Epsom for the Derby in four weeks.

O'Brien was not at Newmarket yesterday but Paul Smith, from the Coolmore Stud syndicate which supplies Ballydoyle's firepower, reported that City Of Troy was fit and well.

"He seems fine this morning," Smith said. "He got a little bit fractious at the start and Ryan [Moore, his jockey] was never happy. So we'll let the dust settle, take stock and work back from there. We've been here before. Aidan knows what to do and we'll see if anything comes to light. If it doesn't, he's a good horse and one bad run and one mishap doesn't make him a bad one, so we're all systems go."

"He'd taken his work well, his temperament was fine and he loved his work [before the Guineas], he did everything very easily and there was no sign at all [of any issue]. It was a big disappointment but onwards and upwards, we'll get to the bottom of it, I'm sure we will."

Elmalka's unexpected success in the 1,000 Guineas was a significant triumph for both Roger Varian,

who also trained the winner's dam, Nahrain, and in particular Silvestre de Sousa, her jockey, who has only recently returned to the saddle after picking up a 10-month ban a year ago for "facilitating a bet" for a fellow jockey in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong stewards accepted that De Sousa had not had a bet himself or failed to ride his horse to achieve the best possible placing, but their penalties for any betting-related activity are famously severe.

For a jockey in his early 40s, a 10-month ban could have been potentially career-ending, but de Sousa's famous work ethic, which carried him to the British Flat jockeys' championship in 2015, 2017 and 2018, has ensured that he has swiftly picked up the threads of his British career.

Elmalka's victory looked unlikely as she trailed the field in the early stages of the race, and Ramatuelle traded at 1-5 in running after she hit the front and opened a lead with two furlongs to run. Her stamina was untested at a mile, however, and as her stride started to shorten with the post in sight, de Sousa delivered Elmalka with a perfectly-timed run to beat Porta Fortuna by a neck, with Ramatuelle a short-head away in third.

De Sousa's championship-winning seasons were based on quantity as much as quality, and this was the first Classic success of his career and only his 12th in all at the highest level.

"I've been trying to win a Classic for so long and it's just an amazing feeling," he said. "I haven't had that feeling for a long time. Especially when you've had time off and you come back, it was just unbelievable."

"I love British racing. To me it's my base. This is the place where it starts and I hope this is the place where I'm going to finish one day. I've been working hard behind the scenes and just want my opportunities back and I'm still capable. I'll just work hard and see how the season goes."

Varian expects to keep Elmalka at around a mile and the Falmouth Stakes, at Newmarket's July meeting, is an option later in the campaign.

"It's not a surprise because I wouldn't have run her if I didn't think she was going to run well," Varian said, "but you don't come into these races thinking you're going to win."

"She ran a big race at Newbury [in April]. We weren't set on running in the Guineas that day but the turnaround in the last fortnight has been quite incredible. I was in two minds whether to run her because I didn't want to do the wrong thing but that's why we're here, right, to have a go?"



▲ City Of Troy, who disappointed in the 2,000 Guineas, winning the Dewhurst
IAN HEADINGTON/RACINGPHOTOS.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK

Jones still has mountain to climb

Qualifier Jak Jones lost the first seven frames of the final but fought hard in the second session

TOM JENKINS/THE GUARDIAN



Snooker World championship final

Wilson takes command after blistering session

Aaron Bower
The Crucible

Nothing is ever decided on day one of the World Snooker Championship final. Far from it, in fact. But if it is Kyren Wilson, who leads 11-6, lifting snooker's most prestigious prize this evening instead of the courageous Welshman Jak Jones there is no doubting the three hours of chaos yesterday will have been the difference.

Jones deserves immense credit for rallying in last night's session to make this year's final seem in the balance going into the second and final day. Trailing 7-0 at one stage earlier in proceedings, we were genuinely entering historic territory.

Not since 1993 has a final been decided with a session to spare but when Wilson won the first seven frames without reply, it was hard not to wonder what legends of the past those in attendance this evening would be seeing square off in an exhibition to fill the slot.

However, Jones has at least likely ensured the final will reach this evening after battling back magnificently. He raised his fist to the crowd with apparent sarcasm in the afternoon after winning his first frame to avoid an opening session whitewash. He would have envisaged doing the same again at the culmination of the evening session but this time with belief he could win against all the odds. However, you cannot help but wonder just how significant the final frame last night could prove to be.

Both players had their chances to win it. If Jones had prevailed, he'd

have trailed by just three. However, Wilson not only claimed the frame to move five ahead overnight, but the momentum too - and he is now hot favourite to win his first world title.

The only other two players to be 7-0 behind after the opening seven frames of a final were Jimmy White in 1991, who ultimately lost to John Parrott - and Dennis Taylor, who went 8-0 behind in 1985. And we all know what happened that year.

Perhaps it was the fact Jones had to play until late on Saturday evening against Stuart Bingham while his opponent had already got the job done earlier in the day. There is no question that Jones, who has had to play over 20 hours more snooker than Wilson to get to the final, looked jaded on Sunday afternoon.

Perhaps it was Wilson's prior experience of a final - having admitted in the build-up he drank too much beer and ate too much pizza



▲ Kyren Wilson scored two century breaks in the first session of the final

the night before his 2020 final defeat to Ronnie O'Sullivan - which helped him settle quicker. But whatever the reason, the first final to be contested by two players both bidding for a first world title in almost 20 years was only heading one way at 5pm yesterday.

Now, it's at least slightly more in the balance, but Wilson is heavy favourite, leading 11-6. Wilson was as magnificent as Jones was indifferent yesterday afternoon. Two century breaks and four more over 50 pushed him 7-0 ahead but there were undisputed frames Jones could, and perhaps should, have won.

The history books were being rewritten as Wilson moved 7-0 ahead but, when Jones claimed the last frame of the session to narrow the gap to six, it at least felt as though there was something to build upon. But the pair split the opening four frames of the evening session, leaving Wilson in control at 9-3.

However, Jones responded well in the final frames of that session. He won three of the next four to make it 10-6; a commanding lead for Wilson, yes, but one that could have been far worse given how proceedings began earlier in the day. The final frame of the day was huge: arguably the most important of both players' careers to this point.

It was the difference between a five or three-frame lead overnight, and it was stacked with tension. Jones left Wilson needing a snooker, which Wilson got before clearing the colours to the black. However, Wilson missed it, leading to an absorbing and nerve-shredding safety exchange.

The winner of this frame may not necessarily have held the lead overnight, but they would have undoubtedly had the momentum. And both players clearly knew it given how edgy their play was. And when Jones attempted a risky double, he could only leave the black over the pocket.

Wilson took full advantage and this time, it was he who fist-pumped the Crucible crowd. Come this evening, that frame could prove to be the most important of them all.

Heading for final showdown at Spurs

Toulouse celebrate their second try, scored by hooker Peato Mauvaka, to set them on the way to Tottenham
GARY CARR/INPHO/SHUTTERSTOCK



Rugby union

Dupont double steers Toulouse into final to leave Quins with regret

Toulouse	38
Harlequins	26

Gerard Meagher
Stadium de Toulouse

Another gallant English defeat, another tale of the Premiership's plucky losers but ultimately another tinged with regret. Toulouse booked their place in the final to secure a widely expected showdown with Leinster but, just as was the case with Northampton 24 hours earlier, Harlequins will wonder what might have been.

They had Toulouse on the ropes for large spells of the second half, firing freely from their slingshots without landing the telling blow between the eyes of one of European rugby's giants.

Credit Harlequins for the manner in which they fought back from 31-12 at half-time. They vowed to swing the bat once more and tries from Cadan Murley and Tyrone Green brought them back to within five points against a side with significantly more resources. They were in such

ascendancy that had they managed to get their noses in front, a victory to eclipse even their "Bristanbul" heroics would have been on the cards.

As it was Jack Walker's 66th-minute yellow card for a head-on-head clearout finally gave the hosts some respite but for the second day running, here were favourites breathing a huge sigh of relief at keeping the Premiership upstarts - for whom Chandler Cunningham-South, Tyrone Green and André Esterhuizen in particular shone - at bay.

"Proud of the group but at the moment very disappointed," said the Harlequins captain, Stephan Lewies. "I think against a team like Toulouse if you give them 28 points on a platter it's going to be tough. The way we came out in the second half, we're really proud of that, we went back to being Quins, if we could have

taken away a few of those errors, then [you think] what might have been."

There is no shame in defeat, more frustration at their first-half mistakes that were ruthlessly punished, and, as they have demonstrated throughout this season's competition, Toulouse have a gear that no one can live with. Their 15-minute period at the end of the first half, in which Antoine Dupont scored two tries, proved pivotal. They will look forward to a final against Leinster later this month and a shot at a sixth title. Like Leinster they have things they need to tidy up on but there are times when they are untouchable.

Both these sides like to play and there were times when both showcased their armoury of skills. The difference is that Toulouse boast a power and a ferocity at the breakdown that Harlequins cannot match.

Time and again in the first half they were shoved off the ball and while Harlequins have canny operators such as Will Evans, they do not have someone like Emmanuel Meafou, the 23-stone second-row behemoth. They do not have a hooker with the pace and power of Peato Mauvaka and ultimately could not live with the ruthlessness displayed by Toulouse.

Then there is Dupont who was in the mood from the word go. There was an early break down the left, passes out the back and, pinpoint kicks off both feet and two tries - each as a result of his ability to be in the right place at the right time.

Harlequins were competitive during a breathless opening half an hour. Toulouse had the opening try, a well-worked move finished in the left corner by Matthis Lebel but a scrum penalty near their own line gave Harlequins a foothold and after

going through the phases, Marcus Smith burst through a gap and over.

Mauvaka registered Toulouse's next try from a driving maul but with Cunningham-South carrying hard and Louis Lynagh adjudged to have pulled off a 50:22, Harlequins responded in kind through Evans.

From the restart, however, Harlequins could not exit and Danny Care's pass to Cunningham-South was pinched by Thibaud Flament who dotted down - a sucker punch for the visitors. A few minutes later and another mistake - this time an overthrown lineout - and Dupont was over for his first after a wonderful step and well-measured grubber from the impressive Paul Costes. Dupont had his second before the interval after another break from Mauvaka.

A fast start to the second half for Harlequins brought quick rewards with Murley's acrobatic finish in the corner and the visiting supporters were daring to believe when Green ran an irrepressible line to go over next to the posts. A bit more sangfroid and Harlequins might have found the fifth try they needed to get ahead but Walker's yellow card burst their bubble and Toulouse regathered before striking in the corner through Juan Cruz Mallia to settle matters.

Toulouse

Kinghorn; Mallia, Costes (Chocobares, 69), Akhi, Lebel (Ramos, 54); Ntamack, Dupont (capt); Baillie (Neti, 60), Mauvaka (Marchand, 49), Aldegheri (Merkler, 60), Flament, Meafou (Arnold, 55), Cros, Willis (Castro-Ferreira, 71), Roumat
Tries Lebel, Mauvaka, Flament, Dupont 2, Mallia Cons Kinghorn 3, Ramos

Harlequins

Green; Lynagh (Riley, 71), Northmore (Beard, 75), Esterhuizen, Murley; Smith, Care; Baxter (Marler, 49), Walker (J Evans, 78), Collier (Kerrod, 62), Herbst (Hammond, 71), Lewies (capt), Cunningham-South, W Evans (Chisholm, 67), Dombrandt
Tries Smith, W Evans, Murley, Green Cons Smith 3 Sin-bin Walker 66

Referee Andrew Brace (Ire) Attendance 32,494

Cycling Giro d'Italia

Pogacar goes solo to fulfil dream and power to pink

Martyn Herman

Tadej Pogacar, the race favourite, made light of a mechanical problem to blast into the lead of the Giro d'Italia with victory on the summit finish to the 161km second stage yesterday.

The Slovenian suffered a puncture at the foot of the steep 11km climb to Santuario di Oropa but he was helped back into the group by his teammates before launching a devastating solo attack.

No one could stay with the UAE Team Emirates rider who poured on the power to win by 27 seconds and take possession of the Maglia Rosa two days into his maiden Giro. Dani Martínez (Bora-Hansgrohe) was second just ahead of the Ineos Grenadiers leader, Geraint Thomas.

Pogacar had already gained time on his GC rivals in Saturday's opening stage when he was outsprinted to the line by Jhonatan Narváez who wore the pink jersey yesterday.

But by the end of stage two he already has a 45-second advantage over Britain's Thomas, who is regarded as his most likely challenger over the next three weeks. Thomas and Martínez are second and third in the standings with only two other riders within a minute of Pogacar.

"I was only missing a Giro stage and this was one of my dreams," Pogacar, who now has stage wins in all three Grand Tours, told Eurosport. "It's a big thing in cycling so I'm super happy."

Pogacar had stayed out of trouble during the stage which was led by the young Italian rider Andrea Piccolo (EF Education-EasyPost) until six kilometres from the finish. But there was a moment of alarm at the foot of the final climb as his front tyre deflated and he then slid to the floor and was narrowly avoided by a following car.

There was no damage, however, and he was quickly back into his rhythm and when he hit the accelerator on a 9% gradient there was only going to be one outcome.

"Nothing new that, is it?" Thomas said. "We expected it. I was hoping to follow but I knew if I tried to keep going like that I would completely blow up. It's OK for the second day ... obviously Tadej is, well, he's Tadej." **Reuters**



▲ Tadej Pogacar celebrates a win that puts him in charge of the race

Sport
Football

'It's not over,' says Hayes as romp puts race on a knife-edge

Chelsea	8
Reiten 6 56 70 77, Nüsken 23, Beever-Jones 52 88, Charles 74	
Bristol City	0

Suzanne Wrack and agencies

Guro Reiten helped herself to four goals as Chelsea turned up the heat on the Women's Super League leaders, Manchester City, with an eight-goal thrashing of Bristol City on a day when the title race was blown open.

A midweek loss for Chelsea at Liverpool put Manchester City in the driving seat, with Emma Hayes saying she thought her side's challenge was over. But Chelsea took full advantage of their rivals' last-gasp defeat in the earlier kick-off yesterday by pummeling an already-relegated Bristol City in Hayes's final fixture at Kingsmeadow.

Chelsea's emphatic win means they now trail City by three points with a game in hand at Tottenham to come. But, perhaps crucially, the defending champions' goal difference is now one ahead of their title rivals going into the last fortnight of the season.

Hayes was in buoyant mood after yesterday's romp, saying: "Let me be clear, it's not fucking over. There is no time for sentimentality. All work drinks are cancelled. There's a title to be won."

"That group of players, I've been here 12 years, no matter what, with a group of people driving standards. This group taught me something so special this week that you never, ever give up. This is Chelsea."

Reiten opened the scoring for Chelsea with a sixth-minute penalty before Sjoekje Nüsken forced home a second midway through the first half. Aggie Beever-Jones made it 3-0 in the 52nd minute with a slick finish before Reiten rifled home another as the floodgates opened.

It was 5-0 when Reiten smashed in at the near post for her hat-trick after 70 minutes. This sparked a spree of three goals in seven minutes as the Norway forward grabbed her fourth, not long after Niamh Charles had poked in at the back post.

Beever-Jones produced the cherry on top when she stooped low to nod in Reiten's cross with two minutes remaining.



▲ Emma Hayes could now depart Chelsea with another WSL trophy



▼ Stina Blackstenius celebrates after the first of her two goals for Arsenal
ALEX BURSTOW/ARSENAL FC/GETTY

Women's Super League

Blackstenius late show rocks City's title hopes

Manchester City	1
Hemp 17	
Arsenal	2
Blackstenius 89 90+2	

Suzanne Wrack
Joie Stadium

Arsenal put the Women's Super League title race on a knife-edge and handed Emma Hayes's Chelsea a lifeline, coming from behind to earn a thrilling win at Manchester City.

Stina Blackstenius's late double cancelled out Lauren Hemp's first-half opener to leave the home team - hoping for their first league title since 2016 - reeling. Chelsea took full advantage later in the day, hammering Bristol City 8-0 to wipe out their goal difference arrears. The results leave City three points clear of Chelsea, who have a game in hand, but with Hayes's side now owning a superior goal difference. The title will be decided on goal difference should Chelsea win their two remaining games and City beat Aston Villa on the final day.

"I always said I thought it would go to the final game and it's never changed," said the City manager,

Gareth Taylor. "Of course, it would have been nice to win the game today. We have another opportunity now at Villa. We have to win the game first and hope that's enough to win the title. They [Chelsea] opened the door the other night [with defeat at Liverpool] and we've opened it back again a little bit. It is what it is, but nothing has changed in our thought process. We knew we had to go to Villa to win on the last day."

Arsenal will be left wondering what if, with nine points from their games against City and Chelsea the best record of the three against each other this season. Defeats by West Ham, Chelsea and Tottenham have cost them a serious title challenge.

"We have been lacking consistency, but we have shown a really high potential and that's where these results come from," said the Arsenal manager, Jonas Eidevall. "If we take our eyes away from the league table for a moment, for us, coming here, getting a win - which is seven years since we did - it was not only about this season but about us setting a footprint for next season. We were able to show what we have progressed and developed."

At a sold-out Joie Stadium the pyrotechnics were rolled out, fireworks readied, and music blared ahead of kick-off. There was a party atmosphere, and fears that a somewhat staggering Arsenal could spoil it seemed surprisingly absent.

Taylor's side had met Arsenal twice this season already, suffering a 2-1 away defeat in the reverse fixture in November before earning a 1-0 win over the Gunners to knock them out of the FA Cup. Since the league defeat, City have been flying, not conceding more than once in any of

their 15 games. Defeat by Arsenal was followed by a 1-0 loss to Brighton, but they regrouped and have won every league game since.

Despite the loss of Jill Roord to injury and, in April, star striker Khadija Shaw, Taylor's side have looked cohesive, clinical and have pressed with an intensity that few teams can handle. It was no different yesterday, the home team pressing from the off, forcing mistakes from an underwhelming Arsenal side.

The opening goal came in the 17th minute. Emily Fox headed away Mary Fowler's cross but only as far as Leila Ouahabi, the full-back laying it off to Hemp who twisted before lashing a low shot past Manuela Zinsberger.

City's press eased off in the second half and it gave Arsenal a foothold in the game, but they struggled to create clearcut chances, set pieces providing their most dangerous moments. That easing off would prove costly.

"It's a warmer day than we've had here for a long time, so I think it's that," said Taylor. "But, also, sometimes the mentality is to protect what you have got rather than build on it."

As the clock ticked down, the players in red seemed to increasingly feel they could get something from the game. With a huge travelling contingent roaring them on, they poured forward. The equaliser came from a set piece in the 89th minute, the ball pinballing around the box before Blackstenius stuck out a toe to poke the ball beyond Khiara Keating.

The winner arrived three minutes later, the half-time substitute Kim Little's ball over the top nodded in by Blackstenius to complete the most audacious smash and grab and threaten City's title charge.

Manchester City 4-3-3 Keating; Aleixandri, Casparij (Kennedy 87), Greenwood, Ouahabi; Park, Hasegawa, Coombs (Angeldahl 57); Fowler, Kelly, Hemp <i>Subs not used</i> Startup, Stokes, Morgan, Houghton, Pritchard, Blindkilde Brown, Mace	Arsenal 4-3-3 Zinsberger; Fox (Catley 63), Williamson, Codina, McCabe (Wienroither 82); Maanum (Little ht), Pelova, Cooney-Cross (Blackstenius 62); Mead, Russo, Lacasse (Foord 63) <i>Subs not used</i> D'Angelo, Goldie, Agyemang, Reid
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Referee Rebecca Welch

Top of the table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	21	17	1	3	59	14	45	52
Chelsea	20	16	1	3	64	18	46	49
Arsenal	21	15	2	4	48	20	28	47

Still to play

Wed 15 May	Tottenham v Chelsea	7.15pm
Sat 18 May	Aston Villa v Man City	3pm
	Man Utd v Chelsea	3pm

Sky Bet Championship

Bamford's return could lift tired Leeds

Louise Taylor

News that the Hollywood actor Will Ferrell has become the latest in a series of celebrities to purchase a minority stake in Leeds United made headlines yesterday but most Leeds fans are much more interested in a very different type of leading man.

Their team's hopes of winning promotion via the playoffs could well hinge on whether the injections Patrick Bamford is receiving in a damaged knee enable Daniel Farke's centre-forward to return to action in the semi-final first leg at Norwich on Sunday.

Bamford divides opinion among Elland Road regulars but although his tally of eight Championship goals in 33 appearances this season looks modest the 30-year-old's outstanding movement and ability to press from the front improves Leeds immeasurably.

Without Bamford to serve as a decoy, dragging defenders all over the place, Farke's outstanding left-winger Crysencio Summerville was all too easily subdued by Kyle Walker-Peters as his side lost 2-1 at home to Southampton on Saturday.

They could conceivably end up meeting Southampton again in the Wembley final but must first navigate a two-legged playoff against Norwich, the club Farke led into the Premier League on two previous occasions.

"It will be really difficult against Norwich," said the German manager, who is hoping Summerville recovers from an ankle injury in time for Sunday. "They've been in a really good spell with lots of good results lately. It will be tight. Norwich have a very experienced squad with many players who have won promotion before and can play pragmatically."

"Going back (to Carrow Road) is a bit special for me but there won't be time to be overly emotional because my only focus is Leeds. It feels like this team is the third best in the division; the players, the supporters, this club, deserve promotion."

The former Leeds manager, Simon Grayson, believes that the West Yorkshire club's hopes of a Wembley appearance may depend on Bamford's fitness.

"I hope we get Patrick back," Grayson told BBC Radio Leeds. "People sometimes don't see what Patrick does for the team. They don't see the runs he makes in the channels, his hold-up play or his closing down of opponents."

Ferrell invests in Leeds Page 3 →

Sport
Football

▼ The Bromley captain, Byron Webster (No 17), celebrates with his team
NICK POTTIS/PA WIRE



Vanarama National League

Bromley reach EFL promised land after shootout drama

Bromley	2
Cheek 41 58pen	
Solihull Moors	2
Sbarra 48, Osborne 65	
aet; Bromley win 4-3 on penalties	

Sam Dalling
Wembley

It is a popular misbelief that there is a first time for everything. But there are, undoubtedly, first times for some things. And, come August, that will be the case for Bromley who, after 132 years of under-the-radar existence, can proudly call themselves members of the English Football League.

Some things even happen more than once. Take goalkeeper Grant Smith, for example. Twelve months ago, he was also exiting Step One. Back then it was a case of sliding helplessly down the relegation snake with Yeovil. Now? Smith's pair of penalty shootout saves - first from Tyrese Shade and then Joss Labadie - gave Bromley a firm foot up the ladder.

All that remained was for the Bromley captain, Byron Webster, to complete a personal triptych. Webster, twice a League One playoff final winner, coolly dispatched his spot-kick. Promotion was sealed.

"In that moment you want the man that is cool as ice - he slotted it away lovely," said the beaming Bromley manager, Andy Woodman. "Relief is the first word that springs to mind. It's a massive step. I'm just delighted it went our way."

For opponents Solihull Moors, it

was cruel. They had more than played their role in choreographing a three-part drama worthy of the occasion. First, a sedate opening, a tad cagey, but not unwatchable; next a high-octane, chaotic middle act; then, finally, the tense conclusion.

Bromley twice led, the National League's record goalscorer Michael Cheek scoring either side of half-time. Solihull twice levelled, via Joe Sbarra and then the captain, Jamey Osborne. Finally, for Woodman et al, came penalty delight.

"It's relentless to get out of this league," Woodman said. "Getting this football club [promoted] has become a bit of an obsession, a little bit of an unhealthy one."

It is just over three years since he left the relative cosiness of a senior goalkeeping role at Arsenal for the rollercoaster that is non-league football. In that time, Woodman has refined a precisely distilled blend of pragmatism, an ability to swerve defeat, and short, sharp, blow-your-opponents-apart bursts.

After an unassuming opening, part two commenced slightly ahead of schedule. Just before the break,



▲ The Bromley manager, Andy Woodman, lifts the playoff trophy

Alex Whitmore appeared to have a through ball aimed in Cheek's general direction under control. Then he fell. The referee, James Durkin, deemed Cheek's contact with Whitmore's foot above board. "It was a foul," said the Solihull manager, Andy Whing. He then warmly congratulated Bromley.

Woodman had remained near frozen until Cheek's first. He has been here before, winning the FA Trophy two years ago. He has also twice experienced post-season heartbreak. But on Cheek's strike rippling the net, Woodman joined the near 20,000 Ravens dancing delightedly.

Soon after the break, though, the worthiest of scorers levelled. Owing to a heart defect clocked by a routine scan, Sbarra missed six months of training and began his season in December.

Half a year on, he found himself at Wembley hurtling joyously toward a small, yet dedicated, pocket of delirious Moors fans.

The glee lasted 10 minutes. Kyle Morrison will not want to rewatch the unpressured back pass he attempted to his goalkeeper Nick Hayes. Undercooked? More like blue. Cheek nipped in, Hayes felled him, and the resulting penalty was a formality.

After Osborne equalised, the game's flow faded. Twice in extra time, Bromley's Alex Kirk struck the woodwork. Still, after 132 years, another half-hour was a relative flash. "These boys embraced the chance to make history," Woodman said.

"We're going to enjoy it tonight. We are going to go overboard, and do the things they say not to do."

And then? For starters, Bromley must rip up their artificial pitch. Work begins this week.

Bromley	Solihull Moors
3-4-2-1	4-2-3-1
Smith; Grant, Webster, Reynolds; Weston (Kirk 61), Arthur, Charles, Odutayo; Whitely, Dennis (Omolola 82); Cheek	Hayes; Clarke, Morrison (Taylor 100), Whitmore, Newton; Maycock, Osborne (Labadie 95); Shade, Sbarra (Boateng 111), Stevens (Benton 71); Campbell
Subs not used: Thomas, Woods, Davies	Sub not used: Beck

Referee James Durkin Attendance 23,374

Football
In brief

Scottish Premiership

Clement hits out at Rodgers after victory

Philippe Clement yesterday accused the Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers of disrespecting his Rangers side before next week's Old Firm game at Parkhead. Clement was speaking after a 4-1 home win over Kilmarnock which returned his side to within three points of their city rivals with three fixtures left. After Celtic's 3-0 home win over Hearts on Saturday, Rodgers looked ahead to the visit of Rangers and said: "We can have a bit of fun." Clement was not impressed. "That it is something that I would never say about an opponent," he said. "But OK, we will see. It's not really respectful towards my team. So I will never say things like that about an opponent. I am looking forward to that [game]." On the pitch, Rangers captain James Tavernier scored an own goal after 12 minutes then had a penalty saved by the Kilmarnock keeper Will Dennis after defender Joe Wright was sent off for the offending handball. Fabio Silva levelled in first-half added time. Substitutes Ben Davies and Tom Lawrence both scored in the second period to put the hosts in control before defender John Souttar added a fourth. **PA Media**

Major League Soccer

Messi breaks three records in one half

Lionel Messi had a record-breaking second-half for Inter Miami, scoring once and chalking up five assists as Inter Miami came back to trounce New York Red Bulls 6-2 - with the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner setting no fewer than three Major League Soccer records in the process. The six goal contributions, five assists and five assists in a half were all MLS records. Messi has now scored and assisted in six consecutive MLS matches. Luis Suárez scored three and Matias Rojas two as Miami hit six unanswered goals to recover from a 1-0 deficit at half-time at the Chase Stadium in the early hours UK time yesterday. **Agencies**

Bundesliga

Leverkusen thrash Frankfurt to extend run

Champions Bayer Leverkusen extended their unbeaten streak to 48 matches in all competitions as they romped to a 5-1 away win over Eintracht Frankfurt. Granit Xhaka's long-range strike put them ahead after 12 minutes before Frankfurt's Hugo Ekitike levelled. Patrick Schick's header restored Leverkusen's lead before half-time. In the second period, Exequiel Palacios scored a penalty, Jeremie Frimpong tapped in a fourth before Victor Boniface converted another spot-kick. **Reuters**



▲ John Souttar rises high to score a fourth for Rangers against Kilmarnock
STUART WALLACE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Maguire out for three weeks in new injury blow

Continued from back page

the semi-final, in the league it is not going that well for them. We have four important games in the league and the FA Cup final and then we will see."

Last week, Bruno Fernandes discussed his future at United with Dazn Portugal. "Obviously, it doesn't just depend on me, does it?" he said. "A player always has to want to be here, but at the same time, you have to want him to stay. At the moment, I feel there's that on both sides."

Ten Hag is confident the captain will remain at United for the last two years on his contract. "Definitely," he said. "I know he is Manchester United and he is very happy to be here."

Fernandes is an injury doubt for United's trip to Crystal Palace tonight but the manager said he would "fight" to be fit.

Harry Maguire, however, was yesterday ruled out of the visit to Selhurst Park with a muscle injury that will rule him out for three weeks. Maguire's absence adds to United's injury crisis in central defence, where midfielder Casemiro has been filling in for recent matches.

Maguire will likely not return for United in the league this season but will hope to be fit for the FA Cup final against Manchester City on 25 May and for the Euros this summer.

Jackson double adds to Moyes' misery

Chelsea 5
Palmer 15, Gallagher 30, Madueke 36, Jackson 48 80

West Ham 0

Jacob Steinberg
Stamford Bridge

The miserable denouement to David Moyes's time at West Ham stands in stark contrast to Mauricio Pochettino's increasing joyfulness on the other side of the capital. European football is on the cards after Chelsea cruised through their second London derby in the space of three days and, for all the doubts hanging over Pochettino's future, it would surely go down as an act of extraordinary self-sabotage if the Argentinian's bosses make a change this summer.

The main takeaway from this 5-0 win over a supine West Ham is that something is beginning to stir at Stamford Bridge. Instead of crumbling after last month's 5-0 defeat to Arsenal, Chelsea have responded by dominating Aston Villa, Tottenham and West Ham. Far from shrinking, these young players are starting to grow and mature. Above all, they are starting to resemble a proper team and, after a season so full of turbulence, the wisest thing that Chelsea's owners can do now is accept that Pochettino is the man to bring coherence to their £1bn project.

"It is a process that takes time," Chelsea's head coach said. "You never know if it will be one month, six months or a year. But they are starting to live like a group of players with links. I am so pleased, helping them to grow and be mature. It is only the first step, but a massive step."

Chelsea, who are two points below sixth-placed Newcastle, were in a vibrant mood after beating Spurs on Thursday. Moisés Caicedo, who is starting to justify his £115m fee, excelled in midfield. Marc Cucurella continued his unlikely resurgence as an inverted left-back. The awkward, powerful Nicolas Jackson immediately had joy against West Ham's painfully immobile back four.

West Ham have completely forgotten how to defend. It is damning for a manager as pragmatic as Moyes that his side, with 70 goals conceded this season, have the worst record outside the bottom three.

Afterwards Moyes would talk about a lack of "mental toughness" and suggest that the leakiness is down to selling Declan Rice last summer, but the harsh reality is the Scot's methods are no longer working. West Ham have become an easy team to play. Tomas Soucek and Edson Álvarez, who went off at half-time, have not provided enough protection in midfield. Kurt Zouma and Angelo Ogbonna toiled in central defence. Emerson Palmieri, the former Chelsea left-back, was given a torrid time by Noni Madueke.

Cole Palmer sparked the rout in the 15th minute, his 21st league goal of the season an inevitability when Zouma failed to deal with Madueke's cross. Palmer had time to pick his spot and he made it look easy, lashing a rising shot past Alphonse Areola.

Their resistance broken, West Ham at least threatened an instant equaliser, Jarrod Bowen heading against the bar. Wary of Chelsea's habit of slipping into doziness, Pochettino urged them to wake up. Madueke threatened from 20 yards and Trevoh Chalobah wasted an easy header from a corner.

West Ham folded, Lucas Paquetá an indolent disgrace in midfield, too many players refusing to track back. It looked like they had given up on their season. It is no secret that change is coming. Julen Lopetegui is the frontrunner to replace Moyes, whose contract is up. There have been talks with Sporting's Rúben Amorim.

Chelsea, by contrast, are playing for their manager. They led 2-0 when Zouma's attempt to cut out Palmer's pass sent the ball spinning to Conor Gallagher, who charged in to spank a brutal volley past Areola.

Another thrashing beckoned. West Ham, whose slim hopes of European qualification are over after one win in nine league games, have lost 6-0 to Arsenal, 4-1 to Aston Villa and 5-0 to Fulham this season. In their previous away game, they were 4-0 down to Crystal Palace after 31 minutes. Perhaps only trailing Chelsea 2-0 after 30 minutes was progress.

Or not. Thirty-six minutes in, Mykhailo Mudryk delivered a corner to the far post and the unmarked Thiago Silva headed the ball across for Madueke to score from close range.

The action became carefree. Palmer evaded Álvarez and crossed for Gallagher, who hit the bar from three yards out. Bowen sent two more efforts against the woodwork. Chelsea had their fourth early in the second half, Madueke running clear and unselfishly squaring to Jackson, who tapped into the empty net.

Chelsea strolled through the rest of the game. Christopher Nkunku boosted the good vibes by coming on for his first appearance since February. Jackson added the fifth, finishing from Caicedo's pass. Moyes stayed on the bench, a picture of gloom.

<p>Chelsea 4-2-3-1 Petrovic; Chalobah (Gusto 83), Silva (Disasi 82), Badiashile, Cucurella; Caicedo, Gallagher; Madueke (Casadei 76), Palmer (Gilchrist 89), Mudryk (Nkunku 76); Jackson Subs not used: Bettinelli, Colwill, Washington, Sterling</p>	<p>West Ham 4-2-3-1 Areola; Coufal, Zouma, Ogbonna; Emerson; Soucek, Álvarez (Ward-Prowse ht); Bowen, Paquetá (Cresswell 76), Kudus; Antonio (Ings 70) Subs not used: Fabianski, Johnson, Cornet, Casey, Earthy, Mubama</p>
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Referee Andrew Madley Attendance 39,295

Saturday's talking points



▲ A more relaxed Mikel Arteta says Arsenal are 'finding joy in this journey'
JAVIER GARCIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Arsenal 3 Bournemouth 0

For years, Mikel Arteta has resembled a cat on a hot tin roof in (and around) his Arsenal technical area. Yet in recent weeks his act has gained a little more zen - a reflection, perhaps, of how his players are dealing with the title race pressure this time around. Arteta admitted as much after the 3-0 win over Bournemouth, saying his team are "finding joy in this journey, being in the title race at this stage of the season". It's a huge contrast to the Gunners of last season and it has shown in their results, with the home defeat to Aston Villa the only blemish on their record in seven matches since the start of April. In April of last year, Arsenal dropped points in four consecutive matches to cede the title to Manchester City. Pep Guardiola's side may prove victorious once again this season, but Arteta's men have at least done themselves justice in the heat of the battle, and shown they can handle the pressure. **Dominic Booth**

Brentford 0 Fulham 0

There is a prevailing thought that there might only be room for one of Ivan Toney or Ollie Watkins in England's squad for the European Championship. The Brentford forward hit the ground running with four goals in five games following his eight-month betting suspension and scored on his first England start against Belgium in March. But he has now gone 10 league matches without a goal. With his club future uncertain there could be a fear that this goal drought is coming at the worst possible time to impress Gareth Southgate. But his club manager, Thomas Frank, believes it will not have an impact. "I'm pretty sure Gareth knows who he wants," said Frank. "If you're fit, that's the big thing. It's a different tournament, different environment, different energy." **Ben Bloom**

Burnley 1 Newcastle 4

Jacob Murphy had a hand in three Newcastle goals against Burnley. He has never been the most heralded of wingers and has spent most of his Newcastle career as a squad player, making more substitute appearances than starts, but has rarely let down Eddie

Howe, who calls Murphy "the ultimate professional". This season he has been afforded more time on the pitch thanks to injuries and his own impressive form. At Turf Moor he played a pivotal role on the right in a tweaked formation, and was given plenty of attacking and defensive responsibilities. He held his nerve when in dangerous positions and Newcastle reaped the rewards. Every squad needs a Murphy, it's the law. **Will Unwin**

Sheffield Utd 1 Nott'm Forest 3

Forest's victory put them in a strong position to survive but the next few days could prove to be just as important. With Forest now three points clear of Luton and five clear of Burnley, coupled with a superior goal difference over both, one more win will all-but secure safety. However, should their appeal against a four-point deduction be successful before they next take to the field on Saturday against Chelsea, things could look very different. Just one point back would essentially relegate Burnley; and if they were to somehow get all four back, the relegation race would be over without anyone kicking a ball. Nuno admitted that wouldn't be fair on anyone. **Aaron Bower**

Manchester City 5 Wolves 1

If there is a purpose to Gary O'Neil's rants against referees beyond releasing his own anger, it is surely, on the old Alex Ferguson principle, to place a doubt in the referee's subconscious, to make them think: "Am I really sure about this? I don't want him raging at me." It hasn't worked. Perhaps arguing that a player standing two feet in front of an opposing goalkeeper isn't interfering - as he did after the West Ham game costing him a ban and an £8,000 fine - isn't the best way to make his case, but Saturday brought the total of extremely soft penalties given against Wolves this season to three. Rayan Ait-Nouri's attempt to reach Bernardo Silva's cross was fractionally later than Josko Gvardiol's, with the result that the Croatian followed through into him. There was nothing malicious, no attempt to cheat and no advantage was gained. Is that really a foul rather than simply a collision? **Jonathan Wilson**



Chelsea step up quest for Europe

Noni Madueke converts from close range to score the home team's third
DAVID KLEIN/REUTERS

Salah finds his form to leave Spurs' top-four hopes hanging by a thread

Liverpool	4
Salah 16, Robertson 45, Gakpo 50, Elliott 59	
Tottenham	2
Richarlison 72, Son 77	
Possession	
Liverpool 46%	Tottenham Hotspur 54%
Shots on target	
12	7
Total attempts	
25	11
Andy Hunter Anfield	

Ange Postecoglou found comfort in Tottenham "at least trying to play a version of ourselves" at Anfield. The assessment will be as disconcerting to Spurs supporters as the performance that yielded a fourth consecutive Premier League defeat. This version of Postecoglou's team was dreadful, and their top-four hopes were effectively extinguished as Liverpool rediscovered their verve in Jürgen Klopp's penultimate home game.

The scoreline flattered the conquered. Liverpool cruised towards victory for 72 minutes until Spurs' substitute Richarlison and their captain Son Heung-min sparked a mini-crisis of confidence among

Klopp's reshuffled pack. It passed. For the second Sunday in succession Spurs performed only when staring at a pounding but, just like the north London derby, their late flurry fooled no one. Their manager's post-match optimism did not convince either. Liverpool were richly deserving of a win delivered by the recalled Mohamed Salah, Andy Robertson, Cody Gakpo and Harvey Elliott.

Spurs came into the contest with a glimmer of Champions League qualification following Aston Villa's defeat at Brighton. The problem for Postecoglou is Spurs are not a Champions League team, and that was made abundantly clear at Anfield.

Incentive alone cannot compensate for flimsy defensive organisation and a largely ineffective forward line.

The visitors started sharply but, while tidy in possession, they were hopeless out of it. With Salah back in the Liverpool starting lineup following his petulant row with Klopp at West Ham and granted the freedom of the right wing by Emerson Royal, the hosts were able to enjoy the comforts of home after a few damaging results on the road.

Postecoglou's team struggled at the first sign of Liverpool pressure. The only fight in a quite pathetic first-half performance from Spurs came in a half-time bust-up between Cristian



Romero and the lazy Emerson. The goalkeeper, Guglielmo Vicario, had to intervene as a peace-maker.

Salah, giving a rousing reception when the teams were announced before kick-off, struck the crossbar from Liverpool's first attack of note, curling an effort with the outside of his boot over Vicario and against the woodwork. A desperate clearance

Heading Reds back in right direction

Mohamed Salah guides home Liverpool's opening goal against Spurs during the first half
ADAM VAUGHAN/EPA

1 Liverpool have only lost **one** of their last 30 league games against Spurs at Anfield (W20 D9).

10+ Mo Salah became the first Premier League player to score 10+ goals and provide 10+ assists in **three consecutive seasons**. He is now only the second player to tally 10+ in both categories in five seasons, after Wayne Rooney.

4 Spurs have lost their last four league games in a row: their **longest losing spell** since 2004's run of six.





Glorious goal floors troubled Spurs

Harvey Elliott celebrates his stunning strike to give Liverpool a four-goal lead at Anfield

JON SUPER/AP

by Micky van de Ven prevented the recalled striker pouncing on Gakpo's header as Spurs struggled to hang on. Desperate is a fitting description of their defensive efforts. Static, slow, weak and careless are also applicable.

Vicario saved from Salah when the Egypt international was put through on goal by Elliott, who swept the rebound beyond the visiting keeper



only for Romero to block on the line. The opportunity stemmed from a dreadful touch in central midfield by Pape Sarr. It would not be his last.

The inevitable breakthrough came from an inevitable source. Wataru Endo switched play out to Gakpo on the left and the in-form forward floated a delightful cross into the space that Emerson regularly left behind him for Salah to head home. Vicario was left exposed once again but could have done more to prevent the header crossing the line.

Liverpool were back to their old selves in terms of intensity, pressing and dominance although their wastefulness in front of goal was also on display prior to Robertson pouncing on the stroke of half-time. Salah, Elliott and Trent Alexander-Arnold all fired over before Liverpool's left-back gave the scoreline a fairer reflection of his team's superiority. Alexander-Arnold supplied his fellow full-back with a pin-point cross to the back post. Robertson squared to Salah and, though Vicario got down well to save the striker's first time shot, the loose ball rolled perfectly for the Scotland captain to tap home. The sight of Robertson walking the ball home summed up how easy the first half was for Liverpool.

Postecoglou's half-time team talk had no galvanising effect. Liverpool were soon three up when Elliott took the ball off Emerson and centred for Gakpo to steer a textbook header into the bottom corner. Four followed swiftly, and superbly, when Emerson headed a Robertson cross into the path of Salah and he teed up Elliott. The midfielder cut inside and curled a stunning 20-yard shot into Vicario's top right corner.

The Spurs manager rang the changes in the face of a one-sided embarrassment with Richarlison, James Maddison and Oliver Skipp arriving just after the hour. Now the visitors improved. It helped that Klopp utilised his substitutes' bench too, with a detrimental impact on Liverpool's rhythm.

Richarlison punctured Alisson's designs on a clean sheet when turning in Brennan Johnson's low cross. That appeared to be the extent of Liverpool's problems until the former Everton favourite assisted a second for Son, turning Skipp's delivery into the path of his captain who produced a clinical finish. Anfield was suddenly on edge, especially when Salah missed a gilt-edged chance to restore a comfortable lead from two yards out.

Alisson saved brilliantly from Richarlison, with Joe Gomez preventing Johnson converting the rebound, while Alexander-Arnold made a vital interception to prevent the Brazil international claiming his second of the game. Spurs' late rally was not enough. It would have been a travesty had it conjured anything. The top four should be beyond them.

<p>Liverpool 4-3-3 Alisson; Alexander-Arnold, Quansah, van Dijk, Robertson (Gomez, 64); Elliott (Szoboszlai, 83), Endo (Bajcetic, 65), Mac Allister (Gravenberch, 75); Salah, Gakpo, Díaz (Núñez, 75) <i>Subs not used</i> Kelleher, Konaté, Jones, Bradley</p>	<p>Tottenham 4-3-3 Vicario; Porro, Romero, van de Ven, Emerson (Skipp, 61); Sarr (Lo Celso, 75), Bissouma, Bentancur (Richarlison, 61); Kulusevski (Maddison, 61), Son, Johnson <i>Subs not used</i> Austin, Højbjerg, Dragusin, Gil, Moore</p>
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Referee Paul Tierney

João Pedro takes second chance to condemn tired Villa

Brighton 1
João Pedro 87

Aston Villa 0

John Brewin
Amex Stadium

Aston Villa are running on fumes. The chance to go 10 points clear on Tottenham ended up reopening the door to the Champions League. Groggy from the short turnaround and shock result of their 4-2 Thursday defeat to Olympiakos, Unai Emery's team could not replicate the energy of their manager, whose frantic touchline exhortations reflected a golden chance in danger of slipping away.

Ezri Konsa's tired tackle on Simon Adingra served up a late penalty that Robin Olsen saved from João Pedro only for the Brazilian to nod home the rebound and score the first goal from a Brighton player since March.

Brighton had not won in six, last week's loss to Bournemouth a crashing low. If a heavy injury list and the distraction of Europa League football are reasonable excuses, an increasing predictability to opponents had been less excusable. And it has been argued the seeds of their slide began at Villa Park in September, a 6-1 loss in which Emery's team repeatedly triggered the counter-press.

Sweet revenge then for Roberto De Zerbi. "We have suffered the last two months," he admitted. Last season's tactical revolutionary had lately become sussed-out, one-

dimensional. If his team dominated much of the game with Pascal Gross having a goal chalked off by VAR - as later did John McGinn - the gears were definitely grinding. They found a very different way to win than the free-flowing stuff that made their manager's reputation.

"Playing against a team of Emery is very tough," said De Zerbi. "But we played a good game, we deserved to win. Villa were not the Villa today, maybe they were tired."

For a vocal contingent among the Villa fans, Birmingham City's relegation had been cause for celebration though now they have their own worries, starting with Thursday in Greece. Villa will need to rouse themselves; Brighton, with Adingra to the fore, "the best player", according to his manager, were better from the start and stayed that way.

"It is not an excuse for us," said Emery, waving away tiredness as the main reason for defeat. "We lost and we didn't deserve more."

Emery's personal floorshow in the technical area, a series of Marcel Marceau-esque mimes, was the act of a manager desperate for answers from ailing players. Personnel is becoming an issue, too. Morgan Rogers entered the game on a run of three goals in five league games but left the field after just 15 minutes.

With McGinn sat deep, and Nicolò Zaniolo unavailable, Villa lacked a link to a speedy trio of forwards who saw far too little of the ball. "We need players fresh," said Emery. Ollie Watkins, looking in vain to reach 20 league goals, made just one promising first-half burst, a drop of the shoulder taking him beyond Lewis Dunk, only for Joël Veltman to clear.

Having scored just once in five matches the home team were often as short on ideas as Villa. They remain capable of stringing an intricate passing move from the goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen to the opposing 18-yard box but after that can resemble the goal-shy Brighton of Graham Potter rather than De Zerbi's speed kings.

"We need to have that togetherness to keep on grinding out results and crafting opportunities," said Danny Welbeck.



An animated Unai Emery tries to get his sluggish Villa side firing

Olsen faced seven shots on target, and an additional seven whizzed by his posts. "He played fantastic," said Emery of his stand-in keeper. That Villa amassed just one shot on target told their story.

In the second half Austin MacPhee, Emery's set-piece expert, became a regular presence on the sideline. One loud set of instructions resulted in a corner hitting only the first man but also McGinn's disallowed goal, as a block tackle fell to the captain to net and then see the offside flag wave for a decision that proved almost as marginal as Gross's disallowed strike.

Villa's renewed adventure had left space, Adingra injecting pace if not always precision. Julio Enciso replaced Facundo Buonanotte, one South American enigma for the other, and the Paraguayan smashed wide, producing a roar from his manager.

After João Pedro missed a Brighton penalty for the first time, only to quickly redeem himself, Brighton's manager spent the nine minutes of additional time pacing, before immediately heading down the tunnel. "I wanted to smoke a cigarette," he admitted.

Emery could meanwhile only wince at his team losing their edge at the wrong time. "The most important thing is to recover," he said, though more in hope than expectation.

<p>Brighton 4-2-3-1 Verbruggen; Veltman, Webster, Dunk, Igor; Gilmour (Baleba 88), Gross, Adingra (Barco 90), João Pedro, Buonanotte (Enciso 61); Welbeck (Moder 88) <i>Subs not used</i> Steele, Fati, Ofori, Peupion, O'Mahony</p>	<p>Aston Villa 4-2-3-1 Olsen; Konsa (Chambers 90), Torres, Diego Carlos, Digne (Moreno 90); Douglas Luiz, McGinn; Rogers (Cash 26), Diaby (Durán 73), Bailey; Watkins <i>Subs not used</i> Gauci, Lenglet, Iroegbunam, Kesler, Hayden, Kellyman</p>
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Referee Robert Jones Attendance 31,596

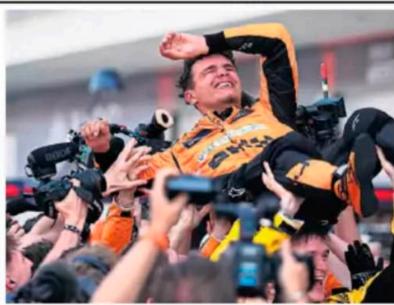
Brighton go ahead despite Olsen save

João Pedro has a penalty saved by Robin Olsen but heads in the rebound to give the hosts the lead

MATTHEW CHILDS/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS



Lando glory Norris stuns Verstappen in Miami to claim first F1 victory



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Race back on City's collapse and Chelsea romp revives WSL title battle



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Monday
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2024



Sport



◀ Mohamed Salah shows his delight after heading Liverpool into the lead against Tottenham
JOHN POWELL/
LIVERPOOL FC

United have held meetings with Sancho, says Ten Hag

Jamie Jackson

Manchester United have met with Jadon Sancho during his loan spell at Borussia Dortmund, with Erik ten Hag revealing his dispute with the forward will be resolved in the close season.

The 24-year-old joined Dortmund in January on a temporary basis having not played for United since August after he fell out with Ten Hag who left him out of the squad for the 3-1 loss at Arsenal in early September.

Immediately afterwards, Ten Hag claimed Sancho was absent because he had not trained to the standard required before the game. Sancho responded with a tweet that disputed this and, in essence, called Ten Hag a liar. Sancho then refused to apologise to the Dutchman, so was excluded by him.

The England winger was among Dortmund's best performers in Wednesday's 1-0 victory against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League semi-final first leg. Ten Hag was asked whether Sancho would be reinstated in the United squad if he apologised, and if the player is being monitored at Dortmund.

"We are close in that process," the Manchester United manager said. "We are visiting games, not only [Wednesday] - [I] will not say all the games, but we have seen more games from Dortmund where Jadon was performing. We had a visit with him, we talked with him, and we will keep going with this process."

It is understood John Murtough, the former football director at United, and Matt Hargreaves, the director of player negotiations, travelled to Dortmund for discussions with the player.

Ten Hag was pressed regarding the apology. "There was a conflict and let's finish the season first," he said. "So stay away from this issue now - it is not important. He has the return [leg] of **40** →



▲ Jadon Sancho has been in fine form on loan at Borussia Dortmund

'It shows they care' Postecoglou defends Spurs duo after Anfield bust-up

Liverpool	Tottenham
4	2
Salah 16, Robertson 45, Gakpo 50, Elliott 59	Richarlison 72, Son 77

Andy Hunter
Anfield

Ange Postecoglou claimed he had no issues with the Tottenham defenders Cristian Romero and Emerson Royal becoming embroiled in a half-time row at Anfield as it showed "they care" about the club's plummeting form.

Spurs were well beaten by Liverpool in Jürgen Klopp's penultimate home game with Mohamed Salah, recalled to the starting lineup following a spat with his manager at West Ham, sparking the win.

The visitors were fortunate to be only two goals down at the break when Romero and Emerson squared up to each other on the pitch. The

Spurs goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario sprinted over to intervene.

"I didn't see it but it shows they care," Postecoglou said. "It hurts them. They are not going to just be happy with the current situation because they care and they want to improve. There is nothing wrong with that as long as it is constructive. They care and they want to change the situation."

Spurs' aims of Champions League qualification are almost certainly over following a fourth Premier League defeat in succession. The visitors trailed 4-0 after 59 minutes at Anfield, before the substitute Richarlison led a late rally, yet Postecoglou claimed their performance was an improvement on recent away defeats.

The Spurs manager said: "Hugely

disappointing outcome, of course, but at least we were more like ourselves today compared to Newcastle and Chelsea. Those results weren't great either, but we didn't try to play our football.

"In the first half today some of our pressing was back to where it should be. We lacked a cutting edge



▲ Cristian Romero and Emerson Royal have to be separated at Anfield

and had nothing in the final third and that makes the opposition look comfortable. At 4-0 we have a mountain to climb but when we play like ourselves we put pressure on the opposition. We scored two and could have had a couple more. At least we tried to play a version of ourselves."

Klopp blamed his substitutions for contributing towards Spurs' late recovery and lavished praise on Salah on his return to Liverpool's starting lineup.

The Liverpool manager said: "The goals were outstanding. Mo was outstanding and really happy for him that he could play the way he played today. We can see what he's capable of."

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Amid the furore, listen to what the students are saying *Nesrine Malik, page 3*

Never mind the Botox: let's be happy as we are *Georgina Lawton, page 4*

Frank Stella, influential US abstract artist *Obituaries, page 6*

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arts
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Inside

The Guardian **Monday 6 May 2024**

Opinion
and ideas

Journal



Sunak knows he was routed - but not why. Let me tell him

**John
Harris**



Late last Monday, I got home from a long day of political reporting to find a political leaflet produced by the Conservative party. It had nothing do with the local elections; where I live, the only contest was the rather underwhelming vote on a new police and crime commissioner. Instead, what it said looked ahead to the general election.

"Inflation down, wages up, taxes being cut - let's stick with the plan that's working," it read. There were pithy paragraphs about "ensuring high-quality education and childcare for all children", and "better transport for our community". As with a lot of what we now hear from the ruling party, I read it as a sign that the government's pitch to voters had decisively tipped into brazen self-satire. Its implied portrait of everyday life seemed to describe another country. Each promise and boast only highlighted yet another unmentioned failure.

That day, I had been in Thurrock in Essex: the patch of built-up sprawl just beyond the border of Greater London where, amid Thursday's endless Conservative meltdown, the Tories would lose 10 council seats and Labour would gain eight, putting Keir Starmer's party in charge. That change points to the likelihood of the

Conservatives also losing Thurrock's parliamentary seat - which they last won with a majority of 11,000. But I was there to explore a much murkier story, which amounts to a parable of the past 14 years - of a Tory-led council that thought it could avoid austerity by borrowing £1.5bn to invest in risky business ventures, and ended up bankrupt, with a deficit.

This disaster finally became clear two years ago. Now, people in such places as Tilbury, Grays and Stanford-le-Hope are faced with a great litany of cuts: cancelled road projects, hacked-down adult social care and transport for kids with special needs, drastically altered bin collections and, to cap it all, huge increases in council tax.

Among people I spoke to, there was biting resentment about the mess they had been led into. When the conversation broadened out into Westminster politics, the responses I heard centred on an awful pessimism about the future ("Times are bleak at the minute, and there's been nothing I've seen that's going to make it better ... I think things are going to be like this for 20-odd years"), and a sharp sense of injustice. The fact that people in Thurrock were now paying far more for a lot less, in fact, sat at the heart of almost everything I heard.

*Rishi Sunak
marks Tees
Valley mayor
Ben Houchen's
re-election
on Friday*

PHOTOGRAPH:
IAN FORSYTH/GETTY

2

Sunak knows he was routed
- but not why. Let me tell him

John Harris

← Continued from front

 The same imbalance, it seems to me, also explains why the Tories are now in political freefall. Beyond the kind of explanations beloved of political pundits - about Partygate, the Liz Truss disaster and the plain fact that Rishi Sunak cannot do politics - large swaths of the country are now characterised by a sort of low hum of injustice, and people feeling that they have simply been conned. Their taxes have risen, interest rates have rocketed, bills have hugely increased and inflation has soared - and, contrary to the message in that Tory leaflet, wages have failed to keep pace. Last week, the Financial Times published analysis of official data showing that over the past three years, UK households have drastically reduced their spending on beer, bread, meat, recreation and more. Paying more and getting less, it seems, is now the basic national condition.

Something similar applies to just about every aspect of the Tory record. For almost the entirety of the party's time in office, millions of people have felt the effects of turbulence, shocks and disasters: austerity, the convulsions of Brexit, the weirdly overlooked trauma of the pandemic, and then the cost of living crisis. In response, the people supposedly in charge eventually succumbed to the mad dysfunction that has now pushed four Tory prime ministers out of Downing Street. From the proverbial street, all this invites an inevitable question: in return for all their suffering - and by way of justifying all the silliness at the top - what did people get in return?

The Conservatives, let us not forget, are traditionally the party that promises its voters material and financial advancement: a home to buy, a business to start, a nest egg to save for. None of that has materialised. In fact, millions of us are actually worse off.

Nothing - and in particular, the Tory flight into culture wars, perhaps seen most vividly in the campaign against Sadiq Khan - is going to shift that immovable fact, or dial down the shock of some of the last few days' results, many of which remain overlooked. Ten out of the 11 elections for regional mayors were won by Labour politicians - which included not just the West Midlands, but a remarkable victory in York and North Yorkshire. Labour beat the Tories in - and read this slowly - the Tory redoubt of Rushmoor, the area of Hampshire that includes Aldershot and Farnborough. Equally remarkably, the Liberal Democrats won more seats across England than the Conservatives, something that has not happened in nearly 30 years.

And so, finally, to Keir Starmer. One of the most inescapable clichés of modern politics is that he and his Labour colleagues have failed to spark anything like the excited mood of 1997, and have yet to somehow "seal the deal". To that, there are two answers. One is that some people's memories of the early New Labour years are over-romanticised to the point of being delusional: millions of people voted for the end of a clapped-out Conservative government, but they were hardly walking around in Tony Blair T-shirts.

In a society as fragmented and politically complex as ours, moreover, there is actually no deal to be sealed. After everything they have been through, people are more wary of politicians than ever. Given a meaningful chance to vote for something beyond the usual Westminster duopoly, they will - something illustrated by big gains last week for the Green party, and support for independents. None of that, however, detracts from 2024's fundamental political fact: that, for now at least, the Tories are completely finished.

Watching Starmer over the weekend, touring the places where Labour had won and demanding a general election, he still seemed to carry a noticeable sense of stiffness and behind-the-eyes worry. That probably says something about his character and personality, but it also speaks to a huge truth: that however much euphoria our waking up from a 14-year nightmare may spark, all of us know how far we have fallen, and how much effort and ingenuity it will take to even begin to lift us up.

The Guardian

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'Comment is free... but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Transnational repression

Fleeing abroad doesn't guarantee safety from authoritarian regimes

Forty-five years ago, the Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov was killed in London with a poison-tipped umbrella as he made his way home from work. The horrifying case transfixed the British public.

So transnational repression is not new, including on British shores. But unless its target is unusually high-profile, or it uses startling tactics such as those employed by Markov's killers - or in the attempt to assassinate Sergei Skripal - much of it passes with minimal attention.

For political opponents, journalists, civil society activists and others, fleeing their homeland may offer only limited protection, even if they win recognition as refugees. The veteran journalist Can Dündar survived an assassination attempt in Turkey and escaped to Berlin in 2016, but has faced threats even there: "I have to be careful about the coffee I drink, where I live," he told the Guardian last week.

Last month, Pouria Zeraati, of the television channel Iran International, was stabbed outside his London home. Colleagues had previously been warned of credible threats to their lives. The suspicion is that the regime in Tehran hired proxies to assault its critics abroad. As protests swept the nation in October 2022, Hossein Salami, the commander-in-chief of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, warned international media to "watch out, because we're coming for you".

In We Will Find You, a report released earlier this year, Human Rights Watch noted: "Transnational repression is not new, but it is a phenomenon that has often been downplayed or ignored and warrants a call to action."

The US-based not-for-profit organisation Freedom House argues that the problem is actually spreading. While countries including Russia have long been associated with such activities, others have more recently been linked to high-profile killings and more general harassment.

The White House last week described reports that the Indian intelligence service was responsible for two assassination plots in the US and Canada as "a serious matter". On Friday, Canadian police charged three men with the murder of the prominent Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. Justin Trudeau said last year that "credible allegations" potentially linked India to his killing. Hong Kong activists living in the UK, and students from elsewhere in China, have both complained of surveillance and harassment on British soil. In some cases, their families back home have been challenged about their activities abroad. Last year, Hong Kong placed bounties on the heads of several exiles, including three now living in the UK.

Regimes are finding new ways to terrorise those who have left. In 2021, Belarusian authorities used a fake bomb threat to force a Ryanair flight from Athens to Vilnius to land in Minsk - then detained the opposition blogger Roman Protasevich and his girlfriend Sofia Sapega. Three years later, many people have only a blurry memory of the case. But for Belarusian dissidents - and those who have fled other authoritarian states - it looms large. Such actions are not only a threat to the lives and freedoms of the individual activists involved. They also have a chilling effect, deterring others from speaking out.

Human Rights Watch has called for a new UN rapporteur to focus on the issue. This would be a step forward in understanding and addressing this problem. Faced with increasingly brazen tactics, other countries must also be bold in calling out transnational repression and holding governments to account for it.

Reading

So adults cherish books for teenagers? There's nothing wrong with that

Childhood has meant many different things over the centuries. The transitional years of adolescence, in particular, have come a long way since they just meant smaller, cheaper, more biddable adults capable of factory work and helping out on family farms. It is only in the last 80 years or so that the teenager has come into existence, as a demographic with whole industries devoted to serving its interests - and mopping up its pocket money.

One of those industries was publishing, which responded in the 1960s by developing a market that had been identified by librarians more than two decades earlier: young adult (YA) literature. This highly profitable sub-sector, aimed at filling the gap between childish and grown-up reading, has been around long enough now to offer valuable insights into shifts in social attitudes.

So research released last week, which suggested that 74% of YA readers were over 18 years old - and that 28% were over 28 - is worthy of attention. The report puts the continuing appeal of YA down to reading for comfort, as a defence against the stresses and strains of "emerging adulthood", among a generation that is taking longer to reach "adult" life.

Nearly a third of the readers were aged between 18 and 22, thus falling well within the new parameters of adolescence suggested by advances in brain science. Another third were aged 23 to 34, so benefited from the boom years of child and YA fiction, when the unparalleled success of JK Rowling's Harry Potter

series inevitably distorted the picture. The sector as a whole has since shrunk.

What qualifies as YA has always been approximate and market driven, to the extent that some books - such as Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* - have been simultaneously published in both adult and teenage editions. Film, stage and TV adaptations, meanwhile, have drawn older readers to the work of crossover writers such as Neil Gaiman, Malorie Blackman or - more recently - the graphic novelist Alice Oseman.

But these caveats don't mean that YA literature has nothing to tell us about the world - as was made clear by two top 100 lists published six years apart by Time Magazine. Editors of the lists admitted that when they published the first ranking, in 2015, they had no idea "how drastically the category - what it represents, who it serves and whose voices it centres - was about to shift". So in 2021, they booted out half of the previous entries to reflect the impact of the #ownvoices movement, hugely increasing the representation of previously marginalised groups. Out went *Charlotte's Web* and *The Hobbit*. In came a slew of more recent novels.

It remains to be seen which of the two lists will seem more relevant in a decade's time. Their coexistence makes the point that older readers may not only be reading YA novels for different reasons to younger ones, such as solace rather than exploring their identity, but also may be embracing a significantly different body of literature. Nostalgia can buttress older titles against the caprices of the market.

What is undeniably true is that books discovered in adolescence often stay with readers, becoming part of their emotional and intellectual scaffolding. The important thing at any age is not so much what you read, however, as having access to all the benefits of being a reader.

Amid the furore, listen to what the students are saying

Nesrine Malik



On a hot day last week, the pavements outside Columbia University were heaving. About 200 protesters were gathered, raising pro-Palestine chants and signs. It was a disparate crowd, diverse across ethnicities and generations. One smiling elderly lady walked through the crowd offering small bottles of water. A helicopter circled overhead. The police who encircled the crowd were jittery, and raising the temperature of what was a loud but perfectly orderly and amiable crowd.

Once on the campus, I made my way to the reason for the protesters, the police and the high security at the university gates: an encampment of students on a patch of lawn at the heart of campus. It had been up for about two weeks at this point, after a series of demands to university administrators, including divestment from “companies and institutions that profit from Israeli apartheid”, were not met.

The media swarmed. Reporters from local and foreign news outlets spoke breathlessly into cameras; others livestreamed on their phones. Near the

encampment, a cluster of reporters gathered around one Jewish student standing on a raised platform, waving a large Israeli flag as he repeated to the interviewers that the Jews on campus were not going to be intimidated and were “not going anywhere”.

The encampment itself was jarringly small and peaceful, almost festive: a handful of tents with a few students milling around, occasionally breaking into song or chanting, as students outside the short fence around the grass joined in. From one side of the encampment, a student urged others to stay hydrated. He stood in what looked like the administrative centre of the protest, housing a supply tent and what I was told was the media liaison office. What stood out to me was an obvious but striking fact, considering how much the students had already experienced in the way of arrests, suspension and global attention. They were kids. “Nineteen-year-olds,” one student replied when I remarked on the rules and ecosystem of the place. “It was all organised by 19-year-olds.”

A sort of uncertain anticipation filled the air. The president of the university had given the students a deadline of 2pm to disband the sit-in. Almost all the students I approached declined to speak. Politely, and a little nervously, they said they were not media-trained, or would rather just not speak. But I was directed to a young man called Aidan who leaned over the fence of the encampment and began to chat. I recognised him as one of the students leading the chanting inside. His voice was hoarse as he started to rattle off the reasons for their defiance.

The encampment already had its own history and hagiography. It was a place that had grown in resolve after university administrators called in the New York police department on 18 April, leading to more than 100 students being arrested for trespassing. The encampment then regrouped, but with a renewed sense of distrust and anger. “Negotiations were halted,” Aidan told me, because of the “bad faith” of university administrators. Columbia’s president, Minouche Shafik, had repeatedly referenced concerns over antisemitism and the safety of Jewish students on campus as a reason for disbanding the encampment. She and other university presidents had been hauled in front of federal lawmakers to answer questions about antisemitism during campus protests.

I asked him about that, and about one chant that stood out to me. “We don’t want two states,” some of

What I saw on the campuses that I visited was young people who’d been burdened with an almost impossible moral load

the encampment students said, “we want it all.” It was the first time Aidan floundered. “We just want a free Palestine,” he said. What does that look like? It wasn’t up to them, he replied, to “work that out”. It wasn’t the whole story of the encampment, which Jewish groups joined and which hosted a Seder dinner among and in support of pro-Palestine protesters, but I could see why some Jewish students would feel uncomfortable.

Whether that raises the bar high enough for banning or forcibly clearing protest sites goes to the heart of larger concerns: concerns with a longer history about who gets to define the limits of free speech on US campuses, and how those limits can be redrawn along partisan lines to justify a crackdown.

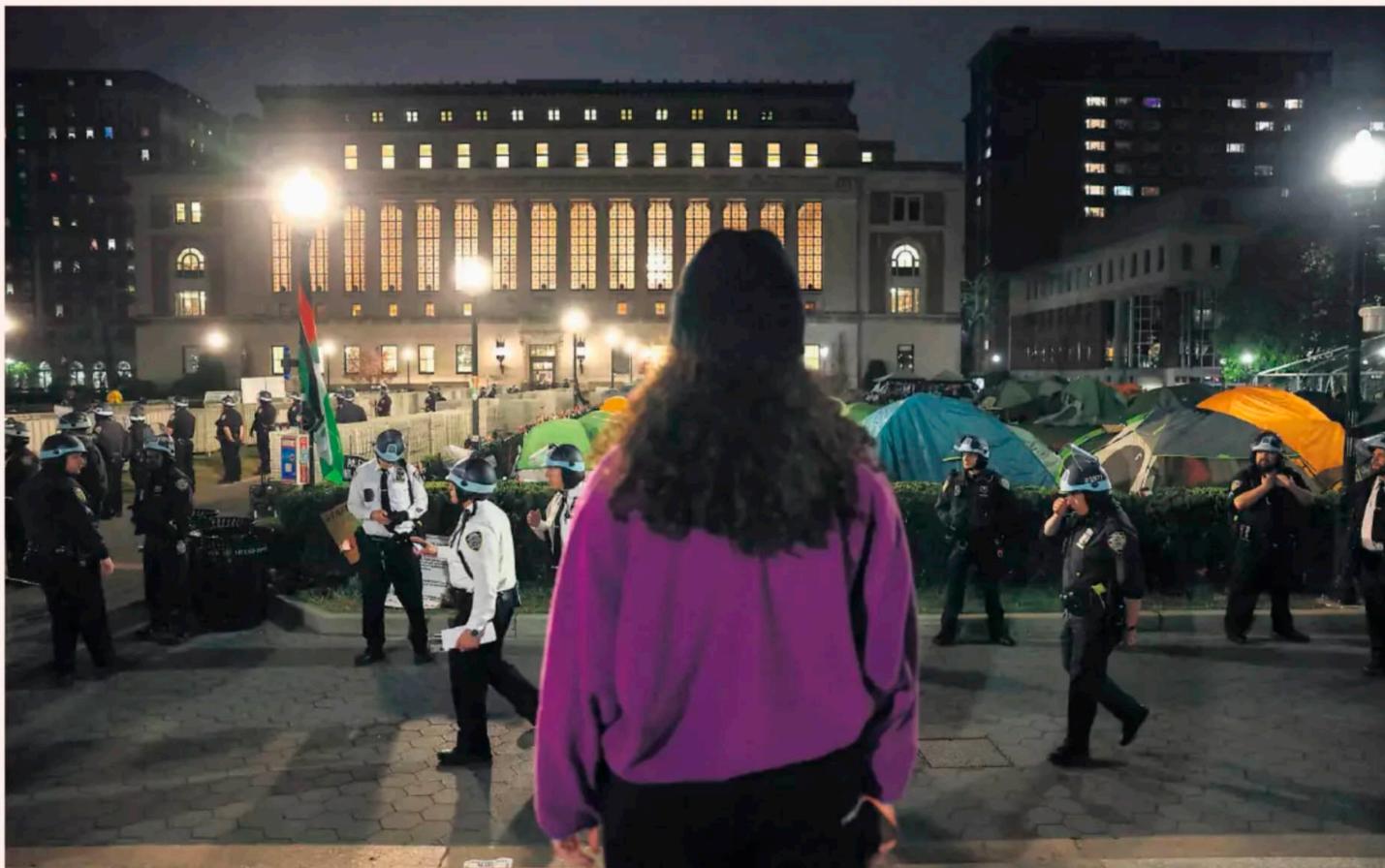
There have also been reports of aggression on campus, and it will be necessary to address them, with those who have experienced aggression given a full hearing. It is also important, and requires an equal commitment to the truth, that this process does not void or define an entire movement, one that cannot be reduced to its worst manifestations or bad sloganeering.

The next night, the NYPD entered the campus. The scenes outside campus would not have looked out of place in a war zone. Hundreds of police in riot gear lined up, then erected a ladder and entered, guns drawn, according to those inside, violently arresting students and throwing them down stairs. Within hours, more than 100 were arrested and the campus was cleared.

The overwhelming impression was that of wild overreaction and disproportionality. The contrast between the language of university administrators, parts of the press and reality was so vast that even after spending hours on campus on the day that tensions were peaking, I could not reconcile the two. That very morning, Minouche sent an email citing “harassment and discrimination” and the urgency of keeping everyone “physically safe on campus” as reasons for demanding an end to the protest. The morning after the police raid, a CNN show referenced “violence, destruction and hate” on US college campuses, “harkening back to 1930s Europe”.

At Columbia and other campuses I visited in New York and Washington, where smaller protests were held, what I saw and heard were young people burdened with an impossible moral load - the feeling that, as students in the universities of Israel’s most powerful ally, the responsibility for forcing a reassessment of the nation’s stance on Gaza now rested on their shoulders. And with that they carried the fear of all that could befall them as a result of tilting against powerful corporate, media and political interests.

I spelled out the risks to Aidan: suspension, loss of housing and medical care, reputational harm, damage to career prospects. “The students in Gaza don’t have schools to protest in; they don’t have medical care to be taken away from them,” he replied. “This is nothing compared to what they’re experiencing.” It was a familiar sentiment on the part of students I had met by now, this throwing it back to Gaza as a sort of compass to maintain direction and remember the stakes. And it came with the heartbreaking, terrifying resolution that only young people are capable of, still unbroken by compromise or experience of how flooring the toll is when it arrives. In them, there is a compass too.



A protester looks on as police stand guard near a pro-Palestine encampment, Columbia University, 30 April PHOTOGRAPH: CAITLIN OCHS/REUTERS



Never mind the Botox: let's be happy as we are

Georgina Lawton



Everyone goes through it: a reckoning with one's own mortality in the mirror, poking at eye bags and tugging at folds of loose skin. Am I looking a bit rough? It's part of the human condition to fear ageing, but among millennials and gen Z there seems to be a heightened anxiety around growing older, coupled with an increasingly casual attitude towards getting fillers and Botox compared with previous generations.

Almost half of millennial women polled by the BBC in 2019 said they believed that having a cosmetic procedure was akin to having a haircut. I can say from experience that it is not. Like many, I have fallen victim to negative anti-ageing rhetoric.

After months of staring at my tired face on Zoom calls during lockdown, I felt as if my hot years were slipping through my fingers. When the world opened up, I found a doctor to "restore" my hollowed-out under-eyes with 1ml of filler. I was barely 28.

I spent £700 on two rounds of filler with a trained doctor, who placed it into my upper cheek, instead of directly under my eye, to reduce the risk associated with under-eye treatments. But even though I paid top whack and went to the renowned Harley Street, my face did not take as well to the second round of filler, and it has left a visible dent under one of my eyes that I now obsess over in photos.

Despite this, getting more "tweakments" has still crossed my mind. Recently, after a period of prolonged stress, I became paranoid that it was showing on my face. "I'm getting Botox," I told several friends, convinced I was developing forehead lines. But I didn't cave in – and I'm glad, as once I started looking after myself again, they disappeared.

Beauty tweakments such as dermal fillers and Botox are increasingly favoured by younger people. In 2022, 27% of US patients receiving Botox were 34 or younger, compared with 21% in 2015, according to the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. The idea is to stop wrinkles before they start, with some calling it "baby Botox", or "prejuvenation". On TikTok, young people are lauded for incorporating these treatments into their skincare routine, with many equating it with self-care. Anecdotally, about a third of my female friends, all of us barely out of our 20s, have hopped on the trend. One got Botox largely for her wedding. Another has been getting filler touch-ups in her lips and cheeks since her late 20s.

So why are we all so desperate to pretend we're not growing older? There is a collective and largely

premature fear of the effects of ageing. For my generation, being perpetually online and scrolling through the lives of others must also be a factor. It keeps us locked into a constant state of comparison. Then, the stream of bad news on war and the climate crisis is making us all depressed, anxious and nervous about dying. And in a time of economic uncertainty, millennials and gen Z are also unable to tick off traditional checkpoints of adulthood, so the idea that many alter their appearance to turn back the clock makes perfect sense to me. For women, our looks are aesthetic capital after all – and being beautiful can unlock social and professional success.

But these treatments often don't come with warnings; it's up to the consumer to research potential pitfalls. Botched cosmetic procedures among young people are on the rise, with too many treatments taking place in unregulated beauty salons and carried out by unqualified practitioners. Last month, three women in the US contracted HIV from "vampire facials", cosmetic procedures intended to rejuvenate the skin, when an unlicensed New Mexico medical clinic reused needles that should have been disposed of. It caused understandable alarm worldwide as the first such cases of transmission via a needle during cosmetic surgery.

The pursuit of youth keeps many of us in a chokehold. And while I'm all for female personal agency when it comes to cosmetic treatments, looking young is not a panacea for all life's woes. One friend who loves fillers said to me recently: "I can't stay 28 for ever, but the aim is to look 28 for ever." I'm trying to reject the message that it's wrong for women to look their true age. It can be hard to tune out the noise, but the alternative may mean a future marred by self-doubt, expensive treatments or even regret. I think I'll stick with the eye bags.

*
Georgina Lawton
is the author of *Raceless: In Search of Family, Identity and the Truth About Where I Belong*

Established 1906

Country diary*Llanilar, Ceredigion*

The buttercups are coming into flower in the churchyard of St Hilary's, and a few dandelions have already set seed – the globular heads barely moving in the still morning air. Nearby, a metal plaque, slightly corroded by time and weather, celebrates Llanilar's victory as Cardiganshire's best kept village in 1965 and 1966. The church sits on a river terrace that falls away to the flood plain of the Afon Ystwyth, and a steep banked lane guides me down past brightly emergent beech hedges to the site of the old railway station.

Beyond the gravel station yard, little remains to show that this was once an important railway line, joining mid-Wales to the south. The line here closed at the end of 1964, after massive winter flooding not far from where I'm standing severely damaged the trackbed and a bridge. The rest of the line lost its passenger service a few months later, fading into the past with so many other rural routes. Last autumn, a Senedd petition exceeded the 10,000 signatures needed to consider a debate in the Welsh parliament on the feasibility of reopening the line. Time will tell.

In the meantime, the remains of the track form part of the Ystwyth Trail, a valuable route reaching inland from the sea towards the upper reaches of the river. Today, bluebells form rafts of colour under the canopy of trees beside the track – while the river, still high but no longer in flood, chunters over the pebble riffles a few steps to the north. Crossing a short bridge, I get to overlook one of the many small tributaries that flow into the Afon Ystwyth – the Nant Adail – which curves sinuously beneath a new rush of foliage, bright with the fluid song of blackbirds.

With five miles to go I am just getting into my stride when I find the path ahead blocked with heavy steel mesh panels. A single sheet of paper hangs limply from the barrier, announcing that the trail is closed for remedial works – something my research failed to spot. Loudly cursing my poor planning, I turn aside to find another, much less attractive, path home – pausing only once, to enjoy the sight of two enthusiastic young collies expertly rounding up a flock of sheep.

John Gilbey

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Labour can be proud, but there is a long way to go

Keir Starmer's party has not only, as Jonathan Freedland says, sought "to reassure Tory switchers" that they have nothing to worry about, in doing so it has remoulded itself into a centre-right conservative Labour party, with policies so moderate that they're in danger of Tory adoption prior to the election (Starmer is triumphant. And now for the hard part, 4 May). Like the effect of Joe Biden's weak stance over Gaza, the real danger is that many voters will "cast their ballots for alternatives to Sir Keir" (The local elections show voters aren't listening to Tories but hear Labour, 4 May).

Does Freedland seriously believe that if the Gaza situation is "sufficiently calmed" come election day, voters are so fickle that they will have forgotten Starmer's refusal to support an immediate ceasefire, or his hesitation about whether Israel has the right to withhold power and water from Gaza?

He also says that "there is not enough money" for a Labour government to fix what the Tories have spent 14 years breaking, when Starmer and Rachel Reeves have refused all advice to tax wealth and its owners fairly, equalise capital

gains and income tax, impose windfall taxes on all profiteering companies, and close the tax gap completely rather than by a meagre £5bn in five years. Too right they will be "cut little slack", and quite rightly, too. If the problems facing the next Labour government "could hardly be more daunting", it is of their own making: the country is ready for and needs transformative policies, not simply a change in the holder of the keys to No 10.

Bernie Evans
Liverpool

● A "receptacle strategy" is all very well as long as your receptacle is free of holes. The gaping hole at the heart of Labour's bucket is the lack of any vision for the future. The party has done very well thus far by not being the Conservatives. But without offering a benighted electorate some hope, how much further can it go? The political scientist John Curtice rightly refused to get too excited about these results, and one news outlet pointed out that if the percentages at the local elections were to be repeated at the general election, we're looking at a hung parliament.

Britain has yet to come to terms with its past

Mihir Bose's experiences in the UK resonate somewhat with my own (Britain: a great place but still a work in progress, 1 May). In 1966, as a 14-year-old, I arrived at Tilbury Docks on a cold foggy morning aboard the SS Himalaya. My father, on temporary assignment in the UK, was able to get me admission to Westminster City grammar, a five-minute walk from Buckingham Palace. I was the only Indian; the racism I faced was not vicious but muted, often manifested through jokes and accent mimicry.

There is a certain advantage to being a minority of one

versus a group. People are more accommodating. However, I still remember the first joke from school: "Did you hear about the Indian who lived with a cow?"

"Really, what about the smell?"
"No problem, the cow got used to it." Having never lived with a cow, I struggled to understand it at the time, but felt the peer pressure to join in the laughter anyway.

Now, after spending most of my life abroad and residing between Bengaluru and London, I too perceive Britain as a work in progress, but experience it as well ahead of the other mature

Tory Rwanda plans driven by desperation

Given that only a small percentage of asylum seekers are likely to be deported to Rwanda (Home Office to detain UK asylum seekers in shock Rwanda move, 29 April), we might expect that those initially chosen will be law breakers, or economic migrants from peaceful countries.

In reality, the government appears to be so desperate to get flights to Rwanda off the ground before a general election that it is willing to send any easy targets it can, including those who were children when they fled from war.

Two of our friends who left their country as children are among those who have just received letters calling them to report to immigration services, referring to a "third country process". These young men left a region at war, where acts of genocide were occurring and male family members had already disappeared. They claimed asylum almost two years ago. Since then, they have learned English, volunteered in our community and become integrated here.

As a progressive I would welcome that. This country needs radical democratic and economic reform, and a hung parliament would be an opportunity to bring proportional representation front and centre. This would open the door to other much-needed reforms and a new politics of debate and consensus-building rather than the tawdry mud-slinging that currently passes for it.

Lyn Dade
Twickenham, London

● Historically, Labour has been a broad church uniting a range of left-of-centre opinion to win elections in a first-past-the-post system. Keir Starmer has taken a narrower approach. While that did bring electoral success on 2 May, it also led to significant losses to independent and Green candidates on issues such as Gaza and the climate crisis.

If Labour is to win a victory at this year's general election, Starmer urgently needs to resume services at the broad church.

Keith Flett
Tottenham, London

● If the word "disappointing" is the one Rishi Sunak chooses to describe the local election results for the Tories, I think he'll need a thesaurus after the general election.

Dr Mark Wilcox
Holmfirth, West Yorkshire

democracies in the west, at least in the context of diversity. Although I agree with Bose on the need to come to terms with the past, I dread to think how impractical it could turn out to be. We live in a world where not only do we have the online tools to confabulate the present, but also to instantly reframe our past.

For those determined to edit the past with skewed narratives just to endorse their own agendas, this has now become a dangerous weapon of mass distortion. Distortion of our past seemed much more manageable when it was confined to just history books.

Shyamol Banerji
Bengaluru, India

The UK used to be a place of refuge for people fleeing from war and persecution. Now, the government appears determined to trade people, paying Rwanda to remove them.

Saying that this scheme is a "deterrent" ignores the reality that asylum seekers crossing the Channel are willing to accept risks. Those we have asked have said they would still have come knowing that there was a small risk of being sent to Rwanda. We urge the next government to secure safe routes for those seeking asylum from war.

Jamie Hawker and Debbie Hawker
*Long Eaton, Derbyshire***Corrections and clarifications**

● Following Bayern Munich's win against Arsenal in the Champions League quarter-final, an article said that the German club's manager, Thomas Tuchel, would become "only the second manager after a certain José Mourinho to lead his side to the last four with three different clubs". There are in fact several managers already in this pantheon, including Pep Guardiola (Hardened Bayern show true colours and hand Arteta biggest challenge of his career, 18 April, p37, late editions).

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Mordaunt's fairytale jibe: the tooth hurts

Penny Mordaunt chose an unfortunate metaphor in referring to the Big Bad Wolf's dentures in her attack on Labour's supposed duplicity on the NHS (Report, theguardian.com, 2 May). If the wolf had been reliant on NHS dentistry under this government, Little Red Riding Hood would have had little to fear.

John Kelly
Little Raveley, Cambridgeshire

● In 1969, I too made my own wedding dress (A moment that changed me, 1 May). This was a simpler task than for your writer – in those days if you bought the fabric and pattern from the department store Copland & Lye in Glasgow, they would measure you and cut out the pattern for you, removing the necessity to, in my case, crawl about the living room floor, struggling with yards of fabric.

Anne Buchanan
Hamilton, South Lanarkshire

● Re the Garrick Club ('A running sore': Garrick Club gears up to vote again on admitting women, 4 May), I would love to know who does the cleaning. Are their rules broken for this task?

Angela Cooper
Sheffield

● Reading your obituary of Duane Eddy (4 May), I remember listening to his album *Have Guitar Will Travel* which you mentioned. My friend's mother liked the music and I do recall her saying, "This *Will Travel* is very good isn't he?"

David Gerrard
Edinburgh

● How reassuring to learn that records of blocked school toilets were kept in a logbook (Letters, 3 May).

Dr Allan Dodds
Bramcote, Nottinghamshire



Frank Stella

One of the most influential US abstract artists of his generation who constantly reinvented his work

In February 2015, a pair of enormous stars, one in polished aluminium and the other unvarnished teak, appeared in the courtyard of the Royal Academy in London. These were by the American artist and honorary Academician Frank Stella, who has died aged 87.

For all their differences, the two stars were part of a single work called, with deadpan literalness, *Inflated Star* and *Wooden Star*. Given their size – each measured 7 metres in all dimensions – it seemed unlikely that these could have anything to hide. In 1966, in a dig at the mystical airs of abstract expressionism, Stella famously said: “What you see is what you see.”

It became the battle cry of a then newly emergent style known as minimalism – and also seemed to fit *Inflated Star* and *Wooden Star* to a T.

And yet Stella’s work raised many more questions than it answered. His stars were welded together by a tubular metal armature, as they were by their title. They seemed to be in orbit around each other, although which exerted gravitational pull on which was impossible to say.

Visually as materially, they were very different from each other. *Inflated Star* was plumped-up and cushiony, polished to a Jeff Koonsy high gloss; *Wooden Star* seemed austere and skeletal. It was impossible to read one without reference to the other,

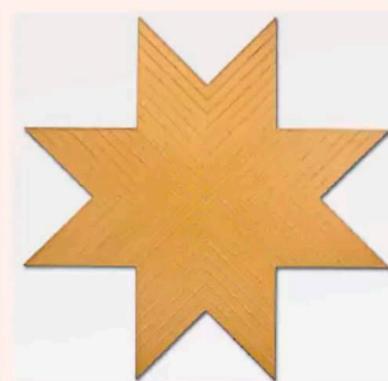
Stella standing in front of one of his creations at an exhibition at Wolfsburg’s art museum, in Germany, 2012. Right, Plant City, 1963, zinc chromate on canvas by Stella

MATTHIAS LEITZKE/
EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK;
© 2015 FRANK STELLA/
AKS, NEW YORK

and yet the frame of that reference – before / after, older / newer, stronger / weaker – was left entirely to the viewer to decide.

Beyond this again was the question of puns. Both sets of Stella’s grandparents had arrived in the US as Sicilian immigrants at the turn of the 20th century. His parents, Frank Sr, a gynaecologist, and Constance (nee Santonelli), an artist turned housewife, spoke Italian to each other at home. Stella is Italian for “star”.

Stella’s engagement with the star form began early, and in two dimensions. By 1963, on a residency at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, he was making paintings on star-shaped canvases, such as *Port Tampa City*. These were joined by prints such as the 1967 *Star of Persia* series. In one form or another, Stella’s many



hundreds of stars are to be found in galleries, plazas and sculpture parks all over the world. He remained testily insistent that the form was not his nominative calling card, and pointed out that the only person he knew who did not own a Stella star was himself.

Fame came to him early. The oldest of three children, Stella was born in Malden, an affluent suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, and was sent by his ambitious parents to Phillips Academy, Andover, a local equivalent of Eton and alma mater to both Presidents Bush. The art lessons he had there were the only ones he would receive. After graduating with a BA in history from Princeton in 1958, he moved to New York, where he rented a loft in West Broadway and earned his keep as a house painter.

In this he had been trained by his father, who, despite working a 60-hour week, insisted on doing painting jobs around the house with the help of his son. Stella’s early *Copper Paintings* (1961) used the barnacle-repellent gunk with which he had caulked his father’s sloop the summer before. Another series, begun in the same year, was named *Benjamin Moore* after the well-known brand of house paint in which they were made. Andy Warhol bought an entire set of the works from new, beginning his own *Campbell’s Soup* series shortly after.

Stella was no pop artist, however. He used household paints and brushes not to satirise popular culture but because they were familiar to him. “The first time I saw a Pollock,” he said in a 2000 interview with the NPR radio network, “I knew right away how it was done.”

The black paintings that he began in 1959 remain among his most famous, canvases such as *Die Fahne Hoch!*, in the Whitney Museum of American Art, powerful in part because of the domesticity of their darkness. Built up of parallel bands of black household enamel separated by narrow strips of raw canvas, they are popularly known as “pinstripe” paintings; a mode that Stella would use into the 1970s. So instantly successful were these early works that their 23-year-old maker was included in the show *Sixteen Americans* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1959, alongside Jasper Johns and Ellsworth Kelly. In 1970, at 33, he became the youngest artist ever to be given a MoMA retrospective.

Stella’s early insistence that a painting was “a flat surface with paint on it – nothing more” seemed reductive, but it gave him a set of rules to battle with. An early way around the self-imposed strictures of his own form of minimalism was the production of shaped canvases – stars, and so-called “notched” paintings such as *Newstead Abbey* (1960), in which nicks cut from all four sides of a vertical canvas generate a rhythm of lines that suggest a rhombus in

He used household paints and brushes. “The first time I saw a Pollock I knew right away how it was done”

the middle of them. The feeling is of a flattened ziggurat, as though Stella's two dimensional work might at any moment spring into three dimensions.

That was more or less what happened in the mid-80s. For the ensuing decade, Stella made works such as *La Scienza della Fiacca* (4x) (1984) that responded in a broad way to the novel *Moby Dick*. Where the black and pinstripe paintings had worked with and against their own insistent flatness, Stella's paintings of the 80s and 90s suddenly broke free of the wall, pushing outwards in curls and swoops of moulded fibreglass and aluminium, often dappled with paint. ("They're surfaces to paint on," he said of the new works at the time. "So it's still all about painting.") It was a short step from there to sculptures such as the stars that appeared in the courtyard of Burlington House in 2015.

If this seemed like a shift from minimalism to maximalism, change was itself part of Stella's story. Also in the mid-80s, the cigar-chomping artist had become fascinated by the idea of turning smoke rings into sculptures.

Over the next 20 years, these slowly morphed, as smoke rings will, into works with names such as *Atalanta and Hippomenes* (2017), some wall-based and some made for the floor. As with his stars, Stella's intention seemed to be to see how far he could push representation before it disappeared in a puff of abstraction.

Change also meant his work moving back and forth between media, dimensions and decades. When the World Trade Center was destroyed in September 2001, the large diptych paintings by Stella that had hung in the lobby of one of the buildings went with it.

In 2021, they were replaced in the plaza of the rebuilt WTC by the sculpture *Jasper's Split Star*, named after his good friend Johns. This was both an entirely new work and one whose roots went back 60 years, to the painting *Jasper's Dilemma* (1962-63).

By the 21st century, Stella was unquestionably one of the grand old men of American art. In 2009, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama. In 2023, *Delta*, one of his earliest black paintings, went on sale at Art Basel Miami with a price tag of \$45m.

Stella married the art historian and critic Barbara Rose in 1961. They had two children, Rachel and Michael, and divorced in 1969. He had a daughter, Laura, from a relationship with Shirley De Lemos Wyse. With the paediatrician Harriet McGurk, whom he married in 1973, Stella had two sons, Peter and Patrick. She and all five children, and five grandchildren, survive him.

Charles Darwent

Frank Philip Stella, artist, born 12 May 1936; died 4 May 2024

Margaret Curphey

Soprano best known for her performances in the Ring cycle and other Wagner operas

Margaret Curphey, who has died aged 86, was a member of the company of singers that under the inspirational direction of Reginald Goodall gave the world a series of Wagner performances acclaimed as a landmark in British operatic history.

The English-language recordings of her as Sieglinde and Gutrun in the Ring, and as an exquisite Eva in *The Mastersingers* - demonstrating a peerless understanding of the fusion of text and music at the heart of Wagner's art - are sufficient to guarantee her place alongside Rita Hunter, Alberto Remedios and Norman Bailey in that project. However, she never made the big breakthrough in career terms that her vocal talents deserved.

The authority of her singing throughout the range, but with a specially radiant top, together with the nuanced deployment of tonal colouring, were indispensable assets in these roles, cultivated over an extended period of time in Valhalla, as Goodall's rehearsal eyrie under the roof of Covent Garden was known. She also sang Elsa in *Lohengrin* - the sheer

beauty of sound in the Act III love duet with Remedios has arguably never been surpassed - but her vocal amplitude and ability to project enabled her to add the heavier part of Brünnhilde to her other Ring roles, at Goodall's instigation, singing it in London and subsequently Seattle, Santiago di Chile and Gothenberg.

She was a principal for 13 years, starting at Sadler's Wells in 1965, and moving on with the company to the London Coliseum in 1968; it became English National Opera in 1974. Her first role with the company was as Micaële (*Carmen*), a part to which she was able to bring both the perception of vulnerability and the inner strength for the climactic outbursts.

By the late 1960s she was starting to get highly favourable reviews in such roles as Pamina (*The Magic Flute*), Santuzza (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) and the Countess (*The Marriage of Figaro*). Other roles included both Mimi and Musetta in *La Bohème*, Ellen Orford (*Peter*

Her vocal authority was cultivated in Valhalla, as the rehearsal eyrie under Covent Garden's roof was nicknamed



Curphey as Eva and Alberto Remedios as Walther von Stolzing in The Mastersingers of Nuremberg for Sadler's Wells Opera, in 1968

Grimes), Ninetta (*The Thieving Magpie*), Violetta (*La Traviata*) and Leonora (*Il Trovatore*).

Goodall invited her to sing *Isolde* (*Tristan and Isolde*) in a production for Welsh National Opera he was to conduct in 1979. At this time, however, Curphey was undergoing surgery for an arthritic hip (the consequence of a serious injury sustained in a playground accident when she was 12). Unsure whether she would be fully recovered in time, Goodall turned to Linda Esther Gray, who had been hired as Brangäne for the production, but was also singing *Isolde* for him at ENO more or less coterminously.

It was agreed that Gray would sing the first five performances in Cardiff, leaving Curphey to take over for the remainder, but she was not well enough to do so and was replaced by Anna Green.

Curphey returned to her native Isle of Man as a permanent resident in 1980 but attempted a comeback to the stage in 1981, returning to sing three roles for Opera North: *Yaroslavna* (*Prince Igor*), *Agathe* (*Der Freischütz*) and *Reiza* in a concert performance of *Oberon*, broadcast by the BBC. She also sang the Verdi Requiem in Coventry Cathedral, the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall, toured to Singapore and Reykjavik to perform in concerts and sang Miss Jessel (*Turn of the Screw*) in Geneva. Her compromised mobility, however, precluded a full return to the stage.

Born in Douglas, Isle of Man, Margaret was the daughter of Mary (nee Gelling) and William Curphey, a police sergeant and later inspector of the Harbour Police. Both were amateur singers, as were Margaret's twin sisters Muriel and Christine. (A younger sister joined the Lancashire police force.) Margaret studied with John Carol Case and David Galliver at the Birmingham School of Music, then toured with the Arts Council's Opera for All (1963 season) before joining the Glyndebourne chorus (1964-65), at one point understudying Montserrat Caballé.

Then arrived the contract as principal artist for Sadler's Wells Opera, though for a brief period in 1967 she also sang with Scottish Opera. In the same year, she sang in the UK premiere of Mozart's *Lucio Silla* at the Camden festival.

She retired in 1994 following a farewell concert at Erin Arts Centre with Remedios and her husband Philip Summerscales, a businessman and baritone. She was highly esteemed by colleagues for her generosity and warmth both on and off the stage and continued to support artistic activity on her native island.

She is survived by Philip, whom she married in 1967, and their daughter, Helen.

Barry Millington

Susan Margaret Curphey, soprano, born 27 February 1938; died 13 March 2024

Birthdays

Prof Dawn Adès, art historian, 81; **Celeste Barber**, comedian, 42; **Sir Tony Blair**, former MP and Labour prime minister, 71; **Susan Brown**, actor, 78; **George Clooney**, actor and director, 63; **Nicholas Crane**, geographer, writer and broadcaster, 70; **Jeffery Deaver**, author, 74; **Frances Done**, former chair, Youth Justice Board, 74; **Ariel Dorfman**, novelist, 82; **Kerry Ellis**, actor and singer, 45; **Ron Fawcett**, rock climber, 69; **Alessandra Ferri**, ballerina, 61; **Lord (Malcolm) Forbes**, premier lord of Scotland, 78; **Sir Tom Hunter**, entrepreneur and philanthropist, 63; **Lord (John) Hutton**, former Labour MP and cabinet minister, 69; **Catherine Mackintosh**, violinist, 77; **Kit Martin**, architect and country house restorer, 77; **John Pawson**, architectural designer, 75; **Sir Craig Reddie**, former president, World Anti-Doping Agency, 83; **Duncan Scott**, swimmer, 27; **Bob Seger**, musician, 79; **Gabourey Sidibe**, actor, 41; **Tony Sloman**, filmmaker and cinema historian, 79; **Graeme Souness**, footballer and manager, 71.

Letter

Marion Ecob-Prince

I attended the same senior school as Marion Ecob-Prince (Other lives, 6 April). She and her brother were born in the same week as me, in the same nursing home and we were all involved in a baby mix-up.

At feeding time my mother was presented with a handsome, lusty baby - who turned out to be Marion. Marion's mother, Anne, was feeding her twin brother, so was unaware that she had been given a rather less prepossessing specimen. Maternal instincts overrode my mother's admiration for Marion, and she handed her to the nearest nurse and rushed to see to whom I had been given.

The matron was eventually able to soothe my distraught mother, but my siblings sometimes commented that school reports might have been rather more glowing had she hung on to Marion. **Sheilagh Harnan**

Announcements

In Memoriam

PARR, Chris.

6 May 1946 - 6 April 2022.

Remembering a good man.

SIDDIQUI, Prof MU, B Com M Com PGCE, 1931 - 2006 and **SIDDIQUI, Begum Shahnaz P, BA** Alig, 1939 - 2011. Together in God's arms (786).

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“ I never sought the spotlight

Edward Timpson

on the dreams and dramas of a Tory MP

The Guardian

Monday 06/05/24

Life

& Arts

Fit for ever

The 93-year-old who just won't quit
page 4



'More matchless TV'

Martin Freeman returns in The Responder
page 10

How to build a better life

If you want to grow, stop wishing your tears away

Trauma, need, vulnerability ... like it or not, we can't just cut them out of our lives, says

Moya Sarner

When I was

a little girl, I cried a lot. I used to wish ferociously that I was not such a crybaby. I remember the shame so well. Sitting on my bed on a Sunday evening, hot-cheeked and furious with my tears, holding on to the thought that when I was a grownup, I would never cry. I would be a strong, confident and capable woman, and I would never again feel like a sobbing little girl who doesn't want to go to school tomorrow and just wants to stay with her mum. I hated that part of myself and I desperately wanted to get rid of it. That is what a better life meant to me back then.

Since I became a psychotherapist, I have seen this wish in patient after patient - and I've continued to see it in myself as a patient in therapy, too. It seems to be a pretty ubiquitous desire, although we are not always aware of it: this wish and even belief that if we just try hard enough, if we can find the magic self-help book or therapist or personal trainer or Instagram filter, we will truly be able to get rid of the parts of ourselves we feel ashamed of, or hate, or don't want to acknowledge.

If you don't recognise this in yourself, you might think of what really annoys you in your friends and family and colleagues: what is it about the way they are and the things they do that really gets under your skin? It probably irritates you so much because, unconsciously, it reminds you of yourself.

It could be a vulnerability that a person thinks of as a weakness to be outgrown, like me and my crybaby. It could be a traumatic experience or experiences, like a car accident or abuse, that they wish had never happened and unconsciously believe they can make unhappen, so that they can go back to the person they used to be. Or it could be a sense of being in need that they wish to deny altogether, perhaps by becoming totally self-sufficient, or by making sure that they are always the one caring for everyone else in their lives, never allowing anyone else to care for them.



We always find the infant, the young child, the adolescent in patients. Like circles in a tree trunk, they're all there

A patient could bring any one of these - but often, it's all three, and there is an expectation that as their therapist I will help them to somehow cut out these bad parts and banish them for ever. This wish often sits outside their conscious awareness, and will not be shared with me directly, but communicated through, say, a dream, in which I might appear, for example, as a surgeon with a scalpel.

It is a powerful fantasy, that we can excise all our vulnerability, trauma, need and dependency, that we will then be perfectly healed, stronger than before. It is also a very dangerous one. If we take the fantasy at face value, in all its concreteness, and we follow it through, we end up with lobotomies. In the first half of the 20th century, many neurologists believed that surgically removing part of the brain, or using a sharp instrument to cut the connections inside it, could heal their patients.

What I have learned from my patients, and from my own therapy, is that this cruel rejection of vulnerability is the opposite of strength. It is the opposite of repairing and growing, and it

leaves us impoverished, neglected. My patients have shown me again and again that a better life is not one in which a person feels that they have successfully dispatched their sensitivities, that they are entirely self-sufficient and that they have never had any difficult or painful experiences.

If therapy has been meaningful, if it has been useful, a patient leaves more deeply connected to these parts of themselves. They have begun to mourn the terrible losses they had been trying to avoid, to understand why they are the way they are and why they have been doing the things they have been doing. They feel able to carry their painful experiences and feelings at once more lightly and more firmly, as a more integrated person who can feel genuine care - at times, at least - towards the parts of themselves they used to want to get rid of. Better mental health is about repairing internal connections, not cutting them.

This is what it means to grow, says Gianna Williams, a child, adolescent and adult psychoanalyst. "We are like trees," she once told me. In the cross-

section of a trunk, she explained, you find all the rings that mark the history of that tree, from the smallest ring from its earliest days at its core, through to the biggest most recent ring under the bark. We all still contain a baby part, a child part, an adolescent part - we cannot get rid of them. When we try, I believe it leaves us as empty as a hollowed-out tree trunk. In therapy, she said: "I think we're always finding the infant, the young child, the adolescent in the patient. Like the circles in a tree, they're all there."

It's been more than 30 years since I sat on my bed and wished my tears away. But the memory came back recently. It was the night before my daughter's first day at nursery. I felt so raw and vulnerable, quite desperate, and I was fighting back my tears. And the thought came to me: where is my mother to take us both to nursery tomorrow? That little girl is not going anywhere, as much as at times I wish she would.
Moya Sarner is an NHS psychotherapist and author of When I Grow Up - Conversations With Adults in Search of Adulthood

Emma Beddington



I may be a slob - but I love gawping at others' exquisite lives

I devoured the journalist Hamish Bowles's recent account of his recovery from a severe stroke, not just because good writing on life-altering events is my favourite genre, but for the way it explored the role of beauty in his recovery.

Bowles, who is World of Interiors' editor-at-large, was pondering buying a "1930s gold lamé Lanvin dress" the day he was catapulted into the unlovely but life-saving surroundings of a stroke unit for 50 days, then many more in rehab. He describes the things that first helped him to feel like himself, intubated and unable to speak, and those that shaped his long, slow convalescence. A "pomegranate-scented terracotta potpourri", violet-scented face cream, lavender roses from Vogue's editor-in-chief Anna Wintour and an "exquisite arrangement" delivered by Marc Jacobs, who wore a "wide-lapel jacket of shocking pink". Bowles's world gradually widens again in recovery, taking in Vermeer and Hockney exhibitions, and for his first trip home he wears a "vintage amethyst corduroy Dries Van Noten suit".

I'm wearing a food-stained H&M shirt and saggy men's khakis and sitting next to the earthly remains of a long-deceased plant, but I loved it. Bowles's faith in the restorative power of beauty is very touching, plus I have a bit of a thing for aesthetes.

I'm using "aesthete" as shorthand for the designers, artists and creative directors whose lives I gawp at online. Unlike the 19th-century originals, they aren't a philosophical movement - at most a loose network of people who love beautiful stuff. Every time one mentions another, I follow them, forging wistful parasocial connections with tastemakers who have strong opinions about provenance and precise shade of socks, who are repulsed by extension leads and know all about 18th-century marquetry gaming tables. Their lives look exquisite.

I really shouldn't love them, but I do, albeit ambivalently. Unpacking my feelings, there's envy, inadequacy and a feeling of being left out that sours into a chippy desire to mock, but mainly admiration.

Why admiration? Being an aesthete isn't like working for Médecins Sans Frontières or hospice nursing. And when the world is ugly in such urgently terrible ways, pursuing beauty can feel

frivolous. You've managed to source antique Persian faïence from Isfahan for your splashback? Yay you. It's hard to claim the world needs more interior designers - though how many of our jobs are remotely necessary? Certainly not mine.

This idea of good taste feels exclusive, even elitist - a product of privilege. Accessing beauty isn't obvious or easy: it can feel like a private club, gatekept by style arbiters who know where to go, who to know and what goes with what. And let's mention money: although elements of the original Aesthetic Movement thought deeply about democratising beauty and Oscar Wilde's *The House Beautiful* lecture assured listeners: "I do not ask you to spend large sums," contemporary aestheticism at least entertains the possibility that you might be interested in price-on-application chandeliers, or £170-a-metre ancient Egypt-inspired wallpaper.

Inspiration is free, though, and contemporary aesthetes aren't necessarily born into beauty and privilege. Luke Edward-Hall, whose beautiful Bloomsbury-reminiscent life I admire online, was raised in Basingstoke - "concrete, roundabouts, bypasses" - and discovered his passion via a National Trust Saturday job.

I'm not the aesthete defence society (imagine the unacceptable hideousness of the logo I'd design), but I admire them because they care, deeply, and share what they love. That might not be the democratisation the original aesthetes imagined, but it does feel generous. I love being shown beauty: it's a corrective to the deadening, boring algorithmic homogenisation of everything.

Plus it's life-affirming to know there are people passionately concerned that everything should be the loveliest version of itself. We all need a reminder that the world can be - still is - beautiful.



I follow people who have strong opinions about shades of socks

British girl energy? Bring on the M&S pants!

Chioma Nnadi, who has taken over at British Vogue, says she has settled back in seamlessly after 20 years out of the UK. "I realised just how much growing up in London shaped me," she told a Vogue Club podcast. "I've been talking a lot with my friends about this idea of British girl energy; it's just an irreverence, kind of a cheekiness, it's not too polished, and it's a little bit undone ..."

British girl energy, eh? I love this: time for us to claim our own style identity, like the French or the Scandinavians; something to be spoken of in vague, reverent generalities. This could be our new Cool Britannia moment, without the Gallagher brothers ruining it.

BGE hasn't fully formed as a concept yet. My mental mood board offered up only multipacks of M&S pants, politeness wielded like a deadly weapon and those nice girls from Leeds on Gogglebox, so I asked around.

One friend delivered an instant list, as if she had been waiting for me to ask. "Spandex, fast talking, false eyelashes; they have (and are) a work bestie, love a bargain, holidays are a fundamental human right." Someone else offered the haiku-like "Jacket potato, beans and cheese/Going out with no coat because you'll lose it/Rimmel lipstick." The tension between tights and no tights got lots of airtime: "Wanting to feel warmth on our faces, while being devastated at having to stop wearing black tights for three months" sounds like a concept there should be a German word for. "Tea and brows," said another.

So far, so confusing, but that's good news: nebulous, possibly contradictory definitions are a key part of making BGE elusively enviable. All we need is a Brit girl equivalent of *je ne sais quoi* and we're in business.



The pet I'll never forget Babyleaf the kitten

I'd been feeding the stray cat for months before she brought them to our door: a gang of feral and frail kittens. I'd never had a pet before, and, like many people who do not grow up with animals, I perhaps lacked a certain emotional dimension. The arrival of this bunch of spitters and shakers cracked me wide open, and right when I needed it.

It was 2016, and I was living as a property guardian in a disused care home in east London. I was 23, broke, ambitious and ill. I could be found having routine panic attacks in a PPE-blue ex-NHS bathroom. These days, I know all this to be the ripples of complex post-traumatic stress disorder. At the time, however, I just assumed this was what happened to unemployed writers. Enter Kitten Babyleaf and her fluffy kin - seemingly as traumatised, adrift and desperate for security as me.

With that, a dormant paternal instinct (or maybe a saviour complex) kicked in, as I set about literally herding cats, who would scatter like dust. They miaowed louder than their size suggested, and it was only after I had spent three hours getting all three into a box that I heard the rest. When I poked my head over the wall of another cubicle, my eyes met six more, staring back like marbles

lost in long grass.

The mother stray dragged each kitten to the top of the wall, then just let go

I waited and watched. For eight hours the mother stray laboriously dragged each kitten by its scruff to the top of the wall and then just ... let go - a fresh take on helicopter parenting.

For the weeks that followed, I would creak open the door of that disused bathroom - now

their panic room, not mine. I would sit still for hours, waiting. Slowly, day by day, step by step, the kittens came to me from abandoned U-bends, led by Babyleaf, a prophet of domestic promise. As their fear was replaced by curiosity, my anxiety was ordered by action. Ours was a monastic life - all our untamed edges were being rounded.

However, reality knocked. The strangers we lived with were wondering why the pipes kept miaowing, and, ultimately, a surprise landlord inspection meant that the game was up. If I wanted to keep my home, I would have to eject the kittens from theirs.

No charities would take them, nor friends, nor enemies. Eventually, in a fugue, I stood by and watched as a pet shop owner inspected each kitten's genitals, then put them in a cardboard box. And that was that. I never saw Babyleaf or her siblings again. I often wonder what became of her. Is she an Insta-cat, raking in ad revenue by unboxing PlayStations? Does she have a politics podcast? Either way, despite the fact this pet barely had time to fill the role, I hope she remembers me, and I hope she forgives me.

Jonnie Bayfield

Lessons from a 93-year-old legend

John Starbrook has run 52 marathons, he's in the gym six days a week and he still plays water polo. **Phil Daoust** tries desperately to keep up

I like to think of myself as a strong swimmer. I'm not fast, I can't dive or tumble turn, but when I get a lane to myself I'll happily bash out 50 or 60 lengths. Give me a nice big lake, and my idea of heaven is to backstroke into the middle and watch the swallows overhead. I don't worry that I'll cramp up or suddenly forget how to float.

But I've never fancied water polo. If you've not watched it, it's a sort of cross between swimming, basketball and wrestling, usually played in a pool that's so deep you have to tread water or drown. There are two teams, two goals, a large ball and an ungodly amount of throwing, catching and flat-out sprinting. Aquatics GB, the governing body, says players can swim two miles in a single game, and need "remarkable stamina" to cope with all the holding and pushing.

The what? Oh yes: this is very much a contact sport. Except for the goalies, players can only

use one hand to catch or throw the ball - but the other gets up to all sorts of mischief, from fending off opponents to dunking them underwater. There's a lot of whistleblowing and fouls and occasional sending-offs for "brutality". In a Q&A to explain the frankly impenetrable rules, the Carolina Water Polo club actually asks: "Why is the ref condoning the drowning of my child?"

As an active 60-year-old, I don't like to think of anything as a young person's game - but if I did, this would be it. And yet here I am, on a Sunday afternoon in south-west London, about to jump in the pool and terrified I'll let down both my teammates and myself. It's all John Starbrook's fault.

At 93, Starbrook is definitely the oldest water polo player at Hampton Pool (which welcomes any swimmer aged eight or over), and probably the oldest in the country. Alan Cammidge, the retired police officer who is about to referee our game, describes him as "a remarkable athlete. He has all the skills in the book and regularly scores."

Starbrook has been a keen swimmer for almost 80 years, ever since he left school at the end of the second world war. As a young man, he raced butterfly at the national



swimming championships. He didn't win anything in his saggy woollen costume, but he had a lot of fun and never lost his love of the water. When he turned 80, he celebrated by swimming a mile or so across the Gulf of Corryvreckan, between the Scottish islands of Jura and Scarba. He still swims three times a week.

A couple of weeks ago, when I wrote about wanting to live to 100, a reader asked: "Why the hell would you wanna reach 100? It's all downhill after 40." All I can

say is, that person has never met John Starbrook.

Everyone who has seems to love "the Legend", from the kids in Hampton to his fellow members of the Thames Club, a sports centre near his home in Staines, Middlesex. And if his nickname sounds a little over the top, that's because you don't know everything else he gets up to. When he's not with Judy, his wife of 62 years, he spends most mornings at the gym. "The spin classes get me moving," he says, as we chat in the cafe. "And

then, about 4pm or 5pm, I go back to work on my upper body."

This is him taking it easy. After taking up running at the age of 53, Starbrook has done a total of 52 marathons, everywhere from London to Denmark to Barbados. His fastest time was 4 hours 14 minutes, in Snowdonia 20 or 25 years ago. He likes to joke that it was because he was being chased by sheep. His most recent - and probably final - 26-miler was in 2019, when he was 88. He has also done a couple of parachute jumps



'My missus says I'm on my own cloud' ... Starbrook takes a break

The doctor said I had to pack in running. I said all right - and did 15 marathons after that

'John Starbrook has all the skills' ... the UK's oldest water polo player lines up another goal



and a bunch of triathlons, though he has been known to struggle with the costume changes. "The first one I did, it took me seven minutes to get my wetsuit off. My mates were all standing around and barracking me."

In the process, he has raised over £50,000, mostly for Age UK. The charity, which runs a lot of local exercise classes, calls him its ambassador, for his ability to inspire older people and challenge stereotypes about them. "A lot of people seem to think that when they hit 50, they're old," he has said. "I hear that and I don't know what they're talking about."

His granddaughter Yarna shared his enthusiasm enough to run the London Marathon alongside him, but he never quite convinced his son. When Starbrook was still pounding the pavements, his boy would ask him why he bothered. Couldn't he just take a bus?

He's not the only sceptic. "About 10 or 15 years ago," Starbrook remembers, "the doctor said: 'You've got to pack in that running.' I said, 'Yeah, all right' - and I did about 15 marathons after that."

Then he breaks off to chat with one of the many women who can't resist saying hello on their way to class. "His harem," another regular calls them.

"How do you think you've kept in such great shape?" I eventually manage to ask.

"I don't do anything special," he says, "though I've never smoked and never drank much. My diet's pretty normal. I have porridge in the morning and I eat a lot of veg, and not much fried food. I think it's just my genes."

If so, it's probably on his mum's side. He lost his dad, Samuel, when he was five months old - to pneumonia, he thinks, though his mum never liked to talk about it. It was the 1930s, there was no money and Emily struggled to raise him, so Starbrook, the youngest of the three kids, spent 14 years in a children's home. "It was all right," he says. "I didn't know any different. You don't when you're young."

Emily remarried, had another son and daughter and lived to 86. Starbrook's younger brother, David, got into judo and won silver and bronze at the 1972 and 1976 Olympics. Now 78, he still coaches the sport.

Starbrook dates his own fitness back to his first job, as a 15-year-old, with United Dairies in his home town of Croydon. In 1945, of course, everyone had milk delivered to their homes. United's milk floats were mostly driven by

old men, as everyone of fighting age was in uniform; they would stay with their horses (yes, horses) while youngsters like Starbrook ran the pints to customers' doors. "I'm sure that was what made me fit," he says. Starbrook's driver would occasionally carry a bottle all the way to the doorstep, but only if he knew there was a cup of tea waiting for him.

When the time came for national service, Starbrook ended up in the army medical corps - and again fate lent a hand. His superiors were obsessed with swimming, "so anyone who was a swimmer was made. I didn't do any soldiering - all I did was take part in army competitions."

It's now 28 years since he retired, after raising three children, helping to build power stations, working in various shops, and a whole quarter-century of delivering eggs to businesses around Heathrow. "A lot of people still know me as John the Egg," he says, "although I've been retired for all these years."

Did he think he would still be going strong at 93? "I thought I'd go on until about 70. When I was younger, I thought, 'I wonder if I'll still be alive in the year 2000.' That was in 1945. I won't make it to 3000, anyway."

How long does he reckon he has left? Is that an awful question? We all think about it, don't we? "People say: 'Oh, you'll go on to 100!' But I don't care how long I go on for, as long as I'm not in any pain."

And, barring the odd twinge, he isn't. He has a touch of arthritis in one knee. He also takes a blood thinner because of an irregular heartbeat - but, as he says: "Being the age I am, I'm lucky that's all I've got."

A few days later, I join him for that game of water polo.



Daoust finally gets the ball

“People say I’ll go on to 100. But I don’t care how long I last as long as I’m not in any pain

In a fast and furious 40 minutes, I touch the ball just twice, even though this pool has a shallow end, so I can actually stand up in places. That may be just as well, since I keep forgetting which side I'm on. Starbrook is with the whites, while I'm with the blues, but the only way you can tell is by the caps we wear to protect our ears - and since mine is on my head I can't see it.

I still have a great time. After a few minutes I find myself racing towards the ball, though I have no idea what I'd do with it. And when it comes arcing towards our goal, I desperately flail up an arm in an attempt to deflect it. I think I'm more of a liability than an asset for the blues - getting in everyone's way, blocking the goalie's view - but no one is cruel enough to say so, and I get a real buzz from my pointless exertions.

"You survived and should be very proud of yourself," Cammidge tells me afterwards. I think he's being kind, but I'll take it.

Starbrook's ever-smiling presence has a lot to do with it. "I'm never bothered about anything," he had told me earlier. "My missus says I'm on my own cloud." The Goal Hanger, as he is sometimes known, is not racing around like the rest of us, preferring to dog the opponents' goalie, waiting for a chance to bang the ball into the net - but he's happy to be in the thick of things, and not averse to a bit of rough-and-tumble. The week before he had pushed one of the blues underwater, smiling all the while. "He can still get up and down the pool when he needs to," Cammidge says. "And do not underestimate his drive and commitment in the tackle." It looks like I got off lightly.

As we change after the game, another player asks me if I enjoyed myself. Will I be back? I barely have to think about it. Yes, I did, I say. And yes, I will.

To support Age UK or find out more about its work, go to ageuk.org.uk



'Spin gets me moving' ... Starbrook shows Daoust how it's done

'I've had massive highs and deep lows'

Sixteen years after he entered parliament, Edward Timpson is ready to leave. He tells **Simon Hattenstone** about fighting for children, being trolled by Labour and being sacked by Liz Truss

I do question whether I'm actually a politician," Edward Timpson says. "It's a bit late now, isn't it?" I say. He laughs. "Yes, it's a question I should have asked at the start." Why does he question it? "Because ... maybe I didn't feel I was ruthless enough, not sharp-elbowed enough."

However much he is in denial, the Conservative MP is definitely a politician, though not for much longer. He joined parliament in 2008 as member for Crewe and Nantwich after the death of Labour's Gwyneth Dunwoody, lost his seat by 48 votes after three recounts in 2017, and returned to parliament in 2019 representing the neighbouring seat of Eddisbury. Now a boyish 50, he's had enough, and is standing down at the next election.

Timpson is certainly no conveyor-belt MP. He is reserved, a little shy and deeply serious, with a mission to make the life of the country's disadvantaged children better. He is also supremely fit (the week we meet he is about to run his 16th London marathon) and equally obsessed with his family and Manchester City football club. When he's not showing me pictures of his four children and wife ("She was born on the same day as Kate Moss, though my wife is the more beautiful one"), he's sharing photos of his mother with City players shortly before she died. When I match him with a photo of my daughter wearing a signed shirt Kevin De Bruyne gave her, he can't contain himself. "Oh, no way. Wowzers! Blimey. Oh my God! Wowwwww!"

We meet in a park next to the

Foundling Museum in London - his choice. Timpson belongs to the Manchester shoe-repairing and key-cutting dynasty that goes back five generations. His father, John Timpson, was worth an estimated £190m in the 2020 Rich List. The Timpson Group is not just a great British success story; it's a success story with a soul. Former offenders constitute 10% of its employees, and it offers staff free use of holiday homes, weekly bonuses for exceeding targets, and days off for birthdays, a child's first day at school, becoming a grandparent and pet bereavements.

But this has little to do with Edward Timpson. The only time he worked for the family business was in his late teens, earning money to travel the world. All the Timpson kids were given work experience to see if they were suited to a career in the company. For Edward, the pain is still fresh. "I was scouring a shoe, and my thumb went into the scourer and I sliced the top of it. It was hanging off, flapping here." He wobbles the top of his thumb, which has healed. "Slightly embarrassing. I passed out on the shop floor in front of customers. I remember thinking: 'I don't think this is for me.'"

But the company's values had already seeped into Timpson's bones. As had those of his mother, Alex, a foster carer who looked after almost 90 children. He was about six years old when she started fostering. Edward, the youngest of three children, wasn't best pleased. He responded in the only way he knew how - sulking, and retreating to his bedroom. "That was my reaction to the first children who came. They were three and five, going around on my tricycle saying: 'Fuck fuck fuck.' I refused to come out till they left." He soon discovered he'd have to change his plans. "I thought they'd be gone in

a few minutes, but it turned out to be quite a few weeks later."

Over time, Timpson grew to love all the foster children as much as his mother did. The house rule was that the fostered children had to be younger than him, and he soon became his mother's assistant. "We had a lot of babies, and as Mum was so exhausted I'd say: 'Oh, I'll do the 10pm feed' because then I could stay up and watch whatever was on TV."

His love of children and his desire to improve their lives have shaped everything he's done since. As a barrister, he spent his time in the family courts, and towards the end only did cases involving children. When he went into politics he was again fuelled largely by this single issue.

Timpson's successful campaign in the 2008 byelection was a baptism of fire. The seat had always been Labour's, and the party, then led by Gordon Brown, was desperate to hold it. Things quickly got nasty. Labour painted him as a toff who didn't know how to relate to ordinary people. It was both unfair and foolish. The Timpsons weren't posh; they were just successful.

"I wondered what the hell I'd

walked into. The ferocity of it and how they made it the central plank of their campaign was a shock to the system, particularly when you've never been involved in politics before." But it backfired on Labour. "They hadn't done their homework, so it was quite easy to push back and say, 'Well, actually we're cobblers from Wythenshawe in Manchester, and my parents have fostered almost 90 children; what d'you think about that?'" Crewe and Nantwich went Conservative for the first time.

A couple of years ago he was at a Manchester City match with his fellow Tory MP and City fan Karen Bradley. She pointed out another politician sitting near them - Labour's Alex Norris. At half-time, they all went for a beer. "He said: 'You don't know who I am, do you?' I said: 'Course I do. You're Alex Norris, the MP for Nottingham North.' He said: 'No, I'm the guy who wore a top hat and tails and was following you around during the byelection in Crewe and Nantwich.' I thought: 'You bugger!'"

Unlike most MPs, Timpson had not spent a lifetime dabbling in party politics. Yes, he had studied politics at Durham University, but that was international politics - an academic exercise rather than a practical one. He didn't even join a party till 2005, three years before he was elected. What makes him a Conservative? "I believe in everybody getting the best chance to be the best they can be. The philosophy of one nation is where every citizen is as good as another." Couldn't that just as easily be Labour or Lib Dem? "I do believe in sound money and you can't leave debt hanging over for generations. The idea you would spend money you don't have in government isn't one that would sit comfortably with me."

From a personal point of view, he couldn't have been happier under David Cameron's leadership. Between 2012 and 2017 he served as undersecretary and then minister for children and families. He's proud of what he achieved for adopted and cared-for children. "We invested in an adoption support fund that saw the number of children adopted rising significantly, reducing the time the process took, and that happened because the secretary of state, Michael Gove, let me get on with it. He was adopted himself and had a personal interest in it."

As a politician, he says, it was



important for him to understand people's lives. "It's easy to fall into the trap of briefings, charts and data, which can tell a story, but you have to back that up by experiencing what it's like to walk in the shoes of the people whose lives you're trying to improve. I had a group of care leavers I used to meet every couple of months over several years. So we got to know each other, and I got to understand their stories, their lives, and that gave me insight into the barriers stopping them getting on. It led to a change in policy. We got the DWP [Department for Work and Pensions] to flag when care leavers come into the benefits system in advance so they don't end up with gaps in their support. If you don't engage at that level you'll never find out about the problems people face."

He cites this as one of his highs. As for the lows, there have been plenty. In May 2017, protesters spent three days on the roof of Timpson's house in Cheshire. His family were terrified. "We had to leave under police protection for three days and we'd just had a baby three months before." The protest was believed to be against forced adoption, something that Timpson had nothing to do with.





of frustration that it's a missed opportunity. The one time it was like: 'What the hell are we going to do next?' was the night and the morning of the Liz Truss resignation; we were so far away from where we needed to be, connecting with the public and demonstrating we were the answer to their problems." How did it affect him? "It's a hard one to swallow. The risk is that you completely disengage and lose interest. You don't feel it's your mission." He says he re-engaged when Sunak took over.

He has served under five Conservative prime ministers, and has no problem in ranking them. "David Cameron was for me the best. He gave me my job. He's No 1. Then Rishi. Theresa. Boris. And finally Truss."

Timpson is returning to his chambers to practise law and hopes to become a judge in the family courts. His two years away from politics between 2017 and 2019 taught him that sometimes it's easier to effect change outside parliament.

Simpson is that rare creature - a politician who is backwards in coming forward. Does he wish he was leaving politics better known? He seems surprised by the question. "It depends what you're better known for. I'm proud to be known as someone who actually achieved for children. I've got to be satisfied with that. I was never someone seeking the spotlight. But I did feel I had got to a point as children's minister of state where I was capable of stepping up to the next level, and I would have loved to have had the opportunity to do that: to prove myself in cabinet - secretary of state for education or lord chancellor. I think I would have been quite good."

One thing puzzles me. Timpson consistently voted to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. I tell him I can't believe that he would support a policy that the archbishop of Canterbury described as "outsourcing" our morality, and ask why he voted for it. "Loyalty," he says simply. "I'm a team player." Perhaps Timpson was too loyal.

What does his wife, Julia, think of him leaving politics? "She feels even more than I do that I've been underutilised in the last four years. She feels a little bitter about that." He reminds me that he's only 50 and he's got a lot of good work left in him. "I believe I've still got unfinished business, something significant in our country's social policy to contribute." So can he see a return to politics? Not as an MP, he says. A seat in the Lords? He smiles.

As we head off he shows me more family photos. "I'll quickly show you a picture of my kids and then I'll let you go." He looks so happy sharing his photos. So unlike a politician. We've talked about how disillusioned the public are with politics. Is he? "No because I've had massive highs and deep lows, but I'm still here and I'm moving on on my own terms. So politics has been good to me." He pauses. "It's also given me a slap in the face."

A month later he was "dumped" at the general election, losing his seat to Labour. You can tell by the language he uses how painful it was, and how personally he took it. "It was devastating because it's not just you. I had staff who had been with me since 2008 sobbing in the sports hall in Crewe. People have said: 'Why the hell did you come back, having gone through that?', and I thought: 'It's because I've still got something to offer.' There aren't many people in parliament, and particularly my own party,

who've gathered the personal and professional experience I've got in children's policy and children's social care."

His second stint as an MP reached its zenith when he was appointed solicitor general in July 2022 after a mass resignation in protest at Boris Johnson's handling of the Chris Pincher scandal. "It was the perfect mix for me because you're part politician, part lawyer, and that's probably what I am." The problem was he made it clear he was championing Rishi Sunak in

the leadership contest after Boris Johnson resigned. Within a day of becoming prime minister, Liz Truss sacked him, since when he has been relegated to the backbenches. He had lasted 63 days. "Yes, I made the fatal error of uttering the words Rishi and Sunak in public during the leadership campaign." He smiles. "The 63 days is longer than she was prime minister, so I do have that to hang on to."

It has been such a humiliating period for the Conservatives: three prime ministers over one

parliament, myriad lies, scandals and resignations, and a political incoherence only matched by the populist brutality. What's it like being in a party so at odds with many of your values? How does he feel, for example, about the DWP prosecuting carers who have made honest mistakes for benefits fraud? "There are definitely things that make me feel uncomfortable," he says with typical understatement.

Has he ever felt ashamed of being part of this government? "The overwhelming sense is one

I would have loved to prove myself in cabinet. I think I would have been quite good



Edward Timpson with his wife, Julia; with David Cameron in 2008





Murdered ...
Otti Berger,
back right in
a headdress,
at a party in
her home

Fritz Ertl designed 'swimming baths' for Auschwitz. These were crematoriums

When Germany began to reconstruct its modern history after 1945, angels were needed to replace the legions of devils. The Bauhaus, in its American imagining, became a place of heroism, even martyrdom. Nazism was something done to the school, not by it.

As a trio of exhibitions in Weimar this summer sets out to show, this was less than the truth. Eighty years after Berger's murder, the city that was home to both Germany's post-1918 government and the first of three Bauhauses has taken the courageous step of re-examining the school's relationship to National Socialism. If Bayer's story was told in black and white at MoMA, Weimar tells it in shades of grey.

Over each exhibition - The Bauhaus As a Site of Political Contest; Removed - Confiscated - Assimilated; and Living in the Dictatorship - hangs the same question: what would we now think of the school had Mies van der Rohe not closed it in 1933? The Bauhaus's early death meant it never had to deal with the dilemmas faced in the succeeding 12 years by the vast

tried to join them, but only got as far as London. Finding her designs too radical for British tastes, and English incomprehensible to her deaf ears, she had gone home to Zmajevac the next year.

By then, it was clear what National Socialism was about. Bauhausers had had first-hand experience of Nazi methods, their school being hounded out of Dessau in 1932 by the city's new NSDAP government and finally closed under Gestapo pressure in Berlin the following year. Now, the MoMA show would define the Bauhaus as everything that Nazism was not: democratic where it was tyrannical, rational where it was obscurantist; high-minded where it was brutish.

It was a partial view but it stuck.

Shadow of the swastika

The Bauhaus were seen as heroes and martyrs who defied the Nazis. But a new show reveals collaboration by some of the iconic designers - and worse. By **Charles Darwent**

If the day of Otti Berger's death is not known, its place and cause are. In April 1944, Berger - part deaf, Jewish, a communist - was arrested in her home town of Zmajevac in German-occupied Yugoslavia. On 29 May, she was put on a transport to Auschwitz. After that, nothing.

Of the eight Bauhaus students to die at Auschwitz - half the number murdered in other camps and ghettos - Berger

was the best known. With Anni Albers and Gunta Stölzl, she had revolutionised weaving, turning it from a craft into an art. She had come to Dessau - the iteration of the school most of us think of as *the* Bauhaus - in 1927, when she was 28. That same year, belatedly, the school had opened a department of architecture. A few months later, a young Austrian called Fritz Ertl signed up to study there.

The Bauhaus was always small, its student numbers barely passing 200. It is likely that Berger and Ertl knew each other, at least by sight. In 1944, the trajectories of their lives would cross again, if for a last time. Ertl, by then a Nazi party member and SS Untersturmführer, had designed what were marked on

architectural plans as Badeanstalten - swimming baths - for Auschwitz. They were the crematoriums in which what remained of Otti Berger would be burned.

In December 1938, a show called Bauhaus 1919-1928 opened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. It was curated by Herbert Bayer, its catalogue also written by him. Bayer, who designed the Bauhaus' celebrated sans serif typeface, had been invited to the US by MoMA's director, Alfred Barr.

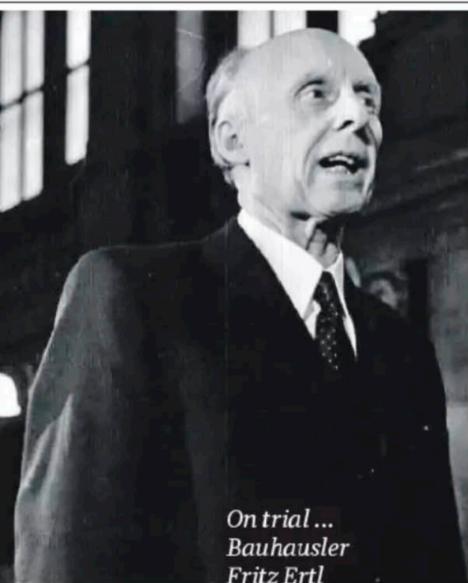
Bayer was the last of the school's masters to arrive. Already there were two of its ex-directors, Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe, the architect Marcel Breuer, weaver Albers, her artist husband Josef and László Moholy-Nagy. Berger had



Clean lines ...
a Weimar poster;
Wagenfeld's lamp;
Brandt's teapot



PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAMY; V&A; AFP/GETTY



On trial ...
Bauhausler
Fritz Ertl

majority of its students who didn't go into exile.

Ninety years after its end, the school remains defined by the clean lines of its designs - Breuer's Wassily Chair, Marianne Brandt's teapot - many of them still in production. The Bauhaus sold modernity as unfussy, democratic, mass-produced (although its products were always expensive). Bauhausers were liberal, liberated, with a kooky taste for dressing-up parties. But what if it had struggled on until 1938, the year Bayer left for the US?

His case suggests an answer: the Nazis may have hated the Bauhaus, but they knew good design when they saw it. Commissioned by intermediaries, rather than directly by Goebbels' Ministry of Propaganda, Bayer spent the years after Hitler came to power making advertising posters for Nazi campaigns. One, *The Miracle of Life*, sold the compulsory sterilisation of *Erbkranken* ("the feeble-minded", a category that included epileptic, gay and congenitally deaf people) to the German population.

After the war, living in Aspen, Colorado, Bayer refused to discuss this time, referring to it only as his "advertising purgatory". Was he a collaborator? There is nothing to suggest that he had National Socialist sympathies; his wife, daughter and many Berlin friends were Jews. And yet. If the show he curated at MoMA in 1938 had seen the relationship between the Bauhaus and Nazism as one of angels and devils, his own story suggested the need for a more nuanced view.

The same is true of most of the Bauhausers, their names now largely forgotten, whose stories are told in the Weimar exhibitions. The photographer and communist Willi Jungmitten was one of only two Dessau students to be executed by the Nazis for political resistance. His entry in the shows' catalogue begins not with his hanging in Brandenburg-Görden prison in 1944 though, but with two photographs he had taken in the mid-1930s, of a little boy with a model aeroplane and a girl with a toy bear, *Mädchen mit Teddy*.

Both children are Teutonically

blond, each fitting the gender stereotypes - boyish boys, girlish girls - promoted by National Socialism. The photos might have been meant as Nazi propaganda, although, given Jungmitten's murder, they were actually made by one of the few Bauhaus students whose anti-Nazi credentials are beyond question. One must beware of jumping to conclusions.

Like most Germans, Bauhausers largely seem to have kept their heads down and waited for the horrors to pass. The painter Wilhelm Imkamp gave up abstraction to work as a war artist, adopting the kind of schmaltzy realism approved of by the Führer. Posted to Paris in early 1944, Imkamp looked up his old Bauhaus teacher, in exile in Neuilly-sur-Seine, Wassily Kandinsky. Once the war was over, he quietly went back to abstraction.

Wilhelm Wagenfeld, designer of the famous Bauhaus WG 24 lamp, was classed as a "political pest" for refusing to join the Nazi party and sent to the eastern front. Before that, though, he had taken part in high-profile Nazi exhibitions, providing the glassware for the bar of the German Pavilion at the 1937 International Exposition in Paris.

If few heroes emerge from the Weimar shows, there are few obvious villains. Ernst Neufert had taken the Fordist assembly-line teachings of Walter Gropius to heart, inventing a standard architectural unit he called the octameter, seen by Hitler's pet architect, Albert Speer, as key to the winning of total war. In 1944, Neufert asked that his book on the subject be shown "to Reichsleiter [Martin] Bormann, who could perhaps show it to the Führer". Whether this happened is not known; nor whether Gropius replied to the cheery letter Neufert sent him at Harvard in 1947, reminding him of the work they had done on the subject together back in Dessau.

Unexpectedly absent from the Weimar shows is Theodor Bogler, a ceramicist who left the Bauhaus to become a monk at the Benedictine abbey of Maria Laach in the Rhineland. In the years after 1933, Bogler married making modernist pots with publishing venomously antisemitic tracts.

Bogler's absence notwithstanding, the Weimar shows do not pull their punches. In a quote from the catalogue of a 2016 exhibition in Paris, Auschwitz is described as "an architectural achievement of the Bauhaus movement". The school's motto - *Kunst und Technik: eine Neue Einheit!* (Art and Technology: a New Unity!) - had meant one thing to Berger, quite another to Ertl. When Ertl was finally tried in 1972 for his role in designing the crematorium in which his fellow Bauhausler's gassed body had been burned, he argued that he had had no idea of the use to which it would be put. He had, he said, merely been an architect, putting into practice the things he had learned back in Dessau. He was found not guilty. From 9 May to 15 September; more info: [klassik-stiftung.de/en](https://www.klassik-stiftung.de/en)

Bring me my witch-hazel switches ...
Josh O'Connor in the film; below, Alice Rohrwacher



You struggled with my film? Great!

La Chimera is a crime caper about a gang of looters in 80s Italy. But this is an Alice Rohrwacher film - so it's about way more than that. **Xan Brooks** meets the director

Alice Rohrwacher could be the European arthouse made flesh. She's quoting Italian poets one minute and German poets the next. She's discussing nature, civilisation and the power of collective memory. She says she makes films to shake us from our lethargy and invite us to reflect on the state of the world. It doesn't matter whether we even like her films: that's beside the point.

Certain criticisms she takes as compliments. "People will tell me, 'I always knew that I was watching a film.' Well, that's great. I am trying to break your hypnosis. Or people say, 'I struggled to get into this film.' Which is fantastic, I'm pleased. We don't need to get inside everything, break down every door, storm in like conquistadors. There are other ways to approach a film. We can gently knock. We can walk around it in circles."

Her gorgeous new picture is about modern-day door-breakers, the conquistador mindset. Ostensibly, *La Chimera* plays as a crime caper, focusing on the antics of a gang of tomb-raisers - the *tombaroli* - in 1980s Italy. But this being Rohrwacher, the film is about more than just that. It's about the living and the dead; the daylight realm and the underworld; history, property and politics.

"So yes, it's not just a story of the *tombaroli*," she says, vexed. "It's what happened in the hearts of men, about a change symbolised by this 1980s phenomenon that archeologists called *La Grande Razzia*, The Great Raid, which was a big treasure hunt of ancient Etruscan culture. Because for 2,000 years these sacred artefacts had remained intact. They were seen as sacred, not things to be sold. Then all of a sudden people started looting the tombs and temples. So the *tombaroli* were a local phenomenon. But on a wider level, they represent the moment where capitalism becomes a part of us all."

Rohrwacher, 42, has beamed in from her house in Umbria, not far from where the film was shot. The place was once a working farmhouse, but it had lain abandoned for years before she moved in with her family. That's common to the region, she says, it's what happens all over. People live alongside the past, in the ruins of history.

La Chimera's a film of fabulous layers and playful echoes. The British actor Josh O'Connor plays Arthur, the *tombaroli*'s lucky

charm, dowsing for holes with the aid of a switch of witch-hazel. Arthur wants loot: he's deep in debt to a fence. But he also wants to find Beniamina, his lost love, who might be dead or simply lying low. So he's scouring the small towns and the big house on the hill. He's searching the graves in the woods and the tombs near the beach. It's as though his dowsing rod is a thread that somehow connects his hand to hers. "Yes," Rohrwacher says. "Like the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice."

Devotees of the director's work include Greta Gerwig and Bong Joon-ho, Martin Scorsese and Sofia Coppola. As for the locals, they remain unconvinced. "Oh yes," she says. "Unfortunately so. The people I work with locally, they find my films boring. I think I have earned their respect as a person. Hopefully one day I'll earn it as a film-maker."

The problem, she suspects, relates to what we were discussing earlier. It's the cultural



shift, it's capitalism. It's the presumption that cinema is by nature escapist. "People are used to films that we consume like fast food. These people have been working hard all day, so they want to watch a film that makes them forget everything. Whereas I try to make films that make people remember."

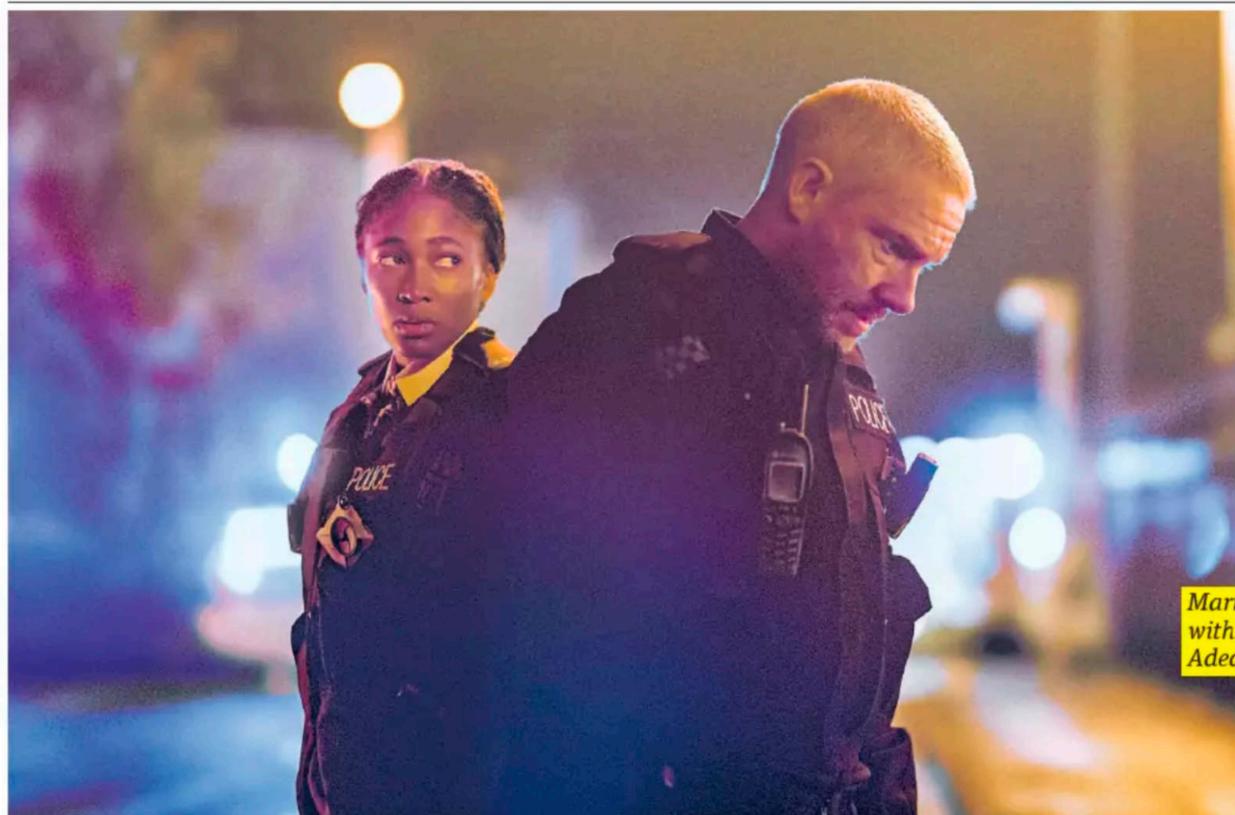
She was raised among bees, the daughter of a

honey farmer, and thinks that this has made a difference. Bees, for one, are social animals. They have an innate understanding of history: the threads that connect the past, present and future. "So I owe so much to bees, to living and working with bees, because they developed my attention. And I don't mean focusing on just one thing, but on everything. The organic process, the world."

Rohrwacher says that bees are the poets of nature. This reminds her of another quote, this one from Rainer Maria Rilke, who described poets as "the bees of the invisible". The poet's role, Rilke wrote, is to collect the world's nectar, its essence, and then "to store it in the great, golden hive of the invisible".

"One of the things I loved about living in an area with such rich archaeological history was learning that civilisations always come to an end. Ours will end, too. And that makes me wonder what we'll leave behind. I hope that one day, when future archeologists look back at our time, I won't only have left a lot of trash, plastic and batteries. I hope I'll have left some films behind, too."

La Chimera is out in the UK on Friday



Martin Freeman
with Adelayo
Adedayo

Review The Responder,
BBC One

Martin Freeman is back on the night shift and it's as gruelling as before

★★★★★

Lucy Mangan



Two years ago, the former police officer and debut screenwriter Tony Schumacher gave us five of the most riveting and harrowing hours of television there have been for many years. The Responder was the story of Chris Carson (a career-best performance from Martin Freeman), a man slowly being driven to despair by the pressures of his job as a frontline officer answering emergency calls on night shift and the futility of trying to hold back the tide of crime perpetuated mostly by people who are desperate, destitute or mentally ill. "It's like playing whack-a-mole," he said. "Except the moles wear trackies. Every night, there's blood on my boots and spit on my face and it never, ever stops."

There was a compelling, perfectly worked plot involving a missing bag of drugs and Chris's corrupt connection with a local drug dealer who was murdered in pursuit of the vanished stash. But the meat of the thing, its genius, was the credible deterioration of Chris and the portrait the series painted of a society at the point of breakdown.

Now, Chris is back in that rarest of things: a second season that feels earned by the quality of what went before and also unforced. The original ended neatly, but credibly, without anyone's personal stories coming to a close. The new five-part drama feels natural and - given the unspent potential - necessary.

It starts about six months on from the original

events. Chris is still separated from his wife, Kate (MyAnna Buring), still on the oppressive night shift and desperately trying to get the day job that would stop Kate moving to London with their daughter for a better quality of life. He is attending weekly group therapy. The sessions are exquisitely painful vignettes of frustration, emblematic of the dearth of help available to people with mental health problems (and the perpetual inadequacy of good intentions).

When he learns that he is essentially barred from the day job he has told Kate he has already got, Chris becomes reluctantly embroiled with his old partner Deb Barnes (Amaka Okafor), who promises him a day job in her office if he helps her with a drugs case. This grey area rapidly darkens to deepest black. In addition, he is forced to re-engage with his estranged, abusive father (Bernard Hill, in quietly mesmerising mode) and you can practically see the memories corroding Chris further at every meeting.

Most of the rest of the superb supporting cast from season one is back, too. There are the chaos magnets Casey (Emily Fairn) and Marco (Josh Finan), this time dreaming of making their fortunes as drug dealers and still nowhere near savvy or ruthless enough to pull it off, even with the help of Carl Sweeney's fearsome widow, Jodie (Faye McKeever). Most affectingly, there is the return of Chris's on-off patrol partner Rachel (Adelayo Adedayo), who becomes more involved in Chris's rapidly-escalating-to-criminal activities than she did in season one, while also trying to cope with the effects of the domestic abuse we saw her endure last time.

As written and as played, it is a fine, fine depiction of where such experiences leave the victims - of how many ways such trauma can manifest itself, from detachment to obsessive thoughts to self-harm, all while presenting a reasonable face to the world. Rachel has failed the sergeant's exam since we last saw her and, like Chris, is desperate to get off night shifts. Her plot line may be secondary, but all the psychological astuteness and attention to detail that are paid to Chris's unravelling are rightly and refreshingly paid here, too.

Schumacher maintains his tight control everywhere. The Responder unfolds as the first season did, like a classical tragedy, with the unswerving sense of inevitability. There are so many ways for people to be trapped and the claustrophobia builds with virtually every scene. The bleakness is shot through with great, funny lines (Jodie's hatred of the children in the ice-cream parlour she set up in an effort to go straight could fuel a spin-off sitcom), but it remains a study in harm. The harm we do to ourselves, to our children and to a society when we deprive it, little by little, year after year, generation after generation, of everything that is necessary for it to thrive. It's another matchless piece, in other words. A triumph for all involved.

Spacey Unmasked 9pm, Channel 4



Last year, Kevin Spacey was acquitted of sexual offences against four men in a UK trial. In this two-part documentary, multiple men who are unrelated to those cases make a series of allegations against the actor. All of them, apart from one, are making their claims public for the first time. "He had these little dead eyes looking at me and I felt like I was staring at a soulless monster," says one actor, Daniel, about a moment on set after filming his first TV scene with Spacey in House of Cards. Spacey denies all allegations.

Hollie Richardson

Planet Earth III: Narrated By Kids 2pm, BBC One

The point of this experiment is to underline which generation most needs us to get our environmental act together. Letting children narrate Planet Earth footage really works: their diverse accents and temperaments are almost as fascinating as the footage. The film kicks off with a tale of a lost ostrich chick, as cute and thrilling as a Pixar short.

Jack Seale

Come Dine With Me: The Professionals 5pm, Channel 4

Arguably the magic ingredient of Come Dine With Me is witnessing hubristic amateurs make grand culinary plans that crash and burn. But the spin-off featuring working chefs proved that it is not just the quality of the food that can cause friction. Series two begins with a week of restaurateurs from Sheffield.

Graeme Virtue

Galaxy Dance 7.45pm, BBC Three

This is a gloriously camp sci-fi live action/animation hybrid short film about

Eurovision 2989 - now an interstellar dance competition with a huge prize fund that could save the Earth from extinction. Just one problem: our planet's entry is always rubbish. Could the dance moves of a classic 90s pop bop save the day? **HR**

Blue Lights 9pm, BBC One

New response officer Shane becomes even shiftier this week, as he forces sweet Tommy into handling things in a definitely-not-above-board way. But will Tommy leave it too late to tell the rest of the unit about his suspicions? Meanwhile, Lee makes himself known as the new local leader. **HR**

The Jinx: Part Two 9pm, Sky Documentaries

Robert Durst's murder trial begins. But the public nature of the case is creating problems. "I found Bob very entertaining," admits DA John Lewin. "Just because you're a murderer, doesn't mean you can't be charming." Ultimately, it starts to feel as if the US's reputation is on trial, too.

Phil Harrison

What's On
Scan the QR code below to sign up for the What's On newsletter, our free TV email with the best reviews, news and exclusive writing direct to your inbox every Monday



BBC One	BBC Two	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5	BBC Four
<p>6.0 Breakfast (T) 9.30 Morning Live (T) 10.45 Big Little Crimes (T) (R) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer (T) (R) 12.15 Bargain Hunt (T) 1.0 News (T) 1.20 Regional News and Weather (T) 1.30 Doctors (T) 2.0 Planet Earth III: Narrated By Kids (T) 3.0 Escape to the Country (T) 3.45 Garden Rescue (T) 4.30 The Finish Line (T) 5.15 Pointless (T) 6.0 The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse (T) (R) 6.30 News (T) 6.50 Regional News and Weather (T) 7.0 The One Show (T) 7.30 EastEnders (T)</p>	<p>6.30 Bargain Hunt (T) (R) 7.15 Money for Nothing (T) (R) 8.0 Sign Zone: MasterChef (T) (R) 9.0 News (T) 12.15 Impossible (T) (R) 1.0 Snooker: The World Championship (T) 4.15 The Secret Genius of Modern Life (T) (R) 5.15 Flog It! (T) (R) 6.0 Richard Osman's House of Games (T) (R) 6.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Good Morning Britain (T) 9.0 Lorraine (T) 10.0 This Morning (T) 12.30 Loose Women (T) 1.45 News and Weather (T) 1.50 Local News and Weather (T) 2.0 Alan Titchmarsh's Gardening Club (T) 3.0 FILM Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (JA Bayona, 2018) (T) 5.30 In for a Penny (T) (R) 6.0 The Chase (T) (R) 7.0 Local News and Weather (T) 7.10 News and Weather (T) 7.30 Emmerdale (T)</p>	<p>6.30 3rd Rock from the Sun (T) (R) 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) 9.40 Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix Highlights (T) (R) 11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) 1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (T) (R) 2.10 Countdown (T) 3.0 A Place in the Sun (T) (R) 4.0 Narrow Escapes (T) 5.0 Come Dine With Me: The Professionals (T) 6.0 Four in a Bed (T) 6.30 News (T) 7.0 Wildlife Rescue (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (T) 11.15 Storm Huntley (T) 12.45 Friends (T) (R) 1.40 News (T) 1.45 Home and Away (T) (R) 2.20 FILM In Love With Murder (Jeff Hare, 2023) (T) 4.0 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) 5.55 News (T) 6.0 Police Interceptors (T) (R) 7.0 Traffic Cops (T) (R)</p>	<p>7.0 Coast (T) (R) 7.15 Great Railway Journeys (T) (R) Chef Rick Stein travels across Mexico.</p>
<p>8.0 MasterChef (T) The first eight face an invention test, with those going through getting to work in a professional kitchen at Nessa, a bistro in London.</p> <p>9.0 Blue Lights (T) Lee is the new boss in Mount Eden. And, under pressure from Canning to get results, Shane leads Tommy into danger.</p>	<p>7.0 Snooker: The World Championship (T) Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and concluding session of the final from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.</p>	<p>8.0 Coronation Street (T) Liam helps himself to Paul's medication, Dee-Dee delivers disappointing news to Roy, and Bernie catches Denny stealing.</p> <p>9.0 Beat the Chasers: Celebrity Special (T) With Neil Delamere, Michelle Ackerley, Charlie Stayt, Danny Sebastian and Rick Edwards.</p>	<p>8.0 Jamie Cooks Spring (T) Jamie celebrates the homegrown vegetables of his garden.</p> <p>9.0 Space Unmasked (T) Part one of a two-part documentary about the allegations of sexual harassment and abuse made against actor Kevin Spacey and the outcomes of the court cases involving him.</p>	<p>8.0 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (T) PC Brian Camsell pursues two reckless drivers in Newcastle city centre.</p> <p>9.0 Inside the Force (T) PCs Jordan Vasey and James Boyd Bell are called to a suspected domestic incident, but find that the suspect is struggling to breathe.</p>	<p>8.05 The Abbey With Alan Bennett (T) (R) The writer presents a three-part series from 1995, taking an in-depth look at what goes on behind the scenes at Westminster Abbey.</p> <p>9.0 Britain's Lost Masterpieces (T) (R) In Cardiff Art Gallery, the experts investigate an overpainted Madonna.</p>
<p>10.0 News (T)</p> <p>10.20 Regional News (T) Weather</p> <p>10.30 Have I Got a Bit More News for You (T) (R)</p> <p>11.15 Dua Lipa Live Lounge Special (T) The singer performs three tracks from her new album.</p> <p>11.45 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (T) (R)</p> <p>12.45 The Repair Shop (T) (R) 1.45 Weather (T) 1.50 News (T)</p>	<p>10.0 FILM Rush (Ron Howard, 2013) (T) F1 drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda develop a fierce rivalry. Fact-based drama, starring Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Brühl.</p> <p>11.50 Sign Zone Countryfile (T) (R)</p> <p>12.45 Darren McGarvey: The State We're In (T) (R) 1.45 How to With John Wilson (T) (R) 2.50 This Is BBC Two (T)</p>	<p>10.0 News (T) Weather</p> <p>10.15 FILM The Magnificent Seven (Antoine Fuqua, 2016) (T) Western remake, starring Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt and Ethan Hawke.</p> <p>12.35 Shop on TV 3.0 It's Showtime! (T) (R) 4.10 Unwind With ITV (T) 5.35 Gino's Italy: Secrets of the South (T) (R)</p>	<p>10.15 Rescue: Extreme Medics (R)</p> <p>11.15 Sky Coppers (T) (R)</p> <p>12.15 24 Hours in A&E (T) (R)</p> <p>1.10 FILM Name Me Lawand (2022) 2.45 Grand Designs Australia (T) (R) 3.40 Couples Come Dine With Me (T) (R) 4.30 Location, Location, Location (T) (R) 5.25 The Perfect Pitch (T) (R) 5.50 Countdown (T) (R)</p>	<p>10.0 Police Code Zero: Officer Under Attack (T) (R)</p> <p>11.05 Police: Suspect No 1 (T) (R)</p> <p>12.05 Traffic Cops (T) (R) 1.0 Live Casino Show (T) 3.0 10 Years Younger in 10 Days (T) (R) 3.50 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) (R) 4.40 Wildlife SOS (T) (R) 5.05 House Doctor (T) (R) 5.40 Milkshake! (T)</p>	<p>10.0 Civilisation (T) (R) The Reformation in Europe.</p> <p>10.50 Civilisation (T) (R) Kenneth Clark visits Rome.</p> <p>11.40 Peter Rice: An Engineer Imagines (T) (R) A tribute to the structural engineer.</p> <p>12.40 Great Railway Journeys (T) (R) 1.30 The Abbey (T) (R) 2.30 Britain's Lost Masterpieces (T) (R)</p>

Other channels

BBC Three

7.0pm The Next Step
7.45 Galaxy Dance **7.55** Corey Baker's Dance Race
8.0 Gavin & Stacey **9.0** 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 **12.35** Gavin & Stacey **1.35** High: Confessions of an Ibiza Drug Mule **2.20** The Big Proud Party Agency **3.20** Corey Baker's Dance Race **3.25** Squad Goals: Dorking 'Til I Die

Dave

6.0am Teleshopping
7.05 Lazy Boy Garage
8.05 Top Gear Winter Olympics Special
9.05 Top Gear: Polar Challenge **10.10** Top Gear Botswana Special **11.10** Top Gear USA Special **12.10** Gavin & Stacey **4.0** Red Bull Soapbox Race 2023 **5.0** Red Bull Soapbox Race 2023 **6.0** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **7.0** Richard Osman's House of Games **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **8.20** Would I Lie to You? **9.0** Meet the Richardsons **9.35** Q! **10.20** Q! **11.0** The Shield **12.0** Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** Q! XL **2.30** Whose Line is It Anyway? USA **2.55** Whose Line

Is It Anyway? USA
3.20 Richard Osman's House of Games **4.0** Teleshopping

E4

6.0am Hollyoaks **6.30** Hollyoaks **7.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **8.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **10.0** Young Sheldon **11.0** Modern Family **11.30** Modern Family **12.0** The Big Bang Theory **12.30** The Big Bang Theory **1.0** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.0** Modern Family **3.30** Modern Family **4.0** Young Sheldon **5.0** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.0** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** Modern Family **8.0** Teen First Dates **9.0** Made in Chelsea **10.0** Gogglebox **11.05** First Dates **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.35** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.35** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.05** Modern Family **2.55** Made in Chelsea **3.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.45** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.10** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Film4

11.0am **FILM** Tad the Lost Explorer and the Secret of King Midas (2017) **12.40** **FILM** Charlotte's Web (2006) **2.30** **FILM** Evolution (2001) **4.35** **FILM** Zathura: A Space Adventure (2005) **6.40** **FILM** Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) **9.0** **FILM** Moonfall (2022) **11.35** **FILM** Terminator Salvation (2009) **1.50** **FILM** Freaks (2019)

ITV2

6.0am CITV **9.0** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **9.25** Catchphrase **10.0** Veronica Mars **11.0** Dawson's Creek **12.0** Secret Crush **1.0** Dress to Impress **2.0** Family Fortunes **3.0** Veronica Mars **4.0** Dawson's Creek **5.0** Dress to Impress **6.0** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.0** Family Fortunes **8.0** Bob's Burgers **8.30** Bob's Burgers **9.0** Family Guy **9.30** Family Guy **10.0** Family Guy **10.30** Family Guy **11.0** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.0** American Dad! **12.30** Bob's Burgers **1.0** Bob's Burgers **1.30** Apocalypse Wow **2.20** Unwind With ITV **3.0** Teleshopping

Sky Max

6.0am MacGyver
11.0 Movie Megastars: Made in the 80s **1.0** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **1.45** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **2.30** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **3.15** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **4.0** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **4.45** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **5.30** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **6.15** Rob Beckett's Smart TV **7.0** TV's Greatest Gameshows **9.0** **FILM** Fist of Fury (1972) **11.0** Hold the Front Page **12.0** Freddie Down Under **1.0** The Overlap on Tour **2.0** The Force: Manchester **3.0** Road Wars **4.0** Road Wars **5.0** Highway Patrol

Sky Arts

6.0am Anyone Can Sing **7.0** Musical Masterpieces **8.0** Bill Bailey's Master Crafters: The Next Generation **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected **9.30** Tales of the Unexpected **10.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **10.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.0** Discovering: Helen Mirren **12.0** Cirque Du Soleil: Delirium **1.45** Tina Turner: What's Love Live **3.55** The Shadows: The Final Tour **6.45** Roy Orbison Forever **8.0** André Rieu: Falling in Love Again **9.0** The

Michelangelo Code: Secrets of the Sistine Chapel **11.15** Len Phillips Swing Orchestra's 100 Years of Big Bands **12.30** Ray Charles: Live in France 1961 **2.30** Two Trains Running **4.0** The South Bank Show **5.0** Video Killed the Radio Star **5.30** Video Killed the Radio Star

Sky Atlantic

6.0am The Guest Wing **7.55** Game of Thrones **10.10** True Blood **12.25** Billions **1.35** Billions **2.45** Mary & George **3.50** Mary & George **4.55** Mary & George **6.0** Mary & George **7.0** Mary & George **8.0** Mary & George **9.0** Mary & George **10.0** The Regime **11.05** House of the Dragon **12.15** Succession **1.25** Mildred Pierce **2.55** Game of Thrones **4.05** The Guest Wing



Radio

Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast
9.30 Essential Classics
1.0 Classical Live. Live from London's Wigmore Hall, countertenor Hugh Cutting, harpist Tara Viscardi, guitarist Daniel Murphy and violist Leo Appel perform traditional song. Plus, pianist Bertrand Chamayou and cellist Sol Gabetta play Mendelssohn's Sonata No 2 for Cello and Piano.
4.0 Composer of the Week: CPE Bach (1/5)
5.0 In Tune **7.0** Classical Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. François-Xavier Roth conducts the London Symphony Orchestra and pianist Bertrand Chamayou in Beethoven's Symphony No 2 in D, Op 36, Unsuk Chin's Piano Concerto and Beethoven's Symphony No 8 in F, Op 93. **9.45** The Essay: Dietrich in Five Songs. A look at Marlene Dietrich's career through her songs, starting with Falling in Love Again. (R) **10.0** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30** Through the Night

Radio 4

6.0am Today **9.0** Start the Week. Adam Rutherford discusses protest and patriotism with Jackie Kay, Caroline

Lucas and Simon Heffer. (6/14) **9.45** Cafe Hope (6/9) **10.0** Woman's Hour **11.0** The Invention of China. Misha Glennly talks about the end of the Qing dynasty. (3/4) **11.45** The Miners' Strike: Return Journey (R) **12.0** News **12.04** You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.0** The World at One **1.45** The Last Request (R) **2.0** The Archers (R) **2.15** The Train at Platform 4. Comedy, by Hugh Dennis and Steve Punt. (2/4) (R) **2.45** Felicity Ward: Applauds (R) **3.0** Great Lives. Alice Roberts chooses Queen Emma, wife of Kings Aethelred and Canute. (6/9) **3.30** History's Secret Heroes. How young circus performer Raymond Gurême dedicated himself to bringing the Nazis down. (6/10) **4.0** The Switch (R) **4.30** Soul Music (R) **5.0** PM **5.57** Weather **6.0** News **6.30** It's a Fair Cop. Alfie Moore discusses cases of domestic violence. (6/6) **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.0** The Briefing Room (R) **8.30** Inside Science (R) **9.0** Start the Week (R) **9.45** Cafe Hope (R) **9.59** Weather **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: You Are Here. By David Nicholls. (6/10)

11.0 The System. Thriller, by Ben Lewis. (5/6) (R) **11.30** Counterfelt Characters (R) **12.0** News **12.30** The Miners' Strike: Return Journey (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Farming Today

Radio 4 Extra

6.0am Lord Peter Wimsey: Clouds of Witness (1/8) **6.30** The Buckingham Palace Connection (1/5) **7.0** The Alan Davies Show (3/6) **7.30** Steptoe and Son (3/8) **8.0** Mrs Sidhu Investigates: Murder With Masala (3/4) **8.30** The Grass Is Greener (1/5) **8.45** Girl With a Pearl Earring (1/5) **9.0** It's a Fair Cop (5/6) **9.30** Britain at Sea (6/15) **9.45** Dally Service **10.0** The Moth Radio Hour **10.55** Inheritance Tracks **11.0** Lord Peter Wimsey: Clouds of Witness (1/8) **1.30** The Buckingham Palace Connection (1/5) **2.0** The Alan Davies Show (3/6) **2.30** Steptoe and Son (3/8) **3.0** Mrs Sidhu Investigates (3/4) **3.30** The Grass Is Greener (1/5) **3.45** Girl With a Pearl Earring (1/5) **4.0** Just a Minute (12/12) **4.30** The Nimmo Twins In ... (1/6) **5.0** Diamonds (1/3)

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Friday's solutions

Wordsearch



Sudoku no 6,466

9	6	8	7	2	3	1	4	5
7	5	3	4	1	6	9	8	2
1	4	2	5	9	8	3	7	6
6	1	9	8	4	7	5	2	3
2	7	5	9	3	1	4	6	8
3	8	4	2	6	5	7	9	1
4	3	7	6	5	2	8	1	9
8	2	1	3	7	9	6	5	4
5	9	6	1	8	4	2	3	7

Suguru

2	3	4	1	5	1
5	1	5	2	4	2
4	2	4	1	5	1
3	1	5	3	4	3
2	4	2	1	5	2
3	1	3	4	3	1

Word wheel

Saturday's Quick crossword



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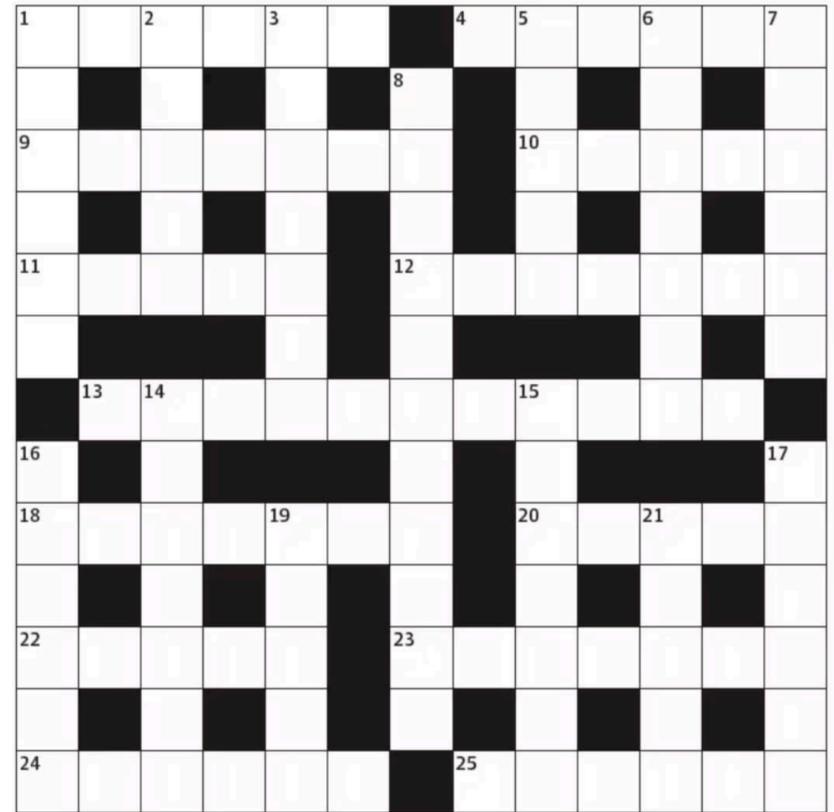
Quick crossword no 16,848

Across

- 1 Ditch - __ coat (6)
- 4 Gentle walk (6)
- 9 (Casual) mistakes (4-3)
- 10 Tip over (5)
- 11 Swallow (3,2)
- 12 Take (someone) to task (7)
- 13 Selection of dairy products (11)
- 18 Liquid nitrogen, for instance (7)
- 20 Summon up (5)
- 22 Join (5)
- 23 Ill muon (anag) - window divider (7)
- 24 Affecting (6)
- 25 Bag or cake? (6)

Down

- 1 Boiled sweet (6)
- 2 Gloat (5)
- 3 Screw up (7)
- 5 Hitchhiker's sign (5)
- 6 Located outside (4-3)
- 7 Pretentiously posh (2-2-2)
- 8 Madmen use as (anag) - alias (7,4)
- 14 Heap of grass (7)
- 15 Cover the same area (7)
- 16 (Informal) untidy individual (6)
- 17 Spiritualist activity (6)
- 19 Gradually discover (5)
- 21 It'll make your eyes water (5)



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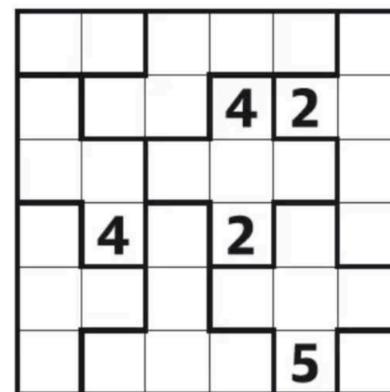
Sudoku no 6,470

Easy. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

				5	
9	6	4		8	2
				7	4 9
1 8					4 9
9		3			
	5 4				8
	1		3 9		2
5		2 7		6	3
	7		2 1		

Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of two squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.



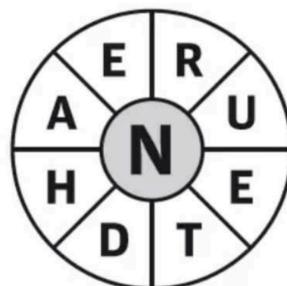
Wordsearch

Can you find 15 words connected with poetry in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.



Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-80. Good-67. Average-49.



Trivia corner

Sheridan Smith has won a Bafta and a National Television award - but how many Olivier awards does she have to her name?

- a. One
- b. Two
- c. Three
- d. Four

Answer top right

