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Allison Pearson, Features



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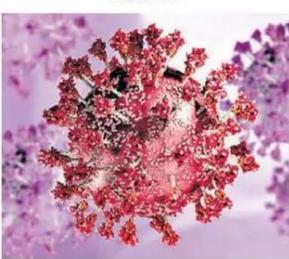
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Airports in chaos after e-gates fail at peak time

Airline passengers queue for hours after Border Force security system goes down

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THOUSANDS of passengers were stranded at Britain's busiest airports last night as the e-gate system failed causing chaos.

Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester airports were among those hit by the nationwide failure of the e-gates, leaving passengers queuing for two hours as they returned from bank holiday breaks.

It is the second time the e-gates have failed in two weeks, raising questions over the reliability of the system which is designed to speed up passengers through passport checks.

There was no evidence to link the border chaos to a cyber attack but it came just a day after the Armed Forces payroll system was hacked by a suspected "state actor".

The Home Office said it was investigating the e-gate failure. "We are aware of a technical issue affecting e-gates across the country," said a spokesman. "We are working closely with Border Force and affected airports to resolve the issue and apologise to all passengers for the inconvenience caused."

The gates are understood to have failed at 8pm last night just as thousands landed on early evening planes.

The main Border Force security database - called "Border Crossing" which was introduced just under three years ago at a cost of £372 million - appeared to have suffered a complete shutdown.

Thousands of arrivals at Heathrow, the UK's busiest airport, were delayed, with passengers waiting in queues for up to two hours. There were also long delays at Stansted, Manchester and Edinburgh airports, and delays of 90 minutes were reported at Gatwick.

Passenger Nathan Lane posted on Twitter/X: "The entire e-gate immigration system at Heathrow Airport is down at all terminals. Now all the systems at the desks are too. Brits and foreigners alike. Nobody is getting through. This is management yelling updates at every-

one." Richard Gaisford posted on the social media site: "E-gates down at LHR T3, and seemingly across Heathrow Airport. Border Force suggests to passengers it might be a nationwide outage."

Justin Bronk, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London, and among those at Heathrow, said: "You see how high-capacity the system normally is by how rapidly things turn to chaos when it breaks; plane after plane of people pouring in and backing up in the corridor."

There were indications that planes may have been delayed and stacked up in the air to prevent increasing the pressure on queues of passengers waiting to have their documents manually processed by Border Force officers.

Dominic Baliszewski, co-founder of a PR company, said: "Apparently, Heathrow isn't letting planes land and doesn't have a real plan."

"E-gates down and they're processing everyone manually through one gate. This is only a small portion of the queue. Almost no staff."

At Bournemouth Airport, Border Force staff were reported to have resorted to laptops to process passports.

Richard Heading, a passenger, reported on social media: "All systems are down and they are using laptops to check passports. Moderate delays."

A spokesman for Heathrow said: "Border Force is currently experiencing a nationwide issue which is impacting passengers being processed. Our teams are supporting [them] with their contingency plans to help resolve the problem as quickly as possible and are on hand to provide passenger welfare. We apologise for any impact this is having to passenger journeys."

There are more than 270 e-gates in place at 15 airports and train stations in the UK that were all understood to have failed. The cause was unclear. The Home Office apologised last month following the failure on April 25, which it blamed on a "technical issue". E-gates *Continued on Page 2*

Harry back home, but won't see the King



The Duke of Sussex, who landed in London yesterday morning ahead of a series of events around the Invictus Games, will not see his father during his trip as the King's diary is too busy, a spokesman has said. The Duke, who had made no secret about his wish to see the King, is back home for three days before flying to Nigeria for a quasi-royal tour with his wife Meghan.

Children will be forced to show ID to use social media platforms

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

CHILDREN face being kicked off social media under plans for tough new age checks unveiled by Ofcom, the regulator, today.

Social media firms will be required to introduce robust checks, including the use of photo ID such as passports, to identify children who are using their sites and protect them from harm online.

Platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, which require users to be over 13, will be expected to use the checks to enforce the age limits.

The move could result in millions of children being removed from social media sites, as Ofcom research suggests that as many as 51 per cent of those aged three to 12 use at least one of the social networks.

Tech firms that fail to comply with the new regime, set out in a proposed Ofcom code of practice, will face fines

worth up to 10 per cent of their global turnover - equivalent to £11 billion for a company such as Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram.

Writing for *The Telegraph*, Michelle Donelan, the Technology Secretary, said the Government would no longer tolerate a "Wild West" where children are "force-fed" violence, pornography,

'Measures seek to address the devastating effects of damaging algorithms that increase the harms'

abuse and harmful content online. She said: "The measures Ofcom have set out would not just require platforms and search services to roll out robust age checks to shield children from age-inappropriate content.

"They go even further, seeking to understand the impact of addictive fea-

tures such as 'infinite scrolling' feeds, addressing the devastating effects of damaging algorithms that - little by little - increase the harms to which our children are exposed."

Self-declaration of age, which has allowed young children to join social media sites, will be banned.

Ofcom lists ways in which social media companies could check the age of users, including requiring photo ID such as passports, using facial age estimation - where computer software is used to calculate a user's age - or reusable digital ID services, where an external company provides age verification.

The social media companies will also be required to configure their algorithms, which determine the content promoted to users, in such a way as to filter the most harmful content from children's social media feeds. This is *Continued on Page 2*

Michelle Donelan: Page 6

US pressures Israel to accept ceasefire deal

By Tony Diver
US EDITOR
in Washington

The US has piled pressure on Benjamin Netanyahu to agree a ceasefire deal with Hamas, arguing the two sides should be able to "close the remaining gaps" in negotiations very soon.

John Kirby, the White House's national security spokesman, yesterday urged negotiators to come to an agreement after Israel launched a "limited" assault on Rafah, in the south of Gaza.

Israel rejected a deal proposed by Hamas on Monday, dashing Palestinian hopes of a ceasefire in exchange for the release of hostages captured on Oct 7.

It said the terms of the deal, under which three hostages would be released every week the ceasefire was in place, was "unacceptable" and a "ruse" to make Israel appear unwilling to negotiate in good faith. Mr Netanyahu said he would instead continue a ground occupation of Rafah, where Israel says

Hamas has stationed battalions driven out of the north of the territory.

Despite the operation, Mr Kirby suggested a deal was still likely, telling reporters: "Our understanding of the text would suggest that they should be able to close these gaps and we hope very, very soon."

Early yesterday, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) tanks entered the Gaza Strip to seize the Rafah crossing, which has been used to deliver supplies of aid.

Joe Biden hinted at a rift between his administration and Mr Netanyahu as talks mediated by William Burns, the director of the CIA, continued in Cairo.

"My commitment to the safety of the Jewish people, the security of Israel, and its right to exist as an independent Jewish state is ironclad, even when we disagree," he said at a Holocaust Remembrance ceremony in Washington yesterday.

Reports: Page 4

NEWS

AstraZeneca pulls Covid jab from use

The Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine is being withdrawn worldwide, months after the pharmaceutical giant admitted for the first time in court documents that it can cause a rare and dangerous side effect.

AstraZeneca's vaccine can no longer be used in the EU after the company voluntarily withdrew its "marketing authorisation". The application to withdraw the vaccine was made on March 5 and came into effect on yesterday. *Page 2*

NEWS

Daniels shaken after Trump sex, jury hears

Stormy Daniels told a court she was left "shaking" after a sexual encounter with Donald Trump, as the judge overseeing the case repeatedly admonished her for going into too much detail. The adult film actress is the star witness in the former president's hush money trial, which hinges on an alleged cover-up of an \$130,000 payment to her. During her testimony, she revealed salacious details about their alleged tryst in a Lake Tahoe hotel suite. *Page 3*



NEWS

BBC told it must air migration concerns

The BBC must reflect public concerns about immigration, according to a review of the broadcaster's news coverage. The review, conducted by the director of the Migration Observatory at Oxford University, looked at the impartiality and accuracy of the BBC's content on migration. It found that some BBC journalists had been anxious that reporting on local concerns about migration, or covering topics such as immigration fraud, could appear "hostile" to migrants. *Page 12*

BUSINESS

Hundreds of defence companies debanked

Banks have shut the accounts of hundreds of defence companies, amid fears that lenders' internal ethics policies are putting national security at risk. Santander and Lloyds closed 300 accounts belonging to "public administration and defence" companies last year alone, according to correspondence with MPs on the Treasury select committee. Other major lenders did not provide a breakdown, suggesting the actual figure could be far higher. *Page 19*

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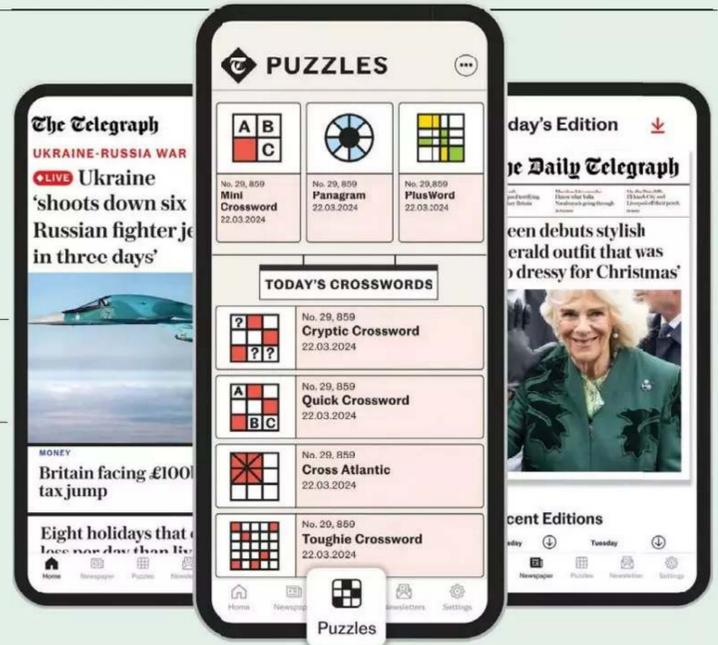
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AstraZeneca withdraws Covid vaccine from use

Company says decision to end worldwide marketing authorisation was due to 'decline in demand'

By Robert Mendick and Patrick Sawyer

THE OXFORD-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine is being withdrawn worldwide, months after the pharmaceutical giant

admitted in court documents it can cause a rare and dangerous side effect.

AstraZeneca's vaccine can no longer be used in the European Union after the company voluntarily withdrew its marketing authorisation.

The application to withdraw the vaccine was made on March 5 and came into effect yesterday.

Similar applications will be made in the coming months in the UK and in other countries that had given the vac-

cine – known as Vaxzevria – the green light.

AstraZeneca said the vaccine was being removed from markets for commercial reasons. It said the vaccine was no longer being manufactured or supplied, having been superseded by updated vaccines that tackle new variants.

The vaccine has come under intense scrutiny in recent months over a very rare side effect, which causes blood

clots and low blood platelet counts. AstraZeneca admitted in court documents lodged with the High Court in February that its Covid vaccine "can, in very rare cases, cause TTS".

TTS, which stands for Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, has been linked to at least 81 deaths in the UK as well as hundreds of serious injuries. AstraZeneca is being sued by more than 50 alleged victims and grieving relatives in a High Court case.

But AstraZeneca has insisted the decision to withdraw the vaccine is not linked to the court case or its admission that it can cause TTS. It said the timing was pure coincidence.

In a statement, the company said: "We are incredibly proud of the role Vaxzevria played in ending the global pandemic. According to independent estimates, over 6.5 million lives were saved in the first year of use alone and

over three billion doses were supplied globally.

"Our efforts have been recognised by governments around the world and are widely regarded as being a critical component of ending the global pandemic.

"As multiple, variant Covid-19 vaccines have since been developed there is a surplus of available updated vaccines. This has led to a decline in demand for Vaxzevria, which is no longer being manufactured or supplied.

"AstraZeneca has therefore taken the decision to initiate withdrawal of the Marketing Authorisations for Vaxzevria within Europe."

The statement added: "We will now work with regulators and our partners to align on a clear path forward to conclude this chapter and significant contribution to the Covid-19 pandemic."

AstraZeneca never had approval for the vaccine to be used in the US.

NEWS BULLETIN

Motorists warned M25 to shut in holiday season

Closures of Britain's busiest motorway will hit "peak holiday season", officials have admitted as they warned more could go wrong during this weekend's works on the M25 than last time.

Jonathan Wade, of National Highways, said motorists travelling to ports and airports could expect disruption in August. It will close in both directions between junctions 9 and 10 in Surrey from 9pm on Friday until 6am on Monday while concrete beams for a new bridge and a gantry are lifted into place. Mr Wade said he had "more fears this time than I did last time" because of more complicated work. "It's so difficult to make predictions. The next closure is scheduled for August."

Clarke-Smith calls for ban on postal voting

Postal voting should be banned, a former deputy Tory chairman has said. Brendan Clarke-Smith said electoral law needed to be changed to reduce the "potential for fraud".

The Tory MP for Bassetlaw said one of the major problems with postal votes was that the system allows heads of households to fill in ballot papers for the whole family.

But he said the Armed Forces and people with disabilities should still have the option.

"It's important that the public have faith in the democratic process and there are a number of concerns relating to the abuse of postal votes and the potential for fraud," he said.

20mph speed limits cut casualties by a fifth

Cutting the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph has reduced casualties by a fifth during a trial.

The speed limit was reduced in seven "intervention zones" across Edinburgh and the researchers from the Universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Belfast found that the number of people injured in collisions fell by 20 per cent compared with neighbouring areas where speed limits had remained at 30mph.

The number of casualties fell by a third over three years after the speed limit was reduced – a fifth lower than the 30mph roads with which researchers compared incident rates.

Adults spend more time with TV than socialising

Britons spend almost five times as much time watching television as socialising, government data show.

The Office for National Statistics figures on how adults spend their time reveals the average number of minutes spent on different activities each day and it shows they spend almost five times as long watching television as socialising. On average, they spend two hours and 20 minutes in front of the television daily compared to just 31 minutes socialising.

Ellys Monahan, of the ONS, also said the study shows "the large amount of ... unpaid childcare, cleaning, and cooking" adults do which "adds a lot of value to the country but is not counted by standard measures like GDP".

Latest e-gate failure leads to travel misery

Continued from Page 1

usually process the vast majority of passengers, including children aged 10 and over, arriving in the UK. They were originally restricted to British and EU arrivals. However, their use has been extended over the years to include arrivals from Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland and the US.

The e-gates have failed on a number of occasions. The whole system collapsed at the start of the late May bank holiday weekend in 2023 because of a failed system upgrade, resulting in four-hour queues at airports. In 2021, technical issues caused the gates to fail three times in two months.

An aviation source said: "It is under-investment again. The last major outage like this was the same weekend last year – the Coronation weekend."

The apparent collapse of the system will raise questions over Border Force's ambition to create an "intelligent border" with new e-gates capable of allowing arrivals into the country using only advanced facial recognition.

Phil Douglas, the director-general of Border Force, said that the plans have been designed to bring Britain's border up to a gold standard that has been developed overseas.

Trials of the new technology are expected to begin at airports later this year before the launch of a full procurement process for new gates.



'A few thousand people in line and not a single person at Heathrow is able to figure out a solution,' wrote Dheeraj Chintala on X, as e-gate outages led to misery for passengers

Pubs to stay open late ... if Lions reach Euros semi-finals

By Ben Rumsby

PUBS and bars in England and Wales will be allowed to stay open until 1am for the semi-finals and final of this summer's European Championship if one of the home nations makes it that far.

James Cleverly, the Home Secretary, has confirmed plans to relax licensing hours if England or Scotland reach the final week of the tournament in Ger-

many. Mr Cleverly plans to use powers that allow him to make an order relaxing licensing hours to mark occasions of "exceptional national significance" following the results of a consultation carried out towards the end of last year.

He said: "Over the coming weeks we will all be getting ready to support our home nations in what will be a busy summer of sport and a proud moment for Britain. We have listened to the pub-

lic through our consultation and will be extending pub licensing hours should England or Scotland reach the semi-finals or final of Euro 2024.

"This boost to the hospitality sector will allow friends, families and communities to come together for longer to watch their nation hopefully bring it home."

However, a Scottish government spokesman said they could not make a

similar order and that it would be up to councils.

They said: "Unlike in England, Licensing Boards in Scotland are independent regulatory bodies and it is up to them whether or not they grant general extensions of licensed hours if they consider it appropriate to do so in connection with a special event of local or national significance."

Licensing powers are devolved to

Scotland and Northern Ireland. Emma McClarkin, the chief executive of the British Beer and Pub Association said: "It's great news that the Government has anticipated the likely interest from pubs to keep their doors open a little longer for the semi-finals and finals during the European Championships.

"By creating this easement and cutting red tape, doing business will be that much easier."

Governor at Khalife escape prison resigns

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE governor of crisis-hit Wandsworth prison in London has quit the service ahead of an urgent notification placing the jail under special measures.

Katie Price is understood to have tendered her resignation after facing chronic staff shortages, high levels of violence and dilapidated Victorian infrastructure.

HMP Wandsworth shot to prominence last September when accused spy Daniel Khalife allegedly escaped, sparking a nationwide hunt that lasted four days. After that, Charlie Taylor, the chief inspector of prisons, said it was

one of a number of old jails that should be closed if there was capacity to take its 1,600 prisoners elsewhere.

A Prison Governors' Association source said: "It has not had the main-

'It's very difficult to run a prison that's overcrowded, underfunded and can't recruit and retain staff'

tenance money it should ... it is very difficult to run a good prison when it is overcrowded, the buildings are not invested in and you are finding it difficult to retain and recruit staff,

which is the case with Wandsworth." It is understood that Mr Taylor will this week issue an urgent notification on HMP Wandsworth, which means he has "urgent and significant concern" about the performance of the facility. It means Alex Chalk, the Justice Secretary, has 28 days to publish an action plan to improve the jail before a follow-up visit by the chief inspector.

Last October, local watchdogs branded the prison "unsafe and inhumane".

Wandsworth's independent monitoring board found years of underinvestment in the site, facilities and staff had led to an unsafe environment where "violence levels continue to rise".

Checks will 'tame algorithms'

Continued from Page 1

intended to cover content such as self-harm, suicide and eating disorders.

It follows the death of Molly Russell, the 13-year-old who took her own life after viewing 16,000 "destructive" posts online encouraging self-harm, anxiety and suicide in her final six months.

Dame Melanie Dawes, the Ofcom chief executive, said companies would need to "tame aggressive algorithms", adding: "I think we can prevent future deaths by the measures we are taking."

The draft code will be presented to Parliament for approval next spring before being implemented. It will mean all services that do not ban harmful content and those where there is a higher

risk of it being shared will be expected to implement "highly effective" age checks to prevent children from seeing it.

The regulator cannot impose minimum age limits on social media sites, but sources said the age checks would enable companies to enforce their bans on under-13s. "If they chose not to do that, we would want to ask them questions about that," said a source.

Tech firms are also legally obliged under the Online Safety Act to abide by their terms and conditions, which set out their age limits. If they fail to follow their terms, they would be liable for fines of up to 10 per cent of global turnover.

The NSPCC said the draft code was a "welcome step in the right direction".

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<p>Stormy times Timeline of Donald Trump's hush money trial</p>	<p>2016 Michael Cohen, Donald Trump's former lawyer and fixer, pays Stormy Daniels \$130,000 (£105,391) before the 2016 election.</p>	<p>February 2017 Mr Cohen sends an invoice to Mr Trump, the first of 11 monthly invoices that are marked on business records as expenses for his legal services.</p>	<p>February 2018 The <i>Wall Street Journal</i> reports on the "hush-money" payments. Mr Cohen says that he made the payments with his own money and was not directed by Mr Trump or his campaign to do so. He says Mr Trump never reimbursed him.</p>	<p>August 2018 Mr Cohen pleads guilty to criminal charges in Manhattan federal court and is sentenced to three years in prison. He admits making the payments at Mr Trump's direction "for the principal purpose of influencing" the election.</p>	<p>August 2019 A subpoena is issued to The Trump Organisation for records of the hush-money payments by Cyrus Vance, who was the Manhattan district attorney at the time.</p>	<p>January to March 2023 Alvin Bragg, the newly-elected Manhattan district attorney, and prosecutors in his office start presenting evidence to a grand jury. Mr Cohen testifies alongside other witnesses. The grand jury votes to indict Mr Trump.</p>	<p>April 4 2023 Mr Trump pleads not guilty to 34 felony charges.</p>
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After the sex I just wanted to go, but I was shaking so hard, says Daniels

Judge forced to interrupt star witness at Trump trial over her excessive detail of spanking and pillow talk

By Susie Coen
US CORRESPONDENT in New York

STORMY DANIELS told a court she was left "shaking" after a sexual encounter with Donald Trump, as the judge overseeing the case repeatedly admonished her for going into too much detail.

The adult film actress is the star witness in the former president's hush money trial, which hinges on an alleged cover-up of an \$130,000 (£105,000) payment to "silence" her in the run-up to the 2016 election.

Her name has come up countless times so far in the first criminal trial of a former US president, but yesterday Ms Daniels came face-to-face with the man she has for years claimed to have slept with in 2006 when she was 27.

Dressed in black with a ruffled, hooded cardigan, Ms Daniels swooshed past Mr Trump before proceeding to reel off salacious details about their alleged tryst in a Lake Tahoe hotel suite after a celebrity golf tournament. Despite initially appearing nervous, Ms



Daniels soon softened, often looking directly at the jury, gesturing and giggling as though she was regaling a group of old friends.

On several occasions, the visibly excitable witness was asked to slow down for the sake of the court reporter recording her testimony.

"Did you end up having sex with him on the bed?" Susan Hoffinger, for the prosecution, asked.

"Yes," Ms Daniels replied. "I had my clothes and my shoes off. I removed my bra. We were in missionary position," Ms Daniels added, before the defence objected.

Following the explicit session, Todd Blanche, Mr Trump's lawyer, called for a mistrial claiming Ms Daniels' testimony had ignored the "guardrails" set by the court. "How can we come back from this in a way that's fair to president Trump?" Mr Blanche said.

Justice Juan Merchan, who on several occasions told Ms Daniels to stick to the question and had told the prosecution the level of detail was "not necessary", rejected the request.

The judge, who looked uncomfortable throughout the testimony, said he was "surprised" there weren't more

Donald Trump was seen prodding his lawyers as Stormy Daniels, seen leaving the court, inset right, gave evidence. The adult film star, pictured above at a separate court hearing in April, testified in lurid detail yesterday

objections from Mr Trump's legal team. "I think the witness was a little bit difficult to control," Mr Merchan said. "I don't think we're at the point where a mistrial is warranted."

When Ms Daniels first met Mr Trump she described how he told her she must "be the smart one" because she directed as well as starred in adult films.

Later his bodyguard, Keith Schiller, asked her if she'd like to go for dinner with Mr Trump and took her number.

Ms Daniels initially responded with "f--- no", she said, but ended up meeting Mr Trump at his hotel room after consulting her publicist who said "if nothing else you'll get a great story".

"What could possibly go wrong?" he added, Ms Daniels said, laughing.

She described arriving at Mr Trump's hotel suite which was "three times" the size of her apartment.

Mr Trump, who has continually verbally attacked Ms Daniels - who he has referred to as "horseface" - on social media, was seen shaking his head, whispering and prodding his lawyers as Ms Daniels testified.

At one point Mr Trump, with his son, Eric, sitting directly behind him, mouthed "b-----t" as Ms Daniels claimed she had spanked him with a rolled-up magazine with his face on it.

Ms Daniels added that the pair had a "very brief" discussion about his wife Melania, who had recently given birth to their son Barron.

She told Mr Trump, his wife was "very beautiful", to which he replied: "We don't even sleep in the same room".

After spending hours chatting, Ms Daniels said she went to the lavatory, which was accessed through the bedroom and when she came out Mr Trump was posing on the bed.

"I just thought to myself 'Great. I put myself in this bad situation, what do I do?'", Ms Daniels told the courtroom, as she held onto the side of her neck.

"There was an imbalance of power for sure, he was bigger and blocking the way... but I was not threatened verbally or physically", Ms Daniels said.

When asking about details of the sexual act, Ms Hoffinger asked Ms Daniels if she touched Mr Trump's skin - before defence lawyer Susan Necheles objected.

Ms Daniels said she struggled to get dressed following the encounter because "my hands were shaking so hard".

While she had "just wanted to leave" as quickly as possible, Mr Trump told her: "It was great, let's get together again honeybunch, it was great."

Ms Daniels said Mr Trump did not ask her to keep their encounter confidential and did not show any concern about his wife finding out.

But she still only "told very few people that we had actually had sex because I felt ashamed that I didn't stop it", she said.

The 45-year-old detailed several other meetings she had with Mr Trump in 2007. Speaking about the \$130,000 payment she received for her story about Mr Trump, Ms Daniels said the figure did not matter because she was "motivated out of fear, not money".

She claimed a man threatened her in a car park to keep quiet about their alleged tryst after she gave a magazine interview to *In Touch* in 2011.

Mr Trump is charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records in connection with the hush money payments. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges. He also denies ever having a sexual encounter with Ms Daniels.

The trial continues.



Taking the stand What Stormy Daniels told the court

On her dinner with Donald Trump

He was wearing silk or satin pyjamas... I said, 'Does Mr Hefner know you stole his pyjamas'... I told him to go change and so he obliged very politely.

'You remind me of my daughter'
He told me: 'You remind me of my

daughter because she's smart, blonde and beautiful and people underestimate her.'



On their sexual encounter
The intention was pretty clear, somebody stripped

down to their underwear and is posing for you. He stood up between me and the door. Not in a threatening manner. He didn't come at me, he didn't rush at me. Nothing like that.

On selling her story to the press
My motivation wasn't money. It was to get the story out.

Women-only museum turns itself into a lavatory so it can legally stop men entering

By Nick Squires

AN AUSTRALIAN museum that was ordered to admit men to its women-only exhibit plans to get around the ruling by turning it into a ladies' lavatory.

The Museum of Old and New Art in Hobart, Tasmania, was told by a court last month that it must allow men into the exhibit, called the *Ladies Lounge*, after a male visitor filed a complaint alleging gender discrimination.

The display has been closed to the public ever since, with its female curators considering what action to take.

Now they are debating whether to transform the exhibit, which consists of a sleek cocktail lounge decorated with artworks by Picasso, Sir Sidney Nolan and other artists, into a women's lavatory.

Kirsha Kaechele, the artist and curator behind the exhibit, said: "There is a fabulous toilet coming to the *Ladies*

Lounge, and so in that sense the *Ladies Lounge* will operate as a ladies' room. It's a toilet that is celebrated the world round. It is the greatest toilet and men won't be allowed to see it."

The lavatory is currently on its way to the museum and will be installed in the next 45 days, she said. She suggested

'There is a fabulous toilet coming to the Ladies Lounge and men won't be allowed to see it'

male waiters could serve flutes of champagne as female visitors sit on the lavatory.

"Why not? There is a real precedent for people imbibing in the toilet. People enjoy all kinds of substances in there. I once visited a colonial-era mansion in Manila that had two toilets, side by side,

with a chessboard in the centre. So there is a real precedent for engaging in a variety of activities in the toilet."

Its installation will mean that curators can declare the exhibit a women-only space without falling foul of anti-discrimination laws.

Men will be allowed into the exhibit by special permission but only on Sundays - when they will be taught how to iron and fold clothes.

"Women can bring in all their clean laundry and the men can go through a series of graceful movements (...refined by tai chi masters) to fold them," Ms Kaechele said.

The museum plans to appeal against the court ruling after a visitor, Jason Lau argued that the museum had violated the Tasmania's anti-discrimination laws by failing to provide "a fair provision of goods and services in line with the law" to him and other men.

Spacey's lawyers apologise for 'mucking up' and forgetting to file their defence in trial

By Henry Bodkin

KEVIN SPACEY'S lawyers have been forced to apologise after failing to file crucial defence documents in the case against him for sexual assault.

Carter Ruck, the celebrity law firm, was found to have "quite frankly mucked up" by a High Court judge, who said the solicitors then compounded their mistake by trying to "go on the attack".

The debacle arose from the civil claim made against the Hollywood actor by a man who alleges he was sexually assaulted by him. Spacey denies the claim.

The litigation was paused after Spacey, formerly artistic director of the Old Vic Theatre in London for 11 years, was charged and later acquitted at a criminal trial for a number of sexual offences alleged by four men between 2001 and 2013.

At a hearing yesterday, the High Court heard that the actor's lawyers had been obliged to file a written defence within a set period of time after the end of the criminal proceedings, but had failed to do so.

A default judgment was subsequently entered against Spacey, meaning he

'When a solicitor, in the vernacular, mucks up, I would expect a full acceptance of that fact'

could have been found formally liable for sexual misconduct because of the incompetence of his solicitors.

However, Adam Speker KC, his barrister, apologised to the court and successfully applied to set aside the default ruling, describing the failure to file the paperwork as a "genuine error by his

solicitor". Judge David Cook agreed to set aside the ruling, saying: "In my view, that error should not be visited upon the defendant."

The interests of justice require that those allegations go forward to trial and the judgment in default should, therefore, be lifted.

Judge Cook directed particular criticism for an "aggressive" witness statement submitted by Nigel Tait, managing partner at Carter Ruck.

"When a solicitor, in the vernacular, mucks up, I would expect a full acceptance of that fact," he said.

"To go on the attack, in the way he has here, looking for holes, really is to be deprecated."

The hearing comes after Mr Spacey denied allegations of inappropriate behaviour ahead of the broadcast of a Channel 4 documentary.

The High Court trial is now expected to take place in the summer of 2025.

Israel criticised for operation in Rafah as aid in Gaza dwindles

Humanitarian groups warn supplies are low as US urges Netanyahu not to 'put lives at greater risk'

By Nataliya Vasilyeva in Jerusalem, Tony Diver in Washington and Abbie Cheeseman

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU faced fresh criticism for his offensive in Rafah yesterday as aid groups and allies warned the supply of humanitarian assistance to Gaza was in peril.

In an overnight operation, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) tanks entered the Gaza Strip to seize the crossing, which has been used to deliver supplies of aid.

Video footage from the operation showed one tank crushing a welcome sign that read: "I love Gaza."

Israel assured allies the largely symbolic operation was "limited" and did not mark the start of a long-promised full-scale ground invasion of Rafah,



where more than 1.4 million civilians are sheltering from the war.

But Mr Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, said it was a "very important step" toward destroying Hamas's remaining military capabilities and would destroy smuggling tunnels over the border into Egypt.

In a video message, he said Hamas's surprise agreement to a ceasefire deal on Monday, which he said was "very far from Israel's vital demands" and designed to "sabotage" Rafah operation.

He said he will not sign up to any deal that requires Israel to stop fighting in Gaza after the release of the 133 hostages currently held by Hamas.

Hamas' leadership have indicated that ending the war permanently is their own red line.

But Mr Netanyahu is facing criticism at home and abroad for his decision to dismiss the proposal, and for pressing ahead with the Rafah offensive.

An opinion poll commissioned by Israel's Channel 13 showed yesterday

that most Israelis believe Mr Netanyahu cares more about "his own political survival" than the return of hostages.

The UN and other aid agencies said the IDF's manoeuvres threatened supplies of aid into the territory.

Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN's humanitarian agency OCHA, said that "we currently do not have any physical presence at the Rafah crossing as our access ... has been denied".

He said all fuel going into Gaza crosses via Rafah and that the enclave has only one day of fuel reserves. The WHO also said Israel is not allowing transfer of patients through Rafah.

The other crossing for supplies for Gaza has remained closed since Sunday when Hamas mortar fire targeted Israeli troops at a staging ground nearby, killing four of them. Another mortar attack at the Kerem Shalom crossing was reported early yesterday.

Yoav Gallant, Israel's defence minister, toured the area of eastern Rafah captured by Israel, vowing to press on with the planned invasion while leaving room for a deal.

"This operation will continue until we eliminate Hamas in the Rafah area and the entire Gaza Strip or until the first hostage returns," he said.

"We are willing to make compromises in order to bring back hostages, but if that option is removed, we will go on and 'deepen' the operation."

Annalena Baerbock, the foreign minister of Germany, wrote on X: "I strongly caution against conducting a major offensive on Rafah."

She added that despite Israel's assurances of efforts to evacuate the locals, the over one million people sheltering in Rafah "cannot vanish into thin air".

Yesterday, the Palestinian Authority urged the US to "intervene immediately" to stop Israel from launching a full-scale ground invasion of Rafah.

Washington officials stopped short of condemning the operation but said it "wouldn't want to see an operation big or small that puts lives at greater risk".

They have reportedly also held up a shipment of Boeing-manufactured precision bombs bound for Israel to "send a message" about Mr Netanyahu's strategy in Gaza, Politico reported.

Inside Gaza, yesterday Palestinians reacted anxiously to reports that Israeli tanks were operating on the border with Egypt.

Speaking to *The Telegraph* over the phone from the west of Rafah, Mohammad Najjar, a student, said that the night was "very difficult".

He said Rafah is no wider than 15 kilometres (nine miles), so the IDF are "very close" to his location.

"Until this moment we can hear the bombing," he said, following a night of artillery, drones and air strikes.



Israeli tanks entered Rafah yesterday, above, and one was filmed crushing a sign that read 'I love Gaza', main

Netanyahu denies putting power first, but his actions say otherwise

Analysis



By Paul Nuki
GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY EDITOR

THERE is a psychological profile of Benjamin Netanyahu in the academic archives that remains apposite to his behaviour today.

"Personal success is more important to him than ideology and he constantly strives for it," concluded behavioural scientists from Tel Aviv University during his first term in office in the late 1990s.

He had "difficulty appreciating perspectives other than his own" and difficulty distinguishing between the "personal and public" realms, they added.

To many outside Israel, Mr Netanyahu's behaviour over the last few days will have seemed extraordinary, and deserving of psychological examination.

With a deal on the table for a "sustainable calm" in Gaza and a hostage release that he himself had agreed just days earlier, he set about undermining it at the weekend before Hamas could reply.

It started on the Sabbath when an unnamed official briefed Channel 12, the country's biggest news station, that "Israel will under no circumstances agree to end the war as part of a deal involving the release of hostages".

"The IDF will enter Rafah and destroy the Hamas battalions remaining there, whether there is a temporary truce for releasing the hostages or not," they added.

Mr Netanyahu has denied trying to sabotage the deal, but it later

transpired that the anonymous source of the briefing was the prime minister himself.

Then on Sunday he doubled down, his behaviour verging on the messianic. On the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, he spoke of dark forces from the "international community" trying to restrain Israel, and warned: "We cannot trust the promises of gentiles."

At the ceremony itself, he added: "From here, from Jerusalem, on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day, I send a message, loud and clear: 'You will not tie our hands.'"

"If Israel is forced to stand alone, we will stand alone, and will continue to smite our enemies until we achieve victory. Even if we must stand alone, we will continue fighting human evil."

To the fighter pilots from the UK, France and America who just three weeks before had risked their lives

shooting down a fusillade of more than 300 drones and missiles launched at Israel from Iran, his words may have stung a bit.

But, as his psychological profilers observed way back when: "Some [of his] behaviours betray self-involvement to the point that others receive no consideration... an equally clear trait is Netanyahu's difficulty in appreciating perspectives other than his own."

In Israel itself, people do not find Mr Netanyahu's behaviour so surprising. They have long been inured to his antics.

"He's made a whole career out of doing things that nobody ever did before and are considered scandalous," said Dr Dahlia Scheindlin, an Israeli political scientist, pollster and political consultant.

"So I don't think it's that extraordinary that he would both violate the Sabbath [for his religious voters] in order to torpedo a deal that the majority of the Israeli public desperately wants."

Almost all domestic political analysis in Israel portrays Mr Netanyahu as something akin to a trapped beast fighting for its life.

He has long been facing corruption

charges that could land him in jail and he has recently become convinced – probably not unreasonably – that he will soon be the subject of an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Some say his ego and survival instinct should take him in the direction of Menachem Begin, Israel's sixth prime minister, Nobel laureate (and former terrorist) who signed the country's historic peace deal with Egypt in 1979. This is something the

'Netanyahu sees the game of politics as being governed by the "laws of the jungle"'

Americans have been encouraging Netanyahu towards.

Sign a deal with Hamas, they say, and you will enable a historic normalisation of relations with Saudi Arabia and a new relational security alliance against Iran. Like Begin, you too could yet secure a positive place in history.

But as Dr Dahlia Scheindlin points out, the parliamentary maths is difficult and uncertain. If he agrees to a

deal with Hamas, the extreme Right-wing parties upon which his governing coalition relies will walk out. They want "total victory" and will settle for nothing less.

Opposition parties have said they will prop the government up if a deal can be done to save the remaining hostages – filling in the gap left by the extreme Right.

"They will immediately jump in to support the government, they have said that repeatedly, and they will indeed do it", the Israeli economist Manuel Trajtenberg told *The Telegraph*.

But this is unlikely to be enough for a man with the psychological profile of Mr Netanyahu. Were he to agree to such an arrangement, the opposition would have him exactly where they have always wanted him – under their control.

One false move on his part and they could dissolve the government and call fresh elections – which he would almost certainly lose.

"Netanyahu sees the game of politics as being governed by the "laws of the jungle", where the strong survive and the weak fall by the wayside," says the old profile. "To him, achievement of the goal justifies any political means."

Do not appease Tehran, says Spanish politician who survived assassination attempt

By Tim Sigsworth

A SPANISH politician who survived being shot in the face at close range by a suspected Iranian-linked assassin has said the West must stop "appeasing" Tehran.

Alejo Vidal-Quadras, the co-founder of Spain's Vox party, told *The Telegraph* Britain needs to end all trade with Iran, proscribe the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a terrorist group and send aid to the Iranian opposition.

The former vice-president of the European Parliament accused the Foreign Office of failing to take decisive action against the regime in order to keep lines of communication open.

On Nov 9 last year, Mr Vidal-Quadras was walking home from a park when an assassin called out: "Hello, sir."

As he turned to reply, the gunman fired one bullet from a handgun, shat-

tering the 78-year-old's jaw and narrowly missing his neck and brain.

Five people have been arrested as part of the investigation into the shooting, including one British woman. They are yet to face trial. The suspected gunman – a Tunisian resident of France – has not been caught.

Mr Vidal-Quadras has accused Iran of ordering the assassination because he is an outspoken opponent of the regime and supporter of the National Council of Resistance of Iran committee, an exiled opposition group.

Maryam Rajavi, the NCRI's president, said in a video address to a meeting in Parliament yesterday yesterday that the attack "showed that the clerical regime is a dangerous enemy of humanity".

Mr Vidal-Quadras said the reluctance of Western governments – including Britain – to cut ties with Iran has emboldened the autocratic regime and



Alejo Vidal-Quadras has urged Western governments to treat Iran as a 'pariah'

is partly to blame for its attack on him. He said of Iran: "In many foreign departments they believe there can be peace, they can negotiate."

"Better an enemy that you can at least talk to than chaos. But this policy of

appeasement has failed. They are a mortal enemy. We have done very stupid things with these people. They have a mentality where they always see appeasement, negotiation, constructive approach, as weakness.

"And then instead of appeasing them, they become more and more aggressive. They think, 'They want to negotiate, that means we can attack even stronger.'"

He said Britain, the US and the EU urgently need to start treating Iran as a "pariah state".

He called for all diplomats to be recalled from the country, wide-ranging sanctions to be imposed and all imports and exports to cease to "strangle them financially".

"No diplomatic relations, no trade, nothing," he said, adding that the "Iranian resistance and Iranian people" should be sent financial aid and

'They are a mortal enemy. We have done very stupid things with these people'

offered overt political and diplomatic support.

"I have realised that the current policies are not only useless, but counter-productive," he said, calling on the IRGC to be proscribed a terrorist organisation. "We have always taken the wrong way, trying to appease, trying to negotiate concessions."

He led the centre-Right Popular Party (PP) in Catalonia for five years until 1996, when he left the post after his disagreement to a deal between his party leader, José María Aznar, the then-prime minister, and a Catalan nationalist party.

Known for his opposition to Catalan separatism, he continued to serve as an MEP for the PP between 1999 and 2014 but then failed to retain his seat that year when he ran for Vox, which has since become Spain's third-largest political force.

I condemn both Israel and Hamas, says Khan

Downing Street claims Mayor of London's words are an 'insult' to the victims of the Oct 7 attacks

By Dominic Penna
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SADIQ KHAN has been criticised for equating a proscribed terrorist organisation with an elected government after he suggested there must be equally strong criticism of Hamas and Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Labour Mayor of London used the same language to condemn the Oct 7 massacre, in which Hamas killed 1,200 Israeli civilians, and the bombardment of Gaza by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) that followed.

Speaking after he was sworn-in for a third term at City Hall, Mr Khan told *The Telegraph*: "It's an issue of humanity and I think you've got to show equivalence. I condemn unequivocally the

actions of Hamas on Oct 7; those 134 hostages must be released.

"At the same time, I condemn unequivocally the actions of the IDF and Netanyahu; 34,000 people have perished including 14,000 children."

His remarks came seven months on from the atrocity and were criticised as an "insult" to its victims, as Downing Street said there was "no equivalence" between the terror group and Israel's elected leadership.

A source close to Mr Khan said he was making the point that he had been appalled by the loss of life across the conflict, whether that was the deaths of Jews on Oct 7 or those of Palestinian civilians in Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Mr Khan has gone further than Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, in his criticisms of Israel, calling for an immediate ceasefire months before Sir Keir and recently demanding an end to arms sales to the Middle Eastern country.

Downing Street led criticism of the comments last night and urged Sir Keir to distance himself from the compar-



Sadiq Khan and his wife Saadiya pose with supporters on the Millennium Bridge before he is sworn in as mayor

son of Hamas and Mr Netanyahu. A government source said: "There is no equivalence between a terrorist group and a democratic state. Starmer needs to disassociate himself from these comments immediately."

Suella Braverman, the former home secretary, noted the Oct 7 attacks "involved the rape, torture and murder of more than a thousand innocent men, women and babies and they continue to keep hostages in captivity".

She added: "It's utterly wrong and an insult to those victims to equate the brutality of Hamas to the legitimate military measures that Israel is taking in defence of its people and nation."

Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, a former business secretary, said: "Israel must surely have the right to self defence. That doesn't make everything Israel does right, but condemning them unequivocally and to equate them with the terrorist acts of Hamas is surely wrong."

Speaking at the Tate Modern art gallery, Mr Khan vowed he would "listen more" to Londoners during the next four years and make the capital "the best city in the world to grow up in".

He also railed against Donald Trump after the former American president last week claimed London had become "unrecognisable" because it has

"opened its doors to jihad", saying British "culture" had been eroded by tolerance of pro-Palestinian protests.

Mr Khan said: "A couple of days ago Donald Trump said London had, and I quote, 'opened the door' to extremism. He couldn't be more wrong."

Mr Khan has been criticised for his handling of weekly pro-Gaza marches on the streets of the capital, with Jews complaining that central London has become a no-go zone at weekends.

Comparing Mr Trump's policies with those of Susan Hall, the Tory mayoral candidate he defeated, Mr Khan added: "The truth is through the result of this election London has slammed the door shut on his brand of hard-Right populism. London has said no to racism, no to division and no to hate and yes once again to diversity, unity."

Mr Khan also sounded a defiant note on his controversial green policies, saying: "I'm passionate that London maintains a position at the forefront of climate action and environmental stewardship globally."

London has said no to racism, no to division and no to hate and yes once again to diversity, unity

PM summons university leaders over anti-Semitism

By Gordon Rayner, Albert Tait and Cameron Henderson

AN "UNACCEPTABLE rise in anti-Semitism" has taken place on university campuses, Rishi Sunak has said, after summoning vice-chancellors to Downing Street to discuss the safety of Jewish students.

The Prime Minister wants a zero-tolerance approach to the intimidation of Jewish students by a "vocal and aggressive minority".

Mr Sunak will meet university leaders tomorrow after pro-Palestinian student encampments were set up at Oxford, Cambridge and elsewhere over the weekend.

Jewish students have said they feel "cut off" from university life by protests since Israel's war with Hamas began.

Yesterday, it emerged that Oxford University students protesting against the war in Gaza had secretly signed up to a demand that millions of Palestinians be allowed to take back their ancestral land in Israel.

Oxford Action for Palestine is insisting that students who want to join their tented village in the centre of the city agree with a radical manifesto that would effectively mean the collapse of Israel as a country, which goes way beyond the stated aims of their protest.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said that students involved in the protests needed to understand that "the right to free speech does not include the right to harass people or incite violence".

The spokesman added: "We expect university leaders to take robust action in dealing with that kind of behaviour and that will be the subject of the conversation in No10 later this week, to ensure a zero-tolerance approach to this sort of behaviour is adopted on all campuses."

Mr Sunak began yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting by saying there had been an "unacceptable rise in anti-Semitism on our university campuses".

A spokesman for Oxford University said: "We respect our students and staff members' right to freedom of expression in the form of peaceful protests."

"We ask everyone who is taking part to do so with respect, courtesy and empathy... there is no place for intolerance at the University of Oxford."



Pro-Palestine protesters march at the University of Cambridge. Demonstrations at Cambridge and Oxford have taken place this week, and Rishi Sunak has now summoned university leaders over a rise in anti-Semitism

My critics are Islamophobic, says councillor in 'Allahu Akbar' row

By Dominic Penna

A GREEN Party councillor who shouted "Allahu Akbar" to celebrate his election has claimed that his critics are Islamophobic.

Mothin Ali said at the time that his victory was a "win for the people of Gaza" after running a successful campaign in the Gipton and Harehills ward in Leeds.

Mr Ali faced a backlash after footage of his comments circulated on Friday and he is also being investigated by the Green Party over a number of controversial remarks about the Israel-Hamas conflict. These included the claim that

Palestine had the right to "fight back" in the wake of the Oct 7 massacre.

In a statement on the Leeds Green Party website yesterday, Mr Ali said: "Being elected to represent the wonderful community of Gipton and Harehills was one of the proudest moments of my life."

"The inaccurate reporting and misrepresentation of my acceptance speech has led to me being subject to a lot of hate and hostility."

"I should also make clear that it is not unusual for somebody of my faith to use the words 'Allahu Akbar' as an expression of gratitude and celebration. Some have sought to misrepresent this and it

'I am sorry for any upset my comments caused about the Gaza conflict'

suggests Islamophobia to me." *The Telegraph* revealed on Monday that Mr Ali claimed Israel had "control" of the mainstream media, while recording himself chanting "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" at a pro-Palestine rally.

In a clip recorded the day after Oct 7, he said: "This didn't start yesterday, this started 75 years ago when the land of Palestine was invaded, the indigenous population was driven out."

"It is white supremacy, it is nothing short of a European settler-colonialist state... When they fight back, all of a sudden the European media is up in arms."

Addressing the backlash, Mr Ali said: "I am sorry for any upset my comments caused about the Gaza conflict. That was not my intention."

"Like many across the world I have been deeply impacted by the dreadful conflict currently under way in Gaza. The International Court of Justice said this conflict meets the case for plausible genocide."

"I do not support violence on either side: violence leads to more violence and this is what I have tried to convey. I have consistently called for an immediate ceasefire and a release of all hostages."

He added that he wanted to work

'It is nothing short of a European settler-colonialist state'

with "a broad coalition including both the Jewish and Muslim Greens... to discuss sensible ways for us to work on communicating our shared passion of bringing the conflict to an end".

The Green Party called for a ceasefire within days of the Israeli bombardment of Gaza in response to the Hamas terrorist attacks on Oct 7, and benefited at last week's local elections from a backlash to Labour's stance on the Middle East after Sir Keir Starmer initially refused to echo demands for an immediate ceasefire.

Mr Ali works as an accountant and runs a popular online gardening blog called My Family Garden.

Berry quits London Assembly after 3 days

By Dominic Penna

A GREEN Party politician has been accused of treating voters with "utter contempt" after stepping down from the London Assembly just three days after she was re-elected.

Sian Berry, a former co-leader of the Greens, said she was quitting to spend "even more time" in Brighton, where she hopes to become an MP at the next general election.

Ms Berry has been selected as the Green candidate for Brighton Pavilion – a seat currently held by Caroline Lucas, the party's only MP, who is quitting politics at the end of this parliament.

London-wide assembly members including Ms Berry are elected through a list system, under which people vote for a party rather than a candidate.

The position will be filled by Zoë Garrett, the Greens' unsuccessful mayoral



Sian Berry, a Green Party politician, quit the London Assembly after three days

hopeful. Ms Berry said: "I will miss City Hall and the wonderful staff team there... I am looking forward to spending even more time in Brighton, listening to what matters to people here."

Ms Berry has stood as the Greens' London mayoral candidate three times

and served on the assembly since 2016. Her decision to step down was met with a backlash from political opponents and came despite her previously insisting she would only resign if she was elected to the Commons.

Kevin Brennan, Labour's victims minister, said: "This is the practical embodiment of political cynicism and treating voters with utter contempt."

"I hope electors in Brighton Pavilion have taken note."

A YouGov poll last month which forecast the results of the next election by constituency projected that while the Greens are set to hold Brighton Pavilion, they are on track to do so with a reduced majority of 11 per cent, after a 34 per cent majority in 2019.

A source close to Ms Berry said because yesterday was the first working day of the new London Assembly, she had resigned as quickly as possible.

Teacher suspended over praise of terrorists

By Gabriella Swerling
SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

A RELIGIOUS studies teacher at a Catholic school has been suspended and reported to the police after saying that Hamas had "committed no crime".

Ronan Preastuin, a Year 9 tutor, also described the Oct 7 attacks as a "justified act of resistance" and called for "Glory to Hamas", adding: "The destruction of the racist state of #Isarel [sic] is coming soon."

A string of recent social media posts by Mr Preastuin, who teaches at Ursuline High School, a Catholic girls' school in Wimbledon, south-west London, included hatred of the state of Israel. In one post he wrote: "Israel is not a true Jewish state, but an inversion and perversion of Judaism."

The teacher also prayed for God to grant victory to Hamas over "the gro-

tesque, barbaric, idol worshipping invaders... IDF [Israel Defence Forces]".

On Jan 25 2024 he posted: "I'm delighted to infirm [sic] you monsters #Hamas committed no crime."

In November 2021, the Government proscribed Hamas as a terrorist organisation in the UK. Its members or those who invite support for the group could be jailed for up to 14 years.

In correspondence seen by *The Telegraph*, Eoin Kelly, the school's head teacher, confirmed that Mr Preastuin was reported to the police and suspended from work, and that the school had opened an internal investigation.

Campaign group UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI) wrote to Mr Kelly on April 29, attaching screenshots of Mr Preastuin's social media activity.

Its director, Caroline Turner, called for an urgent investigation and claimed Mr Preastuin was "an extremely dan-

gerous individual", adding that "Mr Preastuin's open support for a terrorism group is particularly egregious given his job as a religious education teacher and a Year 9 form tutor".

The same day, Mr Kelly thanked UKLFI for alerting him and said: "We can confirm that the member of staff has been suspended from work and I personally notified the police immediately on receipt of this disclosure." He added: "Given that this is a legal process we are unable to comment further until all the investigations are concluded."

Mr Preastuin's posts were exposed by the GnasherJew website on April 23 2024, and a few hours later he removed his account on X.

A spokesman for UKLFI said: "We are pleased that the school has taken swift action in this worrying case."

The Metropolitan Police was contacted for comment.

The UK is finally waking up to threat posed by Beijing's cyber army

Analysis

By Robert Mendick and James Titcomb

EITHER China is getting more aggressive. Or Britain is looking harder for the rocks and what's under them. Or both.

Figures revealing the scale of China's covert attacks on the West are sparse.

However, in a rare outing in July 2022, Ken McCallum, MI5's director general, disclosed that the number of operations being run by his intelligence agency against China had increased sevenfold in just four years.

In the same period, MI5 doubled the size of its China mission to combat the threat.

In the US, FBI director Christopher Wray last month issued the starkest of warnings that China had infiltrated

critical infrastructure, such as energy, water and communications sectors, and was waiting "for just the right moment to deal a devastating blow".

The latest hack in the UK to be blamed on Beijing – of the Ministry of Defence's payroll, including sensitive details on military personnel – is deeply embarrassing for the Government and shows nowhere is safe from Chinese cyber hacking.

The hack is a triumph for Beijing but it is also not surprising.

The security services recognise the threat from China, which has long been acknowledged as posing the greatest risk to the West's long-term security. China is accused of investing heavily in teams of cyber hackers, hellbent on harvesting vast amounts of personal information and stealing intellectual property that gives the regime a competitive advantage.

China's ministry of state security (MSS) has developed sophisticated cyber hacking operations that rival Western intelligence agencies.

And while in the past, it has targeted what some call the "soft underbelly" of technology firms, in the past couple of years it has become emboldened, attacking the British state as well.

The MSS headquarters is based in Beijing with security bureaus of varying sizes in cities and provinces across the country. It is understood MSS offices in locations such as Shanghai and Guangdong "are each bigger than MI5". The National Cyber Security Centre, a branch of MI5, has identified hacking gangs operating out of China. In March, it said it had traced attempts to hack MPs' email accounts to a group called APT 31.

The group has been active for 13 years; China is playing the long game.

In a further example of officials blowing the lid off Chinese espionage, in March Britain blamed Xi Jinping's regime for targeting the Electoral Commission watchdog and for being behind online "reconnaissance" aimed at the email accounts of MPs and peers. APT 31 has also been accused of

'China is accused of investing in cyber hackers hellbent on harvesting vast amounts of personal data'

interfering in the 2020 US elections and was linked to an attack on Microsoft systems in 2021 that granted it access to thousands of email servers. APT 31 is also known more colourfully as Violet Typhoon, Judgement Panda, Bronze Vinewood and Zirconium. APT

stands for "advanced persistent threat" and is a naming convention used by Western cyber intelligence agencies to identify hacking groups linked to foreign adversaries.

There are more than two dozen identified Chinese APT groups. APT 31 widely used email phishing techniques, in which victims are encouraged to click on malicious links that steal details.

In January, the FBI said a Chinese group that it called Volt Typhoon had infected hundreds of old routers with Chinese malware to gain a foothold into critical infrastructure, including a military outpost in the Pacific.

Mr Xi has described science and technology as the main battlefield of the economy. Cyber hacking is just one of its weapons. It also deploys spies on the ground. The Chinese regime runs long-term espionage operations,

making connections in the UK which can be used to gain influence in years to come.

Christine Lee, a lawyer, was accused by MI5 in January 2022 of being a Chinese spy. The domestic intelligence service took the unprecedented step of issuing an alert to Parliament warning MPs to steer clear of her, accusing Ms Lee of being "knowingly engaged in political interference". Ms Lee denies the allegations – she has never been charged with any criminal offence – and is suing MI5, demanding to know the basis for the allegations.

For now, the West and China are effectively at war. It's not a war you can see and there are no civilian casualties.

The attack on the MoD's payroll is just the latest skirmish. In the long run, if China wins, it will become the world's pre-eminent superpower. The stakes are that high.

Shapps orders review of firm 'targeted in China hack'

Defence Secretary begins investigation as company used by MoD revealed to have put prison staff data

By Danielle Sheridan and James Titcomb

GRANT SHAPPS has ordered a review into the company at the heart of the Ministry of Defence hack, as *The Telegraph* can reveal it had previously put prison staff data at risk.

Hackers, understood to be backed by Beijing, gained access to payroll information held by Shared Services Connected Ltd (SSCL), which included the names, bank details and some addresses of serving personnel, reservists and veterans.

Up to 272,000 service personnel may have been affected by the data breach.

The Defence Secretary told MPs yesterday that a "specialist security review of the contractor and its operations is under way". He said: "We've launched a full investigation, drawing on Cabinet Office support and specialist external

'It is unacceptable for a contractor to leave our brave servicemen and women in this position'

expertise to examine the potential failings of the contractor and to minimise the risk of similar incidents in the future."

He added that the "full review" of SSCL would be "across Government", not just within the MoD. As well as the MoD, SSCL provides services to 22 government departments and agencies and is responsible for processing the wages of 550,000 public servants.

The *Telegraph* can reveal that the contractor was previously the subject of a Ministry of Justice (MoJ) investigation after a "potential data leak" that exposed personal details of thousands of prison officers, including email addresses, work locations and national insurance numbers.

In December 2019, the Prison Officers Association wrote to members revealing that an "incorrectly configured web server" linked to an SSCL training website meant personal information for the majority of staff was accessible online.

The data breach, which also exposed names, email addresses, dates of birth, training information and names of line managers, occurred days before the MoD announced a £300 million contract with SSCL, which was part-owned

by the Cabinet Office until last year, to modernise its IT systems.

The MoJ alerted the Information Commissioner's Office and launched an investigation over the data breach, while SSCL updated security systems to address the flaw. It is unclear if the error led to data being stolen, or what the MoJ investigation concluded.

SSCL, a subsidiary of the Paris-based tech company Sopra Steria, continues to work with the Ministry of Justice, helping to recruit prison officers. It works with 22 government departments including the Home Office and Department of Work and Pensions as well as bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) also uses SSCL as payroll network provider.

In the House of Commons, Mr Shapps said he had asked for a review of the company's work across government.

He told MPs: "It is unacceptable for a contractor to leave our brave servicemen and women in this position, so we take it incredibly seriously."

Mr Shapps said initial investigations had not found evidence that any data had been "removed", although he cautioned that affected personnel had been alerted as a precautionary measure.

He stressed that the payment network is "an external system completely separate to the MoD's core network".

The Defence Secretary did not name China as responsible for the attack, but insisted to MPs that he was not "reluctant" to name the "malign actor".

He said: "For reasons of national security, we can't release further details of the suspected cyber activity. However, I can confirm to the House that we do have indications that this was the suspected work of a malign actor and we cannot rule out state involvement."

Rishi Sunak also declined to say who was behind the cyber attack, but said the UK was taking the powers necessary "to protect ourselves against the risk that China and other countries pose to us".

Defence sources have said they believe China was behind the hack. A spokesman for the Chinese embassy said claims Beijing was behind the attack were "malicious slanders".

The MoD's data breach comes after the UK and the US in March accused China of a global campaign of "malicious" cyber attacks. Britain blamed Beijing for targeting the Electoral Commission watchdog in 2021 and for being behind online "reconnaissance" aimed at the email accounts of MPs and peers.

The Met said: "There is no evidence of any compromise of the MPS payroll service." SSCL and Sopra Steria did not respond to requests for comment.



Wombling free Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, poses with wombles at the Blackheath Fete in Surrey. He said: "Absolutely brilliant, nothing commercial, everything £1 a go, I couldn't keep my screen-obsessed kids away from all the fun"

Cat-lapping Galloway catches Labour napping

Sketch



By Tim Stanley

WITH satisfaction and pride, Jeremy Hunt told the Commons that "there are 200,000 more people in work compared to a year ago." What he didn't mention is that half that number are Labour councillors.

The Tories have been sacked en masse: Andy Street is back on the tills at John Lewis, and Susan Hall was last spotted driving slowly around Sadiq Khan's house shouting "I'm still watching you Sadiq!"

And we still won Tees Valley, minister Gareth Davies reminded the House. Rachel Reeves laughed in her curious wooden way – like a

Thunderbird puppet, her arms jiggling to express what her face cannot.

Labour is within reach of power and the only thing it has to fear is... George Galloway.

Though popular with the rest of the country, they are losing the one demographic that even supported them under Corbyn – Muslims – to an anti-war socialist who believes gay relationships aren't normal (which, nine out of 10 housewives say, is exactly the appeal). To compensate, week after week, Labour has asked a question about Gaza, allowing the shadow leadership to wring its hands and backbench MPs I've never heard of from constituencies I can't believe exist (Leeds East Southwest) to decry a humanitarian crisis over which Britain has zero control.

"What is the Government doing to stop this bloodshed and massacre in Gaza?!" shouted Imran Hussain, to

which Andrew Mitchell replied with diplomatic finesse: "He sets out in eloquent terms the nature of the problem we are facing."

Every Mitchell answer is the rhetorical equivalent of defusing a bomb. Is the invasion of Rafah a breach of humanitarian law, asked Chris Law: "Yes or no?" "Alas," he replied, "such questions are not susceptible to yes or no answers."

With Netanyahu possibly hours away from turning Rafa into rubble, the emotions in this debate ran high: both sides quoting war crime stories that are highly disputed.

Suella Braverman said Israel has the right to "finish the job," earning a chorus of boos. Dawn Butler asked how many people must die before said job is completed? Some Tories agreed with her, including Mark Logan whose region, Bolton, is about 20 per cent Asian. Let's not be too cynical. The real

division in Parliament is not between Labour and Conservatives but between backbenchers who demand clarity in British policy and frontbenchers who sit on the fence, pretending to be statesmen when really they are just bystanders.

David Lammy's position is largely indistinguishable from Mr Mitchell's. A ceasefire, now – if both sides can agree to kiss and make up.

Galloway rose to his feet. There is "no proof of life" in Gaza, he bellowed, only "proof of death and mutilation".

Yes, something can be done: the Government could "stop sending weapons" and "the Labour Party could actually ask you to, but didn't".

Labour MPs looked on in embarrassment, wondering how they've managed to cede the moral high ground to a man who, on national television, pretended to be a cat lapping milk from Rula Lenska's hands.

Step by step, we will protect children from online 'Wild West'

Commentary



By Michelle Donelan

IN AN election year, the questions on everyone's lips are inevitably the same: what does a Conservative Government stand for, and what does it deliver? For those like me who came into politics to do something rather than to be someone, the answer is clear – we are the government that changed the course of millions of children's lives for the better – putting their safety online first through the world-leading Online Safety Act.

There are easy things to do in politics, and there are the right things to do in politics. Passing this Act in the face of some of the most powerful multinational corporations in the world was not easy. I lost count of the number of nights I spent at the office working on it line-by-line, word-by-word. I even continued to champion it whilst on maternity leave – that is how

important a piece of work this is. But for any parent reading this, I don't need to convince you of this Act's importance. Whether it is the fact that 60 per cent of teens say they are witnessing real-life acts of violence on social media, or the fact that the average age a child encounters online porn is just 13, the threat against our children goes way beyond anything parents can possibly deal with without government backing. I am a proud conservative and believe in a small state. But I also believe in an effective state, and far from this issue being about Right and Left, I believe it is fundamentally about right and wrong.

To be clear, no one can argue that social media hasn't brought us many benefits. But a new technology being beneficial does not mean we have to tolerate a "wild west" situation, especially for our children. My common-sense approach to this makes me confident that if you were in my shoes and writing the Act yourself, you would have adopted the same basic principles I did. What is illegal offline should be illegal online. Criminals should not be able to hide behind

screens with impunity. Children should not be force-fed violence, pornography, abuse and harmful content. Social media companies should abide by their own terms and conditions. Parents should be in the driving seat of their own children's childhood. These are the pillars of the Act that is making the UK the safest place in the world to be online.

I say "making" rather than "made"

'Parents will start to see and feel the scales of power tipping back in their favour online'

for good reason. To ensure that we get this right, these new rules are being implemented step by step by the regulator so there are no loopholes. We are focusing on children first. Today, we celebrate another milestone in the implementation of the act.

The measures Ofcom have set out would not just require platforms and search services to roll out robust age checks to shield children from

age-inappropriate content. They go even further, seeking to understand the impact of addictive features like "infinite scrolling" feeds, addressing the effects of damaging algorithms that – little by little – increase the harms to which our children are exposed.

In the coming months, you will see more of these milestones pass and parents will start to see and feel the scales of power tipping back in their favour online. A couple of months ago, the first person was sentenced to prison under the new cyber flashing offence brought forward under the Act. From now on, criminals who hide behind their screens will be accountable for their actions.

Today, we have taken another significant step in the right direction. No country has done more than Britain to protect children online; the Online Safety Act is the most comprehensive of its kind. But it is not job done. As we drive forward the implementation of the Act, I will be working to ensure that we deliver change to protect our young people as quickly and effectively as we possibly can. The future of childhood depends on it.

Taxpayer funds Cass critic

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Foreign Office gave hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money to an LGBT organisation whose founder opposes the findings of the Cass Review.

The department handed £200,000 to the Ozanne Foundation to pay for a course for religious leaders to persuade them to protect LGBT+ people from harm in religious settings.

The foundation was set up by Jayne Ozanne, who has been critical of the Cass review. The review, published last month, looked into how children with gender issues had been let down by NHS treatment, concluding that much of the evidence for gender medicine was flimsy and that drugs such as puberty blockers should be used with extreme caution.

Ms Ozanne shared a tweet by Gender GP, which supports the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones and has been placed on an NHS blacklist, saying any implementation of the review's findings would cause children to "suffer and die". The tweet said: "We

are shocked and appalled by the recommendations to NHS England made in the Cass Report and urge NHS England to take heed of international experts.

"We know that children and young people will suffer and die if these recommendations are implemented."

Earlier this year NHS England issued an urgent warning, calling on GPs not to work with the discredited clinic, which is based in Singapore.

Ms Ozanne, an evangelical Anglican, previously believed being Christian and gay were incompatible. She sought out conversion therapy, including exorcism. Now she opposes conversion therapy.

Asked on Times Radio about puberty blockers, she said: "This is only a contested issue because of fake news by people who don't like trans people and are trying to whip up a storm."

A total of £200,000 has been granted by the FCDO to the Ozanne Foundation to fund an international gathering of religious leaders, research on the impact of conversion therapy in the Caribbean and "an African nation", and a residential course for religious leaders. An FCDO spokesman said last night the funding would be kept under review.

OS maps welcome Drinking Dinosaur and Teletubby Hill

Online tool will allow emergency services to find landmarks using names given to them by locals

By Patrick Sawyer
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

TELLING someone you'll meet them at Teletubby Hill or the Drinking Dinosaur might make sense to those who live in the area, but pity the emergency responders trying to find the landmarks when every second counts. However,

this could become a problem of the past as ambulance drivers, fire crews and police officers have been given an online tool that pinpoints the location of places using their nicknames.

The new Ordnance Survey (OS) database aims to log hundreds of local names for geographical locations, allowing the emergency services to find them as quickly as they would normally do by tapping a postcode into a sat nav system.

The tool will also allow emergency workers to input nicknames for places on their patch, expanding the map's database with their local knowledge.

With names for more than 9,000 locations already identified by the Vernacular Names Tool (VNT), it's fast becoming a vital new resource. Indeed, the Royal family has already got into the act.

During a recent visit to the OS headquarters in Southampton, the Princess Royal added "The Wedding Cake" to the database, an alternative name for the Queen Victoria Memorial that stands opposite Buckingham Palace.

Other names which would otherwise remain unidentifiable except to local residents include Stinky Bay – which refers to Pentire, a bay area in Cornwall – and the Eye of the Butt, a coastal land-

form in the Western Isles of Scotland, along with the Drinking Dinosaur, a rock formation off Flamborough Head, East Yorks.

The information will add to the recently launched OS emergency services gazetteer – a database of 1.3 million features across the UK, including roundabouts, hills and cliffs. This is designed to equip responders with the precise location information needed to act quickly during an emergency.

John Kimmance, the managing director of OS national mapping services said: "Wherever we live, we all have nicknames for local places – and upload-

ing these into a database really could mean the difference between life and death on an emergency call, particularly for services called from outside their regional areas."

The VNT is a replacement for FIN-TAN, a mapping tool created more than 10 years ago for HM Coastguard which allowed users to upload the local name for a coastal feature to the database, alongside the accurate location or its existing geographic name.

It was developed to ensure that coastguard responders could get to emergencies more quickly, with control room staff simply typing in a nickname to generate a precise location.

One rescue team used the original FIN-TAN tool to find a spot on a beach known colloquially as Tiki Head, in Gwynedd, Wales, where a caller had fallen and injured their leg.

In another incident, a coastguard search and rescue helicopter located a missing person using the nickname the Fun Ship, which refers to a former railway steamer passenger ship, at Mostyn Docks, so named because it previously housed an amusement arcade. Chief

coastguard Peter Mizer said of the tool: "It has allowed local knowledge to be shared across our operational network and there are examples where its use has improved the tasking of critical rescue assets."

"We are very proud to have played a significant role in its development and we are pleased to see it being made available to colleagues in other emergency services."

Chris Jones, an emergency medical service administrator with the Welsh Ambulance Service, said: "We want to log as many vernacular names as we can."

"The real value [in the] longer term will be ensuring that our ambulances will be able to get to the scene of an incident effectively with an accurate location provided by OS, no matter how it's identified by a caller."

While some local names date back over generations, others are of more recent origin, frequently inspired by contemporary cultural icons, such as Harry Potter Bridge, in Thurrock, Peter Pan woods in Southend, and Jabba the Hut, a beach hut in Mablethorpe, Lincs.

Officially called the Green Stack Pinnacle, this rock formation at Flamborough Head, near Bridlington, has been naturally eroded until it resembled a dinosaur drinking from the sea.

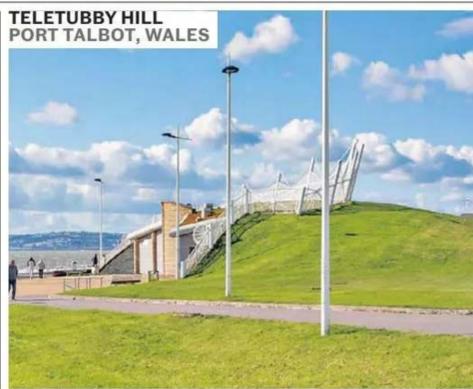
DRINKING DINOSAUR BRIDLINGTON, YORKS



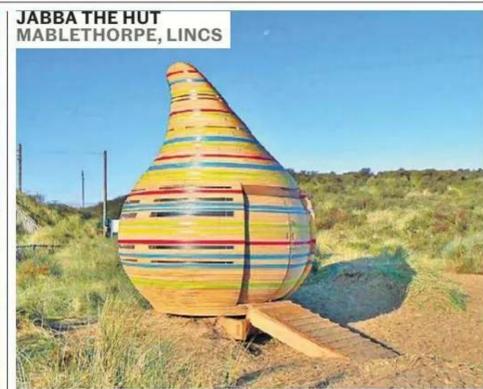
THE FUN SHIP
MOSTYN, NORTH WALES
The beached Duke of Lancaster ship in Wales was briefly opened as an amusement and leisure centre in the 1980s known as 'the Fun Ship'. While the centre later closed, the nickname stuck.



THE WEDDING CAKE
THE MALL, LONDON
The Princess Royal decided to add the new name for the Queen Victoria Memorial to the OS database, thanks to its similarity to a giant wedding cake sitting at the end of the Mall close to Buckingham Palace.



TELETUBBY HILL
PORT TALBOT, WALES
The Teletubby Hill in Port Talbot, Wales, is so named because it resembles the grass-covered dome inhabited by the children's television characters Tinky-Winky, Dipsy, Laa Laa and Po.



JABBA THE HUT
MABLETHORPE, LINCS
At the seaside resort of Mablethorpe, this wood and aluminium beach hut was designed by artist Michael Trainor. It is referred to by locals as Jabba the Hut because of its resemblance to the Star Wars character.

Levelling-up chess tables cost £50k but bring your own pieces

By Alex Barton

CHESS tables costing a total of £50,000 have been installed in parks in the North West as part of the Government's levelling-up agenda, but you will need to bring your own pieces if you want to play on them.

Twenty of the stone boards, costing £2,500 each, have been set up around Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria.

Nigel Short MBE, a chess grandmaster, hailed the investment as "great news". But others have said the money should have been spent elsewhere.

Henri Murison, chief executive of Northern Powerhouse Partnership, said it showed how "tokenistic" levelling up had become.

The Government's levelling-up agenda is designed to reduce regional inequality.

Local authorities given funding under the Levelling Up Parks Fund were invited to apply for an extra £2,500 to cover the installation cost of chess tables and seats or benches. The pieces to play the game were not provided.



A stone chess board that has been installed in the Wirral at a cost of £2,500

Karl Mercer, of the Friends of Central Park voluntary group in Wirral, said: "The £2,500 could have been spent on something that will get used. It should be about transport or looking after the community." "Park budgets around here have been cut right back to the bone, now we've ended up with a chess board that's sort of a white elephant."

Mr Murison told the BBC: "It shows

the misunderstanding the Prime Minister has about how local government works. His job in central government is to give local government enough money to pick its own priorities, not to throw sweets at the provinces."

The investment forms part of a wider £1 million package to support primary school children in disadvantaged areas to learn how to play the game. It is also to be used for funding elite-level chess.

Mr Short told the BBC: "It's not a massive amount of money but it's extremely welcome. If you spent half a million quid on football it's loose change, but for chess this is quite a substantial sum."

The Government hopes the funding will help England create more grandmasters. Mr Short added: "Although I do think we're turning the corner to some degree, I'm not sure it's going to be sufficient to make a big splash."

A government spokesman told the BBC: "Community chess tables will improve local green spaces, encourage more to play chess together and inspire the next generation of players."

The Government was contacted by *The Telegraph* for comment.

Apostrophes vanish from street signs to avoid computer issues

By Alex Barton

APOSTROPHES will be phased out of new street signs in North Yorkshire to avoid computer problems, the council has announced.

The authority said all new signs would now be produced without apostrophes because they "negatively affect geographical databases".

However, residents of the spa town of Harrogate have called on the council to retain them or risk "everything going downhill".

Sam, a postwoman who chose not to give her surname, said a new St Mary's Walk sign had been erected without an apostrophe but it had been altered to include one by an unknown grammar enthusiast. She told the BBC: "I walk past the sign every day and it riles my blood to see inappropriate grammar or punctuation."

The former teacher who previously taught children grammar, said she thought it was "brilliant" that the punctuation mark had been added.

Anne Keywood, another resident, said the revised sign policy was un-

necessary, adding: "I think we should be using apostrophes. If you start losing things like that then everything goes downhill doesn't it?"

Ruby Wang, who works at a Japanese restaurant in the town, was not opposed to the changes. "To be honest with you, because I'm not from this country it doesn't matter because it's the same pronunciation," she said. North York-

'I walk past the sign every day and it riles my blood to see inappropriate grammar or punctuation'

shire council said it "along with many others across the country" had opted to "eliminate" the apostrophe from street signs.

A spokesman told the broadcaster: "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."

"This restricts the use of punctuation

marks and special characters (e.g. apostrophes, hyphens and ampersands) to avoid potential problems when searching the databases as these characters have specific meanings in computer systems."

Last year grammar campaigners won a year-long fight to get an apostrophe reinstated on their street sign after the punctuation mark was left off road furniture of St Mary's Terrace in Twyford, Hants.

When it was raised with Winchester city council, villagers were told the apostrophe had been omitted deliberately as part of a local authority policy to make signs easier to read.

The Apostrophe Protection Society (APS) also notified its members that Birmingham city council had launched a campaign last year to remove them completely from road signs because of repeated errors and misuse.

Bob McCalden, chairman of the APS, told *The Telegraph*: "People really struggle with it, and these mistakes leap out at me."

North Yorkshire council was contacted for comment.



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Baby dies after woman arrested at Legoland

27-year-old investigated on suspicion of child neglect after boy suffered cardiac arrest at amusement park

By Will Bolton CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FIVE-MONTH-OLD boy who suffered a cardiac arrest following an incident at Legoland last week has died in hospital, police said.

Detectives arrested a 27-year-old woman on suspicion of child neglect after the death at the Windsor leisure park.

It has emerged that a retired para-

medic initially managed to revive the child after hearing shouts for help.

The infant was rushed to Wexham Park Hospital in Slough after the incident, which occurred on Thursday, but he passed away on Monday.

Matthew Burns, 60, was visiting Legoland with his family and was standing near the Coastguard HQ pedalo ride when a woman ran over asking for help.

Mr Burns told Mail Online he ran over to find the baby "blue in the face and floppy" – and helped another off-duty medic to try to revive the little boy.

He said that they gave the child CPR for 20 minutes until he started breathing again, before paramedics rushed him to hospital for emergency treat-

ment. Mr Burns, who spent 40 years working for the ambulance service, was visiting the attraction with his daughter and her family when the incident occurred.

He said the boy had been in a baby carrier when he raced to his aid.

He added: "Just before the ambulances and police turned up, we got a pulse from the boy and he started to make some slight respiratory effort."

"When we first got to him, I held up his little arm but it flopped down flat but when we later checked for a pulse his arm stayed up so at least we were getting some tone."

He added: "My focus had been on the baby. The mother was being looked

after by other visitors while this was going on. She was distraught obviously and a bit shellshocked."

Stacey Irwin, Mr Burns' daughter, described on social media how her father tried to save the boy.

She wrote: "It was a long time they spent doing CPR – at least 20-plus minutes."

"Matt and the other man did the incredible job and managed to get the baby back breathing at the point the ambulances turned up."

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police appealed for the public not to speculate on the child neglect investigation.

They said: "A five-month-old baby

who was seriously injured in a neglect incident at Legoland Windsor Resort, sadly died in hospital on Sunday.

"A 27-year-old woman from Witham, Essex, was arrested on suspicion of neglecting a child to cause unnecessary injury on Thursday."

"She has been released on police bail until July 26."

Investigating officer Det Con Zoe Eele, of the Child Abuse Investigation Unit, said the force was investigating a "distressing incident involving a very young child".

She added: "Firstly, our thoughts are with the family of the boy who sadly died in hospital after suffering a cardiac arrest."

"We are supporting them as best we can at this extremely difficult time."

"We are working closely with the team at Legoland Windsor Resort but would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this incident, specifically anyone who was queuing for the Coastguard HQ boat ride between around 11.30am and 12:45pm on Thursday."

Det Con Eele added: "We have made an arrest in relation to this incident and are not looking for anyone else as a suspect."

"I would ask for the public to please avoid speculation about the incident and to respect the boy's family at this deeply upsetting time."



JUSTIN TALLIS/POOL VIA REUTERS

Starstruck

A pupil catches sight of the Queen as she arrives at the assembly hall of the Moreland Primary School, London, to open a coronation library. It is the 50th in a series of special primary school libraries that have been transformed over the past 12 months with the help of the National Literacy Trust, to mark the Coronation.

'Death care sector' crumbling as families wait weeks for funerals

By Steve Bird

GRIEVING families are waiting up to six weeks for funerals in some parts of the country, undertakers have warned.

The National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) said the "death care sector" was crumbling as a "snowball effect of delays" had left many relatives struggling to understand why burials were being postponed for weeks.

A shortage of pathologists, an increase in the number of GP referrals

to coroners, delays in the coronial system itself and in plans to fully introduce medical examiners had exacerbated "bottlenecks" in a system still reeling from the pandemic, the trade body said.

More than a quarter of a million people die in NHS hospitals each year. In England, a death has to be registered with councils within five days.

While a doctor may often register a cause of death, more complex cases may be referred to a coroner. In such cases, the registration of a death cannot be

completed until the coroner concludes their investigations.

A post-mortem examination should be carried out as soon as possible, with the NHS stating it should be completed usually within two to three days.

Andrew Judd, the chief executive for NAFD, which represents 4,100 funeral directors, said that although the lower death rate associated with spring was "easing the system", problems within a "jigsaw of services" were leading to regional spikes in waiting times.

"This is leading to delays and frustration for families in saying goodbye to a loved one, causing untold distress," he added.

"While things have eased a little, compared to during the pandemic, there are still significant delays affecting funerals in some parts of England and Wales – with post mortems taking anything up to six weeks to complete in some areas."

In a 10-page report submitted to MPs, Rachel Bradburne, the NAFD director

of policy and public affairs, said "over-cautious" doctors were referring more cases – many unnecessarily – to coroners to establish a cause of death.

Ms Bradburne added that the full rollout of "medical examiners" to "scrutinise" deaths not sent to a coroner "is adding [to] delays".

The Department of Health and Social Care announced recently that all deaths not investigated by a coroner would be independently scrutinised from September by medical examiners, senior

medical doctors contracted to the role for a set number of days a week. A Stoke-on-Trent funeral director was quoted as saying that wait times for bodies to be released for burial can "be up to six weeks" because "out of the area" bodies sent for analysis by the mortem scanner "can then result in our [local] bodies being left in a mortuary awaiting for a space".

The NAFD dossier was handed to the justice select committee, which is looking at the role of the coroner service.

Infected blood victims 'used in research without consent'

By Joe Pinkstone SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

INFECTED blood victims were experimented on and used for research without their consent, families have said.

Doctors at NHS haemophilia centres around the UK were using patients to determine if there was a risk that some blood products were giving people hepatitis, they claim.

The infected blood scandal of the 1970s and 80s saw more than 2,500 people infected with hepatitis C and around 1,250 with HIV from contaminated blood products made and imported from the US, including Factor VIII.

The drugs were hailed as miracle treatments for people with the genetic blood-clotting disorder. However, the donors in the US were often gay men, sex workers, prisoners and homeless people who had high rates of infection that went into the blood products and later infected patients in Britain.

Documents unearthed by campaign group Factor VIII, as well as files submitted to the Infected Blood Inquiry, have unearthed a project to run research on haemophiliacs.

campaign group, found notes alluding to the research in his father's medical records, where the Factor VIII prescription was accompanied with a scribble that said "Dr Craske's Research Work".

Mr Evans' father died in 1993 after being infected with HIV and hepatitis C during treatment for haemophilia.

John Craske was the head virologist at the Public Health Laboratory Service during the scandal and published research on the risk of hepatitis from Factor VIII. At a meeting of leading haemophilia doctors in 1974, he started a project to study rates of hepatitis at different haemophilia centres across the UK and what was causing it. In 1975, this was expanded to include hepatitis B.

The hepatitis experiments lasted into the early 1980s when the scandal escalated with the emergence of HIV.

Mr Evans said: "It is appalling that hundreds of people with haemophilia across the country were knowingly infected with lethal viruses under the guise of scientific research."

"These secret experiments, conducted without consent, show individuals were treated as mere test subjects, not human beings."

Other families have contacted Factor VIII after finding reference to the trials in their loved ones' medical records.

The Infected Blood Inquiry will publish its final report on May 20.

Refuse worker crushed after his coat caught in bin lorry

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A CORONER has issued a warning after a bin man was crushed to death when his coat got caught and he was carried into the back of a bin lorry.

David Carpenter, 60, died when the vehicle's compaction cycle started despite him being inside.

A jury concluded the accident which led to his death was "foreseeable".

In a Prevention of Future Deaths report, Delroy Henry, area coroner for Coventry and Warwickshire, said that action to improve safety in the "hazardous" profession was happening at an "inordinately slow" pace.

The inquest at Coventry Coroner's Court was told that Carpenter worked as a refuse collector for the city council in a Dennis Eagle lorry, which was fitted with an automatic bin lift system.

The mechanism can lift two household waste bins at a time. The court heard how on Jan 19 2023, Carpenter was lifted into the bin lorry when he "activated the proximity start sensor and his coat became caught on the lifting chair comb tooth associated with the bin security switch". The automatic compaction cycle caused fatal injuries.

The coroner recorded his death as an accident, but in a letter to lorry manufacturers Dennis Eagle, Mr Henry said: "In my opinion, there is a risk that



David Carpenter, right, with his colleague Sean Isherwood

future deaths will occur unless action is taken. There are thousands of bin lorries of this or similar design still in circulation in April 2024."

Mr Henry said although new machine designs from Dennis Eagle Ltd have dealt with some issues, they have not addressed "all that arose in the inquest".

New machines "are very few" compared with the "huge number of the manufacturer's RCV in circulation".

Directors of Dennis Eagle are under a legal obligation to respond to the coroner's recommendations by June 17, the court was told.

Gething may have deleted Covid messages on purpose

By Neil Johnston SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A LEAKED message suggests the new Labour First Minister of Wales may have misled the Covid Inquiry when he denied intentionally deleting WhatsApp correspondence.

Vaughan Gething, who took over in March, could be recalled to the inquiry after the message emerged appearing to contradict his claims he did not delete the messages.

Mr Gething, who was the health minister during the pandemic, told the inquiry in March that his lost messages were not deleted by him but by the Welsh Senedd's IT team during a security rebuild. He told Baroness Hallett, the inquiry's chairman, that he regretted "that all these messages are not available to you".

However, a message leaked to news website Nation.Cymru has cast doubt on his version of events.

In a message posted to the ministerial group chat on Monday Aug 17 2020, Mr Gething appears to have said: "I'm deleting the messages in this group."

"They can be captured in an FOI [Freedom of Information request] and I think we are in the right place on the choice being made."

A spokesman for the inquiry said: "These reports have been brought to

the attention of the inquiry this morning. The inquiry is considering the information available and whether it is necessary to seek further evidence from Mr Gething."

The context of the message is unclear and it is unknown whether it falls within the inquiry's terms of reference.

It was sent in a text group chat of iMessages and involved 10 people. It was written while Wales was still following Covid restrictions and when Mark Drakeford, then first minister, was deciding on what contact between people could be allowed.

At First Minister's Questions, Mr Gething said: "The message released today is a message without the context of the discussion. I have asked for a screenshot in its full form to be shared with the inquiry so the context can be seen."

He denied he had broken the law or breached any requirements of his evidence to the inquiry.

Telling lies at a statutory public inquiry amounts to the criminal offence of perjury, which on conviction can lead to up to seven years in prison.

Andrew RT Davies, leader of the Welsh Conservatives, said: "The cloak and dagger decision-making in the Labour Welsh Government is clear to see... there is an even more compelling case for a Covid inquiry for Wales."

Just 3pc of shoplifting cases solved in hotspots

Business owners resort to personal security measures as police are 'too busy' to respond to reports

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR
and Ben Butcher DATA JOURNALIST

AS FEW as 3 per cent of shoplifting offences are being solved in some hotspots for the crime, according to the first nationwide analysis of store thefts by area.

The top five areas – ranging from Soho in central London to Cardiff and Leeds – have been blighted by gangs of armed shoplifters raiding stores and parents deploying their children to steal from toy shops. In King Edward's parade, Eastbourne, 97 per cent of cases went unsolved.

Beleaguered store owners say they have to rely on their own security measures – including one shopkeeper who arms himself with an iron bar – because police will generally only attend where the thieves have used violence or a shoplifter is apprehended. Many of the shopkeepers said they did not report crimes, which means the data of recorded offences is a fraction of the true scale of the shoplifting epidemic.

Policing experts believe it could be as few as one in 20 that are reported to police.

The research comes just a day after *The Telegraph* revealed a prolific burglar had become the first to be jailed in a private prosecution after the local police force failed to investigate.

Leeds city centre had the highest number of police-recorded shoplifting

offences last year at 2,099 – equivalent to nearly six a day, of which fewer than one in five were solved. The force came top out of 31,000 LSOAs, geographic planning areas in England and Wales comprising 1,000 to 3,000 residents.

King Edward's parade in the centre of Eastbourne, which was in fifth place with 891 offences, had the fewest thefts solved.

Stone and Crossways in Dartford Kent had the highest detection rate with 53.4 per cent of its 1,002 offences solved by police, followed by Cathays South and Bute Park in Cardiff where 28.9 per cent of its 1,346 shoplifting crimes were solved.

The analysis comes as shoplifting rose by more than a third (37 per cent) in a year to 430,104 in 2023, equivalent to nearly 1,200 offences a day.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) estimates it is costing £1.8 billion in losses and extra security measures, adding on average of £59 a year to every household's grocery shop.

Lee Sharp, 55, who owns vintage clothing shop Arcade in Eastbourne, said that despite the quiet image the seaside town had a real problem with shoplifters.

"You need a baseball bat," he said. "It's incredible. It's mostly addiction driven and that's a real seaside thing. Homelessness is a real issue as well."

"Eastbourne is a really nice town. I'm not that tough but I have to have a real zero tolerance policy, I don't tolerate them at all. I follow them round with an iron bar and use my gruff voice. It's not worth calling the police because they are too busy to deal with it."

Small store owners say supermarkets can make it worse for local businesses because they have no intervention policies for staff because of the legal implications if they were injured trying to stop a shoplifter.

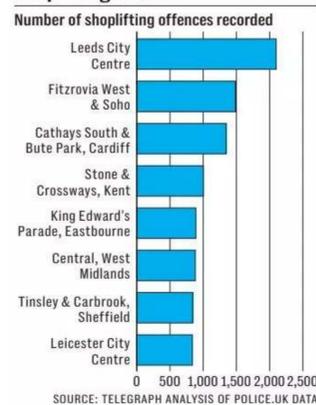
Furkan Yilmaz, an Eastbourne shop owner, said: "When I first opened they came in and showed me Bags for Life full of stuff from Tesco. They told me: 'Look, we're not stealing from you – yet.'"

Despite that, his front window has already been smashed by suspected shoplifters and he reported daily incidents to police.

The Government has announced a crackdown including tagging repeat shoplifters, with community behaviour orders banning them from shopping precincts, and a new standalone criminal offence of assaulting a shop worker with a maximum two years in jail.

Sussex Police Chief Supt Rachel Carr said there had been 65 per cent increase in shoplifting reports largely due to encouragement to businesses to contact police and its solving rate was now up to 18.7 per cent.

England and Wales' top shoplifting areas



Sitting pretty A preening barn owl forms a love heart shape while standing on a post in Staffordshire. Lilly, who was rescued by The Owl Sanctuary in Houghton, was on show at a bird of prey photography day on the Teddesley Park Estate.

British woman admits uploading monkey torture films

By Max Stephens

A BRITISH woman has admitted uploading more than 100 videos of monkeys being tortured online.

Holly LeGresley, 37, from Kidderminster, Worcestershire, pleaded guilty to posting 132 videos and 22 images of abuse while a member of the online chat group Torture Killing.

She was charged by West Mercia Police following a BBC investigation into the torture of monkeys overseas.

Although details of the case were not given in court, an inquiry led to at least 20 people being placed under investigation globally last year.

The investigation focused on a worldwide monkey torture network which involved a private online group paying people in Indonesia to kill the baby animals on video.

LeGresley who admitted uploading pictures between March 25 and May 8 2022, also pleaded guilty to "encouraging or assisting in the commission of an offence" by sending money to a PayPal account.

She stood next to co-defendant Adriana Orme in the glass-backed dock.

The women were both freed on conditional bail ahead of an appearance before Worcester Crown Court next month. They were ordered not to have



Holly LeGresley has admitted posting 132 videos of animal abuse online

unsupervised contact with any animal or child.

Ms Orme, 55, of Ryall, Worcestershire, did not indicate any plea to similar charges.

The court was told the women had "not carried out monkey torture themselves".

Prosecutor Angla Hallan told the court during the 30-minute hearing that police investigated alongside the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

She added: "On examination of their devices hundreds of videos in relation to torture of abuse of monkeys was found and evidence they had bought them with a PayPal account."

Although she did not open detailed facts of the case, Ms Hallan said the alleged conduct fell into the category of "sadism and high harm".

Ms Orme will appear at Worcester crown court on June 5.

LeGresley will be sentenced at the same court on June 7.

'Miracle' trial suggests exposure to dairy and nuts treats allergies

By Laura Donnelly HEALTH EDITOR

GIVING children tiny amounts of peanuts and milk to treat allergies does work, a "miracle" trial suggests.

The £2.5 million study is being funded by the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation, named after Natasha Ednan-Laperouse who died in 2016 after suffering a severe allergic reaction to sesame baked into a Pret baguette.

The latest study adds to several trials suggesting that allergy patients can build tolerance to potentially problematic foods by slowing exposure.

The clinical oral immunotherapy (OIT) trial uses everyday foods in tiny amounts to build up an allergy patient's tolerance over time. Foods are given under medical supervision, by staff trained in the method.

Sibel Sonmez-Ajtai, paediatric allergy

consultant and principal investigator at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This study is enabling us to do something we would never have dreamed of doing before, giving patients the foods we know they are

£2.5 million

The amount spent on the latest study regarding food allergies, funded by the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation

allergic to. This treatment is not a cure for a food allergy but what it achieves is life-transforming. To have a patient who has had anaphylaxis to 4mls of milk to then tolerate 90mls...is nothing less than a miracle." To date, 139 people

under 23 years of age with allergies started treatment.

Thomas Farmer, 11, who was diagnosed with a severe peanut allergy when he was one, can now eat six peanuts a day after joining the trial in Southampton.

His mother Lauren said: "Having food allergies can be really difficult and isolating. At first, it was very scary for both Thomas and us...as we weren't sure what to expect."

"Knowing that Thomas can now tolerate six peanuts a day has taken away so much anxiety around food. For Thomas to be able to achieve all this with no medicine, just off-the-shelf foods, is amazing."

The three-year trial could provide more evidence for food treatment to be available on the NHS. Full results are expected in 2027.

Daniel was 'largely decapitated' by a sword in Hainault attack

By Martin Evans CRIME EDITOR

A MAN charged with murdering a 14-year-old boy during a sword attack in east London "largely decapitated" his victim, the Old Bailey was told.

Marcos Arduini Monzo, 36, appeared yesterday morning accused of murdering Daniel Anjorin as he walked to school in Hainault last week.

The teenager, who was a pupil at Bancroft's – an independent school in Woodford Green – died as a result of "sharp force trauma" to the head and was "largely decapitated" in the attack, the court was told.

Mr Monzo, a Spanish-Brazilian dual national from Newham, in east London, is also facing two counts of attempted murder, two counts of grievous bodily harm, aggravated burglary and possession of a bladed article.

He appeared before Judge Mark Lucraft KC for a 10-minute hearing at which a trial date of Feb 3 was set for next year.

Mr Monzo, who was wearing a prison-issue grey tracksuit and was flanked by three dock officers, spoke only to

"The victim says, 'I don't know you'. The defendant says, 'I don't care, I will kill you', and then attacks him"

confirm his name and give his date of birth.

Outlining the case, Tom Little KC said the charges facing the defendant covered a period of around 20 minutes and began when a van was deliberately driven at a member of the public who

was knocked into a garden. Mr Little KC continued: "The defendant then gets out of the van with a sword."

"The victim says 'I don't know you', the defendant says, 'I don't care I will kill you', and then attacks him with the sword. Shortly after that Daniel Anjorin is walking to school and he is attacked from behind with the use of a sword to the neck and head, largely decapitating the 14-year-old boy."

Mr Little explained that the defendant is then accused of attacking a paramedic before breaking into the home of a stranger and attacking a man in his bedroom in front of his wife and baby.

Mr Monzo is further accused of attacking two police officers before he was tasered and arrested.

His next appearance at the Old Bailey will be for a plea hearing on July 23.

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Garrick votes to allow women members for the first time

Majority in the club agree to allow females, with Stephen Fry and Lord Sumption backing change

By Max Stephens

THE Garrick Club has voted to allow women members for the first time in its history, *The Telegraph* understands.

For more than 190 years, the Garrick had refused to admit women as members but this was overturned following a vote from its 1,500 members at a venue near its headquarters in Covent Garden yesterday.

It is understood that approximately 60 per cent had voted in favour of the change to 40 per cent against.

Speakers in favour of the change included Stephen Fry, James Naughtie, Lord Sumption and Nigel Havers.

Members were asked to vote to confirm a resolution "that the rules of the club allow the admission of women members".

Women were previously only allowed to enter the club if invited and accompanied by a man.

The Garrick had come under mounting pressure to change its admission policy following the resignation of several of its members, including four senior judges.

The resignations of Keith Lindblom, an appeal court judge, and three high court justices Nicholas Cusworth, Nicholas Lavender and Ian Dove, had come soon after those of Simon Case, the head of the Civil Service, and Richard Moore, the MI6 chief.

Members of the club had sparked a motion last month to change the rule by nominating seven prominent women, including Dame Mary Beard and Amber Rudd as members, putting forward the women's names to a committee meeting.

At the time Dame Mary, a television presenter and professor of classics at Cambridge University, said she was delighted to have been proposed for membership.

"The Garrick is a great club and I would very much like to be a member."

An open letter in March, which was signed by more than 80 lawyers in England and Wales, was published calling on judges to give up their memberships.

The letter stated membership to the Garrick Club was "incompatible with the core principles of justice, equality and fairness".

A steady stream of members wearing the club's distinctive silk pale pink and green tie could be seen filing into the entrance of the club at about 7pm last night.

Some were seen happily chatting to one another as they were ushered in by two doormen dressed in green velvet uniforms.

One member, standing on the steps of the club when asked if the vote was a welcome outcome, gave a thumbs up and said "absolutely".

Another simply said: "It was a good vote."

One member went even further, say-

"The Garrick is a great club and I have enjoyed being a guest ... I would very much like to be a member"

ing: "Yes I did support it, that is the way the world is going." Some were more despondent. "The votes have been made and one needs to accept the outcome," one member said as he ambled across the road towards the club.

Others declined to comment or instructed the journalists to contact the club's "hierarchy".

One, when asked if he was in favour of the vote, answered: "I'm not in favour of journalists."

It is understood that the debate itself had been conducted in a largely good tempered manner despite the divisions caused by the issue.

The vote was broadcast over a live stream to allow members who could not be there in person to vote remotely.

Other members of the club include: politicians Jacob Rees-Mogg and Michael Gove; as well as BBC reporters John Simpson and Clive Myrie; and Hollywood actors such as Matthew Macfadyen and Benedict Cumberbatch.



Rockin' out British actress Hannah Waddingham, 49, surprised viewers of *The Tonight Show* when she performed Kiss's *I Was Made for Loving You* with host Jimmy Fallon.

Ford may cut petrol car sales to avoid UK net zero penalties

By Matt Oliver

A TOP executive at Ford has warned net zero targets could force the car giant to cut back sales of petrol cars in the UK, pushing up prices for drivers.

Martin Sander, general manager of the company's European electric car business, called on ministers to make sure the zero emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandate was "in line with consumer demand" amid new figures showing that uptake is lagging behind sales targets enshrined in law.

In order to comply with the rules, he warned that Ford may have to simply sell fewer petrol cars in the UK so that the proportion of electric vehicles (EVs) it sells rises artificially.

Speaking at the *Financial Times* Future of the Car summit, he said: "It's really important for politicians to monitor what is going on and that the ZEV targets are roughly in line with consumer demand."

"You cannot push vehicles into the market against demand."

He added Ford was confident it would be able to comply with the laws but was "not going to pay penalties", adding: "The only alternative is to take our shipments of ICE [internal combustion engine] vehicles to the UK down and sell them somewhere else."

"I don't know if consumers will like seeing the ICE prices going up."

It comes just weeks after Vauxhall owner Stellantis also warned it could restrict sales of cars in the UK in response to the ZEV mandate. The mandate came into force in January and requires at least 22 per cent of car sales by manufacturers to be electric.

Mr Sander's comments came as the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) warned that EVs were now facing a "diminishing market share" with manufacturers set to significantly miss the targets.

The SMMT is forecasting that of two million cars set to be registered in 2024, just 19.8 per cent will be electric - down from a previous estimate of 21 per cent.

That means at least some car makers are on course to miss the target set by the Government's ZEV mandate. Companies that miss the target are at risk of being fined.

The ZEV mandate ratchets up further annually until it reaches 80pc in 2030, before a ban on the sale of new petrol cars in 2035.

A total of 22,717 electric cars were registered in April, according to the SMMT, an increase of 10.7 per cent compared to a year earlier, but this was overwhelmingly driven by businesses.

Sales to private consumers made up just 15.6 per cent of this. This figure was down from 22.1 per cent last year, according to the SMMT.

Council won't let us chop down tree that is 'clear danger to lives'

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A COUPLE claim they fear for their lives after a branch fell from an 80ft (24.3 metres) beech tree at the bottom of their garden, which the council has refused them permission to cut down.

Leora and David Faulkner's application to fell the tree, which they claim is a "clear danger to lives" and the surrounding properties, has been rejected. Winchester city council ruled that a preservation order protecting the tree, which is estimated to be 100 years old, should continue.

The couple's concerns were amplified when a branch dropped into their garden in Winchester, Hampshire, last September. The garden of their £1.3m home is "practically all moss", they claim, due to the lack of sunlight. Mr Faulkner, 62, said: "We've got a tree that sheds limbs. The latest one was massive. I thought my roof had fallen in."

The retired pharmaceutical consultant urged Winchester city council's planning committee in April to let him cut it down. But the committee unanimously agreed to maintain tree preservation order which was served in November 2023. The council said: "The



The council ruled that a preservation order on the 80ft beech tree should remain in place

removal of this tree will have a significant detrimental impact on the visual amenity and character of the conservation area."

Mrs Faulkner, 66, said another limb had fallen down and "landed in our neighbour's garden" six years ago.

"When it's in full bloom, we get no sunlight. For years and years, we have been asking the council to have the tree taken down," she said.

The Faulkners moved into the five-bedroom house in 2004. Mrs Faulkner said: "It was a lot smaller than this when we bought it." She said every five years they pay £1,000 to crown it.

Mr Faulkner insisted he loved trees but was worried about another limb falling. "I'm very supportive of trees, but it's a huge one in a residential area," he continued. "It could be catastrophic if it sheds another limb."

Cyclists who kill could face harsher prison sentences

By Steve Bird

CYCLISTS who kill and maim by riding dangerously or carelessly could be found guilty of new criminal offences and face harsher prison sentences similar to motorists under proposed law changes.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith has tabled a series of amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill that would lead to those riding pedal bicycles, e-bikes, electric scooters, unicycles and "personal transporters" facing new tougher penalties if they injure or kill pedestrians. The senior Tory is hoping to close a loophole in the law that has seen cyclists who hit and fatally injure people only charged under a Victorian law intended for riders of horse-drawn carriages.

Under current legislation, a cyclist who kills while riding recklessly or dangerously can be jailed for a maximum of only two years under an 1861 law for "wanton or furious driving". In contrast, motorists face a life sentence if

charged and convicted of causing death by dangerous or reckless driving.

Sir Iain's amendments would see the creation of an "offence of causing death or serious injury by dangerous, careless or inconsiderate cycling", as well as an offence of killing someone through "inconsiderate" cycling.

Matt Briggs, whose wife Kim, 44, died in 2016 after a cyclist on an illegal fixed-gear bike with no front brakes collided with her, said he was "delighted and grateful for the news".

Charlie Alliston was jailed for 18 months for hitting the mother of two, and causing her "catastrophic" brain injuries.

He was cleared of manslaughter but found guilty of causing bodily harm by "wanton and furious riding".

Mr Briggs, 52, said: "This amendment could bring a degree of comfort for families in knowing that they may not have to face the same legal trauma that my family have had to face after cyclists have caused fatal injuries."

Meta and TikTok 'must shut down exam paper scams'

By Blathnaid Corless
CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

META and TikTok have been urged to "shut down" on fake GCSE and A-level papers sold on social media, exam boards have warned.

The BBC uncovered dozens of accounts on TikTok and Instagram, which is owned by Meta, claiming to have access to this year's exam papers.

Some were selling them for hundreds of pounds. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) said it wanted its members to be given direct access to enforcement teams on social media sites, to shut down accounts more quickly and prevent scams.

"In recent years, we have seen a persistent number of accounts, discussion threads and forums that attempt to scam students by claiming to have access to exam papers," a spokesman for the JCQ said, adding that it was highly unlikely that real exam papers were being leaked online.

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It is not racist to reflect public concerns on immigration, BBC told

By Anita Singh

THE BBC must reflect public concerns about immigration, according to a review of the broadcaster's news coverage.

The review, conducted by the director of the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford, looked at the impartiality and accuracy of the BBC's content on migration.

It found that some BBC journalists were anxious that reporting on local concerns about migration, or covering topics such as immigration fraud, could appear "hostile" to migrants.

However, the review, commissioned by the BBC board, stated: "It is not racist to be concerned about the impacts of

migration or to prefer more restrictive policies." It added: "BBC coverage should have equal empathy for migrants and UK residents who worry about the impacts of migration."

BBC management has endorsed the key points, and will tell journalists: "It's not biased to hear directly from migrants, just as it's not racist to air concerns about immigration. Audiences want to know why people move and appreciate hearing from them – though not to the exclusion of hearing other voices."

Responding to the review, a Downing Street spokesman said that "the BBC's reporting is one for them" but added that the Prime Minister is "acutely

aware of the frustrations of the British people" over small boat arrivals.

The review was authored by Dr Madeleine Sumption, director of the Migration Observatory. She conducted the bulk of it with Samir Shah, who stepped down in December after being nominated as BBC chairman.

While it concluded that the corporation produces much excellent content on migration, it found there are also weaknesses. The review found no consistent bias towards Left or Right in the broadcaster's coverage but identified "risks to impartiality that point in multiple directions".

The biggest single topic audiences said they wanted to hear more about

was the social and economic impact of migration, both positive and negative.

The report said: "Coverage should pay more attention to how migration affects communities, public services, housing and the labour market. All audiences in our research were interested in these questions, but particularly people with concerns about migration."

It added: "Journalists were sometimes anxious about taking on topics they felt could appear hostile to migrants, such as immigration fraud or local concerns about migration."

"When these topics are covered with sufficient depth, however, it is possible to prove the issues at hand while also

being respectful towards the people involved."

The backgrounds and liberal beliefs of BBC staff may also affect coverage, it was suggested. The review said: "BBC journalists and senior management told us that staff come disproportionately from groups that are more relaxed about migration."

One BBC insider told the review inexperienced colleagues worry about what language to use when covering migration issues in case they are "accused of racism by the Left [or] accused of being the wokerati by the Right".

The BBC Board said it would take the review findings on board to "further improve editorial standards and audi-

ence impact". A spokesman said: "We note that the review found that the BBC produces a lot of excellent content on migration and has highlighted important best practice."

"Significantly, the review found no consistent bias towards one point of view on this topic. However, it did identify risks to impartiality that point in multiple directions. We welcome the practical illustration of the challenges BBC teams face in serving a wide range of licence payer interests and ensuring that we cover this subject with precision and depth and draw on the full spectrum of experience and views."

It has asked Tim Davie, the director-general, to address the issues raised.

Record-high migration has failed to boost growth

Home Office must be split up to curb influx, says think tank as UK suffers sustained drop in living standards

By Charles Hymas and Melissa Lawford

RECORD high levels of immigration have failed to boost the economy while making the housing crisis worse, a think tank has warned.

In a report co-authored by Robert Jenrick, the former immigration minister, the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) urged the Government to introduce caps on legal immigration to stop a drain on British infrastructure and public services that is not offset by economic growth.

In particular, high levels of immigration are "significantly exacerbating the housing crisis", it said.

The report, which is jointly authored with former health minister Neil O'Brien, also suggested the Home Office should be broken up to create a new department to control immigration.

It came after data published yesterday showed British consumers are suffering the longest drop in living standards in the G7 as the economy fails to keep up. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said gross domestic product (GDP) per person fell for four quarters last year in the UK and has been at zero per cent or less since spring 2022.

Although Britain's economy rose by 0.1 per cent across last year, on a per person basis it fell by 0.8 per cent, the OECD said. This measure accounts for population growth, which in the UK was the second highest in the group of seven advanced economies.

The figures were in stark contrast to the G7 average, where GDP per capita rose by 1.2 per cent last year.

"If large-scale migration of the sort we've seen is really so great for the economy, we have to ask ourselves why we are not seeing this in the GDP per capita data," the CPS report warned.

To alleviate pressure on housing, the NHS and schools, the CPS said net migration should be capped at just "tens of thousands" a year down from its peak of 745,000 in 2022.

To deliver this, they said the Home Office, which had proven itself to be "too unwieldy to function effectively" and undermined by high levels of churn, should be split into a department for border security and immigration control and a second charged with policing and national security. The new

department would be headed by a Cabinet-level minister. "We need working institutions that can translate the will of Parliament and the public into action. The Home Office has fallen short on this front," they said.

Analysis of Home Office data showed the impact of the shift from EU to non-EU migrants. Migrants from the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) aged 25-64 were almost twice as likely to be economically inactive as someone born in the UK.

Spanish migrants typically earned around 40 per cent more than migrants from Pakistan or Bangladesh, while migrants from countries such as Canada, Singapore and Australia paid between four and nine times as much income tax as migrants from Somalia or Pakistan.

The report said the impact was acute in housing. Net migration accounted for around 89 per cent of the 1.34 million increase in England's "housing deficit", the amount of homes we have underbuilt by in the last 10 years.

Unforeseen levels of immigration have also blown house building targets out of the water. The Government's target of building 300,000 homes per year includes an expectation of net migration to England of around 170,000 per year, which alone will generate demand for 72,000 new homes.

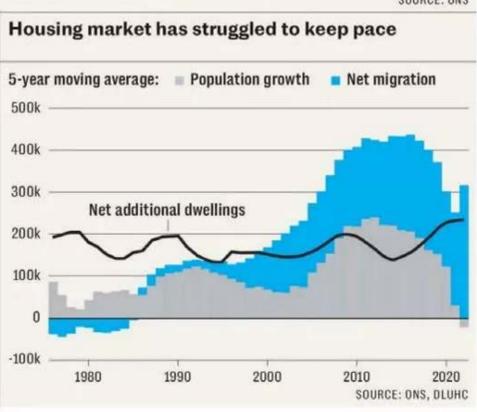
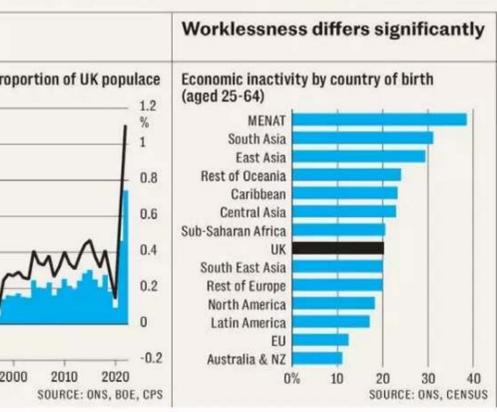
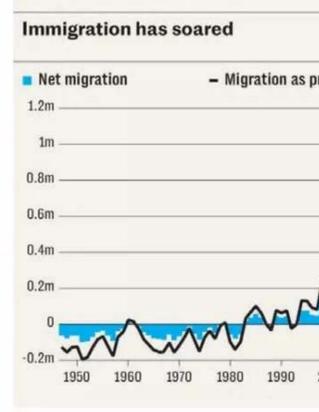
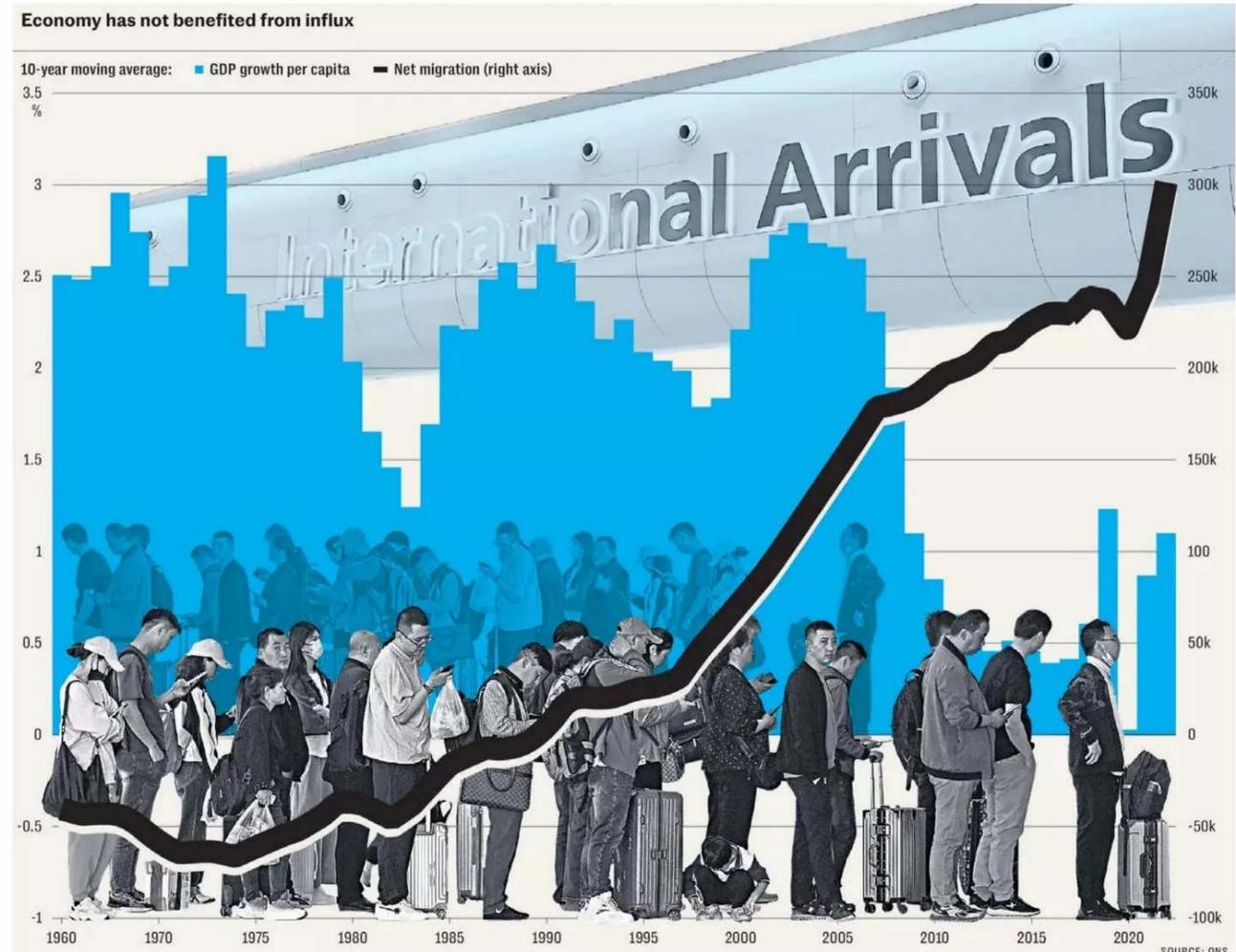
"We have been underbuilding for years, even without high levels of net migration. And even if we limit ourselves to just the last 10 years, the picture is bleak," the CPS report warned.

Pressure had also been added to rental markets, as well as affecting home ownership. For example, 67 per cent of private rented households in London are headed by someone born overseas, as were 33 per cent of new social housing lets in Brent in 2022-23.

Last year, Capital Economics estimated that the levels of immigration in 2022 alone may have driven up rents by nearly 10 per cent. Immigration is concentrated in cities and particularly in the rental sector. Previous ONS analysis found around 80 per cent of people arriving in the UK rent privately for the first few years after they migrate.

Mr Jenrick and Mr O'Brien blamed the post-Brexit Tory Government for liberalising the immigration system and breaking its promises to take control of Britain's borders after leaving the EU.

"Despite the rhetoric of a highly selective system, the post-2021 system continues to allow large numbers of people to come who are either not working or working in very low-wage jobs. Out of net migration of two million non-EU nationals over the last five years, only 15 per cent came principally



'If large-scale migration is really so great for the economy, we have to ask why we are not seeing this in the data'

to work," they said. Many economists argue high levels of immigration boost the UK economy by increasing the workforce and tax revenues. But although levels of immigration have been high, productivity growth and economic growth per person have slumped, just as pressure on public resources has intensified.

Despite a 6.6 per cent increase in the population between 2011 and 2021, the number of GP surgeries increased by 4 per cent. The UK's capacity to generate electricity fell by 14.2 per cent.

Karl Williams, of the CPS, said: "Traditionally, the Treasury and much of the rest of government have modelled immi-

gration as an unqualified benefit to the public purse. But this is not the case."

The report recommended abolishing the graduate route, which allows foreign students to stay for two years after getting their degrees. Instead, they could only remain if they had a graduate-level job within six months.

This would be allied to scrapping the 600,000 a year target for the number of foreign students allowed into the UK.

They recommended raising the salary thresholds for health and care workers above the national living wage. They also called for a cap on the health and care visas set at 30,000, down from 250,000. Mr Jenrick said: "It would be

'The Treasury modelled immigration as an unqualified benefit to the public purse. But this is not the case'

unforgivable if the Government did not use the time before the general election to undo the disastrous post-Brexit liberalisations that betrayed the wishes of the British public for lower immigration.

"The changes we propose today would finally return numbers to the historical norm and deliver the highly-selective, highly-skilled immigration system voters were promised. These policies could be implemented immediately and would consign low-skilled mass migration to the past. Immigration is one of the top concerns of voters and they deserve a Department whose sole mission is controlling immigration and securing our borders."

Reeves pledges to expand workers' rights despite City concerns

By Nick Gutteridge
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will table laws to give workers greater rights within 100 days of entering power, despite warnings from business leaders that they will damage investment.

Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, said the party was "absolutely committed" to the plans, after coming under pressure from unions. The proposals would make it easier for staff to organise and join strikes, while employees would be given a new "right to switch off" outside office hours.

Labour has also said it will curb the use of zero-hour contracts, although it will not now ban them outright, as it had previously pledged.

However, Ms Reeves was challenged on comments from business leaders, including the boss of Marks & Spencer, who have warned the plans will damage Britain's competitiveness.

Ms Reeves made the commitments



Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, gave a speech attacking the Tories' economic record in the City of London yesterday

on workers as she used a speech yesterday to attack the Tories' economic record, after their local elections hammering.

She was introduced at an event in the City of London by Nick Boles, a former Tory minister who has defected to become a Labour adviser. He criticised his ex-colleagues, including Mr Sunak, suggesting they did not understand the need for "restraint" and had "played fast and loose" with public money.

Ms Reeves said: "I can commit that in the first 100 days of a Labour government we will put forward legislation on

the New Deal for Working People, including banning exploitative zero-hour contracts.

"Not only is this the right and the fair thing to do, it's also good for the economy. There is now mounting evidence that shows more secure work results in both a more motivated workforce but also workers who are willing to move jobs." After tabling the law, Labour would consult on how to implement it, she added, meaning the measures would not come into force for some time.

She said that many firms "already go well beyond" the rights that will be

written into law, adding that companies "have got nothing to fear" from the proposals. They would create "a level playing field to ensure that businesses can't undercut each other" by using practices such as zero-hour contracts and fire and rehire, she added.

She made the remarks after union bosses reacted with anger to suggestions she was planning to dilute the party's flagship offering on workers' rights.

Unite, Labour's biggest union backer, said watering down the plans would be a "red line" and it may hold back up to £30 million in donations in response.

Explain why anti-strike laws not used, train firms told

By Daniel Martin and Blathnaid Corless

TRAIN companies must explain to customers why they have failed to use the Government's anti-strike legislation, the Department for Transport has said.

Rail passengers face more travel chaos today because of continuing industrial action by train drivers in what is now the longest rail strike in history.

Despite this, none of the train operating companies have used new laws that allow them to impose "minimum service levels" (MSL).

This is believed to be because firms are concerned of prompting even longer strikes if they impose the law.

A Whitehall source said: "It is for the train operators to explain their operational decisions and how they are in the best interests of their passengers."

Services will be crippled today, with stations closed and few trains running. Those that do run will start later and finish earlier than usual.

Members of Aslef will walk out at services running across England and into Wales and Scotland on Avanti West Coast, East Midlands Railway, West Midlands Trains, CrossCountry, London North Western Railway, Chiltern and Great Western Railway.

An ongoing overtime ban at 16 train operators is continuing until Saturday, which is also causing disruption.

Passengers are being urged to check before attempting to travel by train this week. A spokesman for the DfT said: "The Transport Secretary [Mark Harper] has set out his expectation that train operating companies, including those under the operator of last resort, should be fully prepared to use the minimum service levels legislation where appropriate. All of the train operators are operationally independent and it is for them to decide whether to use MSLs when faced with continued strikes."

Earlier this year, a five-day strike on LNER was announced and then cancelled after the firm backed down from using the minimum service levels law.

A trade union source said: "None of the train companies thought it was workable... and they haven't used it."

Strikes on some of the busiest commuter routes led to widespread cancellation of services yesterday at c2c, Greater Anglia, GTR's Great Northern, Thameslink and Southern (including Gatwick Express), Southeastern, and South Western Railway.

Aslef said its members have not had a pay rise for five years and has accused the Government of "giving up".

Brand: Grylls baptised me in the Thames

Comedian claims Chief Scout helped with religious ceremony and describes experience as 'profound'

By Alex Barton

BEAR GRYLLS helped baptise Russell Brand in the Thames, the comedian has claimed.

Brand, who has documented his exploration of Christianity in recent months in the aftermath of sex offence allegations, said last week that he would be "taking the plunge" on Sunday to be

"reborn in Christ's name". In a post on social media yesterday he thanked the survival expert, one of the most prominent Christians in the UK, for assisting with the religious ceremony.

He wrote: "I want to thank Bear Grylls and my mate Joe, the two men that stood either side of me and flanked me for the baptism itself.

"Week one as a Christian has been amazing. The ceremony itself was incredible."

The comedian and actor, who lives in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, said: "It was an incredible, profound experience and something occurred in the process of baptism that was incredible.

"It was overwhelming, literally overwhelming because I was obviously underwater, and it was the River Thames at some points. This is my path now. And I already feel incredibly blessed, relieved, nourished, held."

He continued: "There were incredible and bizarre incidents that took place and it felt serendipitous."

Last year, the 48-year-old was twice interviewed by police in connection with historic sex offence allegations following a joint investigation by *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and Channel 4's *Dispatches*. There have been no arrests, and Brand has vehemently denied any wrongdoing. Bear Grylls has

appeared in campaigns for Alpha course, an evangelical Christianity programme that claims to have recruited 29 million people to the faith.

As part of the Apple TV+ series *Running Wild with Bear Grylls*, Brand

trekked across the Hebrides with the survival expert last year. Brand and Grylls formed a friendship during the

show, with the comedian opening up about his failed marriage to singer Katy Perry, describing their relationship as "chaotic".

Speaking about the difference between faith and religion, Grylls has previously said: "I meet so many people who don't want 'religion' as such.

"I get it. I feel the same. And, in fact, so did Jesus, the heart of all Christian faith. Faith and religion are not the same thing.

"The Jesus I read about in the Bible was fun, free and wild. He loved a party and he always hung out with the non-religious folk. The only people he ever got angry with were the overly religious

types." Grylls, who was appointed Chief Scout in 2009, was invited to the late Queen Elizabeth's funeral and attended the King's Coronation. He has also supported several events with the Princess of Wales, the joint president of the Scout Association.

Grylls told the *Daily Mail*: "Faith and spiritual moments in our lives are really personal, but it is a privilege to stand beside anyone when they express a humble need for forgiveness and strength from above.

"Friendships when we go through tough times are worth so much."

Grylls was contacted by *The Telegraph* for comment.

'Week one as a Christian has been amazing. The ceremony itself was incredible'



Bear Grylls and Russell Brand in the former SAS trooper's Apple TV+ show, *Running Wild with Bear Grylls*, and inset, Brand discusses his burgeoning interest in Christianity on his YouTube channel

Brandreth did not kill Rod Hull – I did, former countess claims

By Alex Barton

THE former Countess of Bradford has said she is responsible for the death of Rod Hull following claims last week from Gyles Brandreth that he blamed himself.

Speaking to John Cleese in an episode of his *Rosebud* podcast, former Conservative MP Mr Brandreth, 76, said: "I killed a man – it was Rod Hull, the emu man."

Mr Hull fell from the roof of his home while adjusting his TV aerial in 1999,

aged 63. Mr Brandreth said he had been at the theatre with Hull on the day of his death and claimed he suggested he fixed his defective TV himself by using a ladder and climbing onto the roof to carry out DIY repairs. Hull later fell to his death while doing so.

However, Joanne Miller, the former Countess of Bradford, said it is she who was liable for his death.

She told the *Daily Mail*: "Gyles seems to have pinched my story."

Ms Miller, who ended her marriage with Richard Bridgeman, Earl of Brad-

ford, in 2006, said the Bradfords and Hull had spent the evening together at the first night of the musical *Animal Crackers* at the West End's Lyric Theatre in March 1999.

She told the newspaper: "We picked Rod up at the Chelsea Arts Club, where he was staying, travelled by taxi to and from the theatre and sat beside him throughout the show, which we enjoyed.

"On the way there, he told us that he was having intermittent problems with TV reception at his bungalow which

'Gyles's memory has appropriated our instructions to Rod to himself'

meant that he might not be able to watch a big Manchester United football match the following evening.

"So we told him that, if necessary, it should be easy enough to put a ladder up the side of his bungalow and fiddle with the aerial to fix the reception."

She added: "But the following day came the terrible news that Rod had fallen from his roof in the windy night while fiddling with the TV aerial during the football match. We felt ghastly for having suggested that he could fix the reception by himself."

Ms Miller said she was confused by Mr Brandreth's claim that it was he who had been sitting with Hull in the theatre and that the comedian had complained about his TV during the performance.

She said: "I don't recall Gyles being with us at all that night – I think I would

have done. I can only think that my former husband must have told him some time later how we had urged Rod to fix his TV problem, which led to his really tragic death and, 25 years later, Gyles's memory has appropriated our instructions to Rod to himself."

Mr Brandreth said he was "relieved" Ms Miller was happy to take the blame. He told the *Daily Mail*: "I was just one of us saying to Rod that he should simply climb onto the roof and sort it out."

Mr Brandreth is the godfather to Ms Miller's third son, Ben.

Wainwright blames Brexit for Sheridan Smith flop

By Anita Singh ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Rufus Wainwright, the musician, has blamed Brexit for the failure of his musical *Opening Night*, starring Sheridan Smith.

The West End show, described by *The Telegraph* as "a pretentious, convoluted mess", was forced to close two months early and there were reports of audience walkouts.

According to Wainwright, who wrote the music and lyrics for the show, British audiences have a narrower outlook post-Brexit and lack curiosity.

They were unreceptive to the avant garde production, an adaptation of a 1977 John Cassavetes film, whereas European audiences welcomed it, he said.

Wainwright, a Canadian-American who lives in Los Angeles, told *The Guardian*: "Since Brexit, England has entered into a darker corridor where it is a little more narrow in its outlook.

"The vitriol because we put 'English rose Sheridan Smith' through this ordeal of European theatre felt a little bit suspect to me."

He went on: "There's a lack of imagination and curiosity about change. All of the reviews from Europe were incredible for this piece; the staging and the rhythm is more European and there was a vitriolic reaction against that. I

don't think it was perfect and that I don't deserve criticism, but this thing of shutting it down if it's not exactly what you want is not really the theatrical lane that I want to live in."

Smith played Myrtle, a leading lady falling apart during previews for a Broadway play. The production included scenes in which Smith left the Gielgud theatre and collapsed outside the stage door.

Directed by Belgian Ivo van Hove, the show opened in March but it was announced a month later that it would be closing early. The producers said they had braved "a challenging financial landscape" and "while the production may not have had the life we had hoped for, we feel immensely proud of the risk we took".

Wainwright, the son of folk singers Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, said he was "a little beaten up" by the experience but glad the production offered something different. "I think the West End has got pretty staid," he said.

In an interview at the weekend, Smith, 42, said of the show's closure: "I feel bad for the team and all the work they put in, but I'm at the age now where I want to be challenged. I want to do new things; I don't want to do that same old boring stuff.

"I would do it again in a heartbeat, so I have no regrets."

Beckham: I upset director by butting in on Victoria

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

DAVID BECKHAM said the director of his Netflix documentary was supposedly "very angry" after he interrupted his wife Victoria during filming, which led to the viral "be honest" moment.

The football star, 49, appeared alongside filmmaker Fisher Stevens, producer Josh Battssek and editor Michael Harte at an Emmys For Your Consideration event at the Tudum Theatre in Los Angeles for his four-part documentary titled *Beckham*.

The docu-series provided one of the viral television moments of the year when David interrupted Victoria talking about her childhood to instruct her to "be honest" and admit that her father drove a Rolls-Royce, after she said they were "very working class".

The couple later recreated the scene for an Uber Eats advert which aired during the Super Bowl, in which Victoria wore a T-shirt that read: "My dad had a Rolls-Royce."

In a video posted by *The Hollywood Reporter* of the event, David explained the behind-the-scenes details which led to the moment.

He said the crew thought he had left the house, but "I was in the kitchen making a coffee before I went to the office".

"I put the set headphones on and all of a sudden I heard my wife go, 'Well,



Victoria Beckham was interrupted by her husband after saying she is working class

we're down to earth'. And I was like, 'No, no, no'. As soon as I heard her say 'We're working class', I stuck my head in and I was like, 'Be honest'."

Beckham said at the time Stevens, the director, was "very angry with me".

Meanwhile, Stevens said they had scheduled the interview with Victoria "because David was supposedly out and she could be free to say what she wants".

"Then he showed up and I was quite upset," he said. "I was like, 'Get him out of here', but it turned out to be brilliant.

"It worked out. Thank God the cameraman caught David, and then Michael, I did say 'I think we have some gold!'"

Star of cowboy builder show accused of own shoddy work

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A BUILDER who worked on BBC's *Cowboy Trap* to help salvage botched jobs has been accused of carrying out shoddy workmanship at the home of a wealthy widow.

Paul Shanahan, managing director of Greystoke Builders, is facing claims from Dr Zohor Aylwin that parts of the £100,000 revamp to her £1.2 million home were defective.

The widow, an African studies academic, claims there was a "boot print of the company's employee" in paintwork, a lavatory that would not flush and a shower that was too low to use.

The company is denying the "alleged but unsubstantiated defects" and is demanding £50,200 in unpaid bills for the work carried out on the property in Watford in 2019.

The case began when Mr Shanahan, who appeared in nine episodes of *Cowboy Trap*, sued Dr Aylwin for unpaid work and she launched a counter suit.

Her barrister, Ashley Pratt, told Judge Nicholas Parfitt KC at Mayors and City of London Court that she has a number of complaints about the quality of the project, ranging from the cost of replacing a boiler to problems with the newly fitted kitchen.

"The shower was clearly too short to fit under and was clearly unsuitable," he

said. He also claimed there were "fitting defects for the dishwasher", problems with the kitchen electrics, defective tiles in an en-suite bedroom as well as "gross over-charging" when installing sliding doors in a bedroom.

Dr Aylwin is disputing the unpaid bills claim, saying the defects effectively "extinguish" the building company's £50,200 bill.

Mr Pratt further claimed that in Greystoke's best case the debt owing would amount to £44,000. "The invoicing and estimate process was nothing short of shambolic," he told the court.

Mr Shanahan was personally engaged in the renovation works at Dr Aylwin's home, overseen by her son, Idris, and had also negotiated the "scope of works", the court heard. The company claims the right to recover its £50,200 debt or alternatively is asking the judge to assess what is due.

Paul Fisher, Greystoke's barrister, said the team did their utmost to carry out a successful overhaul of Dr Aylwin's home which "had not been maintained to a very high standard" prior to the makeover.

He said the case was a "relatively simple debt claim which has spiralled out of control by virtue of alleged but unsubstantiated defects that have been raised by the defendants".

The judge has reserved his decision.

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World news

Two officials held over plot to kill Zelensky

Ukrainian colonels secretly paid by Russia 'hatched a plan to kill president as a gift to Vladimir Putin'

By James Kilner

UKRAINE'S intelligence service has arrested two senior officials who embedded themselves in president Volodymyr Zelensky's security team

with a plan to kill him. The SBU said the two Ukrainian colonels were secretly in the pay of Russia's FSB security agency and planned the assassination as a "gift" to Vladimir Putin.

"Counter-intelligence and SBU investigators disrupted the FSB's plans to eliminate the president of Ukraine and other representatives of the highest military and political leadership of the state," the SBU said.

It also released nine photos on the Telegram social media service showing

the two suspects being arrested, a rocket-propelled grenade, bomb-making equipment and what appeared to be a recorded conversation about assassination plans.

The SBU said that both men worked for Ukraine's state security service, the unit tasked with protecting top officials, and that the FSB had recruited them more than two years ago - before the Kremlin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"One of the tasks of the FSB intelligence network was to search for execu-

tors among the military close to the protection of the president who could take the head of state hostage and later kill him," it said.

It also said that double agents' movements had been closely documented, including a trip to an unnamed Ukrainian region to pick up weapons and conversations with their FSB handler.

Ukrainian officials have said Mr Zelensky has survived dozens of attacks on his life since the Kremlin launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

He is constantly accompanied by heavily armed bodyguards. Major Gen Vasly Malyuk, the head of the SBU, also said that the latest alleged assassination plot was planned to coincide with yesterday's inauguration of Putin as president of Russia for the fifth time.

"The terrorist attack, which was supposed to be a gift to Putin before the inauguration, was actually a failure of the Russian special services," he said.

Major Gen Malyuk was also on the assassins' hit list, as was Lt GenKyryll

Budanov, head of Ukraine's military intelligence. Last year, Ukrainian intelligence said that the wife of Lt Gen Budanov was admitted to hospital after being poisoned by Russian agents.

Ukraine has warned that traitors have infiltrated its security services and are trying to undermine its war against the Kremlin.

A number of Ukrainians have been arrested for giving information to Russia to coordinate missile attacks on both civilian and military targets.

Macron cancels four-day week meeting as staff were on leave

By Henry Samuel in Paris

EMMANUEL MACRON has been forced to postpone a summit to discuss the four-day week because too many participants were on holiday.

The prime minister's office had hoped "to organise a labour COP (along the lines of global climate talks) to discuss more flexible working hours, and in particular the four-day week", according to France Info, the state radio channel.

The "major" summit was due to gather trade unions, elected officials, community leaders and sociologists to discuss the "relationship with work, which has changed since Covid".

However, the event had to be postponed, mainly because the number of national holidays this week means that the French only have to take one day off - Friday - to get five days' holiday.

On top of national holidays, today for Victory in Europe and tomorrow to mark Ascension Day, May 1 was also a bank holiday meaning workers only needed to register five days' leave this month to have 12 days off.

In 2022, Medef, France's employers' federation, argued that public holidays were disrupting the entire working week and suggested following the example of Britain, where they are taken close to the weekend.

It has been estimated that the May national holidays will cost the French economy up to €6 billion (£5.2 billion).

Charles Consigny, a lawyer, told Radio Monte-Carlo "work culture is in the process of disappearing ... in the name of well-being". The French are keen on the idea of the four-day working week.



China white Emmanuel Macron, the French president, and Xi Jinping, China's leader, enjoy traditional dancing in the Tourmalet pass, in the Pyrenees, after intense discussions in Paris about trade and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Two dead and 20 injured in China hospital knife attack

By Nicola Smith ASIA CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST two people have been killed and another 21 injured in a knife attack at a hospital in China.

An as yet unnamed male suspect went on the rampage at a facility in Yunnan at about 11.30am yesterday.

He has since been arrested, according to the state-run news site The Paper, but no motive has been given for the attacks.

In a statement posted on its WeChat account, the Zhenxiang county police office said: "According to investigations, the suspect is a male villager from Zhenxiang County's Poji Town."

Witnesses spoke of chaotic scenes as the morning attack unfolded.

Images appeared to show a man dressed in dark clothing wielding a knife in each hand.

One witness said he narrowly escaped being stabbed and that at least one doctor was among the injured.

Footage showed people bleeding and lying on the floor, with one older person trying to help another.

No details have been released about the identity of the injured. The police said they were receiving treatment and that investigations were ongoing.

Although guns are illegal in China, the country has been confronted by a series of mass stabbings in recent years.

In 2014, stabbings carried out by a group of eight attackers at a train station in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan, killed 31 people and injured 141.

The Chinese government blamed Islamic extremists from the western region of Xinjiang for the assault.

Last July, a knifeman killed six people at a nursery in Guangdong province.

Boeing space flight delayed at last minute over buzzing noise

Mission to International Space Station halted two hours before lift-off owing to oxygen valve problem

By Laura Murgatroyd

BOEING has delayed its first manned test flight to the International Space Station after a "buzzing" was heard on the spacecraft.

The Atlas V rocket was set to travel from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida when it was called off two hours before lift-off.

Tory Bruno, the chief executive of United Launch Alliance, which built the rocket, said a problem had been found with the oxygen valve.

He said the valve, which controls fuel pressure in the rocket stage responsible for pushing Starliner toward orbit, had been "buzzing" audibly in a way the company had noticed before other non-crewed missions.

Launch officials decided to delay the countdown under more sensitive rules for an astronaut mission, with the launch now expected to take place no earlier than Friday, Nasa said.

Boeing's mission to the space station has been delayed for several years because of trouble with development.

A commentator on the livestream for Nasa said discovering the problem now was a "win" because "the last thing you want to do is deal with that in space".

If its next planned launch is successful, Boeing will potentially become the

second private firm to provide crew transportation to and from the International Space station, along with Elon Musk's SpaceX.

But it would come amid a torrid few years at the firm that have seen its work culture questioned after disasters. Yesterday, the Federal Aviation Administration announced an investigation into the company after the disclosure that it falsified inspection records for some 787 Dreamliner aircraft at the centre of two fatal crashes in 2018 and 2019.

Earlier this year, the door panel of one Boeing 737 jet blew out mid-flight leading to the inspection of other 737 aircrafts and the discovery of more faulty door plugs and loose bolts.

Other recent mishaps have included stuck rudder pedals, a tire falling off shortly after take-off, a sudden drop mid-air from a technical error, a fuel leak, and a missing external panel.

More serious incidents include two fatal Boeing 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 which killed 346 people.

On March 25, Dave Calhoun, Boeing's chief executive, announced that he would step down by the end of the year over its safety and financial woes.

Last week, it was announced that Joshua Deam, a second whistleblower in the case against Boeing, died "suddenly" in Oklahoma following an infection caused after catching pneumonia.

Two months ago, his colleague John Barnett was found dead in a vehicle in a hotel car park, having suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Mr Barnett had been due to testify in a lawsuit against the firm not long after his death.

'The last thing you want to do is deal with that in space'



Paint me black and white Two chow chow dogs, dyed to look like giant pandas, are attracting huge crowds at Taizhou Zoo in China. Keepers rejected allegations of cruelty, saying the colouring is harmless to animals.

Suspect in Australian mushroom lunch murders pleads not guilty

By Andrea Hamblin in Melbourne

AN Australian woman accused of cooking a deadly mushroom lunch that killed three elderly guests has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Erin Trudi Patterson, 49, is charged with the murders of Gail Patterson and Don Patterson, both 70, who fell ill hours after eating a beef Wellington at their daughter-in-law's home last July. She is also accused of killing Heather

Wilkinson, Gail's sister, and the attempted murder of Mrs Wilkinson's husband, Ian, who survived damage to his liver after an organ transplant.

It will be alleged that she knowingly mixed toxic fungi - believed to be the "death cap" variety - into their lunch.

Ms Patterson was also charged with four counts of attempting to murder her estranged husband Simon Patterson, who had previously been admitted to hospital with a stomach illness.

Police plan to present evidence she allegedly tried to kill Mr Patterson once in 2021 in their hometown, south-east of Melbourne, and twice in 2022, including in the Victorian mountain holiday region of Howqua and in Wilsons Promontory.

Ms Patterson also allegedly intended to poison him at the lunch, to which he was invited - but he did not attend.

Appearing from a women's prison via video link, Ms Patterson entered a not



Erin Trudi Patterson is accused of killing three elderly guests with mushrooms

guilty plea to the Latrobe magistrate's court yesterday.

The mother-of-two has previously vowed her innocence, telling the media she was "devastated" by the loss of her children's grandparents.

Colin Mandy SC, defending, told the court she had opted to "fast-track" the case to the Supreme Court in Melbourne.

The method allows homicide suspects to skip a committal hearing where

a magistrate decides whether the evidence is strong enough for a conviction.

Her lawyers had previously indicated that they wanted the magistrate to test the police's case before trial. But that meant Ms Patterson would have spent at least 15 months on remand.

Ms Patterson was committed to stand trial in the Victorian Supreme Court and will appear for a directions hearing later in May. She has not applied to be released on bail.

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Comment

Betrayed voters deserve action now on the mass migration scandal

ROBERT JENRICK



When I resigned as immigration minister, I refused to be yet another politician who broke their promises on migration. Having pushed the Government as far as I could within the confines of collective responsibility, I didn't believe it would go any further. Six months on, with no new policy and our 2019 manifesto commitments looking more distant than ever, my reasoning has been proven right.

Fortunately, leaving government provides new opportunities to effect change. My colleagues and I came agonisingly close to strengthening the Rwanda Bill with amendments that seem more prescient by the week. I am now free to make the case for leaving the ECHR so we can secure our borders in this age of mass migration. And today, I release the report, *Taking back Control*, with Neil O'Brien MP and Karl Williams of the Centre for Policy Studies, detailing the failures of our legal migration system and setting out more than 30 policies to fix it.

Most could be delivered now. We urgently need to overhaul our bloated university sector, starting by rethinking the International Education Strategy, which sets the enormous and entirely arbitrary target of 600,000 international students a year. This has led to an explosion in low-quality courses at lower-tier universities: the 24 Russell Group institutions combined accounted for just a quarter of the increase in international student numbers between 2017/18 and 2021/22.

We now have a collection of universities more interested in the immigration rather than the education business. To shut this backdoor to the UK, we should scrap the graduate visa route, which enables students to stay on after their studies regardless of the type of job they find. Instead, graduates should have six months to find a job that meets the salary thresholds every other migrant in the labour market is subject to.

The health and social care visa has similarly ballooned beyond imagination. Despite this, the number of vacancies within the health sector remains high. The policy has been a complete failure. We should impose an immediate cap on health and care visas at roughly 30,000 and recruit from the domestic workforce by raising the minimum hourly wage in the care sector by 20-40p and by expanding the NHS workforce plan, training British doctors and nurses. While the Treasury will bear an initial cost, the long-term savings to the taxpayer will be significant as pressure on our capital stock is relieved.

Elsewhere, the Government should automatically index salary thresholds in line with

inflation to end the in-built liberal bias. The opaque Immigration Salary List, which allows industries to rely upon a steady stream of cheap labour and avoid investing in technology, should be scrapped. And we desperately need a period of glasnost where the Government is transparent about the immigration data it holds on crime, the benefits bill and tax receipts.

Other proposals, like breaking up the Home Office into two – a Department for Border Security and Immigration Control, and a Department for Policing and National Security – will take longer. But having worked in the department for more than a year, it's clear that, in its current formation, it isn't working. We need to start afresh with a totally different culture, structure and far greater ministerial oversight.

Instead of banning smoking or regulating London's pedicabs, the Government could use the time left in the parliamentary session to deliver the post-Brexit immigration system voters were promised. We shouldn't wait to save conservative policies for our manifesto when we are 20 points behind in the polls in an election year – that would be government by posturing and an abdication of duty. The Government has a solid majority and could deliver these today.

The local election results reaffirmed two clear trends, obvious to those of us who spend time on the doorsteps listening to voters. First, Conservative voters feel badly let down and are struggling to find reasons to back us. Second, we are hemorrhaging support to the Reform Party. This is primarily because of mass migration and the allied and growing problem of extremism, although clearly other factors are also at play.

In the precious time we have left before the election, reducing net migration to the 10,000s and delivering the highly-selective immigration system we call for in our report would be the single biggest thing the Government could do to win over these wavering voters. Rational, hard-headed analysis dictates that a vote for Reform at the general election would split the Right-wing vote and usher in a Labour government, with a big majority, who would undo these changes.

For many voters, belated action on immigration will be too little, too late. They are right to be angry – they have been systematically misled by politicians of all stripes. The post-Brexit immigration liberalisations were a particularly egregious betrayal, the consequences of which will be felt long into the future. But the policies I propose are nevertheless the right thing to do for the country, and the Government shouldn't hesitate to implement them. It would be unforgivable if they did not.



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'Gaslighting' the British public may be Rishi Sunak's last remaining hope

History suggests the Tories should exaggerate how bad the economic picture is so Labour looks too risky

PHILIP JOHNSTON



Politicians are always on the look-out for a demotic turn of phrase that shows they are in touch with the common folk. Mrs Thatcher famously called Neil Kinnock "frit", which was a bit too colloquial for anyone brought up outside of Lincolnshire.

Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, has gone for the metropolitan *mot du jour* "gaslighting", which is currently tossed around with gay abandon without anyone having much of a clue what it means. The BBC reported Ms Reeves's attack on the Government using this apparent insult as though we would all know what she was talking about. She said ministers were "gaslighting" the public by claiming that better economic news will sway voters.

"We won't have turned a corner until working people feel they are better off," she said. "Because the state of the economy is about much more than lines on a graph. It's about the state of our high streets, the security of work, and the money in people's pockets."

The word derives from the 1938 play *Gaslight* in which a man attempts to make his wife believe that she is going insane. He causes the house's gas lights to dim, but tells his wife they are fine, making her doubt the evidence of her

own eyes. Essentially, it means deception and manipulation, but that is not really what the Government is doing. It is pointing to better economic figures expected this week and inviting the public to accept they are the harbingers of better times to come, hoping that voters show their appreciation in the ballot box later this year.

True gaslighting would be to fiddle the figures and claim they are something they aren't. That, I suppose, is Ms Reeves's point. A slew of economic statistics this week is expected to show another fall in inflation, possibly even below the Bank of England's target of 2 per cent. Given that prices were rising at close to 10 per cent just a year ago, that is a big and welcome change that will feed through into interest rates and borrowing costs, if not this month then soon.

GDP figures on Friday are expected to show that the country has officially come out of recession, though the OECD reported yesterday that British households are still suffering the longest drop in living standards in the G7 as the economy fails to keep up with population growth.

Despite last week's drubbing for the Tories at the local elections, Rishi Sunak can see better times ahead and his critics seem to have backed away from any attempt to remove him before the election. The Prime Minister is sufficiently emboldened to begin making a political case against a possible "coalition of chaos" of the sort that helped David Cameron win in 2015.

"The Labour Party is heading into a general election with no plan and a hung parliament at the end because of it," Mr Sunak said. "Keir Starmer propped up in Downing Street by the SNP, Liberal Democrats and the Greens

would be a disaster for Britain." Since the only coalition this country has had in recent years was led by the Tories, and successfully governed for five years, this is not an entirely plausible line of attack. Moreover, the decline of the SNP – unless it is halted by the new leader John Swinney – will be a big help to Labour.

The observant will have also spotted that this was an acknowledgment by the Prime Minister that he was unlikely to win the election, a reflection of reality, perhaps, but surprising nonetheless. Leaders of majority governments are reluctant to concede defeat six months before polling.

Mr Sunak's biggest challenge is to arrest the drift of his own voters to Reform, without simultaneously alienating undecideds who have hardily warmed to Sir Keir Starmer's Labour Party and who could be won back. As in 1997, there is a tactical vote going on to support any candidate who will defeat the Tory.

As the pollster Sir John Curtice pointed out, last Thursday Labour's support increased most (at the expense of the Liberal Democrats) in wards where they started off second to the Conservatives, while the Liberal Democrats advanced most (and Labour did less well) in wards where they were the principal challengers locally. This is why the Conservative Party lost nearly one in two of the council seats it was trying to defend.

So will good economic statistics help the Tories avoid the meltdown being predicted even by ex-ministers like Suella Braverman? This is where the paradox of false expectations takes hold.

Mr Sunak is relying on his "plan for growth" being so apparent by November that voters forget the past 14 years and either give the Tories another

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Mr Sunak is relying on his 'plan for growth' being so apparent by November that voters forget the past 14 years

term or decline to dish out a hammering.

Yet it does not work that way. The 1997 election defeat, the worst for the Conservatives since 1906, followed a long period of economic improvement. It took place in the fifth year of sustained growth, with output more than 8 per cent higher than at its previous peak in 1990.

By the time the country went to the polls in May 1997, GDP growth was running at 3.5 per cent, living standards were rising, consumer spending was rampant, unemployment had fallen substantially, and the UK had a greater proportion of its people in work than any other major European country. Mr Sunak would kill for figures like that and yet the Tories still lost.

By contrast, in 1992 the Conservatives had been in office for 13 years, Labour was ahead in the polls, the economy was mired in recession, unemployment was more than three million and the housing market was ravaged by a wave of reposessions and negative equity caused by rising interest rates. And yet the Tories won even though Labour sought then, as now, to project an image of fiscal and monetary rectitude. Indeed, it was John Smith's shadow budget, intended to demonstrate prudence, that exposed Labour to the Tory "tax bombshell" attack ad.

If there is a lesson to be drawn, it is that the country keeps a hold of nerve in bad times for fear of finding something worse. If Mr Sunak is pinning his hopes on an improving economy rescuing his premiership, the experience of the two elections in the 1990s suggests he would be better off telling voters that things are bad and can only get worse under Labour. He could always gaslight them into believing it.

BBC is hiding the toxic truth about anti-Israel protests

Its reporting of campus demonstrations has failed to properly reflect the anti-Semitism at their heart

DANNY COHEN



For the latest evidence of the BBC's failure to take anti-Semitism seriously, look no further than the corporation's reporting of the campus protests at Columbia and other American universities. It goes without saying that we all have the right to protest. But it is abundantly clear that what is taking place on these campuses is a great deal more toxic, ugly and racist. Violence, intimidation and threats against Jewish students and teachers have been a daily occurrence.

At Columbia, there appears to have been no attempt to hide the anti-Semitism at the protest sites. Captured on video, protesters screamed the following at two Jewish students outside the campus gates: "Never forget the 7th of October." "That will happen

not one more time, not five more times, not 10... but ten thousand times." "The 7th of October is going to be every day for you!" On American soil, at a place of learning, Jewish people faced threats of a massacre. The spectre of pogroms, long thought part of the history of Jewish people, not their present, had returned.

The same is true at other American universities. At UCLA, things got so bad that pro-Palestinian demonstrators created a checkpoint to stop Jewish students from entering campus. The denial of access to education on grounds of race should be condemned by us all, but many of the campus protesters are selective in their activism when it comes to human rights. For them, anti-Semitism does not count.

The scale of racism against Jews on campuses is such that Joe Biden felt forced to intervene. Warning of an alarming surge of anti-Semitism, he said: "Silence is complicity. Even in recent days, we've seen harassment and calls for violence against Jews. This blatant anti-Semitism is reprehensible and dangerous – and it has absolutely no place on college campuses, or anywhere in our country."

Yet reading the BBC's online reporting of the protests, you would often have little idea that racism against Jews is loud and proud and Jewish

students and teachers are experiencing something truly horrendous.

A BBC News article first published on April 26, titled "What do pro-Palestinian student protesters at US universities want?", speaks volumes through what it left out until it was apparently updated. This "explainer" did not make a single mention of anti-Semitism at the protests. The tone of the report was also instructive. Protesters were made to sound like young heroes, carrying forward the torch of the Occupy Wall Street movement and the anti-apartheid demonstrations of the 1980s. The bias – and lack of interest – in anti-Semitism could not have been clearer.

It is hard to understand how this is possible from a news organisation that claims to be impartial and repeatedly asserts that it takes anti-Semitism as seriously as any other form of racism.

The same is true of a BBC report on May 2 titled "Columbia University community 'shattered' after police raid". The tone of the article is one of sympathy for the protesters. Issues as serious as whether the cafeteria will fully re-open are deemed worthy of careful reporting. Racism against Jews is not. Nor is the violence and law-breaking that led to the police decision to intervene.

If anyone believes that these are

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isolated failures, the BBC News live feed page on the US campus protests is revealing. On May 2, this page was updated 58 times over the course of more than 10 hours. The experience of racism by Jewish students was covered in just one post, 30 minutes before the page closed. Despite hours of detailed and continuous coverage, it appears that BBC News felt that anti-Semitism was just not that important.

There is a simple test one can apply to this coverage. Had the poisonous racism on display at these protests been directed at the black or Muslim community, would BBC reports make little or no reference to it? The answer would – quite rightly – be no. The racist abuse would be front and centre of the story. It would be treated with the due prominence and sensitivity it deserves. It would be headline news, at the very heart of the coverage.

Yet racism against Jews is deemed barely worthy of mention in these BBC reports, if at all. As Biden noted, silence is complicity when it comes to anti-Semitism. And again here, the BBC's silence is an act of complicity. All this adds to the growing list of BBC failures on anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias since the October 7 massacres. It is hard to imagine that the vast majority of members of Britain's Jewish community will ever forget it.

Danny Cohen was the director of BBC Television from 2013-2015

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ESTABLISHED 1855

Putin's hold on power is stronger than ever

Vladimir Putin cut an almost forlorn figure, standing alone at the foot of the Kremlin steps in the pouring rain to watch a march past marking his inauguration as Russian president for a fifth term. His seeming isolation, however, belied his grip over Russia, now stronger than ever despite the disaster of the Ukraine invasion.

His control has been likened to that of a tsar, but he increasingly resembles Stalin in the way he has removed all opposition and rivals. It is more than 24 years since he first assumed the presidency, aged just 47, with promises to promote democracy. He foresaw Russia as "free, prosperous, strong and civilised, a country that its citizens are proud of and is respected internationally".

Today, it is none of those. Any pretence to freedom has long since gone, the economy has tanked, the Russian army's murderous assaults on civilians in Ukraine removes all claims to civilised behaviour, and it is isolated from its closest European neighbours.

There was a time when we hoped to see an end to Russia's distrust of countries to its west, a paranoia not entirely unjustified given the history of invasion over the centuries. Putin even joined the comity of industrialised nations, turning the G7 into the G8.

The illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 put paid to that experiment and served to reinforce the national delusion that everyone was out to get Russia, a myth cultivated by Putin to underpin his power. He subsequently altered the Russian constitution to run for the presidency for two further six-year terms and he can potentially remain in office until 2036, by which time he will be 83. His election victory in March with almost 90 per cent of the vote was widely considered fraudulent.

President Putin used his inaugural address, largely boycotted by Western countries, to insist that Russia's forces will be victorious in Ukraine, whatever the cost. Two years ago, when his armies were pushed back from their assault on Kyiv, there was talk of a coup against him, but he appears to have consolidated his power even as the war has turned into a bloodbath.

Yulia Navalnaya, widow of his principal opponent Alexei Navalny, who died mysteriously in prison before the election, said Russia was doomed to remain in a state of conflict so long as Putin stayed in power. Sadly, that looks likely to be a lot longer than many once imagined.

Private policing

There can be few greater indictments of the state of British crime fighting than the story of a burglar jailed in a private prosecution because the local constabulary failed to investigate.

The offender had 105 previous convictions, including 33 burglaries. He was arrested by two detectives from a private policing company after he broke into a shop and made off with food and drink worth hundreds of pounds.

Even though he was caught on CCTV and the store manager called the police, the Met decided not to investigate and the case was taken up by TM Eye, a company founded by a former Scotland Yard detective chief inspector. My Local Bobby, part of the operation, provides uniformed staff and plain-clothes detectives to patrol shopping areas for retailers.

The police say they do not have the manpower to attend every reported shoplifting. But by giving the impression that this crime can be carried out almost with impunity, they have encouraged an epidemic of thefts costing retailers billions. Some shops are being ransacked by gangs who seem to have no fear of being caught.

Traders are now paying companies not only to provide guards but to bring the miscreants to book, something that should be the task of state agencies and for which people pay their taxes.

In this instance, the officers recognised the suspect on CCTV as a prolific shoplifter and knew his "haunts". Should the regular police not have done the same? Most burglaries are carried out by a small number of persistent offenders. If they are identified and put in prison then burglary rates will drop dramatically. This is the job of the police – so why are they not doing it?

Outdoor chess move

From Cumbria to the Wirral, 20 stone-effect tables inlaid with chess boards at £2,500 each are being installed in public parks as a "levelling-up" measure. It is a nice idea, chess on a summer's evening as the waterfowl chatter and cluck in the background. In reality, experience tells us that any permanent furniture in municipal parks is likely to be encountered bearing the sticky detritus of takeaways, sprayed-on graffiti and the abandoned equipment of drug abuse. And it does rain quite a bit in the North West, on 200 days a year in Cumbria. If chess tables encouraged the young – or old – to take up the game, that would be good, probably. There is no guarantee. Remember that it was when Winston Smith was sitting with a glass of oily Victory gin and a habitual public chess board to hand that he realised he loved Big Brother.



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Time for ministers to fulfil promises on tackling rampant anti-Semitism

SIR – Another day, another outrageous assault on the rights of Jews to live in peace in Britain. We have witnessed the inflammatory language of newly elected councillors (report, May 7), intimidation by Leftist and Islamist (but essentially ignorant) students on campuses, and further examples of the by now routine, supine compliance of the police with any demonstrator chanting slogans or carrying banners, no matter how obviously anti-Semitic.

Every day, we hear another bold statement by a Government minister that such behaviour will not be tolerated (Commentary, May 7). It's now more than two months since the Prime Minister promised action. When can we expect results?

Brian Gedalla
London N3

SIR – There is no such thing as a lasting peace in the Middle East, just a ceasefire until the next massacre like that of October 7. Hamas propaganda has exposed to the world the

underlying anti-Semitism that festers in all corners of society. That an annual Holocaust memorial march at Auschwitz was disrupted by pro-Palestine activists (report, May 7) reveals the depths to which these groups will sink.

Bill Todd
Whitton, Middlesex

SIR – For decades, young British Jews have taken a gap year in Israel. Many attend colleges of religious further education; others volunteer on kibbutzim or join programmes organised by youth groups from every side of the political spectrum – but all share a belief in the establishment and continuation of the State of Israel as a way to avoid another Holocaust.

Over the years a few have decided to remain in Israel and become citizens, yet recently things have changed. This year a record number of Jewish youths refused to return to Britain and go to universities because of anti-Semitism. Why come back to the UK and be

forced to pay for a university education at an institution that cannot or does not want to give you the support necessary to live a meaningful life where you do not have to hide your identity? Alternatively, you can remain in the country that wants you.

The activists on the lawns of Oxford and Cambridge fail to understand that being Jewish does not mean that you agree wholeheartedly with the policies of any particular Israeli government, and therefore any attempt to make the lives of Jews uncomfortable is anti-Semitism, pure and simple.

For hundreds of years British universities have been enhanced beyond measure by the presence of Jewish students and academics. If the numbers dwindle because of hatred directed at them by ill-informed bullies, British society will be far poorer, and that loss will not be made up by the overseas students who will take their place.

Gareth Kreike
Bury, Lancashire

Assisted dying law

SIR – Professor John Keown (Letters, May 6) is right that the Health and Social Care Committee's definition of "assisted dying/assisted suicide" is somewhat imprecise. Nevertheless, the committee is to be commended for seeking one that includes the words "assisted suicide". Such language acknowledges that what is at stake is whether Parliament should maintain or weaken the legal prohibition on "encouraging or assisting suicide".

My concern about Lord Falconer of Thoroton's letter (May 4) comes less from his use of the ambiguous term "assisted dying" than his omission of "assisted suicide". He refers to the select committee report on "assisted dying/assisted suicide", but without telling us its full name. Deliberate omission is also a way to obfuscate.

Professor David Albert Jones
Director, Anscombe Bioethics Centre Oxford

SIR – Keith Herdman (Letters, May 6) confirms that many who want assisted dying to be made legal expect an outcome not intended by backers of the current Scottish Bill, which contains "safeguards" to deny those who are just fed up with life from receiving help to kill themselves. This is a central problem in the argument: the evidence shows that once the value of life itself is undermined, assisted suicide will happen on demand.

John O'Donnell
West Mersea, Essex

Dependable Queen

SIR – In the year since his Coronation, King Charles has done an admirable job, and has become as popular as his much-loved late mother, in spite of the setbacks he's suffered due to ill health.

However, in several articles giving him the praise he deserves there has been little mention of Queen Camilla. She has shown herself to be a rock on which he has been able to depend throughout his forced absence from public life. She has carried out duties with such dignity, and treated all those she has met with her usual friendliness and humour, showing that we are truly fortunate to have such a Queen.

Elisabeth Darley-Doran
Frome, Somerset

Farage's ride

SIR – Why is Nigel Farage riding around in a BMW rather than a British-built Jaguar ("Farage's car spotted in disabled parking space for 45 minutes", report, May 7)?

Philip Corp
Salisbury, Wiltshire



A sarcophagus (14th century BC) for a cat belonging to Thutmose, a pharaoh's son

Pinning the crimes of corvids on domestic cats

SIR – Natural England appears to want to blame the domestic cat for the depletion of songbirds (report, May 6). In the past decade I have observed countless songbird nests destroyed by jays and magpies – and not one by a cat.

Might I suggest it has the right cause but the wrong target?
Christopher Donnithorne
Gosport, Hampshire

SIR – I haven't seen a robin in our garden for more than two years. The

last was in the jaws of a neighbour's cat. It killed two that morning.
Roger Fox
Torquay, Devon

SIR – Many years ago I put a collar with a bell on my cat to stop him catching birds (Letters, May 7). He promptly went out and rolled his neck in the flower bed, thus filling the bell with soil so it would not ring.
Kathleen Glennon
Newcastle upon Tyne

The right outfit for meeting the bank manager

SIR – When my new husband and I were buying our first home, we could not afford to furnish it. We made an appointment with the bank manager (Letters, May 7).

My husband struggled to decide whether to wear his only suit and look a good prospect or his old sports jacket and look as if he needed the money. In the end he chose the suit.

We walked into the office and, before we could broach the subject of a loan, were met with the words: "Good morning John, how much do you want?"
Pam Booth
Hathersage, Derbyshire

SIR – When I told my first bank manager that my regiment was being posted to Austria, he gave me an overdraft of £100 on the grounds that, as a young officer, I would need to have some leeway financially. He was caught out

by the auditors, so he told me to write a letter saying it was due to "the exigencies of the service" and that I would repay it when possible. I should then forget it and carry on as usual.

He was my post box when I was abroad and I stayed with him for the rest of his career. I never went into the red thereafter. What a shame that banks don't have such managers today.
Christopher Piggins
Salisbury, Wiltshire

SIR – As a student, armed with a BUNAC non-immigrant workers visa, I spent a summer holiday working in Fort Worth, Texas, where I opened a bank account in which to deposit my wages. New account holders were offered a shotgun as a free gift. Fearing problems at the airport, I had to decline, and sadly there was no cash alternative.
Rosalind Grimes
Honiton, Devon

Vandals have taken charge of the Church of England

We have Gordon Brown to thank for the CoE manager class that scraps choirs in the name of diversity

MADLINE GRANT



How much of the meaning of the words was lost when they were produced with all the meretricious charm of melody! declares Obadiah Slope of Mr Harding's beloved Barchester choir. The war against church choirs is nothing new. Invariably there are people who simply don't "get it". Those for whom music, married to words in worship, echoing the rhythms of the past and making them live again in the present, is not beautiful but a distraction from what really matters.

Slope is the villain of Anthony Trollope's *Barchester Towers*, and at the heart of his villainy is his managerial campaign to do away with music in the cathedral. A sweet conceit for a Victorian novel, you might think. Alas the spirit of Slope lives on.

Another week, another miserable story courtesy of the Church of England. Winchester – where sung worship has featured since before the days of Alfred the Great – has reportedly shown plans to its choral foundation to

"increase diversity of contribution" in line with its main priorities of "reach and access" and "diversity and inclusion". (Note the wishy-washy language, the lack of any mention of the worship of God.) According to classical music magazine *Slipped Disc*, in management-speak, this means

replacing the cathedral choristers with a "variety of singers from other parts of the regional demographic". Jargon becomes a cover for what is, essentially, vandalism, the destruction of centuries of beauty for no apparent reason.

All this has come to light via a leaked PowerPoint presentation which the press and the people who worship there were presumably not meant to see until the replacement of choral singers became a *fait accompli*; a classic case of managers being totally unaccountable to the people they purport to serve.

We must hope this plan remains confined to the PowerPoint deck, but similarly baffling decisions have become par for the course. St John's College, Cambridge recently disbanded its wonderful mixed-voice Anglican choir St John's Voices, which sings choral Evensong each week, in favour of "more diverse musical genres". In 2020, Sheffield Cathedral sacked its entire choir, supposedly to reflect "the exciting future of the mixed urban community in which we live and work".

At parish level, St Margaret's, Westminster quietly dismissed its choir midway through the pandemic. Following a similar move, the congregation of Holy Trinity, Sloane Square managed to raise enough

money to fund their singers for a few years; but what may work in affluent Chelsea won't be a template for all.

It is rarely entirely clear who is responsible for these decisions, which is part of the problem, though it isn't coming from the people in the pews. The organisational structure of ecclesiastical bodies, both cathedrals and dioceses, is now so complicated that no one can or will take responsibility for even major changes; which, ironically, makes manifestly self-destructive decisions that bit easier to execute. Attendance at Evensong is one of the few areas of CoE worship that is actually growing, so, beyond malice, there can be little logical argument for dismantling world-beating cathedral choirs.

The obvious conclusion is that the people running the Church of England resent the Church in its current form, and everything that it most excels at. Trusting our national heritage with these people is akin to handing over a Ming vase to a gorilla. Just because the gorilla happens to be wearing a suit and carrying a clipboard, doesn't mean he won't still chuck it against the wall. The press – especially of the Right – is often accused of mindlessly bashing the CoE. In fact, very few of us hate it. Quite the opposite. It is loved but not, it seems, by the actual people who run it.

Their efforts may even prove self-defeating. For instance, if "diversity" is no longer seen as the commendable idea of different groups coexisting peacefully, but something that repudiates the culture that has

Tory wreckage

SIR – The Conservatives' sharp decline (Letters, May 7) dates back to 2016, not the lockdown in 2020 or Partygate.

In 2015 David Cameron achieved the first Conservative majority since 1992. He had a mandate to serve as prime minister until 2020. This was wrecked by Boris Johnson's decision to campaign for Leave in the EU referendum.

Lord Cameron is an excellent Foreign Secretary. When I see him on the news, I feel dismayed that his premiership was fatally undermined by Mr Johnson's personal ambition. It's too late to salvage the wreckage.

Penelope Upton
Lighthorne, Warwickshire

SIR – When I was the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, I had one of the largest Conservative votes in the country. I no longer believe the current Conservative Party represents my views or that of most Conservative voters.

My very pleasant local MP is a member of the One Nation Conservatives, who seem to represent everything that has gone wrong with the party.

This group should be disbanded and proper Conservatives put forward at the next election.

Anthony Stansfeld
Kintbury, Berkshire

SIR – The letter from Frederick Forsyth (May 7) hits the nail on the head. In relation to our woeful yet complacent Civil Service, I simply add the words: completely unaccountable.

Any political leader willing and able to tackle this problem gets my vote.

Kim Potter
Lambourn, Berkshire

Knives out

SIR – Victorinox is to make a Swiss Army knife without the knife (report, May 7). I have a number of the traditional knives and almost always carry one, which I use for everything from DIY to gardening to picnics. I've even unlocked a hotel bathroom door when my children managed to lock themselves in.

The law of England and Wales allows for foldable pocket knives to be carried, and Lord Hailsham specifically highlighted the Swiss Army knife as an example of what could still be carried under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, when the provision was being debated.

While I think it's sensible for Victorinox to adapt its products for changing markets, personally I'm glad I can still carry my pocket knife, which I find more useful than the USB drive on the non-bladed version.

Paul Kelly
Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Take it on the chin

SIR – Louise Broughton (Letters, May 6) wants to know why so many men sport scruffy quarter-grown beards, whose texture she likens to "a pig's back".

I have always considered daily shaving a gross waste of 10 to 15 minutes. In my teens, I stopped shaving every day and started trimming my beard on a weekly basis.

I admit, though, that my wife of 54 years has been known to call me a "swine" on occasion.

Robin Bendon
Wrexham, Denbighshire

SIR – Some years ago, after 20 years of sporting a beard, I decided to shave it off. My wife hated the new image and for some time, until the new beard emerged, she referred to me as "my friend Geoffrey" when we were out and about.

I haven't shaved since.
Peter McPherson
Merriott, Somerset

shaped our common life, then the public will be more likely to reject it. Then again, I don't see clamour for cultural vandalism coming from "diverse communities" themselves, but from the faceless "wrecker" administrative class.

You can trace this back to various roots, but the fundamental reason for the total uniformity of managerial ethos in the Church goes back to a relatively recent decision by Gordon Brown to abdicate all ministerial influence over the appointment of bishops. Assailed by Presbyterian conscience, he became the first prime minister to give the Church a pretty much free hand in appointing its own leaders. This has allowed a particular party of managerial evangelicals (with the odd token managerial Anglo-Catholic) to occupy practically every single senior position, both official and unofficial.

What is needed is a government prepared to take this back and save our cultural heritage from the zealous internal subset who manifestly hate it. Everyone, not just professing Christians, should fear the destruction of a rich inheritance that belongs to us all.

Last week's local elections offered a glimpse of the tribal, sectarian future awaiting UK politics. It seems particularly poignant that the custodians of our history are busy destroying the heritage they are supposed to defend just when we most need things that bind us together. Thanks to the false god of "outreach", the Church of England is severing them.

Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

KAKURO

To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

MODERATE NO 5014

CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*

ABCDEF GHIJKL MNOPQRS TUVWXYZ
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NO 3266

STICK INSECT

- Across**
- Unreadable code found in deniable engineering (14)
 - Better adviser dumps half of rubbish in public (7)
 - Tense putt played around international golf hard (7)
 - Start turning right, like when joining motorway (4)
 - Independent trade commission essentially provoke laughter - 50 per cent off is impractical (10)
 - Recycles puzzles book left out (6)
 - Sign up rashly to enclose space for birds (8)
 - Ornament rather frames Kipling poem (8)
 - Mystery Magazine republished, dismissing literary ends (6)
 - Belt actor losing head going after Oscar in atmospheric part (5,5)
 - Selection of best yeast for swelling (4)
 - Benevolent socialist family (7)
 - Evening club in Guildford's opening (7)
 - Dog some Europeans in group (6,8)
- Down**
- In time, bore whole number (7)
 - Area of airport idle after change to customs? (9,6)
 - Corby emptied, accepting appeal leads to Birmingham perhaps (4)
 - Staff taken in by wages in satire (6)
 - Bird recently died, behaved like a parrot (8)
 - Biting a cord, hospital department follows (10)
 - Immediate exit for Labour? It may shock some! (9,6)
 - Fixes jams (6)
 - Pen, beginning to drip upon odd instrument (10)
 - Occasionally sick fellow involves a bit of nursing (3,3,2)
 - Puts down aims of Republicans, perhaps "make America over" (6)
 - Gave end away, as the lead in Hamlet did? (7)
 - Peak cycling success follows belief (6)
 - Surround body of water to the north (4)

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

MODERATE

SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

REGULAR NO 6584 **TOUGH NO 6584**

Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call 0905 757 0136. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm. Helpline 0333 202 3390.

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*

Up to 7 words - Word Finder, 8 - Wordsmith, 16 - Word Wizard, 24 - Word Master, 32 - Word Genius, 41 - Word Perfect

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spell out the name of a well-known film. *Solution tomorrow.*

- TREE STAMENS
- AWOL ELEPHANT
- GUIDANCE TRAIT

MIND GYM

NO 4318

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

BEGINNER	8	x5.5	TRIPLE IT	-76	HALVE IT	6/7 OF THIS	-16	X BY ITSELF	DOUBLE IT	+55	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	112	+8	x6.5	TRIPLE IT	-88	40% OF THIS	-63	X BY ITSELF	-79	4/7 OF THIS	ANSWER
ADVANCED	152	18/19 OF THIS	x3.75	85% OF THIS	-187	±17	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-534	2/3 OF THIS	ANSWER

Toughie No 3265

Help with clues
 Single clues 0905 757 0126.
 All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.
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TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*

MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

MODERATE NO 4085

PLUSWORD

NO 717

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword. There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing. *Solution tomorrow.*

Across

- Rugby huddle
- Cara, Fame-ous singer
- Item of furniture that can be coffee, dining or drop-leaf
- Arctic dweller
- Bird buildings

Down

- Form of protest
- Lifting machine on a construction site
- Word/picture puzzle
- Not on, as a lamp?
- Track gatherings or swimming competitions, e.g.

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

- LOUNGE, PUT, DEN, BONES, ROAD, TERRAIN
- FAIR
- LADY

THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6583

3	2	9	8	7	6	1	4	5
4	7	5	1	2	9	6	8	3
6	1	8	3	5	4	2	9	7
1	9	2	5	4	3	8	7	6
7	8	3	9	6	2	4	5	1
5	6	4	7	1	8	3	2	9
9	3	1	2	8	7	5	6	4
2	4	7	6	3	5	9	1	8
8	5	6	4	9	1	7	3	2

PlusWord No 716

T	S	A	R	S
O	P	R	A	H
W	R	I	T	E
E	A	S	E	D
D	Y	E	R	S

Killer Sudoku

7	5	1	6	8	9	3	4	2
3	6	9	4	7	2	1	5	8
8	4	2	1	3	5	9	6	7
1	3	5	7	9	4	8	2	6
2	7	4	3	6	8	5	9	1
9	8	6	5	2	1	4	7	3
5	1	3	2	4	6	7	8	9
6	9	7	8	5	3	2	1	4
4	2	8	9	1	7	6	3	5

Word Ladder: Pony, pong, pang, rang, rand, raid, rain, rein.

Anagrams: 1. Tightrope 2. Somersault 3. Lion tamer.

Panagram: Rummaging, ramming, gumming, gauming, gamming, arguing, urging, raging, muring, margin, magnum, granum, gaming, arming, unrig, ruing, gumma, grain, garni, gamin, aging, rung, ring, rang, ragi, ragg, gurn, guar, guan, grum, grin, grim, grig, gran, gram, gnar, ginn, gaur, gaum, gang, gain.

Today's Mind Gym
 Beginner: 183 Intermediate: 24 Advanced: 156

PlusWord No 716

Train Tracks

Mini Sudoku No 4084

4	2	1	6	3	5
3	5	6	1	4	2
2	4	3	5	6	1
6	1	5	3	2	4
1	6	2	4	5	3
5	3	4	2	1	6

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Business



MARKETS		CURRENCIES		COMMODITIES	
FTSE 100 8313.67 +100.18 (+1.22pc)	BIGGEST RISER DCC 5745p +250 (+4.55pc)	BIGGEST FALLER easyJet 510¼p -31½ (-5.80pc)	£\$ Rate 1.2552 Change -0.26c	GOLD At 18.00 \$2313.75 (£1843) -11.13 (-0.48pc)	Plain sailing Yours for €675m: Bill Gates's brand new hydrogen-powered megayacht Page 21
DOW JONES At 18.00 38895.34 +43.07 (+0.11pc)	FTSE 250 20413.08 +248.54 (+1.23pc)	FTSE All Share 4522.99 +53.90 (+1.21pc)	€£ Rate 1.1646 Change -0.21c	BRENT CRUDE At 18.00 \$83.38 (July) -0.15 (-0.18pc)	Milei's shock therapy How Argentina's new president plans to make his country's vast shale reserves a potent economic weapon Page 20
S&P 500 5193.51 +12.77 (+0.25pc)	Nikkei 225 38835.10 +599.03 (+1.57pc)	EURO STOXX 50 5016.10 +59.14 (+1.19pc)	Page 24	Page 24	Page 20

Hundreds of defence firms debanked by lenders

Arms suppliers among thousands to have accounts shut down, says select committee

By Eir Nolsøe and Szu Ping Chan

BANKS have shut the accounts of hundreds of defence companies, amid fears that lenders' internal ethics policies are putting national security at risk.

Santander and Lloyds closed 300 accounts belonging to "public administration and defence" companies last year alone, according to correspondence with MPs on the Treasury select committee.

Other major lenders did not provide a breakdown, suggesting the actual figure could be far higher.

Although some of the accounts could have been shut for other reasons, such as a period of inactivity, senior industry executives also told MPs that they were concerned about the ethical implications of working with arms companies.

The disclosure triggered a backlash from defence experts and MPs. Writing for *The Telegraph*, Dame Harriett Baldwin, the Treasury select committee chairman and a Tory MP, said: "We cannot have organisations in this country systematically debanking legitimate firms or industries because their board turns its nose up at their line of work. If their work is legal then they should be able to access a bank account."

She added: "Banks' shareholders demanding environmental, social and governance policies may inadvertently be putting national security at risk. This cannot go on."

Tobias Ellwood, a former chairman of the Commons defence committee, said "well intentioned" standards risked putting Britain's defence capabilities into "jeopardy".

He said: "Let's not allow well-intentioned ESG standards to jeopardise our defence capabilities in a dangerous world - it's time to get this sorted."

In a report on so-called debanking, compiled after NatWest's closure of an account belonging to Nigel Farage triggered a scandal, the committee found that lenders rejected companies working in "undesirable" industries such as

defence, pawnbroking and gambling. Research feeding into the report earlier this year revealed that 140,000 companies had been debanked, typically with little or no notice.

At least 4,214 such instances were attributed to "risk appetite" - despite there being no consistent definition across the industry of what that meant, according to the research. Banks also said they had closed accounts over money laundering concerns or inactivity.

Dame Harriett highlighted businesses operating in defence as an area of particular concern, after Santander admitted to closing 280 accounts belonging to businesses it categorised as "public administration and defence: compulsory social security".

Lloyds, meanwhile, closed 20 such accounts in sectors classed as "public administration and defence" and "aero-space and defence".

Dame Harriett said evidence from Handelsbanken, a Swedish bank with more than 160 UK branches, suggested that the industry was reluctant to work with businesses responsible for supplying the Armed Forces.

She said: "The boss of Handelsbanken couldn't tell us if they'd give an account to BAE Systems - despite the company being one of the biggest suppliers to the Ministry of Defence. How on earth have we got to the position where a company working to preserve our national security can't be assured of access to a bank account?"

The Treasury select committee report warned that damaging financial regulation and inadequate support from lenders was holding small businesses back from innovating and growing, ultimately harming the economy.

It urged the financial watchdog to force banks to be more transparent about why decisions to close bank accounts have been taken. The research comes as small businesses increasingly struggle to access finance.

Dame Harriett warned that lenders referring to risk appetite as a reason to not provide services to a company was unsatisfactory. She said: "There were still thousands of accounts being closed under the disconcertingly vague justification of 'risk appetite'."

Dame Harriett Baldwin: Page 23



Marvel films have dominated the box office in the past decade and a half, with films such as *Deadpool* and *Wolverine*, but cinemagoers are falling out of love with the franchise

Disney to cut Marvel production amid superhero fatigue

By James Titcomb

DISNEY will cut production of Marvel films and TV series amid concerns that so-called superhero fatigue is exhausting demand for the studio's work.

Bob Iger, Disney's chief executive, said the company would "reduce output and focus more on quality" particularly when it came to Marvel, known for franchises such as *The Avengers* and *Black Panther*.

It came as worse than expected subscriber numbers for the Disney Plus streaming service and a slowdown in its traditional broadcast television business sent shares falling by more than 10pc. Marvel films have dominated the box office in the

past decade and a half, with 33 films released since 2008.

But releases such as *The Marvels* and *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* have underperformed, leading to concerns that cinemagoers have fallen out of love with the franchise.

The Marvels, the studio's most recent film, made \$206.1m (£165m) at the box office, less than its \$274m production budget, and was the lowest-grossing film in the franchise's history, bringing in less than a tenth of its most successful title, *Avengers: Endgame*, in 2019.

Mr Iger said Disney would release two or three Marvel films a year, compared with a previous average of four, and cut TV series from four a year to around two. He said that some forth-

\$206m

Box office takings of last year's *The Marvels*, less than a tenth of the 2019 smash hit *Avengers: Endgame*

coming TV shows were "a vestige of basically a desire in the past to increase volume" and that in future, "it will just be a balance, which we think is right".

The comments came as Disney disappointed investors despite its streaming business recording a quarterly profit for the first time, a milestone moment for Mr Iger's bet on on-demand video. Profits from the company's conven-

tional US broadcasting business and its sports operation both fell.

Meanwhile, Disney Plus attracted fewer new subscribers than had been expected, and the company said it expected growth to flatline when it next reports quarterly financial results.

"We've said all along our path to profitability will not be linear," Mr Iger said. Overall the company recorded a rare quarterly loss of \$20m owing to restructuring charges. Revenues rose from \$21.8bn to \$22.1bn.

Mr Iger recently won a battle with the activist investor Nelson Peltz. Mr Peltz had sought to win a seat on Disney's board and criticised the company's performance, as well as the company's focus on diverse casting in its films.

Passengers face four years of fare rises after safety turmoil at Boeing

By Christopher Jasper

AIRLINE passengers face years of higher fares as the safety crisis plaguing Boeing is predicted to limit plane deliveries through much of the decade.

Steven Udvar-Hazy, executive chairman of Air Lease, which has more than 300 jets worth \$21bn (£16.8bn) on order from Boeing and Airbus, said not a single plane was received on time in the first quarter and that supply chain issues will weigh on both firms for years to come.

He said that the aviation industry is afflicted by "too little supply and super-high demand with no means of resolution on the horizon". Mr Udvar-Hazy

added: "We do not see a realistic way of changing this over the short to medium term. In fact, these imbalances are very likely to stay with us for at least three to four years in the future."

Air Lease's customers include many of the world's major airlines, from discounters easyJet and Wizz Air through to British Airways and Air France, and Gulf giant Emirates.

Sash Tusa, an analyst at Agency Partners, warned that the manufacturing crunch at Boeing risked higher fares for airline passengers.

He said: "Four years is a long time, but given where Boeing is right now with its inability to increase production of the 737, it's not an unreasonable

estimate. This is economics 101, supply and demand. Airlines are going to do two things: cut back on their low-yielding routes and then push up prices across the rest of their networks."

Boeing was plunged into crisis in January after a door panel blew out of a 737 Max 9 plane mid-flight.

According to an initial investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board, four bolts that were meant to lock the panel to the plane's fuselage were missing.

In March, Dave Calhoun, Boeing's chief executive, announced that he would step down by the end of the year over its safety and financial woes. Following the incident in January,

'Airlines are going to do two things: cut back on their low-yielding routes and then push up prices'

Boeing said: "Safety is our top priority, and we deeply regret the impact this event has had on our customers and their passengers."

Michael O'Leary, the Ryanair boss, has warned that passengers face price hikes in Europe this summer amid a capacity squeeze.

The discount airline expects to be short of the equivalent of ten 737 Max aircraft for the July travel peak after

Boeing slowed deliveries. Rival Wizz Air has been forced to ground 45 Airbus jets in order to have their Pratt & Whitney engines replaced following the detection of a manufacturing flaw with the GTF turbine.

The rebound in traffic since Covid has led to aircraft flying fuller, and Mr Udvar-Hazy said load factors already above 80pc are likely to reach record levels at many carriers as people cram on to existing fleets.

John Plueger, chief executive of Air Lease, said that the commercial aircraft market "is as tight as we have ever seen it in our history in this business".

Neither are new aircraft models likely to bring relief for passengers.

Mr Udvar-Hazy said that there was little likelihood of Embraer, the world's third biggest planemaker, breaking into the Boeing-Airbus duopoly in the near future, though the Brazilian company has said it is studying options for a new passenger model.

He said: "If someone wants to build a new-generation aircraft we certainly will evaluate those products. But they are also going to be faced with the same supply chain issues."

Any new narrow-body airliner would also require new engine technology to achieve the required increments in operating efficiency, something that is not likely to be available until beyond 2030, he said.

Royal china supplier hit by debt order

By Hannah Boland

A SUPPLIER of china and silverware to the Royal family has been hit by a winding-up petition from HMRC.

Thomas Goode, which was founded in 1827 and is backed by Sir Elton John, has been taken to court by HMRC over an outstanding tax bill.

Winding-up petitions are taken as a measure of last resort by creditors to recover unpaid debts. It is the first

step towards compulsory liquidation, although the petition can be withdrawn if a company pays off its debts.

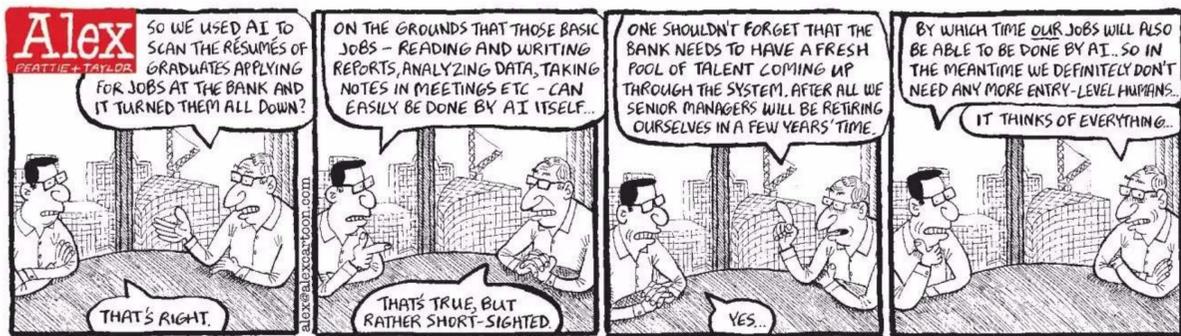
HMRC said: "We take a supportive approach to dealing with customers who have tax debts and only file winding-up petitions once we've exhausted all other options, in order to protect taxpayers' money."

Thomas Goode, which supplied the dinner service for the 1981 Royal wedding of

the Prince and Princess of Wales, is understood to be working to settle the bill within the coming days.

A spokesman for the company said: "We are presently in the final stages of refinancing the business and remain confident of our ability to meet all our obligations."

Thomas Goode has held a Royal Warrant under the late Queen and the former Prince of Wales. Its teapots sell for up to £2,243 each.



Argentina is fast becoming the Texas of Latin America

In the first in a series, *Ambrose Evans-Pritchard* reports from what used to be one of the world's richest countries

President Javier Milei has flawless timing. Argentina's shale boom has reached industrial take-off just as he embarks on his extreme libertarian experiment: a Hayekian free market assault on the delinquent Peronist state and all its works.

The nation is swinging from a costly dependence on energy imports, and a chronic leakage of hard currency, to the happier condition of net hydrocarbon exports. The prolific shale basin of Vaca Muerta is finally delivering.

After years of talk and many dropped balls, this arid expanse of northern Patagonia is starting to look like the next Texas, promising to draw in the serious dollars needed to stabilise the ruined peso and make all else possible.

"It is not the same Vaca Muerta of 10 years ago, and we're only doing a fraction of what we could do," said Horacio Turri from Pampa Energy.

The US Geological Survey estimates that the region holds the world's second biggest reserves of shale gas, and fourth biggest reserves of shale oil. Drilling has begun at another shale basin at Palermo Aike in Argentina's deep south, so the potential could be significantly larger.

"Oil is what will put Argentina back on its feet because it is going to be a very big source of foreign currency."

"We have to start thinking like a petro-state because we are a world player in the making. First we have to tackle our infrastructure problems," said Mr Turri, speaking at the Vaca Muerta Insights 2024 forum.

Those problems start at the crack of dawn every day in the regional capital of Neuquén, as 30,000 people try to reach the shale hub of Añelo 50 miles away. It is a lethal *Mad Max* parade along a two-way road, full of craters, carrying hundreds of trucks skidding on and off the dirt verge. Many are loaded with specialist silica sand, the lifeblood of the fracking industry.

There are too few trailers in Añelo to lodge the workers, so if you want to join the shale rush you take your chance.

Each well at Vaca Muerta needs some 15,000 tons of sand, 400 trucks of water, and a constant supply of diesel. Previous governments talked of upgrading the Norpatagónico railway to put an end to this daily ritual but the plans were overtaken by one debt crisis after another. The aqueduct bringing in water for the drilling rigs never got off the ground.

"Infrastructure is something we just don't do in Argentina. Everything has been crumbling for 70 years," said Prof Alejandro Welbers from CEMA University in Buenos Aires.

But the needs are becoming more urgent and the stakes ever higher. Vaca Muerta is blessed with high-pressure seams of black marl at a depth of 3,000 metres, up to 1,400 metres thick, matching the richest layers of the Wolfberry shale in the Permian. Rig crews from Halliburton, Schlumberger and Weatherford are already a feature of this strange moonscape, dotted with towering pillars of red sand. McKinsey

estimates that new fracking technology – smart drills, geonavigation, multi-drilling from the same pad – has cut production costs to \$36 (£28) a barrel, an irresistible business in a world market with a structural price of \$80-\$90. It is the best low-sulphur light sweet crude. Gas comes in at circa \$1.60 (MMBtu), low enough to produce liquefied natural gas (LNG) for export to Europe at competitive cost.

Shale oil output has quadrupled to 380,000 barrels a day (b/d) over the past three years, beating expectations, and tracking the Permian growth trajectory that so stunned Saudi Arabia, OPEC, and the old petroleum order.

The government target of 1m b/d already looks too modest, with wildcatters in Neuquén talking of Norwegian levels above 1.5m b/d as the potential peak. "We think we can triple oil and double gas by 2028," said Miguel Galuccio, founder of Argentina's Vista Energy, which sank eight new wells here in March alone.

Horacio Marin, the Texas-trained chief executive of oil company YPF, and a Milei insurgent, says he will make it his business to ensure that Argentina is generating \$30bn a year in hydrocarbon exports by 2030 or shortly after. "We're doing this for the Argentine republic, and for our children. If we can bring in \$30bn, we're not going to have any more exchange rate problems," he said.

He is pioneering a form of "lean fracking" based on the Toyota manufacturing model. "We want the construction of an oil rig to be as efficient as the construction of a car. It gets rid of layers of operational bureaucracy and makes us extremely competitive. Not even the Americans are doing this," he said.

Argentina's gas has until recently been bottled up in Vaca Muerta for lack of pipelines. The country had to import 80 ship loads of LNG gas in 2022, competing with Europe at nosebleed prices for global supply after Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Everything went wrong at once. The worst drought in half a century shut down hydropower generation. The national soybean crop – Argentina's top earner – fell by 44pc. It was this that drained dollar reserves and pushed the country into an insolvency spiral. The Néstor Kirchner gas pipeline came into action last August, too late to save the Peronists, but it is now able to supply Buenos Aires through the approaching Argentine winter. LNG imports are collapsing. The gas balance will switch progressively into a large surplus over the next decade as Vaca Muerta supplies Chile, Brazil, and the Mercosur market by pipeline.

Mr Marin said YPF has contracted two LNG floating terminals with Malaysia's Petronas. A larger fixed terminal on the Atlantic coast will follow. If all goes perfectly, Argentina's combined exports of oil and gas per capita may not be that far short of Russia by the mid-2030s.

"Without Vaca Muerta it would be painful to think about Argentina," says Rolo Figueroa, the governor of Neuquén province, which operates almost as an independent petro-state.

The governor no longer presides at the original Chateau Gris, a two-storey wooden chalet built in Scottish style by the firm John Wright in 1904 with materials shipped from Britain, part of the largely forgotten British and Irish influence in



The shale basin of Vaca Muerta is finally delivering, top; a convoy at the site, above; and a drilling rig in Neuquén basin; Javier Milei, below



The shale basin of Vaca Muerta is finally delivering, top; a convoy at the site, above; and a drilling rig in Neuquén basin; Javier Milei, below

northern Patagonia. It was a lieutenant Ignacio Hamilton Fotheringham who first set foot in Neuquén in the War of the Desert in the 1870s.

President Milei has cut off all federal transfers to the regions in quest of his fiscal surplus. He has cut public investment by 84pc. This drastic austerity has left Neuquén with 413 paralysed projects. Gov Figueroa is taking matters into his own hands, borrowing from the Inter American Development Bank and issuing \$500m of bonds on the open market, offering Vaca Muerta as political collateral.

"We know that we have to monetise it and we have only got a window of time. We have got to get everything right to attract investors," he said.

Getting everything right has not been Argentina's forte over decades of misgovernment. The Peronists poisoned the energy well by nationalising YPF in 2012, setting off a chain of lawsuits. The fiscal and labour regime has been toxic for foreign capital. Milei aims to sweep away the thicket of Peronist controls, opening the country's hydrocarbon industry to global market forces.

His RIGI investment law will in principle give foreign oil and gas companies total freedom to repatriate earnings at the market exchange rate, and bring in their own kit without restrictions. It will remove import and export taxes. It pledges no interference from the Argentine state for 30 years.

"Our guiding principle is that everything should be governed by price signals under the laws of free enterprise," said the national energy minister, Eduardo Rodríguez Chirillo, a Thatcherite expert on privatisation.

The bet is that global capital will do the heavy lifting on infrastructure once the red carpet is rolled out.

It is a risky proposition in a changed world order where industrial policy is de rigueur, and the new Gospel is how to leverage private investment with public seed money.

But not every country has a Vaca Muerta to offer. McKinsey says the basin will need \$45bn of investment over the next 10 years to reach scale, beyond the means of the Argentine state in any plausible scenario. Foreign investors are keeping a watchful eye on the Peronist backlash, so far gaining little traction in a country hungry for a fresh start – like washed-out Britain in the 1970s during the three-day week.

Milei's omnibus law has run the gauntlet through the lower house of parliament after much horse-trading, but doing better in his showdown with the discredited parties of the "casta" than many expected.

The senate will be harder (he has only seven seats) but he carries the big stick of decree power if all else fails, like Emmanuel Macron in today's France.

Oil state governors of all parties want the package. In a sense, Vaca Muerta has become a national project that transcends other divisions. Argentina's

'Our guiding principle is that everything should be governed by price signals under the laws of free enterprise'

climate pledges scarcely enter the debate. The economic imperative is too great to worry too much about CO2 emissions. Besides, shale enthusiasts argue that global fossil use is above all a demand phenomenon. Precisely where the supply comes from is a secondary question.

Cristina Fernández Kirchner, the former president, can only gnash her teeth and rail at the injustice of fortune, as shale technology and the global commodity cycle deliver nicely for her mortal political foe.

"Milei's plan is not anarcho-capitalism, it is anarcho-colonial. The recovery strategy is now clear: it's oil, gas, mines, and grains. He wants to turn Argentina into an extraction country for raw materials. This pre-capitalism takes us back to the days of the Viceroyalty," she said.

Alternatively, it harks back to the halcyon days before the First World War when Argentina enjoyed a prosperous place as Australia's twin in the British imperial and commercial system, shipping commodities to Europe. It was the best of times for Anglo-Argentine concord, culminating in Harrods of Buenos Aires, the only foreign branch ever opened abroad.

A century later, Australia still manages to leverage its resource and farming wealth into a hi-tech economy of top-tier affluence. There is no foreordained reason why Argentina cannot do much the same.

Debt surges to record high in blow for global economy

By Szu Ping Chan

GLOBAL debt has surged to a record high of \$315 trillion (£250 trillion) as China and India's borrowing binge continued despite risks posed by geopolitical tensions and higher interest rates.

The Institute of International Finance (IIF) warned that post-pandemic efforts to reduce debt were coming to an end as governments cut taxes and increase spending amid a record number of elections this year.

It said the increase was "primarily driven by emerging markets, where debt surged to an unprecedented high of over \$105 trillion".

This is \$55 trillion more than a decade ago, with China, India and Mexico seeing the biggest increases so far this year. China is already dealing with a property crisis that threatens to exert a drag on economic growth for years to come.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also warned that India's debt pile could exceed the size of its economy by the end of the decade as it spends billions of pounds each year dealing with natural disasters.

IIF analysis showed total world debt rose by \$1.3 trillion to a record high of \$315 trillion in the first three months of the year as global debt-to-GDP "resumed its upward trajectory" after falling for a sustained period after Covid

lockdowns. It added that government debt drove the rise among advanced economies in the first three months of 2024 as stubborn US inflation threatens to keep interest rates higher for longer.

"Given 'sticky' US inflation and an expected delay to Federal Reserve rate cuts, a dollar rally could once again bring government debt strains to the fore, particularly for developing countries," the IIF said in its latest debt monitor. It warned that Joe Biden, the US



The Institute of International Finance warned that Joe Biden was presiding over a rising debt pile in the United States

president, was overseeing an ever-rising debt pile, even as households in the world's biggest economy were paying back money owed on personal loans and credit cards.

"While the health of household balance sheets should provide a cushion against higher-for-longer rates in the near term, government budget deficits are still higher than pre-pandemic levels and are projected to contribute around \$5.3 trillion to global debt accumulation this year," it said.

Relaxing listing rules will not fix City, warn investors

By Adam Mawardi and Daniel Woolfson

PENSION funds worth £350bn have warned that relaxing rules around company listings will not fix the City's beleaguered stock market.

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) said it was "very concerned" about the active role played by the London Stock Exchange in calling for weaker UK governance standards to attract more investors.

The group, which represents 87 public sector pension funds, singled out the central role played by London Stock Exchange chief executive Julia Hoggett, as chairman of lobby group Capital Markets Industry Taskforce (CMIT).

The LAPFF criticised the CMIT's main message that the UK has lost stock market listings, primarily to the US, because of overly onerous rules. In a letter to Don Robert, chairman of the London Stock Exchange Group, LAPFF yesterday said: "It is important that public policymaking is evidence-based. However, we are concerned that the positions being taken by CMIT are neither evidence-based nor balanced, and some positions have little credibility in basic terms."

The CMIT, made up of heavy-weight City chief executives and chairmen, last year lobbied against the

Financial Reporting Council's proposed changes to the corporate governance code which threatened to increase burdensome reporting requirements on businesses.

Its opposition followed concerns that the proposals placed onerous duties on directors and would deter companies from listing in the UK.

Most of the boardroom rules, which included introducing new ESG and diversity red tape, were abandoned by Britain's accounting watchdog as the Government faces mounting pressure to reinvent London's stock market.

It comes as the Financial Conduct Authority prepares to unveil a radical overhaul of London's listing rules in the coming weeks to encourage more companies to float in the UK.

However, LAPFF yesterday argued that governance standards should instead be strengthened to protect investor interests and the UK economy. The pensions group said: "In lobbying to lower the governance and listing regime the LSE not only risks loss of its reputation, but also 'poisoning the well' making the UK an unfavourable place to allocate capital."

LAPFF urged the LSE to publicly release any evidence it has regarding any link between the UK's listing rules resulting in fewer listings or less investment, Reuters first reported.

P&O Ferries boss 'deeply sorry' for sacking 786 staff

By Christopher Jasper

THE boss of P&O Ferries has said he is "deeply sorry" for sacking hundreds of British seafarers and replacing them with cheaper overseas workers on £4.87 an hour.

Peter Hebblethwaite, chief executive, said the decision to dismiss the seafarers in 2022, while "legal," was "one that I wish we had never had to make in the first place."

Without it, P&O would not have survived, he claimed, but said the company would not repeat its actions in future.

Mr Hebblethwaite said: "I regret it and I am deeply sorry for the impact it had on 786 seafarers and their families. Let me be absolutely clear: we would not make that decision again."

P&O came under fire after sacking the seafarers in March 2022 and replacing them with agency staff without carrying out consultation.

Speaking in front of MPs on the business and trade committee, Mr Hebblethwaite said yesterday he considered refusing a £183,000 bonus after the dismissals, before opting to take it.

He said: "I reflected on accepting that payment, but ultimately I did decide to accept it. I do recognise that is not a decision that everybody would have made." Mr Hebblethwaite said P&O will comply with new French legislation

requiring it to pay crews at least £9.95 an hour, compared with a basic rate of £2.86 now, or £4.87 with add-ons, and to adopt a two weeks on, two-off shift pattern. The rules were introduced by France last month with a three-month grace period.

The UK will introduce similar rules from June which require ferry workers to be paid the minimum wage in UK waters, regardless of the flag carrier.

However, the cross-Channel ferry company is unlikely to be able to keep

'I regret it and I am deeply sorry for the impact it had. We would not make that decision again'

existing workers on at the new rate, since many are now flown in from India, Malaysia and the Philippines, with some working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week for up to 17 weeks at a time.

P&O will struggle to justify the airfares necessary to bring in Asian seafarers for a few weeks rather than several months.

A P&O spokesman added that it will continue to recruit from international labour markets and offer a package appealing to qualified seafarers "from the UK, EU and around the world".

For sale: Gates's hydrogen-powered megayacht

The software tycoon wants €675m for the vessel that he has never sailed on and is still in dock, reports *Luke Barr*

Bill Gates had previously been a rarity among his fellow billionaires by opting against owning a megayacht, instead preferring to rent during summer trips around the Mediterranean.

That all changed in 2020 when the retired 68-year-old commissioned the world's first hydrogen-powered vessel of its kind, splashing out more than £500m on what became known as Project 821. Gates's interest in a green yacht was first reported by *The Telegraph*, when rumours swept the highly secretive industry.

Four years and a pandemic later, the vessel is nearly complete. But Gates, who co-founded Microsoft and is the world's fourth-richest man, has put it up for sale via a specialist before it has even been delivered.

Brokers at Edmiston have been tasked with finding a buyer for the yacht, which is still housed at the Feadship yard in the Netherlands.

The asking price is understood to be a cool €675m (£579m), with reasons for the sale unclear.

In decades gone by, finding a buyer for a megayacht of this size may have been easy, as the super-rich have long desired their very own palace at sea.

However, the sale of this vessel comes at a rocky time for the yacht industry, which has been in decline ever since Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine more than two years ago.

According to analysts at Berenberg, a recent drop-off in sales is "linked to the perception that yachting is significantly exposed to Russian clientele", such as former Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich.

Meanwhile, a reduction in orders could also indicate that even the wealthiest 0.1pc are facing the consequences of economic turmoil.

Project 821, as it is still known, is 387ft long and 63ft wide – putting it among the world's largest pleasure cruisers, such as the 383ft Koru owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

However, unlike other superyachts, Gates's vessel is unique in that it contains a hydrogen power system, including a heavily insulated cryogenic tank containing 92 cubic metres of liquefied hydrogen at minus 253C.

This is used to generate electricity in a bank of 16 compact fuel cells. The only exhaust from this process is water vapour, signalling Gates's long-standing interest in alternative fuels.

The software tycoon, who has pledged to give most of his estimated \$129bn (£103bn) fortune to good causes via the Gates Foundation, has been a leading advocate of decarbonising the energy system in recent years.

His green ambitions have led to him backing a series of clean energy start-ups through his multibillion-dollar fund Breakthrough, although Project 821 appeared more of a personal project for Gates. According to Feadship, the space



Green dream
The yacht, named Project 821

390ft

Length of the yacht, putting it among the world's largest pleasure cruisers

7,000

Interior volume in gross tonnage of the vessel, which comprises five decks above the water line and two below

10 knots

Cruise speed propelled by two electric thruster units

-253C

Storage temperature of compressed hydrogen fuel

30

Guest capacity in 12 staterooms, including the owner's suite and four VIP rooms

27ft

Counter-flow pool with a movable glass bottom, jacuzzi, steam room, gym, semi-submerged 'Nemo' lounge, library, cinema, hospital

44

Crew capacity aboard the vessel. There are also two cabins for the owner's personal staff

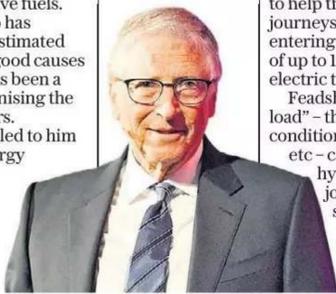
37ft

Electric parking tender, 39ft limo tender, and a pair of 23.6ft rescue tenders

€675m

Asking price of €579m. The yacht was commissioned at a cost of £500m in 2020

The reason that Bill Gates, below, is selling the yacht remains unclear. It is docked at the Feadship yard in the Netherlands



required for the hydrogen system added 13ft to the yacht's length. Project 821 is not entirely hydrogen-powered, however, and is unable to make a long sea voyage running on green fuel alone.

Instead, hydrogen power can be used to help the yacht make shorter journeys, for instance leaving and entering harbour, travelling at speeds of up to 10 knots – propelled by two electric thruster units.

Feadship says that the vessel's "hotel load" – the electricity for air conditioning, heating, cooking, lighting etc – can be run for a week on hydrogen only. For longer journeys, or in the event that supplies of liquid hydrogen are not available, the yacht also has diesel generators with enough power to achieve top speeds of 17 knots. These can

be run on hydrotreated vegetable oil, described by Feadship as second-generation biofuel – that is, biofuel that is not made from food crops.

Clean energy aside, there is no doubt about the levels of luxury on board the superyacht. For whoever can stump the cash, the new owner will be given access to an entire deck of their own. This is arranged as an apartment with two bedrooms, twin bathrooms and dressing rooms, a gym, a pantry, two offices each with a fireplace, and a living room. The yacht also has 12 staterooms for guests, two cabins for members of the owner's personal staff, accommodation for 44 crew and "a dedicated hospital".

The yacht's partial hydrogen power system is a new departure for the superyacht industry, but hydrogen has already been deployed at scale in the automotive sector. More than 20,000

Toyota Mirai fuel cell cars have been sold around the world, which store their hydrogen as a high-pressure gas rather than a cryogenic liquid.

Road vehicles with liquefied hydrogen tanks have also been built. These, like most liquefied gas storage systems, gradually lose their fuel to "boil off" when left parked, an issue which will also affect Project 821.

The process of liquefying the gas is also energy intensive, meaning hydrogen is not always a low-carbon fuel. The normal method of manufacturing hydrogen is by making it from natural gas, a process which produces carbon dioxide.

Almost all hydrogen produced today is made using this method, and as such is classed as "grey" hydrogen. The aspiration is that vessels like Project 821 would be powered by "green" hydrogen, made by using zero-carbon

'Very wealthy individuals should be making changes to their lifestyles'

electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. Alternatively, if the carbon dioxide is captured and stored during the production of hydrogen from gas, it becomes "blue" hydrogen, almost as eco-friendly, though this is not yet done on a wide scale. Feadship has plans to develop technology which could produce hydrogen from methanol.

Tanks for methanol would be much simpler and would store more energy than liquefied hydrogen alternatives

These bold proposals are exactly what Gates is pushing for in his bid to save the world from a climate disaster, with or without his £579m megayacht.

As he said in an article for *The New York Times* earlier this year: "Very wealthy individuals should be making changes to their lifestyles to bring their emissions close to zero."

The Gates Foundation was contacted for comment.

BP boss rules out ditching London Stock Exchange for New York

By Matt Oliver

THE boss of BP has ruled out a move to New York despite the oil giant unveiling a sharp drop in profits amid falling gas prices.

Asked whether the London-listed company could – like its rival Shell – consider moving its primary listing abroad, Murray Auchincloss, the BP chief executive, insisted it was "not on our agenda". Mr Auchincloss said: "We're just tightly, tightly

focused on performance. We think that's what will close the gap with the American companies."

The comments come after Shell, said Sawan, the chief executive of Shell, said his company was looking at "all options" amid concerns it is undervalued by investors in London.

Shell and BP have both faced pressure from shareholders in the past over the perceived discount on their shares compared to American rivals Chevron and Exxon, which have

much higher valuations. Shell's warning that it could relocate its listing has sent shock waves through the City, fuelling fears of a growing exodus of listed firms.

Ministers are said to be so concerned by the trend that Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, is hosting a summit with the bosses of major private British companies on May 16 in a charm offensive aimed at encouraging more of them to go public. Against that backdrop, Mr

\$2.7bn

BP's first-quarter profits, which almost halved from \$5bn a year earlier amid lower natural gas prices

Auchincloss's comments are likely to come as a relief.

Meanwhile, BP reported that profits had almost halved amid lower

natural gas prices. The company yesterday reported first-quarter profits of \$2.7bn (£2.2bn), down from \$5bn a year earlier.

BP said the numbers reflected "lower oil and gas realisations", an outage at its Whiting Refinery, in north-west Indiana, and "significantly weaker" margins on fuel sales.

It missed the \$2.9bn (£2.3bn) analysts had been predicting, capping a set of mixed results from oil and gas giants in the first quarter. However, BP said it

was pressing ahead with \$3.5bn of share buybacks in the first half of 2024 and pledged to make \$2bn of efficiency savings across its business.

Mr Auchincloss said: "We've delivered another resilient quarter financially and continued to make progress on our strategy."

It comes after a winter in which gas prices have been lower than a year ago, as fears of a supply crisis in Europe have softened thanks to a glut of liquefied natural gas.

Saudi oil giant pays £100bn to fund Bin Salman projects

By Matt Oliver

SAUDI ARABIA'S state-owned oil giant is preparing to pay out almost £100bn to fund Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's series of megaprojects – despite a fall in profits.

Aramco said it expected to pay out \$124bn (£99bn) this year to its shareholders – primarily the government in Riyadh or sovereign wealth funds – compared to \$98bn in 2023.

That was despite the company reporting a 14pc fall in profits to \$27.3bn in the first quarter of 2024.

Saudi Arabia remains heavily dependent on Aramco for its finances, with oil needing to be at about \$96 per barrel or more to balance the state budget, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Yesterday, benchmark crude prices were hovering below \$84 per barrel.

However, it comes as the crown prince is in need of funds for a series of major projects aimed at radically reshaping the kingdom's economy to make it less dependent on oil.

Schemes being developed include tourism sites such as museums and marine life centres, an opera house, a resort and new airport next to the Red

Sea and a \$500bn "smart city" in the desert known as Neom, at the country's north-west tip.

The kingdom has already scaled back work on some of these projects after three straight quarters of economic contraction, however.

Mohammed Al Jadaan, the Saudi finance minister, has said that the economic transformation plan – known as Vision 2030 – will be adjusted as needed.

This includes Neom with its flagship development – a high-tech futuristic city contained within a mirrored wall known as "The Line" – which has been scaled back from being 170km (105 miles) long to just 2.4km.

Saudi Arabia and other major oil-producing nations in the Opec cartel have been cutting output since late 2022 as higher production by the US puts downward pressure on prices.

In January, Riyadh ordered Aramco to scrap plans to boost production to 13m barrels per day and, instead, told it to maintain the previous 12m target.

But with the price of Brent crude still below the kingdom's required level, the government is facing a budget deficit of 79bn riyals (£16.8bn) this year.



Woof ride A dog tries out Moon Carrier by Beta Design Office & Sebastian Conran, which goes on sale at Bonhams on May 19 with an estimate of £1,000-£1,500.

Auditors fined over LCF fraud that rocked the City

By Adam Mawardi

TWO of Britain's biggest accountancy firms have been fined for their role in the £237m London Capital & Finance (LCF) mini-bond scandal.

Multimillion-pound penalties have been handed to PwC and EY by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), which found that the firms committed failures when auditing the defunct company's accounts.

The watchdog singled out "big four" accountants for failing to adequately understand LCF's business and its internal controls, adding that the pair did not apply enough scrutiny when auditing the company's financials.

PwC and EY have received fines of £4.9m and £4.4m respectively, discounted from £7m after admitting failure. LCF was a savings and investment firm which sold unregulated mini-bonds promising returns of up to 11pc.

However, nearly 12,000 investors lost £237m when the company entered into administration in 2019.

The Financial Conduct Authority, which was rebuked for failing to supervise and regulate LCF before its collapse, has since banned the mass-marketing of risky speculative

illiquid securities – including speculative mini-bonds – to retail investors.

The Serious Fraud Office's investigation into alleged fraud and money laundering at LCF is ongoing.

The FRC's criticism of PwC and audit engagement partner Jessica Miller stems from failures in auditing LCF's accounts for 2016, a year in which the company issued a further £9.2m in bonds and was growing rapidly.

PwC resigned as LCF's auditor in October 2017 but has since been handed a fine of £4.9m. Ms Miller also received a penalty of £105,000, with both discounted by 30pc.

The FRC also severely reprimanded EY and audit engagement partner Neil Parker having audited LCF's full-year accounts for 2017. During that year, LCF issued a further £53.4m in bonds.

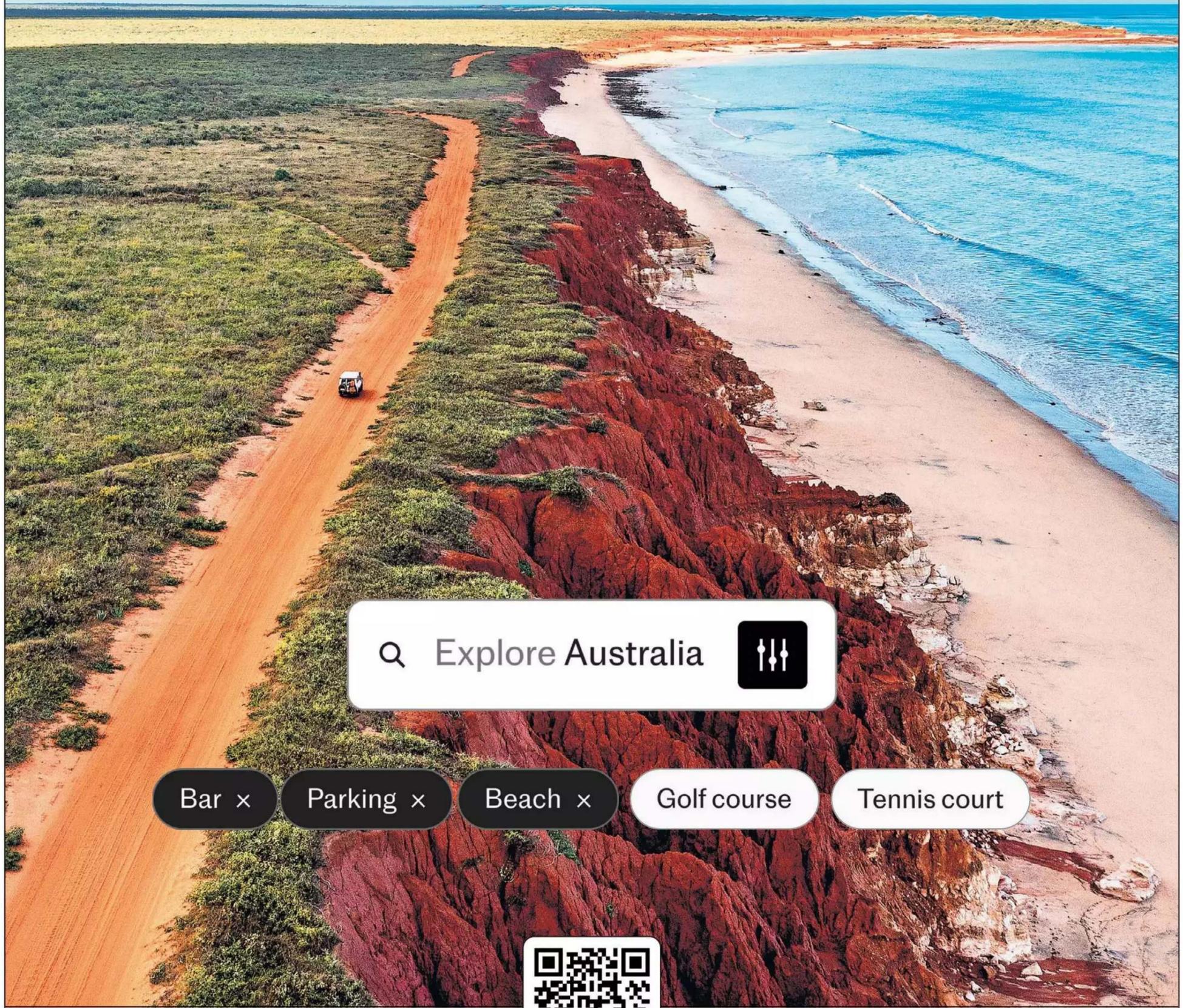
The regulator initially proposed fining EY £7m and Mr Parker £75,000 but discounted the penalties by 40pc for admissions, early disposal and mitigating factors. EY and Mr Parker must pay £4.4m and £47,250 respectively.

An EY spokesman said: "We have taken steps to address the issues identified." A PwC spokesman said: "We have made significant changes to our audit methodology, policies and guidance."

The Telegraph

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Indebted world is just one shock from disaster

JEREMY WARNER



Lip service to the idea of fiscal prudence is drowned out by politicians' scramble for votes in election year

How much debt is too much? After three economic shocks in a row – the financial crisis, the pandemic and the energy price spike – the world economy is drowning in the stuff, with little sign of any life raft to the rescue.

It's true that, relative to GDP, we've seen still higher levels of public debt in the past, the last such occasion as a result of the Second World War.

It's also true that the Japanese economy has managed to coexist with debt to GDP of more than 200pc reasonably well for many years now. But don't let these much quoted examples of "debt doesn't matter" lull you into a false sense of security.

High wartime debt was tolerated because everybody knew that military spending would fall significantly the moment the war was over. What's more, the post-war years saw an explosion in

economic growth, together with the demographic dividend of a baby boom that greatly expanded the size of the workforce. From the fall of the Berlin Wall onwards, moreover, Western economies enjoyed a pronounced "peace dividend"; defence spending plummeted as a percentage of national income.

No such benign combination of forces is in prospect this time around. To the contrary, ageing populations threaten only further to dial-up the pressures on public spending. Growing geopolitical instability has meanwhile brought the post-Cold War peace dividend to an end.

As for Japan, there are countervailing factors in play, in particular very high levels of domestic savings and a usually buoyant current account surplus.

Historically, the tax burden in Japan has also been lower than other major high-income economies, though it has admittedly crept up in recent years; in any case, there is a sense in which Japan borrows from its citizens rather than taxes them.

Throughout much of the rest of the world economy, we are both taxing more and borrowing more in equal measure. For how much longer can this continue? There's a particularly alarming graphic in the International Monetary Fund's latest "Fiscal Monitor"

which shows that, on unchanged policies, federal debt in the United States will soar over the next 30 years to around 160pc of GDP.

It's even worse for China, where debt is projected to rise to 250pc of GDP. Nor does there seem to be any political appetite for reversing these trends.

If there is one thing that unites both candidates for November's presidential election in the US, it is a complete disregard for high levels of deficit spending. China likewise seems hell-bent on fiscal oblivion; President Xi Jinping's need for perpetual growth takes priority over any notion of fiscal discipline. In both cases, to be running such huge deficits at the top of the cycle, with something close to full employment, is reckless in the extreme.

Unlike much of Europe, America managed to avoid a recession last year. The main explanation is now obvious; like others, deficit spending rose hugely during the pandemic, but unlike others, in the US it has stayed high ever since.

According to IMF estimates, the US ran a fiscal deficit of 8.8pc last year. Under IMF projections, it falls back a tad this year to 6.5pc, but then rises anew next year to 7.1pc, more than three times the average for other advanced economies. Small wonder the US economy is on a tear. At its spring meeting last month, the IMF

uncharacteristically named and shamed four countries that "critically need to take policy action to address fundamental imbalances between spending and revenue".

Besides the US and China, the other two were the UK and Italy. There are questions to be asked about how it is that France has once again managed to escape the IMF's strictures, given that its national debt is already quite a bit higher than the UK's, and its ongoing borrowing needs are also expected to be higher. Suffice it to say that France has

'Years of money printing and ultra-low interest rates have enabled undreamt-of levels of indebtedness'

always had the IMF sewn up; even when the managing director is not a French national, the chief economist generally is. But the wider point about excessive public debt is well made. Stretched fiscal positions in the US, China, France, Italy and the UK have begun to pose a significant threat to the future of the world economy.

Years of money printing and ultra-low interest rates have enabled and normalised previously undreamt levels of indebtedness, but now the props have

been kicked away, exposing the risks and associated costs, like a receding tide, in all their gruesome detail.

In the US, the Congressional Budget Office warns that "starting next year, net interest costs are greater in relation to GDP than at any point since at least 1940, the first year for which the Office of Management and Budget reported such data." The way things are going, the cost of servicing bondholders will soon outweigh US defence spending. Interest costs are also fast catching up with spending on Medicare.

It's a similar picture in the UK, where debt servicing costs are already significantly higher than defence spending. It should be obvious to all that things cannot carry on like this. Fiscal buffers are depleted to virtual non-existence; we are just one more economic shock away from being completely overwhelmed.

How does the world economy escape a mess as comprehensive as this one? There are only so many ways it can go. For now, financial markets remain remarkably unconcerned. They know there are lorry loads of debt issuance heading their way, but continue to buy as if there is no credit risk at all.

The UK Debt Management Office, for instance, has had no difficulty financing the Government's borrowing requirements, despite the pressures of

quantitative tightening from the Bank of England, which adds a further steady stream of gilts supply.

Similarly with other advanced economies. Higher interest rates obviously help by making government bonds relatively more attractive. But they also remind us that debt is no longer free and that, by demanding more for their money, investors expect inflationary pressures to remain elevated long into the future.

Higher inflation helps erode debt over time, other things being equal, and can therefore be useful as a form of government default by stealth. Arguably, it's preferable to actual default, which is always messy and almost bound to involve crippling austerity. Or governments can act pre-emptively to bring revenues and spending back into line. The last time the US was in surplus was in President Bill Clinton's second term. Similarly with Britain, which has not seen a budget surplus since 2001.

In both Britain and the US, this is an election year, so occasional lip service to the idea of fiscal prudence gets drowned out in the hunt for votes. But eventually someone will have to get a grip.

Whoever wins, higher taxes and lower spending are, sadly, a foregone conclusion, threatening a possibly quite serious global recession next year.

In the driving seat

Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, visits Wayve Technologies in Islington, north London, yesterday. The tech start-up has secured a record \$1.05bn (£836m) in new investment to develop artificial intelligence systems for self-driving cars. Wayve, founded in 2017, secured the money in a fundraising round led by Japan's SoftBank, with some of the cash coming from Microsoft and chip giant Nvidia. Mr Sunak said it was "the biggest investment yet in a UK AI company".



China has launched an economic war on West – and Britain is sleeping

MATTHEW HENDERSON



Westminster must wake up to the threat posed by a malign regime intent on controlling our wealth

What does an elephant in a British room need to do for his hosts to admit he exists? Under Xi Jinping, China's rivalry with the free West has become a zero-sum contest.

Beijing is engaged in full economic warfare with Britain. And Britain's establishment, polite as ever, all too often chooses to ignore this inconvenient reality. Chinese malignity

in Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, the Taiwan Strait, Ukraine, the Antarctic icecap and satellite-accessible space has not been enough to dispel the fantasy that our best course is to deepen and strengthen economic relations with Beijing in pursuit of growth, or the idea that we are already so "dependent" upon Chinese goodwill that there is nothing else to be said.

The latest cyber attack on the Ministry of Defence – where the Chinese state is suspected of accessing sensitive data about serving personnel – should be a wake-up call. It is too much to hope that it will be, however. This hack was merely the latest in a long series of direct provocations from the Chinese state undertaken in the belief that Britain is too weak-willed to respond. From the start of Britain's trade relations with China, Beijing has assiduously cultivated, promoted and paid a stable of high-level supporters in

senior political, financial, business, legal, academic and other circles to quietly ease China's path to access, influence and control of Britain's wealth and innovative capacity.

This engagement has comprised an integrated campaign of economic, cyber, influence and acquisition warfare, employing methods from the innocuous and open to covert subversion and espionage. Xi's ubiquitous slogan of "win-win" is uncannily accurate: in this asymmetric contest, China won twice. In a society where ignorance and naivete about China's intentions was matched only by increasing acceptance of vast sums of Chinese "investment" in default of sensible levels of Government funding, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) became both powerful and invisible.

The rot set in early. The Chinese through a charade of signing up to an agreement with the UK to preserve

democracy and the rule of law in Hong Kong after the handover. And as soon as the Union flag was lowered, the CCP set about reversing and trampling on everything it had agreed to. The ineffectual response from Whitehall merely confirmed the idea that power in Britain was the preserve of an unprincipled elite, whose liberal idealism dwindled as their pension pots grew fuller with Chinese gold.

A state that contemptuously dismissed Britain as "an old, declining empire", and "an old European country good only for travel and study" – the words of the official Chinese newspaper as prime minister David Cameron embarked on a trade mission, and welcomed Chinese premier Li Keqiang in return – was given clearance to finance and build nuclear power stations and operate rail lines in the UK.

The first major reversal in this campaign was the Huawei affair, brought to a head in Britain in 2020, by which time potentially compromised technology would take years to purge from the telecoms system. It took the US sending the secretary of state Mike Pompeo, a former CIA director, to hint that intelligence sharing would have to cease for common sense to prevail. Yet for years before this, and more to

follow, Britain and its allies had been subjected to endless cyber attacks, IP theft, coercive mergers and acquisitions, poaching of staff from rival enterprises, patent infractions and a host of other less quantifiable harms. A reality check driven by the behaviour of the CCP around the pandemic caused the tide to turn. But even today, the Government is hesitant to directly name China as a state aggressor.

In the meantime, Beijing has engaged in cyber attacks on British politicians, and may have paid other actors for years of faithful service and support. Chinese-manufactured security cameras have had to be stripped from "sensitive" sites. Universities cosy up to Beijing for funding, even as dual-use research leaks from leading British research facilities.

Of course, China is desperate to steal non-military technology too. Its campaign of economic warfare includes the erosion and destruction of Western rivals to its domestic firms. If a Chinese firm can produce at lower cost a product developed at great expense in the West, the balance of power shifts a little further eastwards. The FBI has judged the annual cost to the US economy of such counterfeit goods, pirated software and trade secrets theft

at between \$225bn and \$600bn. Britain does not even know where to begin counting its losses.

It is beyond doubt, however, that the figure is significant. Last year, at Stanford University, the director of the UK's Security Service told the assembled heads of the "Five Eyes" security and intelligence partners that his operations had recently identified 20,000 approaches to UK individuals by Chinese agents looking for sensitive information. It can be safely assumed that others succeeded; even the largest agency would struggle to cope with attacks on such an industrial scale.

Chinese economic aggression is an omnipresent reality. In far-flung regions of the world, Chinese state actors snap up resources, working towards near total control of the flows of critical minerals that are supposed to power our net zero economy.

On the high seas, the assertion of Chinese sovereignty over the area encompassed by the so-called nine-dash line threatens the critical naval choke points through which half the world's merchant shipping flows. And in London, Westminster slumbers on, dismissing as bad dreams the warnings of the intelligence community. It is time we woke up.

Lenders must not deny legitimate businesses access to banking services

DAME HARRIETT BALDWIN



If even the likes of BAE Systems are at risk of being denied a bank account, something must change

One of an MP's most important responsibilities is to champion the small businesses in their patch. I certainly take every opportunity to shout about the smaller firms in my West Worcestershire constituency.

From the fantastically successful tree-growing business Frank P Matthews to the emerging corridor of

cyber technology start-ups, small and medium-sized businesses in my part of the world offer so much to our economy. But there is no getting away from how tough the pandemic and energy crisis have been for those running small businesses.

Critical government support has been delivered but they need to know that their banks will also support them through such a challenging period. Our Treasury committee asked smaller businesses up and down the country to tell us about their experiences with lenders, and I was taken aback by what we were told.

One particular issue we heard about, I'm sure in no small part thanks to the campaigning of this very journal, was debanking. During our investigation, we found more than 140,000 small business accounts were closed in the past year alone – with many firms being

given little or no notice before they were debanked. There can be good reasons for closing or denying accounts for businesses, including signs of money laundering or prolonged inactivity, but we found there were still thousands of accounts being closed under the disconcertingly vague justification of "risk appetite".

Representatives from the pawnbroking industry told the committee more than half of the companies in their sector couldn't get a bank account.

Even more disturbing was when the boss of Handelsbanken couldn't tell us if they would give an account to BAE Systems – despite the company being one of the biggest suppliers to the Ministry of Defence.

How on earth have we got to the position where a company working to preserve our national security can't be

assured of access to a bank account? Banks' shareholders demanding environmental, social and governance policies may inadvertently be putting national security at risk. This cannot go on. It is wrong that banks in this country can systematically debank legitimate firms or industries because their board turns its nose up at their line of work. If their work is legal then they should be able to access a bank account.

Most lenders couldn't even tell us exactly what had been considered before the accounts were closed. Something has to change, which is why we have asked the Financial Conduct Authority to force banks to send it their debanking data – including the reason for each account closure.

Following the revelations uncovered by our inquiry, we have received assurances from the Government that they will be legislating to crack down

on unfair debanking. We keenly await the opportunity to scrutinise this urgent work when it is presented to Parliament. Another particularly troubling issue, which we received a lot of complaints about, was the Business Banking Resolution Service (BBRS).

For the uninitiated, this is a scheme that was set up by seven major banks to give smaller firms an official forum to raise unfair treatment by lenders.

Unfortunately, asking the banks to take charge of the initiative fatally damaged its integrity in the eyes of the business community. A lot of small businesses we spoke to saw this as a deeply conflicted system which deliberately made it difficult for them to settle grievances. Whether or not banks were directly influencing the decisions made by the BBRS is neither here nor there. An initiative such as this lives and dies by its ability to clearly demonstrate

its independence and fairness. The fact is, nobody trusted it and, therefore, barely any firms used it. The Government should now be in the process of working out what to replace it with. That must be done speedily and in a way which puts integrity at its core.

We can't have another situation where banks are seen as able to bury their own mistakes. Small businesses employ 16.7m people in this country, generating £2.4-trillion a year for the UK economy. We're not asking lenders to wave a magic wand and solve all of the problems facing small businesses. But one thing must definitely change – banks must stop making a tough landscape for small businesses needlessly tougher.

Dame Harriett Baldwin is a Conservative MP and chairman of the Treasury select committee

Markets

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Government securities

52 week High	Low	Flat	Rdm
Low (E) Stock	Price (E) +/-	Yield	Yield Yield
102.30	99.20	Treas 5% 25	100.18 +0.08 4.99 4.81
112.24	100.63	Treas 6% 28	108.24 +0.37 5.54 4.01
106.59	90.79	Treas 4% 32	101.77 +0.71 4.18 3.99
106.09	94.06	Treas 4% 36	100.25 +0.97 4.24 4.22
110.73	96.88	Treas 4% 38	104.10 +1.15 4.56 4.37

Index Linked Securities

385.22	371.32	Treas 2% 1L 24	384.42 +0.07 0.65 2.05
352.43	325.85	Treas 4% 1L 30	344.03 +1.42 1.20 0.33
106.19	93.45	Treas 2% 1L 35	247.36 +1.66 0.61 0.65

10-year Government Bonds

Yield%	Spread vs Bunds	Spread vs T-Bonds	
France	2.90	-0.48	-1.54
Germany	2.42	-	-2.02
Japan	0.86	-1.56	-3.58
Great Britain	4.13	-1.71	-0.31
United States	4.44	-2.02	-

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields above are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence

52 week High	Low	Price (p) +/-	Yld	P/E	
5453	2656	Babcock Intl	584	+1.01	3.7
1388	883	BAE Systems	1373	+1.11	22.24
381	292	QinetiQ	360	+0.76	22.14
435	142	Rolls-Royce	418	+1.14	14.5
184	146	Senior	166	+1.14	22.1

Banks

210	128	Barclays	210	+0.38	7.6
99	78	Citigroup	78	+0.12	8.7
717	572	HSCB	712	+1.56	6.8
54	39	Lloyds BK Grp	53	+1.51	5.1
317	168	NatWest Group	312	+0.77	24.5
423	257	Standard Chartered	404	+0.91	3.0
767	571	Standard Ch	750	+1.41	2.9

Beverages

3694	2676	Diageo	2755	+0.91	29.16
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Chemicals

6920	4018	Croda Intl	4831	+0.85	23.94
1964	1428	Johnson Mat	1853	+0.49	4.2
1654	1152	Victrex	1294	+0.26	12.3

Construction

401	291	Balfour Beatty	378	+1.31	10.7
582	384	Barratt Dev	492	+1.41	5.7
2898	1903	Bechtel	2684	+0.74	4.1
5165	3634	Skanska Grp	5115	+0.79	12.0
249	170	Booth H	185	+1.10	9.4

General financial

246	156	Ashmore	194	+0.38	15.7
300	164	Bridgepoint Gr	231	+1.38	25.1
944	676	Hargreaves L	824	+1.21	5.1
800	600	IG Group	771	+1.51	5.9
2236	1244	IntermediateCp	2180	+0.28	6.2
545	401	Investec	542	+0.91	6.1
66	40	IP Group	50	+1.25	3.0
833	519	Livent	717	+0.20	11.7
60	30	Lon. Fin. & Inv.	47	+2.16	10.7
9696	7784	Lon Stock Ex	9308	+1.46	12.0
241	181	M&G	202	+1.27	9.7
279	200	Man Group	261	+1.31	5.0
113	71	Quilter	111	+1.47	36.0

Major price changes FTSE 100

Risers 85	Volume	Close	Change
DCC	0.30m	5745	4.55p
SSE	3.65m	1780	4.15p
Barclays	95.34m	210	3.95p
Persimmon	2.59m	1414	3.40p
Fresnillo	1.58m	567	3.28p
Experian	2.43m	3383	3.23p
Weir Group	0.83m	2078	3.18p
Fluiter Entrtm	0.52m	16200	3.15p
Lloyds BK Grp	371.76m	53	2.95p
Barratt Dev	5.39m	492	2.95p
Land Securities	3.65m	686	2.92p
Rentokil Initial	8.87m	419	2.92p
Glencore	28.08m	468	2.85p
JD Sports Fashion	9.34m	118	2.72p
Spirax-Sarco Eng	0.15m	9020	2.72p
RS Group	1.71m	787	2.67p
Severn Trent	0.89m	2577	2.38p
Coca-Cola HBC	1.10m	2676	2.37p
Legal&Gen	22.34m	246	2.37p
Howden Joinery	0.94m	892	2.35p
NatWest Group	58.61m	312	2.30p
St. James's Place	1.84m	457	2.28p

Results Roundup

Company	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS (p)	DIV (p)	Pay Day	XD
BP S	10.50.0bn (57.0bn)	4.6bn (11.8bn)	13.570 (45.930)	7.240 (6.610)	Jun 28	26
Ebiquty	Fin 80.2m (73.1m)	-2.6m (-7.3m)	-3.340 (-6.920)	0.000 (0.000)	-	-
Eden Research	Fin 3.2m (1.8m)	-6.9m (-2.6m)	-1.540 (-0.590)	0.000 (0.000)	-	-
Endeavour Mining S*	10.472.7m (481.2m)	24.3m (51.8m)	-8.000 (2.000)	0.000 (0.000)	-	-
Genflow Biosciences	Fin (-)	-1.6m (-1.3m)	-0.557 (-0.457)	0.000 (0.000)	-	-
Henderson Far East Income*	Int. (-)	9.8m (10.3m)	5.300 (5.640)	6.100 (6.000)	May 31	Apr 25
Kosmos Energy S	10.419.1m (393.9m)	142.0m (139.6m)	20.000 (18.000)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
Shell S*	10.72.5bn (67.0bn)	11.0bn (14.4bn)	114.000 (126.000)	34.400 (28.750)	Jun 24	May 16
Standard Chartered S*	10.5.1bn (4.6bn)	1.9bn (1.8bn)	46.500 (40.700)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
Trainline*	Fin 396.7m (327.1m)	48.1m (22.1m)	7.280 (4.530)	0.000 (0.000)	-	-

Int'l Cont'l Hotels

0.59m	7902	2.28p
4.63m	5591	2.27p
4.94m	482	2.25p
0.33m	1803	2.15p
8.43m	253	2.09p
2.69m	642	2.07p
0.20m	4174	2.05p

Fallers 15

Volume	Close	Change
11.39m	510	-5.00p
1.36m	1151	-2.46p
12.86m	591	-2.05p
57.49m	503	-1.31p
24.70m	358	-1.00p
28.73m	326	-0.97p
68.17m	67	-0.76p
35.53m	177	-0.70p
8.15m	750	-0.58p
3.36m	2680	-0.50p
4.45m	517	-0.39p
0.82m	2296	-0.37p
0.33m	1956	-0.20p
0.51m	816	-0.18p
4.32m	1563	-0.03p

Net Asset Values © 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk

World market indices

Index	Change
Australia	+113.20
Brazil	+50.99p
China	-7.02
France	-79.04
Germany	+254.84
Hong Kong	-98.93
India	-383.69
Japan	+599.03
Singapore	-3.15
Spain	+17.43
Switzerland	+185.31
USA	+31.99
USA	-16.69

Commodities summary

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	\$2313.71	-11.01
Silver	\$21.71	-0.09
Krugerrand	\$1828.39	-4.89
New Sovereign	\$428.62	-0.50
Maples	\$1830.78	-4.88
Platinum	\$778.66	+17.37
Palladium	\$772.11	-4.13
Copper	\$7974.43	-99.35
Tin	\$25971.96	+542.84
Lead	\$1787.36	+24.41
Zinc	\$2344.65	+33.78
Aluminium	\$2046.29	+19.11
Nickel	\$15216.70	-72.56
Baltic Dry Index	\$2083.00	+207.00
Wheat	\$190.00	+4.60
Brent Crude	\$83.16	-0.17

Exchange rates

Country	Rate	Change
Australia	1.6037	-0.0002
Canada	1.2515	-0.0001
Denmark	8.6877	-0.0001
Euro	1.1214	-0.0001
Hong Kong	9.3077	-0.0001
India	92.29	+0.0001
Israel	4.2071	+0.0001
Japan	184.44	+0.0001
Kuwait	0.3860	-0.0001
New Zealand	1.9453	-0.0001
Norway	12.99	+0.0001
Pakistan	328.39	+0.0001
Saudi Arabia	4.3979	+0.0001
Singapore	1.5831	+0.0001
South Africa	21.81	+0.0001
Sweden	12.97	+0.0001
Switzerland	1.0841	-0.0001
Thailand	41.25	+0.0001
UAE	4.3227	+0.0001
UK	0.7857	-0.0001
USA	1.1978	+0.0001

Money & Rates

Instrument	Rate	Change
RPI (1987-100)	383.00	+0.50p
RPI (Target 2.5pc)	378.10	+1.7
CPI (2015-100 target 2pc)	133.00	+0.6p
Halfax house price index	497.40	-1.0p
Bank Rate	5.25pc	-0.3p
3 months	5.30pc	-
Nationwide Base Mortgage Rate	6.75pc	-
US Fed Funds	5.25-5.50pc	-
US Long Bonds Yld	4.58	-
European base rate	4.50pc	-

Telecommunications

156	101	BT Group	105	+1.73	5.4
1828	1356	Telecom Plus	1794	+58.46	20.7
96	62	Vodafone	67	+11.3	1.8

Travel & Leisure

2831	2233	Brit Am Tob	2387	-32.99	3.7
1951	1553	Imp Brands	1847	+21.91	7.9
291	191	Int'l Dist Service	278	+2.1	3.0
395	300	Rodda Northgate	394	+8.63	6.5

Tobaccos

1888	663	Camvil	1054	+4.1	220.5
591	350	Asst Enjay	504	+21.0	1.8
158	117	Estet	785	+1.3	5.1
189	109	FirstGroup	167	+1.26	14.2

Winners and losers (pc)

Electricity	2.66
Banks	2.38
Construction	2.27
Chemicals	2.05
Support services	2.02
Gas & Water	1.96
Property	1.96
Mining	1.94
Media	1.56
Investment trusts	1.50
Insurance	1.45
Retailers	1.39
Electricals	1.38
Transport	1.35
Tobaccos	1.29
Travel & Leisure	1.22
Telecommunications	-0.20
Healthcare	-0.73

Results Roundup

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Endeavour Mining S*	10.472.7m (481.2m)	24.3m (51.8m)	-8.			

Don't let Sainsbury's humdrum results put you off – its improving position is not yet factored in

ROBERT STEPHENS
QUESTOR
STOCK PICKS

It is key that investors look beyond the effect of today's cost of living squeeze on retailers

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules

Recently released annual results from Sainsbury's hardly set the world alight. The FTSE 100-listed retailer generated a rather humdrum 3.4pc rise in sales and a paltry 1.6pc increase in pre-tax profits in the financial year to March 2024.

However, in Questor's view, the company's results were impressive given the sorry state of UK plc.

Indeed, the British economy is currently struggling out of a recession and has posted anaemic growth, at best, since mid-2022. Inflation, meanwhile, remains 120 basis points above the Bank of England's target, and interest rates stand at a 16-year high after being hiked by over 500 basis points in less than two years. All of this means consumers have experienced a significant cost of living crisis that has put tremendous pressure on their disposable incomes. Therefore, Sainsbury's modest rise in sales and profits is a better result than may appear at first glance.

Crucially, the company will almost certainly experience improved operating conditions over the coming years. Inflation will ultimately fall to the Bank of England's 2pc target as time lags eventually pass, thereby allowing the central bank to implement a more accommodative monetary policy in order to stimulate economic growth.

This should not only act as a positive catalyst on the company's financial performance, but also prompt investors

Sainsbury's BUY

The grocer remains a worthwhile purchase on a long-term view with a solid balance sheet and sound strategy

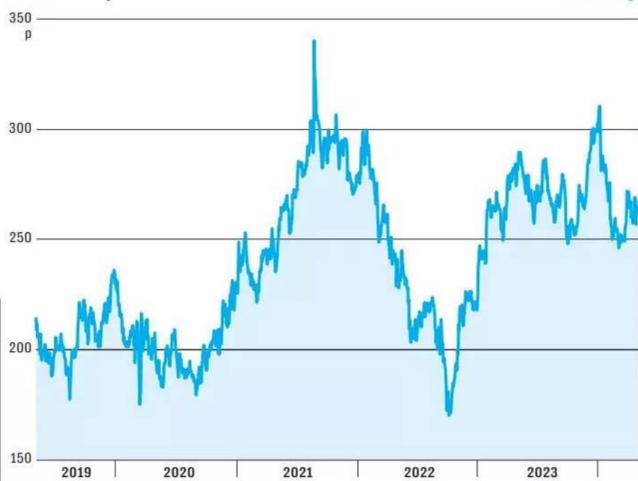
to adopt an increasingly risk-on attitude that, in turn, equates to a rise in demand for shares in UK-focused retailers. This should help to push their prices even higher.

In the meantime, the company's results showed that it remains financially sound. Net debt declined by £790m versus the previous year so that it now stands at £5.6bn. This means the company has a net gearing ratio of 81pc which, when combined with net interest cover in excess of three, is sufficient to allow it to reinvest for future growth. Indeed, a strategy of improving its products and keeping prices low via significant investment that has totalled £780m over the past three years is proving to be simple but highly effective.

So, too, is an efficiency programme that has delivered £1.3bn in cost savings over the past three years. The company plans to cut a further £1bn of costs over the next three years, which should support margins and improve its competitiveness vis-à-vis sector peers after having already strengthened its market position in the most recent financial year. Sainsbury's delivered record market share gains that not only evidence its strong performance, but also highlight the challenges faced by highly leveraged sector peers that are likely to cede further ground. A recently announced £200m share buyback programme seems sensible

J Sainsbury

Close: 267.80p



Key numbers

- ◆ Market value: £6.3bn
- ◆ Turnover (Mar 24): £32.7bn
- ◆ Pre-tax profits (Mar 24): £701m
- ◆ Yield: 4.9pc
- ◆ Most recent year's dividend: 13.1p
- ◆ Net debt (Mar 24): £5.6bn
- ◆ Return on capital (Mar 24): 8pc
- ◆ Cash conversion ratio (Mar 24): 198pc
- ◆ p/e ratio (Mar 24): 12.1

while its shares continue to trade at an attractive level. They currently have a price-to-earnings ratio of just 12.1, which suggests they offer a wide margin of safety for new investors. Although annual dividends were unchanged versus the previous year, a yield of 4.9pc highlights the stock's income appeal at a time when the FTSE 100 yields around 3.6pc. Dividend cover of 1.7, meanwhile, suggests that shareholder payouts have scope to rise as the company's financial performance improves.

Of course, this column first advised readers to purchase shares in Sainsbury's during March 2021. Since then, they have posted a 16pc capital gain and paid dividends amounting to 16pc of our notional purchase price. While a 32pc total return in just over three years is a rather modest performance on a standalone basis, it nevertheless represents a solid payback amid downbeat investor and consumer sentiment. Clearly, some investors will

'In the meantime, the company's results show that it remains financially sound'

remain unconvinced regarding the case for buying the retailer's shares. Undoubtedly, the company is operating in a tough environment that could realistically take many months, or even several years, to dramatically improve.

However, in Questor's opinion, a key characteristic of successful investors is being able to look beyond today's operating environment and make a logical judgment on the long-term prospects for a company or industry.

In the case of Sainsbury's, falling inflation, substantial interest rate cuts and an improved economic outlook are simply not currently factored into its market valuation. When the retailer's solid balance sheet, sound strategy and improving competitive position are additionally taken into account, its shares look even cheaper. Therefore, the company remains a worthwhile purchase on a long-term view.

Questor says: buy
Ticker: SBRY
Share price at close: 267.8p

Carpentry to cut a quarter of workforce after sales slump

Carpentry is to cut a quarter of its head office staff after struggling with sliding sales. The UK carpet seller said it would slash 70 roles in areas including in management teams, saying this reflected the "depletion in the retail portfolio – and revenues – that the business has experienced over the past eight years".

The company will also be restructuring its IT, warehouse and distribution operations. It said this would help it to strip a total of £22m of costs out of the business.

Store numbers and services will not be affected during the process.

Kevin Barrett, the chief executive of Carpentry owner Nestware Holdings, said the company had been forced to make "difficult decisions".

House prices grow despite pressure of higher interest rates

House prices crept ahead last month as the housing market "finds its feet in an era of higher interest rates", according to Halifax.

Property values grew by 0.1pc between March and April, the Halifax house price index showed, following a decline of 0.9pc over the previous month. It meant an average home was £288,949 – 1.1pc higher than the same month last year, and up from a rise of 0.4pc in the year to March when prices averaged £288,781.

Amanda Bryden, head of mortgages at Halifax, said: "This reflects a housing market finding its feet in an era of higher interest rates."

Northern Ireland remains the strongest, with the average property up by 3.4pc on an annual basis.

Construction sector expands as spending on renovations rises

Britain's construction sector grew in April at its fastest pace for 14 months as companies increased their spending on renovations.

Data from S&P said that although there had been "solid rates of expansion" in commercial and civil engineering activity, there had been a setback for house building as high interest rates continued to hit.

The S&P's Construction Purchasing Managers' Index – which tracks changes in the industry's – reached 53.0 in April. This was up from 50.2 in March. Any reading that is above 50 indicates expansion.

Tim Moore, an economist at S&P, said: "The latest survey pointed to the fastest reduction in residential building work since January."

TikTok sues US as Biden seeks to block Chinese-owned app

TikTok is suing the US government over a law that threatens to ban the Chinese-owned social media app unless it is sold within nine months.

"There is no question: the act will force a shutdown of TikTok by Jan 19 2025, silencing the 170m Americans who use the platform," the lawsuit said.

The video-sharing app and its Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, claimed the new law, which was signed by President Joe Biden last month, violated the US constitution on free speech grounds.

US officials have long warned TikTok poses a risk to national security, arguing that ByteDance could be compelled to hand over US data to the Chinese state. TikTok has insisted it would never obey such a demand.

Games developer Frontier to cut losses after Atari deal

Computer games developer Frontier has told investors that its losses would be "better than previously guided" after it sold the rights to *RollerCoaster Tycoon 3* to Atari and had strong sales of PlayStation and Xbox versions of simulation game *Planet Zoo*.

The British company expects a turnover of at least £85m in the year to the end of May 2024, with underlying losses of £5m or less.

Jonny Watts, the chief executive, said: "We are making strong progress following the reset of our strategy during 2023."

Shares rose 6.8pc yesterday. The company benefited from a gaming boom during lockdowns but was hit after poor sales from the launch of a *Jurassic World* game.

Ferrari shares fall despite double-digit rise in profits

Shares in Ferrari dropped 4.7pc in Milan yesterday despite the luxury carmaker reporting quarterly results that were broadly in line with expectations.

Sales increased by 11pc to €1.58bn (£1.35bn) for the first three months of the year, while profit jumped 19pc to €352m. Benedetto Vigna, the chief executive, said: "The start of the year was very positive: revenues and profits recorded double-digit growth with stable deliveries."

Shares fell after the company failed to raise its estimate of future earnings.

The company also reported that sales in China and Taiwan had plunged 20pc. In March, Porsche said it would not cut prices in response to falling sales in China.

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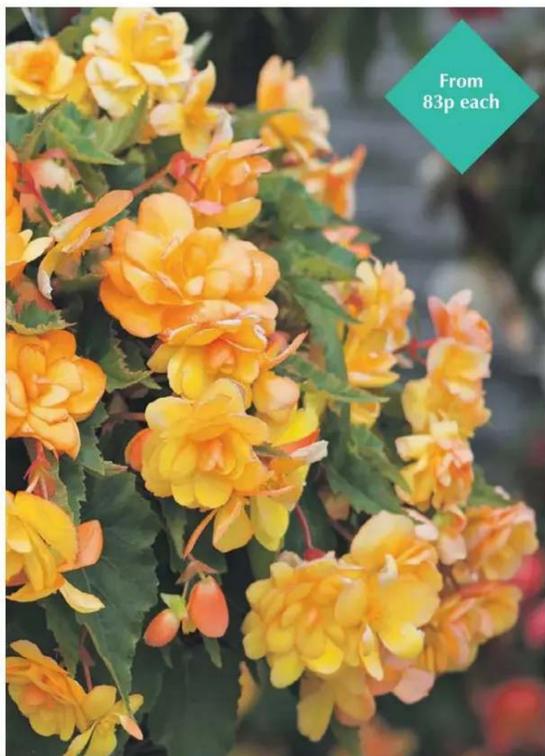
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Code	Description	QTY	Price	Total
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K26142	Begonia Illumination Apricot Shades x 24		£25	
K38734	Begonia Illumination Apricot Shades x 36		£30	
P&P			£4.95	£4.95
Total				

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to 'Hayloft'. (Please post to Telegraph Garden Shop Offer, PO Box 2020, Pershore WR10 9BP, and clearly state your name and address.)

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 Issue no CV2

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Offer ends 31 May 2024. Discounted membership available from £35 per year. The discount is applicable for the first 12 months of membership only. If you choose a Direct Debit payment, this will revert to the standard price (starting from £50) in the second year unless you cancel with ATG and your bank. ATG+ full terms and conditions apply. Image credit: Laura Pick as Elphaba in *Wicked*. Photo by Matt Crockett.

Keith Wainwright

Celebrity 'Smile' hairdresser who styled Brian Ferry's quiff and pioneered vivid dye in the punk era

KEITH WAINWRIGHT, who has died aged 79, was the rock, and later punk, hairstylist of choice during the 1970s and 1980s, pioneering a younger, more informal style of salon and later working with chemists and hair technicians to create a range of hair dyes, from bright orange to electric green – "Crazy Colour", he called it.

When Wainwright began working in the 1960s for Leonard of Mayfair, the crimper whose clients ranged from the Krays and Christine Keeler to the Beatles and JFK, hairdressers were not supposed to talk to their clients. But Wainwright noted the demand, especially from women, for less formality. And although the men's and women's salons were on separate floors, he found that women were not embarrassed at the idea of sitting beside men, though they would not want to do so in rollers.

While there, he became friendly with his fellow stylist Leslie Russell and in 1969 the pair resigned from Leonard – who tried to sue them but lost his case in the Crown Court – and co-founded "Smile" in Knightsbridge, opposite the Scotch House, the first unisex salon in London.

The salon featured an open-plan interior with "gender neutral" furnishing designs. Rollers were out, and instead of the usual bank of hood dryers, blow-drying, long the preserve of male styling, became the norm for both sexes. It was an instant success, attracting celebrities including Barbara Hulanicki of Biba, the Walker Brothers, Cilla Black, Michael Parkinson, Sandie Shaw, Ringo Starr, Ronnie Wood, Elton John and Bryan Ferry.

People went to Smile not just to have their hair done, but to find out what was going on. "We had blinds rigged up so that it could be more private if you wanted it to be or open," Wainwright recalled. "But it was never private. It was always open." Music, too, was part of the ambience.

To begin with, Smile specialised in smooth, classic, natural-looking cuts. "Anyone wanting a naff bouffant need not apply," went the edict. It was Wainwright (known as "Keith at Smile") who created the feathered haircut for Adam Faith in his role as the cheery small-time crook Budgie in the eponymous ITV series (1971-72). By 1974, according to Faith's biographers David and Caroline Stafford, the haircut and Budgie's pilot-style jacket, teamed with flares, wide-collared shirts and stack heels, "became the look for every working-class



Wainwright, above, and right, Toyah Wilcox in *Jubilee*: he also crimped Elton John and David Bowie

white male in the country who was dancing to Mud's *Tiger Feet* with his thumbs in imaginary braces".

It was Bryan Ferry who sparked Wainwright's interest in hair dyes. Wainwright recalled how, in the early days of his band Roxy Music, Ferry came into the salon wanting a "Budgie" haircut, but he wanted it dyed black, "which was unheard of at the time". Wainwright did as requested, but persuaded Ferry to have his hair styled in a quiff.

Smile quickly developed a reputation for championing dyed hair – to obvious effect on the gatefold cover of Roxy Music's second LP, *For Your Pleasure* (1973), on which the saxophonist Andy Mackay sported a green space-age version of the slicked-back 1950s "DA" (or "duck's a---"). Previously Wainwright had become the first hairdresser to get credit on an album sleeve, on Roxy Music's eponymous debut album.

Wainwright crimped and dyed David Bowie at the peak of his success. Toyah Wilcox became a regular customer after he

styled and dyed her, along with Adam Ant and Malcolm McLaren's protégé Jordan, for Derek Jarman's cult film *Jubilee* (1978).

Punk rockers flocked to Smile, and in 1984 the salon moved to World's End in Chelsea, near Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood's boutique, the mecca of the punk movement (which had no lavatory, so Wainwright allowed the staff to use the one at Smile).

Smile kept going until 2014, though for a time, out of loyalty to regular customers, they continued to style hair at Richard Ward's salon in Duke of York's Square.

One of two children of a telephone company worker and a cleaner, Keith Wainwright was born in Bermondsey, south London, on October 13 1944. He recalled enjoying "Dan Dare, science fiction, all that futuristic stuff" as a child, though at the Samuel Peps Secondary School for Boys in New Cross, he "wasn't any good at anything but art and metalwork, in which I came top".

After leaving school aged 14, Keith began a five-year apprenticeship as a hairdresser



and worked for a year as a crimper on Union Castle liners before joining Leonard.

As well as doing the hair for *Jubilee* he also worked with Derek Jarman on *Sebastiane* (1976) and *The Tempest* (1979). In the 1980s he styled hair for commercials and pop promotions.

At the end of the decade, with Leslie Russell and Kim Sion, he founded Smile Management, an agency representing stylists, make-up artists and fashion photographers including Mario Testino. Wainwright was a fine photographer himself and liked to document his friends and clients on Polaroids, many of which are held by the John Marchant Gallery.

He had a passion for steel bands, following his favourites at the Notting Hill Carnival. On trips to Trinidad and Tobago he often brought back cassettes and CDs – which was how the singer and producer Jonathan King got his hands on *Who Let the Dogs Out*, a song by Anselm Douglas which went on to become a hit for the Bahamian band Baha Men, reaching No 2 in 2000.

Wainwright established a charity, the Steeldrum Trust, to promote steel pan music for young people. The trust funded a group from the Greenwood School in South Africa and helped some young British players to visit Trinidad. He was appointed MBE in 2010 for his contributions to hairdressing.

In 2017 Keith Wainwright married the fashion designer Pamla Motown, who survives him with a stepson.

Keith Wainwright, born October 13 1944, died April 16 2024

Renna Kellaway

Pianist, teacher and founder of the Lake District Festival

RENNA KELLAWAY, the pianist, who has died aged 92, founded the Lake District Summer Music Festival in 1985, bringing high-quality classical music to some of the most scenic areas of the country; as a teacher she was instrumental in the careers of many leading pianists, including Steven Osborne and Nicholas Ashton.

Held each August over about a dozen days, the Lake District Summer Music Festival is filled with recitals, masterclasses and talks from artists such as the Chilingirian Quartet, the harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani and the mezzo-soprano Kathryn Rudge. For many years it has included a residential training academy for young musicians.

Events take place in towns and villages from Kirkby Lonsdale to Penrith and across to Keswick, probably covering more square miles than any other British festival. "It certainly keeps us on our toes and on the road quite a bit," Renna Kellaway told *The Westmorland Gazette*.

Festivals seemed to be in Renna Kellaway's blood. As head of keyboard studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester she started an International Keyboard Festival in 1995, which brought together exponents of the harpsichord, fortepiano, grand piano and organ including Shura Cherkassky, Emanuel Ax and Charles Rosen. Asked why in Manchester, she told the *Manchester Evening News*: "Why not? If it was held in a big capital city it could easily get lost."

Irene Lavinia Kellaway was born on October 18 1931 in Durban, South Africa, the second of three children of Harold Kellaway, an engineer, and his wife Ivy, a maths teacher. She played piano from an early age and aged 17 sailed to Amsterdam to study with Clara Haskil. She later took lessons in London with Franz Osborn and Johannes Röntgen.

She met John Manduell (later Sir John), the composer and educator, when he attended a recital she gave back home in Durban. They were married in September 1955, but he was so nervous that he turned up in odd socks. Their honeymoon was in the Lake District, where she fell under the spell of the stunning landscape.

The couple settled in London, where Manduell became a BBC producer.



Fell in love with the Lakes after going there on honeymoon

Gradually they moved north, with Renna Kellaway teaching at Birmingham School of Music (now Birmingham Conservatoire). When her husband was appointed head of the Royal Northern College of Music, she joined the keyboard department.

She made broadcasts for the BBC and appeared on stage, including accompanying the violinist Bridg Ranger in a programme of 20th-century British music in 1970. After a 1981 performance with the mezzo-soprano Barbara Robotham, *The Daily Telegraph* observed that she "gave lively and artistic support at the piano."

But teaching was Renna Kellaway's forte. "She helped me to focus on clarity of texture, beauty of sound and clarity of structure," Steven Osborne wrote. She retired from the college in 2000, but ran the Lake District Summer Music Festival for another two decades. "It seemed to me that there could be no better canvas on which to paint such an event as the Lake District," she said.

In 2006 she was a juror at the Leeds International Piano Competition and in 2012 she was honoured at the Cumbrian Women of the Year awards. Three years later she recorded *Gradi*, a CD of her husband's music, with artists including the mezzo-soprano Claire Bradshaw and the guitarist Craig Ogden.

Renna Kellaway, who was appointed MBE in 2009, was known for her understated elegance and encouragement of musicians of all abilities. She was a marvellous hostess at the family home in High Bentham, between the Forest of Bowland and the Yorkshire Dales.

Sir John Manduell died in 2017 and Renna Kellaway is survived by their daughter and three sons.

Renna Kellaway, born October 18 1931, died April 26 2024

Archie Bishop

Merchant seaman and lawyer expert in cases involving salvage after collisions and disasters at sea

ARCHIE BISHOP, who has died aged 86, played a central role in the development of international maritime salvage law and practice; his experience in the Merchant Navy lay behind his later success as a maritime lawyer, specialising in salvage and collision disputes.

Aware of the difficulty in negotiating a settlement after collisions – often because of the lack of reliable witnesses – Bishop realised that clients generally preferred a friendly settlement to a costly court case. He was a man of integrity and sound common sense, and a skilled litigator.

For centuries the law of salvage at sea was governed by Lloyd's Open Form ("open" because no specific reward was attached to a salvage claim), which was further governed by a rule of "no cure, no pay", meaning that a salvor only gets paid if property is recovered.

Then in 1992, after an alleged pirate attack, the tanker *Nagasaki Spirit* collided in the Malacca Strait with the container ship *Ocean Blessing*, and crude oil spilled into the sea and caught fire. All but two of some 50 crewmen from the two ships perished; Bishop's handling of the case on behalf of the insurers was praised by Richard Sayer of Ince & Co, a frequent opponent in such cases.

The case went through many stages of appeals until it reached the House of Lords, which in 1997 ruled that compensation did not include any element of profit for the professional salvors. The salvage industry was disappointed, and in consequence

Bishop, who served on the Lloyd's of London standing committee which reviewed and revised the Lloyd's Open Form, pioneered changes in the custom and practice of the law at sea.

Despite resistance from sections of the shipping industry, SCOPIC (Special Compensation Protection and Indemnity Clause) was introduced, meaning that salvors would not only be compensated at a fair rate for their men and equipment, but would also receive compensation if their work limited damage to the environment.

William Archie Bishop was born on July 21 1937 in Bridgwater, Somerset, at the Golden Ball Hotel, where his father was landlord. Archie's adventures started early when as a young boy he would spend summers camping with his three older brothers in the Somerset countryside. They would cycle 12 miles from home with their dog Carlo, and their parents would visit at weekends with supplies.

After Colston's School, Bristol, in 1952 Archie joined Thames Nautical Training College, HMS Worcester. Two years later, at 16, he began an apprenticeship as a cadet with P&O. By 1959 he was Third Officer in the new cargo ship *Salsette*. The next year he joined Holman Fenwick Willan as an articled clerk and was sponsored for six years' part-time study at Guildford Law College.

By 1988 he had risen to senior partner in HFW, a role he described as being "the lone lamp-post in a street full of dogs". Leading by example, when payment of retired partners' pensions out of profits threatened the



Bishop, left, as Third Officer in P&O's *Salsette*

viability of HFW, he gave up his own rights.

As a lecturer at the International Maritime Law Institute in Malta, Bishop enthralled his audiences with his practical lessons of the law in action. When scores of vessels were damaged during the so-called "tanker war" (part of the Iran-Iraq war), he acted for the salvors: a typical case in 1984 was the Swiss-owned, Liberian-registered super-tanker *Tiburon* carrying Iranian oil. Flames

spread to the superstructure, and two days after the attack the ship was wallowing, with only 3ft of hull above the water. Eight crew were killed and three seriously injured, but salvage tugs extinguished the fire and towed *Tiburon* into Bahrain.

In another case, he acted for a shipowner who wanted to claim salvage on an unexploded missile; he had to explain several legal obstacles, including an obligation to return the missile to its Iraqi owners.

He also told how, in 1997, a Japanese tuna boat was struck by a falling cow. Some Russians had been disturbed while rustling Kobe beef cattle in northern Japan using a transport plane. They took off in a great hurry, but when the aircraft stalled, the pilot opened the rear door and livestock fell out, one of which entered the boat through the roof of the wheelhouse.

Bishop was an attractive and charismatic man cut from old-fashioned cloth; he believed in the power of charm and good humour to bring people together. He never lost the twinkle in his blue eyes nor his West Country burr, and he mixed effortlessly with people from all walks of life. His passion for horses led him to go on riding and camping trips in the Rocky Mountains.

He married Joan Sherman and after they divorced, in 1997 he married Annie Edwards, who survives him with a son and daughter from his first marriage and a stepdaughter.

Archie Bishop, born July 21 1937, died February 8 2024

Laurent Cantet

Director who scooped the top prize at Cannes with *The Class*, based on the life of a schoolteacher

LAURENT CANTET, who has died of cancer aged 63, was a French writer-director who brought a subtly probing but non-judgmental gaze to a run of films that doubled as parables of contemporary life, most notably the Palme d'Or-winning *The Class* in 2008. "I'm always interested in showing the complexity of our world," he said. "What's always difficult is making a film that deals with reality without being too didactic."

A number of Cantet's stories explored people's relationship to the work they do. Where *Human Resources* (1999) stalked a business-school graduate sent to oversee lay-offs at the factory employing his aging father, *Time Out* (2001) followed a man so ashamed at losing his job that he drives around during office hours, pretending to be gainfully employed.

Time Out paired Cantet with the screenwriter Robin Campillo. The pair reteamed for *Heading South* (2005), an adaptation of Dany Laferrière's short stories about white women visiting Haiti in the 1980s. Despite a typically steely Charlotte Rampling performance, the film yielded variable critical responses, yet Cantet and Campillo rebounded with *The Class*, a modern classic strikingly different from the sentimental school dramas of yore.

Its source was a memoir by the essayist François Bégaudeau about the disillusion he felt while teaching. Cantet asked the boyish



Cantet after winning the Palme d'Or in 2008

Bégaudeau to play a version of himself opposite real-life pupils in a dramatisation of the incidents that had pushed him to quit.

In his *Time* review, Richard Schickel noted this hard-won authenticity: "It is hard to think of another film more tightly autobiographical than this one. It's even harder to think of other films that build so gripping a narrative out of a string of comparatively minor and disparate incidents."

Cantet sensed he was on to something when teachers at the Parisian school where he was filming complained that pupils were more motivated about attending his fictional lessons than their real ones; a last-minute entry at Cannes, the film scooped the festival's top prize, becoming the first French winner for 21 years.

Although beaten to the Foreign Film Oscar by the Japanese drama *Departures*, *The Class* proved a notable arthouse success, a film that asked big questions about education without losing sight of what makes a compelling story. "Fiction is really important in my films, even if it deals with something very real and very social," Cantet told one interviewer.

This particular fiction reflected the director's roots. The son of two teachers, Laurent Cantet was born on April 11 1961 in Melle in western France. He studied photography in Marseille before attending the national film school, IDHEC.

Initially he ventured into non-fiction, assisting the veteran documentarist Marcel Ophüls on *Veillées d'armes* (1994), on the siege of Sarajevo. Yet he broke through with short and medium-length fictions: *Jeux de plage* (1995), a coastal blueprint for *Human Resources* that won the Prix Jean Vigo for Best Short Film, and the made-for-TV *Les sanguinaires* (1999), about a man retreating to an island off Corsica to avoid Y2K mania. Following his Cannes triumph, Cantet

was tempted westwards. In Canada, he filmed, in English, *Foxfire: Confessions of a Girl Gang* (2012), a textured adaptation of Joyce Carol Oates's novel. He then headed south to Cuba for the anthology film *7 Days in Havana* (2012), each segment filmed by a different director, and *Return to Ithaca* (2014), about old friends reuniting to discuss their place in revolutionary history.

Thereafter Cantet came home, reteaming with Campillo for the Marseille-set *The Workshop* (2017), which updated the cross-generational debate that so elevated *The Class* with the added dramatic charge of online nationalism. That aspect of web-enabled chaos was central to Cantet's final film, *Arthur Rambo* (2021, unreleased in the UK), in which an emergent media personality has his upward mobility checked by the discovery of hateful Tweets posted by his younger self.

Cantet was affiliated with the Collectif des Cinéastes Pour les Sans-Papiers, who provide support to undocumented migrant workers, and he served as the president of Passeurs d'Images, which campaigns for greater film literacy in schools.

Promoting *The Workshop*, Cantet spoke of the need for society to engage the young: "I think that's what we should do with young people: give them space to think together."

Laurent Cantet, born April 11 1961, died April 25 2024

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Television reviews

Wembley film will make you ashamed to be an England fan



A Netflix documentary details the chaotic events of the Euro 2020 football final

With the impending Euros and England's men's football team hoping to win it, **The Final: Attack on Wembley** (Netflix) made me simply delighted that the tournament is not being held here. It also made me ashamed to be an England football fan.

There are some heroes who come out of the story of the Euro 2020 final, in which 6,000 ticketless fans stormed Wembley Stadium leaving a part of London looking like Gomorrah, but very few of them were among the so-called supporters. An independent enquiry into how Wembley was invaded spoke of the bravery of the stewards and the "extraordinary aggression" shown towards them. The worry is that the aggression is not that extraordinary. A part of English football fandom has long had a culture problem.

Directors Rob Miller and Kwabena Oppong made a good fist of trying to canvas viewpoints from all sides, including the guy on the roof of the bus who had the day of his life, and one of the break-ins who said that he would do it all again.

The why of the so-called attack on Wembley comes down to what Brent Council's Chris Bryant described as "A dense crowd in a compact area... that was completely off its face."

For some people, evidently, this was the highest of high jinx, everything

you could want in a grand day out. But not for the fan with his 70-year-old stepfather or the Italian with his young daughter. They were admirable in their restraint: as the footage made plain, it was a miracle that no one was killed.

Given that so many of the idiots were filming themselves and tweeting their hilarious exploits, how many were prosecuted, how many banned by their clubs? Likewise, though the film ended with the beginnings of the next tournament, in the form of England's qualification for Euro 2024, it didn't ask what we have learned from the Wembley debacle that might stop it happening again. It would have been interesting to look at how, or if, you can stop people getting totally blotto.

Mostly, though, the imagery of lashed-up thugs, high on cocaine and lampposts, throwing flares and bottles at anyone in their path and then indulging in a bit of racist chanting after England lost was just disgraceful. There was a vague attempt in the film to suggest that this was the behaviour of young men who'd been cooped up over Covid and now finally had a chance to let off some steam. Well. Next time they want to do that, could they please go and jump in a skip somewhere with an eight-pack and a baby rattle while the rest of us get to enjoy a day out? **Benji Wilson**

Salman Rushdie, having lived under a death sentence since 1989, has developed a nice line in gallows humour. Here he is, describing the sensation of being put on a ventilator after being stabbed more than a dozen times: "It's like having an armadillo's tail shoved down your throat. And when they remove it, it's like having an armadillo's tail pulled out of your throat. So, if you could avoid it, I would." Followed by a wry smile.

The author has written a memoir, *Knife*, about his 2022 ordeal, and spoke about it in a *Telegraph* interview. But to watch him discussing it in **Salman Rushdie: Through a Glass Darkly** (BBC Two) is to truly understand how remarkably he is dealing with it.

The BBC interview, with his old friend Alan Yentob, is a straight recollection of what happened. Yentob can only sit in horrified silence as Rushdie points to all of the places on his body where he was stabbed, and to describe his right eye "sitting on my cheek like a soft boiled egg". There is wincing detail too about the doctors stitching his eye shut: "They said to me it would not be painful because of the anaesthetic and, you know, they lied."

This account was interspersed with footage of Rushdie's younger days, news reports of the fatwa issued over *The Satanic Verses*, and clips of the film, TV and literary references that went through his mind during his recovery. Then, an odd sequence: Rushdie's imagined conversation with his attacker, included in *Knife*, is brought to life via a mix of rudimentary AI and CGI. This device adds nothing to our understanding. For Rushdie, though, you can see its importance in giving him back a sense of control. "This conversation is over," his interviewee says at one point, but Rushdie replies: "No, no. The point about this is, it's happening in my head so it's not over until my head says it is."

Rushdie's fifth wife, Eliza, is also interviewed about what was clearly a traumatic experience. This is, Rushdie says, a love story. More than anything, it's a testament to his refusal to be cowed. As he said last year: "Terrorism must not terrorise us." **Anita Singh**

The Final: Attack on Wembley ★★★
Salman Rushdie: Through a Glass Darkly ★★★★

What to watch

INSIDE NO 9
BBC Two, 10pm



Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith bid farewell to Inside No 9 – on television, at least

After eight seasons of A spoofs, witty wordplay and laugh-out-loud comedy, *Inside No 9* – Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith's gloriously original anthology series – approaches the finish line. The ninth (and final) series begins with *Boo to a Goose*, a crime mystery set aboard a late-night underground train that perfectly encapsulates what the show has done so brilliantly for so long: well-written, fully

fleshed-out characters descending into madness, malice or farce, shown in previous all-time great episodes such as *The 12 Days of Christine* (with Sheridan Smith) or *A Quiet Night In* (with Denis Lawson). When the train breaks down and plunges into darkness, a nurse's (Philippa Dunne) purse is stolen. The passengers immediately point fingers at homeless man Mossy (*This Country's* Charlie Cooper) – but

finding the true culprit proves more difficult than first thought. There are pitch-perfect performances from Cooper, Matthew Kelly, Susan Wokoma, Siobhan Finneran, Joel Fry and Mark Bonnar (quietly menacing as a teacher who takes the law into his own hands). Fans will be thrilled to hear Pemberton and Shearsmith will be creating a stage version, in the West End, next year. **Poppie Platt**

to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Swedish group's Eurovision win in 1974 comes courtesy of the BBC and a host of European broadcasters, who have co-funded the film. This documentary covers that win (for *Waterloo*) as well as their hit albums and the personal conflicts within the group (made up of Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvæus, Benny Andersson, and Anni-Frid Lyngstad) – and features impressive access to rare early footage from Swedish public television.

DRAMA

Dark Matter
Apple TV+
Apple's latest sci-fi thriller (following the likes of



Dark Matter: Joel Edgerton and Jennifer Connelly

Constellation, *For All Mankind* and *Severance*) stars Joel Edgerton as a Chicago physicist who becomes trapped in an alternate version of his own life, and must prevent his other self from harming his family. Also on Apple TV+ today is Chris Smith's (*Tiger King*) three-part documentary *Hollywood Con Queen*.

FACTUAL

Location, Location, Location
Channel 4, 8pm
Kirstie Allsop and Phil Spencer kick off a 41st series with more house-hunting tips and tricks. On the Sussex coast, we meet retirees Amanda and Annette, who are searching for a spacious bungalow, and first-time buyers Danit and Rafi, who are dreaming of a one-bed flat in trendy Brighton. **PP**

ART

Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir
Sky Arts, 9pm
Kicking off the second series of their pleasingly relaxed art show, the comedian and his wife visit London to spot and paint some peregrine falcons, who reside at the peak of high-rise apartment blocks.



Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir returns

COMEDY

Abbott Elementary
Disney+
Quinta Brunson's warm, witty Emmy-sweeping school-set sitcom returns for a third, 11-episode series (box-setted). Teacher Janine

(Brunson) receives a promotion after organising a hit careers day, while chaotic headteacher Ava (Janelle James) does the unthinkable and starts being good at her job.

DOCUMENTARY

Secrets and Spies: The Nuclear Game
BBC Two, 9pm
This terrific three-parter about KGB spy Oleg Gordievsky, who worked at the Soviet Embassy in London during the Cold War, features reflections from former aides to Thatcher and Reagan. For more intrigue, a rerun of the 1987 adaptation of John le Carré's *A Perfect Spy* begins on BBC Four, introduced by star Peter Egan, at 10pm.

Abba: Against the Odds
BBC One, 10.40pm; Wales, 11.10pm; NI, 11.40pm
The latest documentary

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Radio choice

Drama: The Missed Lives of Max & Judy
Radio 4, 2.15pm
Alison Steadman leads the cast of this inventive comedy-drama about a not-quite-couple doomed to never get their romance over the line – Judy and Max (Danusia Samal and Carl Prekopp) meet at a lecture and thereafter meet up for chicken shop dates to discuss their failed love lives. The writer is Janina Matthews, creator of the ingenious *Within the Wires* podcast. Part two is tomorrow at the same time. There's a second chance today to catch the new episode of **Being Roman** with **Mary Beard** (Radio 4, 9pm); it's Britain 61AD, and a new financial auditor has a tough decision to make. **Gerard O'Donovan**

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHz
6.57am Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James 10.30 Newsbeat 10.32 Rickie, Melvin and Charlie 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Dean and Vicky 3.30 Newsbeat 3.32 Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders 8.00 Radio 1's Future Pop with Mollie King 10.00 Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri 11.00 Benji B 1.00am Radio 1 Anthems 2.00 The Radio 1 Interview 2.20 6 Degrees from Jamie and Spencer 3.00 Radio 1 Relax 4.00 Radio 1 Dance 5.00 - 6.57am Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Arielle Free

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHz
6.30am The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show 9.30 Vernon Kay 12.00 Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat 2.00pm Scott Mills. Scott is backstage at the Malmö Arena in Sweden for Eurovision 2024 4.00 Sara Cox. Music and chat 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wower. Sara plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing 7.00 Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whitley. Kate Nash plays a Sofa Session 9.00 The Folk Show with Shaun Keaveny. Sitting in for Mark Radcliffe 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of soulful tunes 12.00 OJ Borg 3.00am Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary 4.00 - 6.30am Oliver Hides

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHz
6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1.00pm Classical Live 3.00 Choral Evensong 4.00 Composer of the Week: CPE Bach 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape. A sequence of music 7.30 Radio 3 in Concert. The BBC Philharmonic in Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, conducted by Anja Bihlmaier 9.45 The Essay: Dietrich in Five Songs. How in the Ruins of Berlin took Dietrich back to a fatherland she'd rejected 10.00 Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents a soundtrack for late-night listening 11.30 Round Midnight 12.30 - 6.30am Through the Night

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198kHz
6.00am Today 9.00 Life Changing 9.30 Helen Lewis Has Left the Chat 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 File on 4 11.45 The Miners' Strike: Return Journey 12.00 News 12.04pm You and Yours. Consumer affairs 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One. Current affairs with Sarah Montague 1.45 Assume Nothing: The Last Request. Laura McDavid contacts a woman that could be Martin's mother 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: **The Missed Lives of Max & Judy** by Janina Matthews **See Radio choice** 3.00 Money Box Live. Financial questions 3.30 Behind the Crime. The story of a young woman who was imprisoned for fraud 4.00 The Media Show. Ros Atkins presents the latest news from the fast-changing media world 5.00 PM. Presented by Evan Davis 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Room 101 with Paul Merton. Gyles Brandreth shares his pet hates and worst nightmares 7.00 The Archers. Alan provides a sympathetic ear 7.15 Front Row. Arts programme 8.00 Antisocial 8.45 Uncharted with Hannah Fry 9.00 **Being Roman** with **Mary Beard** **See Radio choice** 9.30 Inside Health 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: You Are Here 11.00 Gary Little: At Large 11.15 Tom Mayhew is Benefit Scum 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am The Miners' Strike: Return

RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909kHz
6.00am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1.00pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport. Mark Chapman presents build-up to Real Madrid v Bayern Munich 8.00 5 Live Sport. Real Madrid v Bayern Munich (kick-off 8.00pm) 10.30 Gordon Smart 1.00am Johnny l'Anson 5.00 - 6.00am Wake up to Money

CLASSIC FM
FM 99.9-101.9MHz
6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Aled Jones 9.00 The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Aled Jones 10.00 Alexander Armstrong 1.00pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1.00am Bill Overton 4.00 - 6.30am Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY
8.00am News 8.06 HARDtalk 8.30 Business Daily 8.50 Witness History 9.00 The Newshour 9.30 The Climate Question 10.00 News 10.06 World Book Club 11.00 The Newshour 11.30 The Global Story 12.00 News 12.06pm Outlook 12.50 Witness History 1.00 The Newshour 1.30 The Documentary: Things Fell Apart 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.06 HARDtalk 3.30 World Business Report 4.00 BBC OS 6.00 News 6.06 Outlook 6.50 Witness History 7.00 The Newshour 7.30 Sport Today 8.00 News 8.06 The Climate Question 8.30 Health Check 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.06 HARDtalk 10.30 The

Documentary: Things Fell Apart 11.00 The Newshour 11.30 World Business Report 12.00 News 12.06am World Book Club 1.00 News 1.06 Business Matters 2.00 The Newshour 2.30 The Documentary: Twin Towns 3.00 News 3.06 Outlook 3.50 Witness History 4.00 The Newshour 4.30 The Food Chain 5.00 - 8.00am Newshour

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY
6.00am Lord Peter Wimsey – Clouds of Witness 6.30 The Buckingham Palace Connection 7.00 Never Too Late 7.30 Hancock's Half Hour 8.00 Boswell's Lives 8.30 The Grass Is Greener 8.45 Girl with a Pearl Earring 9.00 Yesterday in Parliament 9.30 Britain at Sea 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 Losing My Voice 11.00 Lord Peter Wimsey – Clouds of Witness 11.30 The Buckingham Palace Connection 12.00 Never Too Late 12.30pm Hancock's Half Hour 1.00 Boswell's Lives 1.30 The Grass Is Greener 1.45 Girl with a Pearl Earring 2.00 Say the Word 2.30 Elephants to Catch Eels 3.00 Diamonds 4.00 Losing My Voice 5.00 Lord Peter Wimsey – Clouds of Witness 5.30 The Buckingham Palace Connection 6.00 Never Too Late 6.30 Hancock's Half Hour 7.00 Boswell's Lives 7.30 The Grass Is Greener 7.45 Girl with a Pearl Earring 8.00 Say the Word 8.30 Elephants to Catch Eels 9.00 Diamonds 10.00 Room 101 with Paul Merton 10.30 The Museum of Everything 11.00 Comedy Club at Machynlleth 11.15 Tarot: Soundbleed 11.30 On Baby Street 12.00 Losing My Voice 1.00am Lord Peter Wimsey – Clouds of Witness 1.30 The Buckingham Palace Connection 2.00 Never Too Late 2.30 Hancock's Half Hour 3.00 Boswell's Lives 3.30 The Grass Is Greener 3.45 Girl with a Pearl Earring 4.00 Say the Word 4.30 Elephants to Catch Eels 5.00 - 6.00am Diamonds

T&Cs: *This offer is open to UK continuous payment customers subscribing to The English Garden magazine. This offer expires on 15th May 2024. You will pay £39.95 for your first 13 issues, saving 48% off the usual shop price. You will then continue to pay £44.95 every 13 issues thereafter, still saving 42%. All savings are calculated as a percentage of the standard shop price. You will be notified through writing of any future price changes before they take effect. The Sarah Raven: A Year Full of Pots book, is subject to availability and while stocks last. We reserve the right to fulfill all subsequent orders with a product of equal value. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. We reserve the right to fulfill all subsequent orders with a product of equal value. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Today's television

Main channels

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **9.30** Morning Live (S) **10.45** Big Little Crimes (R) (S) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (R) (S)

12.15 pm Bargain Hunt (R) (S)

1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (S)

1.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

1.45 Doctors (AD) (S)

2.15 Money for Nothing (R) (S)

3.00 Escape to the Country (R) (S)

3.45 Garden Rescue (S)

4.30 The Finish Line (S)

5.15 Pointless (S)

6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S)

6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)



Abba: Against the Odds

7.00 The One Show With Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas (S)

7.30 EastEnders On the day of Gloria's memorial, Cindy and Phil realise something is wrong (AD) (S)

8.00 MasterChef Three more contestants are eliminated as Knockout Week continues (AD) (S)

9.00 Race Across the World The teams travel the length of Thailand to reach the next checkpoint (AD) (S)

10.00 BBC News at Ten (S)

10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

10.40 Abba: Against the Odds Delving into Abba's greatest period of musical achievement See What to watch (AD) (S)

12.10 am Pointless Celebrities **1.05 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.30 am Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S) **7.15** Garden Rescue (R) (S) **8.00** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Food Stories (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **8.30** Sign Zone: MasterChef (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** News (S) **11.15** Politics Live (S)

1.00 pm Impossible (R) (S)

1.45 Mastermind (R) (S)

2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) (R) (S)

2.45 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities (AD) (R) (S)

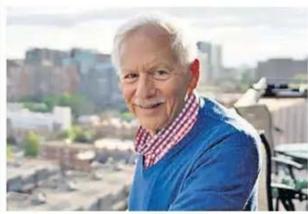
3.15 Serengeti (AD) (R) (S)

4.15 The Secret Genius of Modern Life (AD) (R) (S)

5.15 Flog It! (R) (S)

6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (R) (S)

6.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence (S)



Secrets and Spies: A Nuclear Game

7.00 Andi Oliver's Fabulous Feasts Andi supersedes an annual cricket match in Burnley (AD) (S)

8.00 Why Buildings Collapse The collapse of the Champlain Towers South apartment building in Miami in 2021 (AD) (R) (S)

9.00 Secrets and Spies: A Nuclear Game New series. A look at the events and causes of the Cold War See What to watch (AD) (S)

10.00 Inside No 9 New series. Late-night passengers get stuck in a tunnel when their train breaks down See What to watch (AD) (S)

10.30 Newsnight (S)

11.15 Unspun World with John Simpson **11.45** Saving Lives at Sea **12.45am** Sign Zone: Dragons' Den **1.45** Sign Zone: Pompeii: The New Dig **2.45 - 6.30am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)

12.30 pm Loose Women (S)

1.30 News; Weather (S)

1.55 Regional News; Weather (S)

2.00 Riddiculous (R) (S)

3.00 Lingo (R) (S)

4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S)

5.00 The Chase (R) (S)

6.00 Regional News; Weather (S)

6.30 News; Weather (S)



Coronation Street

7.30 Emmerdale Nicky plans his future (AD) (S)

8.00 Coronation Street A reconstruction of Lauren's final hours proves harrowing for Bethany (AD) (S)

9.00 Beat the Chasers - Celebrity Special With Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen, Shobna Gulati, David James and Will Bayley (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S)

10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

10.45 Peston Political magazine show, hosted by Robert Peston (S)

11.40 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **12.50am** Shop on TV **3.00** Funeral Costs: The Price of Dying - Tonight **3.25** Stalking: State of Fear **4.15** Unwind with ITV **5.35 - 6.00am** Gino's Italy: Like Mamma Used to Make

Channel 4

6.30 am 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) **6.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) **7.20** 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) **9.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.10** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S)

12.05 pm Channel 4 News (S)

12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S)

1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) (S)

2.10 Countdown (S)

3.00 A Place in the Sun (S)

4.00 Narrow Escapes (AD) (S)

5.00 Come Dine with Me: The Professionals (S)

6.00 Four in a Bed (S)

6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)



Stacey Solomon's Renovation Rescue

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

8.00 Location, Location, Location New series. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help house-hunters in Sussex See What to watch (S)

9.00 Stacey Solomon's Renovation Rescue Stacey helps Shariqa and Imani transform their characterless home (AD) (S)

10.00 Britain's Most Expensive Houses A singer's £12.5million home is placed on the market (AD) (R) (S)

11.05 The Piano **12.10am** Ramsay's Hotel Hell **1.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **1.55** Our Welsh Chapel Dream **2.50** Grand Designs Australia **3.50** The Incredibly Talented Lucy **4.55** Location, Location, Location **5.50 - 6.30am** Countdown

Channel 5

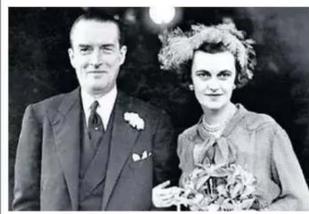
6.00 am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.15** Storm Huntley (S) **11.55** 5 News at Lunchtime (S)

12.00 Live: Snooker World Senior Championship Coverage of day one from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield (S)

5.00 pm 5 News at 5 (S)

6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S)

6.55 5 News Update (S)



A Very British Sex Scandal

7.00 Shop Smart, Save Money: Summer Holiday Special The team assess camping products, e-readers and barbecues (S)

7.55 5 News Update (S)

8.00 The Motorway Motorway patroller Tony is attacked by the driver of a crashed car (S)

9.00 A Very British Sex Scandal: The Duchess & the Headless Man The true story of a royal sex scandal that rocked Sixties Britain (S)

10.30 999: Critical Condition (R) (S)

11.30 999: Emergency Call Out **12.30am** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **1.15** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.20** The World's Biggest Murder Trial: Nuremberg **4.30** Wildlife SOS **5.00** House Doctor **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventures! **5.45 - 6.00am** Paw Patrol

Film choice



The Devil's Disciple (1959, b/w) Talking Pictures TV, 11.05am ★★★★★

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play, Guy Hamilton's melodrama is a thrilling look at revenge and destiny. When Dick Dudgeon (Kirk Douglas) learns that his father was executed by the British in the Revolutionary War, he steals the body to give it a proper burial; a choice which threatens grave punishment, unless Laurence Olivier's General can get him off the hook. Burt Lancaster also stars.



Space Cowboys (2000) ITV4, 8pm ★★★

Clint Eastwood, who has had more than a little success playing earthbound cowboys, directs and stars in this sci-fi drama about four retirees who were passed over as astronauts in the 1950s, but are given the chance to fly into space: they're needed to repair a satellite. Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner and Donald Sutherland co-star. Eastwood also co-composed the soaring score with Lennie Niehaus.



The Shape of Water (2017) Film4, 11.45pm ★★★★★

Elisa (Sally Hawkins) is a mute who lives alone and works nights at the Occam Aerospace Research Centre. When she develops a relationship with The Asset (Doug Jones), an amphibious humanoid creature being studied by the government, she's determined to free him. Hawkins radiates emotional intensity; Guillermo del Toro's beautiful, Oscar-winning blood-curdler is as timeless as a fairy tale.

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Freeview, satellite and cable

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108

7.00 pm Walk the Line with Barra Best

7.30 Dinosaurs: The Final Day with David Attenborough

9.00 Attenborough at 90

10.00 Peter Egan Remembers... A Perfect Spy See What to Watch

10.15 A Perfect Spy See What to Watch

11.10 A Perfect Spy See What to Watch

12.05 am A Perfect Spy See What to Watch

1.00 Attenborough at 90

2.00 - **3.30am** Dinosaurs: The Final Day with David Attenborough

ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117

11.20 am Heartbeat

12.25 pm Heartbeat

1.30 Classic Emmerdale

2.05 Classic Emmerdale

2.35 Classic Coronation Street

3.10 Classic Coronation Street

3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot

5.55 Heartbeat

6.55 Heartbeat

8.00 Midsomer Murders

10.00 DCI Banks

11.00 DCI Banks

11.50 The Royal

12.40 am Wild at Heart

1.30 Upstairs, Downstairs

2.30 - **6.00am** Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118

Noon Robin of Sherwood

1.10 pm ITV Racing: Live from Chester and Newton Abbot

4.00 World of Sport

4.15 River Monsters

4.50 The Sweeney

5.55 BattleBots

7.00 Junk and Disorderly

8.00 FILM: Space Cowboys (2000) Adventure with Clint Eastwood See Film choice

10.40 FILM: The Purge: Anarchy (2014) Horror with Frank Grillo

12.45 am Minder

1.50 The Chase Celebrity Christmas Special

2.50 Unwind with ITV

3.00 - **6.00am** Teleshopping

Sky Arts

FV 36 FS 147 SKY 130 VIRGIN 140

1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected

2.00 John Wayne: America at All Costs

3.00 Art Traffickers: Treasures Stolen from the Tombs

4.00 Discovering: Richard Dreyfuss

5.00 Tales of the Unexpected

6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents

7.00 The Joy of Painting

8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2022

9.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir See What to Watch

10.00 Bill Bailey's Master Crafters: The Next Generation

11.00 The Seventies

12.00 Spike Milligan

1.35 am David Hockney in London

3.05 - **4.20am** Sound of Freedom

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

11.10 am Billions

12.15 pm Game of Thrones

1.20 Ray Donovan

2.25 Ray Donovan

3.30 True Blood

4.35 True Blood

5.40 Billions

6.50 Billions

7.55 Game of Thrones

9.00 The Regime

10.05 House of the Dragon

11.15 Domina

12.20 am The Pacific

1.25 The Outsider

2.30 Game of Thrones

3.35 - **4.05am** In Treatment

Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428

11.00 am Operation Petticoat (1959) Second World War comedy starring Cary Grant

1.30 pm The 300 Spartans (1962) Historical drama starring Richard Egan

3.45 The Quiet Man (1952) Romantic comedy drama with John Wayne

6.25 Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) Action starring Tom Cruise

9.00 War for the Planet of the Apes (2017) Sci-fi adventure sequel starring Andy Serkis

11.45 The Shape of Water (2017) Fantasy starring Sally Hawkins See Film choice

2.10 - **4.00am** Cube (1997) Sci-fi horror starring Nicole deBoer

Drama

FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 116

11.40 am The Bill

12.40 pm Classic EastEnders

1.20 Classic EastEnders

2.00 Pie in the Sky

3.00 Lovejoy

4.10 All Creatures Great and Small

5.20 Birds of a Feather

6.00 Keeping Up Appearances

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine

7.20 Last of the Summer Wine

8.00 The Bletchley Circle

9.00 New Tricks

11.20 Soldier, Soldier

12.30 am Lovejoy

1.40 When the Boat Comes In

2.50 - **4.00am** Classic Holly City

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 10.40pm Nolan Live **11.40** Abba: Against the Odds **1.10 - 6.00am** BBC News

BBC Two: No variations

UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: 2.15 - 3.00pm Politics

Scotland 12.10am Debate Night **1.10** Pointless Celebrities **2.05 - 6.00am** BBC News

BBC Scotland: 7.00pm Paramedics on Scene **8.00** Life on the Bay **8.30** Scotland's Home of the Year **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Two Doors Down **10.30** Debate Night **11.30** David Wilson's Crime Files: Scams & Scandals **midnight** Close **STV: 10.40pm** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Peston **12.00** ITV Studio Sessions **12.25 - 3.00am** Shop on TV **4.15 - 5.35am** Night Vision

Wales

BBC One: 10.40pm BBC Wales Live **11.10** Abba: Against the Odds **12.40am** Pointless Celebrities **1.30 - 6.00am** BBC News

BBC Two: 2.45 - 3.15pm Great Coastal Railway Journeys **8.00** Weatherman Walking **8.30 - 9.00pm** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities

ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITV1 Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cwyl **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cwyl: Blociau Rhif **11.05** Dysgu Gyda Cwyl: Caru Canu a Stori **11.30** Dysgu Gyda Cwyl: Sion y Chwr **11.40** Dysgu Gyda Cwyl: Halibw **11.40** Dysgu Gyda Cwyl: Ahoi! **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys **12.30** Heno **1.00** Codi Hwyf **1.30** Garddio a Mwy **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynwynn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Nôl i'r Gwersyll **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo **4.10** Awr Fawr: Octonots **4.20** Awr Fawr: Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd **4.30** Awr Fawr: Cret a'r Ffrindiau **4.45** Awr Fawr: Kim a Cet a'r Twrch **5.00** Stwmsh **6.00** Cais Quinell **6.30** Rownd a Rownd **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobl y Cwm **8.25** Sion **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Nî Yw'r Cymry **10.00** Cysgu O Gwmpas **10.30 - 11.34pm** Jason Mohammad: Stadiymau'r Byd

Dave

Noon Travel Man: 48 Hours in Paris **12.30pm** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Copenhagen **1.00** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Seville **1.30** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Venice **2.00** James May's Cars of the People **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers: Best of British **6.00** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **7.00** Richard Osman's House of Games **8.20** Would I Lie to You? **9.00** QI XL **10.00** World's Most Dangerous Roads **11.00** The Shield **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** QI **2.00** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **3.00** Richard Osman's House of Games **3.30-4.00am** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA

GOLD

11.30am Last of the Summer Wine **12.10pm** Keeping Up Appearances **12.50** Ever Decreasing Circles **1.30** Open All Hours **2.10** Only Fools and Horses **2.50** Dad's Army **3.30** Are You Being Served? **4.10** Last of the Summer Wine **5.25** Open All Hours **6.05** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools and Horses **9.20** Not Going Out. A skiing trip turns into a disaster **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **11.20** Only Fools and Horses **12.40am** Not Going Out **1.15** Men Behaving Badly **2.40-4.00am** Desmond's

ITV2

Noon Secret Crush **1.00pm** Dress to Impress **2.00** Family Fortunes **3.00** Veronica Mars **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Family Fortunes **8.00** Bob's Burgers **9.00** Hell's Kitchen **10.00** Plebs **11.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **1.00am** Bob's Burgers **1.55** Shopping with Keith Lemon **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.30-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4

11.25am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Chateau DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S **7.55** The Dog House **9.00** 24 Hours in Police Custody **9.50** 999: On the Front Line **10.55** 24 Hours in A&E **11.55** 24 Hours in Police Custody **12.35am** 999: On the Front Line **1.40** 24 Hours in A&E **2.45-3.50am** Food Unwrapped Does Takeaways

PBS America

11.40am Apocalypse: Stalin **1.00pm** Rise of the Clans **2.10** The Booleys: A Scandalous Family **3.50** The Invention of Surgery **4.50** Apocalypse: Stalin **5.55** Rise of the Clans **7.15** The Booleys: A Scandalous Family **8.35** The Invention of Surgery **9.35** Apocalypse: Stalin **10.45** The Booleys:

A Scandalous Family

12.00 The Invention of Surgery **1.00am** Inventful Serengeti **1.30** Rise of the Clans **2.40** Apocalypse: Stalin **3.35-4.45am** The Civil War

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at: **11.05am** FILM: The Devil's Disciple (1959, b/w) Historical drama starring Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas See Film choice **12.45pm** FILM: Kings Go Forth (1958, b/w) Drama starring Frank Sinatra **3.00** Saddle Up **3.05** FILM: Rio Conchos (1964) Western starring Richard Boone **5.15** Saddle Up **5.20** Johnny Ringo **5.50** Bonanza **6.50** Gold Rush Boy **7.00** Dixon of Dock Green **8.00** Public Eye **9.05** Gideon's Way **10.10** FILM: Black Tuesday (1954, b/w) Two Death Row prisoners escape from prison moments before execution, and go in search of the loot from a bank robbery. Crime drama starring Edward G Robinson **11.50** Terminus **12.30am** Maigret **1.30** FILM: Underworld USA (1961, b/w) Revenge thriller starring Cliff Robertson **3.20-4.45am** FILM: Old Mother Riley Meets the Vampire (1952, b/w) Comic horror starring Bela Lugosi

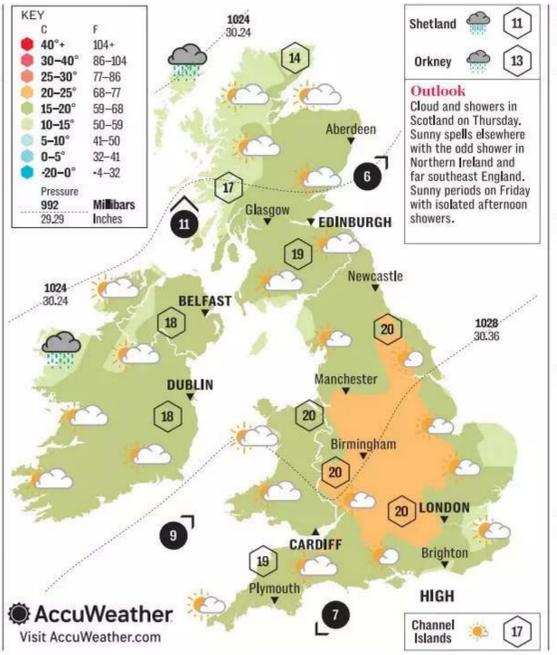
Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

Mild across the United Kingdom today with high pressure leading to sunny spells in England and Wales. Cloudier in Scotland and Northern Ireland with spells of rain in the afternoon.

- ♦ **London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Patchy fog early, then warm today with prolonged sunny spells. A light and variable breeze. Max 62-70F (17-21C). Clear spells and largely dry tonight. Min 45-52F (7-11C).
- ♦ **NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Sunny spells today with the odd afternoon shower. A light variable wind. Max 54-68F (12-20C). Dry tonight. Min 42-52F (6-11C).
- ♦ **Wales:** Sunny spells and mild today. A light and variable wind. Max 54-68F (12-20C). Mainly dry tonight. Min 42-52F (6-11C).
- ♦ **N Ireland:** Broken cloud today with spells of rain later in the day and tonight. A gentle SW wind. Max 58-65F (15-18C). Min 45-50F (7-10C).
- ♦ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Periods of rain later today and tonight. A gentle to moderate SW wind. Max 45-66F (7-19C). Min 41-52F (5-11C).



Four day forecast

- Thursday** Cloud and showers in Scotland on Thursday. Sunny spells elsewhere with the odd shower in Northern Ireland and far southeast England. Sunny periods on Friday with isolated afternoon showers.
- Friday** Sunny spells and mild today. A light and variable wind. Max 54-68F (12-20C). Dry tonight. Min 42-52F (6-11C).
- Saturday** Sunny spells and mild today. A light and variable wind. Max 54-68F (12-20C). Dry tonight. Min 42-52F (6-11C).
- Sunday** Sunny spells and mild today. A light and variable wind. Max 54-68F (12-20C). Dry tonight. Min 42-52F (6-11C).

European readings

	Max	Min	Daytime	weather
Akrotiri	23	16	sunny	
Alicante	21	13	sunny	
Amsterdam	19	10	p/cldy	
Athens	27	14	p/cldy	
Barcelona	18	15	p/cldy	
Bari	25	13	p/cldy	
Belgrade	26	15	showers	
Benidorm	22	14	sunny	
Bergen	13	9	rain	
Berlin	16	8	p/cldy	
Biarritz	17	10	windy	
Bodrum	26	15	sunny	
Bordeaux	18	11	cloudy	
Brest	17	11	rain	
Brussels	19	11	rain	
Bucharest	27	12	showers	
Budapest	24	16	showers	
Cagliari	24	16	p/cldy	
Chamonix	11	6	showers	
Copenhagen	16	7	sunny	
Corfu	22	13	p/cldy	
Cork	15	9	cloudy	
Corsica	20	15	showers	
Crete	23	13	p/cldy	
Dublin	16	9	p/cldy	
Dubrovnik	22	15	windy	
Faro	24	15	p/cldy	
Florence	18	13	showers	
Frankfurt	17	11	showers	
Funchal	24	17	cloudy	
Gdansk	15	6	sunny	
Geneva	12	10	showers	
Gibraltar	22	17	sunny	
Hamburg	16	9	p/cldy	
Helsinki	8	0	p/cldy	
Innsbruck	16	11	showers	
Istanbul	21	13	sunny	
Kyiv	21	11	showers	
La Rochelle	16	13	cloudy	
Lisbon	26	12	p/cldy	
Locarno	16	7	showers	
Luxembourg	17	7	showers	
Madrid	23	6	sunny	
Majorca	21	14	sunny	
Malaga	23	15	sunny	
Malta	25	17	p/cldy	
Marseille	21	12	showers	
Monaco	19	15	windy	
Milan	19	13	rain	
Monaco	19	14	showers	
Moscow	5	-1	snow	
Munich	16	10	cloudy	
Naples	22	13	showers	
Nice	21	14	showers	
Nicosia	28	13	sunny	
Oporto	22	8	sunny	
Oslo	15	5	p/cldy	
Palermo	23	16	showers	
Paris	20	8	p/cldy	
Perpignan	18	13	showers	
Prague	14	10	rain	
Reykjavik	8	3	rain	
Rhodes	25	18	sunny	
Riga	10	3	sunny	
Rome	21	13	cloudy	
Saint Malo	16	12	p/cldy	
Salzburg	17	11	showers	
Santander	16	12	p/cldy	
Santiago/Comp.	20	8	p/cldy	
Sofia	25	9	p/cldy	
St. Petersburg/Bur	-2	-2	showers	
Stockholm	12	-2	sunny	
Strasbourg	19	9	showers	
Tenerife	26	19	p/cldy	
Tirana	27	10	p/cldy	
Toulouse	15	9	rain	
Valencia	24	14	p/cldy	
Venice	18	15	rain	
Vienna	20	14	cloudy	
Vigo	21	8	p/cldy	
Vilnius	13	3	p/cldy	
Warsaw	16	8	cloudy	
Zagreb	24	14	showers	
Zurich	13	10	showers	

Nature Notes

Farmers step in to save nightingales

A group of farmers is trying to save one of the last nightingale strongholds in Britain. They are studying how to reduce the reliance on pesticides on their land where the songbirds breed on a rich supply of insects to feed their young. Nightingales have suffered a 90 per cent population crash in the past 50 years and are now extinct in most places where they were once common. However, they are clinging on in Kent and the Upper Beult Farmer Cluster, which specialises in "sustainable" farming. Rory Harding, nature recovery manager at Kent Wildlife Trust, which is working with the farmers, said: "Nightingales are really special: creatures and they're a strong indicator of the health of a landscape. "By the farmers working to protect and restore the environment for nightingales, they're supporting lots of other wildlife at the same time!"

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British readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	weather
Aberdeen	0.2	0.01	13	8	cloudy
Aberystwyth	4.3	0.00	18	11	p/cldy
Antrim	0.2	0.00	15	7	cloudy
Aviemore	0.0	0.00	12	7	cloudy
Barntaple	1.5	0.00	17	10	cloudy
Barrow-in-Furness	4.0	0.10	17	11	showers
Basingstoke	6.5	0.03	19	7	p/cldy
Bedford	4.9	0.00	16	8	p/cldy
Belfast	0.1	0.00	16	9	cloudy
Berwick	1.5	0.00	14	9	cloudy
Birmingham	8.2	0.00	19	11	p/cldy
Bodmin	0.3	0.00	17	9	cloudy
Bournemouth	4.2	0.05	14	8	showers
Braintree	4.5	0.14	17	8	showers
Brecon	2.6	0.00	13	8	cloudy
Bridlington	0.0	0.00	17	9	cloudy
Brighton	5.9	0.08	18	12	p/cldy
Bristol	5.2	0.00	19	9	p/cldy
Cambridge	7.6	0.00	13	11	p/cldy
Cardiff	9.3	0.02	17	8	p/cldy
Carlisle	1.1	0.00	17	9	cloudy
Catterick	2.1	0.00	17	9	cloudy
Cheltenham	4.3	0.00	19	9	p/cldy
Chester	2.5	0.00	19	11	cloudy
Coventry	2.4	0.00	18	10	cloudy
Doncaster	0.5	0.00	17	11	cloudy
Dover	4.2	0.00	18	9	p/cldy
Dundee	0.0	0.02	12	9	cloudy
Eastbourne	4.1	0.08	21	11	p/cldy
Edinburgh	0.4	0.00	15	10	cloudy
Epsom	6.9	0.00	17	8	p/cldy
Falmouth	3.7	0.00	17	11	p/cldy
Farnborough	6.8	0.00	19	7	p/cldy
Fort William	0.4	0.00	16	8	cloudy
Glasgow	0.0	0.06	18	10	showers
Great Malvern	3.2	0.38	20	9	rain
Grimsby	0.6	0.00	16	9	cloudy
Guernsey	5.4	0.03	16	11	p/cldy
Hereford	4.8	0.02	19	8	p/cldy
Hull	6.9	0.00	19	6	p/cldy
Holyhead	2.3	0.00	16	11	cloudy
Huddersfield	0.4	0.40	11	9	rain
Ipswich	5.5	0.08	17	6	showers
Isle of Man	7.2	0.00	16	10	p/cldy
Isle of Skye	0.2	0.00	13	4	cloudy
Isle of Wight	6.5	0.01	16	11	p/cldy
Isles of Scilly	7.9	0.00	15	12	p/cldy
Jersey	7.3	0.03	16	11	p/cldy
Keswick	0.1	0.05	17	9	cloudy
Kew Gardens	6.4	0.00	19	11	p/cldy
King's Lynn	0.8	0.00	18	9	cloudy
Leek	0.7	0.00	16	10	cloudy
Leeds	0.3	0.01	15	9	cloudy
Leicester	4.1	0.00	19	9	p/cldy
Lincoln	2.4	0.00	13	11	cloudy
Liverpool	2.5	0.00	19	11	cloudy
London	9.1	0.06	20	9	p/cldy
Manchester	1.1	0.00	19	11	cloudy
Middlesbrough	0.6	0.00	14	8	cloudy
Newcastle	1.9	0.02	14	9	cloudy
Newquay	7.6	0.00	13	11	p/cldy
Nottingham	0.5	0.00	18	11	cloudy
Orkney	0.2	0.02	12	8	cloudy
Oxford	9.1	0.09	19	9	p/cldy
Perth	0.0	0.02	16	11	cloudy
Peterborough	0.2	0.00	19	8	cloudy
Plymouth	7.9	0.00	19	10	p/cldy
Portsmouth	4.1	0.08	19	11	showers
Prestwick	1.2	0.00	15	11	cloudy
Ramsgate	7.9	0.02	17	11	p/cldy
Rhyl	1.6	0.00	18	10	cloudy
Rugby	2.7	0.00	19	8	cloudy
Salisbury	7.1	0.06	15	8	p/cldy
Scunthorpe	0.6	0.00	18	11	cloudy
Sheffield	0.5	0.00	17	11	cloudy
Shetland	2.4	0.16	11	8	rain
Shrewsbury	2.3	0.00	18	10	cloudy
Skegness	0.8	0.00	17	8	cloudy
Southampton	7.9	0.00	21	9	p/cldy
Southend-on-Sea	7.9	0.16	17	9	showers
Stockport	1.1	0.00	19	11	cloudy
Stornoway	2.7	0.00	12	7	cloudy
Swansea	6.1	0.00	18	11	p/cldy
Swindon	5.7	0.00	18	9	p/cldy
Thirsk	0.9	0.00	18	9	cloudy
Tiree	4.7	0.00	12	8	p/cldy
Weymouth	6.0	0.25	17	11	rain
Whitehaven	5.9	0.01	16	9	p/cldy
Windermere	2.1	0.00	16	9	cloudy
Worcester	2.6	0.38	20	9	rain
Yeovil	3.1	0.15	14	8	rain
York	1.3	0.00	16	11	cloudy



World readings

	Max	Min	Daytime	weather
Accra	33	26	storms	
Addis Ababa	26	15	showers	
Adelaide	23	9	sunny	
Alexandria	23	17	sunny	
Algiers	23	15	p/cldy	
Amman	21	12	p/cldy	
Anchorage	6	0	cloudy	
Ankara	20	2	sunny	
Ascension Is.	30	26	p/cldy	
Auckland	16	10	p/cldy	
Baghdad	32	17	haze	
Bahamas	29	23	p/cldy	
Bahrain	35	28	haze	
Banako	39	28	p/cldy	
Bangkok	35	26	rain	
Beijing	28	13	sunny	
Beirut	23	16	sunny	
Bermuda	23	17	p/cldy	
Bogota	24	10	rain	
Bridgetown	31	27	p/cldy	
Brisbane	24	16	rain	
Buenos Aires	19	17	rain	
Cairo	27	18	sunny	
Canberra	17	3	p/cldy	
Cape Town	18	14	showers	
Casablanca	26	13	windy	
Chicago	21	14	storms	
Christchurch	11	-1	sunny	
Colombo	31	26	storms	
Damascus	23	11	windy	
Dar es Salaam	29	24	showers	
Dhaka	32	22	storms	
Dubai	38	26	sunny	
Falkland Is.	4	1	cloudy	
Harare	30	11	sunny	
Havana	32	22	showers	
Hong Kong	29	24	p/cldy	
Honolulu	23	22	showers	
Jakarta	34	26	cloudy	
Jeddah	38	25	haze	
Jerusalem	20	12	sunny	
Johannesburg	26	7	sunny	
Kabul	31	11	sunny	
Karachi	35	27	haze	
Kolkata	33	23	storms	
Kuala Lumpur	32	24	storms	
La Paz	17	2	p/cldy	
Lahore	45	26	sunny	
Lima	21	18	cloudy	
Los Angeles	21	13	sunny	
Makives	30	28	storms	
Manila	36	26	sunny	
Marrakesh	35	16	p/cldy	
Melbourne	20	7	p/cldy	
Miami	29	24	p/cldy	
Montego Bay	29	24	showers	
Mumbai	33	26	sunny	
Nairobi	26	17	cloudy	
New Orleans	29	26	p/cldy	
New Delhi	44	24	sunny	
New York	25	15	sunny	
Ottawa	19	7	p/cldy	
Perth	27	9	sunny	
Port-of-Spain	32	26	p/cldy	
Rio de Janeiro	32	22	sunny	
Riyadh	37	22	haze	
San Francisco	14	11	sunny	
Santiago	10	2	rain	
Seattle	9	6	p/cldy	
Seoul	16	12	showers	
Seychelles	31	27	showers	
Singapore	31	27	storms	
Sydney	21	11	p/cldy	
Taipei City	29	23	cloudy	
Tangier	25	12	sunny	
Tel Aviv	23	18	sunny	
Tokyo	25	19	showers	
Toronto	20	7	p/cldy	