

90p



2024 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2024
Number 4,199

LIFE

The phone call is dead

1 in 4 people aged 18 to 34 has never answered their phone



P35



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TECH

40 new rules to protect children on TikTok and Insta... but not for a year

P4

ENERGY

How I save money on my electric car

Running costs beat petrol, say owners



P25

UNITED STATES



Stormy day in court

» Trump team denied mistrial after porn star's revealing evidence in hush money case

P13

UK gives Israel war crimes warning for Rafah invasion

» Israel risks committing war crimes if it continues its latest offensive in Gaza without coming up with 'credible' plan to protect civilians sheltering in Rafah, the UK warns

» Deputy Foreign Secretary Andrew Mitchell says Government has been 'clear there would have to be a plan which respected humanitarian law - and we have not yet seen such a plan'

» **i** understands the warnings have been echoed privately by British ministers and diplomats, with Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron in contact with Israel's president and foreign minister

» UK tells ally that full-blown military incursion in Rafah could be hard to justify as compatible with international law, as Rishi Sunak stresses 'deep concern' over potential humanitarian cost



+ DONALD MACINTYRE - NETANYAHU IS PILING MISTAKE ON MISTAKE - P10,19

LIFE

The problem with tantric coupling

by Kate Lister



P23

DEFENCE

Contagion fear for UK Government workers after China hack

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TELEVISION

Clarkson's Farm exposes hypocrisy of most meat-eaters

Simon Kelner



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Labour's plan to beat Sunak on the economy

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YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN - THE IRRESISTIBLE LURE OF LONDON P22 | CULTURE - THE BEST MET GALA LOOK? NOT GOING P17



WEDNESDAY

8

MAY

Quote of the day



We are the people our parents warned us about JIMMY BUFFETT



Birthdays

Sir David Attenborough (below), naturalist, 98; Naomi Klein, author, 54; Enrique Iglesias, singer, 49



Anniversaries

Friday 8 May 1970 The Beatles release their 12th and final album, Let It Be, weeks after their disbandment. Recorded before Abbey Road and initially entitled Get Back, the LP was an attempt by Paul McCartney to restore the band's chemistry after friction within the quartet.

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The News Matrix

The day at a glance



How is Jabba the Hut helping emergency workers? See p.5

HEALTH

Whooping cough cases on the rise

Cases of whooping cough could reach a 40-year high this year, experts have warned amid a rapid rise. The number of cases in England was higher in February than in the whole of last year.

COURTS

Jurors to be offered counselling sessions

Counselling sessions are to be offered to jurors who suffer mental and emotional strain in major trials. A pilot in 15 courts across England and Wales will run from this summer, to help people who do jury duty in distressing cases such as that of the child serial killer Lucy Letby.



The List

Where to watch out for puddles

Spring showers have left plenty of puddles this year and a survey from Green Flag reveals that a third of Britons have been splashed by a passing car in the last year.

- 1 London 50%
2 North West 36%
3 Yorkshire and Humberside 33%
3= South West 33%
5 South East 32%
6 Wales 30%
7 East of England 27%
7= Scotland 27%
9 Northern Ireland 23%
10 East Midlands 19%



THE HAGUE

Russia and Ukraine trade accusations

Russia and Ukraine have accused each other at the global chemical weapons watchdog in The Hague of using banned toxins in battle. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said the accusations were "insufficiently substantiated", adding: "The situation remains volatile."



POLICE

European campus protests broken up

German police broke up a protest by several hundred pro-Palestinian activists occupying a courtyard at Berlin's Free University, while Dutch police arrested about 125 activists as they broke up a similar pro-Palestinian demonstration camp at the University of Amsterdam.

COLOMBIA

Armed groups 'build territorial control'

Colombia's four main illegal armed groups grew during 2023 as they consolidated territorial control financed by drug trafficking and illicit gold extraction, according to a security report. The report focused on leftist guerrilla group the National Liberation Army, crime gang the Clan del Golfo and two dissident factions of the now demobilised Farc rebels, the Estado Mayor Central and the Segunda Marquetalia. The report added that illegal groups tried to amplify their power for leverage at peace talks with the government.

EURO 2024

Pubs can open late if home nations go far

Pubs will be able to extend their opening hours to 1am on match days if either or both England or Scotland make it to the semi-finals of Euro 2024, the Government has said. The move, which covers venues in England and Wales, comes after a consultation and is hoped to provide a boost to the hospitality industry.

CANADA

Security guard shot at Drake's mansion

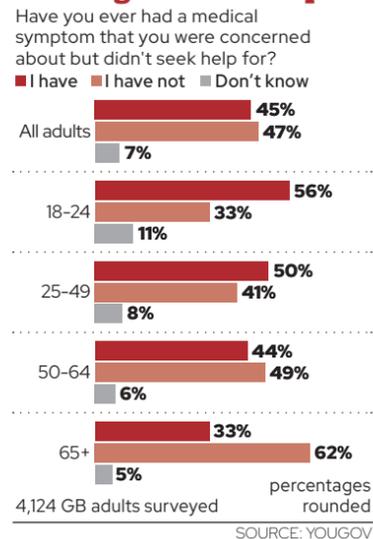
A security guard was seriously wounded in a shooting at rapper Drake's Toronto mansion early yesterday, police said, without confirming whether the five-time Grammy award-winner was at home at the time. Police found a man suffering from a gunshot wound, Inspector Paul Krawczyk said.

BRAZIL

90 dead and 155,000 homeless in floods

Rescuers rushed to save people stranded by devastating floods across the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, with 90 reported dead and survivors seeking food and basic supplies. Dozens of people are still waiting to be evacuated by boat or helicopter. The state's civil defence agency said 155,000 people are homeless.

Seeking medical help



ThePage3Profile

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT BLAMES BREXIT FOR MUSICAL'S FLOP

Bad reviews or Brexit?

Rufus Wainwright has blamed Brexit after his musical Opening Night was forced to close early after mixed reviews.

The Canadian-American singer and songwriter said English people lacked "curiosity" after the UK left the EU, insisting that the British press turned on his production because it was "too European".

I gave the play one star, claiming that the lead actress, Sheridan Smith (Gavin and Stacey and Benidorm), was "better than this self-indulgent twaddle".

Some audience members in London reportedly walked out in the middle of the performance or left during the interval.

This will go down well

"[England] is a little more narrow in its outlook," Wainwright, 50, told The Guardian. "And the vitriol because we put 'English rose Sheridan Smith through this ordeal of European theatre' felt a little bit suspect to me."

He added that England had



ENVIRONMENT

Green Windermere blamed on tourists

High numbers of tourists have been blamed for turning Windermere in Cumbria green, researchers say.

Windermere, one of England's most popular lakes, has been turning green due to algal blooming.

Environmental data company Map Impact has found a "significant correlation" between the levels of chlorophyll - which gives the green colour - with visitor numbers after monitoring the lake over five years.

Richard Flemmings, from the company, told the BBC: "So what you see is typically you get a high spike in the number of people and then three to five days later you get a spike in chlorophyll in the lake."

Newspapers support recycling. The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2018 was 68.2%

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entered "into a darker corridor" since Brexit, leaving audience members less open to the musical's more experimental elements – including one moment when Smith walks out on to the streets of the West End, while being filmed and projected back on to a screen inside the theatre.

Closing night

Wainwright claimed reviews for the play in the rest of Europe were "incredible", adding: "The staging and the rhythm is more European... 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."

Although Wainwright had written two classical operas in the past, *Opening Night* – an adaptation of the 1977 John Cassavetes film about a struggling actor – was his first musical.

It opened in March at the Gielgud Theatre, but it was announced later that same month the musical would close two months early. *Opening Night's* producer, Wessex Grove, said the production was "always a risk" in a "challenging financial landscape".

Samuel Rucker



AUSTRALIA

Women-only exhibit to become ladies' loo

A museum in Australia plans to turn a women-only exhibit into a women's lavatory after a court ordered that men should be allowed to enter under anti-discrimination laws. But Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art has appealed the ruling and will make the exhibit compliant by turning it into a women's toilet.

MONARCHY

Queen urges pupils to keep on reading

Queen Camilla told children "the more books you read, the more you're going to learn" as she opened a new school library yesterday, which she said would make a "huge difference". The Queen told pupils at Moreland Primary School in Islington, north London: "It's so important to keep reading."

GERMANY

Politicians skewer rising cost of kebabs

A left-wing political party in Germany is calling for a price cap on doner kebabs, as the cost of one of the country's favourite dishes soars. Amid fears inflation could drive the cost of a kebab above €10 (£8.60), Die Linke has suggested subsidising the dish at €4.90 – and €2.50 for young people.

PEOPLE

Ex-Marine to take on 'longest triathlon'

A former Royal Marine is planning "the world's longest triathlon" – swimming from Dover and then cycling, trekking and climbing to the summit of Mount Everest. Mitch Hutchcraft, from Cambridgeshire, is aiming to raise money for Savsim, a charity which provides mental health support to military veterans.

Letter from the Editor
Oliver Duff
i@inews.co.uk



Surprising benefits of printed media

We go *live* to a Manhattan courtroom, for the historic first criminal trial of a former US president.

Adult-film star Stormy Daniels has been taking the stand, telling a New York jury about the hush money paid to her before Donald Trump's 2016 election win (page 13).

Pleasingly for newspaper readers, during her evidence, Ms Daniels extolled the advantages of printed media over websites and apps.

Specifically... how she used a rolled-up copy of *Forbes* magazine to "discipline" the future leader of the free world.

The *Forbes* marketing department has been slow to maximise this sales opportunity. Corporate America awaits.

Only slightly less exhilaratingly, Labour has been talking about its plan to beat Rishi Sunak on the economy.

There will be two themes: 1. public services; and 2. consumer spending power (the pound in your pocket, or not in your pocket). Labour knows from its focus groups that both these messages cut through and are central to the collapse in Conservative support, including growing support for the belief that Britain cannot cut its way to economic growth.

So what is our national growth plan? Neither Labour nor the Tories has revealed one yet. And without one, talk of economic revival is wishful thinking (as Anne McElvoy argues, page 7).

Radical policy change is required. Why should people invest in the UK? At the moment, foreign and domestic investors don't know the answer.

X: @olyduff



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TRAVEL

Chaos at UK airports after IT glitch

By Joel Taylor

Chaos was sparked at airports across the UK last night after an IT glitch forced all e-gates to go down. Thousands of people were stuck in long queues as they tried to get through border security.

Travellers posted pictures on social media showing the problems at airports including Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Stansted, Luton, East Midlands and Edinburgh.

One person at Heathrow complained on X: "Absolute madness at @Heathrow Airport - never seen anything like it. People stood in unventilated queues for hours. Surely just opening the gates is lower risk than packing thousands in like sardines and risking everyone's wellbeing."

Another, who is four months pregnant, was "forced to sit in a corridor on the floor with no food or water".

A Heathrow spokesperson said: "This is a nationwide issue. Our



The glitch shut all e-gates at Heathrow, causing huge queues @MHENDERSON24

teams are supporting Border Force with their contingency plans to help resolve the problem as quickly as possible and are on hand to provide passenger welfare. We apologise for the impact on passengers."

Manchester Airport confirmed that the UK Border System was down as part of a nationwide outage, while a London Gatwick spokesperson said: "Passengers may experience delays due to a nationwide issue with UK Border Force e-gates."

"Our staff are working with UK Border Force - who operate passport control including the e-gates - to provide assistance to passengers."

TECHNOLOGY

Ofcom to protect children from 'toxic algorithms'

By Adam Sherwin

New rules requiring tech firms to tame their "toxic algorithms" or face billion-pound fines may not come into force for more than a year.

Regulator Ofcom has published a draft code of practice setting out 40 measures detailing how it expects social media firms to protect children under the Online Safety Act.

Tech companies have until July to respond to the proposals, with Ofcom planning to publish a final version in spring 2025.

Firms will also be given three months to conduct "children's risk

assessments" of the code, which must gain parliamentary approval.

The father of Molly Russell, the 14-year-old who took her life after seeing harmful web content, warned that delays will cost lives. Ian Russell said: "The cost of being slow is paid in young human lives."

Ofcom's measures aim to immediately reduce the risk of children encountering harmful content relating to suicide, self-harm, eating disorders and pornography, as well as online bullying and hate speech.

Social media apps such as TikTok and Instagram and search engines including Google will be subject to the rules that require them to introduce "robust age-checks" and implement "safety measures" to mitigate the risks their sites pose to children.

Ofcom said its proposals were designed to "tame the toxic algorithms" which provide personalised recommendations to users.

Tech companies will also be told to make it easier for children to opt out of group chats which can become a forum for online bullying.

Sir Peter Wanless, chief executive of the NSPCC, called the code a "welcome step in the right direction" but urged tech companies to "get ahead of the curve now".

And the Technology Secretary, Michelle Donelan, urged platforms to act now and not "wait for enforcement and hefty fines".

Ofcom said work began on drawing up the codes after the Online Safety Act was passed six months ago. "It takes time to get the technical details right," said a source.

Under the Act, Ofcom can impose fines of up to £18m or 10 per cent of a company's global revenue, whichever is greater. It means the likes of TikTok, Google and Meta could face fines of more than £1bn.

No fines can be handed out until the new safety code is in place.

Dame Melanie Dawes, Ofcom chief executive, said tech firms will "need to tame aggressive algorithms that push harmful content to children... and introduce age-checks so children get an experience that's right for their age".

Key measures

Robust age checks

We expect much greater use of age assurance. All services which do not ban harmful content, and those at higher risk of it being shared on their service, should implement highly effective age-checks to prevent children from seeing it.

Safer algorithms

Recommender systems are children's main pathway to harm online. Any service which operates a recommender system should identify who their child users are and configure their algorithms to filter out the most harmful content from children's feeds and reduce the visibility of other harmful content.

Effective moderation

All user-to-user services should have moderation systems that ensure swift action is taken against content harmful to children. Search services should have appropriate moderation systems and, where large search services believe a user to be a child, a "safe search" setting which children should not be able to turn off.

Strong governance and accountability

A named person as accountable for compliance and an annual senior-body review of all risk management activities relating to children's safety.

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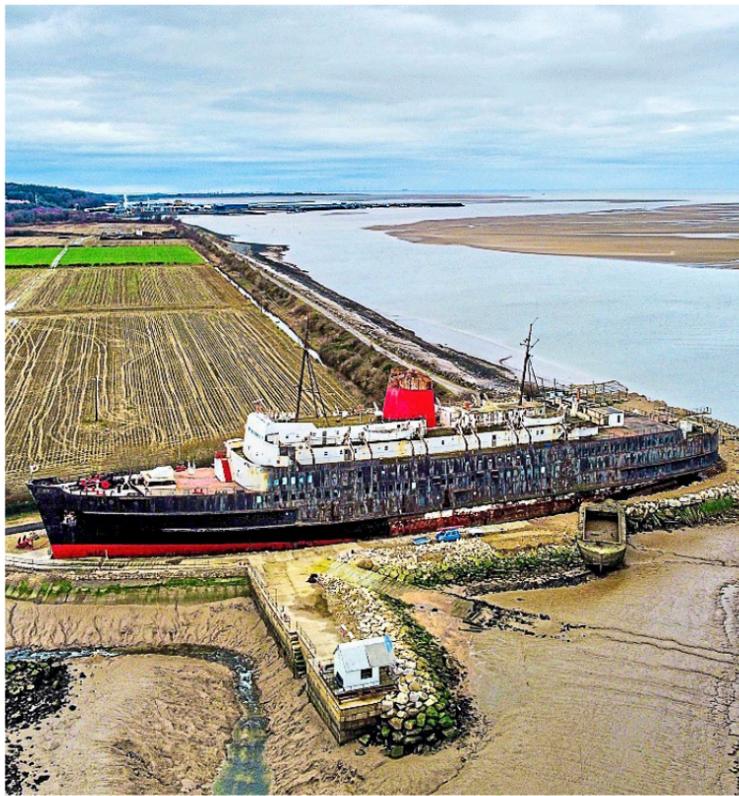
Play on app



*Estimated jackpot. Account Terms, Rules & Procedures apply. Players must be 18+ and physically located in the UK/IOM.

SOCIETY

Colloquial names for local landmarks include the Jabba the Hut beach hut in Lincolnshire and, right, the Fun Ship, north Wales PA



Ordnance Survey unveils 'nickname' tool to help rescuers identify locations

By Ella Nunn

A new tool will allow emergency workers to pinpoint the location of incidents across the UK using nicknames and colloquial names, Ordnance Survey (OS) has announced.

The Vernacular Names Tool already contains the nicknames of more than 9,000 locations and the OS has asked more blue-light workers to input nicknames from where they live.

Locations on the list already include Jabba the Hut, a distinctive beach hut in Mablethorpe in Lincolnshire, and the Drinking Dinosaur, a rock formation at Flamborough Head in East Yorkshire, which resembles a long-necked dinosaur drinking from the sea.

It is a replacement for Fintan, a mapping tool created more than 10 years ago for HM Coastguard. The original tool allowed users to



The Queen Victoria Memorial statue in London, aka 'the wedding cake' PA

upload the local name or nickname for a coastal feature to the database, alongside the accurate location or its existing geographic name.

It was made to ensure that coastguard responders could get to emergencies, however their location was described, with greater confidence and speed. Control room staff are now able to type in a nickname and generate a precise location.

The Welsh Ambulance Service is a new user of the vernacular tool. Chris Jones, an emergency medical service administrator, said it is "really useful and very easy to use".

He continued: "We want to log as many vernacular names as we can, so are exploring how the control room can do that, as well as including this in control-room training."

"The real value 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."

A coastguard rescue team used the original Fintan tool to find a spot on a beach known colloquially as the Tiki Head in Gwynedd, where a caller had fallen and injured their leg.

Another incident resulted in a coastguard search-and-rescue helicopter locating a missing person by using the nickname the Fun Ship, which refers to a spot at Mostyn Docks on the River Dee.

i Chief coastguard Peter Mizer said the tool is an "incredibly useful resource", and added: "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."

ENTERTAINMENT

Beckham tells of director's anger after interruption

By Ellie Iorizzo

David Beckham said the director of his Netflix documentary was initially "very angry" after he interrupted his wife Victoria during filming.

The British football star, 49, appeared with film-maker Fisher Stevens, producer Josh Battsek and editor Michael Harte at an Emmys event in Los Angeles for his documentary, *Beckham*.

The docuseries provided a viral television moment when David interrupted Victoria talking about her childhood to tell her to "be honest" and admit that her father drove a Rolls-Royce - after she said they were "very working class".

Speaking about the clip, Beckham said the crew believed he had left the house, but, "I was in the kitchen making a coffee. I put the set headphones on and I heard my wife... As soon as I heard her say: 'We're working class', I stuck my head in and I was like: 'Be honest'."

Beckham said director Stevens was "very angry with me over that".

Stevens, 60, said they'd scheduled the interview with Victoria "because David was supposedly out and she could be free to say what she wants".

"I was like: 'Get him out of here.' But it actually turned out to be brilliant."



Fisher Stevens with David Beckham at a Netflix event on Sunday

SOCIETY

Garrick votes to let in women

By Joel Taylor

Members of the Garrick Club, which has been a men-only institution since it first opened 193 years ago in 1831, last night voted to allow women to become members.

After a two-hour meeting, the vote was carried by almost 60 per cent.

Hundreds of members wearing the club's pink and green striped tie gathered inside the Connaught Rooms in Covent Garden, in central London, for the debate.

Comedian Stephen Fry, broadcaster James Naughtie and Lord Sumption, a former justice of the Supreme Court, were among those speaking in favour of allowing women to become members.

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

The club had been coming under increasing pressure to change its rules.

MONARCHY

No meeting for Harry and King

By Sam Rucker

The Duke of Sussex will not be meeting the King this week during his visit to the UK due to his father's "full programme".

Prince Harry, 39, landed in London yesterday morning for a planned visit connected to the Invictus Games.

He had reportedly tried to organise a visit with his father, 75. But Harry's spokesperson said: "In response

to the many enquiries and continued speculation on whether or not the Duke will meet with his father while in the UK this week, it unfortunately will not be possible due to His Majesty's full programme.

"The Duke, of course, is understanding of his father's diary of commitments and hopes to see him soon."

Prince Harry (*inset*) last saw his father in February, after the Palace announced the King's cancer diagnosis. Today

Harry will attend a service at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the 10th anniversary of the Invictus Games for injured servicemen and women.



GARDENING

Town wilts under hanging basket rule

By Joel Taylor

A council has come under fire after insisting no hanging baskets can go on display in a market town, which has won awards for its floral displays, without residents completing a £165 one-day safety course or hiring a contractor.

Chatteris has won gold at Britain in Bloom and Anglia in Bloom, but new rules from Cambridgeshire County Council are threatening to stop the displays.

Chatteris in Bloom president Sue Unwin told the BBC that "bureaucracy was going to kill community spirit", as volunteers already give a lot of time and money towards the arrangements.

A council spokesperson said: "As streetlights are directly connected to the local power grid, to ensure everyone's safety any group wishing to display items from a streetlight needs to get in touch with the council so... essential independent safety training is completed."



POLICY

Economy to be centre stage as Labour seeks to stop Tory bounce

By Hugo Gye
POLITICAL EDITOR

Labour is set to put the economy at the centre of its general election campaign in an attempt to move on from the Jeremy Corbyn era and stop the Tories benefiting from higher growth and lower inflation.

Statistics out this week are set to show that the UK is no longer in recession, while updated inflation data later in the month may demonstrate that the rate of price rises has returned to its target level.

Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt will use the developments to argue that the Conservatives have put the economy back on a positive path.

But in a speech yesterday, the shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, argued that ministers were ignoring how ordinary people felt about their finances. She said: "The questions people will ask ahead of the next election are simple.

"Do you and yours feel better off than you did 14 years ago? Do our hospitals, our schools and our police work better than 14 years ago?"

"Frankly, is there anything in Britain that works better than when the Conservatives came into office 14 years ago?"

She accused the Tories of being

"managers of decline" and pledged to "bring a laser focus to bear on the barriers to economic growth".

A senior Labour source said the party would continue building its campaign around the economy.

They told *i*: "First, it's still the top issue for voters – just ahead of the NHS. Second, there's a major policy question which is how the UK can actually get the economy growing again. And third, there's the political perception that Labour never talks about the economy – we want to change that."

Ms Reeves said that despite the focus on economic growth, Labour would also press ahead with stronger employment rights, which have been welcomed by trade unions but are opposed by business groups.



She said: "The truth is that many, many businesses already go well beyond what is set out in the 'new deal for working people'.

"They don't have zero-hour contracts, they're not using practices of fire-and-rehire, they give better rights around sick pay, and so a business has got nothing to fear from the new deal for working people.

"But businesses who do use these methods, then there will be a level playing field to ensure that businesses can't undercut each other by using zero-hour contracts, for example, or through fire and rehire."

Mr Hunt (*inset*) defended the Government's economic record.

He told the Commons: "The biggest single thing we can do to help people with cost of living pressures is to bring down inflation, and that seems to be something that escaped the shadow Chancellor this morning when she said it wasn't a big deal to get inflation down to its target."

The Chancellor said that "someone on the average salary has the lowest effective tax rate since 1975", but Ms Reeves accused him of endangering the state pension with a pledge to abolish national insurance.

i Polls ahead of the last general election showed that only a small minority of voters trusted then-Labour leader Mr Corbyn with the economy, even though many of his individual taxation and spending policies were popular.

LABOUR

NHS key to getting people into work, says Reeves

By Hugo Gye

A Labour government would not be able to spend more on benefits but would rely on clearing the NHS England backlog to get more people into work, Rachel Reeves has said.

Rishi Sunak has promised to overhaul welfare for the unemployed and disabled people, to encourage them to work as much as they can and withdraw payments from those who are deemed not to need them.

Labour has not yet revealed full details of its alternative benefits plan but is set to reject calls from charities and campaigners to make the system more generous overall.

Asked by *i* whether she would put more money into welfare, the shadow Chancellor said: "I'm not going to be making any unfunded spending commitments."

Speaking after a speech in London, Ms Reeves added: "If people can work they should be in work, and there's a clue in the name – the

Labour Party is the party of work and I think that work is good for people's mental and physical health as well as contributing to a strong, secure economy.

"But the Government needs to do more to ensure that people are able to work and when you've got a backlog of more than seven million on NHS waiting lists it's hardly surprising that some people are not.

"That's why we've said that we would crack down on tax avoidance and ensure that non-doms pay their fair share of tax in Britain, and put that money into two million additional appointments a year in our NHS to clear that backlog."

She also suggested she would raise the thresholds for the basic and higher rates of UK income tax, which have been frozen since 2021 and are not due to change until 2028.

Ms Reeves said: "I've made no bones about wanting taxes on working people to be lower. The tax burden is the highest it's been in 70 years and it's due to go up in each of the next five years.

"I'm not willing to do what Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss and a litany of Conservative ministers and MPs are willing to do, which is to make unfunded commitments, because that is the way to economic ruin. So when resources allow, I would like taxes on working people to be lower."

POLITICS

Labour dossier on Greens to woo Left

By Richard Vaughan

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Labour has drawn up a dossier of Green activists blocking environmental schemes in an attempt to woo left-wing voters, *i* can reveal.

Party activists in areas with strong support for the UK's three Green parties have been told to take a more "eco-warrior" approach to campaigning to prevent Labour being outflanked from the left.

It represents a shift from Labour's national messaging, which has focused on energy security to attract voters who backed the Tories in 2019.

The dossier, seen by *i*, includes examples where the Greens opposed three proposals for solar farms in mid-Suffolk.

And it includes Greens who vetoed plans for a solar farm in Hastings, East Sussex, despite the party committing to generating 75 gigawatts of power a year from such sources.

Also listed is some Scottish Greens' opposition to a 26-turbine wind farm in Aberdeenshire, and several cases of Green councillors



Thangam Debbonaire may be at risk of losing her seat at the next election

opposing low-traffic neighbourhoods and liveable streets.

The Greens secured their highest number of councillors in last week's local elections, becoming the largest party in Bristol and Hastings councils, and making major gains in Suffolk, Lewes and the Forest of Dean.

There are fears that the shadow Culture Secretary, Thangam Debbonaire, the MP for Bristol West, could lose her majority at the next election as a result of the Green surge.

"We've now acknowledged that we could be losing votes to the left, and in some seats that can make a big

difference," a senior Labour source said, as Lord Mandelson described the Greens as a "dustbin... for hard Leftists leaving the Labour Party".

The Labour peer told *The Times*: "Whilst in the first instance, the Greens look sort of bigger and emboldened, I think this is going to change the complexion of the Green Party. And I think they will rue the day when they threw open their doors to all these people."

The Greens are investigating comments made by Mothin Ali, a new councillor in Leeds, who described his victory last week as a "win for the people of Gaza". He had described a Jewish chaplain at the University of Leeds who received death threats and went into hiding over his role as an Israeli army reservist as a "creep" and a "kind of animal".

A spokesperson for the Green Party of England and Wales said: "Greens are the first to say that we need to scale up renewable energy and that is exactly what we are pushing for all over the country.

"Sometimes certain applications are a bad idea... it is also important to balance our need to transition to renewable energy with our need for wild spaces and land to grow food.

"It's about Green councillors weighing up each situation and making the best decision for the people and the area they represent."



Rachel Reeves with small business leaders in the City of London yesterday
JORDAN PETTITT/IPA

SCOTLAND

'Privilege' to lead, says Swinney

By Katrine Bussey and Rebecca McCurdy

John Swinney said it was an "extraordinary privilege" to become Scotland's new First Minister as he pledged to "give everything I have".

He spoke after winning a vote that will make him the seventh person to hold the office since the Scottish Parliament was re-established in 1999.

Mr Swinney, who is expected to be formally sworn in to the position today, became the new leader of the SNP unopposed on Monday – a week after his predecessor Humza Yousaf announced he was stepping down.

Mr Yousaf quit after his decision end the power-sharing deal the party had with the Scottish Greens left him almost certain to lose a motion of no confidence in his leadership.

In the vote to choose the First Minister at Holyrood, Mr Swinney had the backing of 64 MSPs, with his nearest rival, Tory leader Douglas Ross, having 31. Labour leader Anas Sarwar got 22 votes; the head of the Liberal Democrats, Alex Cole-Hamilton, won four.

The seven Scottish Green MSPs all abstained.

PEOPLE

London Mayor starts new term

By Samuel Montgomery

Sadiq Khan kicked off his third term as London Mayor with a pledge to make the capital the best city in the world to grow up in.

The Labour incumbent won a historic third term at the polls last week with a majority of 275,000 over his Conservative rival Susan Hall.

Speaking at a declaration of office ceremony held in the Tate Modern yesterday, Mr Khan set out his stall for the capital's young people and nightlife.

"I want London to be a byword for opportunity, the best place in the world for people to grow up in, and that means supporting young people," he said.

Mr Khan said he wants to make free school meals permanent in London's state primary schools, fund more youth clubs, mental health support and high-quality mentoring.

Mr Khan described London as "a city of progress, pluralism and endless possibility", where the "story is one written by people of all faiths, all ethnicities and all backgrounds".

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, page 22

LABOUR

Is Starmer really ready and willing to be Prime Minister?

Anne McElvoy



An abundance of caution is in generous supply in Labour's approach to power. Election campaign co-ordinator Pat McFadden's cautious response to the Tory rout in the local elections is that it has brought a "sense of belief" in victory, but that there is still "lots to do" on Labour's campaign.

It struck me that these comments were not made to the preaching-to-the-choir, pro-Labour media, but to GB News – a sign that the Opposition has set its sights on re-wooing Brexiteer apostates and addressing Tory switchers.

This is about as euphoric as McFadden gets. As one of Tony Blair's close-knit team from 1997 put it: "There are only a handful of people in the inner circle of either party who seriously think Labour won't be in power after the election. One of those people is Pat."

I saw this at first hand when Rachel Reeves' book launch a few months ago was held in a mood of high elation. McFadden hugged the wall as the jamboree got under way and told me he wasn't drinking until after the election, because he had to get up too early every day. "Twenty-four-hour party people. Not!" texted a waggish party insider afterwards.

Depressing expectations to avoid the "Neil Kinnock moment" of "we're all right!" exuberance, followed by an election trouncing in 1992, is a prudent lesson. So is taking local and mayoral election outcomes as a less than reliable indicator of nailed-on national preferences on a rainy Thursday in the latter part of the year.

Scottish convulsions in the SNP will undoubtedly help. Yet Shadow Cabinet figures also reflect that it is far from easy to get voters who define themselves by a quest for independence to back a Labour Party that has set out its aim to keep the Union intact.

The mindset of not counting chickens before the hatch date is widespread in Keir Starmer's circle. Like all default settings, however, it has its limitations. An under-explored aspect of very good results for Labour (to the extent that even Rishi Sunak now appears to concede that the best he could hope for would be a hung parliament)



A reticent figure is about to enter a phase disconcerting for all but the extrovert

is that the question changes fast from "Can Labour win?" (yes, very likely) or even "Can Labour get a solid majority?" (trend developing positively), to "What is this party going to look and feel like in power?" (um, not so sure actually).

Starmer's strong personal ratings, avidly dissected on a weekly basis by his team, are that he is moderate, steady and not a risk for voters tired of erratic Tory drama and leadership switcheroos. But that is a way off imagining him waving confidently on the steps of No 10 the morning after the result.

I'm struck by the fact that what worries previous New Labour *grands fromages* is not so much that the man now in charge will not win or even win big. It is that he is actually scared of doing so. National leadership is different to sorting out a party: you have to really want to be prime minister to make other people believe the suspensions of disbelief this involves.

There is a Labour/Tory-critical narrative that says that offering an end to 14 years of Tory misrule will do nicely. But that cannot be right, otherwise the electorate would not have scorned the other party under Gordon Brown, Ed Miliband and Jeremy Corbyn. Fourteen years is a lot of Tory winning, before the losing has set in.

When I press one former candidate for the party leadership on what is missing to seal the electoral deal, he replies briefly: "A project and a plan." That is not the same as announcing policies for the current Government to gut (or take apart), but it does mean giving a clearer steer of what your leadership will "feel like".

If the big plan is a return to growth to fund the spending to cure the ills (the Labour recipe in a nutshell), it still feels like a large dollop of wishful thinking, unless Labour is going to do things differently to its textbook positions or comfort zone.

I started this week at the Milken conference, the clan-gathering of global capitalism in Los Angeles, chairing a session with entrepreneurs from the UK, Scandinavia and US on why investment into Europe and Britain in particular is sluggish. Most cannot find a commanding reason to be here – beyond a bit of "triage" in the car industry and some subsidy bright spots. That is not enough to reverse growth trends; if it was, the Tories would have done it by now.

So what is Keir Starmer "for" in this scenario? He is not an inspiring Tony Blair va-va-voom figure. He is not a Gordon Brown, essentially a chancellor-PM at ease with the flow of economics into policy. He is not (thankfully) an ideologically wild Jeremy Corbyn.

Starmer has been an excellent steward of the Labour revival and has the consolidation of his leadership and trajectory to prove it. He does not need to change his character, which is impossible in politics. But he needs to convey more clearly his thought processes and priorities, besides "not being Tory". This will do for a lot of voters in the election, but will fade quickly the morning after when he has to set his government's course.

A reticent figure is about to enter a phase disconcerting for all but the most extrovert: the clue to success as "prime" minister is in the name. After all, a very large degree of success or failure if he does reverse the party's ill fortunes and inhabit No 10 will be down to him.

I suspect this is why Starmer has a perpetual "triangle of anxiety" expression. Not because he now fears losing, but because it has dawned on him that he is likely to win.

So, what then, Keir?

Anne McElvoy is executive editor at Politico and hosts the Power Play podcast



The Labour leader needs to set out a plan for government that goes beyond 'not being a Tory', and explain his thought processes CARL COURT/GETTY

The Rwanda scheme is intended to deter migrants from crossing the English Channel PA



MIGRATION

Single men to make up bulk of those deported on first flights to Rwanda

By Hugo Gye
POLITICAL EDITOR

Healthy single men are set to make up the bulk of the asylum seekers deported to Rwanda this summer as ministers bid to reduce the chances of a legal challenge delaying the scheme again, **i** understands.

New laws designed to allow the policy to begin two years after it was first announced impose sharp restrictions on when migrants are allowed to appeal against a deportation order.

But Home Office officials have also deliberately chosen people who are least likely to lodge a successful challenge, for example by arguing that being removed from the UK would damage their health or undermine their right to a family life.

A senior government source said: "The Home Office has been absolutely ruthless in choosing the first set of people to go. Male, no physical or mental illness, and no family – so they can't argue they have a right to a family life in the UK."

While ministers are still braced for some attempted legal challenges in individual cases, they are now confident that it will be impossible to bring the whole scheme to a halt as happened last year when the Supreme Court ruled the policy was unlawful.

The source added: "Even if a handful of migrants are able to lodge an appeal, the big law firms won't be able to stop the flights altogether this time."

The Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act, which be-

came law last month, is intended to override the legal objections that led the Supreme Court to block the scheme in its entirety.

The legislation states that the courts must consider Rwanda to be a safe country for asylum purposes and empowers ministers to block any injunctions from the European Court of Human Rights.

Any migrant who wishes to appeal against deportation will only be able to do so on the basis that they personally will face "serious and irreversible harm" if resettled in the

East African country. The Home Office has previously said that those on the first few flights will not be all men but declined to give any details.

Officials expect that no more than 15 to 20 people will be carried on the first plane.

The Rwanda scheme is intended by ministers to cut illegal immigration into the UK, including via small boats crossing the Channel, by making it clear to asylum seekers that they will be unable to settle in Britain if they enter by irregular means.

But since the Safety of Rwanda Act went on the statute book 2,000 migrants have made the crossing.

A No 10 spokesman said: "It's precisely why we're working to get flights off the ground as soon as possible so we can start to have a deterrent effect."

i Rishi Sunak has said he wants a number of flights to take off in a "steady drumbeat", starting from the start of July.

BROADCASTING

BBC runs migration 'impartiality risk'

By Hannah Roberts

The BBC's coverage of migration contains "risks to impartiality", an independent review has found.

The report, which focused particularly on news and current affairs, was undertaken by policy specialist Madeleine Sumption, who spoke to more than 100 people inside and outside the BBC.

It concluded that while the BBC provides "a lot of excellent content on migration" there are "risks to im-

partiality", despite there being "no consistent bias towards one point of view". Some external experts said the coverage implicitly promoted a pro-Government agenda on migration, others said it had a liberal bias.

Ms Sumption (*inset*) said she did not try to add up these criticisms. The BBC has endorsed

six points from the report, including "to cover the substance and not just the politics", which it expects all journalists to consider on stories about migration.



CONSERVATIVES

Jenrick pushes for more controls

By Sophie Wingate

Robert Jenrick has written that the Government must "undo the disastrous post-Brexit liberalisations" that "betrayed" the public's wish for lower immigration before the general election.

The former immigration minister put forward more than 30 recommendations to cut immigration in a report for a centre-right think tank, the Centre for Policy Studies.

The proposals include capping health and care visas at 30,000, scrapping the graduate route for international students, and indexing

salary thresholds for visa routes in line with inflation.

Mr Jenrick, a potential Tory leadership contender, has been increasing pressure on Rishi Sunak over immigration since revised official estimates published in November indicated the net migration figure reached a record 745,000 in 2022.

A Government spokesman said: "Our approach is fair: reducing immigration and ensuring businesses invest in and recruit from the domestic workforce, whilst prioritising the overseas workers and students who will contribute significantly to our economy."

BORDERS

Home Office data on failed crossings 'misleading'

By Molly Blackall
GLOBAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

The Home Office has begun publishing data on the number of small boat crossings blocked by the French police – but the department admits the figures are "unverified" and likely to be erroneous.

For some time, the Government has released data on the number of people who travel across the Channel from France to the UK in small boats. But last week the Home Office also started publishing figures for the number of "migrants prevented" from reaching the UK.

They show that 1,032 people were blocked in the seven days to 6 May.

But the department's explanation of the prevention data admits the figures are "estimates" based on an "operational snapshot collected by the French authorities" and that they "have not been verified".

It goes on to say that the prevention records are "likely to be subject to a relatively high degree of measurement error", and cannot be compared directly with the number of people crossing the Channel.

The figures for 30 April to 6 May refer to the number of people who are "prevented from departing France, or those who return to France", and to "finds of general maritime equipment". The Home Office did not define the meaning of the latter.

The department was accused by aid workers of publishing "unreliable" and "misleading" figures.

A Home Office source defended the use of the prevention data, saying it was important for the public to see the efforts of the British and French coastguards to prevent crossings.

They said the data, while unverified, were still valuable because they gave the public a "tangible sense" of daily operations, and would be revised where needed.

Small boat crossings have surged this year, as the Government pushes on with its Rwanda deportation scheme in a bid to deter the journeys.

Axel Gaudinat from Utopia56, an aid organisation working in Calais, said: "These figures are totally unreliable, as the police chase people off the beaches... How is it possible to accurately count people in a cloud of tear gas? Once again, the French and British governments are using misleading communication."

The French police have been criticised for their approach to stopping small boats. However, they argue that they face increasing pressure, and even violence, from smugglers.

Policing at the French coast has been bolstered over recent years in a bid to crack down on Channel crossings, with the UK providing hundreds of millions of pounds to increase surveillance and patrols.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has previously said the funding will help cut the number of crossings and prove a "sensible investment".

CYBER SECURITY

MoD hack firm has more Whitehall contracts

By Jane Merrick, David Parsley and Sam Rucker

The firm at the centre of the cyber attack on the Ministry of Defence (MoD) also has contracts with several other government departments, **i** understands.

SSCL handles payroll and other data services for eight Whitehall ministries including the MoD, as well as a number of government agencies that handle potentially sensitive information, and the Metropolitan Police.

Rishi Sunak and the Defence Secretary, Grant Shapps, refused to confirm reports that China was behind the hack, but said there were indications it was a “malign actor” that had accessed the details of up to 272,000 serving members of the Armed Forces, as well as veterans.

Whitehall sources insisted there was no evidence to suggest that there was any risk to any other government services provided by the company.

But Mr Shapps (*inset*) told the Commons he had ordered a Whitehall-wide review of all the contracts SSCL has with the Government to allay fears over further breaches.

The Defence Secretary added that there were “potential failings” that may have been committed by the firm to allow the “malign actor” to access details of former and serving personnel.

He suggested that SSCL had not fully followed MoD cyber-security guidelines and he did not rule out tearing up its contract to provide payroll services if the investigation found evidence of failure. “The contractor has very many questions to answer,” he told the Commons.

A “very tiny” number of addresses of Armed Forces personnel had been accessed, Mr Shapps said, and the individuals involved were being contacted.

SSCL’s UK government clients, according to its website, include the Home Office, Cabinet Office, Department for Work and Pensions, Defra, the Wales Office, Depart-



ment for Transport and Ministry of Justice.

It also provides services for the Metropolitan Police, the National Probation Service, the Prison and Probation Service, Disclosure and Barring Service, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

A spokesman for the Met said: “There is currently no evidence to suggest that there has been any compromise of the MPS payroll service.”

The National Cyber Security Centre regularly reviews security protocols for Whitehall departments. SSCL’s parent company, Sopra Steria, has been contacted for comment.

Pressed on his stance on China, Mr Sunak said he had set out “a very robust policy” towards Beijing, tak-

ing the powers necessary “to protect ourselves against the risk that China and other countries pose to us”.

He said that Britain was facing “an axis of authoritarian states, including Russia, Iran, North Korea and China” that “pose a risk to our values, our interests and our country”.

The hack of MoD payroll systems reportedly included former as well as current armed services personnel. They include the Conservative MP Bob Seely, who served in the British Army in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. He was contacted by the MoD yesterday to be told.

i Downing Street declined to comment on whether Princes William and Harry, who are both former military veterans, were affected by the cyber attack.

Reaction ‘Troubling – but little intelligence worth’

A former Army officer has said although the cyber attack is troubling for those targeted, there is little in the way of “intelligence worth” in the data accessed.

Justin Crump, founder of intelligence, security and defence group Sibylline, said: “Given that the UK is comparatively open about military service, for example gazetting lists of serving officers, there are relatively few details of real intelligence worth in the data sets under discussion.

“However, the potential theft of personal information is nonetheless troubling for individuals as in any other hack – and this is less damaging than the recent ransomware attack and subsequent release of data against an NHS Trust in Scotland, to pick just one example.

“Still, this does give information that we would rather not have so readily in our adversaries’ hands, and shows the persistent threat of state activity against our armed forces.”

Col Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, a former commander of UK and Nato forces, said: “Security and intelligence services will know who orchestrated the attack, and if it is the Chinese that have done this we should react very strongly because this is the tip of the iceberg.

“If they’re prepared to do this, what next? They could attempt to neutralise some of our sophisticated capabilities. If we believe that it is the Chinese, then we must do something about it – if that means expelling a few diplomats, fair enough.”

“Our response has to be something demonstrative,” he added.



Rishi Sunak with Crystal Palace FC chairman Steve Parish yesterday
KIN CHEUNG/PA

TECHNOLOGY

Concern over police use of body cameras made in China

Exclusive
By Caolan Magee

Body cameras worn by UK police are being manufactured in China, despite increasing concerns over Beijing’s spying activities.

The London-based firm Reveal Media supplies at least 12 UK police forces with body cameras, including at least three forces that employ live facial recognition (LFR) technology.

The cameras are manufactured by a subsidiary in China. Reveal Media also supplies cameras from Shenzhen Eeyelog Technology Ltd – a Chinese firm that provides body cams to the Chinese government, according to the company’s website.

UK government departments were ordered to stop installing Chinese-made surveillance cameras in November 2022 due to security concerns.

Experts said that UK police forces’ use of the technology raises questions about UK citizens’ privacy and the risk of exposure to cyber attacks, espionage and spying by the Chinese government.

Conservative MP Alicia Kearns, the chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said the use of Chinese-made facial recognition technology was “deeply concerning”.

She told **i**: “The Chinese Communist Party is seeking to build a totalitarian state using data from around



There are concerns that live facial recognition technology could open a ‘back door’ to hostile states PA

the world, and our dependence on this equipment is enabling that.

“We cannot continue to provide hostile states with a back door into our security.”

Marc Schuilenburg, a professor in

digital surveillance at Erasmus University and author of *Making Surveillance Public*, said: “There is a danger that personal and often confidential information could become accessible to the Chinese government. Several security agencies have warned not to be naive about China’s spying activities regarding our security.”

The UK Government has committed to removing Chinese made surveillance cameras from sensitive sites by 2025.

Reveal Media, which operates in more than 40 countries, supplies LFR cameras to British Transport, South Wales and Leicestershire Police. The forces have previously said they do not use the LFR function.

The company has also secured contracts for the use of its body cams with South Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall, North Yorkshire and South Wales Police, as well as Southern Rail. All were contacted for comment.

Reveal Media said it would not comment on the use of its cameras by UK police forces because of commercial confidentiality.

It added that Shenzhen Eeyelog Technology was not involved in manufacturing LFR cameras. The company would not disclose if the Shenzhen Eeyelog Technology camera is sold to the UK police.

The Home Office was contacted for comment.

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli troops enter Rafah as talks

By Kieron Monks

Israeli tanks entered Rafah and took control of the border crossing between Gaza and Egypt yesterday, as Israeli negotiators flew to Cairo for talks over a ceasefire and prisoner exchange deal.

Israeli government spokesman David Mencer said the incursion into Rafah was intended to “pressure” Hamas to release hostages on more favourable terms after Israel rejected a deal endorsed by the militant group on Monday.

Palestinian sources reported heavy bombing and casualties in Gaza’s southernmost city yesterday, where more than a million civilians have sought shelter from fighting elsewhere in the enclave, while an Israeli ground force moved in with ar-

moured vehicles to seize the border.

Foreign governments, the UN and aid groups oppose any Israeli offensive in Rafah due to humanitarian concerns about the potential impact on the civilian population.

Plans to enter the city, which were first announced in February, have been repeatedly delayed.

The US President, Joe Biden, reiterated his “clear position on Rafah” in a call with Israel’s Prime

Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli officials say the incursion has been limited so far. Mr Mencer said a “precise counter-terror operation has begun” through attacks on “Hamas terror infrastructure within specific parts of eastern Rafah”.

Israel has instructed about 100,000 Palestinians in these areas to leave for designated “safe zones” in Al-Mawasi and Khan Yunis.

Aid groups say both areas lack the infrastructure to support large populations of displaced people, and that no area of Gaza is safe.

Seizing the border will allow Israel to cut off arms and other resources to Hamas, Mr Mencer added, claiming the group is using tunnels to smuggle supplies from Egypt.

Israel Ziv, a retired major general and head of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) operations directorate, said Israel appeared to be using the incursion to strengthen its position.

“The purpose of this operation is mainly to increase leverage in the negotiations to get a better deal and lower the demands of Hamas,” he said. “The Rafah passage is the most important in Gaza, and by holding the airway of Gaza, Israel gives Hamas the understanding that Israel holds the key to its future.”

Avi Melamed, an Israeli former intelligence official, said operations in Rafah would be “slow and deliberate” with an eye to international concerns, adding: “Israel understands the diplomatic challenges that its operation... will cause and the tempo of its operations is therefore likely to be slower and more deliberate than it was in the other parts of Gaza.”

However, while IDF operations in Rafah remain limited for now that could rapidly change, suggested Professor Kobi Michael, a military analyst at Israeli think-tanks the Institute for National Security Studies and the Misgav Institute.

“If Hamas decides to counter the IDF we will find ourselves in a broader war in Rafah,” he said.

Egypt, a key mediator, has said that Israeli control of the border is unacceptable and accused it of deliberately undermining ceasefire talks after Hamas signed off a proposal presented by Egypt and Qatar, leading to brief celebrations among Palestinians in Gaza.

Israel said the terms were “unacceptable” and contained major differences to a previous draft it agreed to last week. Hamas had claimed to have assurances from the US that the ceasefire would become permanent, while Israel has said it will only countenance a temporary truce.

Israeli officials said a diplomatic team was heading to Cairo to discuss terms while downplaying hopes of a breakthrough. CIA director William Burns was also due in the Egyptian capital yesterday.

“This delegation is made up of mid-level envoys,” an unnamed Israeli official told Reuters. “Were there a credible deal in the offing, the principals would be heading the delegation.”

i UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged Israel and Hamas to agree a truce and called on Israel to reopen the border crossing. “A full-scale assault on Rafah would be a **human catastrophe**,” he said.

GAZA



A Palestinian child is carried through the rubble in Rafah yesterday AFP/GETTY

Palestinians ‘wounded and dead’ as aid routes shut down

By Kieron Monks

Palestinians in Rafah have described enduring a “bloody night” in the city after Israel began striking eastern neighbourhoods on Monday night.

Israel dropped leaflets on Monday warning inhabitants to evacuate the city in advance of an invasion of “limited scope”. Yesterday it closed the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings – key entry points for aid into Gaza.

Mohammed Al Najjar, a 23-year-old lawyer in Rafah, told **i**: “The state of displacement from Rafah continues after a bloody night in Rafah that affected a number of homes, resulting in a number of wounded and dead.

“After the occupation took control of the Rafah land crossing as well, the sound of explosions has not stopped since last night. Artillery is bombing next to the planes.”

Hind Khoudary, a local journalist, told **i**: “There are thousands of people with injuries that were waiting for their medical transfers to leave Gaza to get their healthcare. Now no one can leave.”

Humanitarian groups accused Israel of shutting down aid routes

into Gaza as it launched the Rafah operation, which they said could exacerbate a humanitarian crisis, after the World Food Programme said “full-blown famine” had taken hold in parts of the enclave last week.

“We are gravely concerned that the intensified attack on Rafah has led to the closure of all aid routes into Gaza,” Action Aid said in a statement.

“No humanitarian relief is getting in, creating a dire situation for the 2.2 million people already struggling with starvation, disease and a severe lack of medical support. The chaos of the last 48 hours has left Rafah’s residents in terror and confusion, with nowhere safe to turn.

“We remind the Israeli authorities that all those who remain or are unable to leave, including people in need of medical care, the elderly and people with disabilities, are protected under international humanitarian law, and must not be targeted.”

An Israeli spokesperson said southern crossings had been temporarily closed due to an attack claimed by Hamas which killed four Israeli soldiers close to the Kerem Shalom crossing.

Displaced Palestinians arrive to set up tents on a beach, near Deir el-Balah, in central Gaza, yesterday AFP/GETTY



MILITARY

Delay in sale of weaponry linked to ‘shifting stance’

By Sally Guyoncourt

The US President has shifted his stance on Israel to “balance competing forces” politically, an analyst has said after Joe Biden’s administration reportedly delayed the sale of thousands of precision weapon systems to the country.

The Wall Street Journal said that while the White House had publicly resisted calls to limit weapons sales, a deal for up to 6,500 joint direct attack munitions worth as much as \$260m (£208m) had not progressed since the start of the year.

Congress is said to have first learned from the State Department of the weapons deal in January but this was never followed up with an official notification, so the deal has effectively been paused.

Dr Jonny Hall, a fellow in US foreign policy analysis at the London School of Economics, said that it

“certainly looks like a deliberate delay, for all intents and purposes”.

He told **i**: “The Biden administration has been very quiet on the deal since January, which I think is indicative of... how the Biden administration’s stance has shifted since then.”

He suggested that the delay could be down to factors such as domestic political controversy or the reputational costs to the US.

A poll in March revealed approval for Israel’s military action in Gaza among Americans had dropped from 50 per cent to 36 per cent, and pro-Palestinian protests have erupted on university campuses.

Dr Hall said: “I think the Biden administration’s position generally reflects an attempt to balance these competing forces. On the other hand, publicly cancelling a deal would obviously alienate those who believe that the US should be providing strong levels of support to Israel.”

over truce and hostages continue



COVER STORY

UK warns Israel over risk of war crimes in Rafah offensive

By Arj Singh
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Israel risks committing war crimes if it continues its latest offensive in Gaza without coming up with a “credible” plan to protect civilians sheltering in Rafah, the UK has warned.

Deputy Foreign Secretary Andrew Mitchell said he has been “clear” that “there would have to be a plan which respected international humanitarian law – and we have not yet seen such a plan”.

He understands that the warnings have been echoed in private by British ministers and diplomats, with the Foreign Secretary, Lord Cameron, in contact with the Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Foreign Affairs Minister Israel Katz.

The UK has been cautioning Israel that a full-blown incursion in Rafah, where around 1.3 million displaced Palestinians are sheltering, will make it harder for Israel to justify that its defence forces’ actions are in line with international law.

Downing Street also stressed that Israel has a “responsibility for ensuring that the civilian population is safe and has access to the food, water, medical care it needs” and that “we’ve not seen any plans in relation to the Rafah incursion along those lines”.

The Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, also said he was “deeply concerned” about the potential humanitarian



Andrew Mitchell said Israel ‘must respect humanitarian laws’

cost of an offensive around the city in the south of the enclave as Israeli forces seized control of the Gazan side of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, a vital aid route for the territory.

Lord Cameron and UK diplomats are also understood to have warned that an incursion also risks the lives of dozens of Israeli hostages still believed to be in Gaza.

Despite Mr Mitchell coming under heavy pressure from MPs in the Commons to end arms sales to Israel and say clearly whether it was committing war crimes, the UK’s po-

sition on defence exports to its ally remained unchanged, even amid reports that the US is slowing planned deliveries of precision weapons to Israel.

The diplomatic push for a pause in the fighting continued after Hamas said it had accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated ceasefire proposal, which Israel rejected because it failed to meet its core demands.

Foreign Office diplomats are believed to be split over hopes of a ceasefire deal, with little clarity on the status of negotiations.

There are concerns that the sticking point remains whether any ceasefire should be temporary or permanent but there is also optimism that talks are ongoing.

The Conservative former foreign secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind said a ceasefire was “still possible” but conceded that there is little the UK can do to stop Israel going ahead with an incursion.

“If Biden cannot persuade them, nor would we,” Sir Malcolm said.

The shadow Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, questioned whether the Government believed an assault on Rafah could be “a clear risk of a serious breach of humanitarian law”, something which would trigger a ban on arms exports.

Speaking to MPs, he added: “Now, more than ever, we need an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages and unimpeded aid to Gaza.”

i The UK views the bombardment of Rafah so far as a potential precursor to an incursion, rather than the start of a full-blown offensive. **i** understands.

UNITED STATES

Biden concern at antisemitism threat

By Trevor Hunnicutt
IN WASHINGTON

The US President has warned that the threat of antisemitism is growing in America as his support for Israel’s assault on Gaza divides Democrats and alienates some young voters.

In a speech honouring the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, Joe Biden warned that the truth about the systematic killing of Jews during the Second World War could be lost.

“Never forgetting means we must keep telling the story, we must keep teaching the truth,” Mr Biden said at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum’s annual commemoration at the US Capitol’s Emancipation Hall.

Mr Biden spoke seven months to the day after Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October, killing 1,200 people.

“This hatred [of Jews] continues to lie deep in the hearts of too many people and requires our continued vigilance,” he said. REUTERS

EDUCATION

‘Robust approach’ needed at UK university protests

By Eleanor Busby, David Hughes and Sam Russell

University leaders must take “robust” action to ensure Jewish students are not harassed, Downing Street has urged, as encampments have been set up on UK campuses to protest against the war in Gaza.

The Prime Minister has summoned vice chancellors to a meeting this week to discuss antisemitism at universities.

Students at Cambridge and Oxford universities are among the latest protesters to set up camps against Israel’s actions in Gaza on university grounds.

Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle already have encampments.

Rishi Sunak opened yesterday’s Cabinet meeting by saying there had been an “unacceptable rise in antisemitism on our university campus-

es” and that vice chancellors would be meeting to discuss “the need for our universities to be safe for our Jewish students”, the Prime Minister’s official spokesman said.

They added: “We want to see university leaders taking a robust approach to unacceptable behaviour.”

More than 100 people demonstrated outside King’s College, Cambridge, yesterday.

When asked about antisemitism concerns, Stella Swain, the youth and student campaigns officer at the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, said: “Every single encampment that I have spoken to has a complete zero-tolerance policy for all forms of racism. I’d say the encampments are completely safe for Jewish students.”

The Union of Jewish Students has previously said that the protests created a “hostile and toxic atmosphere” for Jewish students.



Students at Cambridge University (above) and SOAS in London have set up camps expressing their solidarity with Palestinians JOE GIDDENS/PA; GETTY



POST OFFICE

Lawyers warned Capture system was faulty

By Steve Robson

The Post Office's legal team told bosses that a second IT system was faulty and "unable to provide a clear audit trail" at the same time as sub-postmasters were being accused of alleged shortfalls, **i** can reveal.

Dozens of former sub-postmasters have claimed they suffered accounting problems while using Capture, a piece of software developed in-house by the Post Office and rolled out to branches in the 1990s.

However, in a precursor to the Horizon scandal, sub-postmasters say investigators refused to accept that the system might be responsible for alleged shortfalls and they were forced to hand over money, sacked, and in some cases criminally prosecuted.

Documents shared with **i** show that the Capture help desk, in Farnborough, Hampshire, was aware the system was prone to faults in 1996 – at the time sub-postmasters were being accused of stealing money.

They show that the Post Office Solicitor's Office, responsible for prosecutions at the time, was consulted by the Capture IT team due to concerns about the accuracy of its figures.

In March 1996, the team wrote to sub-postmasters using Capture to



June Tooby with her husband, Ken, in 2007. The sub-postmistress, who died in 2020, was sued by the Post Office in 2003 for more than £55,000 plus interest

advise them that they should also keep "manual" cash books.

"The reason for maintaining manual records follows advice from the Post Office Solicitor's Office that current automated systems are unable to provide a clear audit trail for transactions or for cash and stock holdings entered at any specific time," the team said.

"Similarly, the system could not provide an audit trail if any amendments are made to figures without the knowledge of the sub-postmaster."

A court transcript from the case of June Tooby, a sub-postmistress sued by the Post Office in 2003, revealed how Post Office investigators and lawyers denied under oath that the computer system was faulty.

Ms Tooby died in 2020 but her widower, Ken, said: "Surely the Post Office investigators knew about faults with Capture at that time?"

Post Office minister Kevin Hollinrake has indicated that he does not believe alleged Capture victims can be exonerated in legislation currently before Parliament, which will

overturn the convictions of about 900 sub-postmasters who used the Horizon computer system.

Mr Hollinrake has said the Government needs to establish a "body of evidence" before agreeing to expand what is already an unprecedented use of parliamentary power.

The Post Office was contacted for comment. A spokesperson said previously: "We take very seriously any concerns raised about cases from before the Horizon system was first rolled out in 1999.

"We are concerned about allegations of prosecutions, and we are looking into this along with all available facts about Capture, including whether shortfalls could have been caused by faults in this software, and the potential impacts if so. Given the passage of time and changes to data storage systems since the split from Royal Mail, we do not yet have a complete picture of Capture but are looking into the issue."

i The Government has agreed to **appoint an independent expert to examine original copies of the Capture software** unearthed by campaigners.

Conviction No evidence

Former sub-postmaster Steve Marston, 68, was convicted of charges including theft and false accounting by the Post Office in 1998 after auditors claimed that about £79,000 was missing from his branch.

Mr Marston said his problems began when he was told to start using the computer system Capture for his accounts.

"After that, they never sent any paper ledgers out," he told **i**. "I was never told by regional manager to keep manual records as well.

"What would be the point of doing the same thing again?"

Mr Marston recalls that when he was interviewed, Post Office investigators had printouts from the Capture system which they cited as evidence of missing money.

Since **i** first revealed claims of a second IT scandal linked to the Capture system, lawyers acting for the Post Office have told Mr Marston that they have been unable to find any evidence relating to his prosecution.

A solicitor at law firm Peters & Peters wrote: "There has been very little to no data identified in these additional repositories."



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A court sketch of Stormy Daniels being questioned in court yesterday

JANE ROSENBERG/
REUTERS



UNITED STATES

Judge denies Trump team a mistrial over revealing Daniels testimony

By Sam Rucker

Donald Trump's lawyers were denied a mistrial motion yesterday after the ex-adult film actress Stormy Daniels recalled her first alleged sexual encounter with the former US president.

Ms Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, recounted how she had spanked Mr Trump with a magazine, before putting herself "in a bad situation" with him in a Nevada hotel room in 2006.

The candid testimony prompted the motion from his lawyers but Judge Juan Merchan, who is overseeing the trial over a \$130,000 hush money payment to Ms Daniels when he ran for president in 2016, refused.

The judge said he agreed that there were some elements of Ms Daniels' testimony that would have been better left unsaid. But he added: "I don't think we're at the point where a mistrial is warranted."



Donald Trump and his attorney Susan Necheles in court yesterday

Recalling the alleged encounter in his hotel suite at a celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe, on the border of California and Nevada, when she was 27 years old and Mr Trump was 60, Ms Daniels said she made fun of him because he was wearing silk or satin pyjamas.

"Does Hugh Hefner know you stole his pyjamas?" Ms Daniels claimed she said, telling him to go and change, which he did "very politely".

She described spanking Mr Trump with a magazine after he was rude to her.

"Someone should spank you with that," she recalled saying to Mr Trump about the magazine, claiming he rolled it up and "gave me a look" as if it was a dare.

"So I took it from him and I said 'turn around', and I swatted him," she testified. "And he was much more polite."

She said Mr Trump told her: "You remind me of my daughter." She believed he was referring to Ivanka.

Ms Daniels told the court she was then "startled" to find Mr Trump sitting on his bed, wearing only boxer shorts after she returned from the bathroom.

Describing her thoughts at the time, she said: "Great, I've put myself in this bad situation."

Referencing Ms Daniels's ambitions to move out of her trailer park home, Mr Trump seemingly told her:

"I thought you were serious about what you wanted," as he stood up.

"The next thing I know, I was on the bed," she told the court. "I had my clothes off."

"I just think I blacked out - I was not drunk, I was not drugged... I just don't remember."

She said Mr Trump did not use a condom.

During her testimony, the judge repeatedly warned that "the degree of detail" was "unnecessary".

Mr Trump has pleaded not guilty to 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal the payment to Ms Daniels to hide the alleged sexual encounter. He denies any wrongdoing.

i Ms Daniels testified that she went on to see Mr Trump a number of times after their sexual encounter in the hotel in 2006.

LEGAL

Spacey wins bid to fight High Court assault trial

By Jess Glass

Kevin Spacey has won a bid to fight a High Court trial over claims he sexually assaulted a man, after his solicitors did not file his defence in time.

In 2022, the actor was sued at the High Court in London by a man who claimed he had been sexually assaulted by Mr Spacey and suffered "psychiatric damage".

The civil claim was paused after Mr Spacey (*inset*), 64, was charged - and later acquitted - in criminal proceedings of a number of sexual offences alleged by four men between 2001 and 2013.

At a hearing yesterday, the court heard that lawyers for the actor were due to file a written defence after the end of the criminal proceedings, but had failed to do so.

A default judgment was subsequently entered against Mr Spacey in the civil case on his liability earlier this year. However, after a judge set aside the default judgment at the hearing, the US star is now set to face a civil trial.

Lifting the default civil judgement, Judge David Cook said that the lawyers had "mucked up".

The hearing comes after Mr Spacey denied allegations of inappropriate behaviour included in the Channel 4 documentary *Spacey Unmasked*, which first aired on Monday.

Among the claims to be broadcast is one from Ruari Cannon, a former actor, who detailed his complaint of being groped in 2013 in an exclusive interview with **i**.

Mr Spacey has denied the allegations. In an interview, he said: "I take full responsibility for my past behaviour and my actions, but I cannot and will not take responsibility or apologise to anyone who's made up stuff about me or exaggerated stories about me."



LABOUR

Lammy to meet Trump team on party's US charm offensive

By Poppy Wood

David Lammy will meet with supporters of Donald Trump this week as Labour attempts to forge closer ties with the US ahead of elections on both sides of the Atlantic later this year.

The shadow Foreign Secretary will meet with senior Republican figures today and deliver a speech to a right-leaning think-tank on a two-day visit to Washington DC.

The whistle-stop tour will include

meetings with Elbridge Colby, a key ally of Mr Trump, and Fred Fleitz, the former head of the National Security Council during the previous Trump administration, as well as senators including Lindsey Graham and JD Vance.

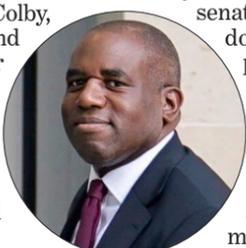
It comes as Labour ramps up contact with the party amid growing expectations that Mr Trump will be selected as the Republican presi-

dential candidate and return to the White House later this year.

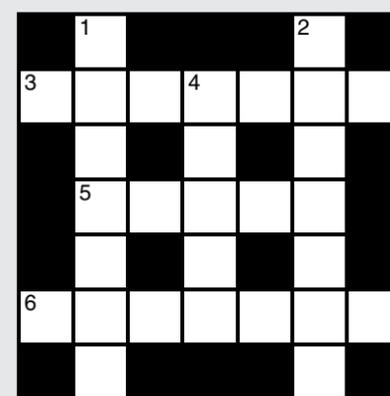
Mr Lammy will also give a speech at the Hudson Institute today hosted by James Risch, the Republican senator for Idaho who has endorsed Mr Trump for the presidential race.

The pair are expected to discuss the "future of the Atlantic alliance" and touch on issues such as China, Ukraine and Labour's commitment to Nato.

Mr Lammy (*inset*) will also meet with White House officials including Jake Sullivan, Joe Biden's national security adviser.



The Five-Clue Cryptic Crossword No 4199



Across

- 3 Christian born suitable to go before a holy man (7)
5/6 Somehow erudition lay in regular procedure (5,7)

Down

- 1 Clay oven with brown opening (7)
2 Spotting electronic espionage (7)
4 It isn't a blemish (5)

Solution, page 49

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Analysis

Putin's theatrics will fail to silence his powerful critics as the war drags on

Mark Galeotti



Vladimir Putin's inauguration to his fifth term as Russian president was marked by much pomp but little circumstance. Meet the new tsar, same as the old tsar.

The Russians do ceremony rather well, from the way Putin's Aurus limousine swept past a line of Russian tricolour flags to the golden splendour of the Kremlin's St Andrew's Hall, which was packed with dignitaries.

There was a Presidential Regiment honour guard and a religious blessing by Patriarch Kirill of Moscow at the Cathedral of the Annunciation.

Putin appeared bored. Perhaps this is no surprise. After all, it was not only his fifth inauguration but also an irrelevant one. The March election, in which the 71-year-old claimed 87 per cent of the vote, was comprehensively rigged, and this was simply the final act in a piece of cynical political theatre.

In his perfunctory speech on swearing the oath of office before a new six-year term, he led with thanks to those "fighting for the Motherland" and promised that "we will get through these difficult times, and be successful". There was no sense of when or how.

There is, however muted, disquiet in Russia. For many ordinary Russians, life goes on, but there is impatience for the war to end, even if not at the cost of capitulation. When Putin held his last marathon "town hall" meeting, the most commonly asked question was: when will the war end?

Putin's vague promises that there will be a victory someday are not enough. If anything, the mood was even more sombre among the dignitaries who filed into St Andrew's Hall to pay their respects.

They are much more aware of the long-term costs of the war, and how far Putin is mortgaging the future of the country for an imperial adventure purely of his making. Rivalries over assets and resources are getting more cut-throat, and even powerful figures such as prime minister Mikhail Mishustin and Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyannin are trying to distance themselves from the war.

Yet Putin's inauguration speech did not hint at any new course. There may be a renewed summer offensive in Ukraine, but as he is still reluctant to take the politically dangerous step of a new mobilisation, it is unlikely to have a major effect on the war.

Meanwhile, the economy risks overheating, and public services are showing the strain of under-investment, but as he is both unable to win the war and unwilling to



Vladimir Putin said Russian would 'overcome all obstacles' after he was sworn in for a fifth term SERGEI BOBYLVOV/GETTY

RUSSIA

President rails against West at inauguration

By Emma Burrows

President Vladimir Putin began his fifth term at a glittering inauguration yesterday, embarking on another six years as leader of Russia after destroying his political opponents, launching a war in Ukraine and concentrating all power in his hands.

At the ceremony in the gilded Grand Kremlin Palace, Mr Putin placed his hand on the Russian Constitution and vowed to defend it as a crowd of hand-picked dignitaries looked on.

"We are a united and great people and together we will

overcome all obstacles, realise all our plans, together we will win," he said after being sworn in.

In a heavily choreographed performance, Mr Putin was



The President lights a candle at the Annunciation Cathedral in Moscow

negotiate a just peace, there is little Putin can do about this.

Nor is he proving able to win over or intimidate the West. Current military exercises, which include the simulated use of tactical nuclear weapons, have been framed as a response to Western "threats", but in his speech, Putin tried to balance his usual warnings to Nato with vague suggestions that Russia was open to "strategic dialogue" – if it was treated as an equal.

Putin's next step is to announce his new government, and it will give us a sense of whether he agrees there is any need for a change of direction – and whether he dares take it. After all, Putin is a cautious politician who, especially now, is

uncomfortable with any churn at the top of his ageing government. The defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, is a friend but has turned out to be a dismal wartime manager.

He is looking vulnerable following the arrest of one of his deputy ministers on corruption charges – but will Putin grasp the nettle and have him replaced?

Alexander Bortnikov, the head of FSB, the Federal Security Service, is 72 and apparently ill. There are reports that he wants to retire, but Putin, worried about keeping a tight grip on one of the main institutions protecting him, won't let him go.

Still, Bortnikov looks to be in a better state than Ramzan Kadyrov, the Chechen warlord

pictured in his office looking at his papers before walking along the Kremlin's long corridors, pausing to look at a painting, on the way to his inauguration.

He used the first moments of his fifth term to thank the "heroes" of his war in Ukraine and to rail against the West.

The President was greeted with applause when he entered the hall with more than 2,500 invited guests, including senior members of the government as well as celebrities including the American actor Steven Seagal.

The US, UK and German ambassadors did not attend, but a few EU envoys were present. AP

reportedly suffering from serious pancreatic problems. He was at the inauguration, but needed two flunkies just to take his jacket off.

But Putin has held back from even hinting at replacing Kadyrov, presumably worried about triggering more instability in the unruly North Caucasus when his army is fully engaged in Ukraine.

In his blessing, Patriarch Kirill told Putin that a president "has to take fateful, formidable decisions". Maybe even he was suggesting that Putin needs to do more than just keep calm and carry on.

Dr Mark Galeotti is the author of 'Putin's Wars: from Chechnya to Ukraine' (Osprey, £10.99)

UKRAINE

Two officers arrested over plot to kill Zelensky

By Isabella Bengoechea

ACTING DEPUTY WORLD EDITOR

Ukraine's internal security service (SBU) has arrested two Ukrainian colonels over an alleged Russian plot to assassinate President Volodymyr Zelensky and other senior officials.

The SBU said it arrested two colonels in the presidential protection unit who were part of a network of agents working for Russia's security service, the FSB, who were planning to capture and kill the President.

"Counter-intelligence and SBU investigators thwarted the FSB's plans to eliminate the President of Ukraine and other representatives of the top military and political leadership," the SBU said, adding that the two suspects had "leaked" secret information to Moscow.

"The enemy was actively developing plans to eliminate President Volodymyr Zelensky. One of the tasks of the FSB intelligence network was to search for executors among the military close to the protection of the President, who could take the head of state hostage and later kill him."

Ukraine claimed that the agents also intended to assassinate Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukraine's military intelligence agency, the GUR, before Easter – 5 May in the Orthodox Christian calendar – as well as Vasyl Malyuk, the head of the SBU.

Mr Malyuk said: "A limited number of people knew about our special operation and I personally monitored its progress."

"The terrorist attack, which was supposed to be a gift to [Vladimir] Putin before the inauguration, was actually a failure of the Russian special services."

"But we must not forget – the enemy is strong and experienced, he cannot be underestimated. We will continue to work ahead of time, so that every traitor receives the well-deserved court sentences."

The security service said it had foiled a plot in which one recruited agent was "to observe the movement of the person under guard and pass information to the enemy". It said a rocket attack had been planned as part of the operation.

"Then they were going to attack the people who remained at the affected area with a drone," the SBU added. "After that, the Russians planned to target with another missile, including to destroy traces of the use of the drone."



The suspects were part of Volodymyr Zelensky's protection unit

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FASHION

The best look for this year's Met Gala style parade? Not turning up at all

This year's notable absences risk propelling the event into mediocrity. By **Emily Bootle**

It is a well-known fact that Generation Z increasingly prefers a night on the sofa to a night on the town – and today, two days after the star-studded annual Met Gala ball in New York, you'd be right to wonder if this shift has filtered through to celebrities.

Anna Wintour's annual knees-up – not literally, of course, the dresses won't allow for that – celebrating all things high-fashion and excess has been on a downward spiral of relevance for years.

This year, though, there were so many notable absences that it feels as though the Met is at risk of fading into unimportance. Is the chicest look of them all simply... non-attendance?

That's not to say that Monday night's "green carpet" (thus coloured to tie in with the "Garden of Time" theme) wasn't awash with A-listers. Zendaya, Sydney Sweeney, Sabrina Carpenter and beau Barry Keoghan, Andrew Scott, Gigi Hadid, three Kardashians – if you were a paparazzo looking for the beautiful, rich and famous, you wouldn't have been disappointed.

Yet some of the biggest celebrities (Beyoncé, Rihanna, Margot Robbie, Taylor Swift) and Met Gala stalwarts (Blake Lively, Bella Hadid, Anne Hathaway) were conspicuous by their absence – an absence that seems to indicate a more general turning of the tide.

There are many reasons

that the Met is no longer the event it once was. As themes and outfits have got more and more extravagant over the years, it has somewhat lost its shock factor.

Our expectations are incredibly high – and rather than revelling in the \$80,000 gowns and four-foot headdresses, online observers tend to prefer to slag them off.

Quite what we want isn't always clear – all we know is we want more, better, more expensive, more interesting. Attendees and designers are pushing their outfits to the limit.

On Monday night, Zendaya was adorned in shimmering blue gauze and metallic vines, while Lana Del Rey was shrouded in a gossamer veil held up by antler-like branches. But we are so overexposed to this

kind of image that their scale and execution generally fails to yield anything more than mild appreciation.

It continues to become less and less interesting to watch people walk the red carpet when we are already watching them constantly online.

Taylor Swift, currently the most famous person on the planet, did not attend this

Lana Del Rey (left) and Zendaya turned heads at the Met Gala on Monday

GETTY/MET MUSEUM/VOGUE; INVISION/AP



year – and why would she? She's busy cackling maniacally in her private jet about the discourse she's caused with her new album *The Tortured Poets Department*.

Why bother attending a see-and-be-seen event when it will just make you the same as every other celebrity attendee having their outfits analysed? It's much cooler to stay at home.

Plenty of people have taken a stand against the event for political reasons, too. Last year, Extinction Rebellion protesters blocked the road to the Metropolitan Museum of Art where the ball is hosted; this year, hordes of pro-Palestinian protesters drew attention to the imminent assault on Rafah, making the "green carpet" feel shockingly insignificant.

Few Met Gala looks have made a splash in recent years – by far the most interesting was Doja Cat in 2023, who, in tribute to Karl Lagerfeld's pet Choupette, dressed as a cat replete with facial prosthetics and answering interviews only in miaows.

But rarely does such a sense of humour come through – more often the Met Gala ends up as a tribute to the kind of unrelatable excess that is no longer quite in vogue.

The most notable outfit on Monday was what London's *Evening Standard* described as a "rib defying" corset worn by Kim Kardashian, which made her waist look smaller than her head – an act of contortionism that nobody thinks is anything other than a health and safety risk.

PJs, crisps and the sofa has never looked more appealing – for us and our idols.

News in brief

SCIENCE

Glasgow gets its own shrimp fossil

A type of shrimp that died out hundreds of millions of years ago has been declared a new species.

The shrimp is believed to have lived in the Carboniferous seas that surrounded what is now Glasgow around 333 million years ago. Its fossil was found at the same locality where the "Bearsden Shark" fossil was excavated in the early 1980s.

The shrimp was given the scientific name *Teallicaris weegie* after a paper in the Royal Society of Edinburgh's journal *Earth and Environmental Science Transactions* identified it as a Glaswegian crustacean. Its authors named the species in honour of the people of Glasgow and the local dialect.



ART

Canaletto painting returns to Wales

A Canaletto painting that was hidden in a Welsh slate mine at the height of the Second World War has gone on display at the National Library of Wales.

The Stonemason's Yard (above) was among a hoard of artworks moved from the National Gallery in London to Manod slate mine near Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1940 to protect them from German bombing.

Now the painting, an early work by the 18th-century Venetian artist, has returned to Wales to hang in the Gregynog Gallery at the national library in Aberystwyth.

"It looks amazing," said Mari Elin Jones, the library's spokesman.

AGRICULTURE

Warning of bluetongue outbreak

By **Emily Beament**

Farmers have been warned of a "very high" probability of a new strain of bluetongue being brought in through midges blown over from Europe.

A risk assessment by the Animal and Plant Health Agency – carried out in the wake of an outbreak which began in England last autumn – warns the virus could return.

Bluetongue affects livestock including cattle and sheep, as well as goats, deer and llamas, with symptoms including a blue and swollen tongue, fever, reduced milk yield and, in the most severe cases, death.

The virus does not affect humans or food safety.

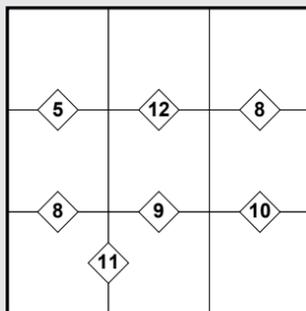
A new strain of bluetongue known as BTV-3, which emerged in the Netherlands in September 2023, was first identified in November in England. Since then there have been 126 cases across Kent, Norfolk, Suffolk and Surrey.

It is the first outbreak of bluetongue in Britain since 2007.

There is currently no vaccine in the UK for the BTV-3 strain of the virus, although a new vaccine has been approved for emergency use from the start of May in the Netherlands and Belgium.

One-minute Wijuko

How to play Place 1 – 9 once in the grid, obeying the sums between pairs of squares



Solution: page 49
More puzzles: pages 27-30

NATURE

Chimps may be lifelong learners

By **Nilima Marshall**

Chimpanzees, like humans, may be lifelong learners.

Researchers have found that the great apes continue to learn and hone their tool-using skills well into adulthood.

The chimps became better at using their fingers to grip and manipulate their stick tools as they got older, and continued to sharpen their skills in the first 20 years of their lives.

For the study, an international team of researchers, led by Mathieu Malherbe from the Max

Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany, observed 70 wild chimps of various ages using sticks to retrieve food at Tai National Park in Côte d'Ivoire.

They said their findings, published in the journal *Plos Biology*, show perfecting skills is more than just a matter of physical development and potentially related to mental learning capacities as well.

The work also helps shed light on the thinking and lifelong learning skills which evolved in humans, the researchers added.

The Opinion Matrix

COMMENT FROM HOME AND ABROAD

FUTURE OF TORY PARTY



Can Rishi Sunak turn the tide?

The Independent

Rishi Sunak is clutching at the thinnest of straws in claiming the results of last Thursday's local elections point to a hung parliament. But Sunak's message is in part intended to help the Tories keep their flagging spirits up. (Andrew Grice)

The Times

If Tories are going to be voted out, they should at least defend what they've done well. They have raised education standards in England, something that doesn't create headlines but is improving life chances for millions. There are four million more in work and a much higher living wage. (William Hague)

GREEN PARTY



Accusations over some councillors

Daily Mail

The party portrays itself as kind-hearted environmentalists, wrapped up in woolly notions of saving polar bears and keeping the air clean. Scratch beneath the surface, however, and a more disturbing picture emerges. Among those newly elected under its banner last week are four councillors who stand accused of antisemitism. (Editorial)

The Spectator

The Green Party is in hot water after it emerged that a newly-elected councillor labelled a rabbi a "kind of animal". The party is under fire for failing to suspend him. (Steerpikie)

PRESIDENT XI IN FRANCE



Disquiet over welcome given to him

Daily Telegraph

President Emmanuel Macron said he would be robust in his dealings with his counterpart, calling for a more balanced trading relationship. But to President Xi, the fact he is in Europe, and the optics that will provide back in China, is what matters. (Editorial)

Reporters Without Borders

China is the world's biggest jailer of journalists, with at least 119 people detained. A democracy like France should not welcome a representative of such a draconian regime without addressing journalistic freedoms. (Editorial)

HOUSING CRISIS



A generation locked out of the market

Daily Express

We should build more homes and lobby for reductions in stamp duty so that those that can downsize can do so more easily, allowing younger citizens to gain a foot on the housing ladder. Enabling the next generation to buy their own homes should be a political priority. (Editorial)

The Guardian

We want to see the suspension of the right-to-buy policy from any new council homes that we build in our city-region. To be clear: there is no honest solution to the housing crisis as long as it stays in its current form. (Andy Burnham)

US GAZA PROTESTS



Young letting heart rule their brains

Los Angeles Times

A Columbia student, described as a leader of the protests there, was quoted as saying, "Zionists don't deserve to live." He apologised, and I don't want to compare him to Nazis. He and his compatriots are young and with youth comes the right to let your heart dominate your brain. His words, however, wore a swastika. (Seth Greenland)

Washington Post

There is one glaring similarity between Vietnam protests and now: in both cases, the protesters' ideological and behavioural excesses undermine the very causes for which they fight. (Max Boot)

KRIS HALLENGA



Founder of CoppaFeel! charity dies

The Sun

Kris Hallenga's death is a tragedy for those who loved her. But she would never see it as such for herself, fulfilled by the knowledge she had done for breast cancer what Dame Deborah James later did for bowel cancer. Her championing of #Check'Em Tuesdays increased self-examinations by 2,000 per cent and saved countless lives. (Editorial)

Daily Mirror

Generations of people will forever be grateful to the fun and fearless fighter for breast cancer awareness who sadly succumbed to the disease. (Editorial)

Quote of the day



I'm like many others in this passionate community, who don't just see watches as an accessory, but how they make them feel

Sylvester Stallone

The actor on why he collects watches

Life In Brief

PETER OOSTERHUIS GOLFER AND BROADCASTER

Peter Oosterhuis, the English golfer and multiple European Tour winner who later brought his distinguished voice to golf broadcasts as an analyst, has died at the age of 75.

The PGA Tour announced his death without listing a cause, though Oosterhuis had retired from broadcasting in 2014 with early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

Oosterhuis won seven times on the European Tour, twice at the French Open, and his lone PGA Tour victory was the Canadian Open in 1981 when he beat Jack Nicklaus, Andy North and Bruce Lietzke by one shot.

"Peter was an incredibly intelligent golfer, dedicated to his craft and to practice," his Ryder Cup teammate Bernard Gallacher said. "He excelled in course management and putting, which made him a very difficult opponent to get the better of."

His stellar play in the Ryder Cup was often overlooked. Oosterhuis played on six consecutive teams and won 14, drew 11 and lost three of all the matches he played, a remarkable record considering this was during the 1970s, an era of US dominance.

In singles matches, he won six, drew two and lost one, twice beating Arnold Palmer and once Johnny Miller.

Oosterhuis twice won the Order of Merit when the European Tour was formed in 1972, and won the Harry Vardon trophy for the best scoring average on the Tour from 1971 to 1974.

He was runner-up twice in the British Open: in 1974, when he finished four shots behind Gary Player, and in 1982, when he was one shot behind Tom Watson. He had the 54-hole lead in the 1973 Masters until closing with a 74 to tie for third behind Tommy Aaron.

That inspired him to spend more

time on the PGA Tour – it was rare in those days for European players to play primarily in America – and his best year was in 1981 when he finished 28th on the money list with \$115,862.

Peter Arthur Oosterhuis was born in Dulwich, south London, in 1948. His father Hans had fled the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and worked as a commodities broker in the UK. Along with Oosterhuis's mother Josie, the family would go blackberry picking around Dulwich and Sydenham Hill golf club.

"Trouble was," Oosterhuis later recalled, "I used to eat all the blackberries I picked, so I was soon dismissed from that and I started to play golf instead."

He joined the club as a junior, turning pro at 20. In the 90s Oosterhuis became a golf commentator and analyst for Sky Sports, and then worked for Golf



Channel before spending 15 years with CBS. "He was a very intelligent man and a lovely person to be with in company," Gallacher said. "I never heard him talk badly of anyone in the decades I knew him. That, alongside his eloquence and deep knowledge of the game, was the reason he was also such a popular and excellent broadcaster."

He is survived by his wife Ruth Ann, two sons, two stepsons and four grandchildren. AP

Born 3 May 1948
Died 2 May 2024

My View

Donald Macintyre



Netanyahu's latest pause on peace

Hostages' families and Palestinians wait for another glimmer of hope

It's hard even to guess at the agony inflicted on the families of the 132 Israeli hostages – an unknown number of whom are still alive – held by Hamas in Gaza. Or would be even harder if not for the quiet eloquence of Sharone Lifschitz, whose 83-year-old father, Oded, has not been heard of since the end of October.

Admitting that she was not “altogether hopeful”, she told the BBC's *Today* programme: “I don't know if he's alive. We can't wait to have him back, we can't wait to hug him. I dreamt about him last night, I dreamt he was knocking on my mum's door.”

It's hard, too, to imagine the depth of fear and despair felt by way over one million Palestinians crammed into southern Gaza without adequate food, shelter or sanitation.

There they are awaiting, perhaps even experiencing, the preliminary stages of the full-scale military assault on Rafah that the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, defying US exhortations, has been promising for weeks.

What makes this worse is that on Monday night it looked, however briefly, as if the professed acceptance of a ceasefire and hostage release deal brokered by the Egyptian and Qataris, with the CIA's director William Burns very much in the background, signalled an end in sight. It was why Palestinians in Rafah began dancing in the streets; why Ms Lifschitz saw at last a “glimmer” of hope.

Of course they will try to keep those hopes alive. But it's just that bit harder now that Israel's government has said the deal does not meet its “core” demands and has sent a delegation back to Qatar to pick up the negotiations again.

Meanwhile, having for the first time taken full control from the Palestinian side of the Gaza-Egypt border, the Israeli military is conducting “limited strikes” on Rafah which the US says is “concerning” but perhaps not – yet – the full invasion envisaged by its political masters. This leaves the so far unanswerable question of: “what next?”

It was way back in November, during the last – and only – ceasefire in which Israeli hostages were released by Hamas that one of Benjamin Netanyahu's former lieutenants told me that he would not see trading Palestinian prisoners for Israeli captives as



Protesters in Tel Aviv hold flags and signs at a demonstration calling for a hostages deal with Hamas AMIR LEVY/GETTY

enough to redeem his reputation in Israeli public opinion.

After all, the release of 105 hostages in that exchange, profoundly welcomed as it was by their families, had hardly dented the ignominy he had suffered because of the failures of policy, intelligence and military preparedness which had enabled Hamas to commit its murders and atrocities on 7 October.

Indeed, Aviv Bushinsky, a former spokesman of the prime minister's, suggested that he had been “cornered” into the November deal and that his only hope of recovering his fabled electoral strength might – just – lie in the possibility, however remote, of achieving the “total victory” over Hamas that he had set as a goal and has continued to elude him ever since.

Much has changed since then. A Maariv poll last week showed that 54 per cent of Israelis now preferred the release of hostages to the long

threatened Rafah operation (38 per cent). But there is no substantive sign that Netanyahu has changed his basic view since November of where his own salvation lies.

Public opinion for him is by no means the only – or even the biggest – factor. The major threat to his government – and therefore of an election – is that his most extreme coalition partners, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, will desert him unless he agrees to move wholesale into Rafah and forget about the hostages for now, if not for ever.

A flavour of their menace was given last week by a minister in Smotrich's party, Orit Strook, who said – deliberately putting the number of surviving hostages at their lowest conceivable level: “Soldiers left everything behind and went out to fight for the goals the government defined and we throw it away now to save 22 people, or 33 people – I don't know how many?”

Such a government has no right to exist.”

A politically stronger prime minister might have done more for the hostages earlier. After all, when he was stronger, in 2011 he swapped 1,027 Palestinian prisoners for a single Hamas-held soldier, Gilad Shalit. And even though the brutal war crimes inflicted by Hamas were exponentially worse, he has not been short of advice to do it again. As early as December his predecessor Ehud Olmert called for a full ceasefire, prisoner exchange and a diplomatic solution to Gaza to be brokered by Egypt.

Yair Golan, a former deputy chief of military staff, currently bidding to lead – and revive – the currently moribund Labour Party, told me then that Netanyahu should be (but wasn't) prioritising the hostages over the unrealistic goal of Hamas's total destruction.

On Monday evening Golan tweeted: “Does anyone think it is

There is no substantive sign that Netanyahu has changed his view of where his salvation lies

possible to achieve ‘total victory’ without releasing the hostages? The abandonment of the abductees and an unnecessary, empty and meaningless military-strategic entry into Rafah will bring ‘complete victory’ out of nowhere?”

When it comes to responsibility not only for taking the hostages – itself a war crime – but for a Palestinian death toll of over 34,000, there may well be nothing to choose between Hamas and Israel.

But while the leaders of both no doubt want to survive, the need to do it seems to diverge. Hamas wants the war to stop – a key stumbling block in the negotiations – while it's hard to escape the conclusion that Netanyahu wants to prolong it at least until he achieves some holy grail like the head of Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas.

What's more easily overlooked is that, unpalatable as it may be for Netanyahu, an end to the war serves the interests of the hostages; the US which has become embroiled in the war domestically, as well as a matter of foreign policy; the hostages; and given the regional threats it faces, of Israel itself.

An end to this “forever” war opens up the prospect of progress at last to a two-state solution, a new stability pact between Saudi Arabia and Israel and an end to the horrific death toll.

The question, yet again, is how far the US is prepared to use its undoubted leverage to achieve these objectives. And if it means that Netanyahu loses two ultra-nationalist ministers and has to face his electorate, that would be a benefit. Ask US Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, who called for just that to happen in March.

As Ms Lifschitz put it yesterday, Netanyahu should do the “right thing” rather than act from his personal interests. And if he doesn't, it's up to Joe Biden to force him.

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Your View

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The point of punctuation

North Yorkshire Council wants to do away with apostrophes because their computers cannot cope with names that include them, such as St Mary's Walk. My basic emailing program automatically added that apostrophe and happily spell-corrects them, so what kind of outdated machines have they got?

Surely it is just down to their computers being programmed to spell correctly?
VRONNI GEORGE
 CHULMLEIGH, DEVON

If the apostrophe abolitionists have their way ("Apostrophes banned from signs as computer says 'no' to punctuation", i, 6 May), we'll soon be having songs like "Shell Be Coming Round the

Mountain", "Well Keep a Welcome in the Hillside" and "Ill Be Seeing You".

Don't quite have the same meaning, do they?
TYM HONEYBONE
 DONCASTER

I drive to Taunton and pass the Worlds End pub. Soon after I see a garage offering MOT's. Some trade-off possible here?
ROGER LAMBERT
 VIA EMAIL

The arts can reach our soul

Lucy Mangan's article "Nothing self-indulgent in mourning strangers" (Opinion, 6 May) is perceptive and uplifting.

Music and art can indeed create deep connections between us, and with those we will never, or can never meet. Thank you Lucy for articulating that so well.
PETER CHIPPERFIELD
 LONDON



CJ Sansom's character of Sharylake must have had parallels with the author, an i reader says APPLE TV

Like Lucy Mangan, I am very sad at the death of CJ Sansom and almost feel that I knew him.

He created a character in Shardlake who I feel must have had his roots in Sansom's own psyche, otherwise how could he have made us understand and love him so well?

The world is poorer for the loss of this genius, and I hope no one dares to finish the novel he was writing when he died: it would be sacrilege.
SHEILA CHARISSE
 ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE

Opera needs to find a new way

You report that Welsh National Opera is upset about funding cuts ("Artists speak out against opera cuts", i, 7 May).

If opera companies cannot exist without grants, which are from public money, they should look at other ways to deliver their art.
ALAN EASTWOOD
 WREXHAM

Coalition stayed the course

The Prime Minister

says there could be a hung parliament with no overall majority if we don't all vote Conservative.

He seems to have forgotten that last time there was a coalition was also the last time a prime minister lasted all the way through their term. Since the Conservatives gained their overall majority there have been five. I'm no David Cameron fan but it does suggest a coalition isn't so much of a disaster. Strong and stable...
GUY CLAPPERTON
 LONDON

Ex-teachers are a rich source

Re Stefano Hatfield's article "Axeing Now Teach shows Government's stupidity" (Opinion, 6 May), I am a retired teacher, keen to return to use my skills and expertise a few

hours a week. I have tried volunteering at three schools but have been totally ignored.

A rich source is being left untapped – ex-teachers.
PETER RICHES
 VIA EMAIL

You saw it, but did you film it?

As a Baby Boomer with Gen Z offspring, I was highly amused by Rebecca Reid's piece ("Gen Z should lose their hang-ups over using the phone", Opinion, 7 May).

We recently recounted to our children our young Labrador's latest escapade, which involved him climbing over a tall hedge to retrieve an old football, only to be trapped behind a secure fence.

My kids' first reaction? "Did you film it?"
DAVID HUGHES
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IN TOMORROW'S

INTERVIEW

Seann Walsh

The comedian on why he has 'always struggled to fit in'

Clarkson's tears and the realities of sausage-eating

AGRICULTURE

Simon Kelner



The fourth episode of the new series of *Clarkson's Farm* is entitled "Harrowing", so we can't say we weren't warned.

Jeremy Clarkson, motor car enthusiast turned farmer for the purposes of an Amazon Prime documentary, has decided to try his hand at rearing pigs, and, successful at getting his sows impregnated, there was now the delicate business of the porcine maternity ward to be negotiated.

Pigs can have litters of around a dozen piglets, often ejected, as Clarkson observed, with machine-gun rapidity.

The piglets are unbearably cute, and there's no need for a spoiler alert to suggest that the process is irredeemably messy.

Pigs, it turns out, are not always

the most proficient mothers. Of the 28 piglets born over the course of a few days and nights, seven of them died in their first few days when their mother rolled on top of them.

One by one, the tiny, motionless animals are cradled by a visibly upset Clarkson and his girlfriend Lisa.

But if this wasn't enough to put you off pig farming, there was more heartbreak to come.

The couple had named one of their sows Baroness – "the sweetest one of the lot," Lisa says.

Given the nature of the business they're in, there's bound to be trouble when farm animals are given names and endowed with a personality.

At this point, I was reminded of a scene in *The West Wing* when Leo McGarry, the president's chief of staff, says that when he takes his daughter to a seafood restaurant, she immediately gives all the lobsters in the tank names.

Thus christened, rather than merely objectified, it then makes it much harder for them to be taken from the tank to be boiled and eaten.

Anyway, Baroness, struggling with her own health issues, gave birth to three piglets, all of whom

died, the last one in Clarkson's study, in his arms. Soon afterwards, Baroness was put out of her pain by a vet's injection.

It was a story of life and death that would touch anyone with a heart, and Clarkson, who, one imagines, would previously only have become emotional at the sight of a Lamborghini at full throttle, was reduced to a tearful mess.

Interspersed with these, yes, harrowing scenes was the sight of Clarkson taking a delivery for his farm shop.

Inside the boxes were, neatly packaged, the butchered cuts of two of the pigs he had earlier sent to the slaughterhouse.

Our hero swells with pride at the sight of all those pork chops and packets of sausages.

"Two pigs have produced all those sausages!" he exclaims, incredulously.

The pathetic irony of the situation is not lost on Clarkson.

"All farmers love their animals," he says, "and then they kill them and sell them."

Earlier, he had made the (contestable) point that animals will become extinct if they are not bred to feed humankind.



'Clarkson's Farm' told a story of life and death that would touch anyone with a heart

All farmers love their animals – then they kill them and sell them

And here's the point, really. I get the economic and sustainable exigencies of the farming cycle of life and death: breeding, rearing, nurturing, feeding, killing, selling.

But how are we non-farming individuals meant to reconcile our meat-eating habits?

I know I'm a woke metropolitan type, but I felt distinctly queasy at the butcher's cheerful rejoinder when Clarkson suggested the paradox of his enjoying a sausage after shedding tears for the same animals which produced it.

"This way," the butcher says, "you get to love them twice."

Most carnivores do not think too much about meat production, so we should be grateful to Clarkson, who does very little without purpose, for bringing the important question of animal husbandry to our sitting rooms, as well as making us aware of the struggles all farmers face.

We shouldn't eat meat unthinkingly. A friend of mine said to me once that we shouldn't eat any animal that we wouldn't be willing to kill ourselves.

I wouldn't quite go that far, but, before you eat your next sausage, I'd certainly advise watching *Clarkson's Farm*.

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London pride: the irresistible lure of our capital

SOCIETY

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown



I've known Sadiq Khan for a long time. Unlike Susan Hall – his intolerant, blinkered and spiteful Tory adversary in last week's election for the London mayoralty – he is sharp, free thinking, bold and inclusive. The right threw everything at him – nasty slurs, fake information, religious hatred – but liberal, culturally open, pro-European, pro-migrant, very woke London voted Khan back in with a huge majority.

A Tory insider, quoted in *i*, attributed Hall's massive defeat to demographics: "The median age in London is 35 while around 35 per cent [of Londoners] were not born in the UK."

Fact: white, black, brown, Londoners of all ages voted for this mayor.

Those who hate Khan – and us – will not give up easily. I read this on social media in a post since deleted: "We couldn't vote him out, the only way to get rid now is physical. He needs to be attacked. His address is public with a Google search, we need to cause him serious pain."

Such threats stalk Khan everyday. But still he rises. His win, incidentally, has nothing to do with Sir Keir Starmer.

The Labour leader publicly claims that he is a "friend and colleague" of Khan's – the same words he once used about Jeremy Corbyn.

But Khan is his own man. And unlike Starmer, he has never wavered in his support for



Sadiq Khan was voted back in as London Mayor with a healthy majority despite slurs from the right REUTERS

Palestinian civilians, who are being mercilessly punished for the crimes of Hamas. Metropolitan voters today are wiser and more muscular than the Tories, or indeed the Labour leadership, realise.

Through the Brexit years, most voted to remain in the EU and so were turned on and often silenced. All attention was focused on "Red Wall" Brexiteers.

We Londoners were cowed by the fury directed at us largely because Brexiteers and parts of the media framed all big issues, from immigration to Islam, in terms of "Metropolitan elites" versus "the

people", as if we weren't British at all.

Well, those times are gone. We were right about Brexit. Boris Johnson et al have been exposed as frauds and self-servers.

Dominant Tories smashed much that was good about Great Britain. But they couldn't do that in the powerhouse that is London, a city which draws people from around the UK and the world.

Life elsewhere can be lovely and fulfilling, I'm sure. But the lure of London is irresistible, even though living here can be hard.

Rents, cost of essentials and

transport can be horrendously expensive. This city has pockets of poverty that are worse than in most other parts of the UK; knife crime has reached terrifying levels, mainly because the Tories have cynically cut the Mayor's budget; some Londoners are rude, careless and fearfully angry; too many people here are physically or mentally sick and loneliness blights many lives.

Yet, millions of us would never leave the sleepless, noisy, throbbing, infinitely variegated, motley capital.

London is my home, the place I found my true self. I have

The city has always been a melting pot of different classes and races

fond memories of Kampala, my birthplace, but there, I would have lived a small, circumscribed life. Here I got to expand my horizons, live a big life.

The children of my closest English friend, who grew up in Somerset and have moved here, feel the same.

London has always been a melting pot of different classes and races. In 1578, one George Best wrote a book containing ominous warnings about men as "blacker as cole" taking fair Englishwomen and begetting children.

In 1711, Joseph Addison, after visiting the Royal Exchange, wrote ecstatically about seeing "so much an assembly of Country-men and Foreigners consulting together upon the Private Business of Mankind, and making this Metropolis a kind of Emporium for the whole Earth".

In 1764, *The Gentleman* magazine reported that 20,000 black people – mainly servants – were living in the city, working and having fun times, too. Christopher Wren was inspired by Saracenic architecture and St Paul's Cathedral reflects that.

Sarah Shade, a working-class, adventurous woman, went off to India, came back and opened the first Indian takeaway in Marylebone for East India Company families (my book *Exotic England* contains many more such tales).

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SOCIETY

The spiritual sexuality movement has a problem with self-appointed gurus

Promoting sex with clients as a credible therapeutic tool is nonsense, writes **Kate Lister**



When I read about the ongoing court case against the sex therapist Michael Lousada, I shuddered. In case you missed it, Mr Lousada is being sued by Ella Janneh, a former client, who alleges that he raped her during a “body work” session that took place in 2016. Ms Janneh told the court that she engaged Mr Lousada’s services because she suffered panic attacks during consensual sex due to being abused as a child.

It is alleged that Mr Lousada proceeded to use sexual penetration as a therapeutic technique, and that the session was “about release of energy”. The court documents record that he told her that “his penis was ‘like a laser beam’ and that it could ‘burn up trauma’, and that he should use his penis to absorb the trauma”.

Mr Lousada says he received “clear verbal consent” for his actions and denies all the allegations of rape and assault. He claims to have written consent from Ms Janneh for all his actions.

I don’t know Michael Lousada or Ella Janneh and cannot comment on that case, but this is not the first time I have heard such outlandish claims about the healing powers of sex. When I read the line about a penis being able to “burn up trauma”, I had an instant flashback to the time I naively attended a tantric sex retreat in Bali.

To my mind, the group running that retreat was a cult, and a dangerous one at that, and that was just the kind of nonsense they were peddling.

They spoke at great length about the healing power of sex, and how you had to have your genitals spiritually “de-armoured”, which basically meant letting other participants finger you.

Of course, if you really wanted a proper “de-armouring” you could pay one of the senior instructors a lot of money to do it. If you successfully progressed in the group, you got to have sex with the high-level members, maybe even their leader.

Students were encouraged to have sex with each other, there were assistants having sex with the students, and anytime anyone questioned what was going on, they were told this was spiritual work and that they needed to work on their ego. It was a mess and people got hurt. I got hurt.

In the years since that

experience, serious allegations of sexual abuse and coercion have been made against that group by former members. This may sound extreme, but this group is far from unique.

There is a real problem within the spiritual sexuality movement with rogue self-appointed gurus who prey upon vulnerable clients and convince them that the only way they can heal from sexual trauma is by shagging them.

I do want to be very careful not to smear everyone who practises spiritual sexuality, tantric sex, or psycho-sexual bodywork as predators. That’s not true and not fair. Most of the people who do this work are wonderful people who are only trying to do some good in the world.

But while it’s not everyone within this community, I guarantee everyone within this community knows exactly what I am talking about and could cite several examples.

In the wake of #MeToo there has been a reckoning within these communities as more and more people call out deeply problematic behaviour and relay stories of abuse, not only against individual practitioners, but against entire schools.

I know of at least four self-appointed sex gurus, with significant followings, who have now quietly vanished from public view after a slew of allegations emerged against them.

Others, like the tantric teacher Andrew Barnes, have admitted that they violated their clients’ boundaries in sessions and now post a great deal about the work they are doing to redress this, while still seeing clients.

I have seen a lot of good work done in these communities, but even so, I do not think it is ever safe to promote sex with clients as a credible therapeutic tool. The dynamic between a therapist and a client is too unbalanced and open to abuse.

There is a reason why actual, licenced psychotherapists have so many guidelines and processes in place when working with a patient, none of which include using their penis as a magic wand to heal trauma.

The people seeking out these kinds of spiritual therapies are already vulnerable and searching for something. Combine that with the fact that they are paying a lot of money to “get better” and are there to be instructed by the expert, and



Michael Lousada (inset) is being sued by Ella Janneh who alleges that he raped her during a ‘body work’ session PA

is it any wonder abuses occur?

Then there is the fact that there is so little recourse for anyone who feels they have been abused, other than the police. There is no official governing body for tantra or spiritual sexuality to complain to either. These practitioners cannot be struck off any register; they are free to continue working.

Then there is the rather shocking fact that “psychologist”, “counsellor”, “psychotherapist”, and “therapist” are not legally protected titles in the UK. I find that absolutely mind-blowing.

That means that any one of us could set ourselves up as a therapist of this or that and start to recruit clients. I could market myself as a psychologist or a counsellor

I could market myself as a psychologist or a counsellor tomorrow and there is nothing to stop me

tomorrow and there is nothing to stop me.

Throw in a bunch of flashy sounding buzzwords and you have something that sounds like a legitimate medical treatment. “Hi, I’m Kate. I am a sexual psychotherapist, specialising in integrated modality work and intimate somatic counselling.” But this means absolutely nothing at all. Its gibberish, but it is incredibly seductive gibberish.

Who doesn’t want to be better at sex, with less hang-ups and crippling anxieties?

We all want to recover from sexual traumas and be more connected to our bodies and our spirits. I know that because that was what I was seeking when I boarded a plane bound for Bali – however, that was not what I found.

Like many others, what I found was damaged people and predators who used a mask of spirituality to find and exploit people who

trusted them.

As soon as someone assumes the role of teacher or therapist, they hold considerable power over the person in the role of student or patient. Consent is always compromised as soon as sex is introduced as a medical treatment within that dynamic.

I have nothing at all against anyone who wants to attend an orgy, pay for a sexual experience, or explore their sexual horizons in a tantra class – just don’t call it therapy.

As soon as those lines become blurred, things can go wrong very quickly. There is no medical reason to have sex with your therapist, ever.

Dr Kate Lister is a writer, historian, and presenter. She is the author of ‘A Curious History of Sex’ and the host of the podcast ‘Betwixt the Sheets: The History of Sex, Scandal and Society’

EMERGENCY SURGERY



HELP SUPPORT OUR MEDICAL TEAMS TODAY



A man carries a wounded child into the MSF-run clinic at Rafah Indonesian Field Hospital in southern Gaza, 27 December 2023. Photograph © MSF

DR BIRSEN GASKELL IS AN ANAESTHETIST RECENTLY RETURNED FROM GAZA.

“We arrived in Gaza and were immediately confronted by huge numbers of people crammed into the streets. You can hear the bombing and you can see the fear in people’s faces.

We immediately got to work at the hospital. We treated a large number of patients for burns and trauma injuries, mostly people who’d been injured in explosions. There were a lot of children. I’d never seen so many burns patients in one place.

Some children were malnourished and it was clear many were not eating properly. With post-operative care, it’s vital that patients have a good diet to assist with tissue healing, but due to food shortages that just wasn’t happening.

We were seeing around 180 patients every day. We didn’t have the capacity to take everybody into the operating theatres – some procedures had to be carried out on the ward.

As an anaesthetist, one of my roles was to improve pain management. Due to shortages of medical supplies, there

have been a lot of incidents during this conflict when people have been operated on without anaesthetics. It’s inconceivable that this has happened, but it has.

Some patients stick in your mind. There was a nine-year-old girl who’d been injured when her home was bombed and lost part of her jaw. She and her mother were the only survivors from their family. I changed her dressing every few days and gave her antibiotic treatment. One day, she gave me a hug and asked if she’d ever look normal. I didn’t have an answer for her. Reconstructive surgery would really help her, but nothing like that is on offer in Gaza.

The situation in Gaza is getting worse and people’s medical needs are growing. The fact that there are people there who have had to undergo medical procedures without anaesthesia is barbaric. It’s an inhumane situation.

Yet, despite the carnage and the horror, the MSF hospital was an oasis of calm. I was so impressed by the Gazan staff, by their resilience. Many had lost family members and were living in tents, but they were still there every day, helping people.

The work MSF is doing in Gaza is needed now more than ever.”

WE CAN’T OPERATE WITHOUT YOU

Every year, MSF teams carry out tens of thousands of surgeries. From treating war wounds to emergency caesareans and reconstructive surgery, our surgeons are at the frontline of our lifesaving care.

In 2022, MSF teams around the world conducted more than 118,000 major surgeries. In the places where we work, demand for surgical services has never been higher. We need your support now more than ever to provide people with lifesaving medical care.

Please donate today to support our emergency medical teams.

- £40** can provide six patients with antibiotics to prevent infections after surgery
- £420** covers the cost of an MSF surgeon working in a hospital for five days
- £170** could pay for emergency splints to immobilise injured limbs for 20 patients

THANK YOU

100% of the funding for our work comes from private donors. It’s your support that enables us to provide emergency medical care.

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Your support is vital to our work and we would like to keep you informed with first-hand accounts from our staff and patients about the lifesaving impact your support is having, from combatting epidemics to providing emergency surgery.

We won’t allow other organisations to have access to your personal data for marketing purposes and we won’t bombard you with appeals.

By supporting MSF, you will receive our quarterly magazine Dispatches, event invitations and occasional emergency appeals with requests for donations by post. You can change how you hear from MSF UK by emailing uk.fundraising@london.msf.org or calling 020 7404 6600. Visit our privacy notice for more: [msf.org.uk/privacy](https://www.msf.org.uk/privacy).

Please fill in this form, place in an envelope and return postage free to:

FREEPOST RUBA-GYZY-YXST, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Bumpers Way, Bumpers Farm, Chippenham, SN14 6NG. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 055 79 84 (open 8am – 10pm seven days a week) or make your donation online by searching ‘MSF CARE’.

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MSFR0048

CONSUMER

'I've switched to an electric car and saved £7,500 in bills'

By Callum Mason

MONEY AND BUSINESS REPORTER

Paul Hughes describes his decision to buy an electric car back in 2015 as a "no-brainer."

The 53-year-old calculates that over the past nine years he has saved more than £6,500 per year on fuel, and an extra £1,000 on vehicle emissions duty (VED) compared with his old vehicle.

Charging up his Renault Zoe costs just 3.5p per mile, compared to 13p per mile for his old Jaguar. It does 70 miles per charge

New research from Compare the Market shows the typical annual running cost for an electric vehicle is now £525 cheaper than a petrol car on average.

The data, which looked at insurance costs, fuel and taxes, showed that for a typical 45- to 54-year-old, the average annual cost of running an electric vehicle is £1,195. In comparison, a petrol car typically costs £1,720 to run for 12 months.

Mr Hughes bought his Renault Zoe for £13,600 in 2015, benefitting from a dealer discount and a government grant. He says there are some upfront costs that offset the benefits slightly, but that it is "still cheaper all things considered."

The Government ran a grant scheme for electric-vehicle purchases until 2022, offering up to £5,000, but has since scrapped it.

But the business owner, who lives in Peterborough, says that his car works well for family purposes, which include short journeys such as school runs for his children.

Richard Lancaster and his wife

Rose, who live near Bristol, also say their recent model, an MG MG5, bought in 2022, saves them cash.

Mr Lancaster, 69, says the primary reason he bought the car was environmental, but it also saves the couple hundreds of pounds a year.

"The saving is an added bonus. In theory, I can charge it entirely for free in the summer because of my solar panels," he says.

"I've essentially never had to charge it from a public point because you can drive up to 250 miles between charges."

The upfront cost of buying the car was a little higher than if he had bought a petrol one, but some costs, such as servicing appear to be lower.

And he recommends the type of car to others of his age bracket: "I'm retired, so it's mainly local journeys and it really suits my purpose. I know that some retired people are reluctant to get an electric vehicle, but actually it suits them most."

Compare the Market's research found that the cost of car insurance has significantly increased year-on-year for both electric and petrol



Richard and Rose Lancaster bought an electric MG MG5 in 2022

vehicles, with the average premium for a middle-aged person driving an electric vehicle rising by £139 in the past 12 months, while the average premium for a petrol car has increased £157.

The average premium for an electric vehicle is still £195 more than for petrol vehicle if the driver is aged between 45 and 54.

However, falling energy prices are making charging cheaper. The cost of electricity to run an EV for a year has declined by an average of £155.

Electricity to power an electric vehicle for 12 months costs £400 on average compared to £555 last year. In contrast, the average cost of petrol to fuel a car for a year has decreased by £15 to £930.

Vehicle emissions duty is zero for those with electric cars, but can cost close to £200 for petrol cars, and in some cases more, if the car is larger.

Figures released at the weekend showed that electric vehicle sales at the start of the year were the best ever, totalling 17 per cent of all vehicles sold between January and April and amounting to more than 100,000 so far this year, according to research by New AutoMotive.

But despite the potential savings, some drivers are put off by the upfront costs, which may be unaffordable for some.

In a survey by Carwow, three out of five drivers said the high purchase costs would make them less likely to buy electric vehicles.

However, 42 per cent thought it "fairly likely" or "very likely" that they would buy a hybrid or fully electric as their next vehicle, with 34 per cent saying it was "unlikely".



Rishi Sunak visits the autonomous car firm Wayve Technologies yesterday PA

TECHNOLOGY

British company secures \$1bn in funding for AI car software

By Martyn Landi

The British driverless car firm Wayve has secured \$1.05bn (£837m) in funding from three of the world's biggest technology firms to develop its artificial intelligence (AI) software.

Wayve is known as a pioneer in "Embodied AI" for autonomous driving - effectively foundation models on which autonomous vehicles are built, enabling them to learn from and interact with a real-world environment.

The funding round for Wayve is being led by the Japanese tech firm Softbank, with Nvidia and existing investor Microsoft also backing it. It is

the biggest investment ever in a British business involved in the AI sector.

Rishi Sunak, who visited the company's headquarters in Islington, north London, yesterday, said he was "incredibly proud" of the investment and that it was a "testament to our leadership in this industry".

The co-founder and chief executive of Wayve, Alex Kendall, said: "This significant funding milestone highlights our team's unwavering conviction that Embodied AI will address the long-standing challenges the industry has faced in scaling this technology to everyone, everywhere."

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No 4135 BY HAROLD

ACROSS

- 1 Flasher shocking South Leigh (10)
- 6 One used to strike for green card (4)
- 9 Don't say it's obligatory (10)
- 10 One in flight from warring nations (4)
- 12 Feeling low, listening to CD after midnight (12)
- 15 Old High German, Latin and French accent (9)
- 17 Completely knock barnacle off bar (5)
- 18 Item worn cycling has approval in review (5)
- 19 Misses could make assertion (9)
- 20 Transshipper working in more than one business (12)
- 24 Independent clergyman retired somewhere in South Bucks (4)
- 25 One-sided police lie naturally, but not extremely libellously (10)

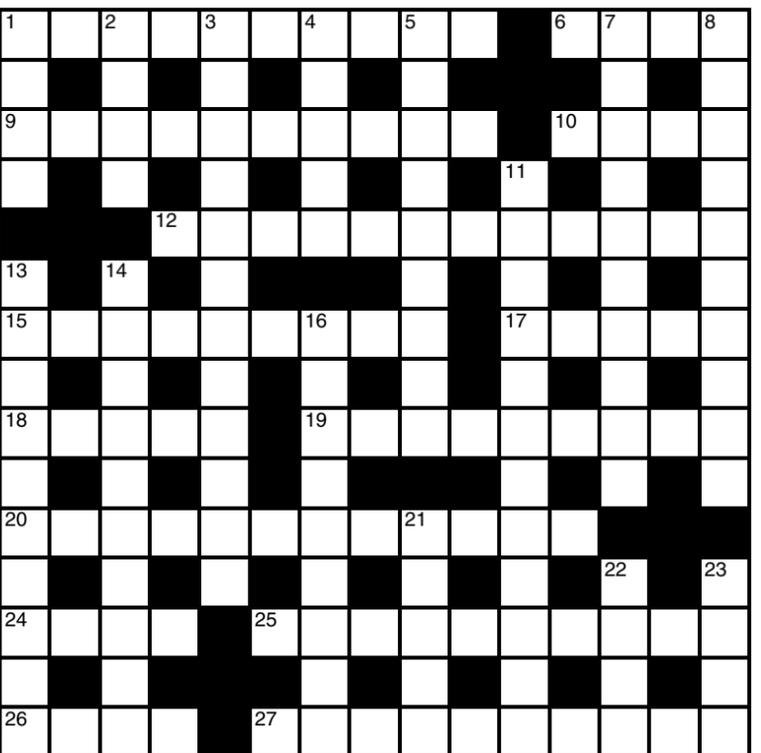
- 26 Volunteers risked having cover blown twice in assignment (4)
- 27 Unit of separation (10)

DOWN

- 1 Spread in papers supporting City (4)
- 2 Goalpost periodically breaks (4)
- 3 Critical time in record centre (7,5)
- 4 It may appear in bars of musical work as prelude to movement (5)
- 5 Noticed something happening internally at this age (9)
- 7 Features of ill-meant boring punishment at school (10)
- 8 Pungency of beer associated with head? (10)
- 11 Standard of programme notes at Symphony Hall? (7,5)
- 13 Dangerous place to expose tip (10)

- 14 Injustice displayed by brunette? (10)
- 16 Idiot you texted operated cellphone lacking core security (9)
- 21 Game on board requiring woman to chase husband (5)
- 22 Desire purification - but not at first (4)
- 23 Plain paper covering almost everything up (4)

Solution to yesterday's Cryptic



Stuck on the cryptic crossword? For today's solutions, call 0905 789 3580. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your network access charge. If you are having trouble accessing this number, please call our helpdesk on 0333 202 3390.

Full terms and conditions can be found on page 29

Television Wednesday 8 May

CRITIC'S CHOICE

GERARD GILBERT



PICK OF THE DAY

Inside No 9 10pm, BBC Two

Series number nine of these tales of the unexpected from Reece Shearsmith and Steve Pemberton (both left) is neatly also to be their last. This opening yarn is a suitably claustrophobic affair set on a London Underground train that has stalled in a tunnel. The stellar ensemble guest cast includes Siobhan Finneran, Susan Wokoma and Matthew Kelly, along with Mark Bonnar (*Guilt, Unforgotten*) as an uptight physics teacher, Joel Fry (*Our Flag Means Death*) as a paranoid conspiracy theorist, Philippa Dunne (*Motherland*) as a nurse and This Country's Charlie Cooper as a homeless beggar. Anything more would constitute a spoiler.

Location, Location, Location 8pm, Channel 4

Kirstie Allsopp takes a break from disingenuous plug-in air fresheners to rejoin Phil Spencer for a new run of property searches. They begin in Sussex, looking for a one-bedroom flat in Brighton and Hove for first-time buyers Danit and Rafi. At the other end of the market (and working lives) are Amanda and Annette. The retirees seek a spacious beachside bungalow, with future-proofing required after Amanda was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

Race Across the World 9pm, BBC One

The remaining four teams now have to navigate the full length of

Thailand to reach the next checkpoint – Koh Phi Phi – an archipelago immortalised in *The Beach*. Their first challenge is to get to Bangkok, either taking the familiar backpacker route via Chiang Mai, or by hugging the lesser-visited border with Myanmar. As former front-runners Alfie and Owen race to catch up, Stephen and Viv try duck herding, and Betty and James must choose between visiting temples or attending a kickboxing event.

Secrets and Spies: A Nuclear Game 9pm, BBC Two

The possibility of nuclear war has increased considerably since the Russian invasion of Ukraine but is hopefully still far more remote than

during the summer of 1983. This was when, during a period of intense Soviet paranoia at the height of the Cold War, a Nato exercise in West Germany was mistaken as a prelude to an attack. A fascinating three-part series looks at the spying game and arms race that led to the brink of armageddon, with archive interviews with double agent Oleg Gordievsky and contemporary interviews with former aides to Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan.

Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir 9pm, Sky Arts

With a maximum speed of 250mph, the peregrine falcon is the fastest animal on the planet. This nugget courtesy of Jim Moir as he and wife

	ONE	TWO	itv1	4	5	FOUR	FILM	itv2					
Daytime	6.00 <i>Breakfast</i> (S), 9.30 <i>Morning Live</i> (S), 10.45 <i>Big Little Crimes</i> (R) (S), 11.15 <i>Homes Under The Hammer</i> (R) (S), 12.15 <i>Bargain Hunt</i> (R) (S), 1.00 <i>BBC News At One</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 1.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 1.45 <i>Doctors</i> (S), 2.15 <i>Money For Nothing</i> (R) (S), 3.00 <i>Escape To The Country</i> (R) (S), 3.45 <i>Garden Rescue</i> (S), 4.30 <i>The Finish Line</i> (S), 5.45 <i>Pointless</i> (S).	6.30 <i>Bargain Hunt</i> (R) (S), 7.15 <i>Garden Rescue</i> (R) (S), 8.00 <i>Sign Zone</i> : Rick Stein's Food Stories (R) (S), 8.30 <i>Sign Zone</i> : <i>MasterChef</i> (R) (S), 9.00 <i>BBC News</i> (S), 11.15 <i>Politics Live</i> (S), 1.00 <i>Impossible</i> (R) (S), 1.45 <i>Mastermind</i> (R) (S), 2.15 <i>Great Coastal Railway Journeys</i> (R) (S), 2.45 <i>David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities</i> (R) (S), 3.15 <i>Serengeti</i> (R) (S), 4.15 <i>The Secret Genius Of Modern Life</i> (R) (S), 5.15 <i>Flog It!</i> (R) (S).	6.00 <i>Good Morning Britain</i> (S), 9.00 <i>Lorraine</i> (S), 10.00 <i>This Morning</i> (S), 12.30 <i>Loose Women</i> (S), 1.30 <i>ITV News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 1.55 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 2.00 <i>Riddiculous</i> (R) (S), 3.00 <i>Lingo</i> (R) (S), 3.59 <i>ITV Regional Weather</i> (S), 4.00 <i>Tipping Point</i> (R) (S), 5.00 <i>The Chase</i> (R) (S).	6.30 <i>3rd Rock From The Sun</i> (R) (S), 7.45 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S), 8.10 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S), 8.40 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S), 9.10 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S), 9.40 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S), 10.40 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S), 11.10 <i>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</i> (R) (S), 12.05 <i>Channel 4 News Summary</i> (S), 12.10 <i>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</i> (R) (S), 1.05 <i>Find It, Fix It, Flog It</i> (R) (S), 2.10 <i>Countdown</i> (S), 3.00 <i>A Place In The Sun</i> (S), 4.00 <i>Narrow Escapes</i> (S), 5.00 <i>Come Dine With Me: The Professionals</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Milkshake!</i> 9.15 <i>Jeremy Vine</i> (S), 11.15 <i>Storm Huntley</i> (S), 11.55 <i>5 News At Lunchtime</i> (S), 12.00 <i>Live: Snooker World Senior Championship</i> Coverage of day one from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield (S), 5.00 <i>5 News At 5</i> (S).	6.00 <i>BBC News At Six</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 6.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Richard Osman's House Of Games</i> (R) (S), 6.30 <i>Marcus Wareing Simply Provence</i> (S).	6.00 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 6.30 <i>ITV News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Four In A Bed</i> (S), 6.30 <i>The Simpsons</i> (R) (S).	6.00 <i>Police Interceptors</i> (R) (S), 6.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Walk The Line With Barra Best Dinosaurs: The Final Day With David Attenborough</i> (S), 7.00 <i>Walk The Line With Barra Best Dinosaurs: The Final Day With David Attenborough</i> (S).	6.25 FILM: Mission: Impossible 2 (John Woo 2000) Action thriller sequel, starring Tom Cruise (S).	6.00 <i>CITV 9.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records</i> (S), 9.25 <i>Catchphrase</i> (S), 10.00 <i>Veronica Mars</i> (S), 11.00 <i>Dawson's Creek</i> (S), 12.00 <i>Secret Crush</i> (S), 1.00 <i>Dress To Impress</i> (S), 2.00 <i>Family Fortunes</i> (S), 3.00 <i>Veronica Mars</i> (S), 4.00 <i>Dawson's Creek</i> (S), 5.00 <i>Dress To Impress</i> (S).
6pm						 <p>Jim paints a peregrine falcon in 'Painting Birds With Jim And Nancy Moir' 9pm, Sky Arts</p>	 <p>Ronald Reagan's Cold War crisis is recalled 9pm, BBC Two</p>						
7pm	7.00 <i>The One Show With Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas</i> (S), 7.30 <i>EastEnders</i> (S).	7.00 <i>Andi Oliver's Fabulous Feasts</i> Andi supersedes an annual cricket match in Burnley (S).	7.30 <i>Emmerdale</i> Nicky plans his future (S).	7.00 <i>Channel 4 News</i> (S).	7.00 <i>Shop Smart, Save Money: Summer Holiday Special</i> (S), 7.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).			7.00 <i>Family Fortunes</i> The Craig family from Falkirk take on the Mills family from Essex (S).					
8pm	8.00 <i>MasterChef</i> Three more contestants are eliminated as Knockout Week continues (S).	8.00 <i>Why Buildings Collapse</i> (R) (S).	8.00 <i>Coronation Street</i> A police reconstruction of Lauren's final hours proves harrowing for Bethany (S).	8.00 <i>Location, Location, Location</i> New series (S).	8.00 <i>The Motorway</i> Motorway patroller Tony is attacked by the driver of a crashed car (S).			8.00 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> The kids are hired by a hippie couple (S), 8.30 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S).					
9pm	9.00 <i>Race Across The World</i> The teams travel the length of Thailand to reach the next checkpoint (S).	9.00 <i>Secrets And Spies: A Nuclear Game</i> New series (S).	9.00 <i>Beat The Chasers - Celebrity Special</i> (S).	9.00 <i>Stacey Solomon's Renovation Rescue</i> (S).	9.00 <i>A Very British Sex Scandal: The Duchess & The Headless Man</i> (S).	9.00 <i>Attenborough At 90</i> Kirsty Young talks to David Attenborough about his life and career (S).	9.00 FILM: War For The Planet Of The Apes (Matt Reeves 2017) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Andy Serkis (S).	9.00 <i>Hell's Kitchen</i> Featuring a gymnastics-themed challenge (S).					
10pm	10.00 <i>BBC News At Ten</i> (S), 10.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 10.40 <i>Abba: Against The Odds</i> (S).	10.00 <i>Inside No 9</i> New series (S), 10.30 <i>Newsnight</i> (S).	10.00 <i>ITV News At Ten</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 10.30 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S), 10.45 <i>Peston</i> (S).	10.00 <i>Britain's Most Expensive Houses</i> (R) (S).	10.30 <i>999: Critical Condition</i> A motorcyclist is rushed into the emergency department (R) (S).	10.00 <i>Peter Egan Remembers... A Perfect Spy</i> (S), 10.15 <i>A Perfect Spy</i> (S).		10.00 <i>Plebs</i> Marcus spies a money-making opportunity (S), 10.30 <i>Plebs</i> (S).					
11pm		11.15 <i>Unspun World With John Simpson</i> (S), 11.45 <i>Saving Lives At Sea</i> (R) (S).	11.40 <i>British Touring Car Championship Highlights</i> (R) (S).	11.05 <i>The Piano</i> Claudia Winkleman, Mika and Lang Lang are at Cardiff Central Station (R) (S).	11.30 <i>999: Emergency Call Out</i> (R) (S).	11.10 <i>A Perfect Spy</i> Magnus is sent on an errand to Switzerland (S).	11.45 FILM: The Shape Of Water (Guillermo del Toro 2017) Fantasy, starring Sally Hawkins (S).	11.00 <i>Family Guy</i> Peter puts out a fire at a fast-food restaurant (S), 11.30 <i>Family Guy</i> (S).					
Late	12.10 <i>Pointless Celebrities</i> (R) (S), 1.05 <i>BBC News</i> (S).	12.45 <i>Sign Zone: Dragons' Den</i> (R) (S), 1.45 <i>Sign Zone: Pompeii: The New Dig</i> (R) (S), 2.45 <i>This Is BBC Two</i> (S).	12.50 <i>Shop On TV 3.00 Funeral Costs: The Price Of Dying - Tonight</i> (R) (S), 3.25 <i>Stalking: State Of Fear</i> (R) (S), 4.15 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S), 5.35 <i>Gino's Italy: Like Mamma Used To Make</i> (R) (S).	12.10 <i>Ramsay's Hotel Hell</i> (R) (S), 1.00 <i>Couples Come Dine With Me</i> (R) (S), 1.55 <i>Our Welsh Chapel Dream</i> (R) (S), 2.50 <i>Grand Designs Australia</i> (R) (S), 3.50 <i>The Incredibly Talented Lucy</i> (R) (S).	12.30 <i>Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders</i> (R) (S), 1.15 <i>PlayOJO Live Casino Show</i> (S), 3.20 <i>The World's Biggest Murder Trial: Nuremberg</i> (R) (S), 4.30 <i>Wildlife SOS</i> (R) (S).	12.05 <i>A Perfect Spy</i> (S), 1.00 <i>Attenborough At 90</i> (S), 2.00 <i>Dinosaurs: The Final Day With David Attenborough</i> (S), 3.30 <i>Close</i>	2.10 FILM: Cube (Vincenzo Natali 1997) Sci-fi horror, starring Nicole deBoer (S), 4.00 <i>Close</i>	12.00 <i>American Dad!</i> (S), 12.30 <i>American Dad!</i> (S), 1.00 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S), 1.55 <i>Shopping With Keith Lemon</i> (S), 2.25 <i>Shopping With Keith Lemon</i> (S), 2.50 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S), 3.30 <i>Teleshopping</i>					

Dominoes

How to play All of the 28 domino pieces from 0-0 through to 6-6 have been placed once into the grid. Can you work out where each of them is placed?

6	3	2	4	4	3	6	0
0	3	1	6	2	0	1	0
6	1	2	0	2	4	1	2
5	5	4	3	5	6	6	1
2	4	0	5	2	2	5	3
0	3	4	4	4	5	6	5
1	3	6	0	1	1	3	5

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
6						
5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
0						

Journey Finder

How to play Move between the numbers in order 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4 and so on, starting with the grey 1 and ending with the grey 4. On each step you may move one square in any direction (including diagonally). You must form a continuous path that visits every square exactly once.

1	4	1	2	3	4
3	2	2	4	1	2
2	3	3	1	4	3
1	4	4	3	1	2
3	4	2	1	4	3
1	2	3	2	1	4

Train Tracks

How to play Numbers around the outside indicate how many squares in each row and column the track passes through between A and B. The track either passes straight through a square or turns at right angles in it.

	5	4	3	4	4	5	5	6	
A									5
									7
									8
									1
									2
									6
									6
									1
B									

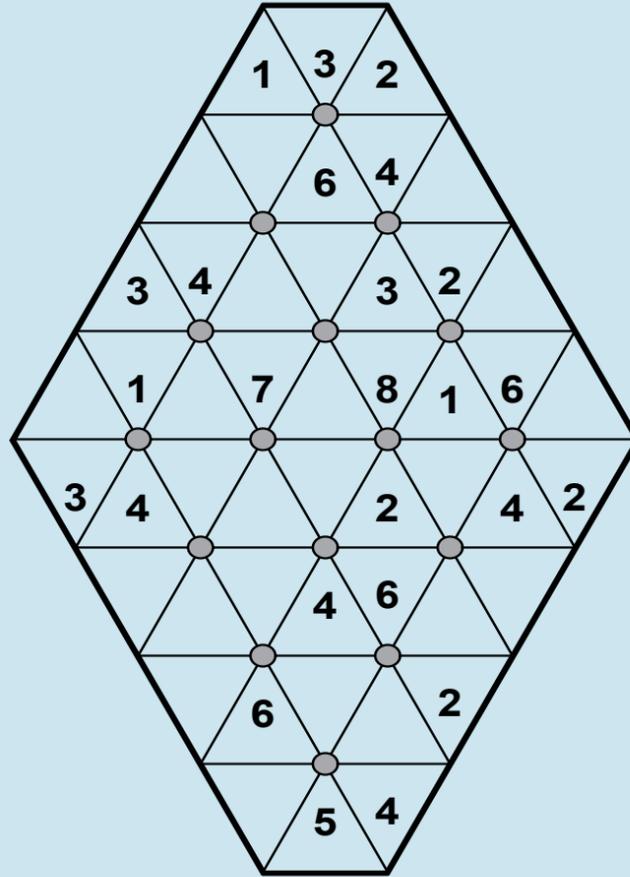
Binary

How to play Complete the grid so that each row and column contains five 0s and five 1s. The same number cannot appear in more than two consecutive squares in any row or column. In the finished puzzle, each row must have a different sequence of 0s and 1s to any other row, and likewise for each column.

0	0		0						
						0		0	
1				1					
			1	1					1
			1	1					1
		1							
	0		0						
1	1							0	
				1				0	
		0	0						

Number Hexagon

How to play Each hexagon is divided into six triangles. The sum of these six triangles is always 25. Place a number from 1-9 in each empty triangle to complete the puzzle; you cannot repeat a number within a hexagon.



Pathfinder

How to play Moving from letter to adjacent letter, can you create a continuous path that visits every square once and spells out all the words listed to the right of the grid? Start on the shaded square.

S	D	T	N	E	I	L	I	S	E
P	R	P	L	A	A	N	I	C	R
O	O	S	I	Y	E	C	O	W	O
E	D	I	M	U	S	H	U	R	R
U	E	R	P	U	B	E	B	A	T
Q	S	A	G	N	E	R	F	O	N
I	S	L	P	I	N	S	D	R	E
S	E	O	D	E	O	H	E	K	L
Y	S	W	A	C	I	G	E	L	O
H	P	H	E	E	N	H	W	Y	P

- Bungalow
- Burrow
- Display
- Droops
- Ford
- Headpiece
- Impresses
- Nigh
- Oceanic
- Physique
- Polenta
- Resilient
- Shone
- Usher
- Weekly

Chain Link

How to play Place the numbers 1-6 in each row, column and along each series of squares linked by the chain.

6	5		2		
	6				
	3				
	1				3

Daily Quiz

- Autumn giant, verde di macerata and romanesco are all varieties of what type of vegetable?
- Which South American World Heritage Site was used as a filming location for Yavin 4 in *Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope*?
- Which Manchester clothing company famous for its football and rugby sportswear and double diamond trademark celebrates its centenary this year?
- Which country is the setting for the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini?

Answers, page 49

Battleships

How to play Locate the position of each of the ships listed below in the grid. Numbers around the edge tell you the number of ship segments in each row and column of the puzzle. Ships are surrounded on all sides by water, including diagonally.

									2
									3
									3
									0
									2
									1
									5
									1
									2
									1
3	3	1	1	0	0	6	2	2	2



Foxy fiery dumplings



SERVES 4

225g (30pcs) dumpling pastry wrappers

For the filling

2tsp pure sesame oil

250g minced pork

25g dried shiitake mushrooms (soaked in hot water and rehydrated, for about 20min)

4tbsp spring onions, finely chopped

1tbsp cornflour

1tsp or to taste of salt

A pinch of black pepper, freshly ground

For the sauce

Part A

1tbsp sesame soy sauce

1tbsp seasoned rice vinegar

1tsp chilli oil or more, according to taste

2tbsp sesame paste or peanut butter

4tbsp hot water

1tsp sugar

Part B

1tbsp peanut oil

1tsp garlic, finely chopped

1 spring onion, finely sliced

Soak the shiitake mushrooms in hot water to rehydrate, for about 20 minutes. Squeeze out the excess water.

Remove and discard the woody stems and dice finely but keep the water to one side. Combine all the filling ingredients with two tablespoons of the water used to rehydrate the mushrooms.

Mix well until the meat and vegetables are well combined.

Place about one rounded teaspoon of filling inside each dumpling's wrapper.

Brush a little water to the edges of the wrapper and seal it tightly. Repeat until all the wrappers are used.

In a heat-proof bowl, mix the hot water with the sesame paste.

Then add the ingredients from Part A. Add the chopped garlic and spring onions on top of the sauce (do not mix).

Heat the peanut oil in a saucepan. Once the oil is smoking, pour it over the top of the chopped garlic and spring onions, which are still on top of the sauce. Once the oil is added, leave the mix to sit.

Bring a medium-size pot of water to boil and poach the dumplings for about three minutes or until they float to the top. Remove and drain and serve with the sauce.

Tip When wrapping each dumpling, seal it as close to the filling as possible leaving little or no space when the edges are pressed together. This prevents the dumplings from bursting open or filling up with water during cooking.

Recipe from Lee Kum Kee (shopuk.lkk.com)

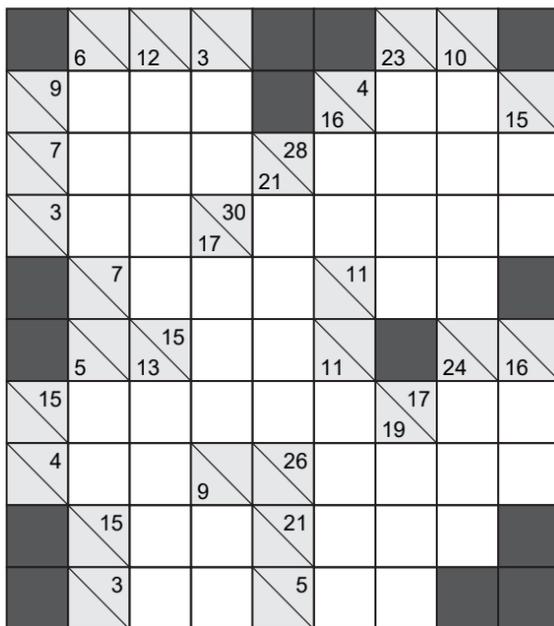
Tomorrow

The Warrior soy glaze with pork fillet

Games & Puzzles

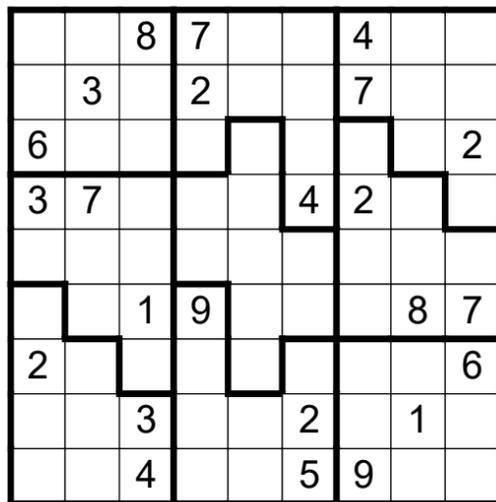
Kakuro

How to play Fill the white squares so that the total in each across or down run of cells matches the total at the start of that run. You must use the numbers from 1-9 only and cannot repeat a number in a run.



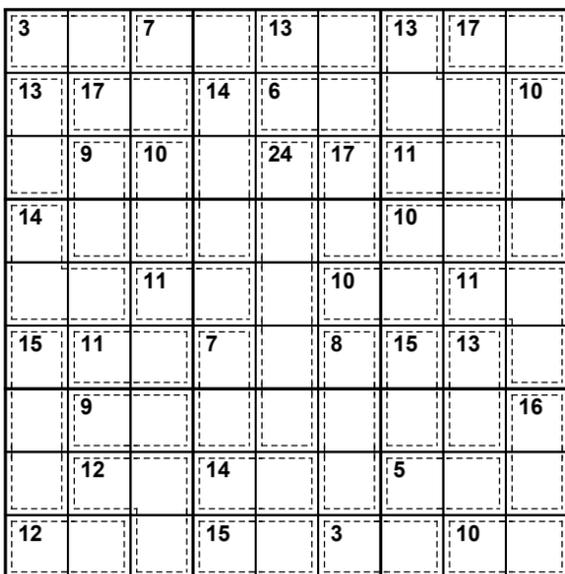
Jigsawdoku

How to play Place the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column and bold-lined jigsaw region.



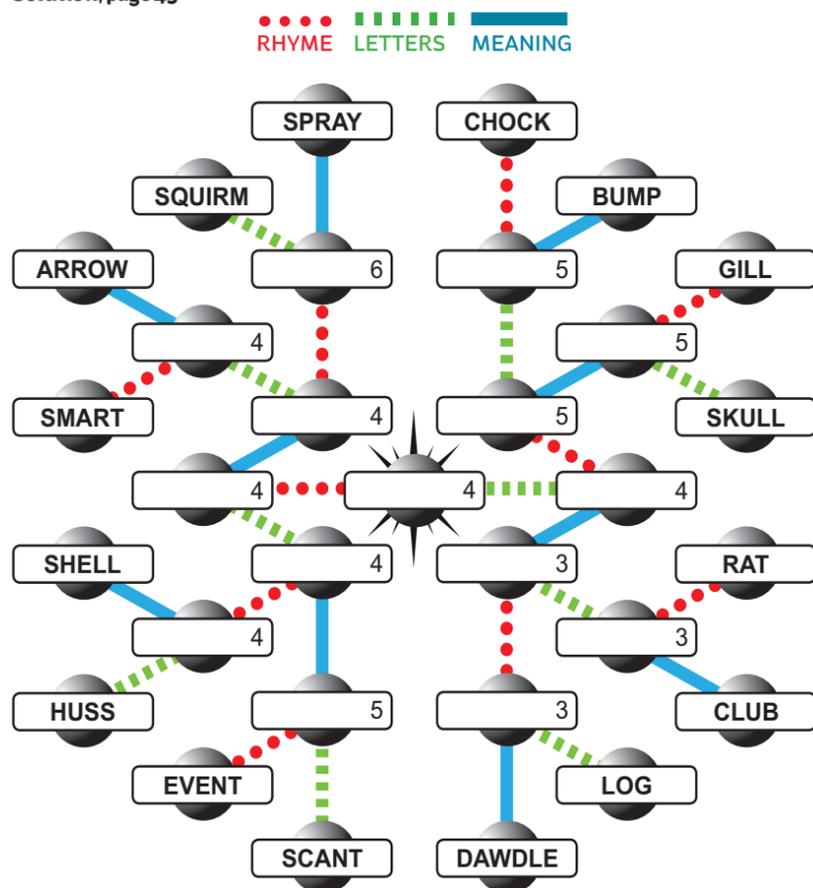
Killer Sudoku

How to play Each row, column and 3 by 3 box must contain each number (1 to 9) only once. The sum of all numbers contained in a dotted area must match the number printed in its top-left corner. No number can appear more than once in a dotted area.



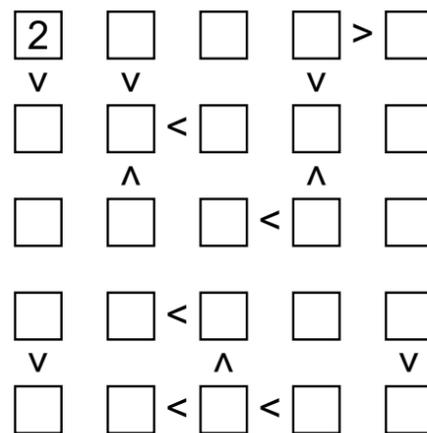
Zygolex® In i every day

Find the missing words by following the RHYME, LETTERS and MEANING links – eg, a word that rhymes with 'cheek', has one letter different from 'pear' and has the same meaning as mountain, would be 'peak'. Full rules at zygolex.com. **Solution, page 49**



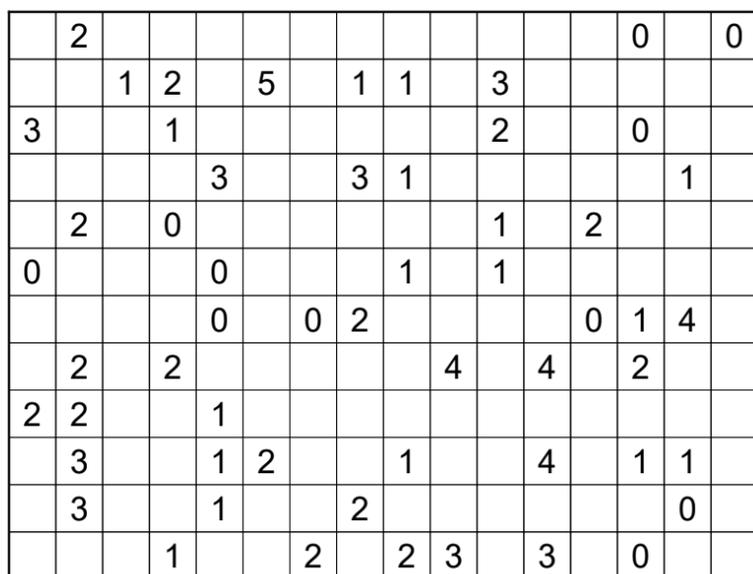
Futoshiki

How to play Place the numbers from 1-5 exactly once in each row and column. The greater than and less than signs ('>' and '<') indicate where one cell is greater/less than the adjacent cell indicated.



Minesweeper

How to play Find all the mines in the grid. Numbers in certain squares indicate how many mines there are in the neighbouring squares, including diagonally touching squares. Mines cannot be placed in squares with numbers.



Number Square

How to play Fill the empty squares with numbers that will make the across and down calculations produce the results shown in the grey squares. Each numeral from 1 to 9 must only appear once. The calculations should be performed from left to right and top to bottom, rather than in strict mathematical order.

Easier

4	-		÷	5	-1
x		x		+	
	+		x		45
-		-		x	
	-		x		10
22		71			16

Harder

	x		+		11
+		x		x	
	÷		-		-5
x		+		÷	
7	x		x		56
105		5			10

Codeword No 3877

How to play The numbers in the grid correspond to the letters of the alphabet. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key as you discover them. Three letters are provided to give you a start. The solution will be printed in tomorrow's paper, the solution to yesterday's codeword is on page 49.

17	6	23	13	16	2		2		22		25	
8		25			22	25	21	25	24	11	2	6
3	10	26			3		20		6		21	
12		17	6	26	3	25	16		25	4	8	11
6		3			19		16		16		25	
16	11	24	3	16		1	6	8	2	6	11	2
			8		20		9		6			
6	24	20	9	13	16	23		17	8	13	6	14
	13		16		25		26		22			6
25	7	20	25		4	10	6	6	18	6		5
	20		16		25		9		17	6		6
22	3	16	22	6	8	21	13		3		8	
	8		6		6		22	3	25	15	6	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
							R					I													
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													
							T																		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Need a little help getting started? Then call for up to four extra clue letters on 0901 292 5204. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge (if you are having trouble with the phone service, call the helpline: 0333 202 3390). Or text **THE CLUE** to 85100 to receive your clues. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge (if you are having trouble with the text service, call the helpline: 0333 335 3351). Clues change each day at midnight.

Word Ladder

How to play Convert the word at the top of the ladder into the word at the bottom of it, using only the four rungs in between. On each rung, you must put a valid four-letter word that is identical to the word above it, apart from a one-letter change. There may be more than one way of achieving this.

NEWT
BIAS
JUST
LADY

idoku Exclusive to i

How to play Each numeral from 1 to 9 must appear (once only) in the squares forming the red letter i.

		3								
4			2	3				5		
		6					3		4	
3							6		5	
	2							9		
8	9								1	
1	8						5			
	4			1	5				2	
							9			

Sudoku Harder

3	2	9			7			
		5	6				8	3
							2	9
		6	4	8	2			
				7				
		8	3	6	1			
5	9							
1	8				3	5		
			2			9	1	4

Tomorrow: Easier

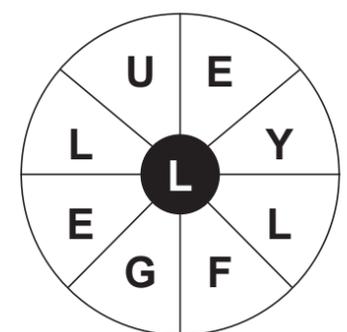
ABC Logic

How to play Place the letters A, B and C only once in each row and column. Each row and column has two blank cells. The letters at the edge of a row/column indicate which of the letters is the first/last to appear in that row/column.

	A	C	B		
A					C
B					C
B					A
C					A
	C	C	B		

Word Wheel

How to play This is an open-ended puzzle. How many words of three or more letters, each including the letter at the centre of the wheel, can you make from this diagram? We've found 30, including one nine-letter word. Can you do better?



Clarity Media

Number Square, Word Ladder, Word Wheel, Kakuro, Minesweeper, ABC Logic, Killer Sudoku, Futoshiki, Codeword, Jigsawdoku and Wjuko created by Clarity Media. For more puzzles, see clarity-media.co.uk

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Concise Crossword No 4199

- ACROSS**
- Scottish interjection (3)
 - Long audible exhalation (4)
 - Hair removal process (12)
 - Rubbish (5)
 - Circus swing (7)
 - Usual (6)
 - Piste (3,3)
 - Room for children (7)
 - US ravine (5)
 - Fatal weakness (8,4)
 - Nimble (4)
 - Lyric poem (3)
- DOWN**
- Alfresco (4-3)
 - Emerge from an egg (5)
 - Soaring songbird (7)
 - Dirt (5)
 - Relevant (9)
 - Slogan (5)
 - At the same time (9)
 - Useful facility (7)
 - Take over from (7)
 - Ride a bike (5)
 - Summary (5)
 - Zest (5)

Stuck on the concise crossword?
For today's solutions, call 0905 789 3590. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your network access charge. If you are having trouble accessing this number, please call our helpdesk on 0333 202 3390.

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	1		2			3		4		
5					6					
7										
									8	
9						10				
11				12		13			14	
16		17						18		
19										
20								21		

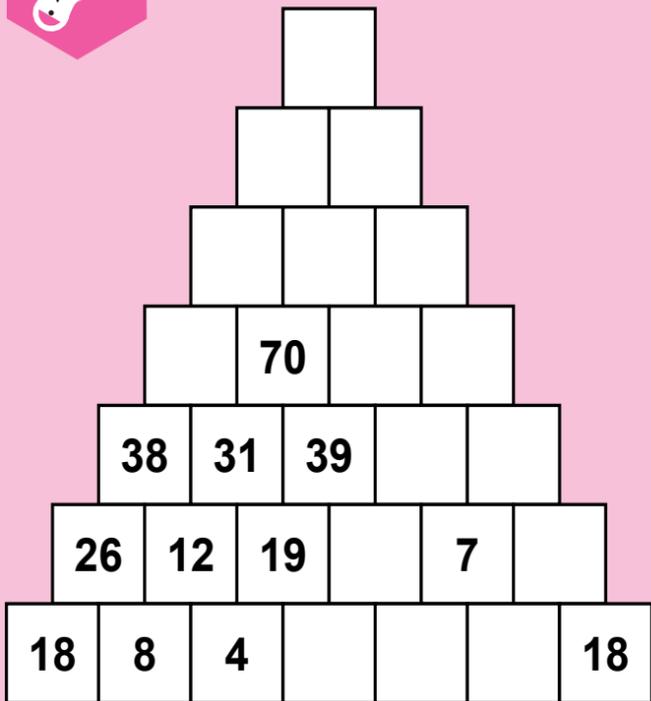
Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword
ACROSS 1 Bow, 3 Sting (Boasting), 7 Malt, 8 Abrasive, 9 Commandeer, 11 Tart up, 13 Employ, 15 Strengthen, 19 Obsidian, 20 Zero, 21 Ensue, 22 Lad.
DOWN 1 Boat, 2 Without, 3 Strange, 4 Issue, 5 Governor, 6 Balm, 10 Passable, 12 Pensive, 14 Pretzel, 16 Reins, 17 Tang, 18 Arid.

Today's other puzzles Cryptic Crossword, page 25
Five-Clue Cryptic, page 13; One-Minute Wjuko, page 17
Puzzle solutions See page 49

Children's Corner Number Tower



How to play The value of each square in the number pyramid is the sum of the two squares directly under it.



Knight's Tour

How to play A chess knight visits each square of the grid exactly once, starting at 1 and ending at 100 (these squares are shaded). Deduce the whole path of the knight - some of which is already given - and thus complete the grid. The knight moves either two squares horizontally followed by one square vertically, or two squares vertically followed by one square horizontally.

	29	9	7	38		34	
73							
	75	83		31	42		
	78	86	69		25	36	21
		71	26		50		3
95		68	87		1	44	49
	81		100				53
13			97	90		56	
62		92	15		46		
		64		55	58		18

Rectangles

How to play Divide the grid into a series of rectangles or squares, such that every cell in the grid is in exactly one region. Numbers indicate the size of each region: for instance a "7" in a cell means that cell is part of a region that contains seven cells in total. There is only one number in each region.

4							12
	20			4		2	
							3
							8
		2			16		
	4	3		12			
2	8						

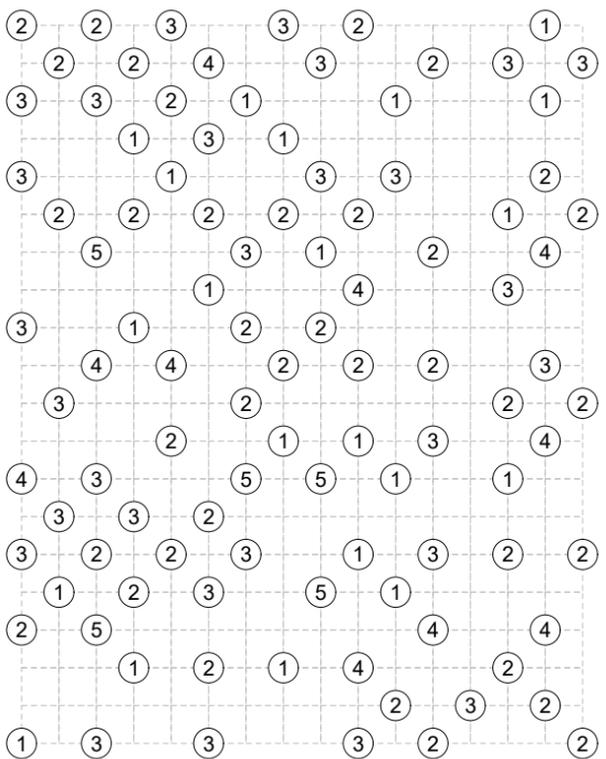
Word Fit

How to play Can you fit all the words into the grid to complete the puzzle? Some words may initially fit in more than one place, but there is only one way to fit all the words together to complete the grid.

	<p>4 letters Cave Face Pest Shop Slam Tern Vain Wade</p> <p>6 letters Allows Delude Exists Inches Symbol</p> <p>7 letters Battens Endorse Subsoil</p> <p>8 letters Schedule</p> <p>11 letters Curiousness Nonchalance</p>
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Bridges

How to play Connect every island (represented by circles) into a single interconnected group. To do this draw bridges between islands. The number in each circle states how many bridges must be connected to that island. Bridges cannot cross each other, can only be drawn horizontally or vertically, and there can be a maximum of two bridges between any pair of islands.



Word Search

How to play The classic word-search puzzle: find all the words in the grid. Words may be hidden horizontally, vertically or diagonally and in either a forwards or backwards direction.

A	F	A	X	L	M	W	I	T	T	M	T	J	M	R
B	L	K	O	D	E	Z	N	X	Z	H	N	U	U	L
X	E	C	Z	M	D	E	T	T	L	C	E	W	F	A
Q	U	A	B	M	I	O	E	Z	T	U	U	S	C	R
S	U	L	R	D	A	A	G	N	T	B	R	L	X	E
R	E	M	A	I	N	D	E	R	X	O	G	A	C	T
I	N	R	C	L	N	G	R	L	T	I	N	C	N	A
L	G	C	K	E	N	G	E	A	Z	D	O	O	E	L
A	M	R	E	A	X	L	N	C	L	I	C	R	G	I
M	B	Y	T	I	L	I	B	A	B	O	R	P	K	R
I	M	Z	S	A	M	A	P	W	F	K	M	I	D	D
C	E	K	R	O	T	C	A	F	E	L	A	C	S	A
E	A	A	N	S	U	I	D	A	R	V	L	E	P	U
D	P	E	Y	Y	R	T	E	M	M	Y	S	R	Y	Q
V	D	O	V	U	E	L	G	N	A	E	T	U	C	A

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>ACUTE ANGLE
BEARING
BRACKETS
CONGRUENT
CUBOID
DECIMAL
DENOMINATOR
GRADIENT
INTEGER
LOCUS</p> | <p>MEDIAN
PARALLEL
PROBABILITY
QUADRILATERAL
RADIUS
RECIPROCAL
REMAINDER
SCALE FACTOR
SYMMETRY
TANGENT</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Solutions: page 49

Word Square

How to play Simply answer the clues alongside the grid, writing the answers in the respective rows. The solution must read the same horizontally in each row as it does vertically in each column.

				Second Greek letter
				Heroic poem
				Rank
				Land measure

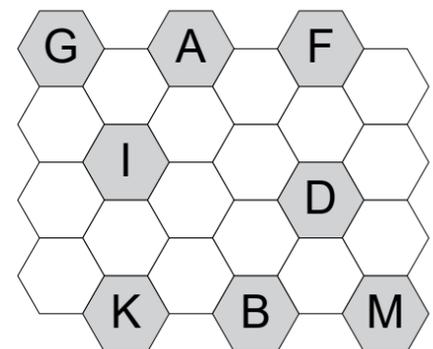
CalcuDoku

How to play Place the numbers 1-6 once in each row and column, obeying sums in bold-lined regions. The number in each region indicates the total for the region, and the symbol shows which type of operation should be applied to the numbers: addition, subtraction, division or multiplication. Numbers may repeat within bold-lined regions. With subtraction always take the lower numbers away from the highest number in a region, and with division divide the highest number by the lower numbers.

60x	40x	36x			11+
			3x		
		5x	12+		1-
10+			10+		
36x				6+	
3-				1-	

Hexalex

How to play Place each of the letters below once into the empty hexagons, crossing them off as you do so. Enter the letters in such a way that it is possible to find all the words listed alongside the grid by moving from hexagon to adjacent hexagon to spell out each word.



- AXIS
BECK
FOLD
IVY
JOYS
MUD
PAVING
THICKER
WRECK

C E H J L N O P R S T U V W X Y

Nancy return for a new run of their ornithology series. Before "Jimbo" paints a falcon in his garden studio, the couple set out to watch the birds in the wild – which in this case involves a trip to central London. More than 50 pairs apparently live inside the M25, the female here fond of eating the parakeets that have become naturalised in west London.

Peter Egan Remembers... A Perfect Spy 10pm, BBC Four

In a show of joined-up scheduling, BBC Four accompanies BBC Two's *Secrets And Spies* (see above) with a repeat of the seven-part adaptation of John le Carré's novel in which MI6 spy Magnus Pym (Egan) looks back over his eventful life.

FILM CHOICE

LAURENCE PHELAN



FILM OF THE DAY

Inception
8pm, Sky Cinema Stunt
(Christopher Nolan, 2010)
Nolan's daft but visually splendid Philip K Dick-style blockbuster film plays clever tricks that exploit the similarities between the grammar of cinema and the way that dreams unfold, and dramatises the same old philosophical quandaries about the nature of reality that also exercised Plato, Baudrillard and Zhuang Zou, the 4th-century BC Chinese philosopher who dreamed he was a butterfly. Leonardo DiCaprio (left) stars as an expert in a method of corporate espionage by which he insinuates his way into his targets' minds when they are asleep, to implant or root around for information in their subconscious.

The Shape of Water

11.45pm, Film4
(Guillermo del Toro, 2017)
Quite lovely and completely sincere Oscar-winning romantic fable, with Sally Hawkins as a mute woman who falls in love with the amphibian creature she discovers at the secret research facility where she cleans.

Hannibal Rising

11.50pm, Sky Cinema Sci-Fi/Horror
(Peter Webber, 2007)
There's a certain ghoulish relish to this telling of Hannibal Lecter's formative experiences in Lithuania and Paris in the late 1940s. But how much more interesting he was as an unknowable monster in the earlier films in the series.

ON DEMAND

Dark Matter

Apple TV+
Ambitious sci-fi drama in which a Chicago physicist is abducted into an alternative version of his life.

Let It Be

Disney+
Available for the first time in over 50 years, the 1970 film about The Beatles.

Michael Palin in Nigeria

My5
The former Python tours the West African giant.

itv3

ITV

More
ITV

sky max

sky atlantic

6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Wild At Heart (S) 9.10 Wild At Heart (S) 10.15 The Royal (S) 11.20 Heartbeat (S) 12.25 Heartbeat (S) 1.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.05 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.10 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot (S) 5.55 Heartbeat (S)

6.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 9.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 9.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 10.00 Young Sheldon (S) 10.30 Young Sheldon (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 11.30 Modern Family (S) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 4.30 Young Sheldon (S) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (S)

8.55 Food Unwrapped (S) 9.30 A Place In The Sun (S) 10.25 A New Life In The Sun (S) 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (S) 12.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.00 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.05 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.35 Come Dine With Me (S) 3.10 Four In A Bed (S) 3.40 Four In A Bed (S) 4.15 Four In A Bed (S) 4.50 Four In A Bed (S) 5.20 Four In A Bed (S) 5.50 Chateau DIY (R) (S)

6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 7.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S) 8.00 Supergirl (R) (S) 9.00 Stargate Atlantis (R) (S) 10.00 Stargate Atlantis (R) (S) 11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 12.00 Supergirl (R) (S) 1.00 MacGyver (R) (S) 2.00 MacGyver (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (R) (S) 5.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S)

6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 7.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 7.55 True Blood (R) (S) 9.00 True Blood (R) (S) 10.05 Billions (R) (S) 11.10 Billions (R) (S) 12.15 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 1.20 Ray Donovan (R) (S) 2.25 Ray Donovan (R) (S) 3.30 True Blood (R) (S) 4.35 True Blood (R) (S) 5.40 Billions (R) (S)

6.55 Heartbeat Lily Barton's sheep are stolen (S).

6.00 The Big Bang Theory Leonard, Howard and Raj try to meet Bill Gates (S).
6.30 The Big Bang Theory (S).

6.55 Car S.O.S Tragedy strikes while Tim and Fuzz are fixing up a World Rally-winning car (S).

6.00 Stargate Atlantis (R) (S).

6.50 Billions Taylor questions Wendy's motivations at Axe Capital (R) (S).

8.00 Midsomer Murders The race leader of an international cycling competition is murdered (S).

8.00 Teen First Dates (S).

7.55 The Dog House A bearded collie called Rexy Cutie Pie meets a 10-year-old and his family (S).

7.00 Stargate Atlantis Sheppard and the team must persuade a village to evacuate (R) (S).

7.55 Game Of Thrones Jon and the Night's Watch face their biggest challenge (R) (S).

10.00 DCI Banks Part one of two. An investigative journalist is found dead (S).

10.00 Gogglebox Opinions on Britain's Got Talent and Scared Of The Dark (S).

10.55 24 Hours In A&E A 71-year-old is rushed in after being knocked over by her husband's car (S).

10.00 Resident Alien Mike and Liv make a huge discovery (S).

10.05 House Of The Dragon Alicent seeks the truth about the princess (R) (S).

11.00 DCI Banks Part two of two. The detective races to find a mysterious tape recording (S).
11.50 The Royal (S).

11.05 First Dates Mother and daughter Maria and Charlotte arrive for a double date (S).

11.55 24 Hours In Police Custody (S).

11.00 Ted John and Ted try to watch their first adult film (R) (S).
11.45 Brassic (R) (S).

11.15 Domina Livia finally learns the truth about Gemina (R) (S).

12.40 Wild At Heart (S) 1.30 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 2.30 Teleshopping

12.10 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.05 Modern Family (S) 2.55 Love Triangle (S) 3.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 4.40 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S)

12.35 999: On The Front Line (S) 1.40 24 Hours In A&E (S) 2.45 Food Unwrapped Does Takeaways (R) (S) 3.50 Close

12.45 S.W.A.T. (R) 1.50 Banshee (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (R) (S) 5.00 Highway Patrol (R) (S) 5.30 Highway Patrol (R) (S)

12.20 The Pacific (R) (S) 1.25 The Outsider (R) (S) 2.30 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 3.35 In Treatment (R) (S) 4.05 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 5.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S)

Radio

BBC Radio 1

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 1am 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 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Arielle Free

BBC Radio 1Xtra

6am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 1Xtra's AfroSounds Show With DJ Edu-The AfroSounds Mix 10.30 1Xtra's AfroSounds Show With DJ Edu 11.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix 12midn't Throwback Thursday 1.00 1Xtra's Throwback Party 2.00 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie 2.30 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie 3.00 Battle Of The Mixes 4.00 1Xtra Saluted 5.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix

BBC Radio 2

6.30am The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show 9.30 Vernon Kay 12noon Jeremy Vine 2.00 Scott Mills 4.00 Sara Cox 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wower 7.00 Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whitley 9.00 The Folk Show With Shaun Keaveny 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 12midn't OJ Borg 3.00 Alternative Sounds Of The 90s With Dermot O'Leary 4.00 Oliver Hides

BBC Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm Classical Live 3.00 Choral Evensong 4.00 Composer Of The Week: CPE Bach 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape 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 12.30am Through The Night

BBC Radio 4

6am 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 12noon News 12.04 You And Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45 Assume Nothing: The Last Request 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: The Missed Lives Of Max & Judy 3.00 Money Box Live 3.30 Behind The Crime 4.00 The Media Show 5.00 PM 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. The issues of the day, presented by Adam Fleming. 8.45 Uncharted With Hannah Fry. The shape of happiness. 9.00 Being Roman With Mary Beard. Mary Beard rebuilds the lives of citizens of the Roman Empire. 9.30 Inside Health. Weekly quest to demystify health issues. Last in the series. 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 12midn't News And Weather 12.30 The Miners' Strike: Return Journey 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer For The Day 5.45 Farming Today

BBC Radio 4 Extra

6am 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 12noon Never Too Late 12.30 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

Pick of the day



Drama: The Missed Lives Of Max & Judy

2.15pm, BBC Radio 4
Time warp romcom as two students fall out, then wake up to find they skipped 50 years of life. Alison Steadman (above) narrates.

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 Comedy Club: Room 101 With Paul Merton 10.30 Comedy Club: The Museum Of Everything 11.00 Comedy Club: Comedy Club At Machynlleth 11.15 Comedy Club: Tarot: Soundbleed 11.30 Comedy Club: On Baby Street 12midn't Losing My Voice 1.00 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 Diamonds

BBC 5 Live

6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 8.00 5 Live Sport 10.30 Gordon Smart 1am Johnny Intrans 5.00 Wake Up To Money

BBC 6 Music

7.30am Lauren Laverne 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Huw Stephens 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist In Residence: Romy 12midn't Freak Zone Playlist 1.00 The Story Of Pop 2.00 The Story Of Pop 3.00 6 Music Live Hour 4.00 6 Music's Jukebox 5.00 Chris Hawkins

Classic FM

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Aled Jones 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Aled Jones 10.00 Alexander Armstrong 1pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

Absolute Radio

6am Dave Berry 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Ben Burrell 4.00 Bush And Richie 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Dan Noble 1am Ben Coley

Heart

6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Pandora Christie 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Fia Tarrant 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah 4.00 Early Breakfast With Lindsey Russell

TalkSPORT

6am Breakfast With Alan Brazil 10.00 Jim White And Simon Jordan 1pm Hawksbee And Jacobs 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent 7.00 Kick Off 10.00 Sports Bar 1am Extra Time 5.00 Early Breakfast



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Panorama

Around the world in 10 stories



CHINA

Hospital knife attack kills two

Two people were killed and 21 injured in a knife attack at a hospital in China yesterday.

No motive was given for the attack at Zhenxiong County People's Hospital in the south-western province of Yunnan.

Police said the suspect was a man from a village in the region. A witness told media that he narrowly escaped the attack and that doctors were among the injured.

Video from the witness showed people who were bleeding on the ground, and a person trying to help. AP

UNITED STATES

Fatal tornado destroys homes

A tornado destroyed homes, forced the evacuation of a nursing home and toppled trees and power lines as it roared through a small Oklahoma town, with at least one death reported.

The tornado that ripped through Barnsdall on Monday night was one of several twisters to hit the central US during a series of powerful storms. It was the second to hit the town of 1,000 people in five weeks.

At least 30 homes were damaged and a nursing home was evacuated because of a gas leak.

"We've got one confirmed fatality and multiple injuries," said Sheriff Eddie Virden. AP

AUSTRALIA

Woman denies mushroom meal triple killings

By Conrad Smith

An Australian woman accused of serving her ex-husband's family poisonous mushrooms has pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder.

Erin Patterson, 49, appeared in court by video link from

a Melbourne prison. She is accused of killing her former parents-in-law Don and Gail Patterson, both 70, and Gail Patterson's sister, Heather Wilkinson, 66.

All three died after consuming a meal at Ms Patterson's home in July.

She has also been charged with the attempted murder of Ms Wilkinson's husband, Ian, and is further accused of the attempted murder of her ex-husband.

She will appear at Victoria state's Supreme Court in Melbourne on 23 May. AP

IRAN

UN seeks path towards expanding nuclear checks

By Jon Gambrell
IN JERUSALEM

Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are negotiating how to implement a deal to expand inspections of the country's rapidly advancing atomic programme.

The acknowledgment by the IAEA leader, Rafael Mariano Grossi, shows the challenges that his inspectors face, years after the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal.

Mr Grossi has already warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chooses to do so. And he has acknowl-



Rafael Mariano Grossi said Iran had the capability to make nuclear bombs

edged that the United Nations agency cannot guarantee that none of Iran's centrifuges have been peeled away for clandestine enrichment.

"What we are looking at is concrete measures that could make this operational," he said.

Mr Grossi was speaking in Isfahan, alongside Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran. While both men said there would be no immediate new deal during the visit, they pointed to a March 2023 joint statement as a path forward for co-operation.

That included a pledge by Iran to resolve issues around sites where inspectors have questions about possible undeclared nuclear activity, and to allow the IAEA to "implement further appropriate verification and monitoring activities". AP



Flying the flag for victory

Vietnamese children in the city of Dien Bien Phu yesterday watch a parade marking the 70th anniversary of the country's 1954 victory over French colonial forces. The Battle of Dien Bien Phu ultimately brought an end to the French empire in Indochina.

NHAC NGUYEN/AFP/GETTY

SOUTH AFRICA

Hunt for missing builders goes on after flats collapse

By Gerald Imray
IN CAPE TOWN

Rescue teams worked through the night yesterday searching for dozens of construction workers who were buried after a five-storey block of flats in South Africa collapsed.

Officials said the death toll had risen to five, while 49 workers remained unaccounted for after the

collapse on Monday afternoon. A further 21 workers were rescued and taken to hospital, with at least 11 suffering severe injuries.

The collapse happened in the city of George, about 250 miles east of Cape Town on the south coast.

More than 100 emergency personnel were on the scene, using sniffer dogs to try to locate the workers, some of whom were feared buried

under slabs of concrete. Cranes and heavy lifting equipment were brought to the site to help.

There were 75 workers on the construction site when the building collapsed. Their families and friends gathered at nearby municipal offices.

"Our thoughts are with the families and all those affected who continue to wait on word of their loved ones," said local mayor Leon Van Wyk. AP

Postcard From...

San Pedro de Macha

In the high-altitude Bolivian town of San Pedro de Macha, hundreds of indigenous Quechua men and women take to the streets for a ritual dance and combat known as *tinku*, involving hand-to-hand combat between neighbours to settle disputes.

The *tinku*, which means "encounter" and in the local Aymara dialect "physical attack", is celebrated in certain Quechua towns in May as a traditional way of resolving problems.

"This custom is very old. It was passed down to my father and [then] to me," said



Jose Luis Paco Cruz. The confrontations often involve colourful traditional clothing and a leather *montera* helmet with feathers that echoes that of the conquistadors.

Tinku range from joyful dances and music to full-on brawls, with police at times getting involved.

Esteban Paco Taquichiri, Jose Luis's grandfather, admits that sometimes there are deaths, though police now monitor the events. REUTERS

Santiago Limachi

CZECHIA

Court amends transgender law

Czechia's highest court has ruled to dismiss part of a law that required people to have gender-affirmation surgery to officially change gender.

The court said the requirements were "unconstitutional" and conflicted with the fundamental right of transgender people to "have protected their physical integrity and personal autonomy in connection with their human dignity". AP

BELGIUM

Princess set for Harvard studies

Princess Elisabeth of Belgium will attend Harvard University in the US later this year to study for a two-year master's degree in public policy.

Elisabeth, the eldest child of King Philippe, is completing an undergraduate degree in history and politics at Oxford University.

Affection for the Belgian monarchy, along with football and beer, is often viewed as one of the few things that unifies the linguistically divided nation. REUTERS

PAKISTAN

Afghan blamed for suicide bomb

A suicide bomb attack that killed five Chinese engineers in March was planned in Afghanistan, Pakistan's military said yesterday.

The attacker rammed a vehicle into engineers working on a dam in north-west Pakistan.

Major-General Ahmed Sharif said: "The entire attack was planned in Afghanistan, the car was also prepared in Afghanistan, and the suicide bomber was also an Afghan national." REUTERS

HEALTH

'Doctors told me I had medically unexplained symptoms, but I think they just gave up'

'MUS' account for 45 per cent of all GP visits and 20 per cent of all new consultations with specialists - but as patients and experts tell **Hannah Fearn** they can often lead to missed or mistaken diagnoses

Linda Webb was in her mid-40s when she started experiencing abdominal discomfort. Over time, the pain became excruciating. She visited her local accident and emergency unit and her GP multiple times for help and was admitted to hospital, as well as being subjected to a battery of testing, which could not explain her symptoms. After a year of back-and-forth, she required daily doses of oramorph, a liquid form of morphine, just to control her pain.

"It was then that my GP decided I was suffering from depression," says Webb, a property consultant from Yateley, Hampshire. On medical notes, it was referenced that she was experiencing "medically unexplained symptoms" (MUS). Under NHS guidelines, if a diagnosis does not become clear after routine tests, then support through mental health services is suggested. But for some patients, like Webb, this just feels like the system giving up.

Webb knew there was something else going on, but struggled to get help. She says: "At the time, I was a GP nurse, so had some knowledge of the medical system.

"I wasn't happy with the diagnosis, but I got the impression that if I didn't try the antidepressants, my GP wasn't going to help me any further as I wasn't 'helping myself'. In the end, I started them."

A few days later, a long-awaited gynaecological appointment came around. The specialist suggested more tests, with the possibility of a hysterectomy to see if it helped to manage the pain.

"[The specialist] told me to stop the antidepressants immediately as they clearly weren't needed," says Webb, 59. "Several months later I had the surgery and the pain disappeared immediately."

She was diagnosed with adenomyosis - a condition where the lining of the womb grows into its wall.

The MUS diagnosis is now very common across all forms of NHS healthcare, accounting for 45 per cent of all GP visits and 20 per cent of all new consultations with specialists. Following changes to treatment guidelines just over a decade ago, many doctors treat unexplained pain or symptoms as an expression of health anxiety.

One GP in south London says



MUS has become a new term for "somatising symptoms" - when a person focuses on physical symptoms to the extent that it leads to psychological distress. In other words, health anxiety.

That may be the case for some MUS patients, but for others such as Webb, this process of channelling complex patients through mental health treatment in lieu of other treatments may lead to missed or mistaken diagnoses.



Caroline Crampton feels she is overly tended to on health visits because of her history NADINE LEE

Worse, once MUS is on your medical file, patients and experts say it can potentially affect how the NHS handles a patient's future care.

Barbara*, 62, from Leicestershire, was told she had MUS more than a decade ago after suffering from neurological symptoms that could not be explained. She is now undergoing private medical testing.

She feels that NHS doctors failed to initiate further investigations once she had MUS on her file (for example, she raised a "red flag symptom" of dysphagia - the experience of food getting stuck in her throat while eating - but says nothing was done).

She adds: "It didn't feel right, so I sought a private consultation with a gastroenterologist. Subsequent tests revealed some definite but non-threatening physical problems.

"I was naturally relieved that it wasn't anything more serious, but wondered why my usually diligent GP hadn't acted when, potentially, it could have been serious."

Dr Dean Eggitt, a GP in

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Pushing things to the mental health route quickly without reasonable tests feels like cost-saving

battles with hypochondria. As a teenager, she was diagnosed and treated for blood cancer. Since that point, even though she has been cancer-free for more than 15 years, every time she visits a GP her symptoms are taken seriously.

Even, she admits, to the point of being given tests she probably does not need. After all, she accepts, and is very open about, living with a severe form of health anxiety.

"Without fail, they will mention [the cancer] and discuss it," says Crampton. "After a routine smear test, they found something on it and wanted to do a colposcopy. I got to the appointment and there were four doctors in the room, plus three nurses and a huge file of notes.

"It has escalated administratively in a way that was totally unnecessary, as the type of cancer I had has no link to cervical cancer. It follows me around. All it does is raise the level of stress."

As a patient who admits that she is a "frequent flyer" in multiple medical clinics, Crampton has found what she describes as "the magic words" that unlock the support, testing or treatment she wants in a large, bureaucratic organisation working in "algorithmic ways".

But not everyone has worked out how to play the system – nor should they have to.

"Pushing things to the mental health route quickly without doing all of the reasonable tests demanded by the situation feels like a cost-saving measure to me. Talking therapies are cheaper than MRI scans," says Crampton.

For many patients with MUS on their records, time and mental health support will be enough for them to regain a good quality of life – but a small minority are left in limbo.

Livia*, 47, from Bristol, is in that position now. After suffering from severe pneumonia three times in five years, the single mother has started suffering from severe pain in her back that has no explanation. She also has periods of extreme tiredness.

"I get fatigue and it's horrendous, so I only do so much in a day and then I just hit a wall and I just have to go to bed," says Livia. "There's no logical reason for it, no one can tell me why."

Livia was asked to attend a virtual long Covid clinic, which told her to focus on activities to rebuild her mental and physical strength such as yoga and meditation. She found the advice unrealistic.

She says: "Who is going to look after my child and work to pay the bills while I meditate? I had six sessions but it was more of a talking service. It didn't do anything."

Livia's GP even admitted that she had been referred to this service because that's where investment for undiagnosed illnesses had been placed inside the NHS.

"I basically feel like I'm treating myself now," she says.

* Names have been changed

SOCIETY

Phone calls are dead – but what comes next is far worse

A quarter of young people have never answered their phones – but in the workplace we pay a much higher price, writes **James Ball**

Most of us wouldn't leave a room without a phone in hand, let alone our homes. But increasingly we are using them for everything except actually making calls: research by the telecoms regulator Ofcom suggests that a quarter of us make fewer than five phone calls a month. And a study by Uswitch found that a quarter of people aged 18 to 34 had never answered their phone. Ever.

It makes sense, then, that the phone call is becoming a rarity at work, too. Even the production of articles like the one you're reading now has changed radically over the past decade. In newsrooms even 10 years ago, a reporter would be expected to write such a piece by "hammering in the phones" and calling interviewees spontaneously.

Today, every person contacted for this piece "spoke" either entirely by the messaging app WhatsApp (or similar means) or spoke on the phone only after first agreeing terms by WhatsApp.

This is even the case in the gossipy world of Westminster politics, where rumour travels at the speed of light. Official inquiries have revealed the extent to which even serious government business is carried out by WhatsApp – to the sharp criticism of some.

Yet the phone does still have its uses. "I use the phone if I'm hoping the other person is going to forget most of the conversation," confesses one former special adviser, who added that they "hate using the phone" when there is a query from a journalist or some other outside actor.

They add: "I always want the question in writing if it's for work. This largely stems from the need to create a paper trail."

That desire to have a record of conversations extends beyond politics – and is another reason calls have become less common. For other work purposes, it is arguable that we have evolved beyond the need for a phone call. Phillip, who

works in market research, notes that he used to handle routine management issues with his small team by short one-to-one phone calls because communicating via email could mean missing tone or nuance. But now, messaging tools such as Slack or Microsoft Teams can be as effective as a call for resolving quick issues.

Professor Sir Cary Cooper (*inset*), an organisational psychologist, confirms that the disappearance of phone calls is real – but says it is a mixed blessing for our mental wellbeing.

"What is ideal in working relationships is face to face, but we're spread out, we're working hybridly, we're not in the office as much as we were pre-pandemic," he explains... on a spontaneous phone call.

People in several industries told me that they felt they were on calls more than they ever had been

Cooper adds that where face-to-face isn't possible, video is better than audio, and audio is better than text. The worst of all worlds, though, is email. "It's telegraphic, people don't get the full extent of your message, and you can send so quickly you say things or do things that are... ineffective," says Cooper.

People in several industries told me that they felt they were on calls more than they ever had been in their careers – it's just that these days they tend to be scheduled and in bigger groups.

Worse still (for those who don't like it), these calls tend to require participants to keep their cameras on. One person noted that when you communicate by phone call, you can use that time to run out to do an errand, cook lunch, or multitask in some other way – all lost in the video-call era.

Others expressed some bafflement at our collective acceptance of group video calls, given that group calls with audio only never caught on and were widely disliked – if we had the option of a few unexpected audio calls a day to half our time in online meetings, how many of us would take it?

A few professions are holdouts. About one million Britons work in call centres – that's one in 30 people in the workforce. One bank call centre employee let out a single "hah!" when asked

if anything had changed in the nature of his work – calls come in at the same volume, breaks are as regimented and everything is recorded and monitored in detail.

After a little reflection, he adds that people spending less time on the phone in general might be making them tetchier with call centres.

In other sectors, the use of instant messaging or personal devices is very strictly banned as a regulatory requirement: if you want to find one of the last bastions of the office in which every desk has an office phone – and it still gets used – look no further than the financial sector, where nothing is likely to change for quite some time.

"I have a work desk phone and a work mobile and am absolutely – on pain of termination – forbidden from using my personal mobile for work stuff," says one financial-sector worker.

Given the sums that can be at stake, and the complex network of regulators over the sector, any lack of visibility on what is happening is itself a major no-no for such companies.

Outside those workplaces, the change has happened fast. One source of generational tension in offices has been the habit of older office workers calling their younger colleagues without warning, unaware that this habit had all but entirely died out socially by the time younger millennials and Gen Z entered work.

Given that the younger workers had always expected to message before calling, usually agreeing a time, the sudden interruption of an unexpected call felt like intrusion. To their over-40 colleagues, needing to send multiple messages to arrange a three-minute phone call felt like something close to insanity.

Those fights are largely over. The reason it's no longer a source of workplace strife is that, on this issue at least, the older generation has given up. Perhaps that's because we have to admit this way is better, and a bit of heads-up is nice. But if the price we're having to pay is endless camera-on group chats, can any of us truly say it was worth it?



Linda Webb was in her forties when she started getting excruciating pain

Doncaster, says diagnosis by algorithm is becoming a huge concern for the NHS.

"When a patient doesn't fit into this nice category, and you've explored several different types of categories, [MUS] can be used in a derogatory way," he says.

"This patient is complaining about something, and we haven't found a diagnosis, so it can be seen as if they're making it up."

He adds: "Once that condition is labelled on that patient record, and they come in and have something that doesn't fit in another category, then you say it's that. That's the sad reality."

In 2010, a paper presented to the then health secretary, Jeremy Hunt, warned that "somatising patients" were costing the NHS £3bn a year and sought to find cheaper ways to deal with their distress than regular medical testing.

One patient who believes that the rise of MUS diagnoses is affecting the quality of NHS care is author Caroline Crampton – but she has experienced the opposite problem.

Crampton's recent book, *A Body Made of Glass*, charts her own



Younger generations do not like unexpected phone calls GETTY

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Departing: May – October 2024

Indulge in the cultures of Central Europe, with a variety of unforgettable experiences. This insightful itinerary crosses into four iconic European countries, providing a unique view of the continent. Explore the cobblestone streets of Germany, wander capital cities such as Vienna and Bratislava, and conclude your cruise in stunning Budapest.

Day 1 UK – Munich – Regensburg

Fly from the UK to Munich, where you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship in Regensburg, ready to begin your luxury cruise through Central Europe. This evening, enjoy a traditional Bavarian band performance on board.

Day 2 Regensburg

Explore the medieval town centre with a local guide, walking the cobblestone streets of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town and stopping to sample Bavarian sausage. Or, join a bike tour to see the Walhalla monument, where stunning views of the Danube await.

Day 3 Passau – Engelhartzell

Cruise into the heart of Passau, a city rebuilt following fires in the 17th century. Discover illustrious Baroque architecture, including St. Stephen's Cathedral. Alternatively, join a guided bike tour along the beautiful River Inn.

Day 4 Dürnstein – Krems

Discover the fascinating ruins of Dürnstein Castle on a guided hike, and sail the stunning UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Valley to Krems. Here, enjoy a guided tour of the Benedictine monastery, Göttweig Abbey.

Day 5 Vienna

Lose yourself in the capital of Austria, where an art tour of the city awaits – including a visit to the famed Kunsthistorisches Museum. Alternatively, you can take part in a guided bike tour of Vienna to Danube Island, giving you a unique perspective of the city.

Day 6 Bratislava

Discover Baroque palaces and Gothic architecture as you sail into the Slovakian capital. Here, you can enjoy a guided tour of the city, or take part in a guided hike to Bratislava Castle. In the afternoon, you'll hear interesting stories from a local family, with a home-hosted coffee and cake visit.

Day 7 Budapest

Welcome to Budapest, the iconic capital of Hungary. A guided tour of the city will introduce you to Budapest's highlights, including its vibrant lifestyle, eye-catching architecture, and intricate cultures. If you're feeling active, you can join an invigorating hike to Gellert Hill.

Day 8 Budapest – UK

Say farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport and journey home, taking wonderful memories from along the Danube with you.

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My flight-free secret beaches

An online record of visiting Scotland's coastal highlights has caught the public's imagination, with thousands following the adventures. These are some of **David Oliver's** favourites

It wasn't meant to be this way. I only set out to do some walking in Scotland, but things escalated. I have lived in the North West of England for 30 years and I cut my hiking teeth in the Lake District.

Having scaled the 214 Wainwright fells (peaks within the boundary of the Lake District National Park), I was looking for another long-term walking project.

I set my sights on Scotland and visiting some of the castles, lochs, coastlines and national parks of the highlands and islands.

The plot twist arrived during my first trip to Wester Ross in the north-west Highlands in September 2019, when I walked to Red Point beach near the village of Gairloch. Alone, with views across to Uig and Skye, I felt a visceral sense of vitality and wonder.

After visiting four more deserted beaches on the same trip, I decided to create the Scottish Beach Project, an online record of my travels with a catalogue of my photographs.

Over the years since, walks to beaches on the Isles of Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull, Iona, Gigha, Tiree and the Outer Hebrides were to follow, as well as many on the west coast mainland.

To my surprise, the project has caught people's imagination, with almost 10,000 people from around the world following it on X, formerly known as Twitter.

I estimate there are more than 500 named beaches in Scotland. I tend to plan four or five short visits a year, seeing 15 to 20 beaches each time. More than 150 of the 171 beaches I've been to were deserted; I love the solitude. I have seen cows on the beach, sheep in the dunes, otters in the rock pools, seals out to sea and eagles overhead, as well as fascinating rock formations.

It has been life-changing. I have wondered at the scenery, been inspired by the people I have met and humbled by the views.

Among the 171 beaches I have visited so far, these are my favourites.

Forepic views

In the far north-west of the mainland, the wonderful Sandwood



Sandwood Bay rewards the four-mile hike from Blairmore CODY DUNCAN



The sands of Luskentyre viewed from the hill above Seilebost on the Isle of Harris GETTY

Bay, Achmelvich and Balnakeil can all be visited on a single trip from a base at Lochinver, Durness or anywhere in between, such as the village of Kinlochbervie.

In the Outer Hebrides, the beaches of Luskentyre, Seilebost and Scarista deserve their reputation for beauty, as do the magnificent West Beach on Berneray and Sanna Bay on the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

But West Beach is the one to beat, with Traigh Mheilein on the Isle of Harris and Kiloran Bay on the Isle of Colonsay a close second and third for their visual impact. West Beach is a long sweeping white-sand beach with high dunes, Traigh Mheilein is remote with lush green pasture and turquoise water, while Kiloran Bay is a golden arc best admired from the surrounding hills.

For island explorers

The islands of the Outer Hebrides offer Caribbean-like beaches, with peacock-blue water. Both the Isle of Harris and the neighbouring Isle of Lewis are idyllic, while the west coast of Barra has a string of white-sand beaches.



Berneray's West Beach deserves its reputation for beauty CODY DUNCAN

Further south on Vatersay, you can watch the resident cows on the beach at Bagh A'deas. The flat, low isle of Tiree has golden beaches around its entire coastline, including the epic sweeps of the Maze and Gott Bay.

Islay has warm hospitality where everyone waves as you drive by. I stayed at Glenegedale House. Islay's best beach is Saligo Bay, with white sand, volcanic rock pools and dramatic waves.

Meanwhile, the Isle of Gigha, which is served year-round by a ferry from Tayinloan, Kintyre, has unspoilt beaches at its northern and southern tips.

Top billing, however, goes to the Isle of Mull's entries, including Calgary Bay in the north and Knockvologan in the south. From Mull, it is a short ferry to Iona: try the island's north-end beaches. The drive to the Iona ferry at Fionnphort must be one of the most spectacular in Scotland, with mountains, lochs and side roads leading to hidden beaches.

For hardened hikers

I enjoy the challenge of a hike to

a remote beach, and Sandwood Bay requires a four-mile shift from the village of Blairmore. My anticipation built with every step as the brown gorse landscape gave way to green grazing pastures and, slowly, the huge dunes appeared in the distance. I heard the waves before I saw them. The immense scale and power of the scenery was overwhelming.

Then there is the three-mile yomp from Knockvologan farm through a nature reserve to reach Traigh Ghael on the Isle of Mull, and the brutal, six-mile Evans's Walk to Glenbatrik Bay across the Isle of Jura.

Smirisary and Camas nan Geall on the north-west Ardnamurchan peninsula require an hour's walk from beach car parks off the main coast road, while beaches of the Udal peninsula in North Uist are best tackled with hiking boots

I love the solitude. I have seen cows on the beach, sheep in the dunes

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and a packed lunch when arriving from the village of Grenitote.

For tiny coves

The Scottish coast is littered with small, perfectly formed coves and bays, often framed by rolling hills and imposing cliffs.

Some sit right by the road; others hide out of sight. I have soft spots for Coldbackie in Sutherland, Slaggan Bay in Wester Ross, Scoor Beach on Mull and Crabhadaill on Harris. I visited Coldbackie beach on a cold, magical winter morning as the sun rose over tongue bay.

Slaggan Bay is a straight out and back walk from the fishing village of Aultbea, past a lily-filled loch to a jaw-dropping bay, which once served a crofting village.

Scoor is first encountered from high above the surrounding cliffs. Crabhadaill is a remote bay often hiked to from Huisinish and which can be combined with a walk to Traigh Mheilein.

Follow the Scottish beach project on [@scottishbeach](https://twitter.com/scottishbeach) or [scottishbeachproject.com](https://www.scottishbeachproject.com)

Arts



Podcast Gloriously Unready



In series 3 of this homespun podcast, Josephine Hughes, mum of two transgender girls, seeks to give a voice to the parents and partners of transgender people, without the noise of political debate.

Josephine speaks to people who didn't know how to handle it, whose loved ones' transitions were unexpected, or who found the whole experience baffling. This isn't about shying away from the big topics, but discussing them from the point of view of those who have experienced them first-hand, and handling the stories with humanity and empathy.

Whatever "side" of the debate you're on, it's worth giving this podcast a listen; ultimately, it's about real people and those who want what's best for them.

Emily Bootle

When I published my first novel two years ago, I was naturally nervous about how people would react.

What Time is Love? imagines what happens when one couple meets at three different points in the 20th century, and I worried whether I'd got the different time periods right, or if my readers would care about my characters equally... I worried if anyone would even read it at all.

But when reader feedback did arrive, one thing took me by surprise: that people kept commenting on how much sex there was in the book. I didn't think there was much sex in it – just enough to tell us something about the couple in each era. But then, my agent did remind me recently that “there is an orgy, Holly”. So maybe they had a point.

I've been bracing myself for my second book coming out because this time, it is entirely structured around shagging – *The Start of Something* is a contemporary riff on Arthur Schnitzler's 1897 play *La Ronde*, where 10 characters interconnect via 10 sexual encounters. Even to explain the basic plot requires talking about sex.

People have, of course, been writing about sex for as long as they've been writing; from *Lysistrata* in 411BC to *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to Restoration sex comedies, James Joyce to EL James. Sex in literature can be a source of humour, or shock, or titillation.

People had just never seen that stuff before... they loved the fisting, had a go!

For me, there are few human experiences that can shed more light on the characters I'm reading, or writing, about. It can illuminate internal desires, anxieties and insecurities, and is ripe with the potential for misunderstandings and miscommunications.

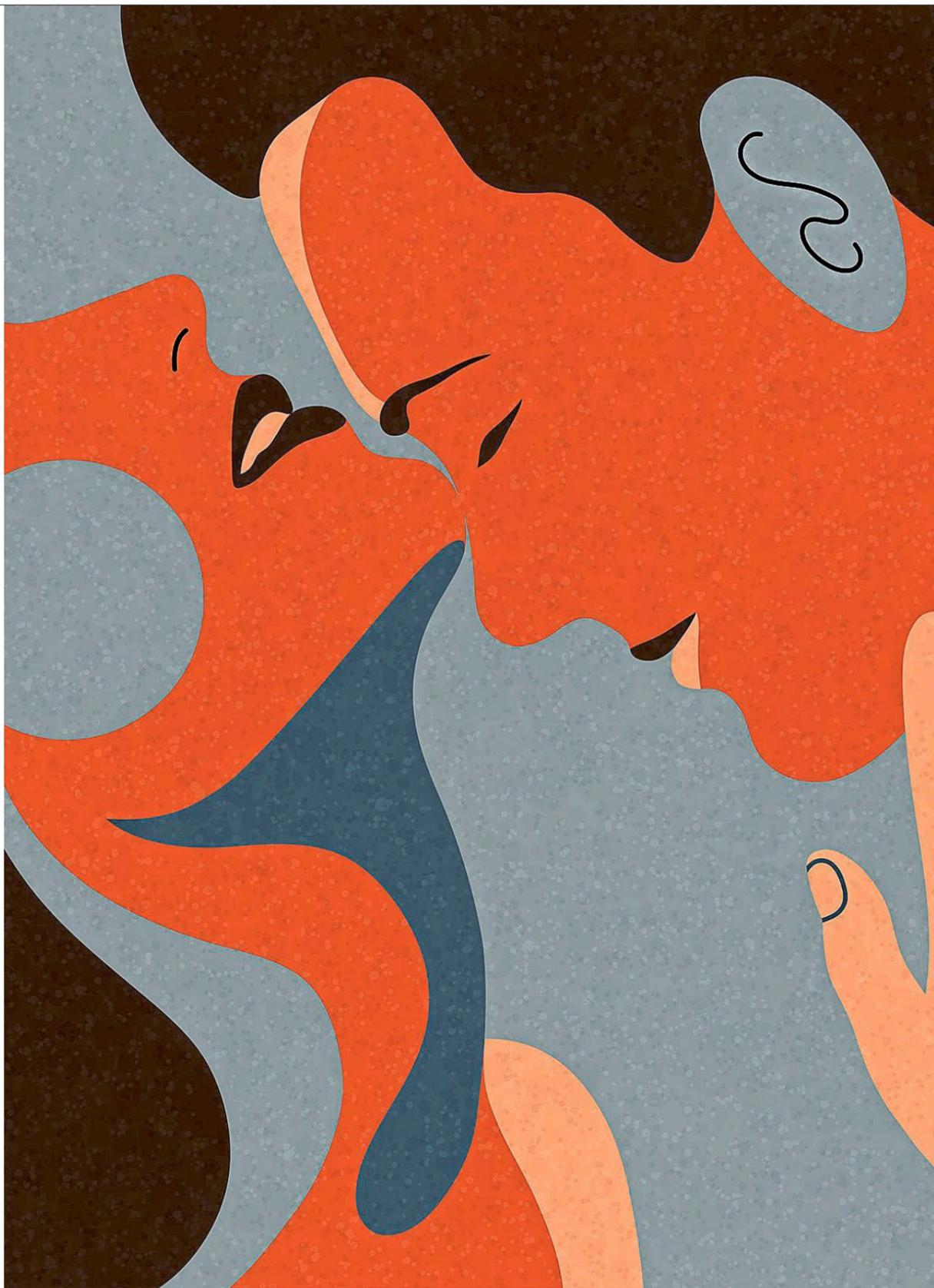
Sex can be joyful, sensual, transcendent, or funny; it can also be grubby, lonely, abusive, or transactional. It can tell us a lot about a person, a couple, or even a whole society. So why wouldn't you write about that, as honestly and fully as possible?

In *The Start of Something*, I also wanted to look at a wide spectrum of desires and relationships – the reason for updating Schnitzler's play was that today, I wouldn't be bound by just having male-female couplings, but could have a glorious array of identities, sexualities, kinks, tastes and relationship structures. There's value in updating sex stories to reflect society right now.

In recent years, there's been a wealth of new authors writing about sex, and its relationship to pleasure and power and selfhood, with fine-grain attention.

“I'm really frustrated by books that tell everything in slow detail – until they get to the sex stuff,” says Daisy Buchanan, whose novels feature erotic adventures including sex parties and threesomes recounted with a gleeful delight that recalls the steamiest of bonkbusters.

“The thing I want to do in fiction, because I see it so rarely, is write about women [and say] it's OK to be horny. Pleasure is really important!”



I read it back and couldn't believe what I'd written

Writing good sex scenes is an art, says author **Holly Williams**, but that doesn't make it any less excruciating when you see them in print

Holly Williams (below) welcomes the many authors (right) embracing sex

That candour is cropping up in historical fiction as well as contemporary stories. Tom Crewe's much-garlanded 2022 debut, *The New Life*, opens with an extended sexual encounter between two Victorian men that turns out to be the wet dream of a repressed gay man.

The novel follows him through both a love affair and a public defence of homosexuality; as Crewe points out, "it felt important to capture the fact of the desire – it just would have felt a very anaemic treatment of my subject if I had failed to do that".

But while Crewe recognises that *The New Life* is a "reasonably sexy book" – his editor counted 85 uses of the word "c**k" – he has been surprised at how central the sex scenes have been in discussions around the novel, in reviews and from readers.

"I do think if it wasn't gay it wouldn't have stood out in quite the same way," he says.

Kate Davies is another author who believes in the importance of writing honestly about queer desire. When she finished her 2019 debut *In at the Deep End* – a very funny look at a woman's lesbian awakening as well as an exploration of controlling relationships – she realised she had written "a book about sex". What she did not, however, yet realise was that she had written what would become known as "the fisting book".

"I was like, 'there's only one fisting scene!' And then I realised it was 1,500 words long..." she laughs.

While some American readers did not understand her sense of humour, she got largely giddily positive reactions from British readers. Grateful emails were sent.

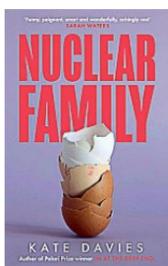
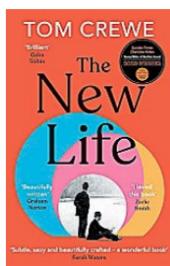
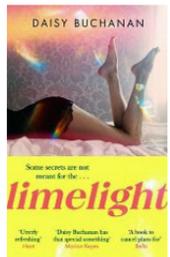
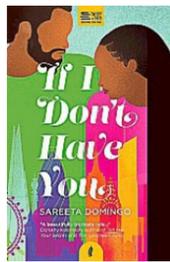
"People had just never seen that stuff before, so were really inspired. People loved the fisting, had a go! People became gay? Fantastic! Result."

But what is it actually like to write a sex scene? I found they all just flowed quite naturally, from knowing my characters – it was almost as if their desire took over, the words rushing out with their own urgency and rhythm and cadence.

Davies shocked even herself with the unanticipated filth she started writing. "I found this stuff was just coming out of my fingers. I read it back, and I couldn't believe I'd written it." She adds: "One agent rejected [the book] because it was 'just about her sex life' – and I felt really ashamed," Davies admits.

Ah yes – shame, embarrassment, cringe... anyone writing about sex seems to know these feelings well. "I just pretend in my head that my parents haven't read [*In at the Deep End*]," says Davies. "My mother-in-law has read it, in her book club! Terrible times. And my dentist read it – that was the worst. As I had my mouth open he said, I read your novel..."

Anoushka Warden has just published her debut novel, *I'm F*cking Amazing*, about a young woman who loves sex – and is distraught when her vagina "stops working" in a long-term relationship. The book includes the character's Top Humps, detailing the men she's slept with, and an awful lot of fin-



gering. Warden's canny trick to make sure her mum didn't read it? That title. "My mum is like, 'well it's got swearing on the front page so I'm not going into the second page...'"

Like Davies, Warden found this stuff just flowed out of her. "This sounds silly, but you know how actors are method actors? I think I'm a method writer! Whatever the character is doing I just let that take over."

For Buchanan – an avowed Jilly Cooper fan – sex scenes should be fun. "I'm not ashamed to say that I try, when appropriate, to write a sex scene that is hot. I want to have a very nice time writing it, and I want people to have a very nice time reading it."

What makes for a good sex scene is naturally highly subjective – and it is true that the stakes are unusually high, because getting it wrong can be uniquely and unbearably awful.

Bad sex writing – florid, or queasy, or cliched, or often blindly sexist – is worse than no sex writing. I am haunted by the fear that in writing 10 sex scenes in one novel, I've simply given myself 10 chances to get it horribly wrong.

Sareeta Domingo, an editor who's written romance novels and erotica, is open about how much she enjoys writing a good sex scene; her 2020 novel *If I Don't Have You* certainly delivers on the attraction between a film director and a journalist.

But she says that even writing about sex in romance novels is unusually fraught. She likens reading it to watching a stand-up comedian: you laugh, or you don't; you find the writing sexy, or you don't. "It's so specific, how people respond, that it's open to critique in a way that other writing might not be."

Writing openly about what people get up to between the sheets can be a nerve-wracking thing, then. But I maintain the risk is worth it: there's no other subject that can tell us so much about what it is to be a human, with desires and a body and a beating heart.

Writing, and reading, about sex is hot stuff.

Holly Williams's 'The Start of Something' (Orion, £18.99) is out now

Today's television

ED POWER



Remastered Fab Four documentary is too long and winding

» **The Beatles: Let It Be** Disney+, Streaming now ★★★★★

If Peter Jackson has a weakness, it's that he can't walk away from a task he has already accomplished (mostly) to perfection. Following the triumph of *Lord of the Rings*, he could have said his farewells to Middle-earth. Instead, he returned for those dreadful *Hobbit* movies.

Now, in the wake of *The Beatles: Get Back*, his sprawling 2021 portrait of John, Paul, Ringo and George on the brink of breaking up, he has once again come back for seconds with a restored version of Michael Lindsay-Hogg's 1970 Fab Four documentary, *Let It Be*.

It's a perfectly adequate remastering of a film which has been unavailable to watch for the past 50 years. But for anyone who has ploughed through all eight hours of *Get Back*, there is the unmistakable sense of having seen it all before. And with good reason: that three-part mini-series was essentially a director's cut of *Let It Be*, utilising more than 60 hours of behind-the-scenes footage shot by Lindsay-Hogg.

Technically, Jackson has done an impressive job in sprucing up the picture. The images are crisp and capture The Beatles when they were still youthful and ready to take on the world. It is striking to watch a young John and Yoko dancing or to see Paul McCartney, now in his eighties, as a twinkley-eyed 27-year-old with a Captain Birdseye beard. The evergreen magic of Beatles songs such as "Don't Let Me Down" contrasts with the spectacular shabbiness of 1960s London – a blur of pollution-stained buildings and grey men in dark overcoats that jumps from the screen.

Yet for all of Jackson's skilled restoration work, there's no getting around the fact that *Let It Be* is flawed from the outset. There's a severe lack of focus and the film

meanders like the prog rock that was becoming popular when it was filmed in 1969.

Not every documentary needs to spell out its themes – but *Let It Be* goes too far the other way and is often disjointed. *Get Back* went out of its way to explain what was happening as The Beatles gathered at the studio and began their rehearsals by adding new text to the footage. By contrast, *Let It Be* leaves it entirely up to the audience to make sense of the material. It feels anchorless, rambling and almost impossible to follow.

The best scenes are still riveting; that famous rooftop concert at Apple headquarters is quite rightly part of rock'n'roll folklore.

There's a severe lack of focus – it feels anchorless, rambling and hard to follow

There is also a sweet new introductory conversation between Jackson and Lindsay-Hogg, with the latter expressing the hope that Jackson's remastered version will give the film "a new life in the sunshine".

"The Beatles that we'd grown up with were not The Beatles in *Let It Be*," he says. "They were changing."

Jackson's devotion to The Beatles is admirable. He clings to the band's mythos – now receding from living memory – the way elves in his *Lord of the Rings* movies clung to their old stories of the world before Sauron. But the director's enthusiasm has arguably got the better of him. It's nowhere near as dreadful as *The Hobbit* trilogy, but his newly restored work still feels surplus to requirements. Jackson really should have taken the advice of Paul McCartney's eponymous song and let it be.



'Get Back' – again: Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and John Lennon in 'The Beatles: Let It Be' ETHAN A RUSSELL/APPLE CORP/Disney+

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Arts review

EXHIBITION

Style & Society

KING'S GALLERY, EDINBURGH

★★★★★

In the reopened King's Gallery (formerly Queen's Gallery), *Style & Society: Dressing the Georgians* explores the extraordinary fashions of the Georgian era.

The pictures inevitably are mostly of elaborately dressed royalty and courtiers, but more modest dress is also illustrated. There is, for instance, a pair of pictures of domestic life by the charming Venetian observer of manners, Pietro Longhi.

In the later decades of this period, men of fashion began to dress more simply. The caricaturist Thomas Rowlandson pilloried how this followed their copying the dress and manners of the working classes, notably wearing trousers instead of knee breeches as they had done previously.

The poet Byron was a leader of fashion and a romantic painting shows him, too, wearing trousers. Even the royals simplified their

dress. In a portrait painted around 1759, George II wears a red velvet coat weighed down with gold. Thirty years later his grandson, George IV when Prince of Wales, appears dressed in a fashionably simple dark blue coat.

Throughout the 18th century the dress of rich women was always elaborate and often beautiful. A star item here is a dress from c.1780 made of delicate Indian muslin embroidered with silver thread. It is partnered by a man's costume very like one worn by the composer Johann Christian Fischer in a beautiful full-length Thomas Gainsborough portrait.

A star painting here is a full-length, also by Gainsborough, of Queen Charlotte wearing a beautiful dress of silk gauze covered with gold spangles.

It is a ravishing picture, but it does rather point to the absence of anything by Allan Ramsay, Scotsman and painter to the King and particular friend of the Queen. Not only did Ramsay paint costume more beautifully than any of his contemporaries, in his later female portraits, clothes, complexion and colouring are



Far left, Thomas Gainsborough's portrait of Johann Christian Fischer (1774-80). Left, the artist's ravishing picture of Queen Charlotte (c.1781) ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST/HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

exquisitely matched. He was an insider in this story and – especially in Edinburgh – he should be here.

By the end of the century, women had abandoned their wide hooped dresses and for a brief period enjoyed elegant, unbuttoned simplicity inspired by Greek and Roman models.

A good example of this charming fashion is a white muslin dress worn by Princess Sophia in a portrait by Sir William Beechey.

While men wore wigs for much of the 18th century, women mostly wore their own hair, but often in fantastic, towering constructions. Hair was powdered with wheat starch which was then combined with rendered animal fat to make a kind of cement.

"Venus attired by the Graces" is a delightful cartoon of an elderly woman being transformed from age to youth by three hairdressers with powder, tongs and bellows. An actual pair of hairdresser's bellows is on view nearby.

Sir David Wilkie's full-length portrait of George IV in the kilt and tartan outfit made for his visit to Edinburgh in 1822 is a key exhibit.

His costume cost a fortune and was only worn once, with flesh-coloured trousers hiding the royal knees.

There is much else here to intrigue and inform while thanking fate and fashion for the simplicity of modern dress.

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Quote of the day



The appointment process for government non-executive directors is wanting in fairness and political independence

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee on failures for appointing such directors

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WESTMINSTER

I'm no 'modern-day pirate', insists under-fire P&O boss

By David Connatt

The boss of P&O Ferries has denied being a "modern-day pirate" who was "robbing staff blind" as he admitted to MPs that P&O's crews had received levels of pay lower than he had previously told Parliament.

Peter Hebblethwaite, P&O's chief executive, denied yesterday that the company was "exploiting" foreign crews working on its ferries travelling between the UK and Europe.

Mr Hebblethwaite, who admitted that he could not live on the £4.87-per-hour wages paid to agency seafarers, said he earned £508,000, including a bonus of £183,000, last year.

The ferry boss was reappearing before MPs on the parliamentary business select committee two years after explaining why the ferry firm fired 786 of its staff and

replaced them with low-paid workers who are employed by an external crewing agency.

He insisted P&O paid "considerably ahead of the international minimum standard" but stressed they were an international business operating in international waters, and "should be governed by international law".

"All we want is a level playing field with our competitors," he said.

P&O fired employees without notice or union consultation, attracting

widespread criticism from ministers, unions and the public.

The Insolvency Service later said it would not pursue criminal proceedings against the company.

P&O replaced the sacked workers with overseas agency staff and told MPs at the time its agency workers' pay averaged £5.50 per hour.

The UK National Minimum Wage was £10.42 an hour at the time and rose to £11.44 an hour in April.

The rates do not apply to seafarers employed by an overseas agency, working on foreign registered vessels in international waters.

The Government promised to close the loophole two years ago after the P&O Ferries job cuts.

Ministers said the Government expects new legislation to be brought in this summer. France introduced a similar law this year.

i TUC general secretary, Paul Nowak, said Mr Hebblethwaite's response showed "zero remorse". He said "it beggars belief that **P&O Ferries has faced no sanctions** for its misdeeds".



Peter Hebblethwaite has been accused of 'robbing P&O's ferry crews blind'

Mr Hebblethwaite recently agreed to sign a voluntary Government Seafarers' Charter that commits it to pay crews the National Minimum Wage in British waters.

The chief executive said the company would sign the charter "within months".

The Government is consulting on new strategy of enforcing workers' rights, which critics claim are ineffective and fragmented.



The 30 Second Briefing

INDEPENDENT BREWERIES

The case... in a barrel

Average beer production volumes among independent breweries has risen by 14 per cent compared with 2023, returning to pre-pandemic levels. Cask beer volumes also increased, up 10 per cent year-on-year, according to the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA).

All hail the (makers) of ale?

The SIBA report says that only four in 10 (43 per cent) of independent brewers cite "survival" as their top priority, which is an improvement on the 63 per cent who said it last year.

The cask case for cautious optimism?

"The short-term issue for small independent breweries isn't demand; it's profitability, rising costs and financial pressures such as lingering Covid debt," said Andy Slee, SIBA chief executive. "Far too many are simply trying to survive rather than thrive, so while there are many positives, for now it's cautious optimism."

Through the glass darkly?

One troubling red flag for the independents is the data showing that just 30 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds ever drink beer, which puts it behind wines and spirits; while almost a quarter of consumers (24 per cent) say they never visit their local pub.

Trends in a glass

Lager continues its rise up the indie brewing charts (to No 4), with 56 per cent of independent brewers now producing a craft lager, up 5 per cent on last year. Also on the up is non-alcoholic beer, with a 2 per cent growth taking the number of breweries now making an alcohol-free beer to 8 per cent.

FINANCE

Banks told to do more for small businesses

By David Connatt

Thousands of small businesses are being unfairly "debanked" and poorly treated by banks and regulators, MPs have warned.

Small businesses are being put off from growing bigger and innovating by crippling financial regulations and inadequate support from banks, the Treasury select committee said.

MPs said more than 140,000 small businesses had been debanked, or had their accounts closed, in the last year – often with little or no notice.

At least 4,214 of the closures were attributed to "risk appetite" without a clear and consistent definition within the industry.

The committee called for the regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), to force banks to be more transparent about why decisions to close accounts are taken.

The existing system of settling disputes between banks and businesses isn't working, they said, and called for the Business Banking Resolution Service, to be closed down and a new independent system put in its place. MPs said it only settled 58 cases while costing over £40m.

Dame Harriett Baldwin, chair of the committee, said: "Smaller firms have had a torrid time over the last few years. Unfortunately, what we have found is that there are some instances where banks and regulators are making a tough world for small businesses needlessly tougher."

"Banks and regulators can't wave a magic wand and solve all of the problems, but they can certainly do more than they currently are."

PROPERTY

It's too soon to be talking about a house price boom - thankfully

National average is being kept in check by falling prices in South, and that's a good thing, writes **Richard Donnell**

The housing market is slowly coming back to life but it's too early to get carried away on expectations of faster house price inflation. The market is still adjusting to higher mortgage rates. House prices are not going to fall but they will not rise much either, and we should welcome a period of more home moves but flat prices helping to reset the relationship between house prices and incomes.

The housing boom over the pandemic was brought to a rapid halt at the end of 2022 as mortgage rates grew threefold to 6 per cent. Another rate spike last summer hit activity levels hardest, with overall annual housing sales falling by a quarter to one million and house prices posting modest year-on-year falls.

The level of house price falls, in response to higher borrowing costs, was much lower than many predicted. This is largely a result of mortgage regulations introduced by the Bank of England in 2014 that were designed to stop households from taking on unsustainable levels of debt and driving a house price bubble as people borrowed with ultra-low mortgage rates.

While rates for new borrowers were below 2 per cent until 2021, those buying homes with mortgages had to prove to their bank they could afford 6 or 7 per cent mortgage "stress rates".

As mortgage rates increased, most existing borrowers who refinanced had the capacity to meet higher repayments. This limited the scale of arrears and forced sales that, in the past, have been a catalyst for a larger reset in house prices.

The success of avoiding boom and bust in those prices has come at the cost of raising the barriers to home ownership. For new buyers, their buying power has been reduced by higher mortgage rates which average 4-5 per cent, while the stress rate applied by banks is now over 8 per cent. This is particularly challenging across southern England where house prices are above average and the impact of higher borrowing costs is greatest.

First-time buyers are having to put down more equity. Last year the average deposit in London was £145,000 with a household income of £90,000. Income and deposit levels are lower away from southern



With more new homes being built and 1.1 million sales forecast this year, the UK economy will get a welcome boost GETTY

England, averaging £49,000 and £37,000 respectively.

Activity in the housing sales market has picked up over the last six months as mortgage rates have fallen and expectations grow that the Bank of England will start to cut base rates later in the year. Greater realism on pricing by sellers, together with a fifth more homes on the market than a year ago, has led to more sales being agreed, up 1 per cent over the past year.

And more sales have led to prices firming. Most indices are recording house price inflation of between plus 1 per cent and minus 1 per cent.

The decreases are concentrated across southern England, below a line from the Wash in Norfolk to the Bristol Channel. The falls are modest, up to minus 2 per cent, while across the rest of the UK house price inflation is starting to drift into positive territory as market activity improves.

The soft reset in house prices in response to higher mortgage rates means a combination of income growth and lower mortgage rates will have to do the hard work of

resetting the relationship between prices and incomes.

The annual mortgage repayments to buy an average home are 60 per cent higher today than they were in 2021. Two-thirds of this is because of higher mortgage rates and one-third because house prices are still 13 per cent higher than three years ago.

It's not just mortgage repayments and living costs that affect demand and buying power. Stamp duty is a big tax on moving home in southern

It's not just mortgage repayments and living costs that affect demand - stamp duty is a big tax in the South



The average deposit in London was £145,000 last year

England and accounts for three-quarters of annual stamp duty payments. Reform is desperately needed, but it is a question of how to replace the annual £10bn gap in tax receipts.

The reality is that modest house price falls over 2023 mean it's going to take longer for affordability to reset, especially across southern England. Flat to falling prices are set to remain in the region. But better affordability means a return to low levels of nominal house price growth in northern regions and Scotland.

This should not be seen as bad as long as it does not reduce the number of households looking to move. There is too much focus on month-on-month changes in house prices.

The more important reference point is the number of transactions and how many new homes are being built. Housing sales are set to grow 10 per cent this year to 1.1 million, slightly below the long-run average. This is positive for the economy and boosts the likelihood of more people moving home in 2024.

Richard Donnell is research director at Zoopla

Business, page 45

From the business pages

Chicken profits aid US meat supplier

The Wall Street Journal

US meat supplier Tyson Foods said improving chicken profitability offset losses in its beef business as a dwindling US cattle supply creates headaches. Tyson, a bellwether for the US meat industry, forecast a bigger operating loss for its beef business this year - between \$100m and \$400m (£80m and £320m). It struggled in 2023 with a glut of chicken on the market and higher costs.

China dominates turbine industry

Caixin

Chinese wind-turbine makers made up four of the world's top five manufacturers last year, the first time they have achieved dominance over the global industry, new analysis showed. This came on the back of strong growth at home. China accounted for 65 per cent of the world's newly added wind power capacity in 2023, consultancy Wood Mackenzie said.

Boom in Tanzanian cashew production

The Citizen

Cashew nut production has skyrocketed by 115,900 metric tonnes in Tanzania, generating more earnings for farmers, the country's Cashewnut Board said. Production rose to 305,014 tonnes, up from 118,114 in 2022-23. The Board said record subsidies, up from 96bn shillings (£30m) to 189bn (£58m), were the main reason for the highest crop in five years.

Healthier trade balance for France

Les Echos

France's trade balance improved by €2.7bn (£2.3bn) to reach €17.6bn (£15bn) thanks to a 0.9 per cent drop in imports and a 0.7 per cent increase in exports. Despite six consecutive quarters of improvement, the French trade deficit remains higher than before the pandemic; at the time, it was nearer €14bn (£12bn). Customs said the drop in imports over the first three months of the year was due to inflation.

60%
The increase in the cost of annual mortgage repayments today compared to in 2021

The Business Matrix

The day at a glance



FTSE 100 up 1.22% at 8,313.67

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
3i Group	2950.0	+2.04%	2968.0	1709.5	GSK	1761.0	+1.59%	1767.5	1302.6	Rolls-Royce	418.4	+0.07%	435.0	142.5
Admiral	2741.0	+1.44%	2870.0	2010.0	Haleon	326.7	-0.97%	350.5	306.8	RS Group	787.0	+2.67%	891.2	551.2
Airtel Africa	115.9	+1.67%	135.8	90.2	Halma	2284.0	+1.92%	2520.9	1802.0	Sage	1188.5	+0.46%	1285.0	797.2
Anglo Amer	2680.0	-0.50%	2786.0	1630.0	Hikma Pharma	1956.0	-0.20%	2222.0	1711.0	Sainsbury(J)	267.8	+0.90%	311.2	243.8
Antofagasta	2198.0	+0.27%	2336.0	1280.0	Howden Joinery	892.5	+2.35%	910.0	605.0	Schroders	360.6	+1.63%	475.7	346.2
AB Foods	2687.0	+0.60%	2765.0	1804.5	HSBC Hldgs	712.6	+1.01%	717.7	572.9	Scot Mort Inv Tst	894.4	+1.78%	899.2	614.8
Ashtead Group	5772.0	+1.19%	6144.0	4437.0	IAG	177.4	-0.70%	184.6	137.0	Segro	885.6	+1.26%	913.0	675.0
AstraZeneca	12118.0	+0.56%	12488.0	9461.0	IMI	1803.0	+2.15%	1838.0	1429.0	Severn Trent	2577.0	+2.38%	2979.0	2243.0
Auto Trader Group	735.8	+1.77%	768.4	580.2	Imperial Brands	1847.5	+1.18%	1951.5	1553.5	Shell	2895.0	+1.28%	2952.0	2214.0
Aviva	482.6	+2.25%	501.4	366.0	Informa	831.4	+1.91%	842.0	682.4	Smith&Neph	997.8	+0.10%	1315.0	887.0
BAE Systems	1373.0	+0.84%	1388.5	883.4	IntCont Htlis	7902.0	+2.28%	8790.0	5178.0	Smith (DS)	358.0	-1.00%	415.0	260.5
Barclays	210.3	+3.95%	210.7	128.1	Intermediate Cap	2180.0	+1.30%	2216.0	1244.0	Smiths Gp	1657.0	+1.04%	1776.5	1517.5
Barratt Dev	492.8	+2.95%	582.6	384.1	Intertek	5010.0	+1.09%	5073.1	3746.0	Smurfit Kappa Grp	3746.0	+0.16%	3845.9	2528.0
BAT	2387.0	+1.36%	2831.0	2233.0	JD Sports Fashion	118.8	+2.72%	178.1	103.0	Spirax-Sarco Eng	9020.0	+2.67%	11480.0	7900.0
Beazley	642.5	+2.07%	699.5	485.8	Kingfisher	253.9	+2.09%	256.9	198.3	SSE	1780.5	+4.15%	1932.5	1485.0
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5115.0	+1.49%	5165.0	3634.0	Land Secs	686.5	+2.92%	729.4	551.2	Stan Chart	750.6	-0.58%	767.0	571.0
B&M EurValRtl	529.6	+1.53%	618.2	454.0	Legal & Gen	246.6	+2.37%	259.0	203.1	St. James's Place	457.8	+2.28%	1185.5	393.6
BP	503.7	-1.31%	562.3	441.1	Lloyds Bk Gp	53.7	+2.95%	54.3	39.4	Taylor Wimpey	141.4	+1.58%	150.6	98.9
BT	105.5	+0.33%	156.8	101.7	Lon Stock Ex	9308.0	+1.59%	9696.0	7784.0	Tesco	304.3	+2.01%	307.3	217.5
Bunzl	3148.0	+1.35%	3306.0	2680.0	M&G	202.4	+1.00%	241.1	181.6	Unilever	4212.0	+0.57%	4440.5	3680.5
Burberry	1151.0	-2.46%	2583.0	1103.5	M&S	261.1	+1.08%	293.2	159.2	Unite Group	971.5	+1.36%	1069.0	834.3
Centrica	131.2	+2.02%	173.7	112.2	Melrose Ind	591.2	-2.05%	681.2	411.6	United Utilities	1087.0	+1.30%	1139.5	896.8
Coca-Cola HBC	2676.0	+2.37%	2685.3	2065.0	Mondi	1563.0	-0.03%	1719.8	1290.9	Vodafone	67.9	-0.76%	96.3	62.7
Compass	2273.0	+1.29%	2331.0	1940.5	National Grid	1095.5	+2.00%	1181.0	918.0	Weir Group	2078.0	+3.18%	2094.0	1652.5
Convatec	260.8	+0.77%	295.2	195.1	NatWest Group	312.0	+2.30%	317.9	168.0	Whitbread	2996.0	-0.37%	3714.0	2982.0
Croda Intl	4831.0	+1.79%	6920.0	4018.0	Next	9106.0	+0.09%	9318.0	6334.0	WPP	825.6	+1.60%	904.2	656.0
DCC	5745.0	+4.55%	5855.0	4145.0	Ocado Group	360.0	+1.24%	1017.0	335.2					
Diageo	2755.5	+0.97%	3694.5	2676.0	Pearson	997.6	+1.03%	1046.5	793.2					
Diploma	3748.0	+1.02%	3870.0	2636.0	Pershing Square	4174.0	+2.05%	4207.1	2670.0					
easyJet	510.2	-5.80%	591.1	350.0	Persimmon	1414.0	+3.48%	1501.0	925.0					
Entain	785.8	+0.05%	1516.5	718.2	Phoenix	517.5	-0.39%	587.0	436.4					
Experian	3383.0	+3.23%	3530.0	2366.0	Prudential	759.4	+0.42%	1195.0	684.7					
F&C Inv Trust	1022.0	+1.39%	1028.5	825.7	Reckitt Ben	4550.0	+1.65%	6570.0	4102.6					
Flutter Entrtmnt	16200.0	+3.15%	17980.0	12020.0	RELX	3411.0	+1.58%	3531.8	2415.0					
Frasers Group	816.0	-0.18%	949.5	661.0	Rentokil Initial	419.6	+2.92%	663.8	387.8					
Fresnillo	567.5	+3.28%	739.3	435.2	Rightmove	553.8	+1.88%	603.0	457.7					
Glencore	467.9	+2.85%	491.6	365.3	Rio Tinto	5591.0	+2.27%	5910.0	4509.5					

Markets

FTSE 100	8313.7	+1.22%
FTSE 250	20413.1	+1.23%
FTSE All Share	4523.0	+1.21%
FTSE Eurofirst300	2036.8	+1.21%
Dow Jones*	38895.3	+0.11%
S&P 500*	5193.5	+0.25%
Nasdaq*	16375.3	+0.16%
DAX	18430.0	+1.40%
CAC 40	8075.7	+0.99%
Hang Seng	18479.4	-0.53%
Nikkei	38835.1	+1.57%

€1.1635
-0.30¢

EURO/
POUND

\$1.2534
-0.39¢

DOLLAR/
POUND

\$2,314.1
-\$10.77

GOLD
Per troy ounce,
London pm fix

\$83.46
-\$0.07

OIL
Brent crude,
per barrel

LEISURE

Disney streaming narrows losses

Walt Disney streaming, of shows such as *Renegade Nell* (pictured), narrowed its division's losses, but its traditional TV business declined and its film box office performance was also weaker. Streaming unit Disney+ lost \$18m (£14.3m) in the first quarter, down from a \$659m loss in the same period last year.

AVIATION

Ryanair fares rise less than thought

Ticket fare prices this summer are likely to be lower than previously expected, Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary said, despite warnings that rising costs would get passed on to customers. "We thought pricing would be up 5-10 per cent. We're heading to flat [pricing year-on-year] to 5 per cent up, which is surprising," he said.

FUEL

Diesel retailers 'overcharging'

Petrol and diesel prices have risen by 10p a litre this year so far, according to the RAC, adding £5.50 to the cost of filling up a family car. Drivers are being "seriously overcharged for diesel" with retailers making "massive margins" the monitoring organisation said. It called for action by the UK's competition authority.

FINANCE

Accounting firms fined over audits

Accounting firms PwC and Ernst & Young have been fined £4.9m and £4.4m by the sector's watchdog over their poor audits of failed minibonds firm London Capital and Finance. The firm collapsed in 2019 owing around £237m to nearly 12,000 people. Two individuals were also fined.

ENERGY

University signs solar power deal

Manchester University signed a new deal that will see up to 65 per cent of its electricity demand supplied through a new solar park. The university has partnered with UK energy company Enviromena to buy electricity generated from its new 175-acre solar farm based in Medebridge, Essex.

AUTOMOTIVE

Ferrari boosted by bespoke demands

Luxury car firm Ferrari's profits rose by nearly a fifth in the first quarter, driven by demand for bespoke personalisations. Pre-tax profits rose 15 per cent to €442m (£351.9m), alongside a 15 per cent rise in revenues to €1.5bn. Shipments fell to 3,560, dragged by a 20 per cent drop in the China, Hong Kong and Taiwan region.

ECONOMY

Environmental tax take up £2.4bn

Environmental taxes raised £52.5bn in the UK in 2023, up 4.9 per cent from £50.1bn in 2022. Revenue from energy accounted for 75 per cent of all UK environmental tax revenue in 2023, followed by transport (22.5 per cent) and pollution and resource (2.4 per cent) taxes. Fuel duty accounted for 63.2 per cent of UK energy taxes in 2023.

RETAIL

Amazon centre to create 2,000 jobs

Amazon is to build a new multimillion-pound centre, creating more than 2,000 jobs. The so-called "fulfilment centre" in Northampton will start taking orders in 2026. It will create 1,400 new jobs at its launch, expected to rise to more than 2,000 within three years.

the markets

The FTSE 100 rose by 100.18 pts, or 1.22 per cent, to close yesterday at a new intra-day record of 8,313.67. The biggest risers were DCC, up 250p to 5,745p, and SSE,

up 71p to 1,780.5p. The biggest fallers were easyJet, down 31.4p to 510.2p and Burberry Group, down 29p to 1,151p. In Germany, the DAX rose by 1.40 per cent, while the CAC 40 was up by 0.99 per cent in France. Brent crude oil was down narrowly at \$83.46 a barrel.

The pound lost ground against both the dollar and the euro, falling 0.39 cents to \$1.2534 and by 0.30 cents to €1.1635 at London's close.

PROPERTY

Buyers target smaller homes as UK house prices remain stable

By David Connatt

Homebuyers are increasingly targeting smaller properties, particularly flats, in order to get on the property ladder while coping with higher borrowing costs, Halifax has said.

As expensive mortgage lending continues to constrict the market, Halifax said UK house prices inched up 0.1 per cent in April. The rise follows a 0.9 per cent drop in March.

Annual property price growth in April was 1.1 per cent – compared with 0.4 per cent in the year to March.

Amanda Bryden, head of mortgages at Halifax, said: “While a degree of volatility is to be expected given current market conditions, the reality is average house prices have largely plateaued in the early part of 2024.”

“While borrowing costs remain

more expensive than a few years ago, buyers are gaining confidence from a period of relative stability.

“Activity and demand is improving, evidenced by greater numbers of mortgage applications so far this year, while mortgage approvals have reached their highest point in 18 months.

“Buyers are adjusting their expectations, with first-time buyers in particular compensating for higher borrowing costs by targeting smaller properties.

“We see this reflected in property prices for the first few months of this year, with the value of flats rising most sharply, closing the ‘growth gap’ on bigger properties.

“We can’t overlook the fact that affordability constraints are still a significant challenge, for both new buyers and those rolling off fixed-term deals.

“Mortgage rates have edged up in recent weeks, primarily as a result of expectations around Bank of England base rate changes, with markets pricing in a slower pace of cuts.”



Construction builds momentum

Construction work on UK sites grew at its fastest for more than a year last month, though house building remained subdued.

Commercial and civil engineering work, including

office building and infrastructure projects drove growth last month, with new work increasing for the third month running. Firms said there was greater demand due to more confidence in the economy.

ENERGY

BP to cut \$2bn in business costs by 2026

By David Connatt

BP aims to cut \$2bn (£1.6bn) in business costs by the end of 2026 after reporting a slump in its profits.

The oil company revealed that its first quarter underlying profits fell to \$2.7bn, down from \$5bn in the same period last year.

It blamed falling oil and gas prices and an unplanned stoppage caused by a power cut at its Indiana refinery, BP's biggest, for the below-expectation results.

Despite the fall, BP insisted it would maintain its share buy-back plan to return \$1.75bn to shareholders.

BP unveiled further cost-cutting, saying it would look to digital and supply chain improvements in order to find \$2bn in savings.

The BP chief executive, Murray Auchincloss, has promised a more “pragmatic” approach to BP's green targets.

BP said its oil and gas production was up 2.1 per cent from a year earlier at 2.38 million barrels of oil equivalent per day on the back of new oilfield start-ups in Azerbaijan and the US.

i A typical UK home cost £288,949 in April, compared with £288,781 in March, Halifax said.

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Enjoy the warmth of the Canary Islands and Madeira as *Balmoral* sails around volcanic islands on this winter voyage. Madeira's lush green landscapes offer botanical and tropical gardens; sun-kissed Gran Canaria offers the desert-like sand dunes of Maspalomas as a mesmerising contrast against the azure sea; while the lava fields and volcanic cones of Lanzarote at Timanfaya National Park and Tenerife's Mount Teide offer surreal views, stretching as far as the eye can see.

13 NIGHTS DEPARTING 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

FEBRUARY 2025

- Sun 2 **Embark *Balmoral* and depart Southampton**
- Thu 6 - **Funchal, Madeira** (overnight)
Fri 7 Famous for its outstanding natural beauty, the Atlantic island of Madeira is known as the 'floating garden', with its array of subtropical flowers and plants. Funchal is an inviting city with a bustling marina, a cobbled centre and a museum dedicated to Cristiano Ronaldo
- Sat 8 **Santa Cruz, Tenerife** (depart late night)
Largest of the Canary Islands, Tenerife is built around Mount Teide, the highest volcano in Spain. Santa Cruz is home to the eye-catching 16th century Iglesia de la Concepción and the baroque Palacio de Carta. The island has a resident population of pilot whales and several migratory species, making Tenerife is also one of the best places to whale watch in Europe
- Sun 9 **Las Palmas, Gran Canaria**
- Mon 10 **Arrecife, Lanzarote**
Nowhere in Lanzarote will you more vividly experience its volcanic nature than at the Timanfaya National Park. Home to the Montañas del Fuego, the park has a unique Martian-style landscape due to devastating volcanic eruptions in the 1730s
- Thu 13 **La Coruña, Spain** (depart late night)
The vibrant 9th century port town of La Coruña is rich in Galician culture, history, gastronomy and natural beauty
- Sat 15 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea



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Today's Weather

Dry with spells of sunshine and feeling warm in the south. Cloud will thicken in the north and it will turn breezier with rain later.

Today's high	Today's low	Moon Phase	Sunrise	Sunset
20°	6°		05:19	20:36

Around Britain

City	Temp (Midday yesterday)	Rain (mm)	Sun (hrs)
Aberdeen	12	C	0.2
Aberporth	12	C	0.0
Aberystwyth	16	F	0.0
Aviemore	11	C	0.2
Belfast	13	C	0.0
Birmingham	16	F	0.0
Bournemouth	17	F	0.4
Bridlington	12	C	0.0
Bristol	17	F	1.2
Cardiff	13	S	0.2
Cromer	12	C	0.0
Durham	13	C	0.0
Eastbourne	16	F	1.4
Edinburgh	13	C	0.1
Eskdalemuir	13	C	0.4
Glasgow	13	SH	0.8
Holyhead	15	C	0.0
Hove	16	F	1.4
Hull	14	F	0.0
Huntingdon	15	C	0.0
Ipswich	17	F	0.9
Isle of Man	15	F	0.0
Isle of Wight	15	S	0.0
Kinlochewe	13	C	0.0
Kirkwall	11	C	0.4
Leeds	14	C	2.8
Lerwick	10	C	0.4
Leuchars	11	C	0.4
Lincoln	15	C	0.0
Liverpool	16	F	0.0
London	18	F	1.3
Manchester	16	C	0.0
Margate	14	S	0.4
Milford Haven	14	C	0.0
Morecambe	16	F	2.4
Newcastle	12	C	0.3
Norwich	16	C	0.2
Nottingham	15	C	0.0
Okehampton	16	F	0.3
Oxford	18	F	0.3
Plymouth	16	R	0.0
Portland	13	S	0.2
Portsmouth	17	S	0.0
Prestwick	14	C	0.0
Rhyl	16	F	0.0
Sheffield	14	C	5.2
Shrewsbury	17	C	0.1
Skegness	14	F	0.0
Southend	14	S	0.0
Stoke	15	C	1.2
Stornoway	11	C	0.0
Swansea	15	S	0.0
Tiree	12	F	0.0

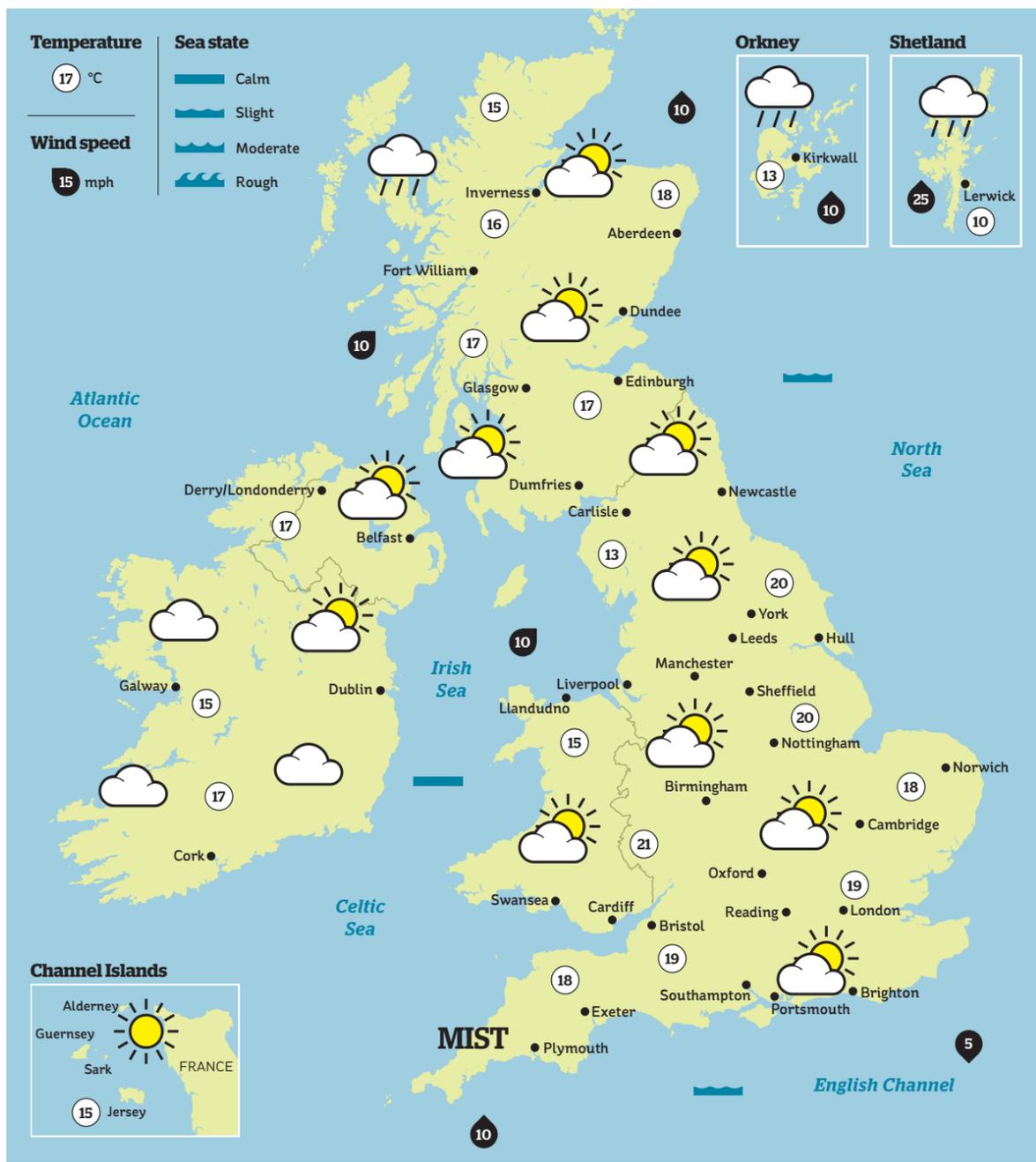
Global

City	Temp (in °C)	Cond	City	Temp (in °C)	Cond
Abu Dhabi	40	S	Miami	28	F
Abuja	30	F	Milan	16	TH
Alicante	20	S	Moscow	3	R
Amsterdam	17	F	Mumbai	33	S
Athens	25	S	Munich	14	C
Bangkok	25	TH	New York	18	C
Barcelona	18	S	Nice	18	F
Beijing	26	S	Palma	22	F
Berlin	12	C	Paris	18	F
Brussels	17	SH	Prague	12	R
Budapest	20	F	Reykjavik	3	SH
Chicago	20	S	Rio	30	S
Delhi	40	S	Rome	19	F
Dubai	39	S	Stockholm	10	S
Dublin	16	C	Strasbourg	18	SH
Frankfurt	16	C	Sydney	17	SH
Geneva	12	R	Tenerife	24	S
Helsinki	6	C	Tokyo	20	SH
Hong Kong	27	S	Toronto	18	F
Istanbul	18	S	Vancouver	14	SH
Johannesburg	23	S	Vienna	16	C
Lisbon	23	S	Warsaw	13	F
Los Angeles	18	S	Washington	23	C
Madrid	19	S	Wellington	13	F

Key: C=Cloudy, DR=Drizzle, F=Fair, FG=Fog, H=Hail, M=Mist, R=Rain, S=Sunny, SH=Showers, SL=Sleet, SN=Snow, SS=Sandstorm, TH=Thunderstorm

Air Pollution Index

Region	Today	Tomorrow
Highlands	3	3
North East Scotland	3	3
Central Scotland	3	3
Scottish Borders	3	3
Northern Ireland	3	3
North West & Mersey	4	4
North East	4	3
Yorkshire & Humber	4	4
North Wales	4	4
West Midlands	4	5
East Midlands	4	4
South Wales	4	5
South West	4	4
South East	4	4
Eastern	4	4
Greater London	3	4



GENERAL SITUATION An area of high pressure will be centred over the UK bringing calm and settled conditions with light to gentle winds. Most places will be dry with spells of sunshine and it will feel locally warm across southern areas. There will be more cloud cover further north and outbreaks of rain will edge into western and northern Scotland and Northern Ireland where it will also turn breezier. The odd shower is possible further south.

NW Scotland, W Isles, N Ireland: A dry start to the day with early bright spells, however cloud cover will soon thicken from the west during the morning. Grey and overcast during the afternoon with thick cloud cover and outbreaks of rain and drizzle will edge in from the west. There will be moderate to brisk southerly winds. Max temp: 17°C. Tonight, patchy rain. Min temp: 6°C.

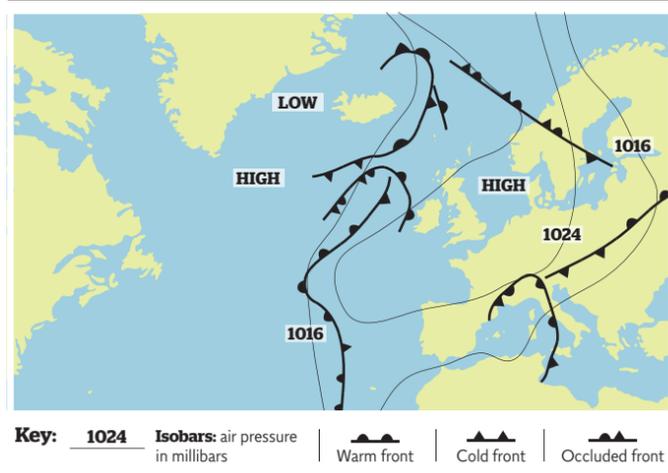
SW England, N Wales, S Wales, Midlands, NE England, NW England: A dry and bright start to the day with early spells of sunshine. It will continue to be bright during the day with periods of sunshine, however variable amounts of cloud cover will build and there is a threat of a few light showers developing. There will be light to gentle southerly winds. Max temp: 20°C. Tonight, clear intervals. Min temp: 7°C.

N Isles: A dry but dull start to the day with cloudy skies. It will continue to be grey during the day with overcast skies and outbreaks of patchy rain will spread in from the west. Staying cloudy and wet into the evening with heavy rain. There will be moderate southerly winds which will be locally brisk. Max temp: 15°C. Tonight, patchy rain. Min temp: 6°C.

NE Scotland, SE Scotland, SW Scotland, Republic of Ireland, IoM: A dry start to the day with early bright spells, however cloud cover will soon thicken from the north during the morning and sunny spells will become increasingly few and far between. It should stay dry for most but a few showers are possible. There will be gentle to moderate southerly winds. Max temp: 17°C. Tonight, patchy rain. Min temp: 7°C.

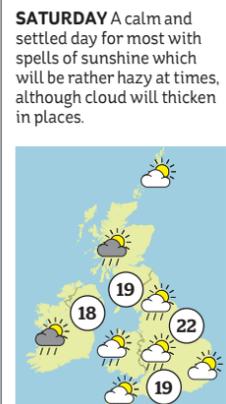
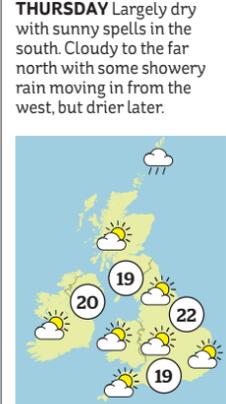
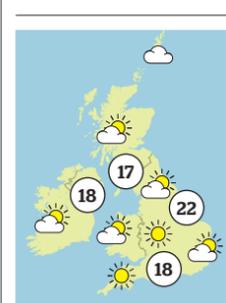
SE England, E Anglia, London, E England, Cen S England, Channel Is: A fine day of weather as it will be dry and bright with lengthy periods of spring sunshine and variable amounts of patchy fair-weather cloud cover around. Staying dry and sunny into the afternoon and evening and it will feel locally warm across most areas. There will be light to gentle southerly and south-easterly winds. Max temp: 20°C. Tonight, clear spells. Min temp: 7°C.

SYNOPTIC PRESSURE A large area of high pressure will extend across the United Kingdom today and will influence the weather bringing calm and settled conditions. The central pressure will remain at constant pressure and in the same location. Low pressure to the west, out in the Atlantic will track eastwards and decline during the day.



City	Highs and Lows (Yesterday, up to 2pm)	Hours of Darkness
Aberdeen	21.10-05.00	21.10-05.00
Birmingham	20.46-05.20	20.46-05.20
Bristol	20.45-05.27	20.45-05.27
Cardiff	20.47-05.29	20.47-05.29
Glasgow	21.10-05.15	21.10-05.15
Hull	20.45-05.09	20.45-05.09
Inverness	21.19-05.04	21.19-05.04
Liverpool	20.54-05.21	20.54-05.21
London	20.36-05.17	20.36-05.17
Manchester	20.52-05.18	20.52-05.18
Stornoway	21.32-05.11	21.32-05.11
Swansea	20.51-05.32	20.51-05.32
York	20.49-05.11	20.49-05.11

Five-day outlook



SNOKER

Wilson has the eye of the tiger and targets multiple world titles

By Mark Staniforth

Kyren Wilson likened himself to Rocky Balboa and is determined to build a legacy after landing his first World Snooker Championship title with an 18-14 victory over qualifier Jak Jones at the Crucible on Monday. His win was a long time coming for 32-year-old Wilson, twice previously a runner-up in Sheffield and at the Masters, but who had struggled to make the big-time breakthrough that many believed his prodigious talent was due.

As is often the way with snooker, Wilson's big moment came at the end of his worst season in a decade, beset by illness and injury within his family, all of whom were present to witness his display of emotion as he polished off the final frame.

"I've already said that I'd be disappointed if I only landed one," said Wilson. "I believe I can become a multiple world champion. I can build a legacy in this sport."

"There's no better one to land as your first than the World Championship. I've had misses but now I'll always be remembered as a world champion and hopefully it can lead to bigger and better things."

Wilson's route to the top of the sport has been far from serene. He spent two years consigned to the amateur ranks after an unsuccessful first season on the tour, and considered it his last chance when he got another crack among the professionals in 2013. His major breakthrough came when he fought through three qualifying rounds to reach and win the Shanghai Masters, becoming the lowest player in a decade to win a ranking tournament, but despite ascending to the world's top 16, the expected haul of titles have been slow in coming.

"It's like a Rocky Balboa story," continued Wilson. "I've had to dig in and go back to the grotty gym and find myself again. For two years I couldn't get through Q School and



Kyren Wilson displays his emotion after beating Jak Jones to land his first World Championship title at the Crucible on Monday night PA

It's like a Rocky Balboa story. I've had to dig in and go back to the grotty gym and then try to find myself once again

[wife] Sophie looked at me and said, 'if you don't do it this year, we'll have to look at alternatives'.

"There have been plenty of holes in walls, plenty of doors that have been battered. There are lots of things that have been broken in frustration. I've sacrificed my life and it's all been worthwhile now."

Wilson succeeds Luca Brecel, the Belgian who spent his reign as world champion revelling in his status and paying scant attention to off-table matters, and who admitted after his first-round defeat to David

Gilbert this year that he could not wait for it for end.

But Wilson dismissed suggestions the title of world champion could prove to be a burden and said he was looking forward to the prospect of every moment on the tour next year. Wilson added: "I'll relish every single opportunity. I'm at a different stage of my life to Luca, I've been there and bought all the flash cars. I've imagined being introduced as world champion at numerous events next season and I can't wait for that."

2
Kyren Wilson was twice a runner up at the World Championships before landing the title

Sport in brief

RUGBY UNION

First female referee for the Springboks



Hollie Davidson is set to become the first woman to referee a Test match involving South Africa when they face Portugal this summer. The two sides meet for the first time when the world champions host Portugal in Bloemfontein on 20 July.

Davidson (above) made history in February by becoming the first female member of an officiating team for a men's Six Nations match when England beat Wales at Twickenham. The Scottish official has previously taken charge of Portugal and Italy's contest in 2022.

CRICKET

Surrey sign Aussie quick Johnson

Surrey have announced the signing of Australia fast bowler Spencer Johnson for the first eight matches of this year's T20 Blast.

With Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Reece Topley and Chris Jordan on England duty at next month's T20 World Cup, Surrey have reinforced their Blast squad with the signing of left-arm Johnson (right).

The 28-year-old, currently with Gujarat Titans in IPL and overlooked by Australia for the T20 World Cup, has already made waves in south London after scoring 3 for 1 in 20 balls on debut in the Hundred for Oval Invincibles last August.



FORMULA ONE

Record TV audience watched Miami GP

The Miami Grand Prix drew Formula One's biggest live US TV audience with an average 3.1 million viewers watching the race on ABC and a peak of 3.6 million, according to broadcaster ESPN.

The previous F1 record for a US TV audience was 2.6 million, for the inaugural Miami GP in 2022. Miami now boasts F1's top three live US TV audiences, with the 2023 race drawing 2.1 million.

The Saturday sprint race drew an average of 946,000 viewers, the largest US audience for the format since sprints were introduced in 2021.

CHESTER GOOD

1.30 CAA STELLAR HANDICAP (CLASS 3) 3YO £30,000 added 6f ITV4

- 1 141-15 BILLY WEBSTER G Scott 9 10 C Shepherd C 9
- 2 2716-0 EXPONISTA (D) D Loughnane 9 8 Rossa Ryan 5
- 3 3214-6 AL SHABAB STORM (D)(BF) A Balding 9 5 O Murphy 10
- 4 111-92 BEYOND BORDERS (D) K R Burke 9 4 C Lee 1
- 5 11- GARFIELD SHADOW R Fahey 9 4 D Nolan 13
- 6 4126-2 TSUNAMI SPIRIT (D) K P De Foy 9 3 B Sayette 6
- 7 6-125 CARGIN BHUI (BF) D & N Barron 9 0 C Rodriguez 11
- 8 4234-4 CALL GLORY M Appleby 8 12 A Rawlinson C 3
- 9 5-314 SIOBHANBROGAN (D)(BF) H Palmer 8 10 J Hart 14
- 10 412 AURIC (D)(BF) H Palmer 8 9 David Egan 8
- 11 9221-3 WINGED MESSENGER J Camacho 8 6 H Doyle 7
- 12 745-1 STASH THE CASH T Easterby 8 5 D Fantiman 4
- 13 43122 OLD CHUMS (D) T Dascombe 8 5 P-L Jamin C 2
- 14 41763 MACANUDO I Williams 8 5 F Norton 12

BETTING: 11-2 Auric, 13-2 Stash The Cash, Old Chums, 7-1 Winged Messenger, 8-1 Al Shabab Storm, Beyond Borders, 10-1 Garfield Shadow, Tsunami Spirit, 12-1 others.

2.05 CAA STELLAR LILY AGNES EBF CONDITIONS STAKES (RACE) (CLASS 2) 2YO £50,000 added 5f ITV4

- 1 ARABIAN COBRA H Palmer 9 4 O Murphy 7
- 2 0 ETTORINO Craig Lidster 9 4 F Norton 11
- 3 HERECOMESTHEBEAR H Palmer 9 4 J Hart 8
- 4 2 SIR GEOFF MORGAN T Dascombe 9 4 A Rawlinson 2
- 5 1 DAISY INTHE BREEZE (D) D F Davis 8 13 H Crouch 3
- 6 14 FLICKA'S GIRL (D)(BF) D Loughnane 8 13 Rossa Ryan 4
- 7 1 KODIBEAT (D) P & O Cole 8 13 D Tudhope 5
- 8 1 LADY LIGHTNING (D) E Dunlop 8 13 H Doyle 1
- 9 2 NIGHT IN PARIS G Boughey 8 13 J P Spencer 9
- 10 65 PADDY'S COURAGE Darryll Holland 8 13 Doubtful 10
- 11 4 SERAPHIM ANGEL T Dascombe 8 13 P-L Jamin 6

BETTING: 4-1 Night In Paris, 9-2 Kodibeat, 11-2 Sir Geoff Morgan, 6-1 Lady Lightning, Seraphim Angel, 13-2 Daisy Inthe Breeze, 8-1 Arabian Cobra, 10-1 Flicka's Girl, 20-1 others.

2.35 TOTE.CO.UK SADDLE-UP FOR MORE THAN RACING HANDICAP (CLASS 3) 3YO £30,000 added 5f ITV4

- 1 33431- BLUE STORM (D) G Tutty 9 9 R Scott 3
- 2 6-1121 ZIGGY'S MISSILE (D) R Cowell 9 9 T Marquand 12
- 3 7-16 INDICATE (D) K R Burke 9 8 C Lee H 11
- 4 2419-5 MIDNIGHT LIR (D) M Dods 9 7 C Beasley 10
- 5 -2124 MOONSTONE BOY (D) I Jardine 9 5 A Mullen B 4
- 6 11247- DUE FOR LUCK (D) J & S Quinn 9 4 J Hart 2
- 7 45-311 VINCE L'AMOUR (D) T Easterby 9 1 D Allan T 7
- 8 241- RAINYNTINGEORGIA (D) Alice Haynes 8 13 J P Spencer 8
- 9 18 DANDY DEVIL (D) R Fahey 8 11 B Garrity 5
- 10 51-3 ENCHANTING (D) A Balding 8 10 Doubtful 9
- 11 262-21 KINGS MERCHANT (D) E Bethell 8 10 O Murphy 1
- 12 2831-2 KNICKS (BF) M & D Easterby 8 8 Joanna Mason 6

BETTING: 9-2 Kings Merchant, 5-1 Vince L'Amour, 7-1 Rainynteingeorgia, Due For Luck, Knicks, 15-2 Blue Storm, Moonstone Boy, 10-1 Ziggy's Missile, Dandy Devil, 20-1 others.

3.05 WEATHERBYS EPASSORT CHESHIRE OAKS (FILLIES' LISTED) (CLASS 1) 3YO £120,000 1m 3f ITV4

- 1 2118-8 AMBIENTE AMIGO James Owen 9 2 C Shepherd 7
- 2 2-2 BEELEY (BF) J & T Gosden 9 2 K Shoemark 8
- 3 27-211 FLYING FINN A Keatley 9 2 T Marquand 5
- 4 1 FOREST FAIRY R Beckett 9 2 Rossa Ryan 1
- 5 2-1 GALILEO DAME J P O'Brien (IRE) 9 2 D McMonagle 6
- 6 3-3 LASTING LOVE A Balding 9 2 O Murphy 4
- 7 7-1 PORT FAIRY (D) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 2 R L Moore 9
- 8 3-2 RUBIES ARE RED (BF) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 2 W Buick 3
- 9 417- SEAWARD R Beckett 9 2 H Crouch 2

BETTING: 6-5 Galileo Dame, 11-4 Forest Fairy, 7-2 Port Fairy, 8-1 Rubies Are Red, Beeley, 12-1 Lasting Love, 20-1 Seaward, 25-1 Flying Finn, 33-1 Ambiente Amigo.

3.40 BOODLES CHESTER VASE STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS 1) 3YO £140,000 added 1m 4f ITV4

- 1 3-1 AGENDA A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 2 D McMonagle 3
- 2 1 CADOGAN PLACE A Balding 9 2 O Murphy T 5
- 3 11-7 GOLDEN WEST K R Burke 9 2 C Lee C 6
- 4 131- GROSVENOR SQUARE A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 2 R L Moore 1
- 5 21 HIDDEN LAW C Appleby 9 2 W Buick 2
- 6 3-1 PAPPANO (D) J & T Gosden 9 2 K Shoemark 4

BETTING: 6-5 Grosvenor Square, 3-1 Hidden Law, 4-1 Cadogan Place, 10-1 Agenda, Pappano, 25-1 Golden West.

4.10 ESL EXPORT MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE) (CLASS 3) 3YO £25,000 added 1m 2f

- 1 022-22 CASTLE IN THE SAND A Balding 9 7 O Murphy 3
- 2 CHORTAL J & T Gosden 9 7 K Shoemark 1
- 3 0-5 EBEN ZAABEL C Hills 9 2 J Crowley 4
- 4 FAR L'AMORE B Meehan 9 7 S M Levey 2
- 5 72-2 GALLANTLY (BF) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 7 R L Moore 5
- 6 52 LIAM SWAGGER James Owen 9 7 C Shepherd 7
- 7 6 PRINCE IAGO H Palmer 9 7 J Hart 6
- 8 4- SANKS TO FLICKA (D) Loughnane 9 7 Rossa Ryan 8

BETTING: 6-4 Gallantly, 4-1 Chortal, 9-2 Liam Swagger, Castle In The Sand, 8-1 Far L'Amore, 14-1 Eben Zaabel, 50-1 Others.

CNG SWITCH HANDICAP (CLASS 3) £25,000 added 7f

- 1 942-05 WAY TO DUBAI C Fellowes 5 9 9 K Shoemark 3
- 2 1323-9 DIVINE LIBRA (C)(D)(BF) C Hills 4 9 8 W Buick 12
- 3 6740-5 PRINCESS SHABNAM S Woods 5 9 8 T Marquand H 7
- 4 341030 HIERONYMUS (D) G Baker 8 9 6 C Shepherd C 11
- 5 20636- METABOLT (D) D Loughnane 5 9 4 Rossa Ryan 9
- 6 724221 SANDY PARADISE (D) R Hughes 5 9 4 F Marsh B 8
- 7 730-03 ON A SESSION (D) D & N Barron 8 9 3 C Rodriguez 1
- 8 522-71 LEGAL REFORM (D) Alice Haynes 7 9 3 K O'Neill 6
- 9 0801-0 DIRTYOLDTOWN (D) D Cunha 5 9 2 R Clutterbuck 14
- 10 2643-4 G'DAAY (D) J Parr 6 9 1 S M Levey V 4
- 11 166-0 OSO RAPIDO (D) R Fell & S Murray 7 9 0 H Doyle 5
- 12 2-7455 REMARKABLE FORCE J & S Quinn 4 9 0 J Hart B 2
- 13 212-20 HE'S A GENTLEMAN (D) H Palmer 5 8 13 Brandon Wilkie (S) V 10
- 14 -38567 EVOCATIVE SPARK (CD) Darryll Holland 5 8 10 F Norton 13

BETTING: 9-2 Divine Libra, 11-2 On A Session, 13-2 Sandy Paradise, 8-1 G'daay, 10-1 Princess Shabnam, Metabolt, Way To Dubai, Legal Reform, 12-1 others.

KELSO GOOD

3.45 HERRING QUEEN SERIES FINAL MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (GBB RACE) (CLASS 2) £50,000 added 2m

- 1 F1180- BRUCIO (D) S Crawford (IRE) 6 12 0 B Bromley (S) T
- 2 3P21- LILY DU BERLAIS (D) S Crawford (IRE) 8 11 6 J J Stevin H T
- 3 44611- POLITACUS (D) F O'Brien 6 11 0 L Harrison C T
- 4 73512- MIGHTY MOTH (D) Noel Williams 6 10 12 R T Dunne
- 5 3431P- MICKS JET P Kirby 6 10 11 J Williamson (S)
- 6 2PF21- STRONG BELLE N Twiston-Davies 6 10 9 S Twiston-Davies
- 7 04B22- SHAKYTAILFEATHER D Skelton 5 10 9 H Skelton
- 8 76324- LINDA MOON (BF) N King 5 10 9 J Quinlan T
- 9 62224- SPIT SPOT L Russell 5 10 6 Craig Nichol T
- 10 33867- MARY I Williams 5 10 5 B Hughes
- 11 75442- BRENDA ASKING (BF) J Bailey 6 10 3 Ciaran Gethings
- 12 34322- DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS N Twiston-Davies 4 10 2 J Turner (7)

BETTING: 9-2 Lily Du Berlais, 5-1 Shakytailfeather, 6-1 Strong Belle, Politacus, 8-1 Mighty Moth, Dameofthecotswolds, 12-1 Brenda Asking, Brucio, 14-1 others.

RACING

The all-weather forecast is good for Chester trials

By Jon Freeman
RACING EDITOR

Prepping classic contenders on the all-weather is quite the thing these days. Outsiders Notable Speech and Elmalka, the respective winners of the 2000 and 1000 Guineas at the weekend, cut their teeth on synthetic surfaces at Kempton and Southwell. And they were not the first to go that route.

Now we are into the final round of Derby and Oaks auditions with long-established Epsom trials featuring on the opening day of Chester's popular fixture. And unlike in days gone by, most of the main protagonists in both the Cheshire Oaks and Chester

Vase have already made an impression on the sand this spring.

An exception is Grosvenor Square, favourite to become an 11th Vase winner for Aidan O'Brien. He has his first outing since winning a heavy-ground Group Three at Leopardstown last autumn and the best is probably yet to come.

But all five of his opponents today have been getting match-fit on the all-weather, including his stable companion Agenda, who looked pretty smart himself when winning a Dundalk maiden. Ryan Moore has understandably chosen to partner Grosvenor Square, but he doesn't always pick right.

Then there's Cadogan Place and



William Buick on Notable Speech after winning the 2000 Guineas

Hidden Law. There was just a short head between them on their debuts at Southwell and that form was boosted when the latter then bolted up on the Newbury turf.

It's a similar scenario in the Cheshire Oaks, though this time Aidan's son Joseph trains the favourite, Grand Dame, who beat his dad's reopposing Rubies Are Red emphati-

cally in a Leopardstown maiden last month.

O'Brien Snr also runs Port Fairy and she's Moore's choice after scrambling home on Dundalk's Polytrack.

Then there's Forest Fairy. Her trainer Ralph Beckett has a way with the fillies, having won the Epsom Oaks twice with Look Here (2008) and Talent (2013) and the St Leger with Simple Verse, who beat the colts in 2015.

Forest Fairy, a stoutly-bred daughter of the Arc winner Waldgeist, is his latest exciting female classic prospect. She was distinctly green when making her debut on Wolverhampton's Tapeta track in February, but that didn't stop her sprinting six lengths clear of the field. That earned her a 20-1 quote for the Oaks at the end of this month and she'll be a deal shorter than that if she can send today's Irish visitors packing.

It is, though, a bit early to be talking about a Chester-Epsom double. The last filly to pull that off was Enable (2017), who, by the way, was thwarted in her bid for a record third Arc victory two years later by Waldgeist.



top tips

BEST BET

Seraphim Angel
(2.05, Chester)

Showed the sort of dash needed for this test on her Newmarket debut.

NEXT BEST

Pay The Piper
(4.20, Kelso)

Slipped down the weights to a winnable mark. Distinct signs of a revival last time

ONE TO WATCH

Newmarket handicap winner **Volterra** has the makings of a high-class miler.

Puzzle solutions

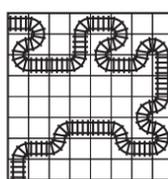
Dominoes

6	3	2	4	4	3	6	0
0	3	1	6	2	0	1	0
6	1	2	0	2	4	1	2
5	5	4	3	5	6	6	1
2	4	0	5	2	2	5	3
0	3	4	4	4	5	6	5
1	3	6	0	1	1	3	5

Journey Finder

1	4	1	2	3	4
3	2	2	4	1	2
2	3	3	1	4	3
1	4	4	3	1	2
3	4	2	1	4	3
1	2	3	2	1	4

Train Tracks



Number Square

4	-	9	+	5	-1
x	x	x	+		
7	+	8	x	3	45
-	-	-	x		
6	-	1	x	2	10
22		71		16	

idoku

2	5	3	4	9	7	1	6	8
4	8	1	2	3	6	7	5	9
9	7	6	1	5	8	3	2	4
3	1	4	7	2	9	6	8	5
7	2	5	6	8	1	4	9	3
8	6	9	5	4	3	2	7	1
1	9	8	3	6	2	5	4	7
6	4	7	9	1	5	8	3	2
5	3	2	8	7	4	9	1	6

Kakuro

6	12	3		23	10				
9	3	5	1		1	3	15		
7	1	4	2	26	16	4	1	7	
3	2	1	17	30	9	7	5	1	8
2	1	17	7	11	9	2			
5	13	8	7	11	24	16			
15	2	3	5	4	1	17	8	9	
4	3	1	9	26	2	8	9	7	
15	7	8	21	5	9	7			
3	2	1	5	3	2				

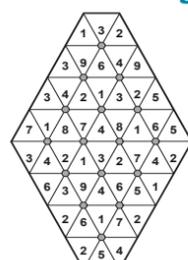
Wijuko

3	8	7
2	4	1
6	5	9

Binary

0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Number Hexagon



Zygolex

LEFT TO RIGHT:
squirt; knock; dart;
skill; dirt; knack; muck;
suck; sack; musk; bag;
husk; bat; scent; lag

Daily Quiz

- Cauliflower
- Tikal National Park, Guatemala
- Umbro
- Afghanistan

Word Ladder

NEWT	JUST
NEWS	LUST
NETS	LAST
BETS	LASS
BITS	LADS
BIAS	LADY

Yesterday's Codeword 3876

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	A	G	Y	V	L	H	T	U	J	D	Z	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	P	Q	X	C	M	W	B	I	N	K	S	F

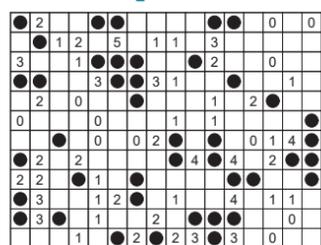
Word Wheel

NINE-LETTER WORD gleefully
OTHER WORDS eel, elegy, elf, ell, feel, fell, flee, flue, fly, fuel, full, fully, gel, glee, gleeful, glue, gluey, gulf, gull, gullely, gully, lee, leg, lug, luge, lull, lye, ugly, yell

Killer Sudoku

2	1	4	3	7	6	5	9	8
7	9	8	4	1	5	6	2	3
6	5	3	8	2	9	4	7	1
5	4	7	2	3	8	9	1	6
1	8	6	5	9	7	3	4	2
3	2	9	6	4	1	7	8	5
4	7	2	1	6	3	8	5	9
8	6	1	9	5	4	2	3	7
9	3	5	7	8	2	1	6	4

Minesweeper



Number Tower

531
275 256
139 136 120
69 70 66 54
38 31 39 27 27
26 12 19 20 7 20
18 8 4 15 5 2 18

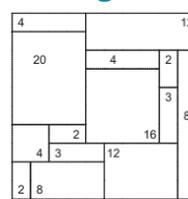
Calcuudoku

4	1	3	2	6	5
5	2	4	3	1	6
3	5	1	6	4	2
6	4	5	1	2	3
2	3	6	4	5	1
1	6	2	5	3	4

Word Square

B	E	T	A
E	P	I	C
T	I	E	R
A	C	R	E

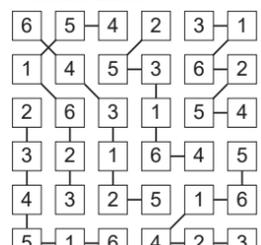
Rectangles



Pathfinder

S	D	T	N	E	I	L	I	S	E
P	R	P	L	A	A	N	I	C	R
O	S	I	Y	E	G	O	W	O	
E	D	I	M	U	S	H	U	R	R
U	E	R	P	U	B	E	B	A	T
Q	S	A	G	N	E	R	F	O	N
I	S	L	P	I	N	S	D	R	E
S	E	O	D	E	O	H	E	K	L
Y	S	W	A	C	H	G	E	L	O
H	P	H	E	E	N	H	W	Y	P

Chain Link



Futoshiki

2	5	1	4	>	3	
v	v		v			
1	3	<	5	2	4	
5	4	2	<	3	1	
4	2	<	3	1	5	
v						
3	1	<	4	<	5	2

Hexalex



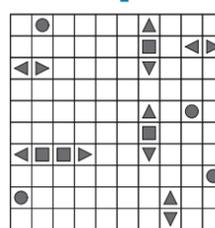
Word Fit

I	N	C	H	E	S	S	Y	M	B	O	L		
P	O		H			C							
T	E	R	N			O	H						
S	C					P	E						
T	H						D	E	L	U	D	E	
	A						U	L		R	I	O	B
	A						L	E					
	E	N	D	O	R	S	E						
	C						U						
	A						S	L	A	M	E	S	N
	V	A	I	N			O						
	E						I	E	X	I	S	T	S
							L						

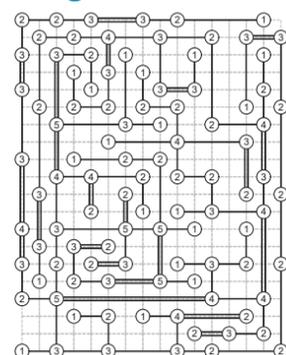
Knight's Tour

76	29	74	9	32	7	38	23	34	5
73	10	77	30	85	24	33	6	37	22
28	75	72	83	8	31	42	39	4	35
11	78	27	86	69	84	25	36	21	40
80	67	82	71	26	43	50	41	52	3
95	12	79	68	87	70	1	44	49	20
66	81	96	91	100	45	98	51	2	53
13	94	63	88	97	90	59	56	19	48
62	65	92	15	60	99	46	17	54	57
93	14	61	64	89	16	55	58	47	18

Battleships



Bridges



Word Search

A	F	A	X	M	W	T	T	M	J	M	R				
B	L	K	O	D	E	Z	N	X	Z	H	N	U	L		
X	E	C	Z	M	D	E	L	T	L	C	U	E	W	F	A
Q	U	A	B	M	I	O	E	Z	T	U	S	C	R		
S	U	L	R	O	A	A	G	N	T	B		L	A	C	T
R	E	M	A	N	D	E	R	X	G						
I	N	R	C	L	N	I	D	R	I	I	N	C	N	A	L
L	G	C	K	E	N	E	A	Z	Z	D	O	E	L		
A	M	R	E	A	X	C	L	I	C	O	R	G	I		
M	B	Y	T	L	B	A	B	O	R	P	K	R			
I	M	Z	S	A	M	A	P	W	F	K	M	I	D		
C	E														

WEST HAM UNITED

Meals out for clean sheets – how Lopetegui will iron out issues at Hammers

West Ham United supporters needn't look too far for answers on how they may shape up under Julen Lopetegui, who looks set for his first role since leaving Wolverhampton Wanderers last year.

David Moyes' exit was confirmed on Monday, and while Lopetegui is just the latest in a string of names to be linked with West Ham, it would appear this one is sticking.

Reports that Lopetegui has agreed terms with West Ham came out hours before the Moyes announcement, which arguably prompted the club into action given ex-players and fans were criticising the treatment of their manager.

And while Moyes will get a London Stadium farewell against Luton Town on Saturday, the focus will soon switch to what Lopetegui will bring to east London.

Clean sheet, meals out

Lopetegui oversaw just 23 Premier League games at Wolves but in steering them from bottom to a 13th-placed finish, the hope at West Ham will be that a full season leads to a push for European football.

The Hammers are all-but set to miss out on Europe, ending their run at three straight campaigns on the continent, but a positive to draw from this is the time it gives Lopetegui to work with his players.

Fewer gruelling Thursday to Sunday turnarounds and more time spent at Rush Green will allow Lopetegui to imprint his philosophy on the squad, and also plays to his man-management strengths.

Lopetegui incentivised clean sheets at Wolves, taking the team for meals should they achieve one, and is said to have embarked on team-building days out that included the players' families.

West Ham could certainly do with defensive motivation, too, given that they shipped five goals against Crystal Palace and Chelsea, while only the bottom three have conceded more goals.

"I'm very pleased to take my players for a meal," Lopetegui said last year. "It's a good thing for them, but me too, because with a clean sheet you are closing to winning each match."

That is just what West Ham need, as though there was euphoria after winning the Europa Conference

Michael Hincks



League, it has quickly turned sour in 2024, where they have recorded just four wins.

Antonio v Bowen – or both

Tactically, Lopetegui has a strong preference for 4-3-3, operating the formation regularly at Sevilla before showing a little more fluidity at Wolves, where he also deployed 4-2-3-1 and 4-4-2.

The two up top accommodated for both Diego Costa and Matheus Cunha, while Lopetegui was fond of two No 6s to anchor his midfield, in Wolves' case predominantly Ruben Neves and Mario Lemina.

At West Ham, Tomas Soucek and Edson Alvarez can therefore expect to resume their roles in defensive midfield, unless the Hammers make a new signing that has the impact Calvin Phillips did not.

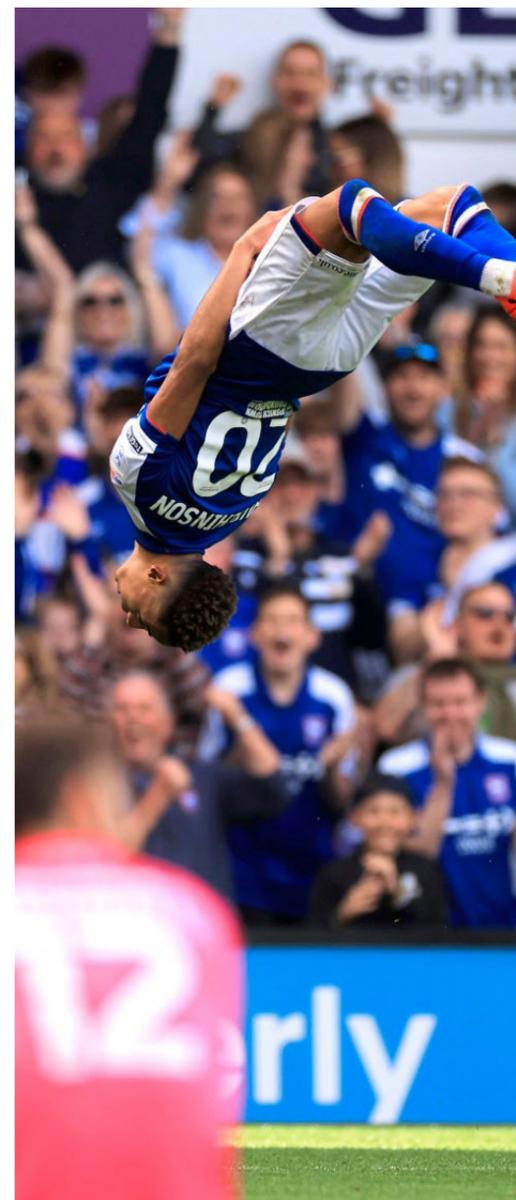
Meanwhile, Lopetegui's flexibility in attack would give him several options, one being both Jarrod Bowen and Michail Antonio up front in a 4-4-2 that brings James Ward-Prowse's place into question.

Ward-Prowse could also play deeper to contest Soucek or Alvarez, although a 4-3-3 or 4-2-3-1 would suit the playmaker more. Bowen can also drop out wide should Antonio be preferred up top.

West Ham may yet look to sign a new striker in the summer – i reported their interest in Sunderland's Jack Clarke in March – with funds possibly being raised by the sale of Lucas Paqueta, although according to *The Guardian*, Manchester City are awaiting the outcome of the FA's investigation into alleged betting breaches before renewing their interest in the player.

Should Paqueta leave, West Ham could have 85 million reasons to keep Lopetegui happy, and that would certainly get his tenure off to a strong start given he left Wolves over FFP constraints and transfer frustrations.

Paqueta's possible departure would also open the door for a Saïd Benrahma return, with the winger scoring in his last two games on loan at Lyon.



Flippin' good – options open to Chelsea loanee who helped Ipswich go up

Chelsea loanee Omari Hutchinson has been named Ipswich Town's Young Player of the Year after scoring 10 goals and assisting six more en route to helping the Tractor Boys secure promotion to the Premier League.

Hutchinson capped a stellar Championship campaign by scoring in Ipswich's final game of the season, their 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town, but now has some difficult decisions to make about his future.

With just one year left on his contract and strong competition at Chelsea in all three positions he's able to play, he will have to think carefully about the best next step for his career. i assesses the possible options for Hutchinson:

Return to Chelsea and fight for his place

Here's the most ambitious but least realistic option: Hutchinson renews his contract, which ends in June

George Simms



2025, and stays at Stamford Bridge to fight for his place.

There are number of reasons this is unlikely – not least that the 20-year-old is likely still not ready to regularly represent Chelsea. His extraordinary recent brace at Hull and a number of other crucial goals for Ipswich this season have proven how impressive he is on form, but there's still work to do defensively.

And Noni Madueke is beginning to put his own stamp on Hutchinson's preferred right wing, with Cole Palmer another obvious incumbent once Enzo Fernandez returns. Raheem Sterling is another option down the right, with Diego Moreira, Angelo Gabriel and Tyrique George all waiting for their chances.

And beyond all these current choices, Chelsea are reportedly pursuing the signing of 17-year-old Brazilian right-winger Estevao Willian, aka Messinho, from Palmeiras.

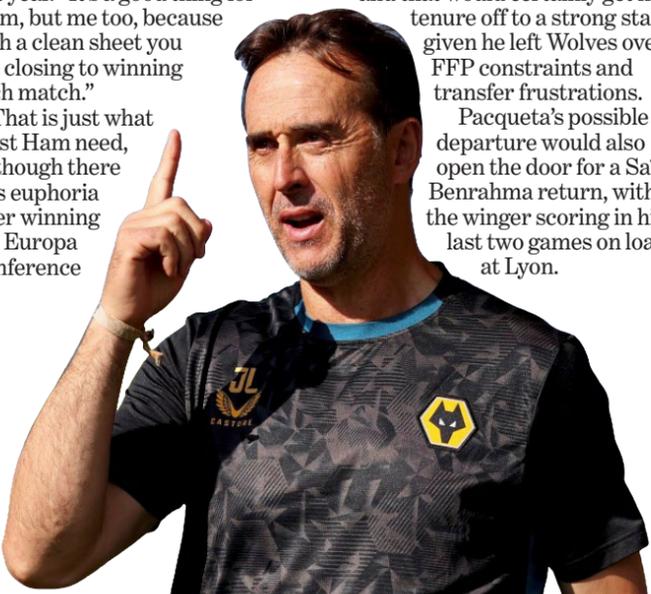
Estevao would join Chelsea in April 2025 when he turns 18, but would rapidly present another obstacle in Hutchinson's path to the first team.

The possibility of ending up back in the under-21s or permanently on the bench could have a decisive impact on his novice career and define the next decade of his life.

Sign a new contract and return to Ipswich on loan

Scarf round his head, arm round Leif Davis, Hutchinson looked at home as he gave his post-match interview to Sky Sports last Saturday.

Asked if he will still be at Ipswich next season, he said: "I hope so. I don't know. I'll have to see what my agent is saying and what the



NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Forest still in peril as points deduction appeal is rejected

By George Simms

Nottingham Forest have had their appeal against a four-point deduction for breaching the Premier League's profitability and sustainability rules (PSR) rejected.

This leaves Forest 17th, three points above the relegation zone with two games left.

As a result, one win will likely be enough to secure their Premier League survival for a second consecutive season.

But Nuno Espirito Santo's (right) side have won just two of their past 12 games and still have to face a much-improved Chelsea and fellow relegation strugglers Burnley.

In their initial hearing, Forest were found to be £34.5m over the £61m PSR limit, more than one and a half times the acceptable total.

Their appeal focused on two key points: the timing of the £47.5m sale of Brennan Johnson and their belief the sanction should be suspended, either in whole or in part. Both of these arguments were rejected by the appeal commission.

Forest are the second team to face points deductions for breaching PSR this season - Everton have also been deducted eight points across two separate cases.

A Premier League statement read: "An independent Appeal

Board has upheld the decision of a Commission to deduct four points from Nottingham Forest following an admitted breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules (PSR).

"The PSR sanction applied to the assessment period ending Season 2022-23 and was appealed by the club on two grounds.

"The club argued that the independent Commission committed an error in not treating its sale of a high-profile player shortly after the assessment period as a mitigating factor, and that it committed a further error in electing not to suspend some or all of the points deduction it imposed.

"Each of these grounds was rejected by the Appeal Board, which found the independent Commission was entitled to immediately impose the sanction it did. The four-point deduction will therefore remain in place."

Forest still face potential punishment from the FA and the Premier League regarding the controversial statement they released after their recent 2-0 defeat to Everton.

Forest accused the VAR Stuart Attwell of being a Luton fan and have been formally charged by the FA with misconduct.

The club have until tomorrow to respond.



Omari Hutchinson and his trademark goal celebration on Saturday - a trick he has been doing since he was at Arsenal's academy GETTY

Head to Ipswich permanently... or Napoli

There also could be the option for Hutchinson to join Ipswich permanently, but this would mean forfeiting his dream of Champions League football in the near future.

With just one year left on his current deal, he may well prove decent value, especially given Chelsea still need to raise money to fit within financial regulations.

And this would be a significant outlay for Ipswich who may believe their money is better spent in more crucial positions or on more established players.

Another option is including Hutchinson as part of a cash-plus-player swap deal for Napoli's Victor Osimhen - Chelsea have reportedly offered Romelu Lukaku and an unnamed young player as part of a potential transfer.

A third option would be a departure to another club in order to continue furthering his career, potentially either lower down the Premier League or in France or Germany. But this would seem an unsatisfactory option all round, with neither Hutchinson ending up where he wants or Chelsea getting the most out of a valuable asset who may well become a consistent, Premier League-level talent.

manager is saying and then go from there. I don't know, I just want to celebrate at the moment."

"This is the best loan I could have ever imagined. The boys have helped me so much and I've progressed so well from the start of the season until now."

He then backed this up during the Tractor Boys' open-top bus tour, saying: "We've created history and I'm so happy to be a part of that history. It's the togetherness of the squad and the manager, he's put full belief in everyone."

"He [manager Kieran McKenna] gives us full confidence to go out on the pitch and show what we're capable of. It's like a family, everyone's like brothers. It's a really good connection."

Given Hutchinson has said he'd like to stay in Ipswich and they will likely want to keep him for their first season back in the Premier League, a deal could definitely be done here.

It would have to be contingent on him signing a new Chelsea contract, given the club would not let him run down his deal elsewhere.

But this may be the best option for both Hutchinson's development, working with one of the most exciting young coaches in Europe who he clearly thrives under while also playing top-flight football.

McKenna has spoken very highly of Hutchinson previously, saying: "He's given everything you'd want from a loan player and more."

EFL PLAY-OFFS



Bolton see off Barnsley fightback

Bolton edged to the final of the League One play-offs with a 5-4 aggregate victory over Barnsley.

The Trotters were 3-1 up after the first leg but Barnsley's Sam Cosgrove created some tension at the Toughsheet Community Stadium as he opened the scoring for the visitors. Aaron Collins then fired home from distance and the hosts added a second with

Eoin Toal's header (above). Adam Phillips added another for the Tykes and Cosgrove's excellent diving header made it 3-2 on the night and a nervy finish for Bolton.

Meanwhile, Crawley Town are in control of their League Two semi-final against Milton Keynes Dons as they won a postponed first-leg 3-0, with goals from Liam Kelly, Jay Williams and Ronan Darcy.

Results Service

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

PSG (0) 0 Borussia Dortmund (0) 1
Hummels 50
Borussia Dortmund win 2-0 on aggregate.

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE PLAY-OFFS SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

Bolton (2) 2 Barnsley (1) 3
Collins 43 Cosgrove 36, 76
Toal 45 Phillips 64
Bolton Wanderers win 5-4 on aggregate.

SKY BET LEAGUE 2 PLAY-OFFS SEMI-FINAL 1ST LEG

Crawley Tn (2) 3 M K Dons (0) 0
L Kelly 5 Att 5,564
Williams 45 Darcy 65

CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP PLAY-OFF QTR-FINAL 1ST LEG

Airdrieonians (1) 2 Partick (2) 2
Todorov 5 McBeth 29
McGill 50 Robinson 45

CINCH SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG

Alloa (0) 2 Hamilton (1) 2
Steven 47 Henderson 31
Roberts 54 O'Hara 75
Att 1,077

Montrose (0) 0 Inverness CT (0) 0
Att 1,043

CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONE PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG

Dumbarton (1) 2 Stirling (1) 1
Hilton 12 Hilton 27
Wallace 85 (pen) Att 900
Spartans (1) 2 Peterhead (1) 1
P Watson 17 O'Keefe 8
Henderson 90 (pen)

BASKETBALL

NBA PLAY-OFFS: EASTERN CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINAL: New York Knicks 121 Indiana Pacers 117 (New York Knicks lead series 1-0).

WESTERN CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINAL: Denver Nuggets 80 Minnesota Timberwolves 106 (Minnesota Timberwolves lead series 2-0).

CRICKET

IPL

Delhi Capitals v Rajasthan Royals, Arun Jaitley
Stadium: Delhi Capitals 221-8 (A Porel 65; R Ashwin 3-24); Rajasthan Royals 201-8 (S V Samson 86) Delhi Capitals win by 20 runs.

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA: Acqui Terme-Andora, 190km: Stage 4: 1 J Milan (It) Lidl-Trek 4hrs 16m 35; 2 K Groves (Aus) Alpecin-Deceuninck; 3 P Bauhaus (Ger) Bahrain Victorious; 4 O Kooij (Neth) Team Visma | Lease a Bike; 5 T Merlier (Bel) Soudal Quick-Step; 39 E Vernon (GB) Israel-Premier Tech; 42 L Askey (GB) Groupama-FDJ; 54 G Thomas (GB) INEOS Grenadiers; 102 H Wood (GB) Cofidis at the same time; 142 C Swift (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +2m 29s; 156 R Mullen (Rep Ire) BORA-hansgrohe +3m 28; 167 B Swift (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +4:02. **Overall:** 1 T Pogacar (Sloven) UAE Team Emirates 15h 19m 5s; 2 Thomas +4:6s; 3 D Martinez (Col) BORA-hansgrohe +4:7; 4 C Uijtendbroeks (Bel) Team Visma | Lease a Bike +5:5; 5 E Rubio (Col) Movistar Team +5:6; 90 Vernon +27:33; 99 Wood +31:21; 103 B Swift +32:25; 107 Askey +33:28; 129 C Swift +39:29; 168 Mullen +49:19.

HORSE RACING RESULTS

FFOS LAS Good to soft-soft in places
5.05 1. BOSTON JOE (B R Jones) 9-2; 2. Fire Dancer 33-1; 3. Limetree Boy 11-2; 11 ran. 2-1 fav Bullets Hill (Pulled Up) 7/1; ns (R Curtis). **Total:** £5.50; £1.80; £7.60; £1.90. **Exacta:** £188.60; **Tricast:** £841.07; **Trifecta:** £935.90; **CSF:** £133.27; **NR:** Texard.

FAKENHAM Good

3.15 1. KANKIN (B Carver) 10-3; 2. Noah's Light 5-1; 3. Go Fox 15-2; 6 ran. 11-4 fav School For Scandal (5th) nk; 8L (A Hales). **Total:** £4.40; £2.00; £2.20. **Exacta:** £19.70; **Tricast:** £105.06; **Trifecta:** £73.90; **CSF:** £18.94; **NRs:** Fast Deal, William Ewart.

4.20 1. TRINCOMALEE (Dylan Whelan) 3-1; 2. Planned Paradise 11-4; fav 3. Jigginstown King 15-2; 7 ran. 5/1; 1/1 (L Wadhams). **Total:** £4.00; £1.70; £1.80. **Exacta:** £12.80; **Tricast:** £53.85; **Trifecta:** £39.10; **CSF:** £11.84; **NR:** Court Master.

SOUTHWELL Good

5.12 1. TASTE THE FEAR (L Scott) 3-1; 2. Morning Spirit 11-2; 3. Minella Double 4-1; 6 ran. 5-2 fav Ernest Gray (6th) 1/1; 2/1 (Dr R Newland & J Insole). **Total:** £4.00; £1.70; £2.60. **Exacta:** £18.30; **Trifecta:** £66.60; **CSF:** £18.37.

TENNIS

ATP & WTA INTERNAZIONALI BNL D'ITALIA: ROME: Women's 1st rd: S Rogers (US) bt L Pigato (It) 6-1 6-0; P Badosa (Sp) bt M Andreeva (Rus) 6-2 6-3; Y Putintseva (Kaz) bt M Trevisan (It) 6-3 6-4.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

(7.45pm unless stated)

FOOTBALL

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

Real Madrid (2) v Bayern Munich (2) (8)

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE PLAY-OFFS SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

Peterborough (0) v Oxford Utd (1) (8)

CRICKET

IPL: Sunrisers Hyderabad v Lucknow Super giants (Hyderabad, 3pm).

Sport on TV



Tennis: Italian Open

Sky Sports Tennis, 10am

Cycling: Giro d'Italia

Eurosport 1, 11.30am

Football: Bruges v Fiorentina

TNT Sports 2, 5.30pm

Football: R Madrid v Bayern M

TNT Sports 1, 7pm

Football: Peterboro v Oxford Utd

Sky Sports Football, 7.30pm

MANCHESTER UNITED



Thomas Tuchel, Ruben Amorim and Graham Potter are in the running

Tuchel leads trio of candidates in frame to replace Ten Hag

By Pete Hall

Thomas Tuchel remains the front-runner to replace Erik ten Hag should the Dutchman be shown the door at Manchester United this summer – but there are two other candidates in the club's thoughts.

It understands that Ten Hag will not be sacked before the FA Cup final against Manchester City under any circumstances, even if further chastening defeats to Arsenal, Newcastle and Brighton occur before the Premier League season is out.

But even if the former Ajax coach inspires what would be a huge surprise and steers United to FA Cup glory, he is widely expected to be relieved of his duties in the aftermath.

Tuchel is the leading candidate in the eyes of numerous senior figures at new co-owners Ineos, insiders said, with the German former Chelsea manager reportedly very keen to return to England when he leaves Bayern Munich in the coming weeks. Ten Hag (*below*) could even go the other way, with the Bavarians understood to be interested in giving the 54-year-old another chance.

However, even though several top targets to replace Ten Hag – namely Julian Nagelsmann, Gareth Southgate and Zinedine Zidane – have serious doubts about taking the chaotic Old Trafford helm, as reported last month, Tuchel may still have a fight on his hands.

Ruben Amorim, said at the weekend that he wants to stay at Sporting Lisbon next season, having guided his side to the Portuguese title for a second time.

A Portuguese-based source has issued caution over Amorim's words, however, as he had already ex-

pressed the need to appease Sporting fans unhappy with their manager and his trip to meet with West Ham officials last month. Should no suitor come in for the 39-year-old, Amorim still needs to maintain a positive relationship with fans where he is now.

His desire to manage in the Premier League is clear, but it is not quite so obvious whether he would be ready for taking on a challenge as sizeable as United, in their current beleaguered guise.

Whether Dan Ashworth is in place in a director of football role by the summer will also have a huge effect on the managerial search. Ashworth's impending appointment is remote with court action on the cards as United and Newcastle are still poles apart over an acceptable compensation fee.

Should the Newcastle sporting director find a way out of the North-East in the coming months, the option of Graham Potter getting another shot at a Premier League Big Six club could gather pace.

Ashworth remains a staunch Potter advocate having worked with the former Chelsea manager at Brighton. Potter has kept a low profile since leaving the Blues in April last year and is understood to be "waiting for the right role for him".

Not everyone at United is convinced Potter has the credentials, given what happened at Chelsea, but like recent events at Old Trafford, Chelsea have been somewhat of a basket case of late and with the right structure in place, when Ashworth takes charge, there is a view that Potter could still excel.

Tuchel is the more likely candidate, but neither Amorim nor Potter can be discounted.

Old Trafford should cut losses and show Casemiro the exit door

Brazilian is past sell-buy date, says **Oliver Young-Myles**

No serious football club spends £70m to buy a 30-year-old and then commits to paying them £350,000 per week for the next four years. Leave that to the Saudi Pro League. Then again, this is Manchester United we're talking about.

Overpayment has defined United's post-Fergie transfer operations with far too much money wasted on players who either don't have the body of work to justify such largesse or whose best days are in the rearview mirror of the battered old Ferrari. The two most glaring examples of that flawed recruitment started at Selhurst Park on Monday night: Antony ticks the first box, Casemiro ticks the second.

Casemiro has enjoyed a career that few players in the history of sport can match, but therein lies part of the problem. United bought a household name who had already lived out his wildest dream multiple times over, winning five European Cups during his time at Real Madrid. Lifting the Carabao Cup doesn't quite compare.

The financial gulf that exists between the Premier League and the rest is such that clubs abroad will naturally seek to take advantage from their English counterparts when they come knocking at their door with briefcases stuffed full of euros.

Real Madrid couldn't believe their luck when United's desperate offer came in days after they had been battered by Brentford. They did what any sensible institution would: take the money and run.

Madrid had already bought Casemiro's replacement, signing a 22-year-old with room to develop and fire in his belly to add energy to their engine in the form of Aurélien Tchouaméni. That is precisely what United should have done: invest in the future, not in the past.

It may seem reactionary to suggest that Casemiro's acquisition was the point at which the Erik ten Hag era was doomed to failure given the Brazilian enjoyed a stellar

debut campaign at Old Trafford but it's an argument not without merit.

Ten Hag had identified Frenkie de Jong as the man to build his midfield around, a young, dynamic No 6 who plays forward and runs into space when there is nobody to pass to.

Rather than buy a player with similar characteristics to the Dutchman, they signed a defensive midfielder with a completely different skillset, a ball winner rather than a ball player. Casemiro doesn't even do much of that anymore. He now loses the ball more frequently than he retrieves it.

It was almost painful watching his attempt to tackle Michael Olise as the Crystal Palace star brazenly danced around him en route to scoring the Eagles' opening goal of a 4-0 rout. United's captain lunged in with all the finesse of Boris Johnson playing in a charity match and had barely peeled himself off the floor by the time Olise had stroked a finish past André Onana.

It got worse for United's stand-in skipper. Casemiro's attempts to usher the ball out of play were about as convincing as a substitute teacher imploring their temporary students to settle down at the start of a lesson and Daniel Muñoz pounced to take the ball off him



Casemiro had a torrid time against Eberechi Eze on Monday (above) and allowed Michael Olise drift past him for one of his goals GETTY





and tee up Olise to score his second. Again Casemiro found himself face down in the turf, begging the ground beneath him to swallow him up to put an end to the misery.

In Casemiro's defence, he was playing out of position (alongside an injured Jonny Evans) and was far from the only player in white to surrender too easily. It's just that his deficiencies are more glaring given we know what he was once capable of.

The game completely passed him by as though he were playing it on a different speed setting. He was dribbled past eight times over the course of 90 minutes; no other player in the league has suffered such torment in a single game this season.

"It's sad to see a great player performing like this," Carragher said on *Monday Night Football*. "We've all been there, but he's only 32 and [for] what he's achieved in the game he's miles off it."

Then came the ex-Liverpool defender's withering closing statement.

"Casemiro should know tonight as an experienced player that he should only have another three games left at the top level – the next two league games and the cup final – then go to the MLS or Saudi," Carragher said.

"I am nowhere near on what that man has achieved, winning the Champions League,

Again, Casemiro found himself face down in the turf, begging the ground to swallow him up

playing for Brazil and Real Madrid. But I always remember something when I retired myself, there's a saying I always remember: leave the football, before the football leaves you. The football has left him at this top level. He has to call it a day and move."

It was a strikingly harsh summation of Casemiro's current abilities, but a fair one. This was his Gary Neville v West Brom experience. A season of unconvincing performances distilled into one 90-minute horror show.

For most of this season, Casemiro has been tasked with shielding the back four. The result? No Premier League goalkeeper has faced more shots than Onana in 2024.

If they haven't already done so, Sir Jim Ratcliffe, Dan Ashworth and Jason Wilcox will soon start their assessment of United's squad as they decide who to keep and who to discard.

Reports have suggested that only three players – Kobbie Mainoo, Alejandro Garnacho and Rasmus Hojlund – are completely safe. Bruno Fernandes, Lisandro Martinez and Onana are the experienced pros worth keeping on. Possibly Diogo Dalot too.

As for the rest, it would be no surprise to see any of them go. Shifting Casemiro on two years before the end of his contract will be a priority for the new regime. He is not the player that United need going forward. He never really was.

8

Number of times Casemiro was dribbled past against Crystal Palace

Showering Olise with praise – how Glasner got star back on song

By George Sessions

Crystal Palace manager Oliver Glasner revealed a pep talk in the shower at Craven Cottage was the catalyst for Michael Olise to score twice in their 4-0 home win over Manchester United on Monday night.

Olise was at his scintillating best against United and made it 13 goal involvements – nine goals and four assists – in 12 Premier League starts this season with a classy brace.

It had been a different story a week earlier when Olise cut a frustrated figure after the 1-1 draw away to Fulham, but words of wisdom from his manager made the difference.

The 22-year-old left Casemiro sprawled on the floor as he fooled the Brazilian by the centre circle before racing to the edge of the box and rifling into the bottom corner to open the scoring in the 12th minute.

A second for Olise arrived after 66 minutes after he curled beyond André Onana, which sparked a touchline embrace with Glasner.

The Austrian said: "We spoke after Fulham when he was under the shower. He was a little bit disappointed because he had three or four shots and the shots were blocked or he hit straight at the keeper.

"We spoke and very often he shoots far post. I said, 'maybe try near post and maybe the goalkeepers are surprised,' and in this situation he shot near post and scored."

This latest impressive performance by Hammersmith-born Olise was in front of England manager Gareth Southgate. While Olise has seemingly signalled his intention to play at senior level for France, he is



Oliver Glasner's chat at Fulham bore fruit at Selhurst Park on Monday

able to represent England as well as Algeria and Nigeria.

A late push to be part of the England squad at Euro 2024 this summer seems unlikely for Olise, but may not be out of the question for Palace teammate Adam Wharton.

Wharton, 20, has flourished since he moved to Selhurst Park from Blackburn in January and played a key role in the third goal for Tyrick Mitchell against United.

At half-time, Wharton appeared to give experienced forward Jean-Philippe Mateta a number of instructions.

"Second half was an excellent performance," Glasner said of Wharton. "It shows his mentality and character that a 20-year-old guy talks to JP Mateta, but also on the other side that JP is listening to him."

Eriksen: Selhurst shambles was down to the players

By Simon Peach

Christian Eriksen says Manchester United's players "take the blame" for the humiliating hammering at Crystal Palace that has increased pressure on Erik ten Hag.

The Dutchman's difficult second season in the hot seat reached a new nadir on Monday night as the Eagles put the lifeless, injury-hit Red Devils to the sword.

Ten Hag's team lacked direction and determination as Palace ran amok in a match that saw woeful United fall to a 13th league loss – their most defeats in a Premier League campaign. However, the ex-Ajax boss remains "absolutely" convinced he is the right man to fight on with three league games to go before the FA Cup final against Manchester City.

"A big disappointment," experienced midfielder Eriksen

said. "We just had an off-day and we weren't in it. We can't really change the injury things. We have to do what we can on the pitch to change it. It didn't matter who we played. Everyone could have done better.

"We weren't good enough. We tried to do what we could, but we were not good enough. We'll take the blame as players."



The fact United were without 11 first-team players, including captain Bruno Fernandes, five centre-backs and both left-backs, offers some mitigation.

Yet there was still talent on display against Palace and an experienced core of players, like stand-in captain Casemiro, returning Jonny Evans and midfielder Eriksen (above).

"It's the confidence, the belief is a big one. When we got the first goal against, we try to come back, but in every good period we have, we concede."

EVERTON

Other investors could step in if 777 deal fails

» Continued from back page

debt restructuring advisers as contingency planning for what comes if the 777 deal falls through runs parallel to the supposed optimism from Moshiri's side.

It has been told of alternative interest in the club – including "credible" investors who could possibly support creditors MSP Sports Capital if it decides to enforce an option to acquire a controlling stake in Everton – but it continues to wait in the wings as the 777 takeover drags on.

It is a messy situation that is in desperate need of a resolution and yesterday the Everton Shareholders' Association became the first fan group to break cover and call for Moshiri to bring an end to a situation they branded a "farce".

The association represents shareholders who hold a small fraction of shares in the club but carry weight and pressure on Moshiri to explain Everton's next steps is growing. He has agreed to meet the club's Fan Advisory Board at the end of the month – although the group is pushing for that to be expedited to provide further clarity on what comes next.

"We are the oldest Shareholders' Association in the world and are dismayed by the lack of respect being shown to our football club by the largest shareholder Farhad Moshiri, and the Premier League during what seems a never-ending change of ownership process," it wrote in a strongly-worded statement posted on social media.

"We have observed with concern and frustration as it became increasingly clear that a fit-for-purpose process cannot possibly take this long as the Premier League continues to demonstrate their inability to regulate.

"In the absence of the Premier League making a timely decision we insist that the Everton Board, and Farhad Moshiri in particular, stop this damaging process now and recognise that 777 Partners are not at this time fit-and-proper prospective owners of Everton Football Club."



Farhad Moshiri is being asked to stop the 777 buyout process

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

'We've learnt our lessons from chaos of Euro 2020 final'

Wembley, the FA, police and the council say stadium will be much safer for European showpiece in June

Fans have been promised they will have a "memorable" Champions League final experience for all the right reasons at Wembley – unlike many supporters who attending the "chaotic" Euro 2020 final at the same venue three years ago.

The final, on 1 June, is the biggest men's football match to staged at Wembley since England were beaten on penalties by Italy, a match that was marred by violence and disorder that led to more than 80 arrests and left 19 police officers injured.

A Netflix documentary due to be released today will show how organisers watched in dismay as thousands of fans outflanked and outfought security measures to break into Wembley, but the FA, the Metropolitan Police and Brent Council all claim lessons have been learned from the day.

"We have invested over £5m to further enhance the security measures at Wembley Stadium in order to protect the safety, enjoyment and experience for everyone," a Wembley Stadium spokesperson told *i*. "The safety and security of anyone coming to Wembley Stadium is of para-

James Gray

SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT



mount importance, and we strongly condemn the unprecedented levels of public disorder that took place before and during the Euro 2020 final.

"This behaviour was dangerous, violent and unacceptable, and we thank our crowd safety teams for the vital role they played that day under very challenging circumstances."

An enhanced control room with upgraded CCTV, improved ticket gates with a "double air-lock" system and additional magnetic locks on stadium doors will all be in action next month as a direct result of what happened at the Euros. A new three-metre perimeter fence, the first recommendation of the independent review into the final, is understood to be "95 per cent complete" and will be in place for the FA Cup final between Manchester United and Manchester City on 25 May.

The Final: Attack on Wembley,

released on Netflix this morning, tells in forensic detail the story of "carnage and chaos" that unfolded outside the stadium in the hours before the final in July 2021. One senior member of Brent Council described it as "resembling a bit of a war zone" after organisers had to set up an impromptu field hospital.

But the council's leader says that they have worked alongside the FA and the police to avoid future problems.

"Since that final in the summer of 2021, all partners involved have fully accepted and put into place Baroness Casey's recommendations," Muhammed Butt, leader of Brent Council, tells *i*. "Wembley Stadium is one of the best in the world. It has hosted thousands of safe and successful events over the past 100 years and we look forward to seeing this iconic venue host many more in the future."

Wembley was passed "match-fit" by Baroness Casey, who led the independent review into the events of 11 July three years ago, in November with "better communications" between agencies notably mentioned; although police were redeployed on the day at the Euros final, by the time they arrived at the stadium "a lot of those [crowd] problems and bad behaviours had already become established and taken hold".

"Changes have been in operation at various matches held at Wembley following the Euro 2020 final and will continue in the build up to the Champions League final," a Met police spokesperson told *i*. "It's important to note the report also praised the bravery of officers who will again be deployed across London throughout the week to keep all those attending the Champions League final and wider events safe."

six months in most circumstances it meant we couldn't prosecute.

"At that time we were seeing instances where police were putting requests in to a social media company for the relevant data and the police were not always getting it back in the six-month deadline.

"We have worked with them [social media companies] since then, we are seeing replies turned around in a matter of days so it is important to get the message out that if people think they can hide behind their keyboards and racially or in other ways engage in hate crimes online then we will pursue it and we will prosecute people."



Crowd trouble marred the Euro 2020 final at Wembley three years ago GETTY

Police: online abusers cannot hide behind their keyboards

By Mark Mann-Bryans

Individuals who target England players with social media abuse at Euro 2024 have been warned they cannot "hide behind their keyboards" as police will look to clamp down after holding discussions with Gareth Southgate's squad.

Bukayo Saka, Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho suffered racist abuse online after missing penalties in the Euro 2020 final shoot-out loss to Italy.

Chief constable Mark Roberts, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for football policing, insists improvements in the procedures means it will be easier to identify and prosecute anyone found to have posted online abuse.

"We were finding that some of the offences we were looking to prosecute are under the malicious telecommunications act and there is a six-month time limit in effect on those," he said. "If you don't issue a summons in

SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG



PSG prove wasteful as Hummels' header seals Wembley trip

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

0

BORUSSIA DORTMUND
Hummels 50

1

Dortmund win 2-0 on aggregate

By Ian Winrow

Mats Hummels' header ensured Borussia Dortmund built on their first-leg advantage to reach the Champions League final at Wembley next month at the

Ancelotti urges Madrid

By Fernando Kallas

Manager Carlo Ancelotti urged Real Madrid to play with more pace and intensity if they want to keep alive their hopes of securing the Spanish league-European Cup double by beating Bayern Munich in the return leg of their Champions League semi-final tonight.

Real wrapped up the La Liga title over the weekend with four matches to spare but that has not stopped Ancelotti from being extremely critical of his team's performance in their 2-2 draw in the first-leg in Germany.

He has warned his players that they cannot afford another sub-par performance if they want to contest the 1 June final at Wembley Stadium.

"We need a match with intensity, with pace... Looking at the first leg, defensively we could have done a lot more," Ancelotti said yesterday.

Bayer Leverkusen ended Bayern's 11-year Bundesliga reign by securing the league crown last month but Ancelotti said the six-times European Cup winners will have extra motivation to win the only trophy they can still fight for this season.

"[Bayern and Real] are similar clubs because they have a great history and a lot of success. We have to respect our opponents because they did very well and better than us in the first leg," Ancelotti said.

"We are very excited because it could be another magical night for us, but there is no optimism. We are



Mats Hummels heads Dortmund's winner on the night at the Parc des Princes
REUTERS

expense of Paris Saint-Germain, whose wait to lift the European Cup for the first time goes on.

The French club hit the woodwork four times but were unable to find a way through the Bundesliga side.

PSG's frustration was summed up by the sight of Kylian Mbappé – playing his last European home game for club ahead of his expected departure at the end of the season – slipping when clear on goal in the final seconds.

Luis Enrique, the PSG coach, had emphasised the need for patience as his side attempted to overturn

Dortmund's advantage from the first game. Their early efforts, though, suggested the problems that had affected them in Germany had not been eradicated. There was an intensity to the home side's high tempo start to the game and both Goncalo Ramos and Mbappé tested Dortmund keeper Gregor Kobel early on. But they lacked composure, allowing the visitors to settle into the game and it was Dortmund who looked the more controlled side by the break.

The German side might have reached the interval ahead had

Karim Adeyemi not been denied by a fine save by Gianluigi Donnarumma following a lightning counter-attack after Hummels' tackle had denied Mbappé a shot on goal.

Enrique's side had a superb opportunity to take the lead on the night just two minutes after the restart. Warren Zaire-Emery was the culprit, hitting the post from close range as he met a deflected cross. And the miss soon appeared to be even more costly when Hummels met Julian Brandt's corner to double Dortmund's aggregate lead five minutes in to the second half.

to ramp up intensity in double hunt

aware of the difficulties that we are going to face."

Defender Dani Carvajal, winner of five Champions League titles with the Spanish giants, admitted that they feel the fans remain confident about their chances of reaching the final due to their unbeaten run in the competition this season.

He joked that Ancelotti was "getting more and more fearful" over the years, but praised his coach's role in keeping the changing room focused on winning a record-extending 15th title in Europe's premier club competition.

"There is euphoria because



we are having a great year," Carvajal (left) said just days after Real claimed a record-extending 36th Spanish title.

"We are all very excited about the European Cup. We know it in the dressing room. In the street the fans congratulate us and give us a lot of encouragement to dream of winning it again.

"We are two games away from winning the Champions League. Ancelotti has kept our eyes open and we have all added up. That's what counts to achieve the objectives."

Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel

wants his side to rediscover their inner child tonight.

Tuchel spent several minutes talking to his players at an empty Bernabeu yesterday and told them they needed to find extra motivation within themselves.

"It is important to connect with your own inner child. When we were little we played these games in the garden. So now we are here and that's our chance to make it true," he said. "Both teams have to endure defending and suffering when their opponents have the ball. It is extremely difficult to steal the ball from Real Madrid. Both teams are very strong in the transition game. You need luck and precision. Then everything is possible at this stage."

CHELSEA

Silva calls time on Blues and returns to his former club

By Robert O'Connor

Thiago Silva is set to rejoin his former club Fluminense on a two-year deal when his Chelsea contract expires at the end of the season.

The 39-year-old (right) will return to the outfit with whom he spent three seasons between 2006-08, making 143 appearances, and has been given permission to join up with his new side prior to the expiry of his Stamford Bridge deal, which is up on 1 July. His departure comes after four years in west London during which he has played more than 150 games since signing on a free transfer from Paris Saint-



Germain and won the Champions League in 2021. Acknowledging Silva's contribution, Chelsea said in a statement: "He has also forged a lasting bond with Blues supporters and was named the club's Player of the Year at the end of the 2022-23 campaign."

The Brazil international was given a standing ovation by fans when he was substituted towards the end of Sunday's 5-0 home win against West Ham in recognition of his service to the club. He is set to make his final Stamford Bridge appearance when Chelsea play Bournemouth on the last day of the Premier League season.

HULL CITY

Rosenior pays price for failing to reach play-offs

By Simon Peach

Hull have taken the surprise decision to sack manager Liam Rosenior after just missing out on the Championship play-offs. The 39-year-old returned to the MKM Stadium as head coach in November 2022 having been a popular figure and FA Cup finalist during his playing days in East Yorkshire.

Rosenior signed a new and improved deal until 2026 with Hull last December and was named on the three-man shortlist for Championship manager of the season.

The Tigers ended up seventh and three points behind Norwich, and are now looking for a new manager.

Owner Acun Ilıcali said the decision had been the "most difficult" he

has had to make since taking over. In a statement, Ilıcali added: "No matter how trying the circumstance, I have to remove personal sentiment from these moments and ensure the long-term vision of the club is at the centre of my thinking.

"Since Liam's arrival, we have enjoyed an open working relationship and progress has undoubtedly been made over the course of his tenure. He will always be a part of this family and I thank him for all his work.

"However, it has become evident that our visions for the future are not aligned and I feel that now is the time to make a change. Our philosophy is clear, we will continue to drive this club forward, and whilst doing so I will continue to be open and transparent with our fans."

WORLD CUP

Maradona's Golden Ball set to fetch 'millions' at auction

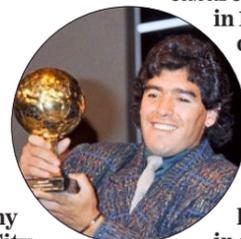
Diego Maradona's Golden Ball trophy from the 1986 World Cup has resurfaced. The award, which had been missing for decades, will be auctioned in Paris next month.

Maradona, who died in 2020 aged 60, was awarded the trophy for his scintillating play at the tournament, where he captained Argentina in their 3-2 win over West Germany in the final in Mexico City. Before that, he scored the controversial "Hand of God" goal and the "Goal of the Century" in a 2-1 win over England in the quarter-finals.

The Aguttes auction house said it expects the trophy

"to fetch millions due to its uniqueness".

Maradona received the award – given to the tournament's best player – at a ceremony at the Lido cabaret on the Champs-Élysées in 1986. It subsequently disappeared, giving rise to rumours. Some say it was lost during a wild poker game, or sold to pay off debts, Aguttes said. Others claimed Maradona (left) had stored it in a safe in a Naples bank robbed



by gangsters in 1989. Aguttes said the trophy reappeared in 2016 from a private collection at auction in Paris. "It was investigated and authenticated as Diego Maradona's Adidas Golden Ball trophy," Aguttes said.



08.05.24

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P54

FOOTBALL
Wembley: no repeat of Euro 2020 chaos at CL final



P50

FOOTBALL
Choices abound for Ipswich's Chelsea loanee Hutchinson

SNOOKER
World champ Wilson is the Balboa of the baize

P48

'Go to Saudi'

Why Manchester United should cut their losses and show Casemiro the exit door after embarrassment at Palace



Exclusive

Tuchel heads trio of managers in frame to replace Ten Hag at Old Trafford

P52



Mats Hummels celebrates his goal that sealed Borussia Dortmund's place in the Champions League final
AFP/GETTY

Hummels humbles Mbappé and Co

Champions League semi-final, p54

'Moshiri must abandon Everton takeover by 777'

By Mark Douglas
NORTHERN FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Everton owner Farhad Moshiri has been told by the club's shareholders association to abandon the protracted 777 Partners takeover, a deal that insiders believe is beginning to "unravel".

Although the Miami-based firm was privately speaking of its confi-

dence at brokering a deal for Everton as recently as this weekend, it is facing mounting issues including a civil lawsuit filed in New York on Friday by the UK-based lender Leadenhall Capital Partners that accused it of a fraud worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

It is alleged that 777 "pledged" assets as collateral for a credit facility which either did not exist or

had already been pledged to other lenders, with the 82-page filing accusing the group of being a "house of cards ready to collapse". 777 Partners declined to comment on the civil case when contacted by **i**.

Alarm bells around its ability to broker the Everton takeover grew when the group's Australian budget airline Bonza collapsed into administration last week. The PR

company representing it in the UK "paused" its relationship with 777 over late payment of bills.

Despite all of that, 777 made a further payment of £15m last week to cover Everton's running costs - with sources close to Moshiri pointing out the group had fulfilled every capital payment asked of it.

But there are now mounting and serious doubts about whether 777 has access to the funds required to be able to fulfil the requirements placed on it by the Premier League to approve the takeover. The payment made last weekend guarantees Everton will get to the end of the season - a campaign where they have secured survival despite an eight point deduction - but what comes after that feels increasingly uncertain.

Although **i** has been told it is "business as usual" for Everton staff, the club have held talks with

» Continued on p53